

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2011 12:55 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC Assad Interview to air

Fyi

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**From:** Nuland, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2011 12:24 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC Assad Interview to air

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**From:** Ordeman, Leslie T [mailto:OrdemanLT@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** Toner, Mark C; Holladay, Darby G (PACE); PA-Monitoring-Group-DL; NEA-Press-Officers; DRL-PPD-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Syria-DL  
**Subject:** RE: ABC Assad Interview to air

Looks like tomorrow at 6 am tomorrow will be the first opportunity to see:

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/fashion-editor-walks-propeller-survives-15094324?tab=9482931&section=4765066>

The interview will air across ABC platforms on **Wednesday, December 7**, first on **ABCNews.com** and **Yahoo! News' Newsmakers series (6:00 am ET)**, then on **"Good Morning America" (7:00 am ET)**, **"The View" (11:00 am ET)** and **"World News with Diane Sawyer" (6:30 pm ET)**. **"Nightline" will air a Special Edition: "Barbara Walters in Syria: Assad Speaks" devoting full program to Walters' report from inside Syria (11:35 pm ET)**. Portions of the interview will also be available on **ABC News Radio** and **ABC NewsOne**.

By ABC News

Dec 6, 2011 8:01am

# ABC News Exclusive: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad Speaks with Barbara Walters

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**AN ABC NEWS EXCLUSIVE**

**SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD SPEAKS FOR FIRST TIME TO AMERICAN MEDIA**

**SINCE UPRISING BEGAN 10 MONTHS AGO**

**BARBARA WALTERS TRAVELS TO DAMASCUS, SYRIA FOR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH  
CONTROVERSIAL WORLD LEADER**

**To Air Across ABC News Platforms on Wednesday, December 7 Including “Good Morning America”  
and “World News”**

**“Nightline” to air a Special Edition: “Barbara Walters in Syria: Assad Speaks” Devoting Full  
Program to Walters’ Report from Inside Syria**

**To Run First as Part of the *Newsmakers* Series on ABCNews.com and Yahoo! News**

**Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad** sat down with ABC News Anchor **Barbara Walters** for his first exclusive on-camera interview with an American journalist since the uprising in Syria began last March. Walters’ no-holds-barred interview with President Al-Assad in Damascus comes as he is under unprecedented international pressure to step down and stands accused by the Arab League, the United Nations (UN), and human rights groups of gross and systematic human rights violations.

The interview will air across ABC platforms on **Wednesday, December 7**, first on **ABCNews.com** and **Yahoo! News’ *Newsmakers* series (6:00 am ET)**, then on **“Good Morning America” (7:00 am ET)**, **“The View” (11:00 am ET)** and **“World News with Diane Sawyer” (6:30 pm ET)**. **“Nightline” will air a Special Edition: “Barbara Walters in Syria: Assad Speaks” devoting full program to Walters’ report from inside Syria (11:35 pm ET)**. Portions of the interview will also be available on **ABC News Radio** and **ABC NewsOne**.



ABC News/Rob Wallace

**WATCH: Syrian President Assad on 'GMA'**

Walters questioned the controversial Syrian leader about the November 25<sup>th</sup> UN report, which recorded the human rights violations including the detention and torture of children in his country, and recommended for Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. Walters also pressed President Al-Assad on his government's violent crackdown on protestors, the impact of economic and travel sanctions against his country, calls for the President to step down, and whether he will allow Arab League monitors and foreign press free and unrestricted access to Syria.

Walters also met off-camera, but on-the-record, with Mrs. Asma Al-Assad, the British-born First Lady of Syria.

Walter's interview with President Al-Assad continues ABC News' year of unprecedented exclusives with world leaders, including former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and former Libyan Dictator Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

**SHOWS:** 20/20

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**From:** Toner, Mark C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Holladay, Darby G (PACE); PA-Monitoring-Group-DL; NEA-Press-Officers; DRL-PPD-DL  
**Subject:** RE: ABC Assad Interview to air tonight (Walters)

Darby – excellent catch – do we know when? Evening monitor should be on alert for stories from this...

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Holladay, Darby G (PACE) [mailto:HolladayDG2@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:36 AM  
**To:** PA-Monitoring-Group-DL; NEA-Press-Officers; DRL-PPD-DL  
**Subject:** ABC Assad Interview to air tonight (Walters)