

أخبارنا ثقافية - إخبارية - متنوعة

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08



11



06



Word number



"Training for women and the trainer is a man !!" With this phrase, someone commented on one of our posts on social media, the post was about training for women on community mobilization and advocacy skills, which is conducted by a male (trainer) professor

specializing in this field. With this phrase I flew with joy, I thought the commenter is demanding the right of women to participate not only as trainees but also as trainers. I thought that we are going towards a bright future in which men demand women's rights to participate as women do.

With pleasure, I answered him: "You are absolutely right, but the trainer is a university professor who is specialized in the topic of the training, so we preferred to contract him for this training", and I received his shocking reply that brought me back to the reality that we live in: he wrote: "It does not matter who is he and what is his specialty is - what matters is that men should men and women should women." I understood that his objection was based on the principle of sex separation, and not on the principle of the right to participate or providing the opportunity to women.

This gets repeated on a daily basis, not only on social media but also on the ground. When we strive to demand the real participation of women at all levels, and the response comes by creating an office for women that attracts qualified women to restrict their work later in what is so-called "women's office", and the surprise is greater when the response comes from institutions working in political affairs and at the top of the leadership pyramid.

We find an office that includes highly qualified women who do not work in their specialization, but rather their main task is to activate the role of women in society but to activate the role of women to participate in women-related issues that restrict their work, experiences, and production to remain within the same circle.

In the Women Support and Empowerment Unit, we seek to empower women and provide an appropriate environment for their effective and true participation in all fields. We seek to create female journalists, female politicians, and female community leaders, and we expect society to provide them with opportunities for participation and not restrict them.

This is what we seek to achieve also by reporting women's news through "Our News Bulletin", highlighting the weaknesses/ gaps in society's treatment of women's roles.





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Women's

Subcommittees

AlBab



The Sub-Committee of the Women Support and Empowerment Unit in the city of Al-Bab held a series of trainings on the 8th, 9th and 10th of August 2020 aiming at empowering the women politically, within the scope of "I can participate" project in cooperation with the Watad Center for Training and Studies

The training was attended by a group of women interested in the political work and in need of support and empowerment. Nasaem Qabasin volunteering team also participated in the training

:The training series covered the following three topics

- 1- Forms of states and regimes of governance
- 2- Political participation
- 3- Forms of nonviolent struggle

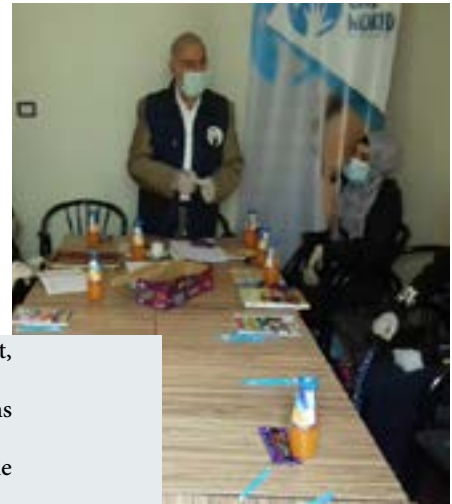
Women's Subcommittee Qabasin

The Qabasin Sub-Committee of Women Support and Empowerment Unit, in cooperation with the One World Organization, organized two legal sessions facilitated by the legal advisor Saeed Abdul-Ghani in the city of Qabasin. The sessions were attended by 12 women from various components of society.

The sessions focused on two main issues;

The first session: in which he – The legal advisor- talked about calculating the inheritance property and dividing the inheritance between males and females. He also talked about the deformed social culture that stands as a barrier in front of the division of the inheritance accurately.

The second session: was about child custody, the woman's right to custody of her children, and the reasons for dropping her right to custody.



