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Kingdom of Jordan

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**Introduction:**

Some may say that our position on the Syrian conflict is unclear, but we have tried to distance ourselves from all of the fighting since it began in 2011. We have decided to give limited advice to Syria in fear of our own country's safety on the northern border. The reason for this is that we want to maintain the balance of our country. At the beginning we were hesitant but we did accept refugees but now we have decided to shut down our borders for now until the circumstances change. We would like for the turmoil to calm down before we make any serious decisions which means we make decisions based on the realities of the Syrian situation.

We want to end the chaos, but we want to do it in ways where it does not feed into the chaos. We do this by showing direct support for all the Arab League’s resolutions against the massacres in Syria and supports giving the Syrian opposition a seat in the Arab League. We want to maintain a position of understanding with Damascus and avoid extreme measures such as expelling the Syrian ambassador from Jordan, thus allowing our country to rally in protests both in support of the Syrian regime and those in favour of the opposition. We are trying to maintain a balanced relationship with international and regional parties in an effort to find a political solution that would bring an end to the Syrian crisis.

**Background of Jordan:**

We have been an independent kingdom since 1946. We are among the most politically liberal countries of the Arab World, and have expressed a commitment to maintaining peace and stability. We have always been the peaceful country that takes in refugees from the very beginning, hosting 628,427 registered Syrian refugees. Unfortunately, our location in the world keeps us in the middle of all of the middle eastern crises. In 1957, after a failed coup, British troops finally left our land. In 1967, Israel took control of Jerusalem and it caused a large amount of refugees to swarm into our territory because our location on the West bank was convenient during the Six Day war.

We have been in and out of economic depression and it is important for us to focus on ourselves these days. In 1994, we signed a peace treaty with Israel in order to end a 46 year state war. In the near past, we have tried to create peace in this area of the world because we are not a violent country. In 2002, we worked with Israel again to retrieve clean drinking water from the Red Sea. We have always been working towards the betterment of our Kingdom to do what is best for our country.

 A large part of our history comes from a war that started in September 1970, also known as the “Black September”. This civil war was fought between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, and the Jordanian Armed Forces, under the leadership of King Hussein. This civil war determined if Jordan would be ruled by the PLO or the Hashemite monarchy. This vital part of history affects our position on Syria because Syria had taken part in the war. On September 18, two days after Hussein declared war, a small Syrian armored force invaded northern Jordan. Two days later, it was joined by two armored brigades, and increasing the size of a division. In response, Jordan confronts the Syrians with the 40th armored brigade, and managed to halt their advance.

With the help of Israel, reconnaissance flights by the Israel Air Force above the Syrian force caused fears in Damascus that Syria would be defeated in another war, forcing Syria to take troops out of northern Jordan. Although this involvement, remains a subject for historical debate, it is a part of our history as we begin to think of our role in the Syrian conflict.

 Over the years, we have began to do a number of reforms to better our country. On November 2002, the “Jordan First” was introduced to promote the concept of a modern democratic state. It is a plan of action to consolidate the spirit of belonging among citizens, all acting as equals in building Jordan. It aims to spread a culture of respect and tolerance by strengthening the concepts of parliamentary democracy, rule of law, public freedom, accountability, transparency, justice and equal rights. During that same year, the National Centre For Human Rights was also created to practice solution-driven humanitarian activities related to human rights. The National Agenda was also launched on February 2005, where it was a master plan for social, political, and economic transformation towards a more sustainable economic growth.

 Our values have always been present over the years, which is to be a country for those in need of help and a place for growth for citizens. For example, during the September 11 attacks in 2001 against the United States, we were able to respond quickly to American requests for assistance. Our Kingdom acted proactively by ratifying counterterrorism legislation and strengthening our security.

For decades, Jordanians have welcomes people escaping wars on its borders - Palestinians, Iraqis, and now Syrians make up nearly 20% of the population. We as the Kingdom of Jordan are now occupying up to 600,000 refugees within our borders, this accounts for ten percent of our population, and eighty percent of the refugees live in either urban or rural host communities, and not in camps. Although our Kingdom has decided to accept these refugees, it is placing a toll within our economy, infrastructure, and many state facilities, especially the education system. The Needs Assessment Review (NAR) of the impact of the Syrian Crisis on Jordan has come up with three interrelated manners explaining our Kingdom’s struggles.

