

*Appeal to the intellectuals, writers and artists
of the world*

As I write down these words, to tell you about the oldest civilisation on Earth, Syrian children are being slaughtered in cold blood, Syrian women are being raped and their dead bodies discarded into the night. The cities are being bombed and besieged, young people put into prison, tortured and murdered. With the help of its secret service apparatus and with the use of heavy military equipment, the Syrian regime is wiping out its own people and destroying everything in its path.

One year ago saw the beginning of a peaceful revolution among my wonderful people. The demonstrators held up olive branches and banners with slogans, and yet the government responded with death and terror; it attacked the cities, and incited a civil war based on religious confession and brought about a division between society and the army. Soldiers who refused to follow orders to kill were forced to desert and set up the Free Syrian Army in order to protect peaceful citizens.

In my Syria there are no members of Al Quaida or Salafis or armed gangs. The only armed gang that is killing, instilling fear in the population and causing a rupture in society is the clique surrounding Bashar al-Assad and his family.

It was from Syria, the "second home of the world's intellectuals", that the first beacon of civilization was carried to humanity; from Syria, the land of poetry, of art and history, the home of philosophy and architecture; from this Syria which today is dying slowly before the eyes of the world, while the world looks on, watching the dictator as he annihilates several thousand years of old civilization. When the regular Syrian army bombed ancient treasures that are thousands of years old, nobody protested against the destruction of human memory! And yet, although the Syrian people have been left alone and rivers of blood are being shed, the people will not stand down from their demands for freedom, dignity and justice.

Dear Friends, how much longer do you intend to witness this barbarianism and meet these crimes with silence? How long do you intend to watch the tragedy of our people and do nothing against it?

I appeal to you to stand up and shake public opinion to its very foundations! Exert pressure on your governments, so

that they come to the aid of my country as fast as possible:
my land that is the cradle of history, of civilisation and of
culture - Syria, where the people, art, creativity and life
itself are lying prostrate in agony.

Dear friends, writers, artists and intellectuals of the
world - join the most noble and difficult revolution in
history! Supporting this revolution means supporting truth,
justice and civilization.

Signed:
Samar Yazbezk
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