



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

July 18, 2012

Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General
United Nations

via fax

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) strongly supports the U.S. and the European Union's unprecedented action of asking the UN Human Rights Council to declare in advance that Syria as a candidate State, is inherently disqualified to join its ranks, due to the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad.

As part of the U.N.'s 53-nation Asian group, Syria's candidacy would be virtually assured of victory due to the prevalent system of fixed slates, whereby regional groups orchestrate uncontested elections, naming only as many candidates as allotted seats.

In a strongly-worded resolution condemning the Syrian government for committing atrocities slated for a vote, paragraph 1 *"stresses in a strongly-worded resolution that the current Syrian government's announced candidacy for the Human Rights Council in 2014 fails to meet the standards for Council membership"* as set forth in its founding charter.

Syria actually had declared its official candidacy in early 2011, around the time the killings began.

The IAJLJ warns that Syria's imminent winning a seat on the world's highest human rights body is a travesty of the principles of human rights.

The IAJLJ declares that the ongoing bloodshed inflicted on the Syrian population by the Assad regime, assisted by Iran and Hezbollah, is a source of major humanitarian concern and the continued violence of the Syrian regime against its citizens could lead to fatal consequences for the entire region. The IAJLJ notes with concern that the Red Cross now views fighting in Syria as an internal armed conflict that lays the ground for war crimes prosecutions.

Therefore, **the IAJLJ calls upon the Human Rights Council to prevent the membership in its ranks of the Syrian regime, guilty of acts of violence; widespread, systematic, and gross violations of human rights; on-going atrocities; and indiscriminate targeting of civilians.** The current Syrian government's announced candidacy for the Human Rights Council in 2014 fails to meet the standards for Council membership and thus would seriously undermine the Council.

Yours truly,

Irit Kohn, Adv.

President