

CONSCIENCE CONVOY





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Since the onset of the devastating Syrian crisis in March 2011



More than **1million** Syrians have lost their lives



At least **15.000** children have been killed



More than **5million** Syrians have left Syria



More than **6million** Syrians have been forcibly displaced within Syria



13million people have become reliant on humanitarian aid



At least **400.000** have been arrested



At least **13.000** people were tortured to death



More than **85.000** people are still missing



13.581 Syrian women have been imprisoned so far



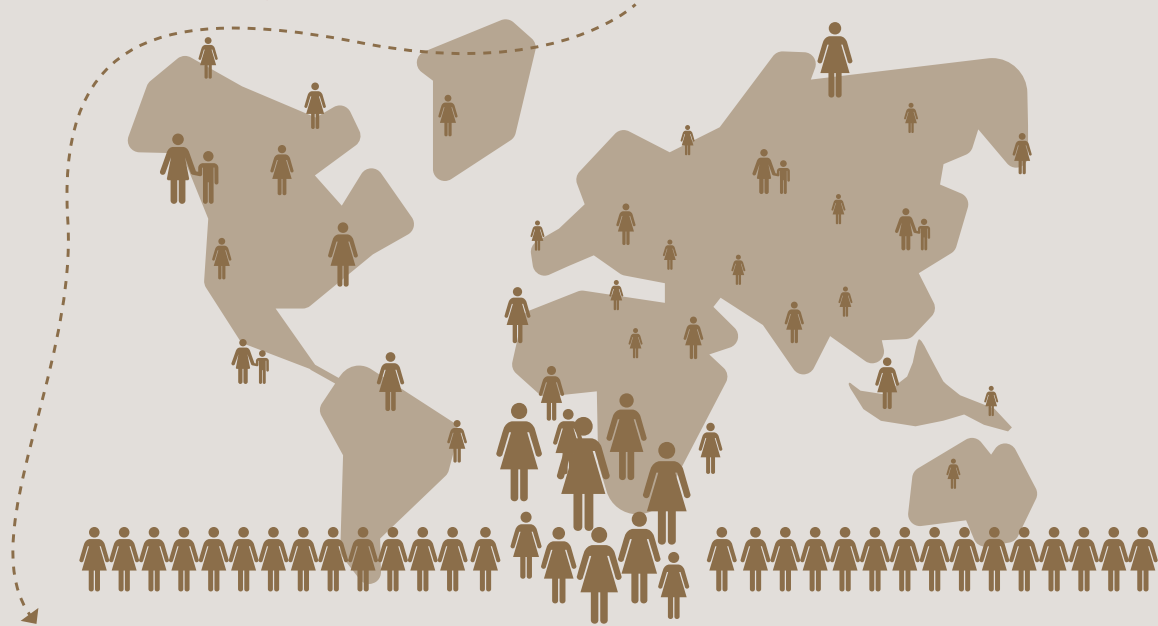
6.736 women are currently held in prisons



including **417** young girls

The Conscience Convoy has set out on journey for the freedom of imprisoned women and girls in Syria

The all-women led convoy lasted for three days and has been **Supported by 55 countries** attended by **10.000** female participants



Reached the Turkey - Syria border city with

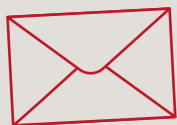
200buses



Received support from **450NGOs**



Has been broadcasted in **150countries** and in 3 different languages



Further extended by **6000** letters that have been sent all over the world

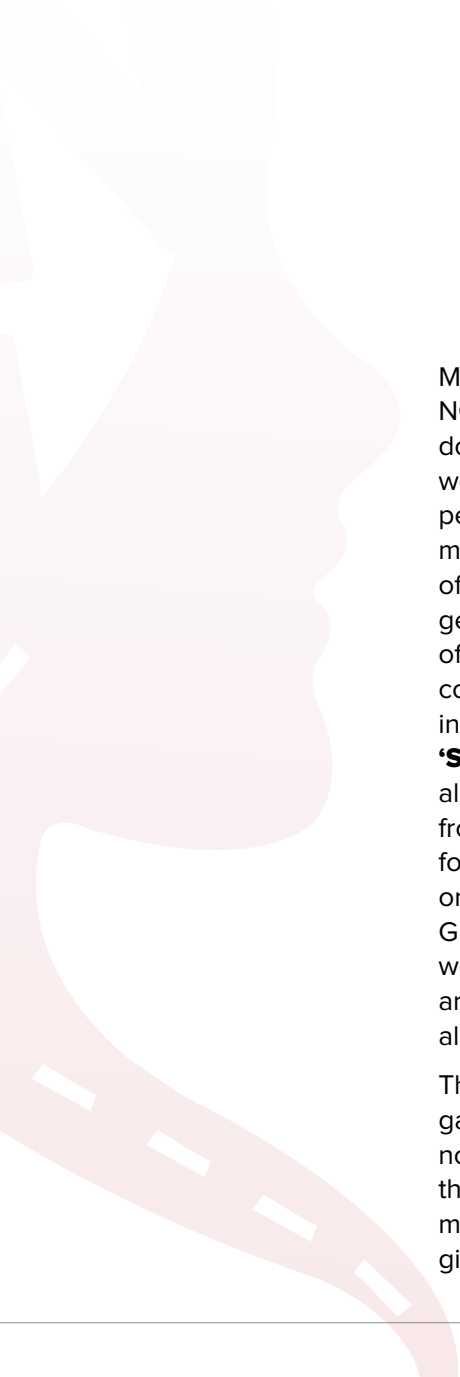


Concluded with a silent cry by **10.000** women who tied their hands at the Turkish- Syrian border on the World Women's day 2018

VİCDAN KONVOYU CONSCIENCE CONVOY



About us



Made up of hundreds of women from all walks of life, including NGO representatives, academics, lawyers, journalists, civil servants, doctors, artists, sportswomen, politicians, housewives, and artisans we launched an initiative in solidarity with unlawfully imprisoned and persecuted women in Syria, to shed a light on to their plight and moreover to call for their immediate release from official and non-official regime prisons. In order to raise worldwide awareness for gender-based violence and to save Syrian women from the cycle of torture and rape, a network of influential women from various countries came together and started a civil initiative in the form of an international convoy named **'Convoy of Conscience'** with the motto **'Save Women, Save Humanity'**. This call has reached women from all around the world and a convoy composed of 10.000 women from more than 50 different nationalities in hundreds of vehicles, followed a route across Turkey to the Turkish- Syrian border city in order to launch a global appeal on the International Women's Day. Guided by their conscience, thousands of women appealed to the world on the Women's Day to stand with those Syrian women who are being held unlawfully in Syrian prisons while being subjected to all forms of violence, torture and systematic abuse.


The **Convoy of Conscience** has built a momentum, unified and gathered thousands of women from all across the globe around this noble cause. The **Convoy of Conscience** will remain representing the collective conscience of humanity and continue its journey as a movement of conscience for the freedom of imprisoned women and girls in Syria.



CONSCIENCE
CONVOY



Aims

- 
- *To draw attention to the suffering of women who are being tortured, raped, executed, imprisoned and made refugees since the beginning of the war in Syria*
 - *To urge all parties to end all forms of violence immediately, respect and uphold obligations under international law and ensure protection for women and girls*
 - *To make advocacy and initiate diplomatic attempts to release all female prisoners unlawfully held in Syria*
 - *To invite all humanity to take effective measures to protect women and girls in conflict and war*



Principles and Approach



The Convoy of Conscience comprised numerous NGOs, women's associations, and women with different opinions and ideologies. It was planned as a convoy operating around a shared logo and motto, with the aim of saving imprisoned Syrian women and protecting women and girls in conflicts. As a completely civil initiative all of its constituent elements have agreed upon these principles. The Convoy of Conscience initially planned as a convoy of busses, will now continue its journey as an international civil initiative for the immediate release of all women and girls in Syria.

Why a Convoy of Conscience?



A photograph of a large crowd of women, many wearing headscarves, at a protest. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. In the center, a woman holds up a large sign with the text "SAVE WOMAN HUMAN" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. The background shows a dense crowd of people, with some faces visible in the foreground, all appearing to be part of the same event.

SAVE WOMAN HUMAN





Over the course of the Syrian war, which has dragged on since March 2011, close to one million people have lost their lives and at least 400,000 people have been identified to have been in and out of prison. Tens of thousands are detained by the Syrian regime facing torture, systematic killing and rape.

In 2012, Human Rights Watch identified 27 detention centers run by the Military Intelligence Directorate in Syria. The current number of official prisons and detention centers is not known. According to data provided by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, numerous female and male detainees have been raped by prison and regime authorities.

According to current data from Syrian human rights organizations, the number of women who were detained from March 2011 to the end of 2017 was 13,581. According to official documentation 6,736 women are still held in Syrian prisons by the Syrian regime. Of this number, 6,319 are adults, and 417 are girls. These numbers include only those held in official prisons. The number of people held in captivity in makeshift prisons, such as abandoned factories and black sites, is unknown. Some women have been detained while pregnant and have gone into labor in such places or have been detained together with their children. Other women have been raped in their location of captivity and have been forced to give birth in the same place. The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria states that cases of sexual violence are underreported as a result of trauma or fear of stigmatization.

Amnesty International's report on Saydnaya Prison reveals that mass executions of political prisoners are being carried out after military trials lasting only a few minutes. The report points out that once every two weeks groups of 15-20 prisoners undergo torture in the form of severe beating by prison guards, before they are taken to the block where the executions take place. Police guards refer to the day of their execution as "the party". It is reported that mass executions take place once every two weeks in this manner.

During the civil war a member of the Syrian military police, who served in the army for 13 years, was tasked with taking pictures of the corpses taken to military hospitals run by the regime. All of the





corpses that were taken to the hospital belonged to Syrian opposition who had been tortured, strangled, and starved to death while in detention. The military policeman photographed the faces and bodies of those who had been killed, and delivered them to his superiors after assigning them numbers.

