URGENT APPEAL FROM ICAPP AND CAPDI FOR A PEACE COALITION IN SYRIA

On behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI), we appeal to you and to all the other leaders of the Syrian political parties and civil society organizations to form a peace coalition, stop the violence, and organize a government of national unity to chart a new beginning for the courageous Syrian people.

After nearly a year of inconclusive conflict, it is clear that the Damascus government and the popular forces arrayed against it have come to a stalemate. Neither side has coercive power enough to force a settlement on its terms.

Hence the time has come to negotiate a compromise agreement that stops the killing of civilians and the gross violations of human rights. And starting up this humanitarian dialogue must become the task of the Syrian political parties and non-government organizations working together—whether pro-government, independent, or in opposition.

In this spirit, ICAPP urges its Syrian member-parties and the Syrian National Council to initiate a political process and a peace coalition to stop the violence and form an interim 'Government of National Unity' that would lead Syria's transition to a new government acceptable to the majority of the Syrian people, availing of the multi-party system under the new charter.

Let us assure you, friends and colleagues in Syria, that the more than 300 ICAPP member-parties—in West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia—and our affiliated civil society organizations under CAPDI are anxious to extend moral support, counsel and assistance in this non-partisan initiative that only your parties—as the authoritative political representatives of the Syrian people—are capable of undertaking.

We in ICAPP and CAPDI are desirous to work with the Arab League, the United Nations and its Special Envoy on Syria, former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, and other international and regional organizations to help achieve peace and reconciliation in your embattled land.

Please give this appeal from your colleagues in Asia who wish your country well your most urgent consideration.

Hon. Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary General, ICAPP;
Vice President, CAPDI
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee, ICAPP;
Founding President, CAPDI;
Former Speaker,
House of Representatives
Manila, Philippines

Sen. Mushahid Hussain Sayed
Special Rapporteur, ICAPP;
Secretary-General, CAPDI;
Secretary-General, Pakistan Muslim League-Q
Islamabad, Pakistan

H.E. Jusuf Kalla
Former Vice President of Indonesia;
Chairman, CAPDI;
President,
Indonesian Red Cross
Jakarta, Indonesia

H.E. Sok An
Deputy Prime Minister,
Council of Ministers;
Senior Vice President, CAPDI
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This letter was sent on March 16, 2012 to 10 political parties of Syria as follows:

1. Arab Socialist Movement
2. Democratic Socialist Unionist Party
3. Arabic Democratic Unionist Party
4. Arab Socialist Ba'th Party
5. Arab Socialist Union
6. Social Democratic Unionist
7. Socialist Unionist
8. National Vow Party (Hazeb al-'ahd al-waTani
9. Syrian Communist Party (Yusuf Faisal faction)
10. Syrian Social Nationalist Party (Khalid Bakdash faction)

With copies to the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, former U.N. Secretary General and Special Envoy on Syria Kofi Annan, through the Ambassadors to the U.N. of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Indonesia and Pakistan.

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