《联合国盘点：2012年度重大事件》

2012 – Climate Change made headlines – Countries struggled between turmoil and transition – putting the United Nations to the test – to negotiate peace and define “A Future we Want” for all.

2012??

In SYRIA, violence spiralled out of control. Fighting and human rights abuses by government and opposition groups left, according to some estimates, over 40,000 people dead and forced hundreds of thousands to flee.

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UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon: "We must stop the violence and the flow of arms to both sides and set in motion a Syrian led transition as soon as possible." The UN Security Council could not agree on action to stop the bloodshed.

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US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton: “The international community should say with one voice – without hesitation or caveat – that the killing of innocent Syrians must stop and a political transition must begin.”But some argued for caution

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov: “There is no doubt whatsoever that the Syrian authorities bear a huge share of the responsibility for the situation, but one shouldn’t ignore the fact that for a long time now they’ve been fighting not unarmed men but combat units such as the Syrian Free Army and extremist groups including AlQaeda.”

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Syria's UN ambassador Bashar alJa'afari accused some council members of actually fuelling the flames:

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"The same countries are undermining my country's sovereignty by encouraging terrorism and by supplying and providing all types of logistical and political support to armed groups in Syria.”

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The Joint Special Envoys of UN and Arab League, Kofi Annan and later Lakhdar Brahimi, presented plans to end the violence and start dialogue, but the various Syrian parties failed to reach an agreement to end the conflict.

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The Security Council sent 300 unarmed observers to investigate alleged massacres and other human rights violations and monitor a ceasefire that never really took hold.

??????300??

While the violence continues, the humanitarian needs are escalating in Syria and beyond. The World Food Program is scaling up to feed 1.5 million people in the country.

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In GAZA, a new cycle of violence erupted after months of standstill in negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon headed to the region to personally appeal for a ceasefire.

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