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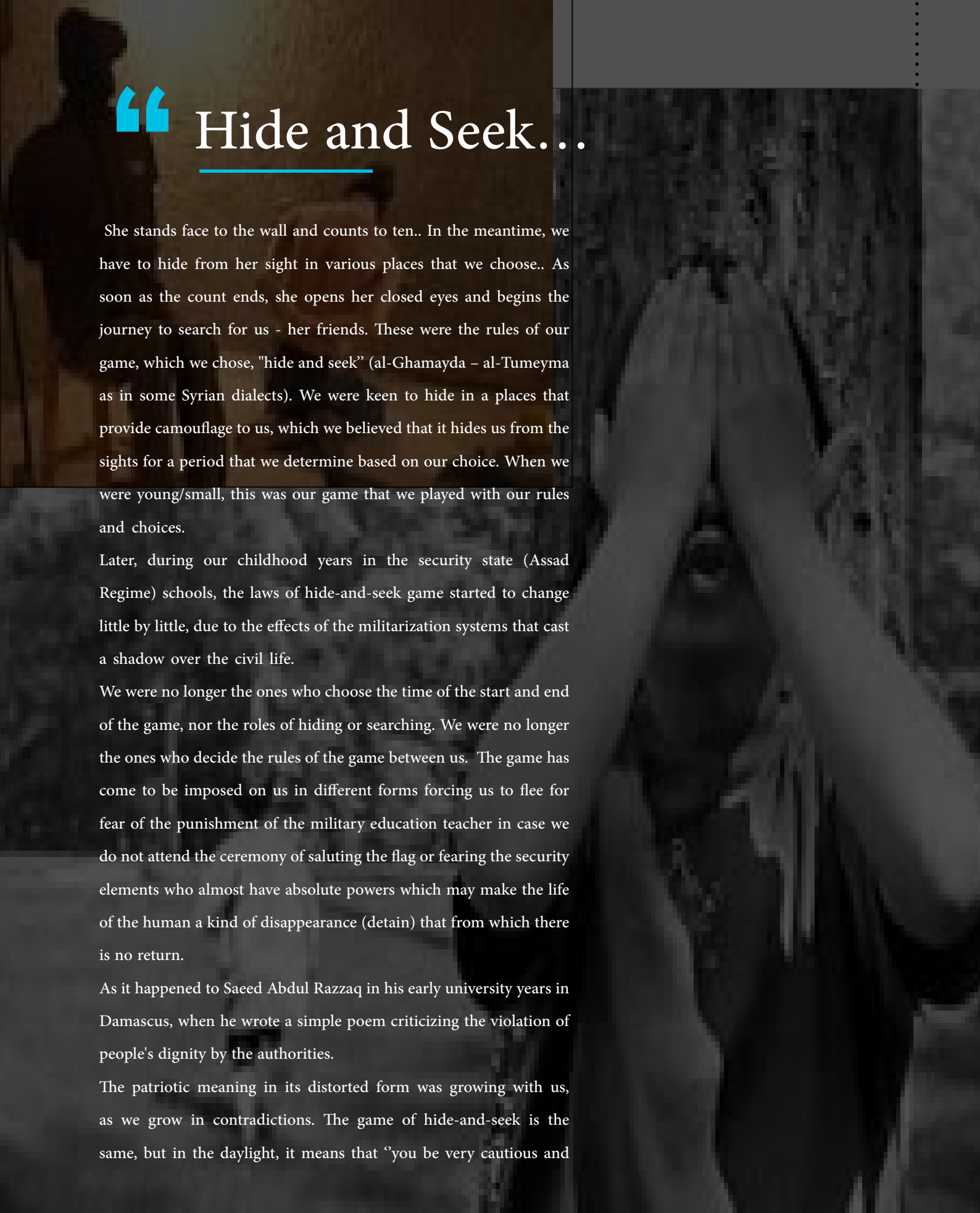
Women's Subcommittees - Qabasin

On August 20, 2020, the sub-committee of Women Support and Empowerment Unit in Qabasin city in cooperation with the Ihsan Organization held a one-day training workshop for women on "Physiological Pressure".

The training that is attended by 14 women participants, focused on defining the psychological pressure and its types, spotting light on its symptoms and its negative effects,

and how it is treated and controlled through some relaxation and positive thinking activities, some of which were applied during the training between the trainer and the participants.





“ Hide and Seek...

