

UN Special Envoy Says Syrian Government and Opposition Meetings Not Fruitful



Geneva, January 27 (RHC)-- UN-Arab League Special Representative for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi says two face-to-face meetings between delegates representing the Syrian government and the foreign-backed opposition in Geneva have not achieved much.

Following three hours of talks with the two sides on Saturday, Brahimi said: "We haven't achieved much, but we are continuing." The UN envoy said the second meeting, held on Saturday afternoon, focused on humanitarian affairs in the Arab country.

Brahimi told reporters in Geneva that he hopes a convoy carrying humanitarian aid would reach the western city of Homs on Monday.

Delegates from the Syrian government and foreign-backed opposition are meeting amid fundamental differences.

The Geneva II conference on Syria got underway in the Swiss town of Montreux on January 22nd. It is aimed at finding a political solution to the crisis in the Arab country.

The opposition and its Western supporters insist that President Bashar al-Assad must step down and a transitional government be formed in Syria. However, Damascus has rejected the demand, arguing that the foreign-backed coalition does not represent the Syrian opposition.

Syrian Government and Opposition Discuss Prisoners' Release

Delegations representing the Syrian government and foreign-backed opposition held face-to-face talks in the Swiss city of Geneva on Sunday for the second straight day amid fundamental differences.

The talks resumed on Sunday and centered on the release of prisoners with UN-Arab League Special Representative for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, acting as a go-between. Bouthaina Shaaban, the political and media adviser to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, told reporters that the Syrian delegation seeks to make arrangement for “stopping terrorism” in the Arab country and reconstructing it.

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