

Calendar No. 388

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. RES. 435**

Calling for democratic change in Syria, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2012

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 7, 2012

Reported by Mr. KERRY, with an amendment and an amendment to the
preamble

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

RESOLUTION

Calling for democratic change in Syria, and for other
purposes.

Whereas the Republic of Syria is a party to the International
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted
at New York December 16, 1966, and the United Na-
tions Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhu-
man or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at
New York December 10, 1984, and voted in favor of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at
Paris December 10, 1948;

Whereas, since March 2011, the Government of Syria has engaged in a sustained campaign of violence and gross human rights violations against civilians in Syria, including the use of weapons of war, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment;

Whereas the United Nations estimated that, as of April 16, 2012, at least 10,000 people had been killed in Syria since the violence began in March 2011;

Whereas, on August, 18, 2011, President Barack Obama called upon President Bashar al Assad to step aside;

Whereas, in November 2011 and February 2012, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry released reports documenting gross human rights violations committed in Syria;

Whereas the League of Arab States deployed a team of international monitors to Syria on December 26, 2011;

Whereas, on January 28, 2012, the League of Arab States suspended its monitoring mission in Syria in response to an escalation in violence;

Whereas, on March 16, 2012, United Nations and League of Arab States Special Envoy Kofi Annan presented a six-point peace plan for Syria that called on the Government of Syria to, among other things: commit to stop the fighting and urgently achieve a United Nations-supervised cessation of violence; work with the Envoy in an inclusive Syrian-led political process; cease military activity in and around civilian population centers; ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance; release arbitrarily detained persons; ensure freedom of movement for journal-

ists; and respect the freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully;

Whereas, on March 21, 2012, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a Presidential Statement giving full support to the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Annan and calling on the Government of Syria and the opposition in Syria to work in good faith to fully and immediately implement Mr. Annan's six point proposal;

Whereas, on April 1, 2012, the group Friends of the Syrian People met in Istanbul and announced measures to increase the pressure on the Assad regime; provide greater humanitarian relief to people in need; and support the Syrian opposition as it works toward an inclusive democratic transition.

Whereas, as of April 1, 2012, the United States Government had pledged \$25,000,000 in humanitarian assistance; as well as non-lethal communications equipment; to activists inside Syria;

Whereas, on April 5, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement calling on the Government of Syria to implement urgently and visibly its commitments to Mr. Annan, including ceasing armed violence within 48 hours;

Whereas, on April 14, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2042, which authorized the deployment of an advance team of United Nations military observers to monitor adherence to a ceasefire in the country;

Whereas the Governments of Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq have provided refuge for tens of thousands of people displaced by the violence in Syria; and

Whereas the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to supply military equipment to the Government of Syria notwithstanding that government's violent repression of demonstrators:

Now, therefore, be it

Whereas the Republic of Syria is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted at New York December 16, 1966, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, and voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948;

Whereas, since March 2011, the Government of Syria has engaged in a sustained campaign of violence and gross human rights violations against civilians in Syria, including the use of weapons of war, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment;

Whereas nongovernmental organizations and opposition groups estimate that, as of April 16, 2012, at least 10,000 people had been killed in Syria since the violence began in March 2011;

Whereas, on August, 18, 2011, President Barack Obama called upon President Bashar al Assad to step aside;

Whereas, in November 2011 and February 2012, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry released reports documenting gross human rights violations committed in Syria;

Whereas the League of Arab States deployed a team of international monitors to Syria on December 26, 2011;

Whereas, on January 28, 2012, the League of Arab States suspended its monitoring mission in Syria in response to an escalation in violence;

Whereas, on March 16, 2012, United Nations and League of Arab States Special Envoy Kofi Annan presented a six-point peace plan for Syria that called on the Government of Syria to, among other things: commit to stop the fighting and urgently achieve a United Nations-supervised cessation of violence; work with the Envoy in an inclusive Syrian-led political process; cease military activity in and around civilian population centers; ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance; release arbitrarily detained persons; ensure freedom of movement for journalists; and respect the freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully;

Whereas, on March 21, 2012, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a Presidential Statement giving full support to the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Annan and calling on the Government of Syria and the opposition in Syria to work in good faith to fully and immediately implement Mr. Annan's six point proposal;

Whereas, on April 1, 2012, the group Friends of the Syrian People met in Istanbul and announced measures to increase the pressure on the Assad regime, provide greater humanitarian relief to people in need, and support the Syrian opposition as it works toward an inclusive democratic transition.

