

[0.11 voice-over]

Christians in Syria are under two fires and are starting to protect themselves. [pause]

[0.15 voice-over] Weapons at hand.

[0.16 voice-over]

These are the young recruits of Sutoru, a Christian militia of the North of the country devastated by civil war. The video was shoot by the same militians.

[0.29 voice-over]

Syriac Christians fight side by side with the Kurds against the Islamic extremists of Al Qaeda.

[0.35 voice-over]

The name Sutoru comes from an Aramaic ancient prayer - Aramaic is Jesus Christ's language.

[0.041 voice-over]

Leaving from Europe to Syria are not only the Islamic Holy War volunteers, [0.46 voice-over] but young Christians as well, leaving to protect their communities threatened of extinction, as told by the representative of Christian exodus in the old-country.

[0.55 – 1st Representative]

In the Middle East, since about 2 thousand years, we have learned only one thing from our history: without defending yourself it is impossible to live in the Middle East. Then we had to accept to change religion, becoming Turks or Arabs, or keeping on staying there, defending ourselves.

[1.22 1st Representative]

No more running away, we are prepared to defend ourselves, they have built the defense – I think at the Sutoru – then other groups have started to fight against the extremists, for this reason there are young people that are leaving – Europeans, that

live here, went there. They are from Switzerland, Germany, from Sweden as well.

[1.50 map - voice-over]

From Locarno left for Syria **Johan Cosar** a former sergeant of the Swiss Army.

[1.56 quilt distribution – voice over]

Officially to record the sufferences of Christians, but actually [2.00 man shooting - voice-over] he helped training Sutoru's militia.

[2.03 quilt distribution]

Of the Christian volunteers in Syria coming from Europe, speaks the representative of Locarno's Mesopotamian Cultural Center.

[2.11 Locarno's Mesopotamian Cultural Center Representative]

I think that they are ten... twenty, not a precise number. But anyhow they are not many.

[2.19 L.M.C.C. Representative]

They are going to defend our Syriac Christian Community in Syria. When they will be back here in Europe, obviously in their countries, we do not want them to be trated like mercenaries.

[2.33-2.37 short pause - voice-over]

Said, father of **Johan Kosar** - the young man from Locarno that left for Syria - is a Swiss citizen and leading figure of the party that has established the Christian militia.

[2.48 - voice-over]

Damascus secret services have arrested him last August. His family does not speak with the media.

[2.54 - voice-over]

But in Bern, the federal foreign affairs department has been informed of the case.

[2.58 1st Representative]

He came here before leaving, we met at Locarno's Film Festival, he was here and, three days after he left, they caught him.

[3.10 – voice-over]

Syrian government asserts that **Said Kosar** died of heart attack.

[3.14 - 1st Representative]

It is false. For us it is untrue.

[3.17 – L.M.C.C. Representative]

We ask for an humanitarian aid even by the Swiss government, because we live in Switzerland, and he is a Swiss citizen as well. We want a greater aid by the Swiss government in order to get some news.

[3.33 – voice-over]

Two hundred thousand Christians have already fled from civil war, their representants, together with the Kurds, have asked the UN to partake to Geneva 2, but without any reply.

[3.45 – short pause - voice-over]

For the Christians, in Syria's future survival is at stake.

