

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# **S. RES. 435**

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

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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

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## **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 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 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 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 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

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

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

24 (6) calls on the President to engage with the  
25 League of Arab States, the European Union, and

1 the Government of the Republic of Turkey to explore  
2 options to protect civilians in Syria;

3 (7) demands that the Government of Syria  
4 allow additional United Nations personnel into the  
5 country, with complete freedom of movement, and  
6 take necessary measures to ensure their safety in  
7 Syria so that they may observe the ceasefire and the  
8 adherence by the Government of Syria to the United  
9 Nations six-point peace plan;

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

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

20 (10) urges the Friends of the Syrian People to  
21 renew efforts to incentivize the enhanced cohesion of  
22 democratically oriented organizations in Syria, and  
23 to encourage these groups to make clear their inten-  
24 tion to represent and protect the interests of all Syr-  
25 ians;

1 (11) calls upon the President to continue to  
2 provide support, including communications equip-  
3 ment to organizations in Syria that are representa-  
4 tive of the people of Syria, make demonstrable ef-  
5 forts to protect human rights and religious freedom,  
6 reject terrorism, cooperate with international  
7 counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts, and  
8 abstain from destabilizing neighboring countries;

13 (13) strongly condemns the Governments of the  
14 Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran  
15 for providing military and security equipment to the  
16 Government of Syria, which has been used to repress  
17 peaceful demonstrations and commit mass atrocities  
18 against unarmed civilian populations in Syria.

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