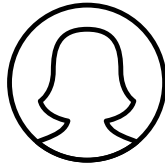
These photographs showing cryptic notes scribbled on the faces and bodies of the corpses, are considered as evidences of systematic execution orders given within the Syrian army. The military policeman, who took 55,000 photographs with his colleagues over the course of two years, could no longer stand the policy of systematic killing and torture and secretly contacted the Syrian opposition groups. Copies of these two years' worth of photographs were saved by the military policeman on a flash drive and delivered secretly to opposition groups. As a result of initiatives from opposition groups, a special commission was formed in the UK which consisted of international jurists, specialized in the field of war crimes and crimes against humanity and experts of forensic medicine and photography. The commission reviewed 26,000 of these 55,000 photographs. The investigation concluded that the people seen in the photographs had been subjected to systematic torture, tortured while tied up, and strangled by means of ropes, wires and even objects similar to car timing belts. Another conclusion worth noting is the fact that starvation was used as a means of torture. The commission estimates the number of people who were killed in this manner and can be seen in these 55,000 photographs is about 11,000.

According to data provided by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), the number of forced disappearances in all of Syria who were yet to be found as of August 2017 was over 85,000.

Especially at a time when these war crimes and torture seem to be continuing unabated, the Convoy of Conscience has launched a global call to end all forms of violence particularly against vulnerable women and girls in conflict zones. The Convoy of Conscience is a civil initiative for the immediate and final release of women and girls who have been subjected to torture and rape crimes in Syrian regime prisons.

Testimonies of Syrian Detainees

UM MUHAMMED
DAMASCUS



I was detained in 2015 while I was on my way to work. I was forced into a car by regime forces who took me to a detention center and beat me. After I was interrogated three times, they placed me in a room with seven other female detainees and forcibly removed my headscarf. I was raped in front of everybody. On everyone's face in the room you could read the traces of their torture. You go in there with your dignity, but you cannot leave with your dignity intact. Women were raped and tortured countless times. Those voices continue to ring in my ears and my head. I just cannot forget it.

MARYAM
HAMA



I am a 24 year old mother of four. The torture that we experienced in prison knows no limit. I would say to the commander who raped me, "For the love of ALLAH, don't do this!" He would reply, "There is no ALLAH." I would say, "For the prophet's sake!" He would reply, "He's on leave." They would ask repulsive questions like "Who gives you more pleasure? Those in the Free Syrian Army or us?" We have struggled until now to get our voices heard. We have called on humanitarian organizations, on heads of states. To no avail. No one hears us.

AMIRA TAYARA
HAMA



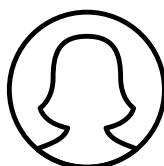
I had been tortured in a Syrian prison in 2013, and still couldn't overcome the impact it had on me. We would tread on corpses on our way to places. They would then give the corpses to the dogs. They would strip us, hang us, and pull off our nails. I have seen soldiers putting corpses through meat mincers. There were multiple cases of scabies and lice because we could not shower. I was subjected to all kinds of torture. They executed my son. My husband has been under the same circumstances since 2011 and I still haven't been able to hear from him. Today there is more rape and torture than there was when we were in prison. When we laid down, they would drop ice-cold water on our heads. After some time it would feel as if the drops were hitting our brains directly. The sound of water still reminds me of torture.

**MAJD IZZAT
AL-CHOURBAJI**
DAMASCUS SUBURBS



I was arrested in Damascus in 2013. The reason was because I was telling people where the hidden field hospital was and I had participated in peaceful demonstrations. My husband and my three children were also arrested soon after me. The last time I saw my husband was when he was being transferred to a different prison. His face was covered in blood. Six months after my release, he died as a result of the torture he had endured in prison. We couldn't even find his body. They only handed me the clothes he had been wearing. I was imprisoned for about seven months. They would hang people by their hands and beat them with iron sticks. In the last prison I was taken to, they put 20 of us in a room measuring 20 square meters. For days we got no sleep. Some of us stood up so that others could get some sleep. They only allowed people to go to the bathroom three times a day. I saw people urinating on their clothes. Many women gave birth to babies who died in prison. The amount of psychological torture the soldiers have used was unfathomable. Sometimes the torture went on for hours, for days. I was taken to court for starting a hunger strike. That is how I got out of prison. Later I made a promise to myself. I would keep struggling for all the other women who were still in prison. This is why I joined the Convoy of Conscience.

IDASH
HAMA



My name is Idash. This was the name they gave me in prison. I belong to one of the minorities which al-Assad claims to protect. Perhaps it was a second offense that I belonged to a minority but was not pro-Assad. I was bringing medical supplies, aid and milk for babies to areas under siege. It was an act that could result in 20 years or life imprisonment. Even though it has been one year since I got out, I'm still not fully recovered. Physically I am here, but psychologically I am still there. I am still with the young people I saw in those human slaughterhouses. Still reliving the times they were martyred and their bodies torn to pieces. I'm still with those young ones, the fattest weighing no more than 35 kilos, who awaited their deaths. I am still there with the girl who died because she did not have the courage to say she was sick. I am still there with the children who were imprisoned for five years along with their mothers, siblings and grandmothers. Those who were imprisoned for no other reason than the fact that one family member dared not to side with the Syrian regime. A child who had been detained at the age of three and was still in prison five years later. What can you expect from her? I want my voice to be heard by as many people as possible. They need to know that there are cities under cities there, and slaughterhouses. There are people there whose greatest and most beautiful dreams have the shape of death. I want you to put an end to the crimes of this cruel person and his sadism.

**NOUR AL-HUDA
HIJAZI
DAMASCUS**



On 25 September 2012 I was arrested through a military security trap by Syrian intelligence in Damascus because I was doing relief and media work to help affected civilians soon after the war began in Syria. I was abducted in the street in a humiliating way in front of hundreds of people and was pushed inside the intelligence vehicle. In the car on the way to the military intelligence branch, I was harassed under the pretext of inspection in a hideous and inhuman manner. At first I refused to talk or answer their questions. I was severely beaten in order to give them information but I still refused because there were information that would have affected a large network of friends with whom we worked to help the wounded and the innocent people. They asked for my Skype account and I gave them the account that I opened two days ago, instead of the one I had used regularly. I did not give them my personal account but they were aware and requested it by telling my username. They opened my account and they talked to my friends. One of my friends asked the location for the warehouses of medicines in Damascus, I responded her in writing, but from the style of writing I made her understand that I was speaking under irregular circumstances. The officer was angry for not receiving anything. After that, I was put in a prison and began to struggle in a cell measuring not more than six square meters. We only had two small openings to breathe and were overwhelmed by the smell of moisture and smoke and in front of the bathrooms.

The conditions under which inspections are usually taking place are widely known in Syria. The detainee be it women, men or children, is strip-searched and inspected nakedly in a humiliating manner.

There were seven Syrian women in the cell. Among them a 65-year-old woman and a 14-year-old girl who had begun to show signs of pregnancy after having been raped right after her arrest. That night I slept on the tiles as there was nothing we could sleep on. It was a very difficult night. I did not know what would happen tomorrow. I remember that night our talk with men from the nearby cell through the hole in the waterways. They had been detained five years ago. The investigation began right after the morning. When the prison guard told me to come with him, the blood froze in my veins. He blindfolded and handcuffed me and took me to the interrogation room. I sat in a room on a chair and in front of me was the officer asking questions, I was hearing the presence of a number of soldiers in the room talking about me and laughing. I didn't want to give any information because any information they would get would cause harm to my friends and family. My only response was: 'I do not know anything' or 'I do not have anything to say.' The officer got angry and started beating me painfully everywhere on my body, hit me on the face. For every question he didn't get an answer to, he started beating me and giving me electroshocks. The soldiers kept

sitting in the room. They blindfolded me so I did not know when and where they will hit and when I was screaming from pain they would laugh. After two hours of interrogation and beating, they left me in a corridor with my hands tied for more than four hours. Everyone passing by slapped me on the face and cursed the ugliest insults.

In the days of interrogation, I was constantly threatened with rape. In one of the most horrific days after hours of torture and insults, the interrogator said to one of the officers: 'Take her to a room with five officers, so that they rape her.' They made me walk through a long corridor. I closed my eyes hoping they would go away. After a terrifying and unpredictable ten minutes' walk, I opened my eyes and found myself in front of my cell.

The interrogation lasted seven days from morning till evening. I used to live these dreadful feelings every single day. I did not want the morning to come because I didn't want to undergo that torture.

After seven days I was tired of the torture that I lived through. After understanding that it was useless to resist, I gave them the names. I told them nothing else. He gave me seven papers to write what actions I performed and what actions I did not perform.

After an interrogations of seven days I used to live with the rest of the detainees in a psychological torture. They were placing the young detainees in front of the cells and beating them and torturing them until they lose their consciousness. Then they poured water and electrocuted them to start torturing them again. We heard their screams more than 3 hours each day.

Our daily food was starchy, cold and underdone potatoes which lead to digestion problems. We were only allowed to enter the bathroom three times or twice a day and for a period of no more than six minutes for nine women. We were only allowed to shower once per month and for the six minutes. After 13 days I was taken with my friend to a solitary cell that did not exceed two square meters with a very small hole and full of insects and cockroaches.

I'm out of prison but so far there are women who are subjected to daily torture in prison, thousands of them and no one hears their voice.

SAYHA AL-BARUDI

HAMA



I am a mother of two. I was detained at a checkpoint on the way to Beirut with my husband. I was tortured in the first place for having refused to remove my headscarf. I was raped in front of everyone. Another woman, who was even 55 years old, was also raped. There was a girl in the ninth grade. She was gang raped in front of everyone by six men. Nighttime was a hell for us. They would hang us on racks. When one of us passed out, she would be taken down to the wet floor where they would electrocute her back to her senses. Every morning there was torture and every evening rape. No one heard us. If you ever could imagine the things that happened once it was past midnight. Commander Suleiman would choose the most beautiful girls and have them delivered to his room. His office consisted of two rooms. The one in the back was used for rape. A girl got pregnant as a result. They raped her while she was pregnant as well. She went into labor in the sixth month. After delivery, they shot her baby dead in front of her eyes. She completely lost her mind. Now her family has to keep her tied down. The people I saw in prison were only moving corpses who were all skin and bone due to starvation, prematurely aged by the heavy beating. All I could smell was death and corpses. The rooms all smelled of death.

