



**President of the General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

**Remarks
Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly
On the Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Tuesday, 4 September 2012
New York**

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we gather in this great Assembly today, millions of Syrians remain in a state of huge uncertainty, fear and death, in their own country.

Defenceless Syrians are fleeing their homes, communities and cities, to seek security and refuge in neighbouring countries. Others who could not leave Syria have been left stranded and displaced in schools and public buildings.

UN agencies now estimate that some 2.5 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

As we discuss the situation in Syria today, thousands of Syrians - the majority of whom are women and children - have been killed since the uprising started in March last year.

Despite the best efforts of this General Assembly and those of other bodies so far, killings and gross human rights violations continue to take place in Syria.

The Government of President Bashar al-Assad, has failed to protect its own citizens.

The government, has, instead, turned its guns against its own people - in total disregard of international norms and its international commitments.

I re-iterate my strong condemnation of the deadly violence in Syria.

I continue to strongly urge all parties to put the people of Syria first, put aside all political and ideological differences and work with the UN and the international community to find a lasting solution to the crisis.

As the fighting escalated, conditions had become un-tenable and unbearable for the UN Observer Mission to do its work fully and properly in Syria.

Now, the Security Council has agreed to the creation of a liaison office to support international efforts for a political solution. This is an important step and a crucial consensus about the need to keep a UN presence in Damascus.

After our last meeting in this hall on the third of August, the widely-respected diplomat, His Excellency, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, has been appointed as the new Joint Special Representative of the UN and the League of Arab States. Mr. Brahimi takes over from former Joint Special Envoy, His Excellency, Mr. Kofi Annan, who did his utmost to secure a ceasefire and implementation of the Six-Point plan.

I wish to thank Mr. Brahimi for accepting this critical and challenging assignment. I have extended to him my best wishes and full support.

He deserves the full support of all Member States of the United Nations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations General Assembly has chosen not to stay silent, in the face of the ongoing killings, massacres and crisis in Syria.

You have passed relevant and important General Assembly resolutions in February, June, and August, strongly condemning the continued widespread

and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities.

You have called repeatedly on the Syrian Government to end the killings of its own people.

You have called for an all-inclusive Syrian-led political process.

Your calls still stand!

Today, we need meaningful action!

Today, the General Assembly needs to do all that it takes under the UN Charter to help the Syrian people overcome the appalling political turmoil and the terrible loss of lives in their nation.

The killings must stop now.

The massacres must cease immediately.

The gross human rights violations and the violations of international humanitarian law must end.

And those who commit these atrocities must be brought to justice.

Your response, engagement and commitment concerning Syria are clear expressions of your important role, as envisaged in the UN Charter.

The Charter places a responsibility on the General Assembly to take steps, where necessary, to promote and ensure international peace and security.

This has become all the more necessary because of a deadlock and lack of unity in the Security Council.

The General Assembly has demonstrated its role, relevance and legitimacy in this regard.

I wish to commend and thank Member States and distinguished delegates in this Assembly for the support you have given me, as President of the General Assembly, in this regard.

Thank you.

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