1. There is an increased pressure on public financing, which worsened the trade deficit and caused us to lose key economic sectors.
2. There struggles and vulnerabilities of our poor have increased.
3. There is a deterioration of access to quality services ever since the entering of the refugees.

 The Syrian Crisis has caused our GDP to decrease by two percent in 2013, which reduced growth to 3% - 3.5%. This can possibly discourage our economic growth in the future, and the overall growth of our nation in the years to come. The north of our Kingdom is mostly affected due to the fact that the majority of the refugees reside their. These refugees have caused schools to become overcrowded; 41% of our public schools are crowded, and approximately 80 schools had to work double shifts to accommodate for the amount of students within the schools. The refugees have also caused the public healthcare system to become overwhelmed with having to support everyone.

The Syrian Crisis has deeply affected our Kingdom, causing us to decline and possibly lose our stability. We do not wish to be further involved in the conflict as it is taking a toll on us, but we do wish to have some type of influence on Syria as they move on in the future. We hope they use our government and standards as an example of what steps they should take in order to accomplish stability and peace within their country.

**Key Points**

* We are worried that involvement with Syria could cause ISIS to attack us as well. This is part of the reason we have decided to stay out of the conflict. We need to address how to drive ISIS out of Syria.
* The current political current that we seek is to avoid an Islamist takeover in Syria should Al-Assad resign and also prevent the possibility that Syria will be split into a variety of extreme sectarian groups.
* Is Syria’s social and economic reconstruction actually realistic after what has happened these past years? It is hard for us to look on the bright side and see a future for Syria.
* There must be a solution as to what to do with Assad in terms of his presidency and how he is affecting the country.
* We fear that our northern border with Syria, extending until the Iraqi city of Anbar, will turn into political turmoil between Salafist groups and al-Qaeda.
* We strongly believe that the survival of the Syrian regime is better than the possibility of Islamist groups gaining control of Damascus.

**Committee on Governance:**

The Syrian Government was ruled by Alawites for the past forty six years, despite representing only 12% of the population and Sunni-Muslims representing 74%, this shows the root of the conflict. The fundamental issue of religion was never resolved, leading to the downfall of Syria. Survival was the key issue. With Syria’s economy during this time, an estimated between 2 and 3 million of Syria’s 10 million rural inhabitants were in “extreme poverty”. Syria’s government had set itself up for catastrophe, unable to meet their citizen’s needs by limiting their freedom, leading it towards a dictatorship. The different actors within the conflict play a major role in the future of Syria, one where it can lead to terrorism and disaster. For the future of Syria, we must all work together in ending the corruption and conflict by driving out ISIS, who is trying to take control of the land, and reforming the system where the population would be represented.

There is no doubt that the Syrian government was run like a dictatorship, rather than a democracy before the conflict. Over the years, Assad tightened the restrictions on free speech and isolated the economy, making it very clear that democratic rule was in his plan. Following the lead of his father, President Bashar Al-Assad saw protesters as subversives, and responded violently to this peaceful protest, showing citizens to not question his authority. This shows importance of reforming the government system, one where it meets the people’s needs.

The main actors within Syria during this conflict are the rebels, refugees, ISIS, and President Al-Assad. The rebels are trying to regain their rights and fight for their land, while the government is attacking any rebel who questions the government. On the other hand, ISIS is trying to steal this land and use it as their own. This conflict adds to the dangers of citizens, causing them to flee. It is critical, that we target getting ISIS out of Syria as they have caused major deaths and destruction in hopes of claiming Syria as theirs, and causing problems within our country as well. In the summer of 2016, the Islamic State killed “seven border guards at a border post and attacking a Jordanian-backed anti-Islamic State force in Syrian territory” as well as “four policemen killed during a shootout with IS militants in Karak” on December 18th, 2016. This puts us in an difficult position, where ISIS militants may be disguised as refugees. With being so close to the Syrian border, we face a moderate risk of attack. Effective border control and a coalition with the United States have drastically reduced the risk of terrorists crossing the Jordanian border, as we have prevented the Islamic State from building up. As we provide more information to the US, this shows the important coalition that we have established to protect refugees. We still need to take extreme measures in order to defend our country and our values.

