

## Jerzy Buzek - European Parliament President - 6/1/11

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The President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, made the following statement on the killing of Hamza Ali al-Khateeb and the further developments in Syria:

"The reports about the killing of Hamza Ali al-Khateeb, a 13-year-old Syrian boy, are beyond description, beyond imagination. I am deeply appalled by the inhuman brutality, which the regime has carried out against a boy and against the Syrian people.

The Syrian authorities have lost all remaining legitimacy. The regime is waging war against the Syrian people, trying to break their courage and determination. But the people's legitimate and democratic demands will prevail, as well as their aspirations for true change. Brutal force no longer intimidates the people. Timid announcements of amnesty or alleged openness to dialogue will not delude anybody anymore.

All forms of violence against civilians must be stopped now, and the demands of the protesters have to be met without conditions. Bashar al-Assad and his regime must realise that every day of blood and suffering builds a wall between them and the Syrian people that is becoming insurmountable. Those responsible for atrocities will face justice.

Hamza Ali al-Khateeb has given a face to the distress of his people. He gives it a name. In Hamza we see not a mere boy we see every man and woman that is suffering from brutality and injustice. My thoughts are with Hamza's family and with his friends, as much as they are with the Syrian people."