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**Address of Husni Al-Barazi Big Heart Foundation  
EU High Level Ministerial on Syria  
74th United Nations General Assembly, September 24, 2019**

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Madame Vice President, Honourable Ministers, Commissioners, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank Madame Mogherini and the European Union for inviting Syrians to have a voice at this forum.

When we met here one year ago, Commissioner Stylianides concluded by saying: “We will see you again next year, maybe in a completely different circumstance.” Unfortunately, his hope has not been fulfilled. Eight years of peace talks and negotiations **HAVE NOT BROUGHT PEACE TO THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA**. The bottom line is that until there is an inclusive path to a political transition honoured by all, and as long as there are economic interests, and a UN Security Council veto power - **NOTHING WILL CHANGE. WE EXPECT THE KILLING AND DISPLACEMENT TO CONTINUE.**

We - the Syrian humanitarians - thank the European Union for its continuing strong support, and we ask you to persevere in mitigating the worsening humanitarian disaster in Syria. Intermittent stability in parts of Syria should not make us forget that war is raging in northwest Syria, where Syrian civilians continue to bear the brunt of the violence. For example, more than 750,000 people have been displaced since the beginning of the year. The living conditions in most of Syria are appalling, and as long as the conflict continues unchecked, more aid will be needed. Cross border operations are needed now more than ever - and should continue. The UN Security Council resolution must be renewed.

It is **NOT** the right time to change the aid coordination architecture. It is **NOT** the right time to think that funding appeals assembled by the UN are sufficiently supported. Humanitarian workers and civilians must be spared. We praise the establishment of the Board of Enquiry, but we **INSIST** that deliberate attacks on civilians and humanitarians **STOP**.

As it stands, most Refugees and IDPs are not willing to return under present conditions. Returns should be voluntary and dignified, people should be able to return to a safe environment where they can find, or build, sustainable livelihoods.

- Nations generously hosting Refugees should allow them to remain, and should welcome those with no other choice but to leave Syria.
- Host nations should **NOT** deport Refugees to Syria, and should continue to do their best to maintain and develop dignified asylum space, especially relating to education, livelihoods, and legal status.

It is with great pain and sadness...

**DO NOT FORGET THE NUMBERS**

- 11.7 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian aid
- 6.2 million people are internally displaced
- 5.6 million people have fled to neighboring countries

**SINCE THE ESCALATION IN IDLEB BEGAN IN APRIL**

- 600,000 people have been newly displaced in northwest Syria, and more than 750,000 people since the beginning of the year - many not for the first time (!) - with 1 million looking like a plausible figure by the end of the year...
- **DOZENS** of villages and towns have been destroyed and emptied
- More than 1,000 civilians have been killed
- 51 hospitals, 87 schools, 29 water stations, and 7 markets have been attacked.

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**SYRIANS SEEK DIGNITY**

If you are possessed by humanity and a moral compass so lacking in our world today, we ask the great powers - THE DEVELOPED NATIONS - to facilitate an INCLUSIVE PATH TO A POLITICAL TRANSITION which can be HONOURED BY ALL.

I believe the best part of humanity will eventually prevail – in Syria, the region, and the world; but unfortunately at a very high price, and too late for those whose lives have been lost or shattered. We salute the humanitarian heroes who have paid the ultimate price.

**WE ASK SIMPLY FOR DIGNITY FOR THE SYRIAN PEOPLE.**