International Committee of the Red Cross

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 **ICRC: Syria’s Decade of Loss – Iman’s Story**

26- year old Iman Shebli moved to Spain after first spending time in Lebanon with her mother and sisters.

They did part-time and casual jobs in Lebanon to earn a living. They also used to get state support for a while, and when it was stopped life was very hard.

She got a scholarship to study in Barcelona, where she is now majoring in international diplomacy.

A psychologist by training, Iman said she was motivated by seeing the impact the conflict had on children. She speaks freely about the psychological and emotional toll the last decade has had on her and other Syrians.

Having to start over in two countries was not easy, she says.

But Barcelona offers her a peaceful, independent life – a fresh start.

**SHOTLIST**

Location: Spain, Barcelona

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On-Screen credit: ICRC

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Camera: Ana Gonzalez

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**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:00:00 *“I'm psychologist and I already started psychology in Lebanon, I'm doing a master in diplomacy in international organization. My future I want to be in a place which I can take a decision to help people, support them I want to be a good person, in a good place in an appropriate place. I just want to have a part to take this decision to make people live a better life.”*

00:00:32 *“The reason why I wanted to studied psychologist in Lebanon is that I already worked with people that was small children (age between 5 and 12) that has a ptsd problem in Syria. At that time I was working with UNICEF and I already saw what type of problem people face in that time, so when I travel to Lebanon I decided to complete psychologic and I already love it.”*

00:01:07 *“I want to study diplomacy because I want all people, not only in Syria, I want to help people in the world who has problem, who has conflict, or something like that.”*

00:01:21 Iman attending her online university class.

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:01:51 *“I think the conflict will finish, but the effect of this conflict will not finish after 15 years... more than that maybe. The conflict will finish but the bad effects will not finish. and his decision for one time or two time will affect will not only one person, will affect a generation. Now if you walk in Syria and talk with people, the people are not life are dead walking... the people are not a problem, the Syrian people before are not the same that 10 year ago.”*

00:02:33 *“My plan is just like to have a after a few years. I'm planning to have a job, establish my own home, my own family, at first my priority plan is just to have house for myself just like a home, a country to myself. My plan is just to be in a place in Syria, to take decision to make people follow this decision to effect on people. Also, my plan to make just like work in education sector in Syria because I believe education is one of the most force of change. so, I change the education in Syria maybe I can change a lot. My plan is just to make system in education. System that mix everything with each other maybe this system will make a change in Syria and make Syria one country like Europe, to be better than now.”*

00:03:56 Iman walks around and takes pictures of tourist site Sagrada Familia.

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:04:28 *“I still remember the smell of flower in my street, as it was a type a flower and the street was very beautiful. I couldn't find it and I think it will be not exist after this 10 years.”*

00:04:44 *“All people now in Syria have problem, has a psychological problem. I think all people in Syria need therapy. All of them, the children, the men, the women. All of them.”*

00:05:01 *“Mental health it’s affect a lot, because right now I am get therapy session with my therapist. My physical is not affect because I don't have any problem with my body or my physical life. But mental life, yes. Someday, personally I am not very affected, but I still remember the voices, and a lot of scenes. If I walk to the street and I smell something I some days I remember the smell of the bomb. I think the conflict affected more to my brother, he has bad dreams, today he is 16 now but today he has this type of problem.”*

00:05:59 Iman has a video call with her family in a park.

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:06:31 *“The most challenge was economic problem because I should work to study, and I could not work, and study and I should work to live. And if I can't work I can't live and complete my life. The most problem just like most of the Syrian people has this type of problem, the economic problem because most of Syrian lost everything in Syria then traveled so this type of problem.”*

00:07:01 Iman takes the bus.

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:07:36 *“It is easy to meet people, but it's not easy to understand the different between cultures because a lot of culture. A new culture, so you respect everything culture.”*

00:07:47 *“We talked about life, we talked about memories in Syria. We talked about a lot of things, about difficulty here, about the difficult with language, specially we are not speaking Spanish.”*

00:08:05 Iman walks by the beach and reads on her tablet by the water

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:08:39 *“What I like about the life here in Barcelona, the independence the freedom, the safety, the peaceful society and I like a new start. This is the thing for me.”*

00:08:56 Iman reads a book outside at dusk and then walks away.

**Soundbite (English) Iman Shebli, Syrian psychologist**

00:09:31 *“The Syrian people are very peaceful person, and very nice person, they like to help. Maybe this is the best things about Syrian people and also, if you are in Syrian now and you need help you will find someone to help you without reason, just help you.”*

**ENDS**

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