

TP #1936

13-61674 (E)

ACTION
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for follow-up

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Translated from Arabic

To Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Have you heard of the forgotten twin towns of Nubul and Al-Zahra' in the northern Aleppo countryside?

12/12/13

Have you intellectuals heard that its people have been suffering for two, yes, *two* years?

Can you feel, or have you ever felt for a single day, what it is for a whole human population of over 50,000 souls to be under total blockade for two years?

Can you comprehend the savagery, the injustice, the oppression, and the deprivation inflicted on men, women, youths and children, on the elderly, the disabled, the sick and the bereaved?

Can you imagine the rage and rancour that pour down on us day by day, moment by moment, in bombs and shells, in a wild, barbaric onslaught unprecedented in history?

Can you take in the scale of the abductions, abuse and mutilations that are inflicted on our people whenever the criminals set hands on them on the road or in a remote place anywhere in the country, solely because they belong to this blessed land?

Can you understand what it is to live without electricity, water, food, medicine, education and doctors, without anything, without any way to stay alive and keep going?

Do you know that this village, which is small in size but so great in strength, endurance and faith, has given over 4,000 young men who volunteered and were recruited, with free will and pure conviction, to protect all parts of the nation from evil, rancour and terrorism, which has found nowhere to go in the world except my own, dear country?

Do you know how many of its people have fallen martyr, including doctors, engineers, teachers, experts and workers, and many more who are without diplomas and have only their patriotism, sincerity and devotion? There have been over 420 martyrs at the time of writing. Not a single one of them is a mere statistic. Each was a human being, with friends and family; but they were great human beings, who selflessly offered up their pure life and blood, that we and you may stay alive and carry on; that they might come closer to God; that they might defend their land, honour and people; that they might dispel evil, rancour and terrorism; that Syria might belong to all Syrians; that the nation might endure, even if we were all to die.

We are not pleading with any of you. We are not calling, requesting, asking, hoping, wishing, striving or wanting. We do not expect anything from anyone. We are believers; we accept God's command, we submit to His will, and we ask Him alone to strengthen our hearts, our faith and our conviction.

The question remains, however: have you shown any attention or concern for the more than 60 people of Nubul and Al-Zahra', including women and children, who have been abducted? Why is it that the world is in uproar over the abduction of a few nuns by criminal terrorist gangs? We do not in any sense object to the attention and coverage given to that despicable act; we merely wonder why there are such double standards. We have taken a stand against that policy in all local and international forums, in denunciation of oppressive and arrogant States. Would you all have treated the abductions from Nubul and al-Zahra' with such disdain for the very meaning of humanity if the victims had belonged to a different side, religion or sect? Would you have been so dismissive if they had come from another State or entity? The question keeps coming back. We appeal to your consciences: please be fair to us.

HRT/OH1003





Fw: Letter from Dr. Najar from Nubul and Al-Zahra (Aleppo countryside) to Mr. Ban Ki-moon

SGCentral to: Michelle Rakotojaona
Sent by: Michelle Rakotojaona

12/12/2013 09:28 AM

----- Forwarded by Michelle Rakotojaona/NY/UNO on 12/12/2013 09:27 AM -----

From: Giorgia Passarelli/NY/UNO
To: Katarina Mansson/NY/UNO@UNHQ, SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Cc: Hannah Wu/OHCHR@UNCHR, Vic Ullom/OHCHR@UNCHR
Date: 12/12/2013 09:09 AM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Dr. Najar from Nubul and Al-Zahra (Aleppo countryside) to Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Dear Katarina,
Please see below a letter we have received through our Col colleagues to the attention of the SG.
Grateful if you could follow up as appropriate.
Thanks in advance,
Giorgia

----- Forwarded by Giorgia Passarelli/NY/UNO on 12/12/2013 09:07 AM -----

From: Hannah Wu/OHCHR@UNCHR
To: Giorgia Passarelli/NY/UNO@UNHQ@UN-MAILHUB@UNOG-HUB@HUBGVA,
Date: 12/12/2013 06:46 AM
Subject: Fw: Letter from Dr. Najar from Nubul and Al-Zahra (Aleppo countryside) to Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Dear Giorgia,

Could you kindly forward the letter below to the attention of the SG's office?

Many thanks, Hannah

Hannah Wu
Coordinator, International Commission of Inquiry on Syria
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson, 5th floor
Tel. +41 22 917 9152, +41 79 509 0557 (mobile)

----- Forwarded by Hannah Wu/OHCHR on 12/12/2013 12:44 -----

From: Ehab Hassan/OHCHR
To: Hannah Wu/OHCHR@UNCHR,
Cc: Vic Ullom/OHCHR@UNCHR
Date: 12/12/2013 10:52
Subject: Letter from Dr. Najar from Nubul and Al-Zahra (Aleppo countryside) to Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Dear Hannah,

The following text in Arabic was sent to me through an iPhone application called **WhatsApp** by one of the Syrian interlocutors, Dr. Hussein Najar, who is a doctor working in a small clinic in Nubul and Al-Zahra, the Shia locality in the northern Aleppo countryside. As a reminder, the Col documented in the past the imposed siege against the civilian population by AGAGs, as well as other IHL and HR violations. These days we are investigating further allegations concerning the kidnapping/ taking of hostage of more than 60 women from this locality as well as a number of other children by AGAGs, in addition to many other shelling incidents of mortar fire causing the death of civilians as well as young school children. In that context, Dr. Najar who is mentioned above, and who is trying to help us establishing a contact with

the families of the alleged kidnapped women and other direct witnesses, wishes to transmit the Arabic text below to **UNSG Mr. Ban Ki-moon**,

In a nutshell, the letter addressed to Mr. Ban Ki-moon details the suffering of this local Shia village as a result of the kidnappings, the siege and shelling of AGAGs. The writer ends his letter by an open question of why there is no interest in the question of the more-than-60 kidnapped women of Nubul and Al-Zahra, and why (according to the writer) this question did not get the same attention compared with other cases of kidnappings, such as the kidnapping of the nuns of Maaloula.

