

A Refugee Nation - Mohamad Hafez

## Give Refuge to Refugees

Millions of Syrians and Palestinian-Syrians have fled their homes. Over two million are in Turkey. Jordan has refugee camps filled with tens of thousands. They were allowed in without the hatred behind "extreme vetting".

Obviously peace needs to come to Syria and Syrians need to return home, but until that time it is a legal obligation and moral duty for the nations of the world to care for refugees. The U.S. should reject Trump's anti-immigrant bigotry and his decree that Syrians not be allowed into the U.S. Syrian refugees were once the heroes who turned out by the hundreds of thousands in peaceful protests. We should help them and amplify their stories.



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## Speak Out For Syria



- Give Refuge to Refugees
- Empty the Dungeons
- Drop Food, Not Bombs
- Indict the War Criminals
- Love the White Helmets
- No Forced Evacuations
- Listen to Syrians



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## **Bombings by Air in Syria**

Assad used his air force against civilian protest and armed groups, dropping everything from barrel bombs to chemicals. Since 2015 Russian planes have assist Assad forces and are notorious for bombing hospitals. The U.S. and its allies have bombed Syria over 8,000 times, mostly against ISIS and al-Qaeda and in 2017 and 2018 against Assad regime targets. Self-serving foreign military forces have killed and killed and only made things worse. Most of these acts are war crimes. The war criminals should be told one day they will pay for their crimes.



### Sadnaya Prison

In Feb. 2017 Amnesty International called the Syrian Sednaya prison a "human slaughterhouse" and issued a chilling report about thousands of hangings. It is run by Assad's forces. Perhaps as many as 13,000 people were executed by hangings after "trials" that lasted five or 10 minutes. The thousands of prisoners must be freed. The killers and torturers must be brought to justice. #EndTorture #Justice4Syrians

#### We Tried

#### **Our New York Times Letter**

Representative Eliot L. Engel's reasons to refrain from airdropping food and medicine to besieged Syrians are faulty. Among others, he is afraid that drops might fall into the hands of terrorists, but we're talking about food, not guns.

The question of threats to United States aircraft is a serious consideration, but we are talking about sieges that the Security Council deemed illegal in 2014. It is worth taking risks to save lives, to enforce international law and to make sieges of civilian areas a thing of the past. We say drop food, not bombs.

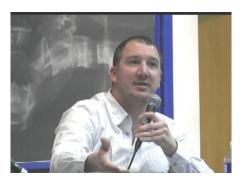
#### MEDEA BENJAMIN, STANLEY HELLER

Ms. Benjamin is co-founder of Code Pink, a peace and justice organization. Mr. Heller is administrator of Promoting Enduring Peace.. The letter was printed 1/23/16



At one time a million Syrians were under siege. Shamefully the U.N. and the great powers would not airdrop food to besieged Syrians. The U.N. wouldn't even enforce its own mandates. This helped Assad forces compel surrenders in Aleppo, Daraa and other areas. Even at this late date solidarity should be shown to Syrians trying to resist like those in Idlib. Direct aid should be given.

# Our Columnist Syrian Joseph Daher



PEP's news site **www.peacenews.org** hosts a number of columnists. Dr. Joseph Daher is an assistant teacher in the university of Lausanne, Switzerland and has a PhD in Development of the university of SOAS, London, UK. He is the founder of the blog Syria Freedom Forever. He is a Swiss/Syrian leftist activist.

His latest articles for PeaceNews are:

- No to Assad! No to All Imperialisms
- Beating ISIS in Mosul Won't Heal Deep Iraq Divisions
- He toured the U.S. in 2017. See his talk about Palestine and Syria at pepeace.org



This Syrian baby deserve a happy life, not hunger