



UNITED NATIONS YEAR IN REVIEW 2012

RT:

VIDEO

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Title 2012 – over opening collage

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.

SYRIA violence
refugees

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.

SG on camera

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."

Security council vote. Veto pan

The UN Security Council could not agree on action to stop the bloodshed.

Hillary on camera

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.”

VIDEO

AUDIO

But some argued for caution:

Lavrov on camera

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 Al-Qaeda.”

Syria ambassador on camera

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

"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.”

Kofi Annan and Lakhdar Brahimi

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.

Observers

The Security Council sent 300 unarmed

VIDEO

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observers to investigate alleged massacres and other human rights violations and monitor a ceasefire that never **really** took hold.

Refugees and WFP giving out food

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.

GAZA news footage/ AP link

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.

In late November a great majority of countries approved a UN General Assembly resolution to elevate Palestine to a non-member observer state at the UN.

Libya elections

LIBYA saw its first free and transparent elections in half a century. The UN Development Program assisted in setting up voting booths and ballot boxes, while the UN Mine Action Program removed 180 thousand explosives all over the country to help create stability and prevent arms

UNMAS removing UXOs

VIDEO

*Mali news footage
refugees*

Tete on camera

Congo violence, Unifed

AUDIO

smuggling across the region.

Instability and turmoil in nearby MALI. After a military coup toppled the government, Islamic Jihadists used the power vacuum to occupy the country's north. Refugees have flooded the Sahel region, which is suffering from drought and pervasive poverty.

The African Union urged the UN Security Council to endorse military intervention to free Northern Mali from the extremists.

African Union's Permanent Observer to the UN, Antonio Tete:

"Mali is at a crossroads. Time is of essence. We need to act fast and to send a clear and strong message (on the resolve of international community and its support to the African-led efforts.)"

In the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, renewed fighting between government forces and rebel troops left 2 million people displaced and a million vulnerable children at even greater risk. As rebel soldiers advanced on the city of Goma in late November, the UN peacekeeping mission deployed attack helicopters to help the national army protect civilians amid the violence.

VIDEO

South Sudan tensions

Susan Rice on camera

Iran archive

General Assembly

Netanyahu on camera

Ahmadinejad on camera

AUDIO

A first Birthday for SOUTH SUDAN – as diplomatic efforts by the UN Security Council help to ease tensions with neighbour Sudan over unresolved issues such as its borders and oil production. US Ambassador Susan Rice:

"The agreements that were signed last week in Addis on security, oil, finances, nationality and trade issues were very important and potentially historic."

Nuclear worries about IRAN – as world leaders continue to question the country's uranium enrichment programme:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu:

"A red line should be drawn right here, before Iran completes a second stage of nuclear enrichment necessary to make a bomb."

Iran insisted on the peacefulness of its nuclear program – and President Ahmadinejad accused the General Assembly of applying double standards:

"The United Nations - which were created with the purpose of expanding justice and re-instituting universal rights - have in practice been engulfed by discrimination, preparing a supportive ground for the domination of a few powerful countries.

VIDEO

Aung San Suu Kyi in Geneva and NY

Storm Isaac in Haiti

Sandy news footage

Rio +20 footage unified

SG on camera

AUDIO

MYANMAR's Nobel laureate and pro-democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi received a hero's welcome at the UN in Geneva and New York. Elected to parliament after years of house arrest, she invited international aid to build a better future for her country:

"If we all want to achieve genuine democracy for Burma, we have to learn to work together."

2012 – Storms and severe weather left countries ravaged across the globe – a stark reminder that the threat of Climate Change is real.

Action on Climate Change was a major topic at the UN's Rio+20 summit in Brazil, where 40 thousand people gathered to discuss developmental strategies for the 21st Century.

(Ban Ki-moon):

"We are on a dangerous road. We cannot continue to burn and consume our way to prosperity at the expense of the world's poor and the global environment. (cutaway) My message to world leaders is clear: Sustainable Development is an idea whose time has come."

At the summit 191 countries agreed on an

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outcome document, called “A Future we Want”.

Indonesia

A Future that has already started in Indonesia, where the UN inspired project “Teens go Green” motivates students from all over the country to make environmental protection a priority.

“We have to work on changing our mindset. If teenagers get to know the issues then we can keep the commitment to the environment going in the future.”

Education, girls in school

Malala news footage, if available

Young people everywhere are contributing to the changes. But no one more so than the year’s youngest – and possibly greatest – hero, Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year old girl from Pakistan, who survived an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen, who accused her of promoting education for girls.

(Ban Ki-moon)

SG on camera

“The terrorists showed what frightens them most: A girl with a book.”

SC carries Olympic torch

2012 will be remembered as complex and challenging year for the United Nations. Conflict, poverty, natural disasters, terrorism, climate change and human rights

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violations continue to plague humankind.

The United Nations remains the global forum for discussing and solving some of the world's most difficult problems.

Carrying the torch for all these issues, Ban Ki-moon, at the Olympics in London, implored the world to keep the fire burning, for tolerance, peace and harmony. For "The Future we Want".