

Statement by Minister Baird on the Situation in Syria

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News Release

(No. 393 - December 26, 2011 - 4:10 p.m. ET) Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird today issued the following statement after reports that the Syrian military killed dozens more people in Homs—in advance of the arrival of Arab League observers:

“We urge an immediate end to the regime’s violence and unfettered access for international observers so that the real reforms Syrians are demanding can finally begin.

“Reports that security forces have continued their oppressive and murderous ways in Homs, even with observers at the doorstep, are very disturbing.

“Assad and his backers are delaying the inevitable. He has lost all credibility and soon will lose power. He must step aside and let justice be done.”

On December 15, 2011, Canada announced a voluntary evacuation of its citizens in Syria and expedited efforts to help them leave the country as soon as possible. We continue to urge all Canadians in Syria to leave immediately, while commercial means are still available.

Canada on Friday expanded its sanctions against the Syrian regime and those backing it.

For more information please visit [Regulations Amending the Special Economic Measures \(Syria\) Regulations](#).

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