



## **TAG**

### **Trans Atlantic Group on Counter Terrorism Conclusions and Recommendations**

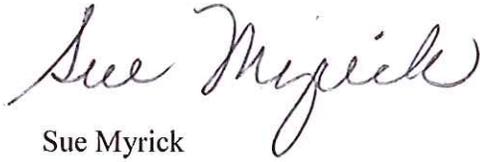
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July 10, 2012  
Washington, D.C.

1. The TAG recommends to identify and engage secular democrats in the Syrian opposition and to invite them for a series of consultations in Brussels and Washington, D.C. to discuss the future of a free democratic Syria. The TAG also supports international efforts to end the brutal Bashar al-Assad regime.
2. The TAG condemns the Russian and Chinese governments for their political support of the Assad regime and the violence the Syrian government pursues against its dissidents. The TAG further condemns the Russian government for its reckless actions in providing military hardware assistance to the Syrian regime – this Russian assistance directly prolongs and intensifies the violence in Syria, and the Russian government should be held accountable for its actions.
3. The TAG wishes to extend its support to political dissidents in Iran in their quest to establish a peaceful pluralist democratic country. The TAG condemns the Iranian government's violent oppression of such dissidents – in addition to the Iranian government's pursuit of an illegal nuclear program and continuous support of transnational terrorist organizations.
4. The TAG urges the U.S. and E.U. to fully impose economic sanctions on the Iranian government. The TAG also urges the international community to impose punishments on entities that undermine international pressure and continue to do business in Iran.
5. The TAG recognizes the cybersecurity and Information Technology supply chain security concerns that originate from firms linked to the Government of the People's Republic of China. These firms, specifically Huawei and the ZTE Corporation, have been provided, and will continue to be provided with, billions of dollars of Chinese Government support – and they also enjoy close ties to the People's Liberation Army. The TAG is aware that these firms have been blocked from certain deals with U.S. firms because of national security concerns. TAG is also aware that these firms have appeared to provide sanctioned telecommunications equipment to the Iranian government – equipment that the Iranian government can use to monitor, and subsequently persecute, its citizens. The TAG does not believe these Chinese firms are suitable business partners for governments or international private entities.

6. The TAG extends its support to Lebanon's sovereignty and international borders, and to the full implementation of all relevant U.N. resolutions – including UNSCR 1559 and 1701. All militias must be disarmed, and the Lebanese Army and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon should be the only forces responsible for the protection of Lebanon.
7. The TAG recommends extending an invitation to the members of the elected legislative assemblies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region who wish to build secular democracies and partner with Europe, North America and other members of the international community for a future pluralist Middle East with full respect for Human Rights. Furthermore, the TAG encourages those elected officials to form a Middle East Democracy Group (MEDG).
8. The TAG would extend an invitation to the MEDG to meet elected officials of Middle Eastern descent across the Americas and Europe in 2013 in Madrid.
9. The TAG calls upon countries that provide foreign aid to the MENA region to qualify, or restrict, such assistance based on the application of universal human rights. Foreign aid to the MENA region should be linked to a particular country's respect for religious freedom, journalistic freedom, women's rights, minority rights, and other basic democratic principles.
10. The TAG expresses concern about the protracted stagnation of the Middle East Peace process and calls upon the E.U. and the U.S. to reinforce their efforts to break the deadlock around the peace talks by more actively engaging Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
11. The TAG expresses concern about the expansion of radical movements and terrorism in Mali and across the Sahel region and calls upon the U.S. and E.U. to support counter-terrorism efforts in the region and the establishment of pluralist societies where all ethnic groups are recognized and are part of the political process.
12. The TAG calls for coordinated action by the U.S. and the E.U. to protect all religious minorities and prevent future religious persecution across the MENA region.
13. The TAG calls upon the E.U. and the U.S. to more effectively coordinate their efforts to support human rights and democracy in Latin America. The TAG also recommends that the U.S. and E.U. develop a coordinated strategy to counter the Iranian government's expanding influence in the region.
14. The TAG encourages the U.S. and E.U. to send Members or other federal officials to monitor the elections in Venezuela in October 2012.
15. The TAG expresses concern about the protracted and systematic civil rights violations in Belarus, and the deterioration of civil rights in Ukraine. The TAG calls upon

the U.S. and E.U. to more effectively coordinate their efforts to help dissidents in both countries and pressure the Belarusian and Ukrainian governments to fully re-establish pluralist democracies.



Sue Myrick  
TAG Co-Chair  
Member of Congress



Jaime Mayor Oreja  
TAG Co-Chair  
Member of European Parliament