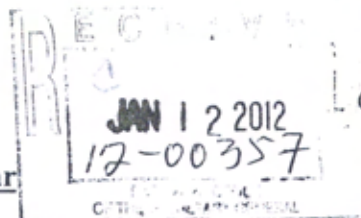


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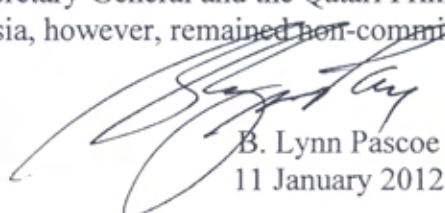
Note to Mr. Nambiar

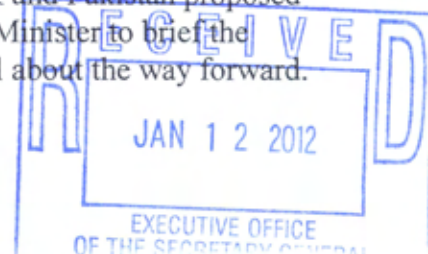


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↓ **SECURITY COUNCIL 10 JANUARY CONSULTATIONS ON SYRIA**

1. At the Security Council's request, I focused the main portion of my monthly horizon-scanning briefing on Syria. My briefing captured the latest developments on the ground and reiterated the Secretary-General's calls on the international community to act in a coherent manner to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis. I underscored concerns about human rights violations and stressed the need for accountability. I reiterated our support to the Arab League efforts and our readiness to provide technical assistance to its observer mission.
2. Despite their shared concerns at the continued violence, Security Council members remain deeply divided over their assessments of the situation and the way forward. While the US, France, Germany and the UK pressed for action and insisted on the Syrian authorities' failure to meet their obligations, Russia, China and India reiterated calls for national dialogue and a Syrian-led process. Russia and India strongly criticized any notion of regime change. Russia reiterated its call on countries with contacts with the opposition to urge its leadership to engage in dialogue with the regime. India stated that it had reliable reports that Al-Qaida had been involved in suicide attacks in Damascus on 23 December and 6 January. New Council members (Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo), while expressing strong concerns about the violence, expressed the need for a better understanding of the situation. Azerbaijan endorsed the Russian draft resolution.
3. All Council members expressed support for the efforts of the League of Arab States (LAS), and its observer mission. They encouraged the UN to provide technical assistance to the mission, and some inquired about the modalities of the envisaged training by OHCHR. While referring to the oral report of the observer mission presented to the LAS on 8 January, Council members were divided on what they cited from it and from the subsequent LAS statement. While Russia, China and India emphasized steps taken by the Syrian authorities, such as the release of prisoners and withdrawal of the military from some cities, the European countries and the US underlined these were only partial measures, and stressed the overall lack of progress on the implementation of the LAS peace plan. The US and UK strongly criticized President Assad's speech of yesterday, which demonstrated his continued resolve to crush the protests. The US also regretted that in return to the LAS efforts, President Assad had "belittled" the Arab League. All condemned Monday's attack on two LAS observers from Kuwait, and underlined the Syrian Government's responsibility in providing for the safe and free movement of the observers.
4. Although all spoke of the need for the Security Council to act and send a strong message, there has been no progress on the Russian draft resolution. France, Germany, the US and India expressed their frustrations about the slow process in the discussion of the draft. Russia did not respond, but reiterated its call for a constructive engagement. While not clearly spelled out as such, there seemed to be an expectation from the majority of the Council members that next steps, be it a resolution or additional consultations, would come after 19 January, when the LAS observer mission is expected to present its findings to the LAS. Germany, the UK and Pakistan proposed that the Council invite the LAS Secretary-General and the Qatari Prime Minister to brief the Security Council at that time. Russia, however, remained non-committal about the way forward.


B. Lynn Pascoe
11 January 2012



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