

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**  
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**UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA**

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

**The Arab Spring in Syria and the Human Rights' Violation**

**Thesis Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of  
the Requirements for the Master Degree**

**By: Ibtissam CHENDER**

**Amira AYADI**

**Academic Year : 2016/2017**

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Thesis Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master in Literature and Civilization

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2016 /2017

## **Declaration**

We hereby solemnly declare that the work we are going to present in this thesis "*The Arab Spring in Syria and the Human Rights' Violation*", is our own. It has not been submitted before to any other institution or university .All sources that we have used and quoted from, have been indicated by means of complete references.

## **Dedication**

To the dearest people to my heart, I am grateful to dedicate this work:

To my parents: my father Kamel, and my mother Fatmi Nassira

For their care, encouragement, and love

To my beloved sister Amel and her cute children Marwa, Oumaima, and Imad

To my dearest brothers Mourad, and Houssine

For their emotional, and material support

The work is also dedicated especially to my lovely Amira

For her patience, and support

To all my friends Imane, Ahlam, Sabah, Zahra, Chahra, Fouzia, and Sabrina

To my sweetest youngsters: Zakaria, Ishak, and Kamal

## **Ibtissam**

This work is dedicated especially to my family

My father Slimane, and my mother Akmoum Djanat .

To my lovely sister Nadia, and her cute children: Zakaria, Anis, Ishak, and Takwa

To my dearest brothers Fardj-Allah, Aissa, Soufiane, Djamel-Elddine

For their love, support, and encouragement

Special thanks also to my close friend Ibtissam, for her loving support and patience

To my sweetheart husband “ Ramazan”, for his loving support and advice

To my beloved and grateful friend: Imane, Ahlam, Sabah, Meriem, Fouzia,

Chahra, Zahra, and Sabrina

May Almighty God bless you and keep you healthy forever

## **Amira**

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## Abstract

The Arab world has witnessed a series of civil wars since 2010 in which citizens started their uprising for the concept of human dignity .In this thesis, Syria was the chosen model because of the brutal crackdown and the massive human rights' violation held in its terrain. In 2011, Syrians were inspired by the success of revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. They began their demonstration peacefully then it was transformed into an armed conflict .The results of this bloody struggle were and still immense .It led to the flow of immigration to neighboring countries .Meanwhile, the Syrian war has become a hot issue that pushed the external forces to intervene and to find the routes toward a possible resolution. The main purpose of this research is to shed light on the violations and crimes against humanity. To do so, the descriptive method seems more appropriate to explain the circumstances of the war and to describe the human rights' violation in Syria. The conduction of this research helped us to conclude that the world's attempts toward finding a solution to the Syrian ongoing civil war are still taking place, and the Arab Spring was just a motto since the Syrians have not achieved any success up till now. Thus, the Arab Spring seems to be as an Arab Winter for Syria.

**Key words :** the Arab world , Syria , human rights' violation, civil war ,Arab Spring , Arab winter .

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## General Introduction

The year 2011 may be remembered in history as the one that witnessed the blossoming of the "Arab Spring". Some regions in the Middle East suffered from civil and international wars because of turmoil, instability, strife, and over all chaos .It has experienced increased dissention among citizens. It marked the beginning of revolution against authoritarian regime in the Arab World. Violent clashes between regime and rebel forces occurred in Tunisia, Libya, and Syria.

The Arab World has often seen deaths as a result of invasion, foreign occupation, regional or civil wars .But in 2011, the context in which innocent civilian died was decidedly different . Martyrs fell as a direct result of the struggle for the right to dignity, freedom ,and social justice. That is, they died in the fight for democracy and human rights.

Recently, Syria has become a current issue; it may provide the best case study of what has happened in the Arab World. Syria, a country that many felt to be stable and secure under Assad's regime, was fell down by a civil war since 2011. This conflict, that was full of violent acts against humanity and civil rights, has led to a mass exodus of Syrian people who seek protection in other places in order to find safety and security.

### 1.Literature Review

The history of humanity may be the history of wars that have broken out for many reasons, as the revolution in Syria began around issues of social inequality and the desire for freedom from fear and repression. Protestors called for reforms, but the Syrian government used violence against them.

In a thesis entitled "Development of Conflict in Arab Spring" Bhardwaj (16) claims that the war in Syria started peacefully in which citizens demanded their rights as a human being , but the demonstration took another form due to the reaction of the government . They used violence and harsh treatment against protestors in which they wanted to end the authoritarian regime. This conflict created a bloody war.

The ongoing crisis in Syria is just one of the many global issues that are directly affecting the innocent, especially children. In his report which is entitled "Childhood Under Siege", Al Shami (20) tackles the issue of children during the Syrian war in which the innocent are suffering .They are the victims of that revolution; they lost their rights even to study. Syria

became a dangerous place in which people lived in a miserable situation with each day passing in Syria, the humanitarian situation is worsening as the brutality and scale of the conflict have been intensified and have become more complicated. Children are the ones who are affected the most "Fear has taken control. Children now wait for their turn to be killed. Even adults live only to wait for their turn to die. When will my turn come?" said Rihab, a mother in Eastern Ghouta (40).

In the article "Violence against Women, Bleeding Wound in the Syrian Conflict". Nazar (2013) states that Syrian women have become increasingly exposed to a range of violation from the different parties in the conflict, and women of various ages have been always the main victims of the consequences of the destruction and the disruption of food supplies. They have been subjected to arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearance by governmental forces. They have suffered from various forms of torture in detention places to extract confessions. She argues that the regime has used violence against women, including the sexual one which has imposed as a deliberate tactic to defeat the psychological perspective.

In the report which is entitled "The Impact of the Syrian Crisis ".Holly (2012)shows the effect of the crisis on the development of Syria .It provides a sustained focus on human development issue in order to ensure that the current and the future progress depends on the ability to change the system of ruling. The Syrian citizens are calling for freedom and they want to change the situation in their country they want to achieve a political democracy.

## **2. Statement of the problem**

The Arab Spring in Syria started peacefully due to the desire of people to get their freedom, and then it was transformed into an uprising when the government responded with violence against citizens in which the protestors used an armed struggle in order to overthrow the regime.

So the main research questions that can be raised are the following:

- 1) -Did the success of revolution in Tunisia make the Syrian citizens believe in the possibility of change?
- 2) -What are the underlying reasons behind the Syrian civil war?
- 3) -To what extent are human rights violated in Syria?

4) -Why did Russia and USA intervene in the Syrian crisis?

### **3. Aims of the Study**

In 2011, thousands of citizens in numerous Arab countries sacrificed themselves as martyrs for a hope of real reform and true freedom. They continue to do so indicating a deep-seated faith in their own dignity, and in their fellow citizens. Syrian's attempts behind their revolution were to get their rights. They wanted the removal of Assad's regime; however, the effects of the war were immense and tragic(sofer 40). So this study aims to:

- 1)-Describe the Syrian situation during this war.
- 2)-Shed light on the violations and crimes against humanity committed by the regime.
- 3)-Explain the impact of the crisis on the Syrian development.
- 4)-Show the world's response towards the 2011 war inside Syria.
- 5)-Show the reasons behind the intervention of external forces in Syria.
- 6)-Suggest some questions for future researchers about the Syria war.

### **4. Research Method**

In search for answers, this study uses descriptive method in which it is going to illustrate different facts and information that covered the Syrian war and explaining the major reasons behind it. In addition, this work explains the situation of the Syrian citizens before and during the revolution that had affected people's life. This research describes the violation of the human rights which is the results of the Syrian revolution. It gives a description about the Syrian refugees and the situation of its immigrants outside the country. Also, It focuses on the intervention of the external forces and their attempts to solve the heavy conflict.

This research will use all the available sources both primary and secondary as data for the research, the sources have been taken from internet and books since they have very specific guideline for reliability and validity.

## **5. Outline of the Research**

This study will be divided into two chapters to provide a better understanding about the situation of Syria before and after the war. The first chapter provides an introduction to the conflict ,it offers a short historical background that is vital for the further analysis. The second chapter will discuss the conditions that brought Syria to become a chaotic state and the violation of human rights.

Chapter one will tackle the state of Syria before the attack and the reasons behind this war. It will describe the political and economical atmosphere before the Syrian crisis to show the Syrian situation before the civil war. In addition, it will focus on the situation of the human rights before the interference of the Syrian citizens in the bloody war .After that, the chapter will shed light on the beginning of this war, the reasons that fueled the conflict and transformed it into a traumatic crisis. It will also deal with some of the revolution's results like the massive flow of immigration to neighboring countries particularly in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Chapter two will introduce Syria as a chaotic state in which the war affected the Syrian citizens by violating their rights. It will also focus on the intervention of the external forces like Russia and the US to solve the conflict and to find a solution for the humanitarian crisis. It will discuss the purpose of those countries behind engaging into this revolution; however, there are some organizations which try to defend the rights of the Syrian during the revolution. The research will conclude by discussing the world's reaction toward the Syrian civil war and its main pre- solution to end the bloody struggle.

# CHAPTER ONE

**OVERVIEW ABOUT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL  
SITUATION IN SYRIA BEFORE AND DURING 2011 WAR**

**Chapter One : Overview about Political ,Economic, and Social Situation in Syria before and during 2011 War**

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## **Introduction**

The Arab Spring of 2011 triggered a wide set of social movements and regime's changes across the middle East and North Africa .While interconnected ,the uprisings in each nation took different forms and reached varied effect.

This chapter provides an overview on Syrian political, economic, and social life before the civil war .It describes Syria's political and economic system under Hafez Al Assad presidency and his son rule, as it examines the role of president Bashar al Assad who won a second term of office. Additionally, this chapter will focus on Syria's social life before the revolution, and the situation of Syrian citizens inside their country and then life under Bashar Al Assad regime. Due to multiple causes, Syria entered an era of revolution in order to get rid from the Assad's authority. The Syrian civil war has become one of the major ongoing conflicts nowadays which led to the flow of immigration to neighboring countries such as: Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, those countries became the homeland to the Syrian refugees who seek for protection and security inside it. Those effects contribute to make the conflict even worse to Syrian citizens.

### **1. Syrian Political and Economic Atmosphere before the Civil War**

Syria's first years of independence were marked by instability in both the political and economic fields because it was in state of reconstruction. At this time, Syrian government was under many constitutions and the nation's political direction created unexpected ideological groups .Later on, the Syrian government witnessed big and varied changes in its political and economical structure. This situation was mostly noticed during Assad's regime in which Syria was engaged in the bridge of change to improve its political direction and to enhance its economical situation.

