



Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

House Foreign Relations Committee  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2022

Dear Chairman Menendez, Senator Risch, Chairman Meeks and Congressman McCaul,

We are writing to thank you for your important letter to our Commander in Chief condemning Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's "horrific crimes against the Syrian people" and urging that the Biden Administration reinforce that the "international community cannot reintegrate the Syrian regime without meaningful reforms that demonstrate accountability and reflect the will of the Syrian people."

As Syrian Americans and representatives of this diaspora, many of us personally endured the endless pain, torture and suffering first-hand through relatives, friends and acquaintances and witnessed our nation of birth succumb to darkness and defeat as a result of bad actors like Russia and Iran that continue to prop Assad up at the cost of millions of innocent lives. Meanwhile, the one nation – a beacon of light in the midst of darkness and despair – is Syria's last hope.

You pointedly recalled that Secretary of State Antony Blinken promised that "When Joe Biden is president, we will restore U.S. leadership on humanitarian issues [in Syria]" and yet simultaneously the Biden Administration was securing renewal of the UN mandate for cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid; efforts which "merely address symptoms of the underlying conflict and will ultimately fall flat in the absence of a broader diplomatic strategy to resolve the decade-long civil war.

There are consequences for actions. However, the consequences for lack of action can sometimes be even more severe.

We, as members of the Syrian American diaspora, thank you for stating that the "Administration should consider consequences for any nation that seeks to rehabilitate the Assad regime and to ensure all countries understand that normalization or Assad's return to the Arab League are unacceptable. Tacit approval of formal diplomatic engagement with the Syrian regime sets a dangerous precedent for authoritarians who seek to commit similar crimes against humanity."

We are saddened to hear that the US Department of Treasury is providing sanctions relief for regional energy deals that directly benefit the Assad regime and war lords in Lebanon.

As America's Arab partners are allowed to continue normalization with Assad and his regime, the window for seeing true democracy, freedom and an end to the decade long war on the Syrian people is closing and we may never have the opportunity to reopen it in our lifetime.

As Syrian Americans we stand with you in support of your message to America's leadership in asking that action be taken to prevent Assad from seeing permanency in his destructive role. Our values are American values and "[i]t is vitally important that U.S. policy in Syria is consistent with our values."

We sincerely hope to see the full and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 soon and an end to the endless suffering in Syria.

Thank you,

M. Bakr Ghebis

Saed Moujtahed

President, Citizens for a Secure and Safe America

President, Syrian Institute for Progress

Ayman Abdel Nour

Hashem Mubarak

President, Syrian Christians for Peace

President, Syrian Emergency Task Force