

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500



January 21, 2021

Mr. President,

I wish to add my voice to the many throughout the world that have conveyed congratulations on the occasion of your inauguration as the 46th President of the United States.

I take the opportunity to forward to you an Open Letter appealing for an end to those US economic sanctions that kill, displace, impoverish and psychologically damage Syria's civilians.

The Open Letter is signed by over 90 leadership figures from around the world. They all have sterling records of religious, diplomatic, legislative, military, academic, human rights and/or humanitarian service. At the center stand Syrian Christian leaders who remain with their respective flocks as their country approaches the brink of not just hunger, but of starvation, according the UN World Food Program.

The signatories and their constituencies represent a growing movement of people who are conscious of the damage being done to Syrian civilians by unilateral coercive measures, and of their potentially destabilizing consequences beyond Syria's borders.

The Open Letter is a statement of support for the appeal of the UN Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures, dated December 29, 2020, a copy of which I am also forwarding. I trust that your administration will cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur to make sure that any US economic sanctions against Syria conform to the letter and spirit of the international humanitarian and human rights law.

I forward this communication to you, together with appendices, in the knowledge that US economic sanctions are not the sole cause of the suffering of the people of Syria. We hope and pray that you will find a way to pursue the United States' legitimate national interests in the Middle East without employing the collective punishment of Syrian civilians as an instrument.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'John Eibner'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John Eibner
International President
Christian Solidarity International