



Brussels, 04 June 2014
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STATEMENT

on the presidential elections in Syria

"The election on 3 June cannot be considered as a genuinely democratic vote. A flawed electoral law imposed identification requirements that deprived most Syrians living in areas under opposition control of the ability to cast their vote. The law also prevented exiled opposition candidates from standing against President Assad, and blocked access to alternative sources of campaign information.

Former UN and Arab League special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi criticised the holding of such an election in a country in the midst of a civil war, and urged Assad to refrain from seeking re-election as it would jeopardise the political process that had started with Geneva I.

The regime has rejected the Geneva Communiqué as the basis for political transition and has continued with military operations, leading to more than 150,000 deaths, 6.5 million internally displaced persons and 2.5 million refugees. Any elections in Syria should only take place within the framework of a genuine political process agreed by the international community. The EU thus considers that these elections are illegitimate and undermine the political efforts to find a solution to this horrific conflict.

We call on the regime to re-engage in genuine political negotiations that will produce conditions allowing for a real expression of the will of the Syrian people."

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