

UN General Assembly calls for action on Syria in Canada-led resolution

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Statement

UN General Assembly adopts Canada-led resolution demanding immediate end to hostilities in Syria and action now for Syrian victims

December 9, 2016 - Ottawa, Ontario - Global Affairs Canada

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement regarding Canada's continuing efforts to mobilize the international community in response to the violent conflict that continues to unfold in Syria:

“The tragic humanitarian situation in Syria is getting worse. The victims trapped inside Syria, in Aleppo in particular, need relief now. They need access to life-saving supplies and to stop being targeted in senseless and indiscriminate attacks.

“Canada, along with the international community, is deeply concerned with the UN Security Council's inaction. This is why today, given the the continuing deadlock in the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a Canada-led resolution. It demands an immediate end to attacks on all civilians and an immediate cessation of hostilities; calls for rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and the resumption of a peace process; condemns all terrorist attacks; urges all parties to comply with international humanitarian law; and calls for accountability.

“The resolution passed with the support of a resounding 122 countries, sending a very strong and unified message to the Security Council and the parties involved in the conflict to stop the violence now and to support an inclusive Syrian-led political process facilitated by the UN.

“I want to thank our permanent mission to the United Nations in New York for their continued efforts throughout this crisis, and towards the adoption of this strong resolution.

“Canada will continue to urge the international community to take action for the victims of this tragedy, to pressure all parties involved, in particular the Assad regime and Russia, to immediately stop the attacks, to stop the blocking of life-saving humanitarian aid and to fully respect international humanitarian law and human rights in Syria.”

Quick facts

- There has been no aid to eastern Aleppo in 150 days. The last remaining stockpile of food rations was completely exhausted by November 13, 2016, there are no functioning hospitals and 25,000 people have been displaced from their homes since Saturday, November 26.
- On October 20, 2016, Canada, along with 71 other UN member states, successfully called for an informal session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the situation in Syria and to pressure all parties involved to cease the strikes on the civilian population and to allow unhindered humanitarian access.
- On December 1, 2016, Canada sent a letter to the President of the UN General Assembly on behalf of 73 member states urging that today’s formal plenary meeting on the situation in Syria be held.
- Over 6 million children in Syria need humanitarian assistance. Two million of them are living in areas hard to reach by the UN, and more than 700,000 people remain in other besieged areas across the country
- On February 8, 2016, the Government of Canada announced that it will be contributing \$1.6 billion over the next three years in a comprehensive and integrated regional response to the crises in Syria and Iraq, with a focus on security, stabilization, humanitarian and development assistance, and enhanced diplomatic engagement.

Associated links

- [December 9, 2016, UN General Assembly resolution on Syria](#)
- [Canada’s response to the conflict in Syria](#)
- [Canada continues to lead efforts to mobilize UN General Assembly on Syria](#)

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