Revolution not reform

The Syrian regime has invited its opponents to participate in upcoming elections, a bid immediately rejected by the country’s opposition, reports Bassam Oudat.

Addressing the Syrian people last week, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad invited the opposition to participate in upcoming elections, but the move was immediately rejected by the opposition, which said it would not be part of a process that it considers a means of legitimizing the regime.

The announcement came amid ongoing talks between the regime and the opposition as part of the Geneva II peace conference, which is aimed at ending the four-year conflict in Syria. However, the opposition has so far rejected the regime’s proposals, saying they are not genuine and are designed to give the regime a face-saving solution.

The opposition says it will not participate in any elections that are not based on a political solution and that do not include the removal of President Assad from power. The opposition also demands a full and free role in the negotiations and the election process.

"We’re not interested in participating in any process that would lead to a political solution without the removal of Bashar al-Assad," said a statement from the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces.

The organization has been advocating for a political solution to the conflict and has rejected any electoral process that could legitimize the regime. It has called on the international community to support the opposition and to apply economic and diplomatic sanctions against the regime.

The opposition’s stance is in line with the broader international consensus, which sees any elections in Syria as illegitimate and a violation of the right to peaceful transition and political change. The international community has consistently called for a political solution to the conflict, including through the Geneva II talks, which are aimed at establishing a transitional government and bringing an end to the conflict.

The regime’s move to hold elections is seen by many as a tactic to buy time and to further consolidate its power, while the opposition sees it as a means of legitimizing the regime’s rule. The conflict in Syria has led to the displacement of millions of people and has caused significant economic and social damage to the country.

The issue of elections in Syria is likely to remain a contentious one, with the international community divided on how to approach the conflict. Many countries have called for a political solution, while others have supported a military intervention to end the conflict. The situation in Syria remains complex and volatile, with the fight against the Islamic State group ongoing and the threat of ex-fighters returning to the conflict.

"We believe that elections in Syria are not feasible until there is a political solution to the conflict," said a statement from the opposition’s National Coalition.

The opposition is also calling on the international community to provide support to the Syrian people and to continue to pressure the regime to engage in meaningful negotiations. It has called on the United Nations to play a more active role in the peace process and to work towards a political solution.

The situation in Syria is likely to remain a priority for the international community in the coming months, with many countries calling for a political solution and a halt to the violence. The conflict has already claimed thousands of lives and has caused significant disruption to the country and the region. The situation in Syria remains complex and volatile, with the fight against the Islamic State group ongoing and the threat of ex-fighters returning to the conflict.