



Weekly Report

Syrian Arab Republic

Ross Gower

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- 1** Bashar al-Assad re-elected President as conflict rages on
- 2** Russia to oppose aid-plan authorizing cross-border deliveries to Syria
- 3** Details of horrific raid surface which killed 15 civilians, including 7 children, in northern Syria

Bashar al-Assad re-elected President as conflict rages on

- President Bashar al-Assad won a landslide victory over opponents, receiving approximately 90% of votes. The result boosts Assad's support making it extremely unlikely that he will relinquish power in the face of international pressure.
- For the first time in decades there were multiple candidates on the ballot; however, reports indicate that polls were only held in government-held areas.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/04/bashar-al-assad-wins-reelection-in-landslide-victory>

Russia to oppose aid-plan authorizing cross-border deliveries to Syria

- According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Russia would oppose a UN resolution that would authorize cross-border aid deliveries into Syria if its enforcement required military action.
- The draft UN resolution has been circulated to the veto-wielding council members. Diplomats have asserted that the draft falls under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which would make it legally binding and enforceable by military force, or other coercive measures, such as economic sanctions.
- Source: The Moscow Times

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russia-signals-opposition-to-western-backed-syria-aid-plan/501294.html>

“These cold-blooded killings serve as a bitter reminder of how complete impunity for the war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria is fuelling brutality and inhumanity.”

– Philip Luther, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Amnesty International

Details of horrific raid surface which killed 15 civilians, including 7 children, in northern Syria

- Amnesty International has obtained details of a raid that occurred on May 29, 2014, which led to the deaths of 15 civilians, among them 7 children. The raid was allegedly carried out by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a jihadist rebel group in a feud with Kurds in northeastern Syria.
- Philip Luther of Amnesty International expressed that these acts evidenced how the lack of punishment for crimes against humanity in the region is fueling brutalities.
- Source: Amnesty International News

<http://www.amnesty.ca/news/news-releases/children-among-15-civilians-summarily-killed-in-northern-syria>