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PRESS RELEASE

BOTSWANA CONDEMNS THE LATEST VETO IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL BY CHINA AND RUSSIA.

Gaborone, 20 July, 2012: The Government of Botswana once again condemns the latest veto in the UN Security Council by China and Russia in relation to the conflict in Syria.

It is disappointing that these two countries continue to frustrate the efforts of the international community, through their veto in the UN Security Council, in the face of the most blatant violation of human rights the world has seen in recent history by the Syrian regime.

The continued intransigence by China and Russia against genuine efforts to end the suffering of the Syrian people, and failure to see the bigger picture of world peace and security, constitutes abdication of responsibility on the part of these members of the UN Security Council, and is unfortunate.

Nonetheless, events on the ground in Syria seem to indicate that the Security Council in general and China and Russia in particular are increasingly being rendered irrelevant as the situation unfolding in that country spirals deeper into more conflict and human suffering.

It is the Government of Botswana's belief that a coalition of countries willing to tackle this alarming state of affairs need to be put in place, in addition to ongoing UN Security Council efforts, in order to put an end to the crisis in Syria.

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