

March 2nd, 2016

The Right Honorable Nagamine Yasumasa
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Prime Minister of Japan's Personal Representative to the G7

Prior to the start of the present conflict, the members of the Network for Realizing Peace in Syria were engaged in aid activities in Syria. Following the start of the war, we have been providing humanitarian aid, and we began working for peace in Syria after hearing the voices of common citizens who have been affected by war's violence.

The path towards peace in Syria has become increasingly difficult. In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2254, but due to increasing tensions among nations in the region, and conflicting interests among those nations, US and countries in Europe, the way forward is unclear.

Humanitarian aid has become ever more necessary, but no matter how much aid is provided, there will be no end to the loss of life and numbers of refugees without the establishment of a fundamental peace.

We believe the 2016 Ise-Shima G7 Summit in Japan will be an important opportunity for realizing peace in Syria. Japan is highly trusted by Syrians and civil society in the Middle East, and in regards to peace in Syria, Japan is one of the few countries in the G7 that does not have a special stake in the conflict. Also, on January 1st 2016 Japan became a Non-permanent Member of the UN Security Council. This brings increasing international responsibility, and there are high expectations for Japan's new role. Furthermore, due to the increasing number of Syrian refugees fleeing to neighboring nations and Europe, there are reports of citizens of these nations who see the Syria issue as an important part of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit agenda.

Taking the above factors into account, we advocate that not only the issue of humanitarian aid, but also the following two points be addressed at the G7 Ise-shima Summit:

1. We ask the Government of Japan to assume leadership in the Syrian peace process. Concretely speaking, at the Summit we ask the government to lead discussions among G7 leaders for promoting a process of non-military dialogue in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2254. In addition, as a part of this effort, we propose that the Japanese government takes the actions listed below for creating a necessary environment to terminate the conflict and realize peace in Syria:
 - ① Provide a venue for dialogue for confidence-building among victims of conflict including disabled people.

- ② Establish a forum for dialogue among Syrian and Japanese experts in the academia.
- ③ Enhance dialogue between the Japanese government and the civil society.

2. We ask the Government of Japan to assume this leadership role in order to promote smooth discussions in which the leaders of each G7 nation rise above their national interests to work towards a non-military resolution for Syrian peace.

The G7 Ise-Shima Summit is a unique opportunity for Japan as a non-permanent member of the Security Council to show the world its leadership in the process leading to peace in Syria. We sincerely hope the Japanese Government will positively respond to this opportunity.

Signed by the members of the Network for Realizing Peace in Syria:

- The Syria support organization SADAQA FOR SYRIA
- NPO Japan Iraq Medical Network (JIM-NET)
- NPO Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)
- NPO Corporation World Vision Japan (WVJ)