#### **1.1. Political Situation in Syria**

Syria has gained its independence in 1946, after the fall of France in the World War Two. During this period, it became unstable country with no political structure; it was a subject of influence by many political movements. But, soon different political parties arose with multiple ideologies. Among those parties was the Baath party under the rule of two educators: Michel Aflaq and Salah Al Din Bitar .This Baathist party was a combination between two movements the Arab nationalism and Arab socialism. It focused more on the rights of peasant and the working class (Sorenson 276).

The Baath party shaped the United Arab Republic in order to cut off the Syrian communist party as a political force .It existed as a Syrian military coup. During this time, Hafez Al Assad started his rise to power by arranging the military committee during the coup and he created new ideologies concerning the ruling of the new government (291).

### **1.1.1. Syrian Political Situation during Hafez Al Assad's Presidency**

Hafiz Al-Assad was elected president in 1970 by popular election. He looked for establishing an authoritarian regime with power concentrated in his own lands .He was not only the representative of the government but the source of real power as well (280).

When Hafez Al Assad took power, he had first reduced the Baath government by offering more space to private property and by strengthening the country's foreign relations with countries. He had encouraged Pan-Arabism in order to unify the Arab world under one Arab Nation .He put "the Sunnis" as the formal heads of political institutions, while "the Alawites" were given to control the military and security services .During this time ,the Baath party lost its governmental position.Their decision- making were decreased and were shifted to the Syrian presidency. In this context, the Syrian government ruled under one party system which mainly centered on Hafez Al Assad and his family (Jones 35).

During his reign corruption became widespread .His authority dominated in the whole institutions, he limited the political freedom and he established a system that excluded the powers of the other parties. He directly refused the principles of consultation and of balance in ruling (36).

### **1.1.2. Syrian Political Situation during Bashar Al Assad's Rule**

At the age 34, Bashar Al Assad succeeded his father .He came to the scene as a modern reformer, he was considered as a young ruler and a leader who could bring change to Syria .He was well educated, and many believed that he would be capable of transforming his father's iron rule regime into a modern state influenced by his Western education.

When he accepted election as a Syrian president ,he announced his first speech "Society will not develop ,improve or prosper , if it were to depend only on one sect ,or one party or one group ; rather , it has to depend on the work of all citizens in the entire society"( Hemmer 124).In this speech ,he stressed the collective work in order to achieve the unity between government and people. He stated that society should not rely on one section, one party, or

one group; there must be a mutual work between them based on honesty and loyalty .He wanted to get rid of the one party's domination in one community.

Moreover, he stated that democracy was "a tool to better life"(Bar 634) that means democracy is the best way to create and transfer opinions between both the government and the citizens. This principle of democracy increases the nation's development and establishes the concept of freedom. He added that the democracy couldn't be attacked because he considered Syria as a blessed country that holds all the principles of good government. In his first year as a president, he promised to reform the corruption in the government and spoke of moving Syria to a better stable state, he tried to give a democratic voice to the people but he ruled as an authoritarian.

Bashar stressed for the need of new ideas and active political participation in order to promote the sense of democracy and create a country based on mutual opinions and decisions between the government and its citizen's .He emphasized on the necessity of the people's voices and he gave hopes about reforming Syria's economic and political atmospheres. As the same author said that the main interests for these modifications were to change the Syrian situation and the Syrian position in the world (226).

Besides, he looked for presenting Syria's image in the West and the necessity to integrate into the global economy and the global culture, and he was aware that this cannot be done without some reforms in liberalization. He produced various statements; including remarks in his inaugural address concerning in democratic thinking and tolerance of political differences, expectations that he would promote political reforms and liberalizations (374).

So his main changes were focused on economy, political system, and the bureaucracy. Bashar's regime circulated on Infitah "openness" in politics, and "Islah" reforms of the economy (Ghadebian 229).In these two areas, the new leader expected to gain support and showed his legitimacy. The new reformer concentrated on reforming the country while preserving the political structure, its new interest was on economic reform which dictated a westward foreign policy. He sought to establish a close relationship with foreign governments, in which he received a positive welcome from them (633).

Concerning politics, there were some signs that showed significant reforms. Bashar could end the control of the Baath party on Syrian newspapers and could allow political parties to publish their own newspapers. He discouraged the public display of himself and of his father.

On February of 2001, Bashar prohibited the independent meeting without the government's permission. He regulated the press, and some of the leaders of the emerging civil society groups were arrested, including two independent members of parliament. These two parliamentarians have since been found guilty of aiming to change the constitution by illegal means (Bar 228).

October 1999 was an interesting case when Bashar al Assad involved in the crackdown of his uncle Rifaat Al-Assad and the arrest of a large number of Rifaat's supporters. The crackdown was described as harsh, as it was against members of the Assad clan in an Alawite city and gave the message of Bashar's ability to exercise force if it is necessary. His reaction changed the Syrian's views toward him; they considered the new leader as similar to his father (370).

Furthermore, Bashar's regime was characterized by his lack of practical political experience. He was closely consulted his government's member in any law and any affair. There was little to differentiate his decision-making from that of his partner's decisions. Besides, this ruler had never been directly involved in war. His military training was limited. This lack of personal experience resulted his weakness in directing military operations and even wars, he didn't have a real understanding about military and strategic matters, and he depended on his group of advisors. Unlike his father's strategy that was basically realized on his own decisions and strategic thinking (372).

## **1.2. Economic Atmosphere in Syria**

### **1.2.1. Syrian Economy during Hafez Al Assad's Reign**

The Syrian economy during Hafez Al Assad era depended on oil revenue, in which the private sector was the major element that the advancement of the country relied on; however, due to the drop in oil prices, the economy suffered from the lack of productivity, and it caused a near collapse of its economy. The year 1980 witnessed a decrease of the country's investments, because the import of the luxury goods was stopped by the Baathist state which led to the destruction of basic consumer goods, industrial, and agricultural supplies (Biscoe et al 14).

The year 1986 seemed to be an era that brought the Syrian economy to a better situation. It was known as the era of liberalization in which president Hafez al Assad announced the strategy of pluralism, and the private sector was officially introduced as a complementary to

the public sector. This era led to the reestablishment of the economy; however, the year 1990 was characterized by the re-emergence of the private sector in which businessmen who were loyal to the regime were benefited from it, unlike the other classes who were victims of that sector. Additionally, the liberalization measures of the early 1990 led to a peak in economic growth in which it resulted to a certain degree of corruption and misadministration of public goods. After a brief economic revival following 1991, the economic growth continued to decline due to certain environmental variables such as: oil resources and drought. Under Hafez Al Assad, corruption had become a central feature of the system (18).

Hafez Al Assad tried to change the situation inside Syria and to improve the economic field. The country's situation seemed to be better in which Al Assad launched several projects and built industrial factories. He used the revenue from oil production in order to find public welfare programs and also to provide free education and health care .Hafez Al Assad attempted to diminish the Baathist ideology that promoted the welfare of the peasant population (20)

### **1.2.2. Economic Situation during Bashar Al Assad's Government**

When Bashar Al Assad came to power in July 2000, he promised to establish economic reforms .He was known as a “modern reformer” (Butter 20) in which he tried to reform the stagnant economy he inherited from his father .Bashar's attempts were to open the market to foreign investment .He emphasized on the need for stable economy, and to change the situation which the country was suffered from. The president put strict punishments for those who were responsible for a corrupted society (Hinnebush 11).

Bashar Al Assad put some of programs that he was obliged to focus on in order to change the economic position. He declared that Syria would adopt a social market economy which was followed by the establishment of a new financial institution .Moreover, Bashar Al Assad reforms included the restriction of the Baath party interference in trade and foreign exchange, because it worked for its benefits not for the sake of the Syrian citizens ( 12).

Additionally, Bashar Al Assad period was known by the re-emergence of the private sector, it was the dominant one during this era, and only the selected group of close allies took its benefits. The president was from the Alawites which took the authority in the Syrian society and they paved the way for the economy to be under their control (14).

The Syrian economy revenue comes from agriculture, oil, industry and tourism, and its trade was based on commodities and agricultural goods. Nevertheless, its economic growth faced a series of challenges and obstacles due to a poorly performing public sector, declining rates of oil production, wide scale corruption, weak financial and capital markets and high rates of unemployment tied to high population growth. As a result of insufficient and corrupted centrally planned economy, Syria has low rates of investments and low levels of industrial and agricultural productivity. According to IMF's (International Monetary Fund) statistics, the two main pillars of the Syrian economy have been agriculture and oil (Butter 25).

Agriculture, for instance, has been the major source that employs large number of populations. The government hoped to attract new investment in the tourism, natural gaz, and service sector to diversify its economy and to reduce its dependence on oil and agriculture. The government had begun to make economic reforms aimed at liberalizing most markets (Biscoe et al 25).

In the early 2000, Syria entered on a gradual economic liberalization to encourage growth. The reforms were motivated, in part, by the challenges posted by the decline in oil production and proven oil revenue, and the effect that it had on fiscal sustainability.

Structural reforms were aimed at regulating and diversifying the economy. The government tried to change the economic situation. In 2004, private banks were allowed to begin operating, and in 2009 the stock market re-opened after more than 40 years. Syria requested to become a member of the World Trade Organization in 2001 (Bulos 8).

The economic growth inside Syria decreased due to multiple causes. In recent years, the high unemployment and the growth of the Syrian citizens were considered as the major problems that affected the Syrian economy, because they put increasing pressure on the job market which led to the slow expansion of economy, and the increase number of the poor in the society created inequalities between the citizens (24 ).

Moreover, there was considerable regional inequality in which the rural population did not benefit from the economic liberalization reforms, in which the farmers in particular were affected by drought. At the same time, employment opportunities did not grow in line with decades of rapid population growth, and unemployment almost doubled within the decade to more than 16 percent in 2006/2007 (Bassam 9).

The economic problems during Bashar Al Assad presidency still occurred. Over the last decade (2000-2010), the Syrian economy has experienced many major problems including stagnation or low real economic development growth, followed by an extensive bureaucracy and the spread of corruption. These problems led to the emergence of the gap between the rich and the poor. The Syrian administration deserved credit for the number of laws and acts adopted in an effort to facilitate the liberalization of the economy; these laws produced insignificant economic development and failed to increase general economic prosperity, because of the attempt to isolate the social market economy (Raphaeli 37).

Syria's economy was in terrible shape when Basher Al Assad came to power, during this era, the decline of the oil revenue affected the economic growth. Nevertheless, the economic reforms which were arranged by the president were difficult to achieve. After his first year as president, many of Basher's promised economic reforms had not been applied. The corrupted government bureaucracy made it difficult for a private sector to emerge. Bashar seemed incapable of making the necessary systematic changes that would move Syria to a better situation (Butter 7).

