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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Syria
(2012/2788(RSP))

**Véronique De Keyser, Ana Gomes, Saïd El Khadraoui, Pino Arlacchi,
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on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Syria
(2012/2788(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Syria, in particular that of 16 February 2012 on the situation in Syria¹,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 29 June 2012,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on Syria of 23 July, 25 June, 14 May, 23 April, and 23 March 2012,
- having regard to the numerous statements of High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton on the situation in Syria, in particular that on her phone call with Lakhdar Brahimi of 5 September 2012; on the appointment of Mr Lakhdar Brahimi as UN-LAS Joint Special Representative for Syria of 18 August 2012; on expulsions by the Lebanese authorities of Syrian nationals to Syria of 4 August; on the vote of the UNSC resolution on Syria of 20 July 2012; on incursions by Syrian forces into Lebanese territory of 8 July 2012; following the meeting of the Friends of the Syrian People of 6 July 2012; on the current situation in Syria of 18 June 2012; on Syria of 3 June and of 27 May 2012; on the situation in Syria of 27 April 2012; welcoming the UN Security Council resolution on Syria authorising the deployment of an advance observation team of 14 April 2012; and condemning the continued repression and violence in Syria and marking the anniversary of the uprising of 15 March 2012,
- having regard to the statements of Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva on the situation in Syria of 29 August and of 31 and 17 July 2012,
- having regard to UN Security Council resolutions 2059 of 20 July, 2043 of 21 April, and 2042 of 14 April 2012,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984; the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict of 2000, to all of which Syria is a party,
- having regard to UN Human Rights Council resolutions on Syria of 6 July, 1 June, and 1 March 2012,
- having regard to the report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria of 15 August 2012,

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0057.

- having regard to the Final Communiqué of the meeting of the Action Group for Syria of 30 June 2012,
 - having regard to the ‘National Pact’ and the ‘Common Political Vision for the transition in Syria’ issued following the Syrian opposition conference held under the auspices of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 2 and 3 July 2012,
 - having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of ‘The Day After Project: Supporting a Democratic Transition in Syria’ published in August 2012,
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas nearly 20 000 people have been killed and many more injured in the brutal crackdown of the Syrian regime against its population since March 2011; whereas 235 000 refugees from Syria have been registered or are awaiting registration with the UN High Commission for Refugees; whereas tens of thousands more who flee from Syria into neighbouring countries do not register; whereas, according to UN estimates, more than 1.2 million people have been internally displaced within Syria and around 3 million are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance; whereas the crisis has taken a particularly brutal turn, which resulted in a rapid escalation of these figures, in August 2012;
 - B. whereas the massacre of the Syrian regime against its population, which has driven the country to the brink of civil war, continues; whereas the report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria of 15 August 2012 concluded that government forces and Shabbiha fighters had committed crimes against humanity as well as war crimes and gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and that these actions had followed state policy with the involvement at the highest levels of the armed and security forces and the government; whereas the UN Commission also reported that war crimes had been perpetrated by anti-government armed groups, even if these had not been of the same gravity, frequency and scale as those committed by government forces and the Shabbiha; whereas UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay has repeatedly called on the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court;
 - C. whereas a Syrian-led inclusive political transition that meets the legitimate democratic aspirations of the Syrian people is the only way towards a free and democratic Syria; whereas further militarisation of the conflict can only bring greater suffering to the Syrian people and the region as a whole; whereas the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria observed that more brutal tactics and new military capabilities had been employed in recent months by both sides; whereas arms continue to flow into Syria through various channels;
 - D. whereas President Bashar al-Assad and his authoritarian regime has no place in the future in Syria; whereas the stepping down of the President is the only way to avoid the further escalation of the crisis and to allow a peaceful and democratic transition to take place in the country; whereas several former political and military leaders of the regime as well as ambassadors have defected to neighbouring countries and beyond;
 - E. whereas a credible alternative is needed to the current regime; whereas this alternative

should be inclusive and representative of the diversity of Syrian society and should fully respect universal values of democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, with special regard to the rights of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities as well as of women; whereas the establishment of an inclusive and representative provisional government by opposition forces may contribute to this alternative;