**UBAIDAH
AL-HAZAN**



I was imprisoned in my own country without having committed a crime. I was subjected to so much torture in prison. The regime of the murderer Bashar is truly merciless, and it has done us all sorts of harm. I have sisters who are still in prison. I want to make their voices heard by the world. I call to all countries in the world: Please, hear the voices of our women! This oppression must come to an end.

SAMR AL-NAJJAR

HAMA



On Saturday, December 22, 2012, a group of officers working for the provincial administration captured and dragged me horribly through the barriers. They confiscated my purse and phone straight away, and put me in a small room. They closed the door without a word. After half an hour, a well-built guard with a long beard opened the door. He grabbed me by the neck and dragged me to the soldier's room, and there the soldier began to swear at me and insult me verbally. He accused me of having assisted armed assaults. One time a guard called Abu Abdu came inside and whipped us all. I was subjected to all kinds of torture while in prison.

MARIYA
DAMASCUS

Regime soldiers had come to detain my sister for having helped opposition groups. They detained me along with her when I refused to hand her over. We were in prison for 100 days. The torture started when we refused to talk. Every single day felt like a hundred years. Sometimes we were in the same cell, sometimes in solitary confinement. They tortured me and my sister a lot. I would crouch down in fear when they whipped us. They would make me watch her being raped, and make her watch me being raped. One day they threw me up in the air and I broke my lower back and feet when I fell back down. I blacked out for 13 days. When I came back to my senses, I saw my sister covered in blood. I understood that they had done the same things to her. She would beg me to help when they tortured her, but I couldn't do anything. Sometimes they wouldn't give us any food for days, and when they did, it would be rice or pasta softened with water only and full of insects. When we asked why they were giving us that kind of food, they said it was for nutrition, that we had to eat it. We even ate those black insects. When both my sister and I got out of prison, we were in no shape to face one another after all those things we had been through. We were unable to live together. My sister took refuge in a European country. And I came to Turkey.

WALAA ASHI
HOMS

I am a 45 year old mother of five. I currently live in Ersal Refugee Camp. For reasons unknown to us, a large group of security and military forces raided our neighborhood. They entered the neighborhood and arrested the men they saw in the square. Then they entered homes and stole all that they could carry. It was my house's turn. They broke in and the commander ordered that all members of the household line up in front of him. My husband, five children, and I were home at the time; he ordered my husband's arrest. Then he asked me what I was hiding under my dress and ordered me to reveal it. He said his men would do it if I did not. I started crying and begging him, he beat me and took off my headscarf, tore my dress to pieces. Then he ordered me to stand up and put my hands up in the air so that they could make sure I wasn't hiding anything. In the meantime, he kept saying that I had been enjoying myself with armed groups, that I had been a prostitute for them years ago, and that we all lacked dignity. He said he would come back to entertain his own men, because he said they were no worse than those armed groups. Then they left, breaking things they saw on their way. My husband was in prison for a week, and when he got out we decided to leave the neighborhood and flee to Lebanon, because we knew they would come back for us.

IBTISAM AL-DIRANI
DAMASCUS



I am 52 years old. On Thursday, June 20, 2013, an officer stopped me at a military checkpoint. Someone opened the door and made my kids get out of the car, then the car moved on with me still inside. I could hear the cries and shrieks of my children. They took all the money and gold I had on me by force. I was held for 20 days at the Air Force Intelligence Division. I was subjected to violent torture and segregation there. The interrogation took three days. It was taking place in the airport. Then they put me in a 6 meter to 3 meter squared cell with others. I was kept there for 17 days with 25 other inmates. Accused of acts of terrorism, I was taken before the terror court at the Air Force Intelligence Division along with 60 others. After that I was released.

MARIA
HAMA



I am married and a mother of three. I was arrested when my house was raided on August 3, 2012. They tortured me violently nonstop for three days. The interrogation started at two in the afternoon and lasted until eight in the evening. Every day, two of the women inmates were taken to Lieutenant Colonel Suleiman Djuma's office. The office was equipped with two beds, a toilet, and a fridge filled with alcoholic drinks. On the fourth day, after the torturous and brutal interrogation ended at around nine in the evening, I was taken to his office along with one of the young inmates like myself. We were raped in turns by Colonel Suleiman and his friends. Colonel Suleiman would turn to the younger ones and say repulsive things. He would mock us and say, 'Here, we are giving you dogs the freedom you wanted so much,' then he would resume the despicable act. This went on for 24 days. This is also the number of days I remained under arrest at that division. I was released as part of an exchange deal between the division authorities and a battalion of the free army in Hama. It is impossible to forget what happened, no matter how much time passes. But, I will make them pay me my due, no matter what.



*Strong women
from all around
the world wore
embroidered scarves
that symbolically
signified their bond
to all Syrian women
held and tortured in
regime prisons.*



Our Journey



At first it was the goal and the call that took shape. At the behest of Turkish women and with support from former female Syrian detainees, a civil initiative called the Convoy of Conscience came into being. The call reached women from all around the world. Letters inviting women to participate and to give their support were sent out and met a huge deal of interest. The first and fastest reply came from the women of Bosnia. These women, principally the Mothers of Srebrenica, organized themselves quickly into a convoy of four buses and traveled by land from Bosnia to Istanbul. Our letters began attracting responses from all around the world. At an extraordinary speed, the Convoy of Conscience became an international civil initiative of women's solidarity. In a very short time, all arrangements for the Convoy of Conscience, ranging from organizing buses to media and communication, from accommodation arrangements to planning of the route were coordinated by commissions made up of women.





Participation call for the CONSCIENCE CONVOY
'SAVE THE WOMEN, SAVE HUMANITY'

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, close to 1 million people have lost their lives and tens of thousands have been detained and imprisoned. According to the last statistics of Syrian human rights organizations, the number of WOMEN detained by the Syrian Regime between March 2011 and the end of 2017 is estimated at 13,581. The number of women still held in prisons by the Syrian regime is expected to be more than 6,736, out of which 417 are estimated to be children.

These numbers only represent the women held in official prisons; the number of people who are kept in different buildings and facilities used as prisons is still unknown. Some of the women were arrested or abducted during pregnancy and gave birth in prison or detention centers, and some were impregnated while detained after being repeatedly raped. Other women have been detained along with their children who are forced to witness all kinds of daily torture their mothers go through.

In fact, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria has declared that due to reasons such as stigmatization and trauma, cases of sexual violence have been underreported. The crimes committed against the women since the beginning of the Syrian war, including sexual assault, torture and unlawful detention are all considered as crimes against humanity and war crimes according to international law. Although there are many unanswered questions, the only known truth is that sexual violence against women has been commonly used as a weapon of war, predominantly by the Syrian regime and other groups.

As women from all over the world, we are undertaking the journey of a **"Conscience Convoy for the women"** as a **global call by women for women** to communicate the voices of the women detained and tortured in Syria.

Our aim is:

- To draw attention to the suffering of women who are being tortured, raped, executed, imprisoned and made refugees since the beginning of the war in Syria;
- To urge all parties to respect and uphold obligations under international law and ensure protection for women and girls;
- To make advocacy and initiate diplomatic attempts to release all girl and women prisoners unlawfully held in Syria;
- To invite all humanity to take effective measures to protect women during conflicts and wars.

A convoy of buses with women from various backgrounds and professions will start its journey on the 06.03.2018 at 10.30 a.m. from Istanbul after a press announcement, passing by Izmit, Sakarya, Ankara, Konya and Adana to reach the Syrian border from which together we will make a call to the world in the morning of 08 March 2018; the World Women's Day. As a symbol, we will wear embroidered scarves around our neck throughout the journey. After a press statement in the closest secure area near the borders, we will visit Syrian women in a refugee camp before returning to Istanbul.

We will be pleased to welcome your attendance and support to this international convoy lead by women and for the women, the CONSCIENCE CONVOY.

Our sincere regards,

Att. Gülden Sönmez
On behalf of the Conscience Convoy

Once the preparations were nearly complete, the Convoy of Conscience was announced to the world at a press conference held on March 1, 2018. It achieved a high level of visibility covered in local and international media outlets. The testimonies of Syrian women who participated in the press conference had a particularly significant impact.





**WORLDWIDE WOMEN
START THE JOURNEY OF THE CONSCIENCE CONVOY
TO AWAKE CONSCIENCE**

The ongoing war in Syria started exactly seven years ago. Hundreds of thousands people have been killed during in front of the world's eyes. Over 15,000 children lost their lives, not by normal death but by bombs which shattered their bodies. They have been buried under tons of debris, inhaled chlorine, sarin and other forms of chemical gas until life left slowly and painfully their little bodies. Some were subject to torture methods. An identified number of 13,581 women were subjected to torture, rape and other inhuman treatment in the prisons of the Syrian regime.

Currently, 6,736 women, of whom 417 are young girls are still living under this brutality, waiting for death in these prisons. Unidentified numbers of rape and torture victims have committed suicide. Some of the women who survived this cruelty are amongst us, holding on to life with the hope that accountability will be received for what have been done to them.

According to International law sexual assault against women, torture and unlawful detention are all war crimes and crimes against humanity. The known truth is that the Syrian regime uses rape as a weapon of war in Syria.

Our question is: In which international mechanism, state, civil authority or other responsible mechanisms are these women, who are exposed to this cruelty on the agenda?

We as women hear the painful and desperate screams of our sisters in the Syrian prisons. We have been waiting for seven years. Not a slightest effort was made for them.

Enough!

They are waiting for us while they suffer in these prisons. We want you to hear their voices and see them. We want you to do something for them.

We decided to take action in this matter. We as women from Turkey and from all around the world are taking the path of the **Conscience Convoy** for Syrian women who are unlawfully held and tortured in Syrian prisons to make their voices heard and to demand their release.