## **2. Social life in Syria before the Civil War**

Human rights are the fundamental rights for the human life, and all human being born equal. As the Syrian government, during al Assad reign ensured the right of freedom, security, and protection for its citizens. It attempted to make the state stable and calm; however, the situation in Syria was totally changed due to multiple causes that affected the citizen's life.

### **2.1. Syrian's Rights during Hafez Al Assad's Period**

When Hafez Al Assad came to power, he tried to establish a stable country in order to provide a better life for his citizens. The new Syrian constitution proclaimed by Hafez Al Assad declared the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial power. It included many basic rights such as: freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and religion. Every citizen is presumed innocent until convicted by law. No one be subjected to physical or mental torture, or to be treated in a degrading manner, it stated that sovereignty of law is a fundamental principal in society and state (Gucturk 21).The constitution declares:

freedom is a sacred rights and popular democracy is the ideal formula which ensures citizens the exercise of their freedom ,this make them dignified human being ,capable of giving and

building and defending the home land in which they live and making sacrifices for the sake of the nation to which they belong.(22 )

Additionally, the constitution stated that democracy is the only way to express, to exercise the citizens' freedom, and to give them the ability to create and scarify for the benefits of the nation .Moreover, Assad's regime sought to dominate all organizational life in Syria. It touches all political parties like trade union, sports clubs, women's associations, peasant union, association of artists and writers .The Baath party insisted that its members have become leaders of these organizations and that Baathist policy has defined their priorities (Kapur 15).

Despite the fact that Hafez Al Assad offered the fundamental rights for his citizens but the history of Assad's regime was marked by violence and massacre. Syrians have been subjected to human rights abuses in which the year 1980 was known by "the biggest massacre"( 18) in Hafez Al Assad presidency due to the operation of Alshaghoor,Sarmadah and Kinsafah cities in which the Syrian citizens manifested against the government by marching and setting the building on fire .Hundreds of people were killed during this movement .In the same year , Syrian prisoners had been tortured in Tadmour prison ,and they faced bad treatment .Prisoners who saved years at Tadmour described the situation as there had no trace of life , they were died either because of torture ,jailer's brutality ,sickness or execution ( Gucturk 30).

The biggest massacre of Hafez Al Assad 's period took place in 1982.An armed conflict on February 3,1982 transformed into an uprising in the city of Hama ,following a military movement against a militia leader fighting the Baath regime in which many of its member were killed. The city was exposed to air and artillery bombardments without making any distinction between civilians or dissidents. The number of missing and dead people was unpredictable due to the impossibility of entering the city during the military invasion (35).

## **2.2. Human Rights' Situation in Bashar's Era**

After Bashar al Assad succeeded his father as president in July 2000, many Syrian people hoped that the human rights situation would improve .In his first inaugural speech in July 17, al Assad spoke of the need for democracy and equality between the members of the society. He tried to help his citizens for getting their rights and to give them the chance to express their opinions freely. Bashar's speech provided a space for hope following the totalitarian years of President Hafez Al Assad (Butter 7).

In early months of his rule, Bashar Al Assad emphasized on the principle of having and sharing opportunities. Many political and human activists began to raise their voice to demand freedom and political reforms. In Syria, a number of informal groups began meeting in private homes to discuss human rights and reforms efforts. The authorities allowed these reforms to take place, and paved the way to a period of "relative openness"(9) which were known as "the Damascus spring"(12). It was a period of intense political and social debate in Syria which started after the death of President Hafez Al Assad in June 2000. It was also characterized by the demands for legal and economic reforms, the movement was initiated by a number of intellectuals and it was known by the establishment of informal political reforms to enhance the open discussion of civil society issues (Nassar 42).

Also, the Syrian women have been the victims of the regime's authority. The constitution has announced the right of freedom and security; however, women have suffered from multiple violence during Bashar reign. There were multiple organizations that tackled the issue of the Syrian women .According to Amnesty International Organization which seek for human rights, women have been subjected to several violence particularly within the family .It declared that there was an inferior status of women when compared to men. Such discrimination has reinforced by social customs, they have been prevented from accessing justice, and the sexual violence has been a continuing challenge in the Syrian society (50). Moreover, Syria's health care has been still in need of expansion and improvement in order to help the population .Rural areas in particular have lacked sufficient facilities and services .Women and girls suffered from a high rate of maternal mortality, and Syria's criminalization of abortion served as another barrier to full reproductive health care (Gucturk 37).

Moreover, Syria's minorities have been suffered in the country .The government has passed laws that affected their every day affair .When legislative act was passed in 1962 about Syrian Kurds in which they were stripped of their nationality when they couldn't prove that they had been living in Syria since 1945.They lost all rights to claim their citizenship ,and they were effectively left stateless .In addition, when Syrian born Kurds whose father have been stripped of their nationality , they have faced a series of difficulties in their everyday life ,they have been incapable to own land ,houses or business , to be employed at a government agencies or state-owned enterprises ,they haven't even the chance to marry Syrian citizens and if they do the marriages, they are not legally recognized as Syrians ,and both spouses are described as unmarried on their identity cards (40).

Syrian citizens have suffered from an enforced disappearance and also from tortures in detention centers and prisons. The Human Rights report has stated that the United States department described Syria as an authoritarian regime. The Judiciary in Syria was not independent. Violence and discrimination against women continued; moreover; workers have been affected by the lack of opportunities and also by the government's restrictions of their rights.

Additionally, everyone has the right to move and to reside in any state .Despite this universal human right freedom; the government has imposed restriction on the freedom of movement for Syrians. These rights were announced in "The article"(Nassar 39) of the universal declaration of human rights which provided the freedom of movement for Syrians.

The right of freedom of press, freedom of expression, and freedom of speech were guaranteed in the constitution of the Syria Arab Republic, because it is one of the most important rights that people need. They can fully express their opinions and realize their potential, but Syria was under a highly restrictive state of emergency law since the Baath party came to power in 1964 until 2011.It reduced the right for everybody who wishes to establish an independent paper, and to express his ideas freely. It restricted the right to write anything against the regime and its repressive treatments (42).

The Syrian government under the rule of the Assad family restricted the people's right even to say or to write anything against them, because security branches would arrest, and possibly torture them for doing so. This oppression prohibited their life, and the government would pay for fabricated evidence against certain people, who work against the government's needs by sending them to the security branches in which it could then take action on the citizens who were blamed of being anti-government. There are four security branches in Syria ;one is for the military ;one for the air forces ;one for national security and one for state security but in reality, they all exist for the same reason which is to abuse the people and make sure that no one could cross the line by speaking about the faults of the state .Before 1982,those security branches were working for the duties they had originally been designed to do .However, when the "Islamic Brotherhood"(47) started protesting against the government ,they all started repressing the protestors ,prosecuting and even killing members of them. Eventually, anyone who joined the Islamic Brotherhood would be imprisoned and tortured. When this uprising was stopped, the role of the security officers changed from taking care of their own jobs, by helping the citizens and make sure that they follow the order of the government (48).

Moreover, The Syrian constitution has agreed about the freedom of religion but the government has always refused it in entirety, because most of the citizens have been Muslims and they have the opportunity to practice their religion freely, and for those who have been Jews or belong to the minority of Kurds, they have been the ones who were most affected due to the discrimination on them (52).

### **3. The Syrian Civil War**

The civil war in Syria was the product of series of wars that had happened in the Arab world, starting first in Tunisia by exotic demonstrations due to the tragic massacre of Mohammed Bouazizi in December 2010. These demonstrations were concluded by a success that led to a wave of change in the Arab world especially in Egypt and Syria. The lack of democracy, human rights violation, wide-spread corruption, economic decline, unemployment, and the rising food prices were the most significant causes that fueled the manifestations. Some countries aimed to displace the regime; whereas in others, they wanted just to improve their living conditions (Khaddour 16)

The four countries: Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen have overthrown the government, starting first by the Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who left the country in 2011 in the path of uprising. After that President Hosni Mubarak declared his resignation from his office in February 2011 after the Tahriri square protests. Following this time, the Libyan government under Muammar Gaddafi was defeated after a domestic revolt and international military intervention and was killed. (17)

#### **3.1. During the Year 2011**

During this year, a young man called Hasan Ali Akhbar charged himself on fire, against the Syrian government, after two months, a revolutionary slogan was inscribed by students in Deraa "Southern Syria" to call for their rights against the Syrian government. This demonstration marked the beginning of turmoil in Syria which would soon transform into a civil war with terrible effects to Syria (Rozsa 4).

In February 2011, the Syrian citizens called for this expression "the people want to topple the regime" (Lister 2). This motto was as a direct challenge against the Syrian government. It expressed their decisions to end the regime of Bashar Al Assad. The popular protests crossed the city of Hama. At this time, the security forces of the government opened fire on demonstrations and stopped a large number of manifesters from different locations. By July

2011, thousands of people were regularly protesting ,their desire to change was grown inside them .Their demands were mainly centered on the resignation of Bashar Al Assad and broad political reforms including the freedom of press ,speech and assembly (4).

In March 2011,a group of school children were arrested by the government while the unrest were broken out in the southern of Deraa.They called for political reforms and economical reforms rather than the removal of Assad government .At the same, a small armed group was existed inside the protest. As security forces applied violent ways against citizens, protest became larger and spread to other towns. This opposition movement introduced two umbrella groups: one political and one armed .The first group specialized in forming the Syrian National Council, established trust and developed common goals; whereas, the second group was ruled by junior military defectors, they formed the Free Syrian Army whose authority was generally unrecognized by local armed groups. It aimed to make peaceful demonstration against Bashar Al Assad control and to initiate resistance operations against his security forces (Blanchard 4).

The month of April 2011 may be considered as one of the steady regime escalation due to the event of "Great Friday". This event operated on Friday and resulted the death of many protestors by the security forces .After a period of time, an attack on the southern city of Deraa was started by the Syrian Arab Army, and the city was occupied from all corners .This year was also called "Mortyr's week" and "Friday of Resistance "(Mariwala 6).It witnessed a bloody clash specially in Deraa ,Latakia and Hom.The Syrian government opened fire on 27 anti-government protesters.

During this period, the armed rebellion broke the state of Jisr al Shagur.Some reports claim that this event ended by the withdrawal of the security forces after a big clash with the secret police and it marked the beginning of change to the Syrian citizens. Later, more protesters in Syria took up arms, and more soldiers defected to protect protesters.

After this action, a large number of people were died in a nationwide crackdown known as "Ramadan Massacre"(Bellin 7). This attack reflected the desperation of Bashar Al Assad and affirmed the dictatorship of the president .Due to this massacre, the Syrian National Council was shaped by an anti-government groups. It aimed to regulate the opposition and took the responsibility of its practices (9).