She stands face to the wall and counts to ten.. In the meantime, we have to hide from her sight in various places that we choose.. As soon as the count ends, she opens her closed eyes and begins the journey to search for us - her friends. These were the rules of our game, which we chose, "hide and seek" (al-Ghamayda – al-Tumeyma as in some Syrian dialects). We were keen to hide in a places that provide camouflage to us, which we believed that it hides us from the sights for a period that we determine based on our choice. When we were young/small, this was our game that we played with our rules and choices.

Later, during our childhood years in the security state (Assad Regime) schools, the laws of hide-and-seek game started to change little by little, due to the effects of the militarization systems that cast a shadow over the civil life.

We were no longer the ones who choose the time of the start and end of the game, nor the roles of hiding or searching. We were no longer the ones who decide the rules of the game between us. The game has come to be imposed on us in different forms forcing us to flee for fear of the punishment of the military education teacher in case we do not attend the ceremony of saluting the flag or fearing the security elements who almost have absolute powers which may make the life of the human a kind of disappearance (detain) that from which there is no return.

As it happened to Saeed Abdul Razzaq in his early university years in Damascus, when he wrote a simple poem criticizing the violation of people's dignity by the authorities.

The patriotic meaning in its distorted form was growing with us, as we grow in contradictions. The game of hide-and-seek is the same, but in the daylight, it means that “you be very cautious and

say O Lord please provide camouflage”. The game of hide-and-seek has taken on another dimension in a country in which the security personal grows up, at the expense of dwindling and diminishing citizen. In that country, it was normal for the people with dissenting opinions, or political activity contrary to the ruling class, to disappear. Until we reached a point where we do not know, who from the security branches scattered among us (the civilians) plays the role of counting to ten?!

With the start of the Syrian revolution in 2011, a different will appeared, seeking to restore the game of hide-and-seek and its laws, to its innate state. A will to reshape the life to go back to the normal state, such as freely to choose the person who will search, the person who will count, choose the places that we want to hide in, choose the timing and end of the game and to appear at the time we want.

However, the word (freedom) frightened many, the first of which is the head of the pyramid in the Syrian security state, which has enacted severe security laws,

new in the game of hide-and-seek. Enforced disappearances (detention) increased and spread rapidly, and in huge numbers, as a security approach to intimidate those who would dare to say freedom, and for more repression.

The cases of the enforced disappearance (detention) numbers which are confirmed by the violation documentation parties over the past years, are continuing to increase horribly, especially with the division of the country geographically, and the fragmentation/division of its components. The voices of those who are still counting to ten in the arduous search process for relatives, friends or neighbors have been weakened. We searched all the places where we could find Firas, who has disappeared (detained) since April 2011. Firas and other Syrians disappeared, without anyone knowing where they are, leaving behind them families who are still looking for them in hope. Firas’s wife, who is raising his 9-year-old daughter, is still talking about him, and that perhaps she will find him someday, it does not matter if he is alive or dead. It is important that the count and game ends, so that she can balance her life, and give her daughter the role in restoring the rules of the game of hide and seek so that she can play safely.

If the widowed women in Chili, Argentina and other countries of the world which revolted against dictatorships, have gained part of their right and demands, when European countries and human rights organizations took action and the date of 30 August of each year was determined to be the International Day of Enforced Disappearance, which from that time it is assumed that there are no more enforced disappearances. We are in Syria still trying to restore the rules of the game of hide-and-seek, and the question arises in ourselves: Is it the International Day of Enforced Disappearances, or is act on us ?!

"Cecelya ALTaweel"





Syrian women between marriage and education

Between education and early marriage, many Syrian women suffer from the pressures of the society and the relatives and the lack of suitable alternatives for them considering the conditions imposed by war.

“W.A.” a woman who married at an early age and did not complete her education, says that the circumstances of war and displacement led to the suspension of my education and marriage at a very early age, and thus I assumed responsibility at a young age. In addition, childbearing and the requirements of the husband and parents made the idea of completing education more complicated for me.



She added saying that she gave up her simplest dreams in exchange for marriage and that the conditions of displacement in general and her circumstances, in particular, are the main reasons behind stopping her education.

According to Quentin Wodon, "Child marriage not only dies girls' hopes, but also hinders efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve economic growth and gender equality. Therefore, putting an end to these practices is not only morally right but also smart economically."