Whereas, as of April 20, 2012, the United States Government had pledged \$33,000,000 in humanitarian assistance, as well as non-lethal communications equipment, to activists inside Syria;

Whereas, on April 5, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement calling on the Government of Syria to implement urgently and visibly its commitments to Mr. Annan, including ceasing armed violence within 48 hours;

Whereas, on April 14, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2042, which authorized the deployment of an advance team of United Nations military observers to monitor adherence to a ceasefire in the country;

Whereas the Governments of Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq have provided refuge for tens of thousands of people displaced by the violence in Syria; and

Whereas the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to supply military equipment to the Government of Syria notwithstanding that government's violent repression of demonstrators: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, That the Senate—*

2 (1) *condemns Syrian President Bashar al-*
3 *Assad's ongoing slaughter of his own people;*

4 (2) *reaffirms that it is the policy of the United*
5 *States that the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian*
6 *people cannot be realized so long as Bashar al-Assad*
7 *remains in power and that he must step aside;*

8 (3) *recognizes the efforts of the United Nations*
9 *and the League of Arab States to establish a*
10 *ceasefire in Syria and to deploy international per-*
11 *sonnel to observe adherence by the Government of*

1 Syria to Special Envoy Kofi Annan's six-point peace
2 plan to bring an end to violence and human rights
3 violations and as a first step toward a full demo-
4 cratic transition in Syria;

5 (4) urges robust support for the United Na-
6 tions-administered Emergency Response Fund to en-
7 sure the sustained provision of humanitarian and
8 emergency medical support for the population of
9 Syria affected by the conflict;

10 (5) urges the continued provision of adequate
11 humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians cur-
12 rently located in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and
13 Iraq;

14 (6) calls on the President to engage with the
15 League of Arab States, the European Union, and
16 the Government of the Republic of Turkey to explore
17 options to protect civilians in Syria;

18 (7) demands that the Government of Syria
19 allow additional United Nations personnel into the
20 country, with complete freedom of movement, and
21 take necessary measures to ensure their safety in
22 Syria so that they may observe the ceasefire and the
23 adherence by the Government of Syria to the United
24 Nation six-point peace plan;

1 (8) urges the Syrian opposition to renew its
2 commitment to a democratic and inclusive society in
3 the post-Assad era based on the rule of law, commit-
4 ment to universal human rights for all of its people,
5 and protections for religious and ethnic minorities;

6 (9) calls upon the League of Arab States, the
7 United Nations, the Friends of the Syrian People,
8 and other interested international bodies to continue
9 to exert maximum diplomatic pressure for Assad to
10 step aside and for a political transition in Syria;

11 (10) urges the Friends of the Syrian People to
12 renew efforts to incentivize the enhanced cohesion of
13 democratically oriented organizations in Syria, and
14 to encourage these groups to make clear their inten-
15 tion to represent and protect the interests of all Syr-
16 ians;

17 (11) calls upon the President to continue to
18 provide support, including communications equip-
19 ment to organizations in Syria that are representa-
20 tive of the people of Syria, make demonstrable ef-
21 forts to protect human rights and religious freedom,
22 reject terrorism, cooperate with international
23 counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts, and
24 abstain from destabilizing neighboring countries;

1 (12) urges the President to develop a plan to
 2 identify weapons stockpiles and prevent the pro-
 3 liferation of conventional, biological, chemical, and
 4 other types of weapons in Syria; and

5 (13) strongly condemns the Governments of the
 6 Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran
 7 for providing military and security equipment to the
 8 Government of Syria, which has been used to repress
 9 peaceful demonstrations and commit mass atrocities
 10 against unarmed civilian populations in Syria.