We believe that coming out of the conflict Syria will need a new Constitution, one where the majority of the population is represented, and citizens are protected. We advise President Bashar Al-Assad to resign, but we also want a peaceful transfer of power in Syria without adding on to the chaos. We want to develop policies based on the political realities of the situation, thus we support the political will of the Syrian people. Third parties are vital to ending the conflict - to have countries allied together to end ISIS and resetting the government in Syria. The Syrian government had made a mistake of not helping the citizens in times of need, but we must prevent that from happening in the future when establishing the role of the government. As of now, Syria is vulnerable to attacks made by the different parties. My country will do everything that they can to protect the borders from terrorist groups, and to get them out of Syria. With the help of other countries, it will be more efficient and more lives will be saved in the process. ISIS is our enemy, and we must save the citizens.

**Committee on Strategic Security-**

Jordan will want a stable a secure border, we would like to help the refugees but the danger of ISIS is always around so we have to be more careful. “As the Islamic State loses territory in Iraq and Syria, it has attempted diversionary attacks against Jordan but future attacks are likely to fail in achieving meaningful gains.” we see that ISIS will use whatever means necessary to gain land and enter through our ways. So the refugee intake could be an easy way for them to enter. Our country is not that strong so an influx of IS members could ruin our country. We see that IS even takes further measures to trying to enter our country such as by shooting “Jordanian border guards shot dead twelve suspected smugglers who had been trying to cross over into Jordan from Syria; the Jordanian military claimed that it faces this situation quite frequently, though never on a scale of that particular magnitude.” we see this as a direct and constant threat that must be addressed before we can safely allow refugees to come into our country for safety purposes. Our kingdom remains vulnerable from attacks by the people who have been in the syrian civil war and our security must come first before we can give out help. We have already seen a “rise in weapons smuggling from Syria since the outbreak of the Syrian conflict.” Just to show that we are not concerned on nothing, these acts of increase of violence is already taking place.

A complete shutdown on the refugees coming into our kingdom until we can level the field and see who our opponents are and if we can help the refugees without costing us our security and safety.

We would want to nearly double the amount of our troops on the border to maximize the size and strength of our kingdom of Jordan. If we allow our borders to be weak ISIS could easily get through and take land which is one of their main goals as of right now; because Iraq is fighting back and taking land back. We also want to increase the size of our military and weapons on the border to do this we must first

* Ask the US for money to fight against any ISIS groups trying to gain land.
* Enlist more people into our armies
* Have a tighter and more firm stance on our border lines
* Also a safety barrier where outsiders can come between the border before they become targets against the country.

**Committee on Local Security**

In local security terms, we as citizens of Jordan fear taking in Syrian refugees. We do believe refugees, in general should have a home away from warfare. The fear arises from Isis, and other terrorist groups. We are afraid of potentially letting in an individual/individuals who are not in the best interest of our security. We believe as a nation we will fight back against any threat, that fights against us. We do not let members of Isis anywhere near our nation. We completely feel our condolences with the refugees that are involved in drugs, violence, and sex trafficking. As a nation we strive to practice equality, and human rights. Syria is the holder of many weapons, also Syria’s government has fallen apart resulting in militias not only affecting Syrian civilians, but the whole world.

We want Syrian militias to not be so crazy, we in fact want the militia’s to break apart, and go away. We want Syria to not be under so much conflict, and warfare. Perhaps peace is our reasonable solution, but it’s highly unlikely. We in fact want Syria to be able to govern themselves without so much chaos. With ideas to accomplish this goal, we first must make sure their security is fully present. We must assist in Syria having great border control, and government, so that the people are able to prosper, and the nation has the potential to grow. Our proposal for Syria would be refugee camps that we would create in Syria. In these efforts we would politely ask the U.S, and Russia to assist us on protecting these camps. We will not allow camps in Jordan, but we will allow them in Syria, where we will create a safe environment far away from the war. These camps will be guarded so the refugees will have the opportunity to be able to live a normal, and happy life.

We plan to fight against all terrorist, or enemy troops. We don’t plan to stand idly by during any type of attack on our land or people. We as a nation refuse not to grow, and we refuse to accept Syrian civilians to be tortured, or killed. We will do anything in our power to assist, as long as we are not putting any of our citizens in harm's way. Syria must unite locally, the “Regime” and the “rebels” must unite together in order to use their power against Isis. Our plan to create a peaceful alliance with all the Syrian citizens, in order to actually move the battle over against Isis. Syrian’s have weapons, power, those must be used against the enemy. We must implement the ideology that Syria is not their own worst enemy, Syria must unite as a people.

