

Dear Mr. Duschner,

I would like to write to you concerning Syria, and you may publish this.

I am Lilly Martin, an American citizen living permanently in Latakia, Syria for over 25 years. I have been married for 40 years to a Syrian man. I was a medical professional in California prior to moving to Syria.

Latakia is on the coast, and is a Port city, but the main income is from tourism, as it is a beach resort. Besides the beaches, there are 2 notable mountain resorts within an hour drive, and these are important tourist venues because they are cool mountain air for summers.

I had never experienced any sectarian strife in Syria, and given the secular nature of the government structure, everyone had the same rights under law, and in society the Syrian people of all sects were warm and friendly. I can remember the US-NATO attacks on Yugoslavia and I wondered if anything similar might happen here.

The US attack on Iraq happened, and Syria was not affected, other than hosting 2 million refugees. In 2010, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt came to Syria to visit the Iraqi refugees in Damascus and met with the Syrian President Assad and his wife to thank them for their help with refugees.

Not long after a huge Gas field was discovered off-shore at Syria, the US-NATO attack began in Syria.

I was thinking that the crisis would be short, because I could tell the majority of the Syrian citizens did not support the ideology of radical Islam. There was a small minority who were following the Muslim Brotherhood ideology, but a small minority can not make a revolution. However, they did not rely on Syrians, they had the backing of all of the Western World: USA, UK, GERMANY, EU, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA. Then, when they needed foot soldiers, they simply called in Al Qaeda from Europe, Africa and Asia. Soon the US-NATO war machines had all the troops and weapons they needed.

Meanwhile, my neighbors were killed, the small Christian village of Kessab, near Latakia, was attacked by the Turkish military aligned with the US-NATO terrorists and my own home there was destroyed. My neighbors were beheaded. That was 2014, and we still can not repair anything in Kessab as the terrorists in Idlib as so close that they continue to fire missiles at Kessab, even just 2 weeks ago.

The hospitals are open and have doctors. However, because of sanctions by US-EU the chemotherapy drugs are no longer given for free. They are not allowed to be imported. Syria had been all FREE medical service for all citizens. The western drug companies will not sell anything directly to Syria, out of fear of coming under legal punishments because of the sanctions. I have urged companies to see the medicines, but they are scared to death of legal punishments and fines from breaking the sanctions. I have

written to many companies. all with no action. I have written to the US congress bout this and they have never replied. Western made drugs have to be bought in Lebanon at inflated prices.

I went to Damascus recently, and was happy to see a city glowing in beauty and full of millions of residents working and studying. I spoke with friends in Aleppo, who have returned there and have rebuilt their lives again, and they say the city is working full force to re-cover. In fact, recently they had a well publicized marathon in Aleppo, and several music concerts.

The facts are these: Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Latakia are all safe, working, and look like normal cities today. So why can't we recover economically? Because the US-EU sanctions will prevent the Syrian people from working, importing, exporting and living normal lives. The Syrian people are being collectively punished by the western nations because we are guilty of surviving the war that the US-NATO war machine directed at us.

Merchants who would like to import machines from abroad in order to rebuild and refurbish Syria are prevented because it is illegal for any bank on earth to accept money from any merchant in Syria. Due to US-EU sanctions, it is illegal to allow anyone in Syria to order or import any. Zero chance to rebuild or recover.

In the end, Western citizens of the US-NATO-EU lands must accept their fair share of responsibility in the destruction of Syria. They are not blameless. They are voters, living under democratically elected leaderships. If they care noting about the foreign policy on Syria, and are too busy to bother to voice a concern about where their tax dollars are being spent, on funding terrorism in this case, then they must come face to face with their share of the blame. The slaughter of my friends and neighbors was not a Syrian project. Those plans and "Friends of Syria" meetings were in Europe. All Europeans need to decide whether to be part of the solution, or part of the problem.

Sincerely,
Lilly Martin
Latakia, Syria