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# ***Coalition for Peace Action, Information and Action!***



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<https://www.facebook.com/PACFPA?ref=hl>

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## **UN Security Council Acts on Syrian Civilians - US Needs to Step Up Its Aid, and Recruit Other Donors**

We should all welcome the unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council on February 22\*, to condemn the extreme violence against the Syrian people, including bombing; to take measures to help millions of civilians; and to obligate the Syrian government, and all combatants, to allow food shipments to those in need. This resolution has the force of law, and if violated, the Security Council can take further enforcement measures. We in the Coalition for Peace Action commend these steps. But more can and must be done—the US and Russia, which have supported opposite sides, can take the lead. It's important that all five permanent members, including Russia, voted in favor for the first time.

For its part, the US needs to increase its own humanitarian assistance. We need the President and Congress to approve S. RES 384, and to promptly appropriate an additional \$1 billion in aid to Syrian civilians.\* Further, the US could leverage this amount, getting pledges from Russia, China, the EU, and states in the region, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar, many of which have been involved in arming the combatants. The need is great, and a response is urgent.

This [UN] Resolution 2139 can show the way forward for Syria, and help prevent further escalation of the conflict, into Syria's neighbors. This can be done without US troops. Rather, the Security Council has the authority, with US, allied, Russian, and regional support, to create two-way corridors for peace; with emergency aid in one direction, and evacuation of the seriously injured who cannot get care in Syrian hospitals, in the other.

We ask that the Geneva talks be reconvened, and that Syrian civil society, including representatives of the women and families affected most severely by siege tactics, barrel bombing, and famine, be represented in talks on their future. (See, e.g., the proposal by Syrian women NGO's.) <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/1/statement-by-syrian-women-in-geneva>

We know that diplomacy and civil society reconciliation above all will provide the answer, not military escalation. We call on the US and Russia to extend their current cooperation on ending chemical weapons in Syria, to full cooperation to end the conflict as well. An immediate overall cease fire is in order, leading to a more lasting resolution. We call on all states to end supply of aircraft, helicopters, spare parts, and weapons that can be used for bombing cities.

We ask our own Senators and House members from Pennsylvania to sponsor prompt legislation to implement the needed increased levels of assistance. Congress can play a positive role to combat threats to peace and stability. By helping Syrians now, we can prevent a tinderbox from exploding again and again, one that will threaten not just Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Israel, but just as certainly, the peace and security of the United States, here and around the world.

Some will say—great, but we can't afford it. But, the baseline Pentagon budget is close to \$500 billion per year. Thus, one billion dollars for aid to war famine victims, is only 1/500 as much as we spend on the military. Is this appropriation not worth it? What are our priorities in the world? These are questions we should be asking candidates, in the Pennsylvania May primaries for Congress.

Local Contact:

PA Contact: Pennsylvania Program for Peace: [eee.pna@gmail.com](mailto:eee.pna@gmail.com),  
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Call 215-480-7744

**Coalition for Peace Action** is joining the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and a broad coalition of human rights and groups distributing humanitarian aid, in Syria, to support bipartisan legislation, which:

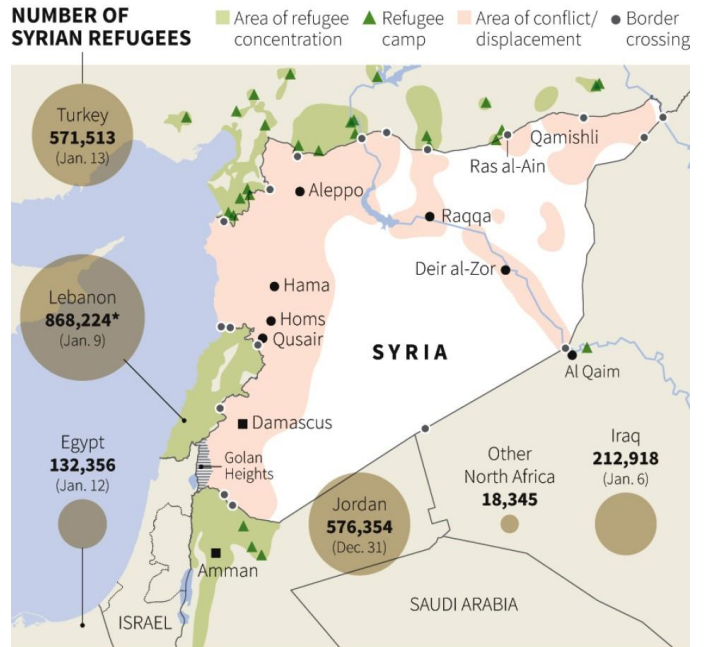
- calls on all parties to the conflict to stop violence against civilians
- calls on the international community to increase humanitarian, development, and education assistance to Syrian refugees and other vulnerable Syrian populations
- urges a political resolution to the conflict
- calls on the president to develop and submit to Congress a plan to address the Syrian humanitarian crisis within 90 days of passage.

**Senate Resolution 384**, expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, resulting humanitarian and development challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

**Please thank Senator Casey and Senator Menendez, and Please Call or Write Senator Booker or Senator Toomey if you live in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey, and urge them to sign on! Congressional Switch Board 202-224-3121**

## Syrian refugee crisis

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey are hosting almost 2.4 million Syrian refugees, according to the latest UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data.



Note: Data is for registered refugees. \* Includes 48,985 refugees awaiting registration.

Sources: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); U.S. Dept of State; news reports.

Staff, 14/01/2014

REUTERS

If you are viewing this fact sheet online, use this link to send a [letter to the editor](#) asking your senators to cosponsor this legislation. Use this link to see [Senator Kaine's](#) press release on this bill, which refers to the broad coalition of groups supporting it.

How to write an effective letter or make an effective phone call... Phone calls and letters are the most effective way or influencing your elected officials without a visit.. A visit to their district office can be even more effective.

**NEVER THREATEN. ALWAYS ASK FOR A REPLY. ALWAYS BE RESPECTFUL.**

The Honorable Patrick Toomey  
U.S. Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker  
U.S. Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Toomey/Booker:

**Identify yourself.** Let your legislator know that you are a constituent, what you do for a living, what group(s) you may be associated with.

**Be polite.** Like most of us, legislators will respond better to positive communication. Thank them for their work (even if you don't think they have done a good job)

**Explain your position.** Talk about why you support the legislation. Use info from this sheet.

**Ask for a response.** Ask specifically that they endorse and vote for the bill if it comes to a vote. Ask that they work to bring it to a vote and that they reply to your call or letter with their position...

Your name and address