

Statement by Minister Baird on Situation in Syria

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(No. 172 - June 20, 2011 - 10:20 p.m. ET) John Baird, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, today made the following statement regarding Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's speech earlier today:

"Canada was unconvinced by President Assad's speech today.

"Syrians have endured terrible crimes at the hands of his regime. They are asking for real change now—not vague promises to be fulfilled perhaps at some undefined later date.

"Canada joins several allies in saying the president has a choice: he can reform or go. The status quo is no longer acceptable.

"Canada supports the people of Syria in their peaceful efforts to realize democracy and human rights."

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