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On Foreign Minister, Walid Mualim's Press Conference

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Media Statement

Syrian Coalition
Istanbul, Turkey
June 24, 2013

In his latest press conference, Assad's Foreign Minister, Walid Mualim stated that the Assad regime will participate in Geneva II. He claims the purpose of attending the talks is to "build a real partnership" leading to a government of national unity representing all Syrians. Furthermore, he denies any involvement of Assad's forces in using chemical weapons.

Like it has done with all previous initiatives of the UN and Arab League missions, the Assad regime is stalling for time by attending Geneva II. For Assad, this creates an opportunity for more destruction and for the Assad forces to gain more ground in Syria.

Mualim's denial of Assad's usage of chemical weapons comes after myriads of video footage, reports, testimonies of witnesses, and western governments' affirmations of chemical weapon usage against innocent civilians.

The Syrian Coalition stresses that arming the Free Syrian Army will help defend the Syrian people against state terrorism, as Hezbollah and other sectarian paramilitary troops join the fight against Syrian civilians.

The Syrian Coalition reiterates its commitment to a political solution that stops bloodshed, leads to a democratic, civil Syria, and meets the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom and dignity.

We emphasize the importance of excluding Assad, and those around him who are also guilty of crimes against the Syrian people, from Geneva II. In fact, the international community must put in place steps to prosecute those who have violated any human rights conventions.

We ask for Mercy for our martyrs, health for our wounded, and freedom for our detainees.

Long live Syria and its people, free and with honor.

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