



# TAG

## TRANSATLANTIC GROUP ON COUNTERTERRORISM

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June 15, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

President Herman Van Rompuy  
The European Council  
Rue de la Loi 175,  
B-1048 Brussels, Belgium

Dear President Obama and President Van Rompuy,

Peaceful protests in Syria have been met with violence by the Assad regime. Over the past few weeks there have been targeted attacks against protestors there, and the number of civilian wounded and dead is rising.

We have been told by Syrians that the Assad regime has directly ordered military force in order to suppress civilian protestors. The military there is now using tanks, machine guns, snipers and helicopters in an effort to harass and harm Syrians. We are also greatly troubled by reports stating that Syrian security forces have invited Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to assist them in their violent oppression of Syrian civil society.

Further, we know that Syrian security forces have cut off electricity, water and food for a number of towns and villages they feel are hostile to Assad. These acts have resulted in thousands of Syrian civilians fleeing to Turkey, and other neighboring countries, in order to seek refuge. We believe Assad will continue to unleash his security forces on Syrians, and this will bring about a serious humanitarian crisis for the whole region.

On June 14, 2011, Members of Congress and Members of European Parliament met in the US Capitol for the third Transatlantic Group on Counterterrorism (TAG) summit. This group was formed to create a better working relationship on security issues between legislators in Europe and America. During our meetings, we discussed Syria and the brutal crackdowns. We also heard from Syrian opposition organizations who told of the brutal human rights abuses taking place in Syria. Members of TAG agreed that action must be taken.

Therefore, we are requesting you, our respective Presidents, to push the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution condemning Assad and his regime for the attacks against innocent civilians in Syria.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair of TAG

Jamie Major Oreja  
Member of European Parliament  
Co-Chair of TAG