On the other hand, many women who resorted to the option of marriage did not give up their dreams, as many did, but resisted all the difficulties in order to complete their university education.

Fatima Dada, a married woman who has completed her education, says, "It was never easy for a married woman with children, but at the same time it was not impossible. There are many obstacles that I faced on my way, such as the basic responsibilities of any housewife in addition to the additional burdens of studying such as staying up late, fatigue and university attendance, but I did not give up at all. On the contrary, I received additional support from my husband, the

thing that facilitated my learning process more.

On the other hand, some women made more stringent decisions regarding education and preferred university education to marriage.

"A.K." a Syrian woman who preferred to complete her university education over marriage, said, "What made me make a decision like this is the failed experiences of many of my peers who abandoned their dreams and goals for marriage. Many of them had a similar fate, such as divorce or the death of the husband. In both cases, they resorted back to completing their education, because the university degree in the woman's hand is like a weapon with which she can resist all circumstances".

She added saying "one of the most challenging challenges I faced was the community's lack of acceptance of women's work, in addition to stereotyping the role of women and limiting them to the field of education because it is more appropriate for women, according to their expression".

Salwa Kor Bilal, a teacher, and family activist said, "Through my work as a teacher, I witnessed many early marriages and their results were very negative, they led to great family disputes, including many ended with divorce, and some of them suffer from poverty, because in early marriages the husband and the wife usually do not have the ability to win the bread of the family, and they live with the parents, which in turn threatens their lives, any disagreement with the family leads to their expulsion from the home, which creates suffering and a long term psychological and material pressures.

Many disputes led to deep psychological problems resulted from the girl's lack of understanding of marital life and the husband's intolerance and patience, which reflected negatively on their lives and the lives of their children as the parents are not in a conscious stage to raise their children properly"

From the aforementioned, early marriage considered a crime against those young girls because it is their right to be educated and to have adequate awareness about raising children and managing the family. Women are the

cornerstone of the family and from
.the family society starts

The Mother is a school in she is"
well prepared , a noble nation is
"prepared



“ The War and Hope (Amal)..

Amal is a Syrian woman who has suffered from the horrors of war and fought for her children.

Amal got married at an early age, so she did not complete her university education and devoted herself to housework, the husband's needs, and the responsibilities of any housewife, so she moved away from the path that she was planning to in the future.

Amal says: She was used to her lifestyle before, but her husband's death later was something she did not consider.

Her husband died due to the war in the country (Syria), she suddenly found herself without a breadwinner, but she did not give up – she didn't surrender to despair, rather she insisted to fight for her children.

Amal thought carefully, on how will she stand on her feet after the death of her husband. Especially considering that her range of capabilities was limited, which made her think of searching for work, so she rushed to register for women's vocational training in order to have experience in any field. But the main thinking and ambition in her head was to complete her educational career in order to prove herself. So, she registered in the teacher preparation institute and graduated with distinction.

Amal was subsequently appointed as a teacher in the city of Azaz, and she no longer needed anyone to support her and her children. She is now financially independent as she is receiving salary from her work. "A very great achievement" was a sentence that Amal uttered, as a satisfaction expression of what she had made until she reached where she is today.

Her way was not that easy because she had to face her relatives in order to work and leave the house, because they believed that her work is a shame as she is a "widow" as they say.

But she did not care and pursued her way, which she had planned with wisdom and persistence.

Now she is the lady of herself, able to take on responsibilities she never thought she would be able to carry and she is happier because she became a role model of her children, not just a mother and a nanny.

Amal is not the first and it will not be the last. Rather, she is a model for a strong Syrian woman.

We are proud of you, Amal, continue your way and keep on.

You are the hope (Amal) that Syria will be proud of and will shine the beacon of generations up high.

You are a symbol for every Syrian woman who did not give up to the circumstances, but rather made the circumstances stand for her with respect for her strength and her confrontation of all the difficulties.



Journalism between Dream and Reality



Because writing is a branch of art and literature, the writer had to have the qualities that distinguish her/him from the others including strong and delicate feelings. Indeed, the writer must transform all the events that confront him into tangible material.