- F. whereas Syrian opposition representatives held several meetings over the past months with the aim of overcoming internal divergences and creating a united front, and issued a 'National Pact' and a 'Common Political Vision for the transition in Syria' as well as conclusions and recommendations of 'The Day After Project: Supporting a Democratic Transition in Syria'; whereas, despite all efforts, internal divisions and tensions within this opposition persist;
- G. whereas, due to the veto of Russia and China, the UN Security Council has been unable to give adequate response to the crisis in Syria so far; whereas, in its resolution adopted on 3 August 2012, the UN General Assembly deplored the failure of the Security Council to agree on measures to ensure the compliance of Syrian authorities with its decisions; whereas, on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, UN unarmed military observers had been deployed in Syria; whereas the operations of this observer mission ended on 20 August 2012;
- H. whereas the six-point peace plan proposed by Kofi Annan as the joint envoy of the UN and the League of Arab States failed and he resigned; whereas former Algerian foreign minister Lakhdar Brahimi has recently been appointed the new Joint Special Representative for Syria of the UN and the League of Arab States;
- I. whereas, on 30 June 2012, the secretaries-general of the UN and the League of Arab States, the foreign ministers of China, France, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States, and the EU High Representative met in Geneva as the Action Group for Syria, chaired by the Joint Special Representative for Syria of the UN and the League of Arab States; whereas this Action Group agreed on 'principles and guide-lines on a Syrian-led transition': a perspective for the future that can be shared by all in Syria, establishes clear steps according to a firm time-table towards its realisation, can be implemented in a climate of safety for all, stability and calm, is reached rapidly without further bloodshed and violence, and is credible;
- J. whereas a Group of Friends of Syria has been established and held several conferences on the level of foreign ministers with the participation of representatives of key international organisations including the UN, the League of Arab States, the EU, the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the African Union;
- K. whereas the crisis in Syria is a major threat to the fragile security and stability of the region as a whole; whereas, despite all their difficulties, neighbouring countries of Syria have accepted everybody asking for protection so far according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; whereas, due to the rapidly growing number of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, pressure is increasing on these countries which need international support;

- L. whereas the EU has imposed targeted sanctions on Syria in several rounds, including travel ban, asset freeze, a ban on export of luxury goods and of dual use goods to the country, and has further strengthened its arms embargo against Syria;
1. Condemns again, in the strongest terms, the brutal massacre of the Syrian regime against its population; applauds the courage of the Syrian people; expresses its solidarity with and support for Syrians struggling for democracy, dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms;
 2. Calls on all armed actors to put an immediate end to violence in Syria; calls on the Syrian government to withdraw the Syrian army from besieged town and cities without delay; stresses again that international humanitarian law must be fully respected by all actors involved in the crisis;
 3. Calls for immediate humanitarian assistance for all in need in Syria, with special regard to the wounded, refugees, the internally displaced, women, and children; commends the efforts of the International Red Cross and UNRWA in this regard; calls on the Syrian government to allow full access to humanitarian organisations to the country;
 4. Urges the EU and its Member States to intensify their efforts to find alternative ways to deliver humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria despite all obstacles and difficulties;
 5. Reiterates its call for President Bashar al-Assad and his regime to step aside immediately, so as to allow a peaceful, inclusive and democratic Syrian-led transition to take place in the country;
 6. Stresses again that those responsible for of the widespread, systemic and gross human rights violations committed in Syria over the past 18 months must be held accountable; strongly supports in this context the calls made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court;
 7. Takes note of the efforts made by Syrian opposition representatives to create a united front of opposition forces as well as of the recently issued ‘National Pact’, ‘Common Political Vision for the transition in Syria’, and conclusions and recommendations of ‘The Day After Project: Supporting a Democratic Transition in Syria’; encourages the Syrian opposition to continue on this path with the aim of creating a credible alternative to the regime;
 8. Applauds the efforts of neighbouring countries to Syria in hosting and providing humanitarian relief to Syrian refugees and calls for increased international support and assistance in this context; stresses the crucial importance of finding a sustainable response to the humanitarian crisis both within Syria and among Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries; urges neighbouring countries of Syria to continue to provide protection to Syrian refugees and displaced persons and to refrain, in line with their international obligations, from the expulsion and return of any such person to Syria;
 9. Reiterates its call on UN Security Council members, in particular Russia and China, to uphold their responsibility to put an end to the violence and repression against the Syrian people; continues to support the efforts of the EU and its Member States in this field;

10. Encourages the new Joint Special Representative for Syria of the UN and the League of Arab States to take an ambitious and proactive approach; calls on the international community, including the EU and its Member States, to provide him with strong and unified support;
11. Continues to support ongoing efforts of the EU and its Member States to exert increasing pressure on the Syrian regime through restrictive measures; calls for the further strengthening of targeted sanctions;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the government and parliament of the People's Republic of China, the government and parliament of Iraq, the government and parliament of Jordan, the government and parliament of Lebanon, the government and parliament of Russia, the government and parliament of Turkey, the President and Congress of the United States, the Secretary-General of the UN, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and the government and parliament of Syria.