

NORTH MACEDONIA: LESSONS LEARNED FOR SYRIA

A STATEMENT BY **DR. ZEDOUN AL ZOUBI**

Thanks so much, honestly it was a wonderful trip, First, I will try not to repeat, and I will direct my comments to the colleagues of the Constitutional Committee and Article 115, which I hope you to read, since it lacks all the elements of decentralization, I will mention them in three basic issues:

(1) It does not mention the required dimensions of decentralization nor its content, I mean, now you see that the local authority is elected, but it is emptied of powers and does not have a financial decision or an administrative decision. I mean, the three dimensions of decentralization are canceled, why? Right, it is true that I voted, but I elected a picture without activities/power.

(2) It does not talk about the transfer of powers, and when it does not talk about the transfer of powers, the central authority becomes able at any moment to restore all powers and thus the other parties become under the domination of the center.

(3) It is very important and is found in Tunisia's constitution. It is the balance between powers and resources. I mean, when I am given a power, I must give resources to implement the powers, without it as if I am asking for failure.

Second, very important, as our colleague Tarek mentioned, if we waste the decentralization article today, we will pay for it for the rest of our lives, since the center is the one who amends the constitution, and we should not think that the center will do something good for other parties, for example: When we asked yesterday why they did not amend it, they said that the center did not accept it.

Here, another issue also arises. Decentralization should not be discussed in isolation from the ruling system and the electoral system, because they are



very closely related to each other.

Finally, in defense of the identity issue, I asked my colleague Faek yesterday: If the Macedonians had not resolved the issue of identity in this way, what would happen? There will be war, he said. Therefore, it is not easy to say that it is a failed solution, because in the end we would not have read the reality as it is now if it had not been treated.

Last sentence please, sorry: "Addressing identity issues in a superficial way may stop the war, but it does not make peace".