After this massacre, Syria witnessed another big conflict between the Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Armed Forces in Al-Rhastan, this battle was the longest and the most violent action .It characterized by the use of tanks and helicopters and led to an offensive on the town in order to banish the army defectors (11).

Finally, the increasing rebel attacks were mostly seen in November and December 2011, they presented the rejection of the regime and the belief in change .In the two months, deadly attacks on an air force were opened by the Free Syrian Army (Berzins 8).

### **3.2. Aftermath of 2011**

During this year, the struggle became more violent, as the government started to use the military weapons and aircraft against protesters. Extremist attacks became more habitual, between November and December 2012 .Beside to that, Syrian territories were begun to be seized by the local armed groups' .Afterward, the conflict moved into the two largest cities, Damascus and Aleppo, and the protesters demonstrated peacefully with a general strike (Hassan 30).

On November, the Syrian national council declares itself as the union Syrians opposition that represent the Syrian revolution politically, it attempted to realize a democratic change and construct a modern civil state, it was the most organized group against the regime and became a part of a larger umbrella group that called "the national coalition of Syrian revolutionary and opposition forces" ( Blanchard et al 5).

### **3.3. Characterization of the Year 2013**

On March 2013, the city of Reqqah was seized and became the first capital to fall out of the government control. During this year , the government lost its control over the Syria's rural North East due to the big victories of the opposition, at the same time ,military and intelligence support from Iran and Lebanese "Hizbollah" were received by the Assad government; whereas, the United States ,Turkey, and European countries supported the Syrian opposition (6).

In April, the United Kingdom and France stated that the chemical weapons had been used by the Syrian government on several occasions .Later on, the president Obama requested the congress to stop the use of chemical weapons against the protesters and Russia made an

agreement for the Syrian government to arrange its chemical weapons .During this year, the Syrian army with its allies took control over many cities (Blanchard et al 6).

### **3.4. Characterization of the Year 2014**

In this year, Al Qaeda formally denied the Islamic State due to their interventions in Syria, and then they created the caliphate areas' of both Syria and Iraq. This creation resulted a big struggle for joining the Islamic State (Khaddour 7).

Actually, Syrian economy has been affected by the war which resulted wide damages to the economic infrastructure. Military activity and insecurity blocked its income and heavy sanctions have been imposed on the Syrian state by the Arab League .In addition to that, the oil exports and trade has been decreased and the market price of the cereal has remained less. As a result, farmers left their lands (16).

Despite four years of war, the regime sought to prove that the authority of Assad will last and the Syrian citizens must accept the idea that Assad regime is actually the Syrian state. He strengthened the Syrian's perception that the state exists only where the regime is present (18).

## **4. Flow of Immigration to Neighboring Countries during the Syrian War**

Migration became an important issue that the Arab Region suffered from, it can be defined as a journey in search for a new beginning. People's desire based on settling in a new country in order to improve their quality of life, it is about belonging to many places but at the same time being eager to return home (De-Bel Air 11).

The Arab region has witnessed the flow of international migration. Protection, economic opportunities and having a better life have been various reasons for the flow, some may be categorized clearly as forced or voluntary migrants (15).

With the growing tension in Syria in 2011 and due to the situation at home, the violence against civilians had caused mass migration to destinations both within the region and beyond (Pinar et al 2) more and more people especially from Syria some of which appeared hopeless have decided to go to the European countries, in which the current refugee crisis increased and its impact was widening from neighboring countries towards Europe (Fulton, Will et al 6).

The conflict in Syria between the government of Basher Al Assad and other forces which began in the spring of 2011 ,and with the appearance of the anti-dominated Islamic state in the territories of Syria and Iraq were the major causes of the massive migration within the countries .Since the uprising began ,there were thousands of Syrian refugee left their home and started to search for another places in order to find safety and security .During the year 2014,more than one million were registered as emigrants in neighboring countries .The Syrian conflict had put enormous pressure on Jordan ,Lebanon and Turkey .Lebanon hosted a large scale of Syrian refugee ,the similar situation in Turkey and Jordan(27).

The out flow of refugee to Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey started immediately after the beginning of the uprising .Refugees initially fled to regions close to their original locations. In this way, they could commute across the borders; it highlighted the rapid flow of emigrants from Syria to neighboring countries especially in 2013 to Jordan and until mid 2014 to Lebanon. Insecurity has intensified everywhere, and the Syrian state became unstable in which the flow of refugees continued (De Bel-Air 5).

Furthermore, the conflict in Syria continued to cause displacement within the country and across the region. Moreover, the situation for Syrians in neighboring countries became difficult ,they faced tension among host community populations and struggle to secure basic needs like security, food, and shelter .Syrians were increasingly seeking protection in other regions ( 10) .

Moreover, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt hosted a large scale of immigrants; they tried to provide the requirement of the increased population in order to help them. They have generally allowed Syrians to access to their territories, by providing the basic social services like: water, food, health care, and hosting. In addition, the neighboring countries gave the opportunity to Syrians to live in communities and cities in which the influx of large number has dramatically shifted the demographic composition. The arrival of those refugees has been increased over the years (Ostand 262).

#### **4.1. Syrian Refugee to Turkey**

Following the upheaval of the Syrian conflict, millions of Syrians have been forced to leave their homes. The uprising has resulted into a huge wave of Syrian refugee towards the Turkish borders when the tensions grow faster between the government and protestors. Turkey hosted the largest number of Syrian population, the presence of the immigrants was

considered temporary and it became permanent due to the situation in Syria (Hoffmann and Sahizer 7).

Turkey hosted the largest refugee population in the world, and the Syrian people became a part of them, they have live in tents and temporary shelters, while the rest have settled mostly in urban areas where they have sought their own accommodation and employment opportunities .They were lived in camps in 2012 and 2013.However, in 2014, the camps' capacity was insufficient to deal with the massive influx of refugees, many of them left Turkey and search for another places neighboring Syria.

The Turkish government offered an opportunities for the Syrians to live easily in the region, by living in camps which were expected to be safe and in good conditions and also it give them food, water, cooking facilities and health services; however, the majority of the Syrian emigrants in Turkey lived outside the camps, and for them the life conditions were difficult because they lived in overcrowded places with extremely poor facilities. Adults and children often worked or beg in the streets, and most of them were not allowed to attend Turkish schools.

Moreover, smaller groups of political activists were the first Syrians to arrive in Turkey due to the oppression that the government imposed on them, they fled to avoid torture and arrest .The increase attack on civilians and the development of an armed position pushed them to go to neighboring countries. They moved in search for health treatment especially during times of heavy conflict in which it became a primary reason for the migration to Turkey. Due to the destruction of entire cities, people were obliged to leave because their houses had been destroyed, and their lives were at risk from the attack of Assad's regime (8).

Furthermore, there were some European countries opened their doors for the Syrian citizens , particularly Germany and Sweden ,by helping them in order to have better life unlike the situation in their country .Besides, Norway ,Sweden, Germany and the united kingdom have highly developed laws and policies regarding asylum and other forms of international protection . The European Unions are the world leaders in responding to the crisis at political and humanitarian level .The primary aim is to help the refugee crisis within countries neighboring Syria ,by providing significant support for them in those countries .The number of refugee who fled to European countries was less compared to the overall number in the Arab countries (Orchard and Miller 37) .

Additionally ,Syrians have attempted to reach Europe while the conflict continues ,there has been a large scale of influx arriving in Europe in illegal way through unauthorized channels, this attempt resulted in" the death of Alyan"( Piner et al 182). A small Kurdish child from Syria found in a beach in Bordum, his death immediately became an issue of the refugee crisis because he tried to go to Europe in search for protection and security .He didn't reach even the borders, he died with his family. Ordinary people and government in Europe began discussing and offering help for the other refugee (184).

#### **4.2. Syrian Refugee to Lebanon**

Lebanon became the homeland for the Syrian refugee .It is one of the most obvious destinations for them; it opened its door for a huge number who tried to escape from the civil war .It was in April 2011, that the conflict between the citizens and government forces had resulted to the emergence of the refugee crisis. Lebanon was considered one of the neighboring countries that hosted millions of Syrians who sought protection inside it, Syrians settled temporarily in the region where some of them have families or trade relations.

Furthermore, the Syrian refugee in Lebanon have affected negatively the county's growth .The emigrants arrival has put enormous pressure on the economy and public services, and caused an alarming rise intention between Lebanese and refugees, they faced an uncertain future in Lebanon. However, new policies were announced to allow Syrian who entered the country illegally to settle without any identity documents .The situation seemed to be different for the Syrian Kurds because they were forced to live in the county illegally. Some Palestinians from Syria have been turned back at the border or forcibly returned to Syria (Dionigi 6).

Syrian refugee in Lebanon have faced several problems when they have tried to escape from the conflict in their country, because refugees who have left their county where in need for the access to health, find houses, and shelters; however, Syrians in Lebanon have lived in over-crowded apartments, and employment and education were a challenges for them .The influx has had a significant impact on the local economy, rising prices and making it difficult for both Lebanese and refugees to find gainful employment .

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, the Lebanese government and the UNHCR, this later is an organization that work for the benefits of the Syrian refugee, it attempts to provide international protection for those who seek for a permanent solution, and who were abused by

the regime and state, It certified that refugee coming from Syria should receive the necessary humanitarian attention (7).

The Lebanon "open door policy "(8) was authorized for the free flow of Syrians to across the border without control since the conflict began in 2011. Moreover, the UNICEF has tackled the Syrian issue, it have launched educational activities for children, but most of them still do not have access to go to schools, they were exposed to such abuses like child labor and early marriage (9).

In March 2014, Lebanese prime minister brought his governmental policy statement to the parliament in which he declared his intention by tackling the question of Syrian refugees he states:

The government will work on taking the necessary measures to address the issue of Syrian refugee, whose members exceed the country's capacity to deal with in order to contain the security ,political, social and economic repercussion of their temporary presence in Lebanon. The government will call upon the international community and the Arab world to assume their responsibilities in helping Lebanon, fulfill its ethnical and humanitarian obligation and at the same time facilitate their return to their homes (12)

### **4.3. Syrian Refugee to Jordan**

"Syria has become the great tragedy of this century" says UN high commission for refugees, Antonio Gutterres. Due to the gravest situation inside Syria since the upheaval of the uprising in 2011, citizens have fled to neighboring countries like Jordan to find safety and protection. Syria became unstable which forced the people to leave the region and search for another places (Achilli 1).

