

13/10/2013  
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*The Syrian civil war is an armed conflict between the government forces and various factions of rebels seeking resignation of the president Bashar al-Assad and his regime backed by Baath party. The conflict is considered to be a part of the so-called Arab Spring revolutionary wave in the Arab world. First bigger demonstrations erupted in March 2011 and have grown into armed struggle since mid-2011. By mid-July 2012, fighting had spread all over the country including the capital Damascus. Heavies and artillery were used against the revolting towns and cities inflicting heavy material losses. Since the very beginning the armed insurgency has fundamentally affected the lives of civil population with more than 120 000 reported dead. However, there is a massive evidence of tortures, executions and abuse of human rights on the both sides of the conflict, notably used by government forces as the mean of resistance suppression. What is more, in August 2013 chemical weapons were used against the civil population, what has caused a grooving concern in the global politics triggering a dispute about military intervention without UN SC approval.*

*The Syrian conflict has been dividing international community since its beginning, what has been preventing the international community to agree on an effective solution for the country and its population suffering by months of armed conflict.*

The ruling party Baath came into power in 1963 and has been headed by the al-Assad family since 1970. The Syrian political system had been suppressing the political opposition and has established a dictatorship of the one man. Although the system was relaxed in 2012 by the change of constitution and a new multi-party parliament was elected, the Baath party has sustained its leading position. The rule of the Baath party resembling the pattern established by many other countries in region before 2010 has been favoring secularism with little or no tolerance to religious fundamentalism.

On the other side of the conflict, the umbrella organization of the movement – The Free Syrian Army still lacks a unified command and fails in terms of legitimacy. There are several inconsistent military groups fighting rather under their own banner than under the common banner of opposition. There are even conflicts and fighting inside the rebel movement among various leaders and their followers. The most worrying are the radical Islam groups, commonly known as Mujahedeen, devoted to idea of establishing extremely conservative Islamic rule according to the principles of Sharia law what might differ from goals of other fractions and would definitely not bring sustainable peace for the country.

Syria is an ethnically mixed territory with majority of Arab Sunnis counting for approximately 60 % of the population. However, the ruling elite, most of military officers and high-positioned state employees are Alewives that claim a 12 % share of population. There are also Christians and Kurds, each of the group representing 9 % of population. The decades of neglecting even the basic right for Kurds and relatively good standing of Christians in Assad's regime comparing to poorer living conditions of some Sunni communities. Even though Syrian

officials keep to assure that there is no sectarian conflict in the society, all mentioned elements might cause a serious tension among various ethnic groups and are likely to cause another conflict in the future.

In March, April and August, there were reports by Syrian opposition accusing the government of using the chemical weapons against the civilian population. The most massive attack took place on 21 August 2013 in Ghouta region, where sarin killed 635 people. The following UN investigation concluded, that the sarin gas was military grade, and the rockets that delivered the sarin were likely launched from Syrian army controlled territory. Mentioned investigation report was used as a basis for the debate about the international intervention. The international community has been rather unsupportive for a military intervention and UN Security Council neither approved such action. On 14 September, the Syrian government accepted to put its chemical weapon under international control, what has muted the debate about intervention for now. The following US SC resolution from 28 September 2013 supported the Russian proposal and Damascus seems to accept it as well. Last week, the UN monitoring mission was dispatched to control the fulfilling of resolution. However, this does not mean the cessation of fighting in Syria and the humanitarian crisis will not vanish as well.

#### Considering the alarming situation in Syria

the international community identifies the acute need to find a common ground in order to stop the violence and put an end to the ongoing conflict. The international community understands that only a common standpoint on how should be the crisis dealt with and how to implement such solution granting peace for Syrian people may be a legitimate basis to do so.

#### In good faith to put an end to the humanitarian crisis in Syria

delegates from **Brazil, European Union, League of Arab states, Russia and the United States** gathered together within the **Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** to find an adequate solution in compliance with international law. The result of this conference shall be thus the preparation and final approval of resolution binding the international community to act.

#### **With respect to the current situation, there are several factors to be considered in the final resolution:**

The material and financial support of either current government or current opposition leading to final victory of any of those is a non-favored option. The Government has been using lethal force towards its own people, while Opposition is not likely to secure the peace in the country for the future. Rebels have no unified command and most of the groups is not seeking the goal to build an equal society with the rule of representative democracy. What is more, none of the groups has enough power to seize an effective control over the whole country and guarantee the security for Syrian people.

First of all, the political regime that allowed and caused such acts of violence needs to be removed and replaced by temporary authority. Who or what should be that authority is to be one of the main subjects of the further discussion and is essential for further development.

To provide a peace and stability, peacekeeping mission replacing the local armed groups seems to be the best alternative. However, there are many important details to settle. Those are mainly the size, national composition, areas of deployment and financing of such unit. For the success of such a delicate action, a mission under the guidance UN SC would be the most transparent and favorable setting in compliance with international law. Such mission would need to secure the local army and police commands as well as disarm the opposition forces.

Concerning the ethnical tension in Syria, there should be a serial reconstruction of political system and eventually the change of state establishment into a state with semi-autonomous parts or federative body. Whatever will be the result of discussion – federative system or creation of semi-autonomous regions – the extended rights for minorities shall be incorporated. A single ethnical, national or religious group must not be privileged and all ethnical, national or religious group must be guaranteed the same treatment and equal rights. To achieve this, a democratic rule must be established with no discriminatory elements based on any religious or traditional legal systems. This might be a serious problem regarding the number of extreme Islamic groups in the opposition forces. The resolution must find a common solution acceptable for the most of the Syrian society with consideration of the local cultural and religious specifications.

More radical solution might be the territorial division of Syria according to the ethnic background of the major population in respective territories. This would cause the creation of new states. The most likely option within this solution seems to be dividing Syria into three territories. The Alawi territory in the western border, Sunni heartland and northern area populated by Kurds. Such division might settle the ethnical conflict, but need the international community to secure three newly establishing democracies and help them to build the basic political structures keeping in mind all above articulated remarks. Even though, this is a vastly sensitive topic because of its outreach to the neighboring countries it should be at least considered. Another option is to incorporate a clause seeking the creation of the separate international monitoring mission on ethnical tension and if there would be serious concerns about the state of human right in Syria based on ethnical differences, discussion about the division according to the ethnical borders should automatically commence.

#### Regarding the need to establish the sustainable peace in Syria

all these points mentioned shall be the subject of discussion within the Forum of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and only after careful consideration should any conclusions be made. The individual countries kindly approve to accept such a heavy burden of responsibility, show good will to avoid the mutual confrontation and concentrate all above on the interest of the Syrian people.

*We all believe that the civil war in Syria will be another successfully settled problem of global politics resolved within the Forum of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

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