Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

2013 should be ‘year of peace’ for people in the Middle East

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The Foreign Secretary today met Nabil El-Araby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States. Following the meeting the Foreign Secretary, William Hague, said:

I was pleased to welcome Mr Nabil El-Araby, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office today.

We discussed the Middle East Peace Process and agreed that 2013 offers new opportunities to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by negotiation. We expressed the shared hope that this year will be the ‘year of peace’ for Palestinians, Israelis and all people of the region. We agreed that Arab League and EU member states needed to assist the Palestinian Authority to overcome its current financial difficulties and that Israel should fulfil its obligations to transfer customs revenues due to the Palestinian Authority.

We also discussed the situation in Syria, and efforts to achieve a political transition and an end to the violence. We reiterated our support for UN and Arab League Special Representative Brahimi’s efforts to advance a credible political solution to the crisis.

The UK believes that President Assad can never recover legitimacy in the eyes of the Syrian people. His latest promises of token reforms demonstrate his increasingly desperate attempts to hold on to power. As well as supporting a political transition the UK will continue our humanitarian assistance, our work to support those documenting human rights violations in Syria, and our non-lethal support for the Syrian opposition.

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2013-will-be-year-of-peace-for-people-in-the-middle-east