My guest, Mrs. Haifa Al-Omar, a journalist who studied history and journalism, said "what I went through during the war years - death of my brothers, my father's cancer as a result of his great grief because of the death of his sons and the displacement - was an incentive that pushed me to empty all my feelings and turn them into words that simulate my situation and the situation of the Syrians".

Asking Mrs. Haifa about her beginnings with writing, she said, "I had a good talent in writing literary ideas and imaginations that fill my memory to retain them. My father, Mother and brothers in the first place encouraged me to continue with this talent and develop it. Then my supervisor professor at the Institute of Journalism and Information had a distinctive effect regarding development of my talent and had an eternal fingerprint on my writing and journalism career".

And because media/journalism was previously monopolized by a certain group of society, namely the male, Haifa faced a lot of harsh criticism from the surrounding community, because of the nature of her work. The criticism even extended to the work of women in general.

As journalism is an ever-evolving career, I had to ask Haifa, where does she see herself in five years?

Haifa said "my presence in the Institute of Journalism and Information itself had a great impact on developing my ability to write, I am working very hard to obtain a "lecturer" position at the institute to teach journalism with the same passion that I possessed while I was studying it".

She added, "I strive to devote my writings in opinion journalism criticizing the negative society that criticizes the working women".

At the end of the meeting, Haifa addressed the young women, motivating them to insist on what they want or passionate about. She said, " Dear, your dream is in your hands; put it in your heart, feed it with your thoughts and work, have confidence, will and belief that whoever created you, fed you and your knowledge is able to achieve your dream at an eye blink, what you have to do is only strive to achieve your dream."

"we are also proud of you, Haifa, because, with your persistence, you have become a medal of honor on our chests."



Coronavirus in the “ North of Syria

Due to the increasing fear in the north of Syria about the spread of the Coronavirus and its dangerous effects, “Our News Bulletin” conducted an investigation on the matter and worked on conducting several interviews and gathering information from various sources, perhaps we can draw the attention of the concerned authorities to take preventive measures and limit the spread of the virus.

The correspondents of “Our News Bulletin” in many cities in northern Syria reported interviews that were conducted with 3 health directors, 2 camp directors, 2 activists, and 2 media workers, 2 civilians.

Regarding the measures of the Interim Syrian Governments’ Health Directorates:

Dr. Issam Jumaa, the director of the health directorate in Jarablus Local Council in northwestern Syria, told us:

The Corona Pandemic began knocking the doors and spread in the great majority of the countries of the world, regretfully recently, cases of infection were recorded in the liberated areas in northwest Syria such as Idlib, Azaz, Al-Rai and Al-Bab, and this is the biggest evidence that we are not excepted from Coronavirus’s spread and risks. Therefore, we must, in the first place, follow the preventive measures - by adhering to the health instructions adopted globally. And when we asked him about the repercussions of the Coronavirus in northern Syria:

He stressed the need to wear masks, maintain a physical distance, pay attention to hygiene/sterilization. In the second place, we must be very

careful regarding gathering in departments, mosques, public places, hospitals, and markets, and not to visit hospitals, dispensaries, and health centers unless there is an absolute necessity. Whereas, if we do not comply with and implement the above-mentioned preventive measures, we will be exposed to a large wave of infection because our regions will not be able to control it considering that many major countries were unable to control and confront it.

On his part, (Dr. A. R.) the Director of Health Directorate of Qabasin Local Council, added: saying as the health directorate, we track/observe the Coronavirus situation and its spread in our regions and we see that it didn’t reach the stage of Pandemic so it could be controlled by reporting the infected or suspected cases to the Coronavirus Emergency Response Team that was formed when the Corona pandemic emerged – the team includes several Organization and local authorities (Stabilization Support Unit, Assistance Coordination Unit, Ministry of Health in the Syrian Interim Government, Syrian Civil Defense, Aleppo and Idlib Health Directorates in addition to some organizations concerned with medical affairs). In its turn the Emergency Response Team in coordination with the concerned authorities can implement the required standards/actions such as quarantine, tests, and isolation. The team issues reports on the latest developments related to coronavirus in the region and provides studies and proposals regarding coronavirus pandemic on a rolling basis.