Our goal:

- To bring attention to women's growing suffering caused by torture, rape, execution, unlawful imprisonment and exile since the beginning of the Syrian war
- To start an initiative and call for the release of all girls and women prisoners held in Syria due to war
- To invite all humanity to take effective measures to protect women during wars

We will start our journey from Istanbul on Tuesday March 06, 2018 after a press release. We will pass through the cities of Izmit, Sakarya, Ankara and Adana before reaching the Turkish-Syrian border. On March 08 which marks the World Women's Day, we will make a call out to the entire world from the border city of Hatay. As a symbol, we will carry 6,536 pieces of embroidered scarves for every single imprisoned Syrian woman.

We invite everybody to join and support the International Conscience Convoy for the imprisoned Syrian women which will be made only by women.

The 'Conscience Convoy' is the voice of the oppressed women in Syria.

Join us to be part of our voices to break down together the prison walls!

www.vicdankonvoyu.org

vicdankonvoyu@gmail.com

The preparatory stages were finished and participants began to arrive in Istanbul, which was the starting point for the Convoy of Conscience. At 10.30am on March 6, 2018, the Convoy of Conscience left Yenikapı, Istanbul, after a warm send-off from the crowds that had gathered despite a heavy rainfall.





Our Journey Begins

It started with a child writing something. They took him and his friends for interrogation. Mothers cried for help, saying, "they are only children, give my child back to me, please." They didn't, instead they tortured them.

It started with children dying. Then the adults.

Those that did not want the war were powerless to stop it. They were slaughtered, by any means and methodology available. Sometimes executed, sometimes massacred.

We, the people of this generation, have witnessed the killing of children on live television. We have witnessed the period where the most killing of children took place. Nearly a million people were killed, of this, tens of thousands, children.

The lucky few were those who got away.

But we couldn't even find a square metre of space for those who migrated on an earth that is big enough to accommodate us all. Borders were shut. Babies drowned in open water. Over 400 thousand people were kept in detention centres and prisons. They didn't distinguish between women, children, elderly or men. 13,104 people lost their lives in these prisons because of torture. The news talks about 76,000 people of whom there is no news - we don't know what happened to them. Of that 116 are children, 4219 are women.

13,581 women were arrested. 6,736 women are still in these prisons, they are being tortured. The Syrian Regime is using rape as a weapon against women.

These crimes that are defined as war crimes and crimes against humanity were being committed in front of a world audience, international mechanisms and states. The international legal system was unable to prevent such crimes from being committed. One medical officer of the regime, leaked 55,000 pictures of torture, allowing us to finally show the world how thousands human beings were slaughtered, murdered and tortured to death.

Screams were heard through those pictures, moving borders and walls, in deafening sound.

We've heard you, my Syrian sister

We share your pain and we hear you, despite efforts of those who are trying to speaking over you and my dear sister we're coming for you.

No matter what religion, race or ethnicity, women from the four corners of the world are coming together to start a journey to the conscience of humanity. We are setting off on this journey to be the conscience of those who are in Syrian prisons. We are saddened! The more the world falls silent. The more you suffer persecution. We are saddened! Perpetrators of these crimes are emboldened by the silence of the world. We know you are waiting. We can hear you asking, "where is humanity?"

We're here my dear sisters, we have not left you and we're not going to leave you. And we are setting off on this journey to save you. To save you, to save your life, is to save humanity, and spark hope for a better future.

We're here. One world of women.

We are going to make the world hear that you exist.

We will disturb the decision-makers until we free you.

Once you're free, we will struggle together to protect all women.

This Conscience Convoy that's being formed with your voice and our conscience will destroy the walls.

Now is the time, we know.

We are including everyone in our convoy, with all our voices, coming to you.

And we promise you - we will never give you up.

Our first stop was the city of Kocaeli, where we stopped at Kocaeli Intertex Fair and Exhibition Center and were joined by buses carrying women from Kocaeli, Yalova, and the surrounding areas. After a press release and activities, the convoy started its journey to Sakarya. The participants of the convoy gathered at Sakarya's Atatürk Sports Complex and organized an event comprising a number of speeches. Syrian women expressed their gratitude to all international participants. Many participants took to the floor during the event, which was attended solely by women and hold speeches on the protection of women and girls in conflicts.



VICDAN KONVOYU CONSCIENCE CONVOY قافلة الضمير



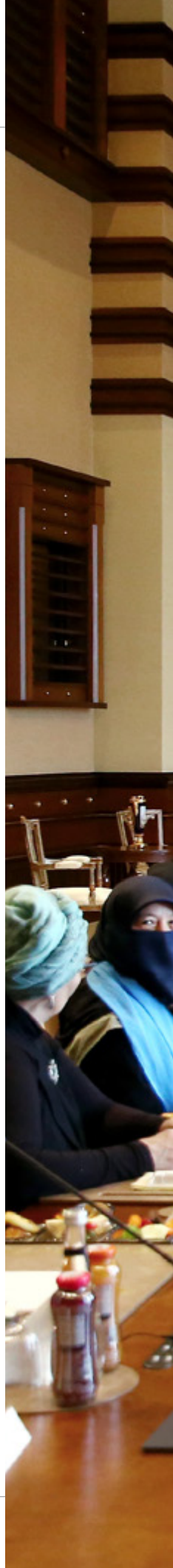
VICDAN KONVOYU
CONSCIENCE CONVOY
قافلة الضمير

On the night of March 6, 2018, the Convoy of Conscience departed from Sakarya for Ankara, where it arrived with the women who had joined along the way. Hosted and supported by the Presidency of Religious Affairs, the women spent the night at Ankara's Ahmet Hamdi Akseki Mosque, and left Ankara on the morning of March 7, 2018 after a press conference was held with all the women who had joined from Ankara and its surroundings.





Seizing the opportunity of a wide international women representation, a delegation of the Conscience Convoy representing all 55 countries, met Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and the Turkish first lady, Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, who generously hosted them. Majd Chourbaji, a former detainee who was tortured in a Syrian prison, recounted her experiences, and other participants expressed both their gratitude to the President of the Republic of Turkey for hosting them and their wish that the suffering of the women imprisoned in Syria would soon come to an end. After President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed his support for the Convoy of Conscience, Mrs. Emine Erdoğan underlined her support and entrusted a scarf to be taken to Syrian women in Hatay province. The meeting then came to an end with the expression of shared wishes for the liberation and protection of Syrian women. The delegation from the Convoy of Conscience also visited the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Ankara and organized a press conference in association with the Assembly's Committee on Human Rights Inquiry, where statements calling for the liberation of Syrian women were made.





The Convoy of Conscience then moved on to Aksaray, where a press conference was organized with the participation of numerous women from Aksaray. It arrived in Adana at 6pm on March 7, 2018, entering the city accompanied by a long convoy of vehicles that had come out to welcome them. A press release was issued at Adana Fair Center, which also provided accommodation for the members that night. After spending the night in sleeping bags, the women woke up early in the morning to make it to the Syrian border. They were joined by other women who had been arriving in Adana all night to join the convoy, thereby increasing the number of participants to about 7,500 women.





Vehicles from Turkey's northern, eastern and southeastern cities moved in smaller convoys towards Hatay. Over 10,000 women arrived at Hatay's central square on March 8, 2018, just in time for International Women's Day, and they called upon the whole world to listen to their demands.

The "Silent Cry" declaration was read at the event, which was covered by numerous national and international media outlets.





Thursday 8th March 2018

Silent Scream

10,000 women from across the world stand here today to voice our support and solidarity with the thousands of women across the border who are being held as hostages, who are being sexually brutalized and tortured just because they are women. The Time is Now.

Hear our voices sisters. We are here with you in body and spirit. Strong women from across the world wearing a bandana that signifies that we are tied to you and we won't let go. The Time is Now.

You will no longer be forgotten. The world will no longer be allowed to be blind to the atrocities being perpetrated against you and your children. The Time is Now.

People are asking us what we want to achieve.

THE TIME IS NOW to Stop using rape as a weapon of war.

THE TIME IS NOW to Stop brutalizing and torturing women.

THE TIME IS NOW to Respect international conventions on human rights and the Geneva Conventions.

THE TIME IS NOW for the Iranian, Russian and Assad regime to Free these innocent women immediately and to let them go home to their families.

To the brave women in the regime's prison:

Women from across the world are sending you a message of love and compassion. We feel your pain and we will be here till you are free. The Time is Now.

Your plight will no longer be defined just by UN reports and figures from human rights organisations. You now have a face through us. The Time is Now.

We will not rest till we get you the justice you deserve. The Time is Now.

Our journey to you over the last few days has tied us together to you and we won't ever let go. The time is now.

Our pledge to you:

We will employ all legal avenues to have you released. We will work hard to have humanitarian organisations get access to you. The Time is Now.

We will go after every war criminal who took advantage of you and not sleep till they are brought to justice. The Time is Now.

We will embark on a world diplomacy drive that will make sure that no government, no palace or person of influence is unaware of what is happening to you. The Time is Now.

Thousands of us here pledge that we will never forget you nor allow the world to forget you. The Time is Now.

Our voices are not low but loud and strong, because YOU are strong. Our will is not weak but strong because YOUR will is strong. We will never give up despite the injustices YOU suffer, because YOU refuse to give up. This is the beginning...THE TIME IS NOW.

Following the reading of the March 8 declaration, a call was made by Atty. Gülden Sönmez, the General Coordinator and spokesperson for the Convoy, for a Silent Cry demonstration. Many Syrian women from Turkish cities bordering Syria and from the refugee camps in these cities participated in the demonstration in Hatay. Among the Syrian women were former detainees who had experienced these prisons.





At Hatay Square, during their Silent Cry demonstration, women who had joined the Convoy of Conscience from Turkey and around the world took the scarves that they had worn around their necks throughout the journey and wrapped them around their wrists. Sitting silently for five minutes on the ground while handcuffed by their scarves, the women each acted as a representation of a Syrian woman held in the regime's prisons, and called, on their behalf, upon all the decision-makers of the world, as well as the conscience of all humanity. They let out a silent cry asking for the liberation of the captive women of Syria







Our Journey Continues...

