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The Causes for Assad's War and the Refugee Crisis: The General Situation in the Middle East

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

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In my home land, there is a war, severe and cruel. A lot of states in the region have failed until now, the others are going to do so as well. Wide international civil war have erupted in whole of the large Middle East, a conflict across the borders between all people and religions who are struggling to sustain.

This chaos announced the beginning of political globalization, in its negative form, characteristic for an undeveloped region with minimal stability. This region had suffered from a violent form of modernization, leading the states to fail dramatically in the end.

Regimes which are involved in this situation have the following options:

- 1- To have the most lethal weapons as Iran does,
- 2- To use the most fanatic terrorist ideology as Al-Qaeda does,
- 3- To commit all kinds of crimes, use all kinds of weapons including weapons of mass destruction and additionally inviting any cruel intervention or occupation, as the Syrian regime has done with Russia.
- 4- Or to stay aside and therefore help creating failed states, as the UN and international society does, which is the worst that can happen. The same applies to the Syrian opposition and governments in the West, who decided to wait only (by this I mean all of us here).

General development

Dictators inherited the colonial occupation, ruling artificial states and turned the states into huge military prisons. Thereby traditional systems were destroyed, without building new alternative ones. This led to economic crises as well as to a crisis in education and worsened the situation of the population.

For decades, political and cultural superstructures, handicapped the development of the society until in the so called Arab spring conflicts blew up between all peoples and in all systems. This was a deterioration to a total chaos.

The revolutions had one aim: to destroy these prisons, to uncover the divide between the political elites and the people, and the divide between history and modernity.

These revolutions were confronted with severe violence and the attempt to maintain the dictatorships (which were seen as anchors of stability in the West) by any means as in Libya and Syria. Or they were renewed as happened in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen without a real response to the real and profound needs of change. These conditions provided a suitable ground for a fanatic and terrorist ideology among the people, an ideology that became strong enough to confront the arrogant tyranny, and was able to present its own violence as a kind of justice.

Only the orthodox fanatic groups appear to have practical responses: they have solid structures based on beliefs and guarded by terrorism, they claim to act as independent states in contrast to the failed regimes, they claim to represent the religion, the history, jumping over the fences of prisons and borders, fighting with simple weapons and in this way they challenge the colonial powers. They insist on intervention and fight against the will of the people, they aim to show everybody the bad face of modernity, which is the core of their fanatic ideology. This vicious circle now characterizes the situation in the Middle East.

The conflict appears to be religious, sectarian and savage, but its severity stems from the suppression of basic needs of any society.

All people need peace; but start war when there is a failure of policies or systems and governments, which can respond to the needs of a people. **Democracy, freedom and human rights are absolutely essential for peace and stability – the opposite of what the West supported in the region.**

Now there is every sign of an expansion of the crisis: large sectarian civil wars, international clashes, humanitarian disasters and nightmare of terrorism on the horizon: the usage of weapons of mass destruction, which just lately was confirmed by the Obama administration.

The International Criminal Court is stopped by the UN Security Council itself. Therefore state leaders in the region, criminals, armies and militias know the policy of impunity and that they are getting away with exemption from punishment. That means, that everybody basically has the right to kill wherever he chooses without being called a terrorist. This is the last strategy I had expected - letting the Syrian regime kill its own people, without any reaction from the West. This has the consequence that the victims of the regime, who have waited for justice for a very long and hard time, discovered that they are no longer weak when they change their flags from revolutionaries to Jihadists.

We see that in the absence of justice everybody feels like the victim. So who takes the main responsibilities? Who established this international system after the Second World War?

To secure the region and save the world from more danger, to avoid a Third World War and big clashes between religions, we need international respect with the same rights and values for all. We need positive support from the outside, local cooperation, long term investment in administration, security, education, services and encourage real religious reform in order to rebuild the societies and the political systems from the ruins.

To regulate this unproductive chaos we state:

- 1- Air forces and wars cannot solve the problem.
- 2- Waiting to exhaust the fanatic powers is a bad strategy as the war will only escalate.
- 3- The chaos will not come to an end by itself. Outside help is needed in form of a large investment in the whole region and a local as well as international coalition who not only fights, but also rebuilds.
- 4- There is a need to start from a safe zone, to build an example of a new system and new authorities; in cooperation with the local society but with a new reformed political culture.
- 5- A plan to expand the safe zone and encourage communities in the whole area to participate in achieving these goals.
- 6- There is an urgent need to have powers in place that can limit the dangerous militias: such as Hezbollah and ISIS and for the control of weapons of mass destruction.

- 7- There is only strategy that can defeat the fanatic terrorist groups: We have to deal with the causes; by stopping violence in the societies and by restoring civil life. Only this can be a start for a cultural and political reform.

There is no way to live in isolation or to hate civilization today. But my people was confronted with a bad choice between a corrupt tyrannical regime and air strikes. Some think the past was better, therefore, they escape backwards to the very old ideas, some think the problem cannot be solved in the land, so they try to escape over the sea route and come here to Europe, following the wave of globalization.

Humanitarian work starts with a plan; while history exposed the Syrian people to blind forces of conflict. This is the difference between us here and those involved in the conflict there.

Any positive plan needs to be enforced by powers and institution, which are unfortunately still unaware of possible methods. Ethical action has not benefited the great powers until now. That is why, the international system also needs an urgent reform.

Traditionally the Middle East is a melting pot of cultures. Now this pot is boiling, so I invite all people represented here to take action, especially the German and Jewish people.

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