

Syria's last attempts to stay in the Arab League are rejected by its members. Syria, Algeria, Iraq and to propose the reform of the Arab Action Plan, to make it applicable to all of the Arab League

Since the Arab Spring started over a year ago, the situation in the Arab region has been critical. Particularly in Syria, which the Arab community threatens to suspend from the Arab League. Therefore, Syria is trying to keep on being part of this very much important commission. Proposing to implement the Arab Action Plan in all of the region and to modify it as well.



by Shadia Morante Harb Nov. 15, 2011, 4:17 p.m. EST

In late October, due to the critical situation occurring in Syria, the Arab League developed an action plan. The Syrian delegation signed the Arab Action Plan in Doha, with the following agreement:

- To protect Syrian citizens
- Stop all acts of violence committed by any side.

- Release all detainees who have been held since the beginning of the crisis.
- Remove all military equipment and artillery from cities and residential areas.
- Allow Arab League-affiliated organizations and Arab and international media outlets complete freedom of movement in Syria in order to monitor the situation on the ground.

For this reason, The Arab League issued a press release in November 3 urging media outlets to cover events in Syria, and Syria agreed to lift all restrictions on media professionals' entry and movement. Then, The Arab League met with Syrian opposition groups and a delegation from the Syrian National Council (SNC).

On November 12th The Arab League convened a special meeting of the Ministers' Commission in charge of the Syrian dossier to discuss Syria's complete disregard for the Arab Action Plan agreement. Syria's membership in the Commission was suspended, and Arab human rights organizations were urged to begin work on humanitarian protection. The League also threatened the regime with economic sanctions. These were unprecedented Arab League decisions.

Today, November 15th, a day before the deadline of the agreement, the Arab League is discussing whether if it is adequate to suspend Syria or not. The group of delegations in favor of suspending Syria, proposed a new treaty, in which they stated that they would first suspend Syria and then ask them to sign conditions in order to reintegrate, it included the following:

- Accept HRW (Human Rights Watch) in the Syrian territory
- Agree to future democratic elections

Those were the different conditions, because most of them were similar to the action plan

Nevertheless, delegations such as Algeria said that suspending Syria wont solve in any way the deadly situation it is undergoing.

Likewise, the same group of delegations of which Algeria forms part with along Syria suggested to implement the Arab Action Plan to all nations that form part of the Arab League. Using the argument that since the Arab Spring

begun, all of them are undergoing critical situations. Using the example of Egypt, whose political stability deteriorating everyday.

The group of delegations in favor of kicking Syria out, brought up the idea of taking Syria to the ICJ, with the pretext that they were violating their own constitution, specifically article 28.3 of The Syrian Constitution of 1973 that states the following:

“No one may be tortured physically or mentally or be treated in a humiliating manner. The law defines the punishment of whoever commits such an act.”

Finally, the Syrian delegation and its allies, decided to share their ideas to the other members stating the following:

“We all are brother nations and are going through similar situations”

It is clear that Syria’s situation in The Arab League is still uncertain

ProPublica will keep on informing on this crucial situation

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