

The Cairo Declaration on Syria
24 January 2015

Over the past four years, Syria has lived through constant violence and destruction, and the state and society have been ruined. It has been the government's obstinance on ignoring the popular demands for reform and change which has played the central role in perpetuating violence, sectarianism, and terrorism, and in impeding a political solution to the crisis facing society and the state.

These conditions in Syria demand that the opposition forces mobilize their strength and their allies to pursue a path to natural, democratic change, because only the Syrian opposition and its supporters can rid the Syrian people of oppression, corruption, and terrorism.

By invitation from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a meeting of Syrian national figures and representatives of the various currents of the revolutionary forces covered on 22-24 January 2015 to deliberate on the fateful conditions facing Syria, in order to adopt a cooperative roadmap and vision that are accepted by the broadest spectrum of the opposition, and to unify and revitalize efforts to pursue a political solution based on the Geneva Communique and United Nations resolutions.

After reviewing various proposals of the national figures and political parties, conference participants agreed to cooperate on the basis of their common principles, on which they will build a platform to work together to save the country. They agreed to take important practical steps cooperatively with the various elements of the Syrian opposition on a unified basis to present a national political alternative which pursues certain core principles, including the maintenance of the unity of the land and people of Syria, reaffirming the independence of Syria and restoring the respect of its sovereignty, and pursuing the maintenance of the state and state institutions in accordance with the Geneva Communique, in particular the requirement of establishing a transitional governing body with full authority, which will oversee the democratic transition through a specified timetable and under international guarantees, pursuant to the following ten points:

- (1) The solution to the Syrian conflict must be nationalist and political, and the goal of the negotiation process is to transition Syria into a civil country with a democratic system and with its full sovereignty.
- (2) Agreement upon a social contract and national declaration for the establishment of a modern democratic nation that honors and respects political freedoms, civil rights, Syrian citizenship with equal rights and responsibilities, equality between genders, and a guarantee of the national rights of the Syrian people in the framework of decentralized administration.
- (3) Any realistic political solution will require national, regional, and international cover, in addition to wide popular support, which will actualize the aspirations of the Syrian

people and the revolution; therefore again we insist that the Geneva Communiqué, accompanied by clear international guarantees, is the basis of the solution, and hence we welcome the various international efforts to implement it.

- (4) The lack of unity among different opposition efforts was a negative factor and one of the reasons that the conflict has persisted; hence a unified position is a national demand and duty of the opposition.
- (5) At the beginning of the political process, immediate actions by all of its supporters will be necessary in order to allow it to succeed. This should include the release of all detained, imprisoned, and kidnapped men and women; the ceasing of all war crimes; stopping attacks on civilians and allowing them to live under normal conditions; allowing food and medical relief to reach all of the besieged areas; lifting the outrageous economic punishments that have affected the daily lives of citizens; and creating conditions conducive to the return of refugees and the displaced.
- (6) The participants agreed that it is mandatory and a priority to take steps to end any kind of non-Syrian military presence, regardless of which side they have joined or from which country they have come. The presence of non-Syrian combatants has multiplied the size of the catastrophe, destroyed the social fabric of Syria, and deprived Syrians of the ability to initiate solutions to their own problems.
- (7) The negotiated solution will be imposed on all parties, with only the state having armed forces. This will require that all of the government's intelligence and military agencies and instrumentalities must be restructured, along with the incorporation of the armed opposition which participates in the political solution. This would ensure conversion of the aims of these groups to be those of protecting the independence and national sovereignty of Syria and the maintenance of the integrity and dignity of all Syrians.
- (8) Appeal to the legitimacy of the international community to carry its legal responsibility in drying the sources of terrorism, and an appeal to all governments to abide by the Security Council resolutions relating to fighting terrorism, in particular Security Council resolutions 2170 and 2178.
- (9) A political solution that actualizes the universal and complete democratic transition and that criminalizes violence and sectarianism, is required to mobilize and rally the Syrian people to fight against terrorist groups that have spread throughout Syria and which pose an imminent threat to its future existence.
- (10) Preparation for a Syrian national convention to take place in Cairo next spring and creation of a follow-up committee to communicate with all branches of the opposition to prepare for and participate in the meeting, and dissemination of the results of the current Cairo conference in communication with the other Arab, regional,

and international powers, toward reaching the ultimate goal of a political solution based on the Geneva Communiqué.

Victory to the great people of Syria in their aspiration to achieve the goals of freedom, democracy, and dignity. Glory to the martyrs.

Signed,

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Im Daoud	Abdalhamid Doubani	Nasr al Deen Ibrahim
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