



Press Release

“We will always wait in vain for your return.” “Mothers for Life” Network Releases Open Letter to Jihadists

The network “**Mothers for Life**” – an international group of mothers who have lost their children as foreign fighters in Syria/Iraq – has released an open letter directed at Jihadists, other families affected by violent radicalization, and policy makers today. The letter aims to address Jihadi fighters and adolescents in the process of radicalization from the perspective of the mothers left behind and to encourage them to reflect about the consequences of their motivation to join the conflict. The letter was posted on Facebook, Tumblr and the GIRDS homepage and is free to share and print for any medium as long as source and links to the original place of publication are included.

Web: <http://www.girds.org/projects/mothers-for-life-network>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mothersandlife
Tumblr: <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/mothersforlife>
Twitter: @Mothers_4_Life

“**Mothers for Life**” is a project run by the German Institute on Radicalization and De-radicalization Studies (GIRDS) and brings together mothers from currently seven countries who have lost their children in the Syria/Iraq war as jihadi foreign fighters. They all share the burden of having seen how radicalization processes can destroy the bond between mother and children. Mothers for Life aims to bring these mothers together to give them the safety of a secure network of people who share those experiences and to heal their wounds. But Mothers for Life also wants to give a strong and unified voice to these mothers and their stories. The network aims to coordinate activities and provide guidance and counsel to mothers who are part of it. Membership is of course free of any charge. We circulate information, help to get in touch with mothers and families in close proximity or help with handling any other requests. Mothers for Life also aims to create strong and convincing counter narratives. The network is coordinated by Christianne Boudreau and Daniel Koehler.

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The German Institute on Radicalization and De-radicalization Studies (GIRDS) is a non-profit international network of experts in the field of de-radicalization since 2014. Our goal is to advance the knowledge and effective practice of de-radicalization worldwide, train de-radicalization counsellors, evaluate programs, design de-radicalization initiatives and bring excellence through experts to those in need.