Hand in hand the Convoy of Conscience travelled decisively with a strong love and compassion for those in urgent need of protection regardless of language, belief or race. Bringing together

thousands of conscientious women to one place, the Convoy of Conscience has achieved its first purpose of drawing world's attention to imprisoned and persecuted women in Syrian prisons and more importantly to the scope and scale of violence and torture these women are continuously subjected to.

Many institutions and organizations around the world have been made aware of this tragedy thanks to the efforts of the Convoy of Conscience. A civil movement has emerged from this event as a result from the network and the bond established during and after the convoy. The civil movement named at The Conscience Movement will take up exactly where the convoy left off and continue its journey by working towards the immediate release of those unlawfully imprisoned women. Following this objective, the movement will start with advocacy campaigning and diplomatic efforts. By forming international delegations consisting solely of women, contacts will be established with influential government leaders, international mechanisms, parliamentarians, religious leaders in order to push the agenda forward and request an active support for the immediate release of all unlawfully imprisoned women in Syria.

The Conscience Convoy Team counts on your continued support and cooperation at this imminent stage.

Messages from the Participants

NOLUSAPHO MANDELA
PERRY, SOUTH AFRICA
(NELSON MANDELA'S
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)



I am here to be a part of the support given to the women held in Syria's prisons. We want them to know that South Africa and the Mandela family are on the side of women who are being tortured in Syria. We know that they are held in prisons, being subjected to torture and rape. I have come here for this very reason from South Africa, from Mandela's home. I stand side by side both with local and international women who are here today to denounce the inhumane war in Syria. We also resorted to the power of media to make our problems known to the world when Mandela was in prison, and this gave us a significant advantage. I believe that the Convoy of Conscience will make a difference. This is enough, this war has to stop. It is inhumane to keep threatening the lives of people in Syria. We can make a difference about what is going on in Syria if we unite together as a joined force.

RAMIZA GURDIĆ
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(MOTHERS OF SREBRENICA
REPRESENTATIVE)



The Convoy of Conscience is of great significance to me. I went through the same in 1995. I lost my husband and two sons due to war. While they could identify the bodies of my husband and one of my sons, they only managed to find the head of the other one. I can tell, based on my personal experience, that the people in Syria are going through the same suffering we went through in Srebrenica. A bullet only kills, but torture is horrible. I think no one can understand these women better than me. They were going to leave me in Srebrenica, but I asked them not to inflict that pain on me even if it meant being shot to death. They found the bodies of my husband and of one of my sons, but they wanted to deliver me only the head of my other son. That was not the way I had given birth to him. On behalf of the mothers and sisters of Srebrenica, I want to tell the women in Syria to stay strong. We have not given up on them. We have been on the road since March 3. We set out on this journey for them. Some others were speaking on our behalf while we were suffering similar pains. God shall help our sisters in Syria as he helped us.

YVONNE RIDLEY
SCOTLAND
(JOURNALIST, ACTIVIST)



I took part in the convoy because The UN & governments both East & West failed to act on the desperate plight of women prisoners trapped in Assad's jails. It took 10,000 like-minded women from 55 nations, led by our Turkish sisters, to give voice to the voiceless. Now that we have shone a light on this dark underbelly of the Assad regime we cannot stop until every woman and child is free. The Conscience Convoy must keep rolling until every woman in the world gets on board and gives the ones in Syrian prisons a voice. They must be heard, their screams no longer ignored.

OLGA BOGOMOLETS
UKRAINE
(MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)



War is a terrible thing. We too have seen war in Ukraine. When I was working as a doctor, 16 boys died in my arms because of war. And I know very well that who cannot protect their own women, cannot protect their own children. In Kiev city center children were killed in front of my eyes. Thousands of women remained widowed in my country, and thousands of children remained without mother and father. Today I am here for the Syrian women who suffer the same pain. We will do whatever it takes to save these women.

MUNAZA HASSAN
PAKISTAN
(MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)



This is the first time so many people have gathered together for such a cause. Anyone who has an influence in this area must take action at once. We have joined the Convoy of Conscience to offer support to our sisters in Syria, and our struggle will continue until they are free. Those who remain silent in the face of such atrocities are just as guilty as the perpetrators. All humans must demand an end to the killing of women and children in Syria. We have suffered enough already. The mothers and children of Syria are suffering terribly. We suffered similar atrocities to those suffered by our Syrian sisters today. Hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians died. The oppressors are the same wherever you go. What is going on in Syria and the stories handed down to us by older generations are the same in terms of the human suffering they cause. The war in Syria must end at once. The ongoing politics are a scourge upon the people. Those who continue to be silent in the face of the atrocities are just as guilty as the perpetrators. I believe the Convoy of Conscience will ensure important progress in terms of getting our Syrian sisters' voices heard around the world and will give rise to very positive results. Anyone who has suffered this kind of pain can feel for Syria. Therefore I believe people will mobilize their conscience.

PROF. DATO' SRI DR. ZALEHA KAMARUDDIN

MALAYSIA
(RECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA)



I am here with my female friends from Malaysia to show my solidarity with these women. We have come to show them that we stand by them and to show the world how strong we stand. We demand freedom for our Syrian sisters. God willing, my hope is that what we do here will make a difference and they will finally be free.

ANN SCHOFIELD

ENGLAND
(POLITICIAN, MEMBER OF NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL)



The Convoy of Conscience is of great significance to us. This convoy organized in the name of helping the oppressed is a meaningful initiative, and we cannot remain silent in the face of oppression. As women from all around the world, we have come together in Turkey for the women who are being subjected to torture in Syrian prisons. Through this initiative, we are trying to give worldwide visibility to the plight of more than 13,000 women held in Syrian prisons. By joining the Convoy of Conscience, we aim to make the world open its eyes to the oppression that has been going on in Syria. The world is ignoring the atrocities experienced there. I believe that the world needs to become aware of the horror people are experiencing in this region.

ASIA WAHEED ALRABAYAH

QATAR (MEMBER OF THE EMIR'S FAMILY)



I have been pioneering in humanitarian work for many years. The reason I have joined the Convoy of Conscience is to support women living under war conditions. I have joined the convoy on behalf of Qatari women, and I think it is time the world listens to this cry. Even if we cannot provide them with accommodation or financial support, we are here to offer our love and support. Women are suffering terribly and are being tortured in this war, and no one is helping them. They are the victims of politics. I want to tell my Syrian sisters that I love them very much. Through them I want to give a voice to all women who are being oppressed and deprived all around the world.

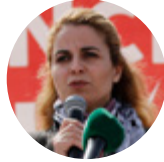
ELİF BALAT

TURKEY (LAWYER)



As female lawyers, we support the Convoy of Conscience for all the women who have been imprisoned and subjected to violence for seven years.

HIND DJABER
FRANCE (JOURNALIST)



I'm a French journalist, Hind Djaber. I joined the Convoy of Conscience because I believe this blessed initiative allowed us to share these wonderful feelings with people from many different countries of the world. We were talking different languages, but this was not a barrier for us, because our goal was much more important. I would like to thank all the organizers and whoever participated in this initiative. It was a very successful organization.

FAUZIA HAMEED
PAKISTAN (MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT)



I have come to Turkey and joined the Convoy of Conscience to show my solidarity with our Syrian sisters. I have come to deliver a message to the whole world about the necessity of bringing an end to these atrocities being committed against women in prisons. All human rights organizations need to mobilize in support of these women who are suffering under the terrible conditions of war. Children are children no matter where they are, women are women no matter where they are.

**MARCIA KARINE
GOMEZ GARCÉZ**
BRAZIL (RESEARCHER, INTERNA-
TIONALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER)



Participating in the convoy is a unique experience especially amidst the time of crisis in the world. It is always the women and the minorities who are the most vulnerable in conflicts. Defending the rights of women who question the system and fight for personal rights and freedoms is part of every woman's life. We need to protect the rights of women and ensure the continuity of social justice and we need more supporting voices. In a globalizing world, we are facing a situation where walls are getting increasingly higher in all areas of our lives. We will not be able to attain freedom and welfare unless there are free women and children.

**SHAKILA KHALID
CHAUDRY**
PAKISTAN (MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)



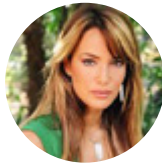
Today, we are seeing a state of war and the unjust treatment of women in many Muslim states. The Syrian case is truly unique. It is their own regime that is causing the suffering. We are here on March 8 to get our voices heard.

**PATRICIA AMINA
IBANÉZ**
CHILE



Numerous conflicts have developed in and around this region. Sisters in humanity from all over the world raise their voices in order to raise awareness for the unacceptable injustice against their sisters from in Syria and other countries. We want to be part of this initiative because we want to create consciousness in ourselves and then spread this message to the people of our country. It seems that war is a reality we cannot avoid, and it is very important that we take care of each other and create consciousness about the consequences of this bitter reality.

GAMZE ÖZÇELİK
TURKEY (ACTRESS)



I support the Convoy of Conscience which has started a journey to be the voice of women who are being held illegally and tortured in Syrian prisons. I extend my love and respect to all my beautiful sisters who are doing everything in their power to be the hope and the voice of the oppressed.

SUHRA SINANOVIĆ
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(PRESIDENT OF PODRINJE-
BRATUNAC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION)



We demand freedom for the thousands of women who are being held as prisoners as demand information on those 419 little girls who are expected to be imprisoned and cannot be reached. They are going through the same pain that we did. Do not have Muslim mothers and Muslim women the right to live?

RAHAF ALFILKAWI
KUWAIT



I believe that this initiative by women from all around the world will have a significant impact. This time everyone will understand how important women are.

HOMAIRA AYUBI
AFGHANISTAN
(MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)



I am excited and happy that I have carried out this great and effective march against the violators of human rights and women's rights, to demonstrate solidarity, to demonstrate the understanding of femininity and womanhood. The ruthless fate of this country in war gives us meaning as belonging to those who are permanently under attack by terrorists, terrorist groups and totalitarian regimes. I participated in the march to put an end to the harassments against the women and to the use of children.

