



Syria: Neither Dictatorship nor Sectarian Divide

Information and Solidarity Meeting

27th – 28th September 2017

Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

Organitza: CIDOB i l'Ajuntament de Barcelona

For over six years now, the Syrian population has been suffering one of the largest conflicts and humanitarian crisis of the last 75 years. This appalling situation is the result of the armed repression unleashed by the regime of Bashar Al Asad during the spring of 2011 to crush the massive peaceful mobilizations demanding democracy and civil rights, and the end of the police state and institutionalized corruption.

Since then, Syria has succumbed to the spiral of foreign interventionism and sectarian violence which underpins the regime as the “lesser evil” against Jihadism. This Conference aims to give voice to those in Syria who do not accept neither dictatorship nor confessionism, those who believe that the principles of citizenship and self-determination, the respect of human rights –especially in the case of women and children–, political pluralism, and the social management of national resources, must be the foundations for the country's democratic reconstruction.

Wednesday, 27th September

- 16.00 – 16.20 **Plenary session. The solidarity commitment required by Syria**
Loles Oliván Hijós, Arabist; Technical Secretary of CSCA and CELSI/CEOSI (1999-2004)
Antoni Segura, President, CIDOB
Jaume Asens, Fourth Deputy Mayor, Barcelona City Council
- 16.20 – 17.15 **Session 1. The nature of the Asad regime: regional functionality and internal dynamics**
Moderates: **Santiago Alba Rico**, Philosopher and Writer
Yassin al Haj Saleh, Syrian Writer
- 17.15 – 18.10 **Session 2. The Syrian revolution in the context of the Arab Spring: revolutionary outbreak, local committees and social activism**
Moderates: **Lurdes Vidal**, Director, Arab Mediterranean World Department, IEMed
Roshak Ahmad, Syrian-Kurdish Journalist and Documentalist
Karam Nachar, Executive Director, Al-Jumhuriya Collective
- 18.10 – 18.25 Coffee break
- 18.25 – 19.55 **Screening of the Documentary “Our Terrible Country”, directed by Mohammad Ali Atassi and Ziad Homsy (2014) (original version with English subtitles)**
Presents: **Yassin Swehat**, Founding Member, Al-Jumhuriya Collective

Thursday, 28th September

- 09.00 – 10.00 **Session 3. Repression, militarization and internationalization of the Syrian conflict (2011-2017)**
Moderates: **Carlos Varea**, Professor of Antropology, Autonomous University of Madrid; coordinator of CELSI/CEOSI (1991-2005)
Aref Dalila, Economist and Former Member of the National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change
- 10.00 – 11.00 **Session 4. A Gender perspective on the Syrian conflict and its humanitarian crisis**
Moderates: **Representative**, Barcelona City Council
Leila Shami, Founding Member, Tahrir-ICN
Laila Alodaat (*video message*), Human and Women's Rights Activist; member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- 11.00 – 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 – 12.15 **Session 5. War and negotiation processes: What is the alternative for Syria?**
Moderates: **Iñaki Gutiérrez de Terán**, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Autonomous University of Madrid
Yassin al Haj Saleh, Syrian Writer
Iyad al Abd Allah, Syrian Writer and Philosopher
- 12.15 – 13.45 **Session 6. Conclusions. Syria: a future with neither dictatorship nor sectarian divide
Dialogue between speakers and audience**
Moderates: **Luz Gómez García**, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Autonomous University of Madrid
- 13.45 – 14.00 **Closure**
Eduard Soler, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB

Language: Arabic and Spanish with translation

#FutureofSyria