

APPEAL FOR SYRIA



We have now become used to the horrifying spectacle of the carnage of Syria: tens of thousands of innocent victims, exiles and refugees, cities and towns ruined, with houses, schools and hospitals destroyed under unrelenting bombings and shelling of gunfire. Cultural and religious monuments have been desecrated, violence and torture of every type have been perpetrated, including rape and degrading humiliation, with the cruel massacre of cities and memories, leaving women and children for ever maimed and mutilated.

There are no words to describe such human suffering. Could it be worse?



This question is addressed to both the aggressors and those who have done so little to stop this war in the heart of the Mediterranean.

More than twenty years have passed since the end of the Cold War, but policies of embargoes and blockades have only succeeded in generating stasis and stagnation.

What can be said about such a tragedy, and the inadequacy of UN to respond to the needs of our rapidly changing world? And what about NATO, still captive of the Cold War scenario, and the European Union that has too little power to be occupied or preoccupied with itself or the Mediterranean? And what about Russia or China who are incapable of assuming any real peace-keeping role in the World? What of all those reputable organizations who play an absurd and paradoxical role in "keeping the peace" in areas where there is no war, where vaguely concealed games are being staged to mask the rampant interests of the Great Super Powers of this world? "Ceasefires" are broken time and again, agreements and pacts are continuously breached and derided, negotiations ridiculed, international resolutions ignored, while human convoys themselves are the targets of this murderous rage.

The stages of this bloodbath are Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Daraya, the Sunnite village of Tremseh and innumerable other villages and towns in Syria where thousands of innocent civilians have been slaughtered.



Syria, a multicultural, multinational country that has been fatally wounded, and that same wound is crippling our faith in a better world where national and cultural pluralism could live side-by-side. The brutality and savagery are fomented by inertia and indifference towards the crimes of the brutal dictator, Bashar-al-Assad.

Death knells toll incessantly yet they have not awakened the conscience of our leaders, who have the responsibility of taking decisions in our better interests for a better world.

Yet this World has turned its back on Syria. Governments renege on their responsibilities, while they recriminate each other. Our values and principles are riddled with the bullets of Syria's victims. Our dignity could not be any lower. Justice has been betrayed and there is no respect for life or human beings.

In the light of such humiliation, we, as Mediterranean intellectuals, have a duty to cry out with anger, even if into the wilderness as we have done in the past.

Once again, let us cast a bottle into our Sea with a common message, our appeal, aimed at what remains the conscience of our shores. Let us unite once more and address these words to our friends in the Mediterranean and whole the World beseeching them to join hands with us and support us.

Naples, 26 August 2012

Michele Capasso
President Fondazione Mediterraneo

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