BURCU ÇETİNKAYA
TURKEY
(NATIONAL RALLEY CHAMPION)



This convoy is an important event on an international level. There are women from different origins and religions. All these women have come together for Syria to be the voice of women exposed to torture, rape in Syrian prisons. I feel glad if I can contribute a small share and make their voice heard.

SADJO SANBU
GUINEA



I have joined the convoy to protest against the plight of women in Syria. Every woman in the world should be free. With the help of God and the determination of the people, those women will be saved. Because a woman is a mother and a sister; she is everything. Women should be free. The most important thing in the world are women. I would like to tell those women, "Hold firm, you are going to be saved soon."

NURA MUSTAFIĆ
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(MOTHERS OF SREBRENICA
REPRESENTATIVE)



What the women of Syria are experiencing now reminds me of Srebrenica. The memory of it all came back to me. We lost a lot of people. More than 8,000 of our men died. I lost my husband and children. We set out as soon as we heard about the convoy. It is as if I am back in Srebrenica, as if they are taking away my sons. I hope no one else ever has to go through something like that. We understand their suffering all too well. We are bringing a small bit of Bosnia to Hatay with us. I have a message for them. "You are not alone. We stand by your side. Resist, you will succeed."

DR. AISHA
PAKISTAN
(MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT)



All of us women have come together to unite against oppression. We have raised our voices and no one will be able to stop us. This journey that we have organized for women is to stand up against the oppressors. We say this is enough. War crimes and oppression must come to an end.

SENAN AL-AHMAD-
KUWAIT
(NGO PRESIDENT)



I have come here from Kuwait. I also act as the head of an organization which has been engaged in humanitarian work since its establishment. What really makes the present events unique is in my opinion the fact that children and women are the two groups who are subjected to the greatest amount of suffering. With the exception of Turkey, almost all countries are turning a deaf ear to these horrible cases of torture and rape. Sometimes I try to put myself in their shoes. I think how much I would want someone to come and save me if I were one of these women. Through this convoy, we will be the voice of all those women who are expecting that. We have the obligation to do everything in our power to liberate these women. When we delivered humanitarian aid to one of the camps in Syria, I saw a mother in one of the tents. She was trembling. She could barely stand on her feet. I asked her what the matter was. With a sorrowful face she said, "I left my child in his bed." At first I did not understand what she meant. Later I found out that a shell had hit her house and, while hurrying to lead her children out of the house, she had forgotten to take the youngest from his bed. How can you soothe the pain of a mother who has experienced that? This is now the routine for women in Syria.

ASIYE YILDIZ
TURKEY
(MOTHER OF A 15 JULY MARTYR)



I am the mother of Muharrem Kerem Yıldız, who was killed on the Bosphorus Bridge. I feel stronger now. When all these women are united, there is nothing we cannot achieve. God willing, we will be able to help our fellow Muslim sisters in Syria.

SAJEELA KERSHI
ENGLAND
(COMEDIAN AND WRITER)



Forgotten women, yes, our sisters in prison in Syria have been forgotten exactly like this. I am a comedian, but of course there is nothing I find funny about what happened to our sisters in Syria. Women of the world! We are tigers and we roar. I want all of you to shake your senses. We will roar all together. With our other sisters along the convoy we will hold hands and form a human chain which will reach the border. It's time for the world to hear our roar.

MUNEVVER OZUYGUR
EAST TURKISTAN



We have come together to become the voice of the oppressed women of the world. While we live under similar conditions, we have set out on this journey to help save Syrian women from torture. Because we understand the plight of the oppressed. We are here, my Syrian sisters, and we will never abandon you. God's mercy will be with us as we take these steps together. It is said that the prayers of a guest and an oppressed person never go unanswered. In him we trust.

ENIDA GUJO
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(ASSOCIATION OF SOLIDARITY
BETWEEN BALKAN CULTURES)



In Syria many women are being held captive in prisons. And the world remains silent. On March 8, we will make a united call to provide help to those women being subjected to torture.

FATIMA ABRAHAMS
SOUTH AFRICA



I am 60 years old. I have come all the way from South Africa for our Syrian sisters. Women all around the world deserve conscientious treatment. The biggest supporters of women are their fellow women. Because we are mothers, sisters, wives. People need to understand this. We need to have an impact. God willing, this time the world will hear our voice.

MAHA AL KALLAF
KUWAIT



I came here today for Syrian women. I would like to emphasize that women exist in every aspect of life. I'm proud to be here. I am here to be the voice of all oppressed people in the world, and to be able to hear the screams of women who are subjected to torture and mistreatment in Syria. There is no issue that we women cannot achieve and cannot resolve. I believe this will happen as well.

MUNIRA SUBAŠIĆ
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(MOTHERS OF SREBRENICA
REPRESENTATIVE)



I am old. But I never get tired. We all need to be here. The plight of Syrian women today reminds me of the feelings I felt back in 1995. This is a heavy burden. Besides my husband and two sons, I lost 39 relatives. That feeling is beyond description. This is why I feel confident at saying that we are those who can best understand what the Syrians are going through now. I want them out of this difficult situation so that, despite everything, they can get their lives back. War is very painful. Peace must be established among all Muslims. Such dark times must be confined to the past. As a person who has lost a husband and two sons and 39 more relatives, I understand them all too well. I do not want anyone to experience this pain. I want Syrian women to hear this. You are not alone, the Mothers of Srebrenica and Bosnia-Herzegovina are on your side. This is the 21st century; the UN, USA, and Russia should all feel ashamed of what is going on.

NIHAL OLÇOK
TURKEY
(MOTHER AND WIDOW OF
15 JULY MARTYRS)



I joined the convoy in Istanbul. For three days I have been talking to mothers from Syria. One of them said she had lost three children. I have lost my husband and my son during the coup attempt and had to think of them. I felt embarrassed for my own sorrow. People used to tell me how strong I was. When I talked to Syrian mothers, I have seen pure suffering in their experiences and understood that mine was nothing in comparison. At least I was in my homeland with my own people. I got the help that I needed to get over my grief from people of my own culture. On top of everything they are trying to heal their pains in a foreign land. They are not in their homeland, nor speaking their native language. These three days have taught me a lot. The bus ride, meeting new people at every stop, and the foreign guests who showed unbelievable support. This initiative has been covered in the international media. Despite the little we can do, we wanted at least to take a clear side. I know I cannot do anything on my own, because lately I have been a woman who can barely support herself. But here I have come to believe that, even though I cannot bring back my son, I can work to bring together the mothers and children who are still in this world. The feelings I have here are beyond description. Every time I felt tired, I imagined I was standing in front of the grave of my son and thought how much they must have missed their children as well. Even though I will no longer be able to have Abdullah in my arms, God willing they will be able to do that with their children.

**AISHA F M A
ALQASSAR**
KUWAIT (LAWYER)



I joined this convoy for humanity, crying eyes, suffering bodies. I joined this convoy for my Syrian siblings, who had to endure every difficulty since the beginning of the revolution and who had been suffering from it. I joined the convoy following Resulallah's (s.a.v) saying: "Believers are like the parts of a body, and if one is harmed, others are affected by it." I participated in this convention in order to wake up the law enforcement authorities who have fallen asleep in an international settlement. I call to the Syrian women: We joined this convoy for you and your patience, knowing that even when you were in prison, you were trying to protect yourself and try to overcome the challenges. Even if your power begins to disappear, we will never give up on you, and we will continue to be defenders and follower of the right.

MAISOON SHAHEEN
JAPAN
(ACADEMIC & RESEARCHER)



The invitation to participate in the convoy was a call going beyond transnational and national borders, where the identities are shifted and the human values are promoted. The reason for my involvement in this call was to listen and announce the cries of the oppressed to the whole world like every person carrying a conscience. The goal was to remind conscientious world residents of their conscience and find solutions to these silent cries. This convoy has enabled many women from around the world to become involved in seeking solutions for the problems by contributing simply with their participation I hope this convoy may be a remedy for Syrian women and for those seeking a solution. The whole world should take an example from the Turkish leadership.

HAYA AL SHATTI
KUWAIT



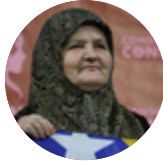
Like all women in the world, I know the tragedies Syrian women are exposed to in Syrian prisons under Syrian detention. I joined this convoy in the hope of adding a voice to their scream. This convoy has given me hope thanks to the presence of former Syrian detainees who are now among us. All women currently held in prison should remain their hope. Gathering women from so many different countries around the same table and for the same cause is enough for us to understand that this convoy can only be a success.

AYŞE AKDENİZ
TURKEY (HOUSEWIFE)



We came together with women from numerous countries. There were Bosnians among us; we got to know each another and shared beautiful experiences. They have also experienced a similar tragedy, and they came to help. All credit to those people who organized this. I feel glad that I have participated in this convoy. I will keep supporting this convoy. It is an honor for me to stand by the side of my sisters. God willing, our efforts will make a difference. May God bless everyone who was involved in this convoy.

RAMIZEN GURDIĆ
(MOTHERS OF SREBRENICA
REPRESENTATIVE)



During the Bosnian War, I also had experiences similar to those of Syrian women. I lost my husband and my child. I know the meaning of pain very well. We will give worldwide visibility to the plight of our sisters.

AYLİN ŞENGÜN TAŞCI
TURKEY (SINGER)



I am Aylin Şengün Taşçı, a singer of classical Turkish music. Even from far away, I'm able to feel the pain caused by the war in Syria for a long time. Even though I am not with them, I can feel their suffering in my heart. It is painful to follow the news of all the rapes and crimes that are taking place in prisons. This is why I support the Convoy of Conscience.