The geographical and the cultural relationships between Syria and Jordan were considered as a major reason for the flow of emigration to the region .The open –border policy which was announced by the government of Jordan, helped the Syrian refugee to enter the country without any control (3).

When Syrian refugee arrived in host countries, they were enforced to find income for their families' survival needs. With regard to Jordan, the International Labour Organization indicated the rights for emigrants to have works in order to improve their quality of life

;however, the refugee didn't have the right to share the economic growth of the region because they were in need just for having houses (10).

Jordan has taken more Syrian refugees, in relation to the number of its inhabitants. These refugees in Jordan have lived in an uncertain places .Within Jordan, the majority of Syrians have lived in the capital and in the border towns and communities of the north, while a significantly smaller portion have settled in the official refugee camps. The situation highlighted the worsening prospects for displaced Syrians hoping to reach safety outside their home country.

In addition, World leaders must also relieve the pressure on host counties like Jordan by assuming their fair share of responsibility and significantly show their interest on human's needs. The world should take care for the Syrians and provide the essential needs, and find a permanent solution for the humanitarian crisis inside the region (Dionigi 9).

## **Conclusion**

The death of the Syrian president Hafez Al Assad gave the chance to his son Bashar Al Assad to take power over the Syrian government .The new president created a new phase not only for Syria, but also for the Middle East. In his rule, he assured the continuity and the change to the Syrian region. Assad established a new foreign policy and a new dynamics in domestic politics. His desire was to improve the situation inside the country by focusing on the political and the economic field. The economic and the political system faced such problems and Bashar came as a reformer. He showed his hope to take a path of various transformations; however, there were contending forces complicating the initiative for liberalizing political change within Syria, and even Bashar may be unsure towards such change. All Assad's promises resulted in a civil war which followed by huge crimes .Since the conflict started, a large flow of immigration went to neighboring countries seeking for protection and security .

# CHAPTER TWO

**SYRIAN CHAOTIC STATUS AND THE VIOLATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Chapter Two: Syrian Chaotic Status and the Violation of Human Rights**

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## **Introduction**

Syria may be considered as the worst humanitarian crisis that the world has witnessed. As the Syrian conflict enters its seventh years, hundreds of people are still suffering; the Syrian government was led by President Bashar al Assad responded to the protest by killing a huge numbers of demonstrators and by imprisoning many of them. A foreign involvement in the Syrian civil war has significantly increased since the conflict beginning. This has led some Organizations to interfere and to try to find a solution for the violation of the Syrian human rights. The conflict also opens the door for foreign interventions to react and to end the bloody civil war. After this intervention, the Syrian conflict has intensified, civilians were the primary victim and they paid a heavy price for their demonstrations. The world's response to the crisis leads to the creation of the Geneva conference as other attempts to solve the problem. The call for peace is imperative and the responsibility to bring a process that ends the armed conflict and makes transition was hold; however, the possibility to resolve the crisis disappears.

### **1. The Human Rights' Violation in Syrian during the Civil War**

The human rights' situation in Syria has become the worst since the beginning of the Syrian civil war .During this period, Syria lived in a chaotic state; it witnessed large numbers of violations .This situation was the main focus of multiple media and journals in the whole world, because it does not concern only the Syrian people, it concerns the whole humanity.

#### **1.1. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**

Since the conflict began, Syrian citizens had experienced varied, tragic, and painful kinds of violations .They were ruled under discriminatory laws and practices that encouraged gender –based violence and prevented women to access justice .The Syrian government used armed conflict against its citizens, isolated them, and practiced all kinds of torture against them. Syrian women faced also sexual violence and honor crimes. They were even forced to get married in the early age (Nassar 2).

Five years after the breakout of demanding freedom and justice, the Syrian government met the protests with unprecedented repression and violence that led to an open armed conflict. During this time , repressive practices and armed violence impacted women negatively in which they lost their security ,homes ,lives ,family members and social status ,in this context ,the Syrian legal system became destructed and the rule of law was collapsed. The Assad

regime continued to use indiscriminate and deadly force against civilians, conducted air on cities and residential areas .Attacks against schools, hospitals, mosques and houses were common throughout the country. In addition, the ongoing war has been marked by torture and sexual violence in which the government used explosive weapons to kill the civilians mentally and physically (Adams 12).

Refugees were susceptible to rape and abuse in transit, in camps, or while in other areas refugees gather .Syrians who have been subjected to extreme sexual violence need access to immediate healthcare services to treat physical injuries, psycho-social trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies. They were ignored by the government; they do not have even the right of health services (Nassar 6).

The regime continued the systematic and widespread use of torture and rape, including children. It used the massacre of civilians, as well as starvation, as military tactics. The government denied citizen's right to exercise civil liberties, such as freedom of speech and press, movement, peaceful assembly and association, and the right to a fair public trial. The government detained without access to punish individuals associated with nongovernmental organizations, human rights activists, journalists, humanitarian aid providers, religious figures.

The government continued to restrict nongovernmental organizations and individual activists from organizing, especially those working on civil society and democracy matters. The regime consistently limited medical providers' access to persons in critical need. Corruption was spread throughout the government. Violence and social discrimination against women and minorities continued, and workers' rights remained restricted (9).

In addition, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is the most prominent cause of civilian displacement. Displaced women are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence including sexual violence, harassment, trafficking and forced prostitution, which makes them rely on others for help and security.

## **1.2. Barriers to Free and Equal Education**

In the educational field, children were suffered from the lack of schools because they were damaged by the regime's attack. Syrian schools were under attack in which people stop their education; they were killed, injured and even lost the chance to learn. Schools in Syria has been destroyed, damaged, or turned into shelters for displaced families.

This situation affected the psychology of the Syrian children as Mohammed Ibrahim states:

I heard an explosion, and I felt it. My ears went deaf from the sound of the explosion .I started hearing the sound of children crying and screaming .All of the bodies were in the corners because of the air pressure from the rocket. I was taken to the hospital. I returned back in the afternoon and I saw that the main school building had collapsed. You wouldn't have believed the damage. It looked like an earthquake had hit (15).

### **1.3. War Crimes against Children during the Syrian Conflict**

The Syrian children were the major victims of the civil war due to the grave violation against them, they were killed, injured and even be soldiers in the conflict. They were raped and were subjected to many grave sexual violence .Both sides of the war continued to commit gross abuses against Syrian children .Moreover, children have been systematically denied for the access of education due to the use of their schools as military detention. Civilians died from the lack of basic medical equipment and supplies because hospitals have been directly attacked by the government forces, as Human Rights Watch Organization says:

"Children have not been spared the horror of Syria's crackdown .Syrian security forces have killed ,arrested ,and tortured children in their homes ,their schools, or on the streets .In many cases security forces have targeted children just as they have targeted adults" (27).

The Syrian citizens started their revolution for the concept of human dignity and for saving their fundamental rights .they believed that the success of the war in the Arab region was due to the desire of people to change the situation and to topple the regime , that's why they entered in a war that lasted seven years with no end till nowadays ;however, the results of the conflict were and still be unbelievable in which the Syrian citizens are still facing the massive and the brutal human rights violation. Some of them died and injured whereas the others were displaced. The effect of the Syrian revolution are immense and tragic, people are still suffering physically and mentally.

The conflict in Syria has entered into a new phase of further complexity and increasing violence, its impact on civilian population was enormous as it caused a wide range of suffering. The depth of repression created significant humanitarian needs, disrupted social conditions, and welfare capacity in neighboring states.

Through this conflict the Syrian citizens thought that they could change their fate and could create a democratic government, but their dreams were far reaching. Their conflict was

marked by very high levels of human rights violations and it opened the door to all kinds of corruption and displacement.

## **2. Organization's Protection of Human Rights in Syria**

After six years of conflict, Syrians have faced the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with grave protection and human rights violation occurring every day. So there are many organizations around the world dedicate their efforts to protect human rights and try to end human rights abuses .Syrian citizens were and still suffering from the violation of their rights, they started their revolution peacefully; however, it became a global issue that many organizations were called for remedial action, by delivering practical protection for ordinary people, because their states are unable to protect them.

### **2.1. Human Rights Watch Organization's Interference in Syria**

Human rights Watch was an organization that is dedicated to protect the human rights. It investigates and exposes human rights violation, it challenges the government and those who hold power in order to end abusive practices, and respect international human rights. Over the past years ,attacks on health care in Syria continued and government's forces denied their role to protect civilians .Access to health care have been blocked .Millions of people have been killed during the conflict. The United Nation Independent International Commission had reported that the Syrian government opened fires on hospitals and people were in need for treatment, it stated that "the government deliberately target hospitals and medical units to gain military advantage by depriving anti –government armed groups, and their perceived supporters of medical assistance" ( Adams 20). The Commission also have found that the government forces arrested and tortured citizens who have sought protection and safety .Human Rights Watch documented that people have faced discrimination and such cities like Aleppo have suffered from the bombardment of its hospitals and Syrians people were attacked.It noted that Assad's regime has continued its strategy of killing people in order to remain in power (24).

Syrian government forces have used aircraft, heavy artillery, and arms against any one support the regime's opponents especially the use of chemical weapons in major cities that caused a huge number of dead people in which the Human Rights Watch organization states:

Attack on villages and towns in Adlib governorate are too numerous to detail. The region of Jabal al Zawiya and in particular the towns of Saraqib came under intense bombardments between July and October ,including by barrel bombs .On 21 July, a market in Arika was bombarded resulting in mass civilian casualties ( 10).

This organization aimed at dedicating the huge number of dead people who were affected by the conflict. Moreover, it has noticed that Syrian security forces have continued to detain people arbitrarily, regularly subjecting them to ill-treatment and torture, and often killing them by the use of chemical weapons throughout Syria (28).

## **2.2. The United Nation's Mission towards the Syrian Crisis**

Additionally, the United Nation's mission is to create a safe zones that provide security for all Syrians, and to protect human rights and to prevent further humanitarian crisis. It attempted to play an active role in resolving the Syrian crisis, put international law .Furthermore ,the United Nation's objectives is to find a peaceful political solution to the conflict in Syria (Knapp 5).

The violent armed conflict spread to most Syrian regions, the people including all classes were paying a heavy price for the ongoing armed violence in various areas ,the UN issued several statement of "violent repression of demonstration" (Turkmani and Mustafa Harid 7). Protestors over the region were the victims of the war ,they started the uprising to demand their rights .The United Nation announced a statement which stated that “urging the authorities to exercise the utmost restraint across the country and to meet the legitimate demands and aspiration of the people “it called the Syrian government to help people ,and continued to manage a huge humanitarian effort, it aimed at finishing the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria.The United Nations and the organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons have worked together to provide citizens with materials they need to face the regime's power.In May 2011,the UN took its first action against the Syrian government in order to protect the citizen's rights which were violated during the war (10).

