Medical Association

In the Syrian Arab Republic

Damascus- Abu Rommaneh

Dear President,

The Turkish Medical Association (TMA) and the physicians in Turkey, as the rest of the world, are following the war and human tragedy taking place in Syria with great concern. As physicians, we are well aware of our duty of ensuring human life and ending sufferings. The situation in Syria deeply hurts us all.

Wars and weapons are considered as public health problems and totally rejected by health care workers. It is the right of every individual to live in a society free from hunger, disease, killings , and pain. Considering that health is a state of social well being as well as physical and mental health, it is appearent that a democratic, secular, and free environment for every individual is a precondition for health.

Besides providing health services irrespective of peoples religion, language or ethnic origin, we believe physicians also have the duty of working for the unity and peace of their societies. The region we share is part of the world where people of different cultures and ethnicities have managed to live together for hundreds of years. However, for a long time, the region appeares to be turning into a group of countries who fail to, cannot or is not allowed to take steps for democratization. We are well aware of the senarios on Syria and middle east.

Ongoing war and the use of chemical weapons, whoever is responsible, deeply hurts the people of Turkey. Even under these circumstances, we are sure that the physicians and other health care workers in Syria will do their best to help the Syrian people. We keep our hope of living in a healthy, democratic and free environment in this region without weapons, war, and sufferings.

We acknowledge the increasing health problems due to the situation in Syria. We are ready to publicise and provide solutions for any problems that end up in difficulties in getting health care, inadequate medicine and medical supplies for any part of Syria.

In this regard we want to express our feelings of solidarity of TMA and Turkish physicians. TMA is ready for any kind of assistance and cooperation.

A.Ozdemir AKTAN  
President, Turkish Medical Association