

Hizb ut-Tahrir Britain

The Liberation Party

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Dear Respected Brother,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

We have all witnessed the thousands killed, and many more injured and displaced, in the repression committed by the regime of Bashar Al Assad in Syria over the past year.

Bilad Ash- Shâm is a blessed land with a noble Islamic history. The Prophet ﷺ said ‘‘How blessed is Ash-Shâm’’! The companions around asked: ‘‘Why is that’’? The messenger ﷺ replied ‘‘I see the angels of Allah spreading their wings over Ash-Shâm’’ [Ahmad and Tirmidhi]. He ﷺ also said: ‘‘The heartland of the Abode of Islam is Ash-Shâm’’ [Haythami].

At this pressing time I felt it essential to write and share our views on this current situation and some very important related matters.

First: We cannot be silent when the people of this blessed land are being martyred in their thousands.

This is not a ‘Syrian’ or ‘Arab’ issue but an issue for the whole *Ummah* because the Prophet ﷺ said, ‘‘The Muslims are like one man. If his eyes complain then the whole of him complains, and if his head complains then the whole of him complains.’’ [Muslim]

Second: Muslims must be unequivocal in their condemnation of the tyrant regime of Bashar Al Assad, and his father before him, whose history of brutal repression, persecution and murder goes back decades.

Third: We should oppose colonial interference in this region. Instead we should echo the calls of the people in Syria who shout ‘‘Ya Allah, Malnaa Gheerak, Ya Allah’’ (‘‘Ya Allah - none but you - Ya Allah’’)

This region has had one form of colonial regime or another since World War One. Today, the people realise that not only is there no goodness in this regime and the institutions within Syria, but also that there will never be real help from the Arab League, NATO or the UN. They have learned the bitter truth these past twelve months: that the ‘international community’ will not act to dislodge Bashar Al Assad, until and unless they have a viable alternative regime that will secure the interests of the world powers - and that is not an easy task.

The people are all too aware that any political or military intervention by these colonial powers - even with the ‘fig leaf’ of cover by states like Qatar and Saudi Arabia - would be in the interest of those states, and not of the people of Syria; just as would cosmetic changes to the current regime. When we hear Western powers denounce Bashar Al Assad at this eleventh hour, it must be remembered that Hague and Clinton defended him as a reformer until very recently. Britain and America enjoyed good relations with this regime until a few weeks ago, just as they did with Bashar’s father, Hafiz Al Assad, even after he killed over 20,000 people in the city of Hama. Both father and son have been faithful guard-dogs for Israel, which is the most important interest for these powers in the region.

Fourth: We must stand by the people in Syria in their blessed revolution - especially in their call for Islamic change. Whilst it is essential we make *dua* for these Muslims; and it is good if Muslims send their *sadaqa* to help the refugees and those suffering, if they can find reliable means to do this. Charity - however important - can never end the real problem which is the tyrant who is oppressing the people.

The people in Syria in their protests have called for a real change to end the killing and oppression: the removal of the tyrant AND for an Islamic State to replace the secular system that has ruled in Syria for decades.

There are many good people across the world, filled with humanitarian concern, who may be vocal in calling for the killing to stop or an end to repression. But only we Muslims who share a belief in *La ilaha illAllah* are able to understand and explain why the people in the region want an Islamic State - and so it is a duty upon us to support their call.

We know that such an Islamic system is the only guarantor of justice and decency, capable of uniting people as citizens under the justice of Islam.

Indeed, a companion of Prophet ﷺ Umayr ibn Saad, who once governed the city of Homs, explained this when he said: *“Islam will remain strong as long as the authority is strong. And the strength of the authority does not come by the killing by the sword and lashing by the whip but by judging with the Truth and the upholding of justice.”*

Also we must redress the lie that an Islam system would be divisive; when we know full well that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said *“He who hurts a non-Muslim citizen [dhimmi] hurts me, and he who hurts me annoys Allah”* [Al-Tabarani] - and the proof of this is that many diverse communities still live in *Ash-Shâm* after Islam ruled the region for centuries.

Of course we are aware of those who would try and create divisions in Syria - along religious divides, or along divides of Shia and Sunni - in order to maintain the regime; or fuel discord so that a pure uprising mutates to civil war. **We urge all Muslims NOT to fall into this trap.**

Today, the Muslim *Ummah* is surely going through a phenomenal change. The tyrants who have ruled for almost a century no longer have any legitimacy in the *Ummah*. Across the world, Muslims are looking for a sincere ruler who will rule with justice and accountability. This can only happen by the government that is established on our *Aqeedah*, as demonstrated by our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ - this is none other than the Islamic *Khilafah* State. This is the vital issue in our lands today.

We ask all Muslims, groups and movements to strengthen this call to bring this historic change in the Muslim world. We pray to Allah *Ta'ala* to liberate the people of Syria from the oppression of the tyrants and return it to be the heartland of Islam once again. *Ameen*.

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said *“The master of martyrs is Hamza ibn Abdil Muttallib and a man who stood before an unjust ruler, commanded him (to do the good) and refrain (from evil) and so he (the ruler) killed him”*.

Wasalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah

Your brother

Abdul Wahid

Please circulate this letter to community figures & encourage our communities to:

- 1) Ask our Imams to give *Khutbah* on this issue reminding the Ummah of her duty towards Syria**
- 2) Organise talks highlighting the plight of our brothers & sisters in Syria, outlining the correct solution.**
- 3) Ask our Imams to organise *Qunoot Nazila* for those suffering in Syria; and to give a place for our brother from Syria to address community to highlight this issue.**
- 4) Write to the media, call phone-in programmes and use social media [Facebook, Twitter etc] to try to allow people to hear the correct opinion whenever Syria is being discussed: to call to remove the brutal regime of Assad & establish the Islamic system in its place, free of colonial interference.**