

## **Six years to the war in Syria**

### **A peula for young chanichim- ages 8-12)**

#### **Aims:**

- To understand that a war is taking place in Syria and that people who live there- children, mothers, fathers and young people are suffering greatly. .1
- To raise the empathy of our chanichot towards those people. .2
- To strengthen the sense of responsibility among our chanichim and the ability to help others. .3

#### **Materials:**

Museum, a paper explaining the situation

#### **Pre-arrangements:**

- Draw a big world map
- Draw a big blank map of the middle east
- Hang the museum on the walls of the room
- Print out material about operation Human Warmth

#### **L'Madricha:**

It's been 5 years and 40 weeks since the war in Syria broke out in spring 2011. The war has taken the lives of about 450,000 people, including 16000 kids who were murdered. 12.5 million people were forced to leave their home, including 5 million children. Half of the .people have left Syria and half live without houses within the country  
Millions of boys and girls live in hunger and in the cold, under constant threat over their .physical and emotional wellbeing, but their voice is not heard  
The goal of the peula is to allow the chanichim to be interested in what is happening in Syria and help them to better understand the atmosphere in which the children and youth we talk about in the peula live. Notice this is a delicate subject that can bring up hard thoughts/questions, especially with younger chanichim. The aim of the peula is not to expose the chanichim to the full extent and horror of the crimes happening in Syria, but to give a general idea about the situation, so that the chanich will be able to perceive and relate to it.

#### **Peula Body:**

Opening game .1

Get to know Syria: .2

- Draw the world map** on a butcher's paper. Make sure it is big enough for the .a chanichot to see it well from a few meters distance. **Ask for a volunteer.** Cover his eyes so that he's blindfolded and give him a marker. The kvutzah now needs to direct and instruct him- the goal is for the chanich to circle the middle east.
- Once the middle east is circled, **give the chanichim a blank map of the middle .b east** (Either draw or show appendix A) and ask the where they think Syria is.

Once recognized, **ask a few general questions** about Syria: "What do you know about Syria? Is Syria close or far away from us? What countries are close to Syria?"

**Continue and show appendix B-** A map of Syria's neighboring countries, including Israel. Explain that for many years Syria and Israel do not have a good relationship (*Don't get too deep into that- it is not the subject of the peula, but just something for the chanichot to keep in mind during it*).

**Ask:** Does anyone know why we chose to focus on Syria? What is happening in Syria nowadays?

Start to dive deeper into the situation in Syria. **Ask:** .3

Who knows what is happening in a country during war? •

Does the war affect more people than the army and soldiers that are fighting? •

Do you think for example that kids still go to school?

How do you think ordinary people like us feel when there is a war? •

**Explain to** the chanichot and chanichim that a war is taking place in Syria for the last 6(!) years (You can ask them what age they were 6 years ago so that they'll have more of an idea about the scale of it). During this time a lot of people were killed, a lot of schools and kindergartens were destroyed, and a lot of peoples' houses were destroyed (If the chanichim ask how- bombs fell on them). A lot of people had to leave their homes to other places inside Syria or in other countries.

**Say:** on the walls around you, you can see pictures and drawings of children your age from Syria. Ask the chanichim to go around the room and pick one picture that stood out to them. .4

**Ask:**

Who chose what picture? (they can present to the kvutzah and explain why) •

What do we see in the pictures? •

What do the pictures make us feel? •

What would you have wanted to say to the children who drew the pictures or who are photographed in the pictures? •

L'Madricha:

You can choose one drawing/picture that you want to discuss in more depth with the chanichim, that you feel can help them to better understand the pain and loss of the Syrian children.

Acting upon the situation .5

**Tell the chanichim about operation human warmth** that took place in Israel by their sister movement Hanoar Haoved. You can show pictures from the operation, some of which include HDUK Habonim members on shnat taking part. Tell the chanichim that doing something is always possible, and we are going to act and see what we can do as movement members and as a kvutzah.

