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# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

**July 25, 2012**

## **Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai delivers Canada's Interventions on the Middle East to the UN Security Council**

(OTTAWA) Today, July 25, 2012, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Deepak Obhrai delivered the Canadian interventions on regional priorities in the Middle East during the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East.

The Parliamentary Secretary conveyed Canada's denial of the legitimacy of the Assad regime in Syria. Continued pressure for universal and binding international sanctions was also pushed by Mr. Obhrai for both Syria and Iran.

The open debate allowed the Canadian government to touch on the delayed and languished peace talks between Israel and Palestine. The Parliamentary Secretary confirmed that Canada will not accept any renewed effort by the Palestinian Authority to change its status in the United Nations and urged both parties to initiate serious negotiations towards a two state solution.

The recent democratic presidential election in Egypt was a historic moment celebrated by the Canadian government. Mr. Obhrai expressed Canada's support for President Morsi's move towards inclusive governance that fulfills the aspirations of all Egyptians for greater freedom, democracy, and respect for the rule of law.

The Middle East has become more volatile and unstable in the recent years. This open debate by the UN Security Council is an attempt to overcome its paralysis and act with determination to protect peace and stability on behalf of all nations.

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