



Weekly Report

APRIL 28 - MAY 5,
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- 1 UN condemns “endless spiral of targeting civilians for tactical purposes” in Syria
- 2 Parties agree to 24-hour ceasefire in Homs to allow peaceful withdrawal of opposition forces
- 3 Assad to stand in Syrian elections which opposition leaders denounce as a mockery of democracy

“[I]n my reports I have demonstrated time and time again the minimal impact of the approach being taken so far, and that public pressure and private diplomacy has yielded very little.” – UN Emergency Coordinator Valerie Amos

Syrian Arab Republic

Ross Gower

UN condemns “endless spiral of targeting civilians for tactical purposes” in Syria

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned recent mortar fire and shellings in the areas of Homs and Damascus, which left dozens of civilians dead.
- While the Secretary-General stressed that all parties must work together to achieve a political solution to the conflict, UN Emergency Coordinator Valerie Amos added that the Security Council must act since public pressure and diplomacy have had little effect.
- Source: UN News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47687#.U2Ok1cZyVoU>

Parties agree to 24-hour ceasefire in Homs to allow peaceful withdrawal of opposition forces

- Withdrawal of rebel forces from Homs, the city once known as the “capital of the revolution,” would mark a significant symbolic and tactical victory for government troops.
- Hundreds of civilians were already evacuated from the besieged areas in February during a humanitarian ceasefire overseen by the UN and Red Crescent, though many opposition fighters remained.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/us-syria-crisis-homs-idUSBREA410CA20140502>

Assad to stand in Syrian elections which exiled opposition leaders denounce as a mockery of democracy

- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has nominated himself to stand in upcoming Syrian elections, hoping to secure a third term in power.
- Exiled opposition leaders and other critics maintain that “no credible vote can take place in a country where 6 million people have been displaced and 2.5 million have fled as refugees.”
- Source: Al Jazeera

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/04/syria-assad-seeks-re-election-poll-2014428101052631506.html>