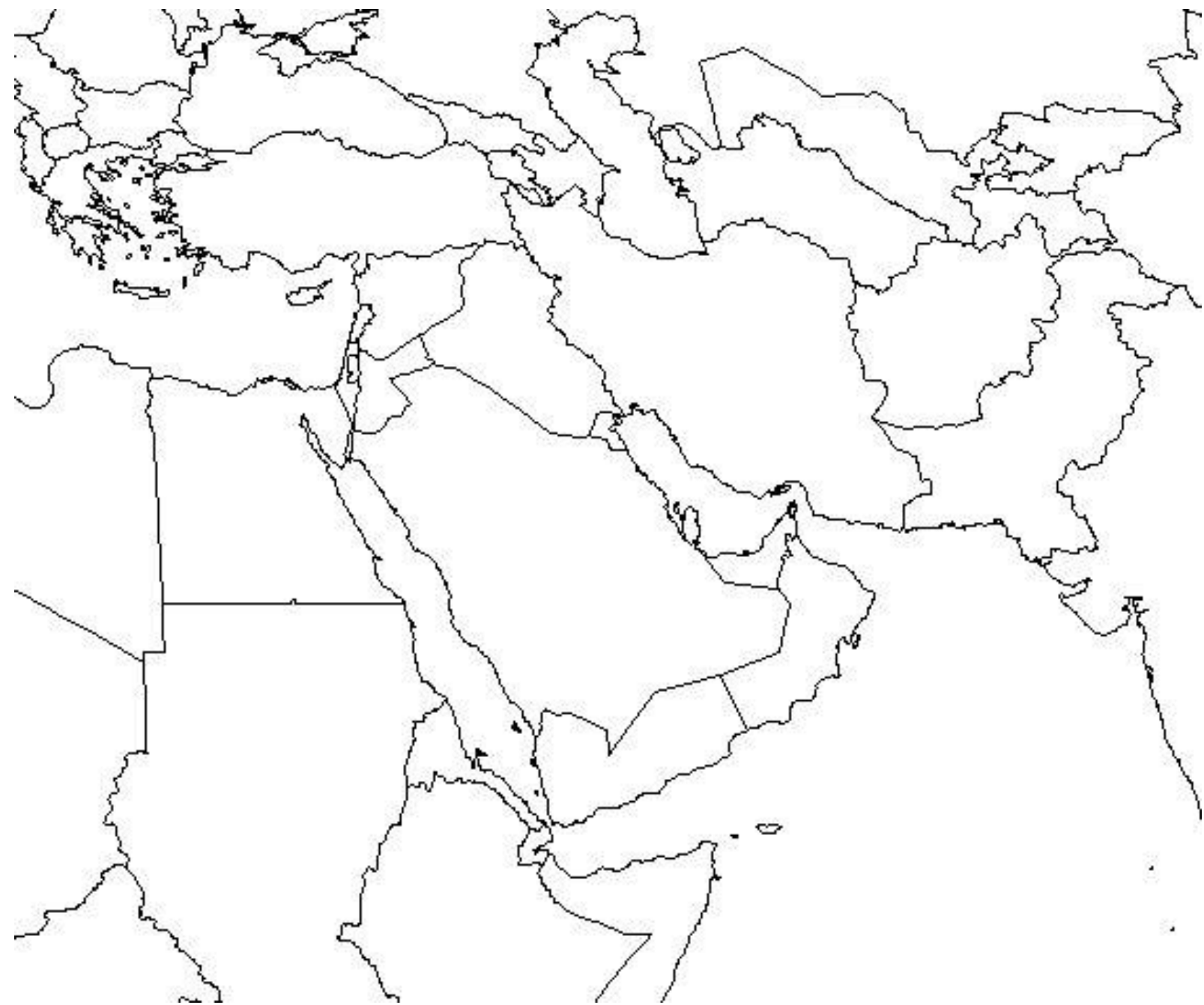
*L'Madrish: Here we brought some of the options for social action that act upon the current situation in Syria and/or people's awareness towards it. The following options for action are only suggestions, and no one knows your community in the same way you do , your close society and what your chanichim are capable of and will feel fulfilled with doing. This is, in fact, the sikkum of the peula in which we choose to be active and act upon the things we believe to be right.*

**Option 1:** Collect donations. Find a charity organization in your area that helps Syria. Get in touch with them and ask to volunteer in collecting donations with the chanichim in the community.

**Option 2:** Get the chanichim to write a shared letter to the community/Synagogue local newspaper/blog/ if there are any, in which the chanichim explain why it is important to be more aware and maybe what can be done in their eyes.

**Option 3:** Write letters with the chanichim to all the parents of the chanichim and madrichim in the movement in your city/ezor.

**Option 4:** Get the chanichim to be in charge of the movement's facebook account for a day (make sure to coordinate it with the movement worker responsible for that). That day will be fully dedicated to raising awareness to the situation in Syria. The chanichim need to combine it with other things they do such as gathering information (so they can publish it), interviewing people about it etc.