The bleeding conflict in Syria is continued due to the absence of political solution and the regime's authority against citizens, the war resulted in massive destruction of infrastructure and public and private property; the fragmentation of communities; houses ,schools and

hospitals were destroyed. Beside to that, thousands of people were killed, and led to the displacement of people as refugee to other places who seek protection and safety.

The Syrian refugee fled their country due to persecution, torture, harassment, sexual violence and other violation of human rights .All this causes will drive a person to leave his family, and homeland to seek safety elsewhere within the border of their country. The UNHCR is part of the United Nations, the purpose of this agency is to protect and support refugee when the government ask for help (17).

UNHCR is the lead agency responding to the Syrian refugee crisis ,it aimed at providing shelter ,health care and protection among other forms of aid, in addition to that, refugee who live in urban areas had better opportunities than those who live in camps, the UNHCR organization published their policy "policy on refugee protection and solution in urban areas", it seeks to provide a humanitarian aid for all Syrians ,and to ensure that cities are recognized as legitimate places for refugee, and to maximize the protection space available to urban emigrants .Moreover, Syrian people who lived outside camps had several options when it comes to housing ,in order to provide those citizens with shelter assistance ,the UNHCR put several strategies including houses and the opportunity to have jobs. Many Syrians are suffering ,either within the Syrian borders or in neighboring countries, and they rely on the help of the UNHCR.

### **2.3. The Role of the UNICEF and UNESCO in Saving Syrians**

People were affected by the conflict in large places around the country, faced greater challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance over the past years ,however; the UNICEF is another organization whose attempt is to help the Syrians ,in which it continued to provide health care and education to families, it also supported a group of people who work with adolescents by providing them with tools for remedial education ,vocational training and recreation activities in order to help young people with the skills and motivation to build a more stable future for themselves ,it also encouraged children in schools to continue learning through the provision of school supplies. UNICEF's attempts were to establish institution for children to have formation due to the need for jobs (11).

Moreover, children paid the heaviest price in the conflict ,they were forced to leave their homes and fled to other countries like Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in order to find safety outside the region .UNICEF and its partner are committed to deliver essential services

for Syrian families, and keeping Syrian children from becoming a lost generation. The UNICEF efforts were based on minimizing the impact of the crisis on children like providing child protection as well as education. UNICEF was also working in neighboring countries to support Syrian refugee families and the host communities in which they have settled, these efforts were not for defending the rights of children but also for safeguarding their future.

Moreover, the Syrian children were the most victims during the war, because its consequences were immense and dramatic especially on health and education, every Syrian child was under threat of child labor and early marriage, and they didn't even have the chance to go to school, because schools were damaged, destroyed and used for military purposes, or turned into shelter for displaced people. The UNESCO is one of many organizations responding to the Syrian crisis, it aimed at providing the educational needs for Syrian refugees, the humanitarian system began to engage in Syria in 2012, when the crisis escalated from violent repression to armed conflict. The organization supported the national education systems in the region for several years before the start of the Syrian uprising (15).

#### **2.4. The Arab League Organization**

Additionally, the Arab League is a regional organization of Arab countries, its main goal is to draw a close relationship between its members in order to safeguard their independence and sovereignty. The Arab League mission inside Syria was to find a solution for the conflict and to help its people from the Assad regime. The head of the organization, Amr Moussa said that "the Arab soul is broken, by poverty, unemployment and general recession" (Ibrahim 20).

Nabil al Arabi is a member in the Arab League, he met Al Assad to discuss the ongoing war and to find a solution of the humanitarian crisis inside the region. The organization sent a plan to Syria, in which its demands were to stop all acts of violence and torture against peaceful protestors, withdrawing all armed forces from cities. The plan also based on the protection of the minorities who were displaced from their homes and cities, it aimed at providing security for those who were affected by the war inside Syria and their rights were violated by the regime's power, however; the continuing violence made it clear that the Syrian government was not complying with the full and immediate implementation of the plan (24). Amr Moussa announces "The Arab League is required to involve itself in developments related to the Arab uprising, because it is the sole regional organization, in which all self-identified Arab states are members". He also added that "With the escalation of the crisis as of the

summer of 2011, the League has developed several initiatives on Syria .While continuing to put pressure on the regime, the League helped the Syrian opposition unity" ( Kucukkeles 19).

The Arab League cited that its goal was the protection of civilians, and the Syrian civil war can be prevented through the establishment of a national unity government chosen by a parliament .In order to ensure the protection of civilians and democratic change in Syria there should be : a separation of powers ,equality between men and women ,freedom of expression and the formation of political parties. It is clear that Syria would face much more positive circumstances if these principles were to be applied accurately and honestly ,it will pave the way for democracy in Syria .In addition to that ,the League also used the principle of "Responsibility to protect"( 14), by helping the states to protect its citizens from the damages of the war ,it played the role of mediator in the Syrian crisis ,but with no success in resolving the conflict ,because the regime continues his strategy by violating people's rights and strengthen his power without looking even to the life of the Syrian citizens who were the victims behind this war ,they started it in order to demand their rights ,but they paid an enormous price ,it was a war that resulted in dead people ,displaced citizens and violation of human rights (30).

### **3. Foreign Interventions in the Syrian Civil War**

The Syrian government's brutal response to the domestic protest movements which began in 2011, pushed external forces to intervene in the Syrian civil war .The country witnessed a series of increasingly assertive involvement of foreign powers; however, the conflict in Syria for those supporters of both regime and opposition is to strengthen their own strategic position and to reach political objectives

#### **3.1. Russia's Involvement in Syria**

The Russian military intervention in the Syrian civil war began in September 2015 after an official request by the Syrian government for military help against rebel and jihadist groups (Bulos 5).

It pursued an initiative for international talks, aimed at keeping President Bashar al Assad in the government as part of a political transition in Syria. The effort was blocked by Saudi Arabia in mid-August, as its Foreign Minister said, at a press conference following talks in Moscow, that no negotiations could achieve while Assad was in power.

After the Saudi rejection, Russia searched for an alternative strategy that have discussed in Moscow in late July with the leading Iranian military commander General Qassem

Soleimani. The Russian build-up an air forces, and ‘advisors’ at its base in western Syria and followed them by the launch of a bombing campaign. Then Moscow officially declared that its campaign was against both the Islamic State and the Syrian rebels who challenged the Assad regime (Sutherlin 11).

The Russian strategy was a mixture of military and political measures aimed at securing the survival of President Assad with the continuation of his rule and his governmental structure. The intervention provided a significant military support, beyond air strikes against IS forces, to rebels, and it was undertaken in the context of the conflict in Ukraine, with Moscow’s determination to reassert its influence. Russia also presented the operation as an attempt to check ‘terrorism’, including, in particular, Jabhat al-Nusra. It created an artificial soldiers’ block between these “radical” factions and other “moderate” ones considering all those who do not comply as the former then bombing them into submission. In this way, it would assist the Assad regime re-take lost cities and also imposed a "political solution"(Golubkova 3).

Russia sought to maintain regime positions in territories and allowed the regime to recover some areas of strategic importance in such as southern Aleppo and the large areas .It also sought, with the military large intervention, to press the US and European powers to accept the international talks and to urge their supporters, such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia, to do the same. The discussions were based on an initial acceptance of President Assad retaining power during the initial stages of negotiations with opposition groups, with the aim of forming a ‘transitional government. Then it declared the establishment of a common front with the West to fight Islamist terrorist groups.

These developments were a diplomatic advance for Russia, which had failed to achieve its objectives in intensive negotiations with all the major regional powers in preceding months. However, both the political and military aspects of the initiative were complicated .Moscow has expanded airstrikes on opposition’s territory in northwest Syria near the border, destroying and damaging border crossings; infrastructure including water treatment plants, hospitals, and civilian sites such as markets, and schools.

The initial stage of the Russian political strategy succeeded with the acceptance of Assad in power for the short-term and the convening of the Vienna conferences. However, it was unclear how Russia can move the process to the next stage of a cease-fire with UN-supported monitoring and discussions between the regime and the opposition.

In the military dimension, Russia’s operations in Syria were a test of changes implemented as part of the country’s reform of its armed forces .Moreover, the campaign

allowed testing new kind of weapons .It also showed the growing operational capabilities of the Russian army and its actions in Syria strengthened the ability to conduct expeditionary operations in the region with difficult climatic conditions. It could affirm that the Russian Armed Forces gradually eliminated all the weakness (Oweis 2).

The proximate aim of its policy was to defend the Assad regime from collapse but its implicit goal was to create a self-assertion and another step toward the goal of becoming a global superpower specially in the Arab world. If the Syrian regime believes its rescue is the exclusive objective of Russia's intervention, it is wrong. The exertion of Russian influence will at most provide a temporary respite. The fact of Russia's military presence in Syria means that the regime is no longer master of its own destiny and no longer even a player on the international stage (5).

### **3.2. America's Intervention in the Syrian Civil War**

The armed clashes between Al Assad government and rebels in Syria have escalated to a point where the two sides see themselves fighting for physical survival; they faced considerable challenges in their attempts to assert greater control over Syria. In 2012, the opposition were able to get many territories from the regime, and they controlled various cities and towns ,the regime did not remain powerless when the rebels succeeded in seizing complete control of the major cities like Damascus ,Aleppo and Homs. Assad changed his tactics when the opposition launched the capital by using arms and chemical weapons against them (Yadlin and Golov 2).

The ongoing conflict in Syria was considered as one of the humanitarian crisis in the world due to the effect of the bloody fighting on civilians, hundered of Syrians were killed and other displaced outside the country .The situation was fluid and continued to worsen ,while humanitarian needs are immense and increase daily. The United States played an important role regarding humanitarian access in Syria; however, with the use of chemical weapons against rebels in the war, Syrians were in need for international response (Shop and Christopher M.Blanchard 28).

Moreover, Since March 2011, the United States' attempts were to stop the violence against Syrians and push for the Assad's departure, because the uprising started in peaceful way but Bashar al Assad reacted with repressive force .The United States insisted that the government should meet the protestors.

Furthermore, the Syrian forces used Chemical weapons despite Obama's prior statement that it is a "red line"(Sofer 1), the United States declared that "When countries break international

norms on chemical weapons, they are held accountable". Chemical weapons are forbidden in wars due to its effect on humanity, however; the Syrian regime had crossed this line, and found that this is the only solutions to defeat the oppositions. President Obama says "if chemical weapons were used, the United States would reconsider its opposition to military involvement to Syria"(2).

