

A Plea for the People of Syria

As an interfaith body called to uphold both the unique qualities of the many faiths represented in our organization and the common call of all religions for justice and compassion, we are deeply grieved at the current situation in Syria. Despite over a year of attempting to create a new government by the people of Syria, the current Assad regime continues to rule with violence and oppression – actions more characteristic of an enemy force than of a government's actions towards its own people.

We call on all people in a position to alleviate this dire situation – Congress people, expatriate Syrians and religious leaders with influence in the Middle East -- to put forth a higher effort towards remediating this situation. Thousands of Syrians have died in the civil violence, and tens of thousands of citizens have been displaced by the very government sworn to uphold their rights.

Our Syrian brothers and sisters are dear to us – as are all people of the world. All faiths call us to care for those who are sick, who hunger and who are being unjustly treated. We call on all in the US government, regardless of faith or political party to come together to find a solution for the violence in Syria. Surely the most powerful nation on earth has a duty to reach out to those who are suffering from the misuse and abuse of power.

Approved by NRC Board of Governors May 17, 2012

Following the approval it was suggested that people send in their ideas for where/how to distribute this statement. Several suggestions have been received;

Dr. Khalid Qazi highly recommends of the Islamic Medical Association of North America as a recipient for funds to help Syrians. He has personal experience with the organization, having served as its past president and currently serving as a member of the Board of Regents.

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Rev. Msgr. Paul Litwin has offered links to several Catholic Organizations

From the Catholic Church perspective:

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association is the conduit for donations:

<<http://www.cnewa.org/donations.aspx?ID=2423&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1>>

Also, Caritas International:

<<http://www.caritas.org/activities/emergencies/ConflictInSyria.html>>

Rev. Merle Showers, United Methodist Church, provided the following information

United Methodists are giving through our relief agency called UMCOR(United Methodist Committee on Relief). A specific # is assigned to the relief work being done on our behalf to resettle refugees and funnel supplies to the local agencies. UMCOR does not have workers in Syria or in the area, but are working with ACT Alliance, an ecumenical agency that the protestant denominations have agreed to use so as to better coordinate our efforts. For United Methodists reading your communications, the Number they use is #982450. This is then sent to the Conference office who sends it on to UMCOR.

Many persons have suggested receiving offering devoted to Syrian relief, having speakers come to your faith community, sending this statement to members of Congress and as a letter to the editor.

What actions are you and your religious community taking. Please let us know.