

Tuesday, 26 March 2013

Doha summit gives Arab states 'right' to arm Syria rebels



The Arab summit in Doha on Tuesday gave member states the “right” to offer Syrians all means of self-defense including arms, in a resolution on Syria.

Leaders at the Doha meeting condemned President Bashar al-Assad’s regime’s violations against the Syrian people and urged for providing urgent aid to refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

The Arab League members ensured Syrians’ right to return the Golan Heights, which were occupied by Israel in 1967.

Syria’s opposition chief took the Syria seat at the Arab body and demanded in a fiery address that the Syrian opposition be granted Syria’s seat at the United Nations.

Moaz al-Khatib, head of the Syrian National Coalition opposition grouping, also insisted that Syria’s future should not be determined by foreign powers.

“We demand ... the seat of Syria at the United Nations and at other international organizations,” Khatib said, addressing Arab leaders at the summit.

Syrian people alone should determine who rules the country, said Khatib, who on Sunday resigned his post although his resignation has yet to be accepted by the Coalition.

“They ask who will rule Syria. The people of Syria will decide, not any other state in this world,” Khatib said, possibly alluding to accusations by Damascus that the rebels are implementing Qatari and Saudi agendas.

In addition to the Syrian crisis, the statement focused on other Arab related issues.

Leaders at the Doha summit said they welcome dialogue calls in Yemen and Bahrain, urging all Arab states to support them.

The summit also condemned Iran's occupation of the United Arab Emirates' islands: the Tunbs and Abu Musa.