The United States and other foreign countries announced a statement saying that "The Syrian government used Chemical weapons in the attack". They refused the use of these weapons because it destroyed the society and even citizens; however, the Syrian regime denied that and blamed the oppositions groups .The United States ordered sanctions against the Syrian government for human rights abuses, but Assad continued his assaults on the protestors throughout the country which left thousands of dead people(Yadlin and Golov 12). President Barak Obama announces his speech:

We cannot raise our children in a world where we will not follow through on the things we say, the accords we sign, the value that define us .Just as I will take this case to congress , i will also deliver this message to the world. While the UN investigation has some time to report on its finding , we will insist that an atrocity committed with Chemical weapons is not simply investigated ,it must be confronted (The Rise Garden August 31,2013).

The United States' interest to intervene into the Syrian civil war was to prevent the authority of Assad, to stop the war inside the country and to give importance of regional stability. Its strategy was based on protecting the Syrian citizens from Assad's power, because the war started in order to give the Syrian basic needs; however, it violated their rights and led the United States to help them, and put an end to Bashar presidency due to the use of chemical weapons and from further use of those weapons.

On August 2012, the US president Obama drew a red line for the Syrian government ,saying that any use of chemical weapons by Assad's regime on his people may result in military operation .The United States adopted the role of global protector by helping the Syrian citizens from the attack of the regime ,and to provide safety and security. President Obama spoke about the effect of the Arab Spring on the US interests, he states:

For decades, the United States has pursued a set of core interests in the region, containing terrorism and stopping the

spread of nuclear weapons, securing the free flow of commerce and safeguarding the security of the region (Sofer 5).

He stressed on a wide set of principles that must be ensured in order to stop the violence and repression against people within the region , he indicated that "A set of universal rights including free speech , the freedom of peaceful assembly , the equality for men and women under the rule of law, and the right to choose your own leaders" (7).

### **3.3. Iran's Intervention**

Syria and Iran relationship dated back to Hafez Al Assad presidency, and before the start of the Arab spring in 2010. The alliance among those two countries was strong and popular. Iran supported the uprising in Tunisia ,Egypt and Syria ,calling it as the" Islamic Awakening "(Orton 12) which inspired by the Arabs beliefs that this revolutions will be resulted in getting the basic needs of human rights .Although the Syrian revolution was at first peaceful and democratic ,but it was changed to be violent which left Syria as unstable country .Iran has developed a multiple strategies to protect Assad and his regime in order to secure its interest in Syria .

With the growing tension of the Syrian civil war, the relationship between Iran and Syria started to change, the Iranian Defense Minister Ahmed Vahidi states "Syria is managing this situation very well on its own, but if the government can't resolve the crisis on its own, we will fulfill our mutual defense "(13) .He stressed on the need of the Iranian involvement to solve the Syrian problem.

Due to the intervention of Iran ,there was the establishment of a militia group which was called "Al Shabiha"(14) ,it had a close ties to the Syrian regime .The Iranian president said that "Syria had an army ,but did not have the ability to manage a war inside Syria's cities ,it is for this reason ,the Iranian government suggested that in order to manage an urban war ,you must form "Al Shabiha".According to his speech ,he believed that Syria is in need for his help and to have a better control inside Syria ,the government should form this group in order to get the whole region and to manage its strategy easily.

Furthermore, over the past years,Al Shabiha had a negative side ,there have been numerous reports about its members destroying houses and setting them on fire ;torture and killing inhabitants suspected of opposing the regime, they have their own detention centers across the country ,their presence are often feared by Syrians due to their brutality. Iran

changed its strategy from a supporting to the Syrian regime into a leading role inside the region.

The Syrian citizens were the victims of the Iranian intervention due to the large scale of casualties that was resulted from that involvement , the kinds of weapons that the Iranian regime has been sending to Syria had a bad effect on civilians. In addition, these weapons made in Iran but used for the first time in Syria and it has actually been used by Syrian regime forces and militias against civilians and rebels.

Syria is vital to Iran's strategic interests in the Middle East and has been Iran's closest state ally, Iran supported the Assad regime and his fall would further reduce Tehran's ability to project power (Fulton,will et al 9).

When the Syrian crisis began in 2011, the regime under Bashar al Assad control suffered and faced numerous obstacles, and its days seemed to be numbered .It has recouped some of its loss due to the aid and support of international intervention. Iran played an important role to help Bashar al Assad to secure his position; however, in 2014 the Islamic states in Syria were able to regain a large scale of territories at the expense of the regime (15).The Iranian president announced his speech in which he declares :

The Iranian nation and government will remain at the side of the Syrian nation and government until the end of the road, Tehran has not forgotten its moral obligation to Syria and will continue to provide help and support on its own term to the government and nation of Syria (Bellin and Krause 64) .

He has believed that Syria has been in need for the Iranian help, and the regime under Bashar al Assad are not able to face the Syrian protestors without the Iranian support .Iran with its military power can push the regime to stand and to stop the manifestation against him; however, Iran by its involvement inside Syria has benefits if Bashar remain in power, so it worked hard to provide him with supplies and weapons against the Syrian citizens. In addition, the Iranian president added that "the axis of resistance has been formed in the region and no one can break it ,and God willing we will witness growing victories and of course ,those victories would not be possible without the Islamic Republic of Iran's support" (65). Iran increased its military assistance and intervention in Syria, it was against any foreign military involvement in the country which the Syrian opposition had demanded.

Iran strategy towards Syria is to find a political solution for the Syrian civil war while protecting Assad and his regime, and to establish a peace plan for Syrians. It called for an immediate stop of violence and to give humanitarian aid for citizens, and assisting Syrian refugee to return to their homes. Besides, Iran wanted to provide economic support to the region by protecting and enhancing its own interest. Iran main objectives behind its intervention in Syria were based mainly on major points, it called for an immediate ceasefire in order to establish safety and protection for Syrian minorities, the formation of a national unity government. Its attempt and desire was to find a diplomatic solution to the Syrian crisis.

Moreover, with the rise of "Daesh" (Fulton,Will et al 20) in the Middle East, Iran has portrayed its involvement in Syria to fight terrorism and to stop their expansion by providing technical support and armed groups, and it concentrated on attacking it. Furthermore, Tehran stated that "a decision about the future of Syria must be taken by the Syrian nation" it would prefer for Assad to remain in power until the end of his presidency term, and his removal would threaten its position inside Syria .Tehran continues to focus on strengthening its deep state in the hope that it will be able to continue its vital interest and put pressure on the government (22).

#### **4. The World's Efforts towards the Syrian Crisis**

The Syrian crisis is one of the most events that the world had witnessed. After more than six years of protest, the Syrian uprising quickly transformed into a bloody civil war in which civilians paid a heavy price. The United Nation declared that" the Syrian revolution is the worst humanitarian disaster since the cold war ".Additionally, Syrians remain deeply negatives about the situation inside their country because resolution of the Syrian conflict through a political solution does not exist. The end of the upheaval in the country is not insight.

Since 2011, many plans and agreements were elaborated in order to end the Syrian conflict .There were multiple attempts introduced by important international figures to solve the Syrian issue. The international committee enlarged more efforts to find a solution to the conflict. Those efforts were mainly presented in the document of Geneva-Communiqué which was signed between the United State and Russia .It appealed to establish a transitional government that had a full executive power. It considered as the basis of future negotiation

between both, the government and opposition without clarifying the Assad's role in any future government.

#### **4.1. Geneva 1 Conference: The Beginning of Peace Process in Syria**

The conference was formed on June 30, 2012 that contained the League of Arab States, the main participants countries were China, France, Russia, United States, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the United Kingdom. They met in Geneva to discuss the situation in Syria ,they strongly blamed the continued killing ,destruction and human rights abuses .They were deeply concerned at the failure to protect civilians .The conference's members called for an immediate work to end the violence and establish democratic state in which people can decide their own future .Moreover ,they sought for the sovereignty ,independence and national unity inside Syria, they created a plan which announced that there will be a cease fire in all the region ,freed the prisoners who were involved in peaceful political activities ,freedom of movement , speech and the right to demonstrate peacefully, offer equal opportunities and chances for all .The conflict must be resolved through dialogue and negotiation between the Assad regime and protesters ,the Syrian government should immediately stop the use of heavy weapons .At the end of the meeting ,they concluded that Geneva 1 was the basis for the establishment of Geneva 2(Asseburg and Wimmen 4).

#### **4.2. Geneva 2: The Road Map for Syrian Political Transition**

The United Nation Council stated that "Geneva 1 was not really a conference, but a series of agreement by major powers that a political transition was needed in Syria " .This led to the creation of Geneva 2 .On November 23, 2014 the United Nation planned a peace conference that called "Geneva" to end the war in Syria as it was discussed in Geneva 1(6) .

This conference is an international meeting to find a political solution to the conflict in Syria, in which the United States' secretary John Kerry and the Russian minister Lavrov decided to end the war by bringing both the Assad regime and the opposition to the conference ,they wanted to achieve peace after the use of chemical weapons during the attack, it left dead people and humanitarian crisis .In addition to that ,John Kerry stated that "There is no way ,no way possible ,that a man who has led a brutal response to his own people can regain legitimacy to govern ",he argued that Bashar al Assad is incapable to rule the country due to his aggressive treatment toward his citizens, and any government must subdue to the people's sovereignty .In response to Kerry, the Syrian foreign minister Walid Muallem

replied that "No-one in the world has the right to confer or withdraw the legitimacy of a president ,a constitution or a law,except for the Syrian themselves ".He refused any kind of foreign interventions inside Syria, and stressed on the Syrian unity by showing that the Syrian citizens are the only representatives to their governments ,and the only who have the right to accept or refuse the decision making (7).

The conference stressed on the need for political solution, through dialogue and negotiations which require the formation of transitional government .As Kerry stated on his speech "The World wants to stop the fighting ,and that this country wants al Assad and the Syrian opposition to come to the creation of a transitional government based on the frame work laid out in the Geneva dialogue table". He saw that behind the conference, Syrian will reach a permanent solution, and both sides should attend the meeting in order to discuss the ongoing conflict inside the region, and the form of the next Syrian government.

Furthermore, the negotiations about transitional arrangements for Syria never took place, because the conference focused only on the need for humanitarian aid and to stop violence against citizens. These were the main objectives behind Geneva conference. Additionally, humanitarian crisis continued because large scales of dead people were announced by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights during the time of the meeting. The Geneva conference 2 did not bring anything new to the table in terms of reaching a solution.

With the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in 2014 and the beginning of the Russian direct involvement in the country .the Syrian crisis became the worst and reached its highest level. The world's attempts were to find another way to end the revolution.Those efforts were presented through the foundation of Vienna conference and Geneva conference 3 in which they were considered as the latest chance.

