



Rethink Rebuild Society

A voice of the British Syrian Community

Press Release

14/08/2017

Rethink Rebuild Society and Amnesty International to co-host exhibition 'Silenced Voices: Syrian Women in Assad's Prisons'

On the 8th September 2017, from 3pm-8pm, Cross Street Church will play host to Rethink Rebuild Society and Amnesty International's exhibition, "Silenced voices: Syrian women in Assad's prisons". The daily horrors that women face in Assad's prisons are unimaginable, with everyday becoming a battle to survive. The women featured in the exhibition have been victim to the endless cycle of emotional and physical torment. Both previous and current detainees are now ready to share their stories.

****The relentless torture in Assad regime prisons has resulted in the deaths of 17,723 civilians between 2011 and December 2015.¹**



Following the success of similar exhibitions staged in Turkey and Jordan, Syrian women in the Manchester community have come together, under the umbrella of Rethink Rebuild Society and Amnesty International, to create an exhibition that will showcase the stories of the women detained in Syria by combining powerful imagery with biographical accounts of what these women have experienced. It will be timely, poignant, and evocative, aiming to educate the public on some of the hidden struggles facing Syrian women in Assad's prisons. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in campaign actions - such as writing letters

to their MPs - to play a part in addressing this issue.

In the run up to, and during, the event we will be embarking on a Twitter campaign using the hashtag #SaveMeInSyria to raise awareness about the issue across social media. Additionally, the exhibition will feature pieces of jewellery made by former detainees which will be sold to contribute to a support fund for families of those affected.

Asma Alsaqqa from Daraya is one of the volunteer organisers of the exhibition. She has been a refugee in the UK since 2012, but her father remains in prison. Asma stated, "My father has been a prisoner since the beginning of the Syrian revolution. To this day I have not heard anything from him. No confirmation that he is alive or dead. No information about where he is. I hope that by coming to this exhibition people will be able to learn about the lost voices of Syrian civilians".

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For further information and press enquiries, please contact 07769704656, or email: yasmine@rrsoc.org

Rethink Rebuild Society has established itself as a non-profit organisation that acts as an umbrella for the British Syrian community, and endeavours to clarify the Syrian cause to its audience in the UK and the wider public.

¹ Amnesty International, 'Human slaughterhouse: Mass Hangings and Extermination at Saydnaya Prison, Syria', (2017), p5.