NESLİHAN ŞEKER
TURKEY (DOCTOR)



I'm a doctor. I was invited to join the Convoy of Conscience by my friend who volunteers in the humanitarian field. This is how I became aware of the oppression our Syrian sisters are facing in their country's prisons. In fact, at first I was unwilling to take leave from work because of my patients expecting a delivery, but I realized that our sisters in Syria needed us more and our solidarity would make a difference. I accepted the offer and I am glad I did. Participating in the convoy made me feel like one of the ants that carried drops of water to the fire that was intended to burn Abraham. Rather than doing nothing, I wanted the Syrian women to know that they have sisters who care about them. What I realized during the journey was that the spirit of solidarity can overcome everything. My hope is that we will contribute to the liberation of our sisters and witness the day of their liberation.

RAFIJA HADŽIBULIĆ
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
(MOTHERS OF SREBRENICA
REPRESENTATIVE)



I'm from Bosnia. I lost my husband and three sons. We know what they are going through. We have come all the way here so that there are no more Srebrenicas, so that no one will suffer the pain we suffered. We have started our journey for God, and this is why everything is going so well. I hope the oppressed will be lent the help that they need.

NAZİK SANSAR
TURKEY
(TAXI DRIVER)



I joined the Convoy of Conscience in Istanbul. We started our journey listening to the voice of our conscience. I believe that the silent cries resulting from all the torture in Syrian prisons will have a significance in Turkey and in the world at large. My hope is that all women will be able to live in a world where they can be as free as men, where there is no violence against women.



Convoy of Conscience in Media



BBC Arabic
(Radio Interview)



ABC News
(Interview)



TRT World
(Interview)



AL Jazeera
(Interview)



Deutsche Welle News
(Interview)


Press

NEWS WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Srebrenica mothers protest at Turkey-Syria border

Conscience Convoy wants to raise awareness of the crimes committed against women in Syria's prisons.

19 Mar 2016



Headhubs of women are gathering at Turkey's border with Syria to draw attention to the plight of Syrian women after years of civil war.

Organizers of the protest say more than 6,000 women are currently being held in prisons in Syria and some are being subjected to torture and rape.

Conscience Convoy

Arrived 200 Bosnian women had set off from Sarajevo to Istanbul to join an all-women convoy, to raise awareness about the suffering of women and young girls imprisoned in Syria by the regime forces.

MORE ON SYRIA'S CIVIL WAR

Syria war: Attacks hit Syrian border in Hama province

Deputy chemical attack draws international outrage

Deal reached to surrender last rebel-held town in Eastern Ghouta

Syria chemical attack: Scores killed in Douma, rescuers say

Deal reached to surrender last rebel-held town in Eastern Ghouta

Syria chemical attack: Scores killed in Douma, rescuers say

AL Jazeera

NEWS WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Syrian ex-prisoners recall rape, 417 girls still held

'We should not forget and get them out.'

19 Mar 2016



Women of international Conscience Convoy comprising people from over 50 countries, to their funds to attract notice to Syrian women in prisons, as they gather at a bus area after their arrival in Hatay, Turkey on March 8, 2016. Thousands of Syrian women continue to languish in prisons in rebel-ruled northern-controlled areas of Syria, suffering incommunicable forms, as the world marks International Women's Day. (Photo/Al-Jazeera)

AL Jazeera

Bosnian women set off for all-women convoy in Turkey

200 Bosnian women in Istanbul set off from Istanbul to Turkey to raise awareness for Syrian women imprisoned in regime prisons.

19 Mar 2016



322

Women of international Conscience Convoy comprising people from over 50 countries, to their funds to attract notice to Syrian women in prisons, as they gather at a bus area after their arrival in Hatay, Turkey on March 8, 2016. Thousands of Syrian women continue to languish in prisons in rebel-ruled northern-controlled areas of Syria, suffering incommunicable forms, as the world marks International Women's Day. (Photo/Al-Jazeera)


Middle East Monitor

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA MARCH 6, 2016 1:30 PM GMT+2

Bus convoy of 2,000 women heads to Syria for women's rights

News Monitor

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - An international group of 2,000 women set off from Istanbul on Tuesday for Turkey's border with Syria, part of a "conscience convoy" to raise awareness of the plight of Syrian women after seven years of civil war.



A woman arrives to join part in the international Conscience Convoy which aims to reach Turkish border with the International Women's Day to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian women, in Istanbul, Turkey March 6, 2016. (REUTERS/Alfred Brar)

Reuters

With Assad on the brink, the Conscience Convoy highlights the plight of women in his jails

17

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's daughter is among women in the international Conscience Convoy to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian women in regime prisons, including rape.

Middle East Monitor

'Conscience Convoy' sees 10,000 female activists travel to Syria-Turkey border

19 Mar 2016



Some 100 buses filled with female activists from all over the world made up the international Conscience Convoy, which aimed to raise awareness of the plight of Syrian women after seven years of civil war.

Euronews

The Arab Weekly

'Conscience Convoy' highlights the suffering of Syria's women

Of the 25,204 civilians killed in 2017 during the Syrian conflict, an estimated 1,536 were women and 3,358 children.

March 08, 2016



TUNIS - A convoy of some 2,000 women is expected to complete the 1,200 km journey from Istanbul to Hatay upon Turkey's border with Syria, arriving on March 8, International Women's Day. The convoy is intended to highlight the plight of Syria's women and children after seven years of the country's brutal civil war.

The Arab Weekly

Mandela women vow to continue support for Syrian women

17


Three family members of South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela have vowed to help their cause for Syrian women imprisoned by the Bashar al-Assad regime.

Thousands of Syrian women continue to languish in regime-controlled areas, suffering torture, including rape.

Middle East Monitor

WTX NEWS

Conscience Convoy - Powered by Women from 55 countries



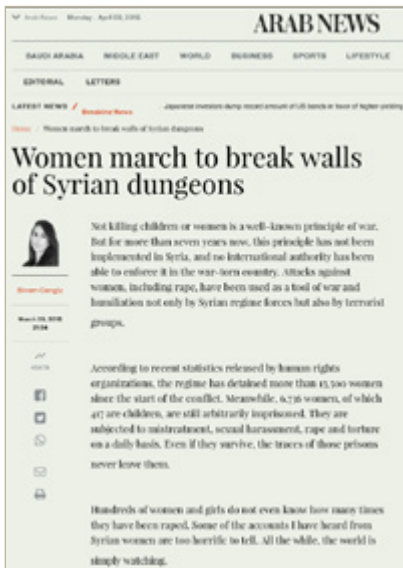
WTX News



Japan Times



WTX News



Arab News



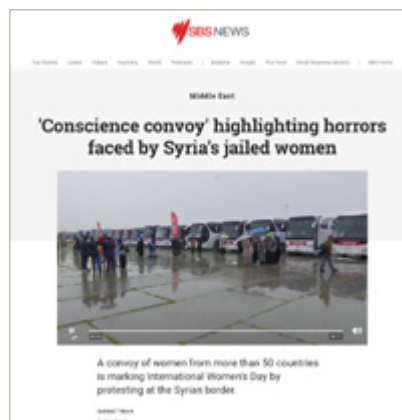
The Medialine



The New Arab



Anadolu Agency



SBS News



IOL South Africa

Social Media

Borzou Daragahi @Borzou

"They were bringing young people to the cells every day. They were torturing them with both electric shocks and pressurized water. They were screaming in pain. Our mental health collapsed from hearing those sounds. We were praying for the voices to stop."



A survivor from Assad's dark prisons tells it all
Since the start of the Syrian civil war, thousands of people have been thrown into prisons by the Bashar Assad regime and one woman who managed to get out talk...
dailynews.com

23:17 · 4 Nov 2018

124 Retweet · 89 Reply

Conscience Convoy @ConscienceConvoy

Listen to these brave women as they share why they will be joining the #ConscienceConvoy on #InternationalWomensDay to demand the release of thousands of women who are detained and persecuted in #SyriaIn prisons. This is just the beginning and the #TimesNow



15:2 @ gjvrdwvnm

17:24 · 5 Mar 2018

271 Retweet · 239 Reply

BBC Radio London @BBCRadioLondon

@SajeelaKershi tells @SunnyandShay about #conscienceconvoy for #IWD2018 with @ForgottenWomen_ they met with Syrian refugees and share the compelling stories from tortured women in Syrian conflict. LISTEN BBC.co.uk/sunnyandshay



BBC RADIO LONDON
94.9 FM | Digital | bbc.co.uk/radiolondon

10:21 · 25 Mar 2018

Charlie Faulkner @Charlie_Faulk

Last week I joined a convoy of thousands of women from Istanbul to the Syrian border. The convoy was calling for an end to the torture and killing of thousands of innocent women held in Syrian prisons. Read my story here: alaraby.co.uk/english/indept ... #TheTimesNow #ConscienceConvoy



Women's 'Conscience Convoy' masses on Syria border
Thousands of women from around the globe have gathered on the Turkish...
alaraby.co.uk

23:38 · 13 Mar 2018

18 Retweet · 7 Reply

Kenneth Roth @kenroth

Don't forget the Syrian women in Assad's prisons, where torture and rape are pervasive.



Syrian ex-prisoners recall rape, 417 girls still held
"We should not forget and get them out."
aljazeera.com

01:12 · 12 Mar 2018

378 Retweet · 346 Reply

yvonne ridley @yvonnemidley

For the sake of all the women in #Syrian prisons - please read:



Assad's rape victims break their silence
The torture victim stood in front of her tormentor wondering what treatment would be meted out this time in the notorious Branch 215, also known as Red Brigade run...
middleeastmonitor.com

03:44 · 12 Mar 2018 Jedburgh, Scotland konumundan

70 Retweet · 51 Reply

Carol Anne Grayson @Quickerkate

Follow @Conscience_Conv doing a great job highlighting sexual abuse against women #Syria #TimesNow



Conscience Convoy @Conscience_Conv
human rights lawyer @Dumursara on @Assadnews from the #ConscienceConvoy
If we can stop the sexual violence here, we can stop it everywhere else.

