



Republic of Botswana

TELEGRAMS: DEFA
TELEPHONE : 3600700
TELEX : 2414 BD
Fax : 3913366

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
PRIVATE BAG 00368
Gaborone

PRESS RELEASE ON SYRIA

Gaborone, 24 November 2016: The Government of the Republic of Botswana is deeply concerned by the protracted conflict in Syria, which has since 2011 subjected many innocent Syrian people to carnage and inhumane suffering.

It is regrettable that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is charged with the responsibility to maintain international peace and stability, is failing to find a durable solution to the conflict. It is equally, worrisome that some Permanent Members of the UNSC are directly or indirectly involved in conflicts in the Middle East, thus undermining collective efforts to find a political solution to the conflict.

It is of paramount importance that all members of the international community should demonstrate unequivocal commitment towards fighting crimes against humanity, if we are to preserve international peace and security. It is therefore regrettable that the Russian Federation has indicated its intention to withdraw its signature from the Rome Statute, the Agreement setting up the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Also of grave concern is that the on-going attacks on innocent people in Syria and Yemen are deliberately targeting and destroying property and infrastructure, including hospitals. This sad state of affairs reflects a world which is fast spiralling into anarchy. This also demonstrates unprecedented abhorrence for human rights and lack of respect for human dignity.

The lack of consensus on how to address the conflict situation in Syria by the UNSC is reflective of a looming resurgence of a new cold war, which all paints a very bleak picture for mankind. The escalation of conflicts in the Middle East and other parts of the world, and the blatant violation of universal values by some countries, is quite disheartening. This, therefore, calls for concerted efforts by the international community to confront these critical challenges head on.

The Government of Botswana once again wishes to appeal to the international community, particularly the UNSC, which is charged with the responsibility of protecting the affected communities, to step up efforts to avert the looming disaster that faces humanity.

Contact - Public Relations, Research and Information Department
Tel: (267) 3600700 Fax: (267) 3959685
E-Mail: mofaic_prri@gov.bw
Website: www.mofaic.gov.bw