Today, the medical authorities in Syria are working to contain coronavirus as much as possible. Dr. Kazem Al-Hammoud, the Director of Health Directorate in Al-Bab City, confirmed that their medical teams are conducting daily visits to the infected people and the people who were in contact with the infectees to follow up their situation, and provide us with reports on the developments related to the infected people and the people who were in contact with the infectees so we can deal with developments accordingly.

With a set of steps/measures the Directorate is working to avoid the pandemic as much as possible, those steps and measures are as follows:

Reporting each suspected case to the early warning network (EWARN program) by calling their phone numbers.

Quarantining the suspected cases (in their locations) and taking swab from them to be sent to Coronavirus test laboratory.

In case someone tested positive, s/he will be quarantined and an investigation will be conducted to determine who were in contact with her/him.

Regarding our question about the policies and measures to confront Corona in northern Syria.

The director of the health directorate of Jarablus stressed that to confront the Coronavirus, the situation needs to be reinforced by a set of procedures. He said that the medical staff in Jarablus city are working to equip/prepare a center to absorb as much as possible of the cases infected with coronavirus in the event of it is spread. The center has 40 beds, and this number is definitely not sufficient in the event of the spread of coronavirus.

He said: " We cooperated in the Health Office and the Health Directorate with Turkish health authorities regarding a campaign to raise the awareness among citizens, we distributed awareness brochures and directed special teams to sterilize all public places (schools, mosques and governmental buildings, etc..) in the city of Jarablus. In the event there is a suspected case, we transfer the case directly to the quarantine center, and get a swab from the case to be sent to the coronavirus test laboratory to confirm the infection, and if the case is positive the necessary investigations are done to get information regarding from whom the case got infected and with whom s/he got in contact with recently. After determining the people who were in contact with the infected person, they are placed in a quarantine center for 14 days as a preventive measure as they could be infected as well, during the quarantine period the health directorate follows-up their situation. He said that a coronavirus test center/ laboratory will be established in Jarablus soon with support from Assistance Coordination Unit.

Moving to the city of Qabasin, the Health Director of Qabasin explained the politics adopted there.

The director said that the Health Directorate followed all developments related to the spread of the Coronavirus and provided online seminars to the largest number of segments of society such as teachers, university students, parents, and cadres working in all the sectors.

As for Al-Bab City, the health director of the city told us that the Directorate is still issuing circulars warning from the gatherings and encouraging the residents to adhere to the coronavirus prevention means and safety methods.

Regarding the challenges facing the officials and stakeholders in health directorates and medical personnel during this pandemic phase:

The stakeholders indicated that the difficulties and challenges they suffer from namely, the citizens' lack of commitment and disrespect to the coronavirus preventive measures such as wearing masks, physical distancing.

Other difficulties and challenges are; the lack of awareness among the residents regarding the seriousness of this disease, the population density in the northern regions, the lack of

medical centers in the villages, towns, and the camps, and among the challenges also are the presence of random camps and the difficulty of implementing preventive measures on the ground.

Women have a role in confronting Corona in northern Syria.

Today, several women are working and making efforts to confront the Coronavirus, including a humanitarian initiative that a woman personally made, as she purchased a sum of masks, gloves and sterilization materials and distributed them to the residents of the camp near her home.

In an interview with a member of the local council Jarablus city Ms. Khawla Qais, said:

"The family has an important role in protecting society from the outbreak of coronavirus, as the responsibility falls on the parents to educate their children and to set an example for them in applying protective measures, such as the commitment to wearing masks and continuous hand washing. The North of Syria has a special status. Today, women in the shadow of Coronavirus bear a double burden on them due to their responsibilities and work outside the house in addition to the housework and responsibility they do without the help of their husbands".

The danger is double in the north of Syria...

Regarding the question about the reasons why the majority of the residents in the region do not adhere to the protective, safety, and quarantine measures?

city Ms. Khawla Qais, said, "the war in Syria had its psychological effects on civilians, as the Syrian regime practiced against them all kinds of violations, including killing, bombing and displacement, which made some of them indifferent to what might happen in the future, and this sometimes prompted them not to adhere to medical directives.