# Operation Human Warmth

We'll gather warm equipment together  
until 12.1



**Beanie**



**Coat**



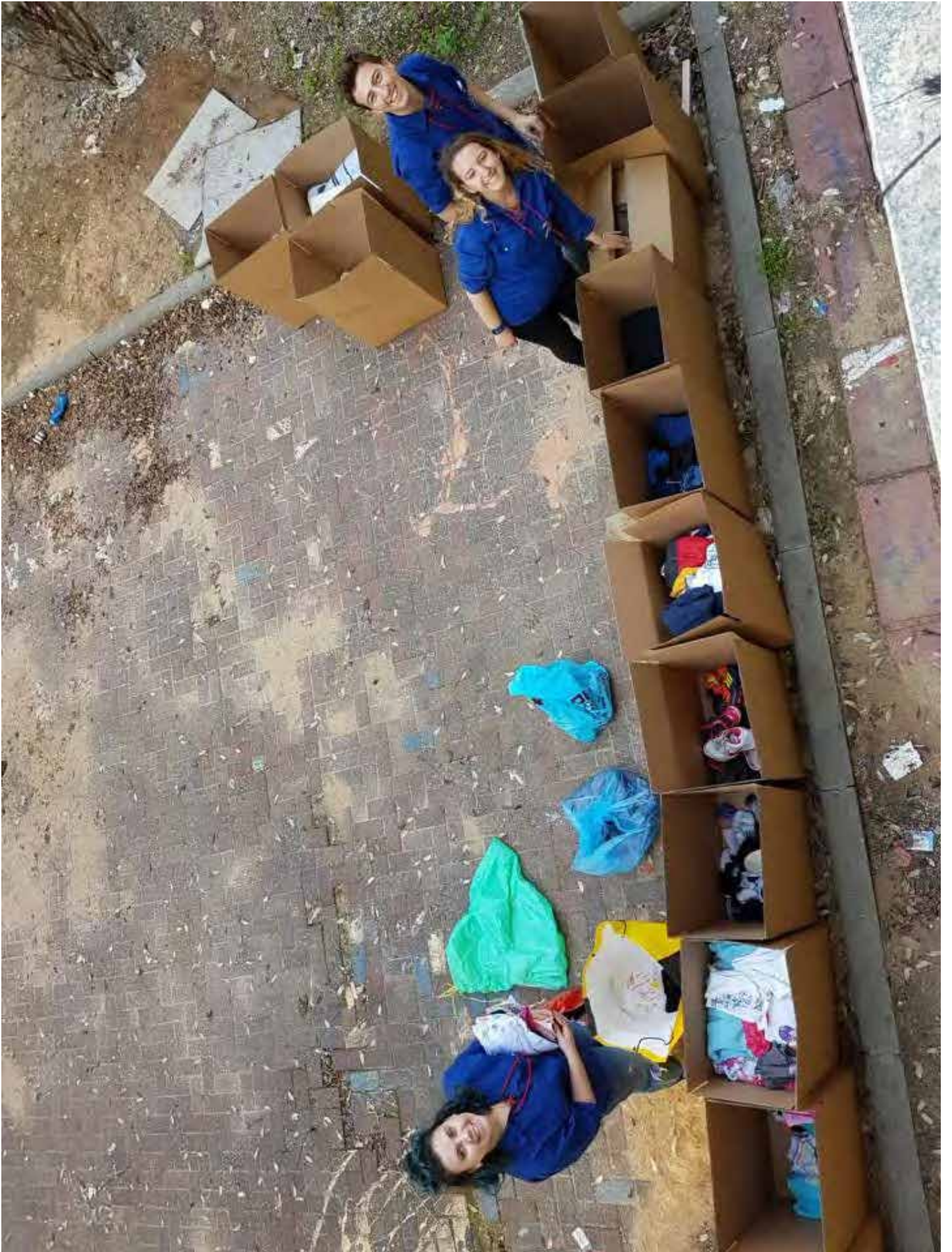
**Boots**



**Gloves**

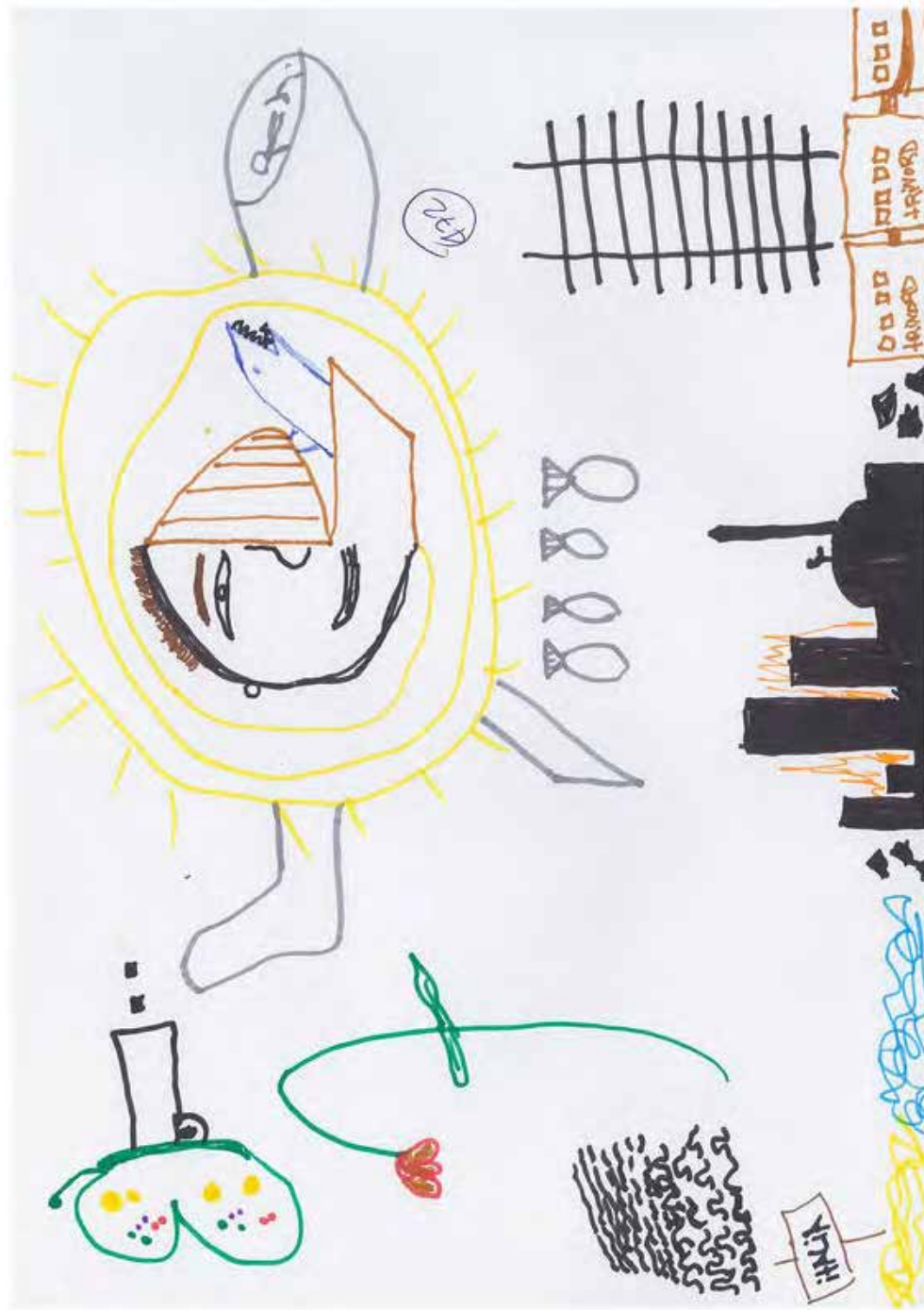


