Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

"Syrians have the right to express their views in a peaceful and open manner"

2011-03-19

I have been watching closely the situation in Syria. All Syrians have a right to express their views in a peaceful and open manner. I am extremely concerned by reports of increasing violence and the excessive use of force by security forces, apparently resulting in the death of a number of protesters yesterday.

I am also disturbed by reports of the arrest and prosecution of around 20 human rights activists who attempted to conduct a peaceful protest outside the Interior Ministry on Wednesday. This, along with reports of demonstrations in towns around Syria being broken up with lethal force is very worrying.

I call on the Government of Syria to respect the people’s right to peaceful protest and listen to their legitimate grievances. I welcome the news that the Syrian authorities are planning an investigation into the deaths of protestors yesterday. This process needs to be a fair and transparent and ensures that those responsible are held accountable

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Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/syrians-have-the-right-to-express-their-views-in-a-peaceful-and-open-manner