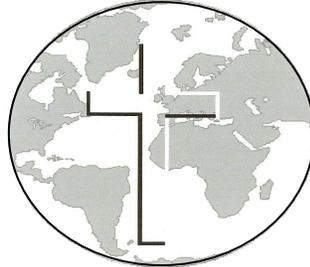


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DEMOCRACY'S PROGRESS IN SYRIA

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They say that Syrians need democracy and freedom, but instead they brought them theft, destruction, and killing. My soul is sad, my heart is bleeding, and my eyes are weeping for what is happening in Syria, my old home. They declared a global war on Syria and the Syrians and brought 135,000 terrorists from 83 different countries, many of them were released from prisons. They supplied them with weapons, money, training, and intelligence to kill, destroy and steal the Syrian people, creating a humanitarian disaster of epic proportions. They came as far as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chechnya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, Serbia, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, England, France, Australia and even from the United States and entered the country through its' east, west, north and south borders. They declared a Holy War and came to teach the Syrians democracy from countries that never know democracy or even heard of it, one of which the entire population can't vote, and half can't drive a car. So far they killed 200,000 people and injured or maimed 400,000. The war in Syria is not a war among the Syrians but rather a proxy war, a regional and global war, and I am not here to address the political aspect of this war, as I do have a bad taste for politics and politicians, but would like to address some of the humanitarian and economical aspects of this war and what is happening to the Christians of Syria.

Through history, Syria was called the "mother of refugees". Between 1913 and 1920 Syria received around 800,000 Armenians, Syriac, Assyrian, Caldeese and Kurds. In 1948 it opened its doors for 700,000 Palestinian refugees, in the 80's for about 200,000 Sudanese, in 2003 to three million Iraqi and in 2006 to half a million Lebanese. Now, the Syrians themselves are the refugees. In Lebanon 2 million, (which makes half of the population of the country), in Jordan 1 million, in Turkey half a million, in Kurdistan-Iraq one quarter of a million, another 4 million refugees are displaced inside of Syria itself, half of all refugees are children. Almost half of Syria's population are now refugees, threatened with hunger, cold, disease, rape and sale, especially in Turkey and Jordan. For the rest of the Syrians, life is very expensive, with rampant inflation (3-6 folds) with a shortage of gasoline, gas, food and medicines.

How did they bring democracy to Syria? They destroyed the only oil refinery in Homs, so now the people have no gasoline, diesel fuel or gas to run their cars., heat their homes or cook a meal. They destroyed electric generators, so they have no light, warmth or run the factories. They destroyed 25 medicine manufacturing factories, 37 hospitals and 78 ambulances. The country before March 2011 provided free medicine and medical care for its people, now people die due to lack of medicine and medical care. They bombed roads and bridges and stole most of the manufacturing factories especially in Aleppo, grain storage, cotton storage and sold it in Turkey for pennies on the dollar. They stole the oil of the country, selling it for 10 dollars per barrel to the Turks, and they enforced an economical blockade on the country and the people.

Half of the population are jobless and half of the children do not attend a school. Destruction estimates to the country so far is at 72 billion dollars, and now they decided to help, creating what is called "Friends of Syria", collecting a few million dollars for the Syrian refugees and the people of Syria. The country before the "revolution" was self-sufficient in oil, gas, electricity, food, medicine and did not owe any country or International Bank a penny. The country now is in ruins and broke. "Viva Democracy!"

For the Syrian Christians, the situation is simply and plainly an ethnic cleansing, a genocide. Since the start of the "revolution" in March 2011 five hundred thousand Syrian Christians have left or been forced to leave Syria, out of 2 million Christian Syrians in the country, and there is no end in sight for their exodus. In Aleppo, the second largest city in the country, half of its Christians have left. In Homs, the third largest city in the country, 80,000 Christians left, from the city of Hasaka 25,000 left and the Christian towns such as Maloula and Sadad are totally empty from its Christian inhabitants. So far, they have burned or destroyed 60 Churches and Monasteries. Christian areas in Damascus, such as Kassa, Bab-Sharki, Bab-Touma and Taballeh are shelled on a daily basis by mortars. Cars filled with explosives are left to explode all over the cities, especially in Christian neighborhoods. Killing, massacres, attacks on places of worship and abduction is rampant.

In January 25, 2012, they killed Father Basilious Naser in the city of Hama, where he was assisting a wounded man, in January 29, 2012, they shelled the Convent of Sydenaya, the first Holy Shrine of Syria. In February 2012, they shelled and burned the Church of Oum-al-Zennar in Homs, after forcibly expelling 80,000 of the Christians of Homs, making the city practically void of Christians, and by December 2012, burned or destroyed all of its Churches. On September 8, 2013, they attacked the city of Maloula, the cradle of Aramaic civilization 1400 years before Christ, where all of its inhabitants are Christian and still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ and teach it to their children. Democracy arrived to Maloula on September 8, 2013 to steal, destroy and kill. They destroyed 40 Churches and Monasteries in the city, including the Convent of Mark-Takla, the 2nd Holy Shrine in Syria, the Convent of St. George and the Church of Marsarkis, all over a thousand years old, killed 3 young Christians lads in cold blood, after they refused to deny their faith in Jesus Christ, kidnapped 18 men which were saved by the Syrian army after they were tortured for a few days. The town is currently empty, as the 12,000 inhabitants have left it, most of them to Damascus. The Syrian army took the town back, but the inhabitants of the town cannot come back to their homes as snipers are still spread on the mountains surrounding the town and shooting anyone who moves back. They want to force the people of Maloula and their children to forget their civilization, culture, faith and their Aramaic language.

