

A colleague at the University came to me as a Syrian American involved in medical relief efforts in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and said to me why are your people are killing each other and then we have to go to war to save you, why don't you stop killing each other? I thanked her for her honest question and said please first understand we are not just killing each other it was a true revolution seeking the life you enjoy, the life of freedom, democracy and dignity from a brutal dictator Bashar Al Assad. Unfortunately, he met the peaceful demonstration of people seeking freedom by killing and imprisonment. More than 100,000 people were killed, but America did not prepare to act till the chemical massacre took place. Is America objecting to killing of innocent people or it is objecting to the method by which they were killed?

The use of chemical weapons threatened American national security because if America does not react it will embolden North Korea and Iran to seek atomic weapons, it will break the US coalition in the world and it will diminish the American reputation.

Unfortunately, we live in a failed world when it comes to saving innocent lives. The United Nations and Security Council were formed for two reasons; conflict resolution between nations and the protection of civilians during times of conflict. UN and Security Council failed in both regards; instead of conflict resolution they intensified the conflict in Syria by providing weapons to perpetuate the killing. Every time a massacre happens in the world we say never again but we fail again and again. When the holocaust happened and millions of innocent people were killed we said never again but atrocities against humanity continued, later in Rwanda, Congo, Bosnia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and list is growing now in Syria.

The situation in Syria is the worse crisis since World War II in all three categories of human suffering during conflicts; death of innocent people, refugees and torture. The deaths have exceeded 100,000. Among them 8393 children and 7686 women. 2441 have been tortured to death. The most degrading to human dignity is torture in Syria. Torture is happening in ways that are unimaginable. Every day 5 people die as a result of inhumane torture. As for refugees there are more than two million displaced in the neighboring countries, 75% of them are women and children. 6 millions are displaced internally.

The crisis in Syria is no longer about revolution or civil war but about putting an end to the worst human catastrophe of our time. If you visit a refugee camp in Jordan, or Turkey or Lebanon you will see the conditions of thousands of women and children and you will feel so ashamed that the world has done nothing to resolve this conflict

This brutal attack by the Assad regime presents a serious danger to our national security. Assad joins three worse dictators of human history that have used deadly chemical weapons. Adolf Hitler used it against Jews; Saddam Hussein used it against Kurds in 1987 and Assad against his own people. Unfortunately the decision of the super powers in the security council are based on their

own interests and they allow their interests to supersede their moral obligation by the veto system. Now the Security Council is hijacked by Russian veto so the free world won't act. – and that's why it's imperative that we respond, as a nation. This is not about Assad it is about deterring any future use or proliferation of chemical weapons by others around the world.

Allowing the Assad regime to get away with this heinous crime would embolden dictator regimes such as N Korea, sending them a message that international norms can be flagrantly violated with no consequences.

I hope that we all support action against Assad's regime to end the war and suffering of the Syrian people and bring peace. Saying no to our moral obligation to intervene on behalf of humanity means yes to the continued killing of women and children in Syria, yes to the continuation of war and yes to the use chemical weapons in any conflict in the world and a loss to world peace, laws and order.