The final thing to note is the brutality that must come to an end by the Syrian Regime. The Syrian Regime is using “chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and systematic torture” on it’s own people. The regime can’t torture it’s own people, and expect further advance Syria as a nation. The security must be amped up in order to keep the government, and the people at a clear alliance.

**Committee on Social Reconstruction**

 It is clear that the social problem in Syria is not only one of the biggest topic in Syria, but it is also one of the biggest topics in world news. The current social status in Syria is not pleasant at all. Thousands of people have died on various occasions in various locations. The bombing in Aleppo is one of the most infamous attacks on Syrian soil that killed almost 100 people, including children. These, among other things, have caused hundreds of people to leave Syria and become refugees. This is a huge problem that has affected other countries surrounding Syria and even countries across the ocean.

 To understand the social reconstruction of Syria we date back to the beginning of 1970, when Hafez al-Assad became President representing the Alawites minority. The Alawis consider themselves as the “chosen people”, but they are regarded by Orthodox muslims as heretics. For Hafez al-Assad, he embraced his identity as a way to overcome his “origins in a minority community”. The Muslim Brotherhood was furious at this because previous constitutions had stated that a Muslim should hold the presidency. Once riots broke out in Hama, Hafez al-Assad sent an army to ambush the attacks making it clear on his philosophy - “help the Syrian people to live better provided only that they not challenge his rule”. His son, current President Bashar al-Assad follows this philosophy as well, making sure that no one rules above him, taking extreme measures to restrict rights imposed on citizens.

We want Syria to mirror us and change for the better. We believe that having a country where people are alike for the most part, allows there to be less differences when it comes to ideology. We have a mostly muslim population and it allows us to be one cohesive unit. Our society comes together as a whole when needed and we believe that this would greatly benefit Syria. Anything is better than what the Syrian people are going through right now. We believe that it would benefit Syria if there were more freedom of everything: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, etc. This would help prevent another civil war because the people will have their natural born rights which will allow the citizens to make change when they believe it is needed.

There will need to be some type of compromise put in place that allows the government and the people to feel as though they are being heard. Not everything can be done but it should be known that the government is listening to the people because the people know what is good for them better than anyone else. Before any of this even happens, putting the pieces back together literally will be the hardest thing to do. For instance, Aleppo is in shambles and the trauma that the Syrian people have suffered though will never be forgotten. Homes have been destroyed and people have died. This will be hard to move on from and it will probably take a very long time for people to function again like they way they did before.

**Committee on Economic Reconstruction**

 A lot has been happening in Syria recently and not only does what's happening affect that country, if typically affects the rest of the world as well. A chain reaction is begun and it can create a lot of change for everyone. My committee focuses on the economy of Syria before and after the war. We analyze the effects of certain things on certain people and places. The conflict in Syria has affected the countries around it and also countries oceans away.The Kingdom of Jordan has decided not to get too involved in the Syrian Civil war for many reasons.

Based on a number of reasons, Jordan is trying to distance itself from Syria because we can not afford to get involved. We have not given much advice to Syria and we are currently refusing to acknowledge the refugees that enter through out northern border. Although this is an ongoing battle that has affect all of the countries around Syria, the Kingdom of Jordan is indecisive on what to do to assist, or not to assist, the country of Syria. Our position as a country is based off of what our friend, the United States, does in the Syrian conflict.

Because of all the turmoil in Syria, it is important to recognize the economic state of Syria before the civil war began considering that we are the Committee of Economic Reconstruction. It is easy to see that the economy was diverse and that there was a large variety of imports and exports. Syria was beginning reforms, the stock market was just again reopening, and free trade deal with Turkey was recently struck. Although there was economic growth in money, that does not hide the fact that poverty and unemployment were on the rise as well. The regime's refusal to change their views has made the economy frail and since then, their industries have been weakened. Today, the oil industry has been taken over by ISIS and because of this, exports have lost about 80% of their real value. This is very bad for Syria because although they were not a huge oil country to begin with, oil did previously accounted for 50% of exports which has caused the government to lose about 30% of revenue.

