

Appeal to the intellectuals, writers and artists of the world

Today, while we are writing these lines, Syrian children are being silenced, Syrian women are being raped, and their dead bodies are thrown into the night. Cities are under siege and being pillaged, while young people are being imprisoned, tortured, and killed. The Syrian regime has its security services and the army use heavy artillery for major extermination strikes against human beings, their homes, and nature.

The revolt of the great citizens of Syria started a year ago. The protesters carried olive twigs and shouted peaceful slogans. The government answered with murder, terror and with the occupation of cities. This, in turn, encouraged the communities and citizens in the country, who started a rebellion, and it produced a divide between society and the army, and moved soldiers to desert, this being the only choice when they refused to obey commands to kill civilians. These soldiers formed the Syrian Free Army, in order to protect the peaceful civilians of Syria.

There are no members of Al Qaida, no Salafists, nor armed gangs in Syria. The only armed gang committing murder, spreading terror and sectarianism in the country, is Bashar al-Assad's gang, his family and his clique.

The first banner of universal civilization was raised in Syria, the nation that many consider "the second home of all civilized men and women in the world." However, Syria, the land of culture and history, the melting pot of urbanism and philosophy, is dying today, before the very eyes of the world, which merely watches the dictator who is about to extinguish the Syrian civilization and its people.

The Syrian people stand alone, and their blood flows like a river. Yet, they refuse to give up their demands of freedom, dignity, and justice. There is still hope that the rule of law can be established.

Dear friends, when will you speak up in view of this barbarism, in view of these crimes? When will you cease to be mere observers of the tragedy that our people suffer today?

This is our cry to the world: We implore you! Without you the Apartheid regime in South Africa would not have been abolished. Please exert pressure and call upon your governments, so that they act quickly in order to save our people and our beautiful country, where the arts, creativity, and life are at stake today!

Dear friends, writers, artists, and intellectuals of the world: Stand up, and save the Syrian people from death. Please join the most courageous, the noblest and the most difficult revolution, the least possible revolution in modern history.

Because to join our revolution means to share the values of freedom, truth, justice and civilization.

Signatories :

Samar Yazbeck

Youssef Abdelke, painter, living now in Syria, after years of prison and exile in France

Mr. Salim Barakat, author, living in Sweden

Nadine Gordimer, Südafrika

Elfriede Jelinek, Österreich

Mr. Rafik Schami, author, Germany

Mr. Zakaria Tamer, author, living in U.K.

Mrs. Razan Zeitouneh, jurist, activist, received many awards this year, living, hidden, in Syria