



## **CONSCIENCE MOVEMENT FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup> CALL**

### **Release all Women and Children Prisoners in Syria Unconditionally!**

We, as the human family, are repeatedly warned by all religious and moral texts to not fight and in case of war to respect human, moral and legal rules.

Today the world has learned a lesson from the two world wars of the past century and remembers them with sorrow. These bloody wars led to the killing of millions of people across the world. Dreams of those people who lost their lives were filled with hope, their loved ones were dear to them, and every single one of them had precious lives just as we do. Countless war crimes were committed in these horrific wars which led to the outcries and prayers of almost every household, street, mosque, church, and synagogue to prevent this suffering to ever happen again; but neither did wars come to an end nor the suffering it causes ...

Today the world is witnessing another cruel war which started in Syria in March 2011. Since the beginning of this ongoing war, more than 450 thousand people lost their lives, even more people are still lost or wounded while more than 11 million were forced to leave their homes. Tens of thousands of people were imprisoned. Even storages, empty schools and warehouses are used as places of torture and prosecution by the Syrian regime. It was not possible to protect civilians in this war, even women and children were either killed or imprisoned.

Up until today over 13,500 women have been arrested and over 7,000 women still remain in these prisons according to a great number of institutions. The Syrian regime has used rape as a weapon of war and continues to do so. The number of people held in unofficial prisons such as empty factories and warehouses are unknown in official documents.

Some of these women were pregnant while they were arrested, giving birth in those prisons while some women were imprisoned together with their children.

These horrible incidents have deeply upset and revolted those people around the world who carry a conscience.

The Conscience Convoy, which took place on the Syrian border on March 8, 2018, and brought more than 10 thousand women from 55 countries together, continues its aim with the Conscience Movement.

More than 2000 NGOs and thousands of people from 110 countries support the movement.

The CONSCIENCE MOVEMENT is an international initiative that has been established primarily for the release of women and children who were held in Syria since the war started in March 2011.

It does not only work on the immediate release of Syrian women and children, but for the protection of all civilians in war and conflict zones.

The Conscience Movement will carry out various activities with NGO representatives, politicians, lawyers, academicians, activists, journalists, human rights activists, businessmen and women,

artists, athletes, etc. with its thousands of representatives to end inhumane acts as soon as possible.

The relevant international conventions, in particular the Geneva Conventions, have introduced regulations for the non-destruction of the civilian population and the prevention of human rights violations in the conditions of war. However, neither international law nor international jurisdiction mechanisms prevent war crimes. We believe that the effect of the law and the manifestation of justice can only be possible if the action of PUBLIC CONSCIENCE and SENSE OF HUMANITY is activated.

We all know that peace is the best option for humanity – but it is easier to wage war rather than build peace. Nevertheless we want to have law in wars, to prevent brutality.

BECAUSE we are HUMAN and we want to do what is the rightful thing to do as HUMAN BEINGS. We urge for law and moral in wars. For this reason, we came together from all over the world.

We are the conscience of humanity which hears the silent screams rising from Syrian prisons.

We are those who believe that people, regardless of their religion, language, race or color, must live in a dignified and humane way without being tortured and persecuted.

We are the prayers rising from the hearts and lips of all people on earth who pray for the freedom of each imprisoned woman and child cruelly incarcerated during the Syrian war.

#### AS THE CONSCIENCE MOVEMENT WE:

- Call for the unconditional, immediate release of Syrian women and children from prisons without being part of any bargaining.
- Invite all people to take effective measures to protect women and children in wars.
- Invite all international mechanisms particularly the United Nations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and leaders of all states, especially Turkey, Russia and to make efforts in this regard.
- We invite all those around the world carrying a to raise their voice right now until the last Syrian woman and child is released.