#### **4.3. Syrian Peace Talks in Vienna 2015**

Vienna conference took place on October, 2015 in Vienna to resolve the conflict in Syria after unsuccessful previous Syrian initiatives as Geneva 1 and Geneva 2, it occurred when the Syrian government lost some of its territories. At this time , John Kerry and lavrov met in Vienna to discuss the participation of the whole parties in the conference .The group members agreed about the resignation of Bashar Al Assad as an only way to ensure peace inside Syria ,and the defeat of the Islamic States .In addition to that, the intervention of Russia which considered as a traditional ally to Assad would threatened the balance of power in the region

due to its attacks against the Syrian opposition .It became clear that not only Moscow would have prominence in the resolution on the Syrian conflict ,but also it would stand together with Assad(9).

At the end of the meeting ,the participants countries announced that the resolution of the Syrian conflict should be diplomatic ,respecting the Syrian people and the Syrian sovereignty .The conference role was not concerned with the end of the war rather than it worked as a mediator between the government and the opposition .In November 2014,there was another meeting by the Syrian participants with some organizations ,the group became known as international support group for Syria ,it aimed at finding a political agreement as an essential part that provide a solution for the Syrian crisis ,also to end the suffering of the Syrian citizens due to the destruction of their society .

#### **4.4. Geneva 3: The Last Chance**

It was organized in 2016 by the United Nations in order to stop the ceasefire as the primary objective, and the following were the establishment of transitional government inside Syria through elections that all Syrians should participate , the defeat of the Islamic States because it was considered as a threat to the region and neighboring countries; however, the meeting was based on the participation of the Assad regime as the main participant in the conference due to the support of Russia to the Syrian government after its intervention . The main demands for both sides were based on humanitarian issue and the release of political prisoners for the opposition; however, the Syrian government focused on the defending of Syria's independence and territorial sovereignty.

The conference didn't reach any solution due to the intervention of Russia in Syria and its attacks on civilians. The Syrian government didn't follow the strategy of ceasefire inside the region, and millions were killed and injured during the time of the conference. Another negotiations were began in which the meeting at that time had reached a new level due to the announcement of the Russian withdrawal from Syria territory and the establishment of a peaceful political transition .Some participants who supported the opposition were suspended because of many reasons. The main one was the continuity of human crisis inside Syria and the refusal of the government to allow humanitarian aid on its territory. In addition to that, the Syrian Kurds were not allowed to attend the conference, and they didn't take a part in the negotiations since they were neglected by the government .Despite the fact that they were involved in the conflict against the Assad regime, the absence of those minorities affected

mainly the successful of the conference even there were an agreement between the opposition and al Assad. The Geneva conference 3 was considered as continuity for the previous demands in Geneva 1 and Geneva 2, and it was ended with no clear solution for the Syrian civil war (Oweis 4).

"Don't expect anything from Geneva 2 neither Geneva 3 nor Geneva 4 will solve the Syrian crisis .The resolution has begun and will continue through the military triumph of the state" (The United Nation Council 2014)

The Geneva conference had proved to be a big failure .Since negotiations were based on achieving impossible goals ,the Syrian conflict would not be solved .Even if some kind of political agreement is reached ,it will be impossible to implement it on the ground .The Syrian rebels demanded the removal of Assad regime ,and the creation of a new government .Meanwhile , the Assad regime insisted only on the continuity of his rule .It was a proof of the impossibility of the two parties to find a solution for the Syrian future and the end of the bloody war.

The analysis of Geneva conference affirms the importance and the complexity of the Syrian conflict because it didn't concern only with the Syrian region, it also threatened the neighboring countries .In this context, Iraq was obliged to participate in Geneva meeting to stop the action of the Islamic States and preserve its borders from terrorism operations. Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon were suffered from the influx of refugees inside their regions, that's why they found Geneva conference as the only way to discuss their demands.

As a matter of fact, many countries involved in the conference for the sake of achieving their goals not for the sake of ending the Syrian civil war and finding a solution for the humanitarian crisis .All these attempts were considered as pre-solutions due to the continuity of the war till nowadays. The conference tackled a complex issue because of the disagreement between both sides; the opposition who wanted the resignation of Bashar Al Assad while the other side supported the Assad's regime and wanted him to remain in power. In this context the Syrian Prime Minister " Hijab" states:

We will not accept negotiations while our people are still suffering and dying from hunger and bombardment .We cannot be part of a process that will increase suffering of our nation. There cannot be a solution in Syria while Bashar al Assad is president ( Souza,Isabela et al , 87)

## **Conclusion**

Syrian human rights were violated during the crisis, the violation has been numerous and serious. The casualties of the civil war have been great and have been marked by devastation and extreme suffering among civilians .Internal aid groups have denounced the indiscriminate brutality that has characterized the conflict .According to various human rights organizations and the United Nation Organizations , human rights violations have been committed by both the regime and the opposition with the vast majority of the abuses that have been committed by the Syrian government .The situation clearly proves that this strategy hasn't been effective.

There is no doubt that the current conflict in Syria has reached its tipping point. This country became lived under a chaotic state. Due to this situation, external forces intervened to solve the problem inside Syria. The country witnessed series of increasingly involvements of foreign powers; however, their intervention was for the purpose of strengthening their own strategic position. The world's efforts to find a successful resolution to end the conflict by the foundation of multiple conferences were just a pre-solution due to the continuity of the Syrian civil war till nowadays.

## General Conclusion

Since protests and demonstrations began across the Arab World in December 2010, many countries in the Arab regions including Tunisia , Egypt , Libya ,and Syria observed mass mobilization in the form of street protests and revolts ,which have come to be called the Arab spring ,Arab uprising ,Arab awakening, and Arab revolts .

The transition have been basically achieved with the fall of Zine El Abidine in Tunisia, Hosni Mubarak in Egypt , and Muammar Gaddafi in Libya. They were all forced to resign from power .Demonstrations took different ways, but they shared the same goals as they struggled for the concept of human dignity and their fundamental rights. It was believed that the same pattern would spread to most countries of the region.

Out of those countries, Syria has had the most violent uprising, and it is currently in the midst of a civil war .Its conflict began as a civil uprising from government corruption and human rights abuses, but quickly evolved from minor protest into an armed conflict .The response of the Syrian president Bashar Al Assad, who wanted to avoid the fate of presidents Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak, was brutal and extensive.

The Syrian territories have become the scene of an ongoing civil war. In this context, Syrian citizens have experienced varied, painful, and tragic kinds of human rights violation; they lived and still live in a chaotic state which caused displacement within the country and across the region. The neighboring countries like Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan have provided protection to Syrian refugees since the uprising began in 2011. They have generally allowed Syrians access their territories, and they have dedicated social services to help them.

The refugees' situation and the human rights abuses have become a global issue that pushed many organizations to call for a remedial action in order to stop the Assad's repression against his citizens. Their assistance was based on providing humanitarian aid but their attempts were out of reach .Furthermore, there is no doubt that the current conflict in Syria has reached its tipping point. As hundreds of people die every time, it became under a chaotic state, those are considered as the main causes that led to the intervention of external forces to solve the problem in Syria. The country has witnessed a series of increasingly engagement of foreign powers; however, for supporter of both the regime and the opposition, the conflict in Syria is to strengthen their own strategic position, their involvement increased the tension of the war with no final solution to the Syrian crisis.

During this time , The conflict has become more worse .It shows the world with a humanitarian crisis which requires the response of the nations in which the world's attempts are to find a successful resolution to end the conflict through the foundation of multiple conferences, their hopes are to create a new kind of negotiations, however; it was just a pre-solutions since the future of Syria is still uncertain .Clashes between Syrian rebels and Bashar al Assad's government are still happening with a large scale of deaths, and human rights violations are increasing every day.

Throughout all of these developments, the Syria's situation remains in a dire state with deteriorating humanitarian conditions .Peace building and relief work continue to take place in response and asking questions about the future of Syria. Political observers dedicate a considerable attention to the ongoing suffering in Syria, they suggested that the current round of Syria's civil war may end in one of four ways: regime victory, opposition victory, stalemate with no end, or stalemate leading to a political resolution. The first two outcomes are the worst for all parties, and the last may be the best possible solution. But for the better options to be plausible, both sides must believe they can actually lose the civil war (Robinson 331).

This study attempts to shed light on the Syrian civil war as a universal hot issue, it would open the question for the future researchers about the end of this bloody revolution. At the same time, the discussion about the future of Syria revolves around questions linked to the future of Assad regime. The question is whether keeping Syria's territorial integrity is possible without Assad. The second can be the one that the Syrian war is only going to get bloodier with no end in sight In this study , there was a lack of time and the lackn of sources since we are dealing with a current event .

The clearest conclusion one may deduce is that there is, in fact, no conclusion for any of these issues; the Syrian government is in no position to drive change, Syrians are still driven from their homes and displaced as refugees. The Islamic States continue to abuse civilian's life; however, there is a hope that the Syrian crisis will end as soon as possible.

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## ملخص

يشهد العالم العربي سلسلة من الحروب الأهلية منذ عام 2010 حيث بدأ فيها المواطنون انتفاضتهم لمفهوم الكرامة الإنسانية. في هذه الأطروحة، كانت سوريا النموذج المختار بسبب القمع الوحشي والانتهاك الضخم لحقوق الإنسان في أراضيها. في عام 2011، استلهم السوريون نجاح الثورات في تونس ومصر. بدأوا مظاهراتهم سلمياً ثم تحولت إلى نزاع مسلح. كانت نتائج هذا الصراع الدموي ضخمة مما أدى إلى تدفق الهجرة إلى البلدان المجاورة. وفي الوقت نفسه، أصبحت الحرب السورية قضية ساخنة دفعت القوى الخارجية للتدخل وإيجاد الطرق نحو حل ممكن. الغرض الرئيسي من هذا البحث هو تسليط الضوء على الانتهاكات والجرائم المرتكبة ضد الإنسانية وللقيام بذلك، يبدو أن المنهج الوصفي أكثر ملائمة لشرح ظروف الحرب ووصف انتهاك حقوق الإنسان في سوريا. ساعدنا هذا البحث على استنتاج أن محاولات العالم لإيجاد حل للحرب الأهلية السورية المستمرة لا تزال قائمة، والربيع العربي كان مجرد شعار لأن السوريين لم يحققوا أي نجاح حتى الآن. هكذا يبدو أن الربيع العربي هو الشتاء العربي لسوريا.

**الكلمات المفتاحية :** العالم العربي، سوريا ، انتهاك حقوق الانسان، الحرب الاهلية ، الربيع العربي ، الشتاء العربي .