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The Assad Regime's Contradictory Remarks on Geneva II

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Press Statement
Syrian Coalition
Istanbul, Turkey
November 06, 2013

Assad's officials have recently said going to Geneva II will not be for handing over power. Such statements are in stark contrast to the principles set out in the Geneva Communiqué of June 2012, upon which Geneva II is based. The Geneva Communiqué clearly calls for the establishment of a transitional governing body (TGB) with full executive powers. To contradict the basis of Geneva II is indicative of the regime's chaotic state and could only mean that the Assad regime is not serious about finding a political solution.

Over decades in power, the Assad regime has refused to acknowledge an opposition to its tyrannical rule. The oppressive intelligence and security apparatus that sustain its very existence make it impossible for Assad to accept a political solution, not to mention going to Geneva to hand over power.

The Assad regime's inability to declare a clear stance on Geneva only proves its ineligibility to remain in power, and indeed to attend Geneva II. In this regard, the potential of finding a peaceful solution is subject to the willingness of the international community, in particular Russia, to put pressure on the Assad regime to acknowledge the Syrian people's legitimate aspirations; starting with the departure of Assad and the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authorities.

We ask for Mercy for our martyrs, health for our wounded, and freedom for our detainees.

Long live Syria and its people, free and with honor.

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