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Panel 5: Ways out of the Middle Eastern Tragedy?

The Syrian matter

**Conference: Window of Opportunity or Collapse of a Region? -
Western Middle East Policies and Israel after the Deal with Iran**

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As Syrians we can help in the following way:

Facilitate the efforts to put an end to the violent conflict, which affects us and others. Participate in the efforts to **rebuild Syria** in a new peaceful way comparable to modern civilization, to make it an example for the whole unstable Middle Eastern region.

As symbols of the opposition and the Syrian society we have a large Syrian **network** consisting of people who left Syria and who live in exile to work for their cause. They need help in **coordination**, so we can cooperate with them locally or also through digital communication. It is necessary to concentrate the efforts and to invest in the coordination and cooperation.

How we can help in the urgent matter of **terrorism**:

In our long experience with terrorism, we observed the phenomenon that terrorism starts especially in poor and isolated societies. Those define themselves as victims of discrimination and persecution in shanty towns, which are losing their traditional structures and have not yet reached the modern civil stage. Therefore, the only way to create an artificial society seems to be to gather around a dogmatic holy leader. This development creates a suitable ground for political violence. In order to avoid this development, we have to **participate in the civil societies and strengthen the immunity against terrorism**. We should encourage NGO's to help and serve the refugees instead of the Mosques, which are trying to fill that vacuum. Usually they are being used as recruitment centers of fanatic ideologists to enlist whoever is willing and able to participate in their dogmatism and strange activities. Regarding the potential terrorist threats for Europe: the most dangerous terrorists come from these secluded societies. That is why we should concentrate on these societies, because there is no terrorism without their approval, there is no innocent deaths with them gone. We need to dis-empower these terrorist masterminds, and then open up the isolated societies to foreign aid and people who respect them. In Raqqa we may need military means as air strikes, but in Brussels or Stockholm we are in need of more soft power.

We have to start with a Syrian **research and studies center** that defines the problems and creates ideas and solutions to solve them. The center can publish studies about Islamic terrorism. Aid is also needed for a necessary cultural rearrangement of society. We need to open the windows and doors between the two cultures and its peoples.

Then we should move on to create **committees for refugees** with branches everywhere, accepting large numbers of members and offering many services and activities. **Inside this committee we can build a team which is able to pick up important information about expected danger.**

This needs logistic facilitates and co-operations with the local authorities, with security agencies as well as NGO's.

Committees can be created in different countries and all over Europe. However, it is essential that the committees keep good relations with the home land and the Syrian people to serve a mutual benefit and to avoid mutual danger.

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