Besides exports, there are various other aspects of life that have been affected by this war. It has caused the syrian government to reduce the Syrian Central Bank reserve to half of the value it was at the start of the war in 2011. The conflict has affected work, which was already decreasing at the start of the unrest. There was 35% unemployment at the start which has since been on the rise every day. The 5 year drought definitely does not help the farming population in Syria and that was a huge hit on their economy.

The social well being of Syria has been disrupted, especially in places like Aleppo where children are being killed. This has an effect on the economy because there are less people working but more importantly, it causes people to leave the country all together. Nothing about people leaving the country and becoming refugees is positive. It does nothing good for the economy and it does nothing good for the countries that surround Syria. We, the Kingdom of Jordan are extremely worried about security which has caused us to shut down our last border post. We are unhappy about what the crisis in Syria because it is affecting our country, culture and way of life.

We believe that Syria is a long way from reconstruction in any type of way. If Syria were to be put back together, it would cost around 48 billion dollars. It is hard to see a positive outcome for this conflict because of the extent it has been brought to at this point. It will take many years and a lot of money, in our opinion, to reconstruct Syria. We neither support nor deny Syria as someone we can help since we have taken in a large amount of refugees. We ourselves can no longer afford to fund this type of expenditure because we have our own economy to worry about. Of course we would be pleased to see the reconstruction of Syria. We could possibly assist with this by opening up trade once the conflict dies down. We have decided not to advice Syria directly but we would like them to know that we are here in order to assist Syria once they get back on their feet.

**Committee on Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation**

 Syria has a long history of human rights violations, it dates back to the 1925. From 1926-1927, Syria’s Damascus military executed 350 people because they did not have public representation, and they were all publicly hanged for it. Other common punishments displayed in Syria that violates human rights are sentencing to death in “*abstentia”*, or life imprisonment which would include hours of harsh human labor. It has also been alleged that the military would display human corpses in central squares in villages within Syria. Through Hafez al-Assad’s ruling, he did anything he possibly could in order to stay in power for decades in Syria. In 1982, he responded to an insurrection that killed between 10,000 and 20,000 people, those including women, children, and the elderly. This helped him maintain his supremacy and upset any reform movements that were going on or were about to commence at the time.

 Ever since the beginning of the Syrian Uprising in 2011, military force has increased, protests on streets have increased that end in catastrophe due to military conflict, and there has been numerous accounts of sexual abuse of men, and gang rape of young boys. Tens of thousands of Syrians were attacked, detained, and abused during the protests in 2011, this also included journalists, political activists, and members of particular ethnic and religious groups. The Human Rights Watch listed that Syria’s human rights situation is one of the worst in the world. The Kingdom of Jordan believes that Syria is abusing their military power in terms of these protests by abusing and killing innocent people that want to have a voice. Although we do not want to get involved into the conflict, we believe that other nations such as the United States, and the United Kingdom should take action to reform Syria, and bring them back on the right path. With their power, they will be able to tend to Syria’s needs, as the Kingdom of Jordan works to improve our country after taking in hundreds of thousands of refugees.

In the nation of Chile during the 1970s, they created the Amnesty decree that would take care of crime between the years of 1973-1978. The purpose of the decree was to preclude any future actions of judicial courts against the personnel of armed forces and the military. The Amnesty decree is used to deal with Human Rights violations, which Chile has caused during the 1970s. Through this, it also influenced other decrees that were similar within other countries in South America, such as Argentina, and Uruguay.

 The International Court of Justice has a dual role within the United Nations, and that is to settle in accordance with international law the legal disputes submitted to by States, and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies. The purpose of the International Court of Justice is to take on cases that are war crimes. As for the crisis in Syria, it is their job to deal with the various situations going on in the country, especially when it comes to Human Rights violations. The Kingdom of Jordan believes that the Court System is effective in their effort to help solve the problems occurring in the country and that it will continue to do so.

Before the Syrian conflict, Syria has had trouble with acceptance of minorities which is one of the main causes for the war. Syria’s dominant religion is Islam, but within the religion there are various factions that accommodate it. Within Syria and among other nations such as the Kingdom of Jordan, the majority faction is Sunni Muslims, while the minority is Shiite/ Shia Muslims, with others. Through the past rulings of Syria, they have not represented the majority; Bashar al-Assad, as well as his father, Hafez al-Assad, are both Alawis Muslims. Because of the faction they belong in, the majority do not feel they are being represented fairly, and therefore protest for more fairer elections where they will be able to elect a president that represents them.

