



America-Eurasia Center's Middle East & Humanitarian Program

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Samir Witta Director of the Humanitarian & Health Programs



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Natural disasters have struck numerous countries worldwide, and Morocco is one of the latest to bear the brunt of such casualties. On the night of Friday, September 8, 2023, at 11:11 p.m. local time, Morocco experienced an unexpected earthquake that continued to exact a heavy toll a week later.¹ The epicenter of this catastrophe was located in Marrakech, Al Haouz province, but its most severe impact was felt in the rural communities nestled in the Atlas Mountains. The death toll is approximately 3,000 with twice that number suffering injuries from the initial earthquake and its relentless aftershocks.²

¹ Jazeera, Al. "What We Know Three Days after Morocco's Devastating Earthquake." *Earthquakes News / Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 11 Sept. 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/11/what-we-know-three-days-after-moroccos-devastating-earthquake.

² Jazeera, Al. "What We Know Three Days after Morocco's Devastating Earthquake." *Earthquakes News / Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 11 Sept. 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/11/what-we-know-three-days-after-moroccos-devastating-earthquake.

“Look to the horizon and feel the souls of thousands of innocent children waiting for humanity to make a change.”

This is the leading quote for All the Children of Light, a non-profit focused on educating children living through political and socioeconomic destabilization in Syria. The man at the helm of it all is its President, Samir Witta, MD, PhD. While this is nonprofit is not his only endeavor, it does reflect the care and compassion that runs through his job as an Oncologist and Humanitarian Director. Born in the Czech Republic, and with family members still living in Syria, he has made it his life’s mission to help others in any way he can through his roles as both a doctor and as a humanitarian leader.

President, All the Children of Light

Since 2011, Syria has been experiencing an evolving Civil War between the Syrian government and Syrian rebel groups. On March 15, 2011, during the “Day of Rage” protests calling for democratic reform of the Syrian government, protesters were killed by Syrian security forces under the control of President Bashar al-Assad. Since then, the country has seen a never-ending civil war that placed Syrian inhabitants in danger. UNICEF describes the civil war’s effect on education, stating that “the crisis in Syria has taken a devastating toll on education; leaving over 7,000 schools damaged or destroyed and about 2 million children out of school.” Dr. Witta aims to help this situation through his organization, All the Children of the Light.

All the Children of the Light describes itself as a “nonprofit organization formed to provide education to children (ages 5-15) in Syria.” It “supports the only educational institution in the Idlib Province in Syria,” consisting of three different schools that has, over its span, provided education to more than 3000 children and currently employs 30 dedicated teachers. The goal is to bring joy to children who have lost more than anyone should lose in a lifetime.



1. Dr. Witt speaking to students at dinner time.
2. Dr. Witt teaching a class at one of the non-profit's schools.

In an article for THV11, Dr. Witt described his hope for the future, stating, "I think these kids if they get educated, they will be able to build their own country," Witt said. "These are the seeds of the future of that country." "Their whole story is in their eyes, and we could change it," Dr. Samir Witt said. "We can change it to something really good."

Oncologist, Mountain Blue Cancer Care Center

Dr. Witt is described as a passionate doctor who believes that "patients with cancer should be able to receive the most advanced treatments in a very comfortable settings and with very personalized care that is respectful of their and their families' needs and wishes and brings either a cure or an improvement in quality of life" (Mountain Blue Center).

As the former owner of Mountain Blue Cancer Center and a current doctor at Cypress Hematology & Oncology, Dr. Witt practices both Oncology and Hematology (the study of blood and blood disorders. In his role as a Medical Oncologist, he specializes in diagnosing cancer patients and treating them in the hope of improving their quality of life or finding a cure for their affliction.

Dr. Witt has a PhD in Genetics from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland and an MD from Charles University. He completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology at the University of Colorado. Furthermore, "he is board certified in Medical Oncology and Internal Medicine and continues to publish in leading medical journals" (Mountain Blue Center).

Director of Humanitarian Affairs, America-Eurasia Center



Dr. Suciu, European Director for the America-Eurasia Center, accepts the Humanitarian Award on behalf of Dr. Samir Witta at the Embassies of the World event at The Venon Embassy Row Photo from the America-Eurasia Center

Dr. Witta’s lifelong commitment to human rights and humanitarian efforts have led him to be placed at the helm of the America-Eurasia Center’s Humanitarian and Healthcare Program as the Director of Humanitarian Affairs. The Program is described to be designed to “assist the most vulnerable populations in society...a children's crisis in Eurasia.” Currently the program is focused on “helping children in Ukraine” as a dire emergency develops for children affected by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Program is also committed to supporting to Dr. Witta’s humanitarian initiative through All the Children of the Light.

Most recently, Dr. Witta was awarded the Humanitarian award by the America-Eurasia Center at the America-Eurasia Center's and Uplifting Africa's Evening with the Embassies of the World (pictured above).

Dr. Witta continues to make committed efforts, in both every day and professional life, to continue the fight for human rights and humanitarian aid. In all of his professional roles, the effort is reflected and distinctly appreciated by all who he helps.

Sources:

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<https://www.thv11.com/article/life/style/trends/what-one-man-is-doing-to-help-syrian-children-all-the-way-from-colorado/91-430050482>

<https://www.unicef.org/syria/education>

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