Lack of awareness among the residents and lack of hygiene

means due to poor financial resources, poverty and poor economic conditions that most of the residents in northern Syria suffer from."

"Our News Bulletin" monitored the situation in the camps by conducting some interviews with residents of the camps and camp managers about the seriousness of the spread of the coronavirus and what are the factors that help its spread?

Answering the question, Youssef Issa, the director of the Mala'b camp in Jarablus said that the spread of the coronavirus will lead to a disaster in the camps, not only for the IDPs, but also for the original residents of the region, and it is very necessary to secure hygiene baskets for the population and direct teams to work on sterilizing the camp, and the camp's infrastructure must be improved, including a water and sanitation networks.

One of the residents in one of the camps of Afrin spoke to us saying the danger of the spread of Coronavirus inside the camp is much greater than outside it due to the lack of awareness of the residents regarding the seriousness of Coronavirus and that the camps have an environment where it is not easy to implement the preventive measures as the camps lack the minimum necessities of life, the most important of which is sufficient water.



" Umm Omar, a woman living in one of the camps, added saying: "The hard living conditions, the lack of financial resources and the high prices made us dispense the cleaning materials and focus on securing the main necessities of the life – namely food.

"I have five small children, and the place is full of people. The tent is small so the children have to play outside. The bathrooms are common and the amount of water in the camp is not sufficient. My children themselves bring water on a daily basis. We cannot buy sterilization materials that keep this virus away from us.".

According to the Health Director of Qabasin:

"The danger in the camps is that the virus can spread there very fast, due to the excessive physical contact between camp residents and the lack of attention to infected cases directly."

the topic and terrorize people from it.

"J. T." who is a media professional from Al-Bab city, added saying: " The role of the media is very big and important, but it played a negative role, as most media organizations worked to plant fear and terror in the hearts of people. In my opinion, Corona is an emerging and a new virus, so we must take the necessary preventive measures and avoid intimidation. As a revolutionary movement in the city of Al-Bab, we worked to spread awareness among people without intimidating the issue".

According to the latest statements of the World Health Organization (WHO)

The "head of WHO" warned the world about the Covid-19 pandemic, saying that "the worst didn't come yet."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the virus will infect more people if governments do not adopt appropriate policies.

He repeated his message on the necessity of conducting tests and isolating and quarantining the infected people and those who were in contact with the infected people."

The number of people infected with the virus around the world has reached 32.2 million since the beginning of its spread in China at the end of last year, and more than 983000 people have died so far.

In our turn, we, the members of the "Our News Bulletin" team, appeal to everyone who can help the camps to secure water that is fundamental for hygiene and protection from many diseases, not just the Coronavirus. In addition to providing them with food baskets that increase the immunity of their bodies and the bodies of their children, hygiene and protection baskets and masks (that are expensive and needs to be constantly changed), and also we do not forget that it is very important to establish health centers in every camp and to provide treatment and medicine free of charge.

Based on the importance of media in spreading awareness about the Coronavirus pandemic, as it is the daily means of communication available to almost everyone, and as it is the easiest way to spread awareness, and the cheapest way to disseminate brochures and posters.

"Our News Bulletin" addressed a question to a group of media professionals about this topic.

In your opinion, what is your real role in raising the awareness of the people about coronavirus and the steps that you have taken?

Mr. "B.K." answered the question for us saying

"As a media professional, I have to publish the facts related to the virus and the appropriate means to prevent its spread in addition to publishing the latest developments and statistics related to the virus in terms of the number of infected people and the number of the people recovered, taking into account not to intimidate

” Who we are:



Women Support Unit is a civil society organization, concerned with the women related issues (affairs) and seeks to empower them politically, economically, socially and culturally alongside to meet their needs.

Vision:

To create a healthy community in which women are empowered and able to contribute to bulding the community and facing the challenges in partnership with the men.

Mission:

Women Support Unit targets the women who are facing difficulties regarding playing their optimal role in the society and seeks to empower the women in the Northern and Eastern countryside of Aleppo politically, socially, economically and culturally.



Share your questions, inquiries and suggestions with us by pressing the button

Share us