Can you help transmitting this letter? Let me know if you need any further information. I have Mr. Najjar's mobile phone number. The contact with him is not easy always, and many times the telephone lines are simply out of reach .

All the Best,

Ehab Hassan

ألى السيد بانكىمون
!!هل سمعتم بمدينة مزدوجة منسية توجد فى الريف الشمالى بحلب تدعى نبل- الزهراء؟؟
هل سمعتم بما يعانىة أهلها منذ أكثر من سنتين
!!يا مثقفين؟؟ Two Years نعم ٢ سنة
هل شعرت يوما أو تشعرون بما يعنيه حصار كامل لمدة سنتين عن مجتمع بشري كامل مكون من
!!أكثر من خمسين ألف نسمة؟؟
،هل تعلمون مدى الوحشية والظلم والقهر والحرمان لكل من فيها رجال، نساء، فتية
!!فتيات، أطفال ،أمهات ، شيوخ، عجز، مرضى، ثكالة؟؟
هل تعرفون مدى الحقد والغضب الذى يصب عليها يوميا خطيا من صواريخ وقذائف وهجوم
!!بربري وحشي همجي لم يعرف له التاريخ مثيل؟؟
هل تدركون حجم الخطف والتنكيل والتمثيل الذى تعرض له أهلها ممن تمكن المجرمون منه فى
طريق أو فى مكان ناء بعيد أو فى أي بقعة من بقاع الوطن فقط لأنهم ينتمون الى هذه الأرض
المباركة
هل تعون ما معنى الحياة بدون كهرباء ولا ماء ولا غذاء ولا دواء ولا تعليم ولا طبيب ولا لا
!!لا شيء من أي شكل من مقومات الحياة والاستمرار؟؟
هل تدرون بأن هذه المدينة الصغيرة يحجمها الكبيرة الكبيرة بقوتها وصبرها وإيمانها قد قدمت
ما يزيد عن ٤ آلاف شاب تطوعوا وتجنّدوا بكامل إرادتهم ومحض قناعتهم للذود عن حمى الوطن
بكل أرجاءه وعلى امتداد أراضيه غاربة الشر والحقد والإرهاب الذى بات لا يعرف طريقا فى
العالم كله الا لبلادي الحبيبة
، وهل تدرون أيضا كم من القرايين والشهداء قدمت من خيرة أهلها وشعبها أطباء ،مهندسين
أساتذة ،خبراء ،عمال وغيرهم الكثير ممن لا يحمل شهادة ولا يملك الا حب الوطن والإخلاص والود
أكثر من ٤٢٠ شهيد حتى الساعة
كل واحد منهم ليس مجرد رقم وليس عبارة عن عداد إنما هو إنسان له ارتباطات وعلاقات
وعائلة وكيان
بشر ولكن من مرتبة العظماء
قدموا أرواحهم ودماءهم الزكية بكل زهد من أجل أن تبقىوا أنتم ونحن ومن أجل أن
تعيشوا أنتم ونحن ومن أجل أن يتقربوا الى الله
من أجل أن يحمو أرضهم وعرضهم وشعبهم
من أجل أن يدفعوا الشر والحقد والإرهاب
من أجل أن تبقى سورية لكل السوريين وكل الوطنيين
من أجل وإن متنا نحن...يبقى الوطن
نحن لا نستجدي أحدا منكم ولا نناشد ولا نطلب ولا نرجو ولا نأمل ولا نتمنى ولا نسعى ولا نريد
... ولا ننتظر أي شيء من أي أحد
نحن أناس نؤمن ونقتنع بأمر الله ونصبر ونحتسب ونرجو الله فقط بأن يثبت قلوبنا وإيماننا
وعقيدتنا بما أعطانا
:ولكن السؤال هو
هل اهتمتم أو اكرثتم بشأن المخطوفين الذين يفوق عددهم الستين من نساء وأطفال وأبناء
نبل والزهراء؟؟؟
ولماذا قامت الدنيا ولم تقعد من أجل بضع راهبات خطفو على أيدي العصابات الإرهابية
المجرمة ونحن هنا لا نقصد أبدا أي اعتراض على الاهتمام بنشر هذا الخبر أو تغطية هذه
الحادثة الشنيعة وإنما نتساءل لماذا الكيل بمكيالين ونحن من ينتقض هذه السياسة بكل

المخافل اخلية والدولية وئئهم بها الدول الغاشمة والمتكيرة
هل كان ائتمامكم جميعا بمخطوفي نبل والزمرء بهذا الشكل المهيئ للإنسانية ولمعناها لو
كانو من غير طرف أو دين أو مذهب؟؟؟
هل كُنْئُمْ سئبدون هذه اللامبالاة لو كانو من غير دولة أو كيان؟
سؤال يئكرر ويئكرر وبرسم ضمائرکم وعقولکم فأئصفونا