# UN Watch

# Candidates for the 2014-2016 UN Human Rights Council

| Western Europe and Others *2 open seats* | Africa *4 open seats* | Latin America *2 open seats* | Asia *4 open seats* | Eastern Europe *2 open seats* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | **Algeria** | **Cuba** | **China** | Latvia |
| United Kingdom | **Chad** | Mexico | **Iran** *Unconfirmed* | Macedonia |
| | Morocco | Uruguay | Jordan | **Russia** |
| | Namibia | | Maldives | |
| | South Sudan | | **Saudi Arabia** | |
| | Tunisia | | **Syria** *Unconfirmed* | |
| | | | **Vietnam** | |

**Background**

Elections to replace 14 of the 47 rotating seats on the UN Human Rights Council will be held by the UN General Assembly in November 2013, for 3-year terms that begin in January 2014 and conclude in December 2016. Above is the current list of declared candidacies, as compiled by UN Watch, with links to sources. Those highlighted in red glaringly fail to meet the basic membership standards set forth here. Prior to the elections, UN Watch will evaluate each candidacy in detail.

Only the candidacies of Iran and Syria are not fully confirmed:

- Iran: Diplomatic sources report Iran soliciting support from other countries for their candidacy, but there has been no public confirmation.

- Syria: Syria initially declared its candidacy in 2011. After UN Watch revealed the Assad regime's bid and mobilized world opinion, heavy pressure on the Asian states led to a last-minute announcement on May 11, 2011: Kuwait would replace Syria.
  Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari made clear, however, that his country had agreed only "to reschedule the timing of our candidacy," saying they would run instead in the 2013 elections, for a three-year term. His counterpart corroborated the pact: "We agreed to exchange terms," said Kuwaiti Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Alotaibi. "Syria is not withdrawing," he told reporters.
  In July 2012, the U.S. and the EU took the unprecedented action of asking the council to disqualify Syria in advance. The draft paragraph "stressed that the current Syrian government's announced candidacy for the Human Rights Council in 2014 fails to meet the standards for Council membership" as set forth in its founding charter. There has been no recent discussion of Syria's bid. It may have been quietly withdrawn—or it may still be on.