Let me tell you some more about the progress of democracy in Syria. On October 2, 2013, democracy entered the city of Sadad and committed the largest massacre of Christians in Syria so far. The city of Sadad inhabited by 15,000 Syriac Orthodox Christians is an ancient city, goes back two millennia before Christ, mentioned in the Old Testament (as Zedad/Tzadad in Hebrew) in the book of Numbers 34:8 and the book of Ezekiel 47:15. Democracy stayed in Sadad for one week before it was thrown out by the army on October 28, 2013, but these seven days were enough to kill 45 Christians including women and children, 30 injured, 10 persons missing, 35 bodies were found in a mass grave, the bodies of six people from one family (age 16-90) were found at the bottom of a well, Sadad's 14 Churches were ransacked and destroyed, 2500 families fled and 1500 families were held as hostages and human shields for the week advocates of democracy occupied the city.

The town of Dair-Attieh, where Christians make up one half of its population, was taken by the democracy advocates on November 21, 2013. Before they pulled out from the town on November 28, 2013, they slaughtered all the patients, doctors and nurses of the town's main hospital (undisclosed numbers).

Kidnapping of Christians is a very profitable business as quite a few of the Christians have money and are able to pay a ransom to save the life of their loved ones. In April 2013, they kidnapped two Bishops, Uhanna Abraham, a Syriac Bishop and Bolus Al-Yazigi, an Orthodox Bishop and killed their driver. The two Bishops were on their way to release two of their priests kidnapped a few days earlier, Michael Kyahal, a Catholic Armenian, and Maher Mahfouz, A Syrian Orthodox. On December 1, 2013, the day of writing this newsletter, they kidnapped 12 nuns, including the head of the Nuns, Mother Blagia Sayaf of the Convent of Mar-Takla in Maloula, and 3 men working at the Convent, after they took the city again, destroying and burning most of its homes.

Christian Solidarity International has issued a genocide alert for religious minorities in Syria, especially Alawites, Shia

Muslims, Druz, Christians, Yezidis and Jews. The anti-minority violence prompted the United Nations independent commission of inquiry on Syria to warn in December 2012 that “entire minority communities are at risk of being forced out of the country or being killed inside the country:”, a prospect that amounted to genocide under the definition of the genocide convention. In March 2013, Ambassador Frederick C. Hof, a former special advisor on Syria to the Obama administration echoed the warning “left on its current trajectory, Syria is on the path to state failure and sustained sectarian violence, featuring mass atrocities and cleansing that could amount to genocide in some areas”. Car bomb attacks targeting Christians and Druze neighborhoods of Damascus have killed scores of civilians and prompted many to flee, according to Christian Solidarity International.

The writing is on the wall and it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out what is going on in Syria, the issue is not freedom or democracy, the issue is destruction, looting, killing and emptying the Middle East of its Christians, the original people of the land, and to speed up the process and in the spirit of generosity, kindness and love for all, thirteen European countries have opened the gates of immigration to the Christian Syrians, 15,000 to Germany, 5,000 to France, 5,000 to Spain, 5,000 to Canada and 50,000 to Russia.

Emptying the Middle East of its Christians is nothing new and they have been working on it for a long time, starting at the beginning of the 20th century, killing 2 million Armenians, Syrians, Assyrians and Chaldeans by the Turks, when Christians made 30% of the population, now these days they make less than 0.5%. The subject was addressed before in our previous newsletters of December 2008, December 2010 and April 2012 and you can go back and read these newsletters. Between 1975-1990, the Christian population of Lebanon declined from 50% to 25%, in Iraq between 2003-2013 from 1.5 million to 300,000 and now in Syria and since March 2011 from 2 million to 1-1/2 million. Their ultimate goal is to do in Syria what the Turks did to the Christians of Turkey down to 0.5%.

Out of one and a half million Christian Iraqis, one million have left the country since the American invasion of Iraq in March 2003, two hundred thousand were killed, with less than 300,000 Christian Iraqis remaining and for them they are now opening immigration doors wide open. Half a million Iraqi people have perished and six million are now below poverty level. 1,000 are killed and 4,000 are injured every month by car bombs and explosive devices.

