

# Syria Violence Could Spread

May 23, 2012

**The  Moscow Times**

Russia said Wednesday that a spillover of Syria's conflict into Lebanon could "end very badly" and suggested some Western states were playing a double game by calling for peace but supporting rebels seeking President Bashar Assad's ouster.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Western and Islamic countries should increase pressure on Assad's armed opponents to stop attacks and try to avert what he said were deliberate efforts to sow discord between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

"There is now ... a real threat of the conflict spilling over into Lebanon, where — given the history and ethnic and religious makeup of the population, and the principles on which the Lebanese state is based — it could end very badly," he said.

*(Reuters)*

Original url: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2012/05/23/syria-violence-could-spread-a14987>