



# Weekly Report

## Syrian Arab Republic

Ross Gower

**MAY 19-26, 2014**

- 1** Russia and China veto U.N. resolution to refer Syrian situation to International Criminal Court
- 2** Syrian authorities force leading aid group to cease operations in Damascus
- 3** U.N. Secretary-General condemns deadly and indiscriminate attack on electoral rally

### ***Russia and China veto U.N. resolution to refer Syrian situation to International Criminal Court***

- For the fourth time Russia and China vetoed U.N. Security Council action that might have helped to put an end to the conflict.
- The resolution would have referred the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC prosecutor is unable to investigate activities in Syria without a referral from the Security Council.
- U.N. Deputy-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson stated that the credibility of the entire organization would continue to suffer if members were unable to agree on some measures to provide accountability for the ongoing human rights atrocities.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/23/us-syria-crisis-un-icc-idUSBREA4M03220140523>

### ***Syrian authorities force leading aid group to cease operations in Damascus***

- Syrian authorities prohibited Mercy Corps, one of the leading aid organizations in Syria, from operating in areas of Damascus under the control of opposition forces.
- This prohibition of aid in opposition-held areas of Damascus violates U.N. Security Council resolution 2139, which demands equal access to food, blankets, clothing, water, and medicine.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/23/aid-group-mercy-corps-forced-to-close-damascus-operations-syria>

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*"If members of the council continue to be unable to agree on a measure that could provide some accountability for the ongoing crimes, the credibility of this body and of the entire organization will continue to suffer" – U.N. Deputy-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson*

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### ***U.N. Secretary-General condemns deadly and indiscriminate attack on electoral rally***

- U.N. Secretary-General reiterated the need for both sides in the conflict to refrain from indiscriminate attacks, reacting to news that mortar fire in southern Syria on an election rally in support of President Bashar al-Assad led to the deaths of twenty-one civilians.
- Mr. Ban also expressed deep regret that the international community has not yet been able to unite to put an end to the brutal conflict, now in its fourth year.
- Source: UN News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47877#.U3-1ocZyVoU>