 The Kingdom of Jordan’s Constitution consists of the protection of all minorities, as it clearly states, “Jordanians shall be equal before the law irrespective of their race, language or religion”. We are also implementing Human Rights within our Constitution, to ensure the rights of every Jordanian and minority group. Although the Kingdom of Jordan, does not wish to have any further involvement with the civil war in Syria due to the fact that we must protect our own borders, we do believe that Syria should use us as an example when it comes to rebuilding their country and their people.

**Committee on Cross-Border Issues**

Jordan maintains one of the borders to Syria though there is a Civil War next door, Jordan however, it is not taking their relationship lightly with Syria. Jordan has been playing a non stop significant role in the stability of Syria. From supporting the coalition and thinking intelligently to end the war as fast as possible by accepting refugees and the passing through of the tangible materials needed to shorten this war, Jordan has been very active. Jordan itself also periodically participates in airstrikes against Islamic State positions. Jordan and Syria have always been allies and hardly ever share an unrelated task at hand. They both share common strategic interests specifically those that impact of both of their majority religion: Sunni Islam. They roughly agree on the threat from Shia expansion and Sunni militancy.

Along with Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq - Jordan borders Syria. Before the Civil War Jordan’s only aggression was aside Syria in the Six-Day War in 1967. They both (along with Lebanon) had a threatening increase of Palestinian guerrilla groups in their countries which lead to their involvement in the Six-Day War. Their intention to decrease the number of guerrilla groups led to a retaliation from Israel. The victory of Israel caused for Syria to lose the Golan Heights and a significant amount of their air force while taking control of Jerusalem and West Bank. The Six-Day War caused for deficits for both countries. It was later in 1973 that Hafez al-Assad breaks the constitution and becomes President without being muslim.

Religion plays a significant role in Syria’s current war. The fact still stands that the majority is underrepresented. The majority that is unrepresented happens to make up more than 75% of the population and they are Sunnis Muslims. Though very few identified as Islam, Islam became the nation’s religion in 1973. Bashar Al-Assad continues the tradition of his father and continues the tension of the people versus the government. Roughly around 85% of Jordanians are Sunnis Muslims which makes the welcoming of refugees from Syria an easier tradition socially however economically Jordan is struggling. Since Syria had such a strong relationship with Jordan in the past refugees undoubtedly began to flee to Jordan.

 The economic growth for Jordan is likely to remain weak in 2017 as a result of fiscal retrenchment and regional and domestic political uncertainty. But Jordan’s economy has slowly been in danger since 2015 and has not been that in danger since 2010. Due to the increase of Refugees that have needed to come to Jordan, Jordan has had to spend more money on their security. According the World Bank their GDP growth was at 2.4% in 2015, compared to 3.1% in 2014. In 2016 however Jordan has received funding from the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and their GDP has increased by 3%. Though the EFF has helped Jordan the funding is only contracted with a total of three years. Jordan yet has a big deal on their hands which is the lack of getting some refugees to remove from the border.

It is imperative that Jordan keeps their Jordanians as safe as possible including making sure that they can distinguish between Refugees and terrorists groups. However there is a camp called the Berm, formally known as the Rukban camp. The Rukban camp is a current safe haven for refugees. Due to the terrorist attacks from Isis and Isil. However the camp is not the safest place. The camp in which they like to stay has “no toilets, running water or electricity since the informal camp sprang up more than a year ago” (Rainey). The environment is a huge problem and not only does it put them in risk of health issues but also their safety. However to some that are refugees from Syria they have experienced the rise of terrorists groups in their country therefore a border seems even more safer. The main terrorist groups they face is the release of prisoners that President Assad released to fight against civilians. ISIS wants to dominate Syria as well as a few other countries. Therefore ISIS works even harder to support the President’s orders of brutality in order to discourage and weaken citizens. President Assad is willing to not intervene in the strength of ISIS because ISIS distracts involved countries such as the United States to focus on Isis and less of the government of Syria. The U.S in 2015 began to train Syrians to fight ISIS instead of the government and those that support him. ISIS is being used to prolong the war.