

Foreign Minister Westerwelle: UN and EU must give clear response to violence in Syria

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Welcome

Breadcrumbs

1. [Federal Foreign Office](#) ›
2. [News](#) ›
3. [Newsroom](#) ›
4. **Foreign Minister Westerwelle: UN (United Nations) and EU (European Union) must give clear response to violence in Syria**

26.04.2011 - Press release 

Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle issued the following statement today in response to the continuing violence being used by Syrian security forces against peaceful protesters:

“The brutal attacks which have been carried out on peaceful protesters and mourners attending funerals are profoundly shocking. Those responsible must be called to account immediately. I am also extremely concerned at troops with tanks and artillery being deployed to Daraa.

It is regrettable that the authorities in Syria have not yet heeded the calls of the international community. I once again strongly urge President Assad to turn to dialogue and start credible reforms immediately. Violence against peaceful protesters is absolutely unacceptable. One thing is clear: if his Government continues with its present course, there will have to be consequences.

In view of the massive use of violence, I think it essential that the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council address the situation in Syria. The EU (European Union) must also re-examine its relations with Syria.

I have had the Syrian Ambassador summoned to the Federal Foreign Office today in order once more to make our position absolutely clear to the Syrian Government.”

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