



# A S.T.A.N.D. UPDATE Be Informed

*Meetings Every Tuesday 12.45-13.30 in T.G.3*

**The World Promised Never Again...So What About Right Now?**

## STAND AT JCU

STAND volunteers every Friday at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center. Join us!

We meet at the H Bus stop at 9:00 am in Piazza Belli.

Joel Nafuma Refugee Center  
Via Napoli 58  
00184 Roma, Italy

## CONFLICT IN SYRIA

As reported from United to End Genocide and Rueters: The Syrian Revolution began on March 15, 2011 as a peaceful movement calling for a free and democratic nation, and the overthrow of the oppressive Assad regime.

In response to the calls of freedom by the Syrian people, the Assad regime attempted to brutally suppress the revolution and punish the civilians through systematic murder, rape, detainment, torture and destruction. It is estimated that more than 27,000 have been killed in just over 18 months. Daily death tolls now approach 200. Many of the military have left Assad's ranks and started the formation of the Free Syrian Army which has grown into a network of organized brigades protecting the Syrian civilian population from the onslaught of the Assad forces.

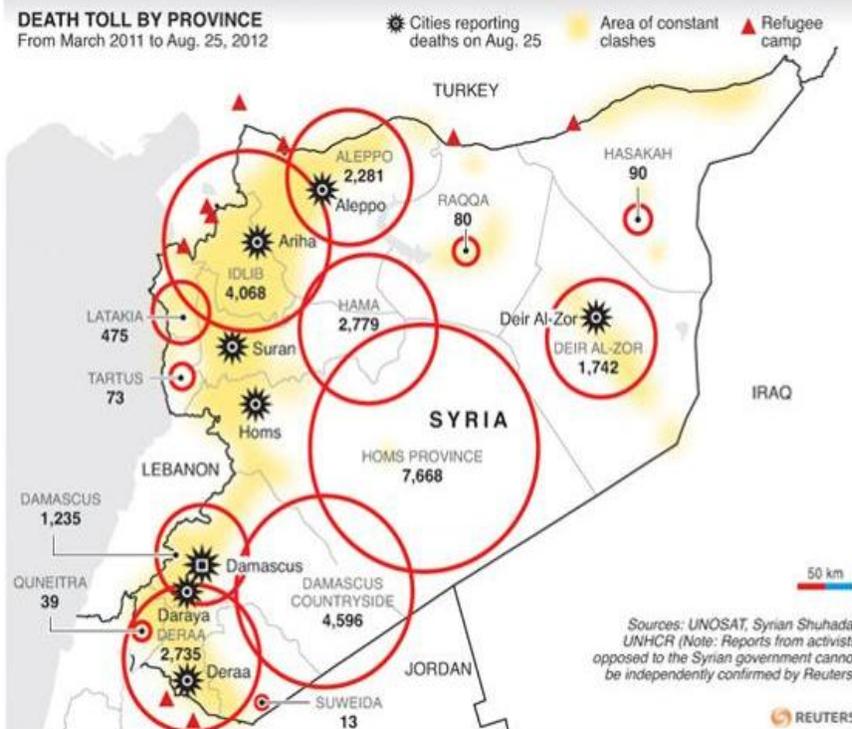
While the media reporting on Syria has increasingly focused on the violent conflict of Syria's "civil war" — a term that hardly begins to describe a conflict characterized by massacres of civilians and vastly outmatched rebels — the peaceful mass demonstrations have not ceased. The Syrian people, Christian, Alawite, Muslim, Druze and Kurd, continue to come together to call for basic liberties in the most honest of ways: peaceful demonstration.

<http://endgenocide.org/world-silence-is-killing-syria-march-and-rally-this-sunday/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/18/us-syria-amnesty-idUSBRE88H1FV20120918>



According to The Gaurdian UK News, 2/3 of inhabitants in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan are Syrian children. Save The Children has started a campaign. Photo: Jonathon Hyams





# A S.T.A.N.D. STORY

“Je suis un orphelin,” said Adam, a refugee in Rome, in an angry and sad voice. Adam is from Cote d’Ivoire and became extremely emotional while telling me the story of why he left the Ivory Coast and how he ended up in Italy in 2011. The first time I met Adam, I was teaching the advanced English class at the refugee center. He interrupted me about 40 times. Soon we, the volunteers, learned that there was very little that could keep him from asking for assistance. In addition to teaching English at the refugee center, for the last year STAND has been teaching computer courses. The computers being used were very old, so the teaching program only consisted of a basic typing program. Regardless of this, the refugees seemed to have a real interest in learning how to type correctly. However, as the weeks passed, they got tired of repeating the same four levels. Students began to leave the course but one student, Adam, remained. Adam only spoke French and my high school French seemed to fail me when I needed to communicate. I could understand Adam but responding to him proved to be more challenging. Regardless of my inability to speak French, my hand gestures helped our communication issues. Even when the class shrunk, he continued to attend. Sometimes, when he noticed that the volunteers were busy teaching English, he turned on the computer himself and got started with the typing. The next time I saw Adam, I gave him a notebook and we started working on numbers in English. He wanted to know how to say his age in English, “dix –sept,” he told me. Seventeen! I was shocked. I thought he was at least in his forties. I had to ask him about his life. When I asked, he very graciously told me about his journey. Adam fled the Ivory Coast, with his father, mother, and sister during the violence brought on in the elections of 2010. He and his family found refuge in Libya, but were soon confronted by the perils of Libya and the beginning of the Arab Spring. While telling me his story, his demeanor shifted from sadness to anger. His emotion while telling the story soon resulted in the other refugees crowding around us. As the others gathered, Adam explained, gesturing with his hands, and with sorrow in his voice, that the bombs from NATO had killed his father, mother and sister. “Je suis un orphelin.” I am an orphan. Adam kept saying he found himself alone, in a foreign country, living in worse conditions than in his own country and he knew he needed to escape again. From Libya he trekked to Tunisia, he then took a boat to Italy. Despite the hardships in his life, he usually has a radiant smile, and wit like no other. The last time I saw him, he was speaking a great deal of Italian and his English was improving. Unfortunately, I have not seen Adam in two months, but wherever he is, I hope he looks at the picture he took of me and my fellow STAND members, and remembers that we will always be there to help him.

STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, envisions a world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence and elected officials are held accountable for their actions, or inaction, in the face of genocide.

Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur. The mission of the STAND chapter at JCU is to provide individuals and communities with a comprehensive understanding of the nature, limits and characteristics of genocide.

Email [Stand@johncabot.edu](mailto:Stand@johncabot.edu)

**COUNTRIES ON GENOCIDE WATCH 2012:** South Sudan, Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Columbia, China, Iraq, Iran, Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Cote d’Ivoire, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Algeria, Philippines, Lebanon, India, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, Israel/Palestine