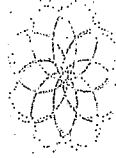




Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



Joint Statement on Human Rights Conditions in Syria Consideration of UPR Report of Syria

15 March 2012

12:00-15:00

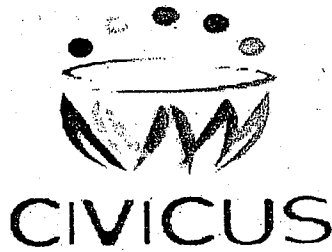
This is a joint statement by CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation and the Arab NGO Network for Development.

The current human rights situation in Syria amounts to massacres in many cities. On the political level, the steps undertaken within the reform process in Syria do not show serious commitment. They were not as a result of consultative process and do not open political process. The new constitution is still centralizing large authorities in the hands of the President, and according to the Constitution the President will stay in power until 2028. Moreover, the election law and the law of political parties remain irrelevant to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

In light of the findings of the Commission of Inquiry presented to the Human Rights Council 19th session, it is evident that Syrian government did not support core recommendations aiming at ending violence, opening political process and peaceful transition of power in Syria. In addition to intensification of use of military force, the reaction of Syrian government shows no serious commitment to implement political rights nor to ensure to reform social and economic policies in line with international human rights standards.

Within this context, we call the members of the Human Rights Council to urge the Syrian authorities to undertake the following immediate measures, in preparations for the process of implementing the recommendations accepted during the Universal Periodic Review;

- Immediately cease the use of force and repression in all forms and release political prisoners
- Allow access of humanitarian groups and independent inquiry missions in all areas of Syria with no restrictions
- Take immediate measures to allow for safe areas for operation of humanitarian agencies that can secure needed support to medical personnel, needed equipment and medicines required to treat the injured.
- Take the proper measures to launch the political process and democratic dialogue mechanisms leading to human rights protection, peaceful transition of power, and maintenance of the cessation of military and security actions and violence against citizens, with a longer term vision towards establishing sustained democratic practice and reforming economic and social development policies and laws so as to ensure the economic and social rights of the Syrian citizen.



and
Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة منظمات المجتمع المدني العربية



- Respect human rights and carry out immediate and serious steps to implement the outcome recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and other UN treaty bodies.

Moreover, stressing the importance of ensuring accountability and the need to end impunity and hold to account those responsible for human rights violations and crimes against humanity in Syria, we call upon the Human Rights Council members to ensure that the information and evidence included in Commission of Inquiry Report is communicated to the members of the Security Council, in order to enable a potential referral to the International Criminal Court.