

Canada Renews Commitment to Syrian People

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News Release

April 1, 2012 - Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird today emerged from the second “Friends of Syria” meeting and issued the following statement:

“Canada remains at the forefront of international efforts to bring an immediate end to Assad’s violent campaign of terror.

“The plight of the Syrian people remains our primary concern. Assad has the obligation to allow immediate, unhindered humanitarian access.

“In response to the continued violence, Canada imposed additional sanctions to further isolate Assad and those closest to him. We will continue to shine a light on those who support this reckless regime.

“We continue to support peaceful efforts by the Syrian opposition to achieve freedom for the Syrian people. Canada will support these opposition groups by providing \$1 million for pro-democracy programs. This will allow the opposition to gain the skills and resources needed to promote the values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

“Canada is also providing support of up to \$7.5 million to help meet the most pressing humanitarian needs arising from the crisis.

“The Syrian people will have their day, and Canada stands with them as they push for a better and brighter future.”

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