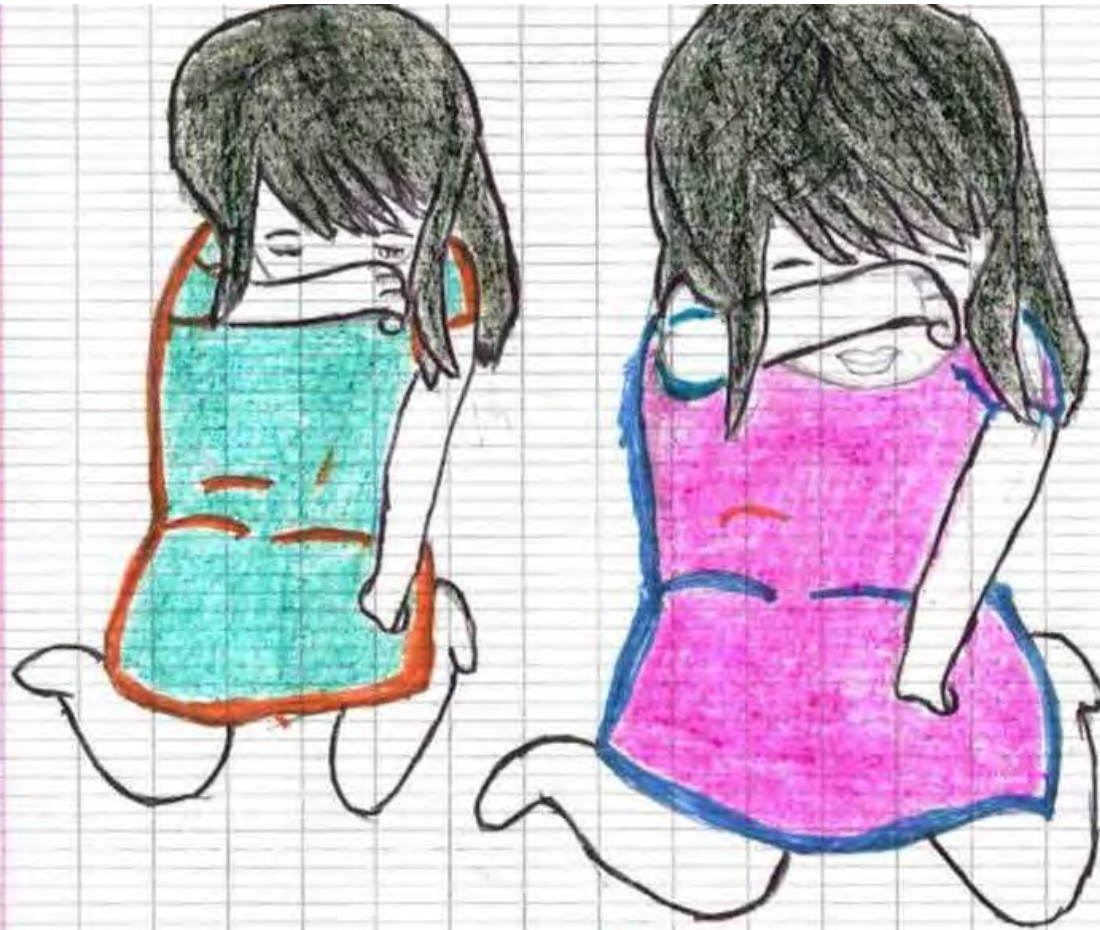
**Sleeping Bag**











و حَفَّ اللهُ كَرهَتَكَ  
يا غريبةً و كَرهَتَكَ  
يا لبنان



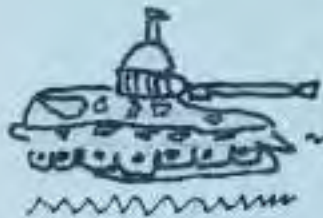




MICHALIS KARAGIANNIS via Getty Images







