

Syria: From War to Reconstruction- Is There Any Hope for Free Syria?

By Ayila Nisar

From Syria being once a prosperous nation to now just being left as a fractured state. Enduring pain from over a decade now, Syria is still suffering. The civil war in 2011 due to Arab Spring, led to the division of the country, costing millions of Syrians life and many left displaced. The President Bashar al-Assad's regime, has come to an end in December 2024, still many areas are in control. The struggle from the last few years, raises the question Will Syria Become Free, and Re-Build Again, Is There Still Any Hope Left?

The origin of the Syrian conflicts can be traced back, when in 2011 successful uprising also known as Arab Spring toppled Tunisia's and Egypt's Presidents. This gave hope to many Syrian pro-democratic activists. Many peaceful protests occur in Syria as well, after that 15 boys were detained and tortured for writing graffiti on wall in support of Arab Spring. In respond to the protests, the Syrian government start killing hundreds of demonstrators and imprisoning many more. In July 2011, defectors from military announced the formation of Free Syrian Army, a rebel group aiming to overthrow the government, making Syria slide into war.

The war's toll on Syrian people has been catastrophic. More than 656,493 Syrians has been killed till now, since 2011 more than 14 million has been forced to flee from their homes due to safety purposes, more than 7.4 million Syrians remain internally displaced, 70 percent of population is in need of humanitarian assistance and 90 percent lives below the poverty line. With Assad's loyalists still in the country, they are controlling many areas of the country.

Despite, there still remains a hope in the regions like Idlib, opposition groups continue to resist the loyalist dominance. The local resistance movements are fragmented but shows that Syrian's still desire for the future where they could live freely. Although their efforts are stifled by the military actions and the presence of foreign powers, these groups refuse to let Syrian's future be destroyed by authoritarian rule. To rebuild Syria, a stable transitional government trusted by the Syrian people and recognized internationally is essential. Reconstruction must be Syrian-led and backed by global support. Security must be ensured by halting Israeli attacks, and international sanctions—especially the Caesar Act (*The Caesar Act is a U.S. law that imposes sanctions on the Syrian government to punish human rights abuses but also affects the country's economy and civilians*)—must be lifted to revive the economy and ease civilian suffering.

With all the hurdles, Syria's path to recovery is not entirely closed. The struggle for freedom is although filled with challenges, but its far from over. The resilience of the Syrian people, combined with international power, may offer a path to freedom – where Syria can heal and emerge as a democratic, peaceful, prosperous nation once again.