02:25 · 11 Mar 2018

15 Retweet · 10 Reply

Middle East Monitor @middleeastmon

Mandela women vow to continue support for Syrian women - will support @Conscience_Conv



Mandela women vow to continue support for Syrian women
Nelson Mandela's daughter-in-law and granddaughter-in-law speak exclusively to Anadolu Agency...
middleeastmonitor.com

17:40 · 11 Mar 2018

21 Retweet · 13 Reply

Şura Dumursay @Dumursara

Nour is one of the brave women that inspired us to start this epic journey. She was released after 1 month imprisonment. Please don't forget other thousands of women who are still in prison suffering torture. #ConscienceConvoy #InternationalWomensDay



Conscience Convoy @Conscience_Conv
Nour Mijael, a spokeswoman for the #ConscienceConvoy and former victim of imprisonment and abuse in #SyriaIn prisons was live on @AlArabic speaking about this initiative on the #InternationalWomensDay #TimesNow

02:05 · 9 Mar 2018

16 Retweet · 11 Reply

#ConscienceConvoy

Al Jazeera English @AJEnglish

"They raped teenage girls without showing mercy."

Syrian women once held in government-controlled prisons speak out on rape and torture aje.io/hq8pq

08:15 - 10 Mar 2018

343 Retweet 278 Beğeni

Dina Houssein @Dinahoussein · 8 Mar

A young lady who is willing to show solidarity to the women in Syria, she came all the way from South Africa for support since the time is now and there is no other time.

#TimesNow
#ConscienceConvoy
#IWD2018
@ConscienceConvoy

2:287 görüşmeler

0:06 / 0:26

Joanna Wren @1982wren

Thank You to the Royal House of Mandela, for standing with our #Syrian sisters #TimesNow to free #Detainees

05:53 - 9 Mar 2018

3 Retweet 10 Beğeni

yvonne ridley @yvinneridley

The testimony given by this #Syrian woman from #Homs who suffered so much in #Assad's prisons will haunt Ann Schofield & I for the rest of our lives. I don't know how to even begin telling her story. But I do know Assad can never be part of the solution. Never. #ConscienceConvoy

21:49 - 9 Mar 2018

42 Retweet 49 Beğeni

Conscience Convoy @ConscienceConvoy

Nour Hijazi, a spokeswoman for the #ConscienceConvoy and former victim of imprisonment and abuse in #Syria's prisons. She was live on @AJArabic speaking about this initiative on the #InternationalWomensDay #TimesNow

12:12 - 9 Mar 2018

29 Retweet 35 Beğeni

Conscience Convoy @ConscienceConvoy

Our spokeswoman, human rights lawyer Şura Durmuş @DurmusSura's interview on @dwnews speaking about the #ConscienceConvoy and the plight of thousands of women detained in #Syria's prisons. #IWD2018 #TimesNow

09:23 - 9 Mar 2018

23 Retweet 26 Beğeni

IRI World @IriWorld

"Let Assad hear our roar! Free our sisters NOW" Scottish activist @yvinneridley urged the international community of #TimesNow to raise their voice for the Syrian women held in regime prisons

Women convoy to support Syria's female prisoners
The Conscience Convoy, along with thousands of women from over 50 different countries and different backgrounds gathered in Turkey to raise awareness for Syrian women held in regime prisons.

08:18 - 8 Mar 2018

118 Retweet 118 Beğeni

Rameez @rameez109

RT MunazaHassan: Conclusion of journey. At Syria-Turkey border reminding family of nations with representatives from #ConscienceConvoy on this #InternationalWomensDay that Syrian Women & Children must be protected against the scourge of war & conflict. P...

07:54 - 8 Mar 2018

3 Retweet 9 Beğeni

Sinem Cengiz @SinemCngz

Today, thousands of women, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity, from 55 countries came together in #Turkey in solidarity with imprisoned #Syrian women. @yvinneridley was one of them. It was great to see you!

#InternationalWomensDay #IWD2018

06:15 - 8 Mar 2018 [Retweet](#) [Konuşun](#)

7 Retweet 12 Beğeni

1 [Video Konuştu](#) ve [Conscience Convoy](#)

Carol Anne Grayson @Quickerkats

Am supporting the #ConscienceConvoy practical action for women in #Syria

#TimesNow

yvonne ridley @yvinneridley
I'm on a convoy - the #ConscienceConvoy with Dina Houssein from South Africa heading for #Syrian Border on #InternationalWomensDay 2018 #TimesNow @ConscienceConvoy

04:27 - 8 Mar 2018

5 Retweet 7 Beğeni

Social Media

Mete Sohtaoglu @mesohtaglu

Women from 55 different countries joined [#ConscienceConvoy](#) on [#InternationalWomensDay](#) near [#Turkey](#) - [#Syria](#) border to demand the release of thousands of women who are detained and persecuted in [#Syria](#) prisons.



01:49 - 8 Mar 2018

31 Retweet 25 Beğeni

Asomil Jay @asomiljay

Day 3 of [@Conscience_Conv](#) we arrive to Hatay Square for [#InternationalWomensDay](#) to raise our voice for our Syrian sisters. The time is now, to stop this genocide. The time is now, for leaders to unite and put an end to this. The time is now, for our Syrian sisters to be free.



01:10 - 8 Mar 2018

32 Retweet 31 Beğeni

Muhammad Faysal @_Faisal

My university rector still doing cool things, she's part of the [#ConscienceConvoy](#) for the Syrian women, detained by the Assad regime. [#IWD2018](#)



Sara Dumay @CunucSara
A rector from #Malaysia, a lawyer from #Turkey, we are thousands of women to be the voice of #Syrian women who are detained unlawfully in regime prisons. #TimelsNow for the #ConscienceConvoy #IWD2018 #InternationalWomensDay ...
By Tweet about givler

22:54 - 7 Mar 2018

9 Retweet 27 Beğeni

Leila Al-Shami @leilashami

"We head for the border tomorrow. We will rage against the Assad regime and demand the prisons are emptied. We will roar for justice on behalf of the Syrian women." via [@Conscience_Conv](#)



"Conscience convoy" highlighting horrors faced by Syria's jailed women
A convoy of women from more than 20 countries is marking International Women's Day by protesting at the Syrian border.
via.com.au

06:59 - 7 Mar 2018

49 Retweet 38 Beğeni

Conscience Convoy @Conscience_Conv

On [#InternationalWomensDay](#), join us on the [#ConscienceConvoy](#) along with thousands of others to give voice to the women facing daily torture and persecution in [#Syria](#) prisons! [#TimelsNow](#)



09:51 - 6 Mar 2018

89 Retweet 125 Beğeni

Conscience Convoy @Conscience_Conv

Noch 1 Tag bis zum [#IWD2018](#): Tausende [#Frauen](#) werden Opfer von systematischer Folter und Vergewaltigung in Syriens Gefängnissen. Der Frauenkonvoi [#ConscienceConvoy](#) fordert am [#Weltfrauentag](#) die Freilassung dieser Frauen und dessen Kindern. Folgen Sie uns! [#TimelsNow](#)



05:53 - 7 Mar 2018

9 Retweet 11 Beğeni

Lauren Booth @LaurenBoothUK

Great work by all the sisters from across the globe on the [#ConscienceConvoy](#) the message is clear Free our sisters now! [#Assad](#)



yvonne ridley @yvonnerydley
My message on the all-women's #ConscienceConvoy to #Syria's #Assad: Free our sisters now! #TimelsNow #IWD18 @Conscience_Conv

23:10 - 8 Mar 2018

32 Retweet 18 Beğeni

Middle East Monitor @MiddleEastMon

Bosnian women set off for all-women convoy in Turkey for Syria



Bosnian women set off for all-women convoy in Turkey
200 Bosnian women to join International Conscience Convoy to raise awareness for Syrian women tortured in regime prisons ...
middleeastmonitor.com

18:42 - 4 Mar 2018

29 Retweet 31 Beğeni

#ConscienceConvoy

Javier Basuiz @javierbasuiz

#8MarzoHuelgaFeminista

+3.000 **#MujeresPorSiria** de 55 países se dirigen a la frontera **#Siria** para protestar por **#mujeres** encarceladas, torturadas y violadas en prisiones de **#Assad**

200 mujeres **#Bosnia** incluidas víctimas matanza de **#Srebrenica** viajan en **#ConscienceConvoy**

#8Marzo

04:27 - 6 Mar 2018

196 Retweet 158 Me gusta

Pilar Cebrían @PilarCebrían

En España las mujeres el 8 de marzo protestaremos por la igualdad salarial y contra el acoso laboral. En Turquía, un convoy de mujeres se desplazará a la frontera de Siria para condenar la encarcelación y la tortura de las mujeres en las prisiones de al Asad => **#ConscienceConvoy**

03:14 - 6 Mar 2018

35 Retweet 29 Me gusta

Dina Mousa @dina73

On my bus women from Thailand, Ghana, South Africa, Yemen, Sudan, Bosnia, and me from **#Syria**. Feeling overwhelmingly empowered to scream to the world about women detained in **#Assad** prisons in **#Syria**. **#ConscienceConvoy**

00:42 - 6 Mar 2018

14 Retweet 13 Me gusta

NowThis @nowthisnews

'My dear sisters, we are coming to get you.' — 2,000 activists are fighting to get Syrian women out of prison

2,000 Activists Gather For Syrian Women
My dear sisters, we are coming to get you. — 2,000 activists are fighting to get Syrian women out of prison.

19:33 - 7 Mar 2018

213 Retweet 419 Me gusta

Remember Srebrenica @SrebrenicaUK

"Srebrenica's mothers are well aware of what pain means, now Syrian women are experiencing the same pain we went through". 200 Bosnian women are travelling to Istanbul on the **#ConscienceConvoy** to highlight the suffering of women in Syria. **#ActsOfCourage** buff.ly/2Fhtfba

05:00 - 6 Mar 2018

109 Retweet 154 Me gusta

*Our struggle will continue until all Syrian women and
girls held in Syrian prisons are released.
We will never give up on them.*



CONSCIENCE CONVOY



TR: vicdankonvoyu.org
EN: conscienceconvoy.org
AR: conscienceconvoy.org/ar
RU: conscienceconvoy.org/ru/

Email: vicdankonvoyu@gmail.com



[/vicdankonvoyu](#)
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