In Egypt, the Copts are oppressed and marginalized. Over 100 Coptic Christians have been killed since the departure of Mubarak, this is more than what have been killed in the 10 years before that. 80 Churches have been burned and destroyed, 500 cases of kidnapping minor girls, forcing them to adopt Islam, were reported in 2012, according to Human Rights International. In September 2010, they attacked the Church of Two Saints in Alexandria, October 2011 they massacred 24 Copts in Mespri, in May 2012 they sentenced 12 Christians to life in prison while 8 Muslims were acquitted, in July 2012, 100 Coptic families were forced to leave their village of Dashour and in April 2013 there was an attack on the Great Mark Cathedral in Cairo where a service was being held for 4 Copts massacred a few days earlier by Muslim attackers in the town of Khosous, while the police were watching. 100,000 Coptic Egyptians have immigrated to the United States since the beginning of the “Egyptian Revolution” and seeking political asylum in Europe have doubled since 2011. A member of the salafist-al-nour party, which won the second largest number of seats in Egypt’s 2011 Parliamentary Election, claimed that “as long as Copts are alive, there will never be peace”. Leaflets distributed by a Jehadi group in Assiut in August 2012 called on Muslims to “kill or physically assault Christians in all governorates of Egypt”, until they converted and brazenly listed a time and a public meeting place for new recruits to join up. (Christian Solidarity International).

Persecution is not new to Jesus Christ’s followers. Today, in the world, 500 Christians are killed every day because of their faith. This is 15,000 Christians per month, 180,000 per year, and the world is watching and silent. There are no questions that there is a hand or hands working in the dark to empty the Middle East of its Christian people, spreading terror, fear, hunger, disease and poverty. The Syrian “guests” advocates of democracy obviously did not come to teach Syrians democracy and freedom. They are simply a bunch of thieves and in John 10:10 the Lord tells us that the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. The individuals who portray these acts, John tells us in 8:44 belong to their father, the Devil and they want to carry out their father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding the truth for there is no truth in him and when he lies he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Betriac Uthanna, the 10th Patriarch of Antioch and the entire east, puts it very simply, “everything said about democracy and improvement is not worth a drop of man’s blood”.

It is now 2 years and 9 months, and the war they declared against Syria is still raging, and it is obvious that they do not

want to end it, no one wants to put an end to this war, no country, no UN, no EU, no terrorist, no one. They want more destruction, more looting and more killing, using the Syrians as wood for a fire, and continue to pour oil on it, sending more terrorists after they train them, supply them with money and weapons to do their deeds.

Help the Syrians O'Lord, we have no one but you, help us O'Lord and hear my cry, stretch you hand and stop this war, stop the blood bath, the looting and the destruction, and bring back peace and tranquility to the country. Stretch your hand O'Lord and release the kidnapped Bishops, Priests, Nuns and the other kidnapped people and bring them back to their congregations, Convents and families safe and sound.

'Lord, protect Syria and its people, especially the ones called by your name first among all nations, the Christian Syrians. Protect your people in Egypt, the Christian Copts, where you blessed them and lived among them for 3-1/2 years. Bless the people of Iraq, the Christian Assyrians and Caldeese, whom you also blessed, and let the prophecy of Isaiah come through soon. "And that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and the Assyrians will worship together. In that day, Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth". The Lord Almighty will bless them saying, "Blessed by Egypt, my people, Assyria, my handy work, and Israel my inheritance". (Isaiah 9:23-25).

Please pray with me for our people, for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Amid Habib, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.E.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past November, United People In Christ celebrated its 15th year birthday in service of our Lord, helping our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. The board members and myself admit that we could not have done what we did without your assistance and help.

Up to September 30, 2013, your donations have totaled \$416,565.07 of which we have distributed \$385,828.27 to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East and we still have around \$20,000.00 to be distributed before the end of the year. We have kept our administration costs at 10% or less per year and for the past 15 years. All of this work was done by volunteers, whose purpose is only to glorify the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ and to help the people called by his name in need in the Middle East.

I am deeply grateful for all of my friends who helped and continue to help our cause this year and all the years. If you need a copy of our Financial Statement please stop by our office after January 31, 2014 to pick up one or call us and we will be happy to mail it to you.

Amid Habib, M.D.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the West Bank, are not only enduring persecution but also a very hard and harsh economical time. This Christmas season, I am asking you to help us in helping them by sending your generous tax deductible donations in the enclosed self-addressed envelope and May the Lord Bless you Always!

The UPIC Spring Picnic in April and the Fall Dinner in October 2013 were both a great success and everyone had a good time.

The April Picnic generated \$4,690.00 and the October Dinner generated \$6,385.00 for a total of \$11,075.00

Thanks to everyone who donated and worked to make these two events a real success.

Blessings and more blessing for Esther Phelps who continues to donate \$1,000.00 each month to United People In Christ. I ask the Lord Bless her 100 times what she gives.

We need volunteers to serve on our Advisory Board. If you are Interested, please call Dr. Habib at 407-862-0107

I am indebted to Janet Williamson for the preparation and editing of this newsletter

You can now read this UPIC newsletter and our previous newsletters by visiting our Website:
unitedpeopleinchrist.org



A registered and licensed non-profit organization

Amid Habib, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.E.
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UPIC Picnic and Annual Banquet

The Spring UPIC Picnic

will take place on Sunday, May 4 , 2014 at 1:30 P.M.
at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Florida.
Please mark your calendar.

The Fall UPIC Banquet

will take place on Saturday, October 18 , 2014 at 7:00 P.M.
The location will be announced later.
Please mark your calendar.

All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds will go to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.