

## **Muslim Association of Canada Calls For Action to End Violence Against Syrian Civilians**

(Ottawa, ON, February 7, 2012) - The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) calls on the Canadian government to exert diplomatic pressure on China and Russia following the dual veto of the Security Council resolution on Syria.

Prime Minister Harper is to begin a visit to China this week. It is our hope that he will use the opportunity to discuss the cessation of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

MAC recognizes that Canada has imposed basic sanctions against Syria. However, more measures by the international community are needed to end the escalation of violence. We call upon the government of Canada to be at the forefront of these efforts.

Currently over 5,400 Syrians have been killed since the start of the uprising in March of 2011. The violence has only escalated over the course of the year, particularly in last few days. In addition to these casualties, thousands of Syrians are now living in refugee camps in Lebanon and Turkey. Those living both in and out of the borders of Syria are in need of basic humanitarian assistance.

We urge the Canadian government to continue supporting those pursuing democracy, peace, and life with dignity. We appeal to all Canadians to support relief efforts targeting the Syrian crisis.

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*The Muslim Association of Canada is a grassroots Islamic movement that embodies a holistic understanding of Islam emphasizing God consciousness and good works. By balancing authenticity and creativity we advance an understanding of Islam that is relevant to Canadian society. We serve the Muslim community and society at large through our own initiatives as well as constructive engagement with others. We inspire, enable, and engage people to uphold the fundamental values of faith, justice, and being of benefit to all of humanity.*