11 *That the Senate—*

12 (1) condemns Syrian President Bashar al-
 13 Assad's ongoing atrocities against his own people;

14 (2) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United
 15 States that the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian
 16 people cannot be realized so long as Bashar al-Assad
 17 remains in power and that he must step aside and
 18 that Syria must transition to a just, representative,
 19 and inclusive government selected by the people of
 20 Syria;

21 (3) recognizes the efforts of the United Nations
 22 and the League of Arab States to negotiate and estab-
 23 lish a cessation of armed violence in Syria and to de-
 24 ploy international personnel to observe adherence by
 25 the Government of Syria to a cessation of armed vio-

1 *lence agreement as a first step toward full implemen-*
2 *tation of the United Nations supported six-point plan*
3 *culminating in a full transition to a representative*
4 *and inclusive government;*

5 *(4) urges robust support for the United Nations-*
6 *administered Emergency Response Fund to ensure the*
7 *sustained provision of humanitarian and emergency*
8 *medical support for the population of Syria affected*
9 *by the conflict;*

10 *(5) urges the continued provision of adequate hu-*
11 *manitarian assistance to displaced Syrians currently*
12 *located in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq;*

13 *(6) calls on the President to continue to engage*
14 *with the League of Arab States, the European Union,*
15 *and the Government of the Republic of Turkey to dis-*
16 *cuss all options to protect civilians in Syria;*

17 *(7) demands that the Government of Syria allow*
18 *additional United Nations personnel into the country,*
19 *with complete freedom of movement, and take nec-*
20 *essary measures to ensure their safety in Syria so*
21 *that they may observe the ceasefire and the adherence*
22 *by the Government of Syria to the United Nations*
23 *supported six-point plan;*

24 *(8) demands that the Government of Syria im-*
25 *mediately allow humanitarian relief organizations,*

1 *medical workers, and independent and foreign news*
 2 *media to operate freely inside the borders of Syria;*

3 (9) *urges the Syrian opposition to renew its*
 4 *commitment to a representative government and in-*
 5 *clusive society based on the rule of law, commitment*
 6 *to universal human rights for all of its people, and*
 7 *protections for religious and ethnic minorities;*

8 (10) *calls upon the League of Arab States, the*
 9 *United Nations, the Friends of the Syrian People,*
 10 *and other interested international bodies to continue*
 11 *to exert maximum diplomatic pressure for Assad to*
 12 *step aside and for a political transition in Syria;*

13 (11) *urges the Friends of the Syrian People to*
 14 *renew efforts to promote cohesion of democratically*
 15 *oriented organizations in Syria, and to encourage*
 16 *these groups to make clear their intention to represent*
 17 *and protect the interests of all Syrians;*

18 (12) *supports the efforts of the President to con-*
 19 *tinue to provide non-lethal support, including com-*
 20 *munications equipment to organizations in Syria*
 21 *that: are representative of the people of Syria, make*
 22 *demonstrable efforts to protect human rights and reli-*
 23 *gious freedom, reject terrorism, cooperate with inter-*
 24 *national counterterrorism and nonproliferation ef-*

1 *forts, and abstain from destabilizing neighboring*
2 *countries;*

3 *(13) urges the President to accelerate efforts with*
4 *partners from the League of Arab States, the United*
5 *Nations, the European Union, the Friends of the Syr-*
6 *ian People, and other interested international bodies*
7 *to develop a plan to identify weapons stockpiles and*
8 *prevent the proliferation of conventional, biological,*
9 *chemical, and other types of weapons in Syria;*

10 *(14) supports the actions of the European Union*
11 *to impose a ban on the sale of luxury goods and prod-*
12 *ucts to Syria in an effort aimed at the Assad family*
13 *and loyal supporters of Bashar al-Assad due to the*
14 *Government of Syria's continuing violence against*
15 *the people of Syria in spite of the ceasefire agree-*
16 *ments;*

17 *(15) condemns Syrian President Bashar al-*
18 *Assad's continued failure to uphold his March 25,*
19 *2012, commitment to the six point plan outlined by*
20 *Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan and failed compli-*
21 *ance with United Nations Security Council Resolu-*
22 *tion 2042 (2012);*

23 *(16) strongly condemns the Governments of the*
24 *Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran*
25 *for providing military and security equipment to the*

1 *Government of Syria, which has been used to repress*
2 *peaceful demonstrations and commit mass atrocities*
3 *against unarmed civilian populations in Syria; and*
4 *(17) strongly urges all Governments, including*
5 *those that have provided military and security equip-*
6 *ment to the Government of Syria in the past, includ-*
7 *ing the Republic of Belarus and the Democratic Peo-*
8 *ple's Republic of Korea, to refrain from providing*
9 *any additional military or security assistance to the*
10 *Government of Syria.*

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preamble