



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Arab Social Democratic Forum warns against a military intervention in Syria. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons and stresses that its use by any party in Syria is a crime against humanity. We applaud the Socialist International call on the UN to quickly confirm the use of Chemical Weapons, identify an international response and move to hold those responsible accountable. A U.S. military intervention as is currently under consideration by the U.S. Congress, without the UN Security Council authorization, is a violation of the United Nations' Charter and poses a grave threat to regional stability.

The governments and the democratic forces of the countries, which will bare the brunt of any intervention in Syria, must assume a leadership position to prevent military intervention and try to find a political solution in the near future. The Arab Social Democratic Forum joins the Arab League and call on the United Nations and the international community "to assume their responsibilities in line with the UN Charter and international law by taking the necessary deterrent measures."

Military intervention, without U.N. authorization and support of the international community, will increase the probability of jihadist groups in Syria acquiring advanced weapons, which would constitute a danger for the entire region and the possibility of smuggling of these weapons to neighbouring countries, as was the case with Libya. There is also the danger of a spill over of the conflict to neighbouring countries. This threat is especially real in Lebanon, where sectarian violence is on the rise.

The Arab Social Democratic Forum urges the international community to take immediate action to end the bloodshed, and hold those who committed atrocities in Syria accountable for their crimes. The U.N. needs to take substantive steps towards a political solution to the crisis.

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On behalf of the Organisation Committee

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