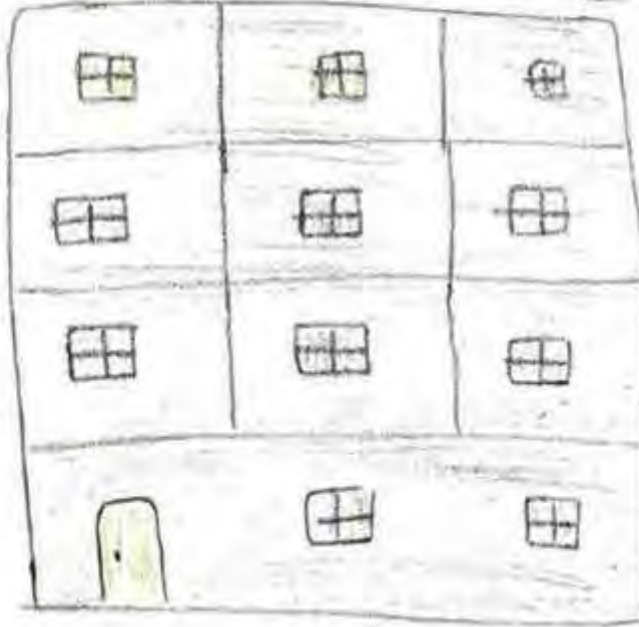
MAAN





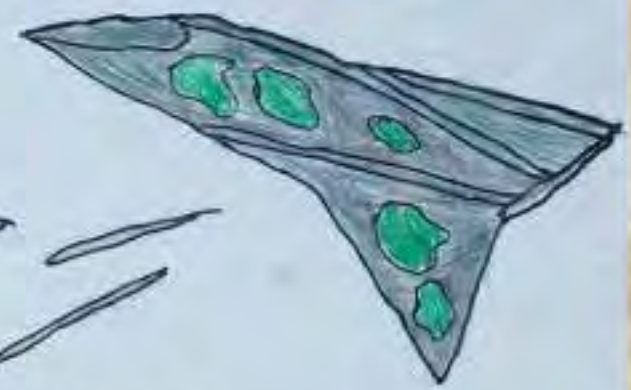
الاسم: عبدالرحمن ابو زيد  
العمر: ٩ سنوات  
الطريقة: السباحة  
عنوان الأسرة: ٥٠٢٢٣

Save the children





SYRIA



Emrah

Before

