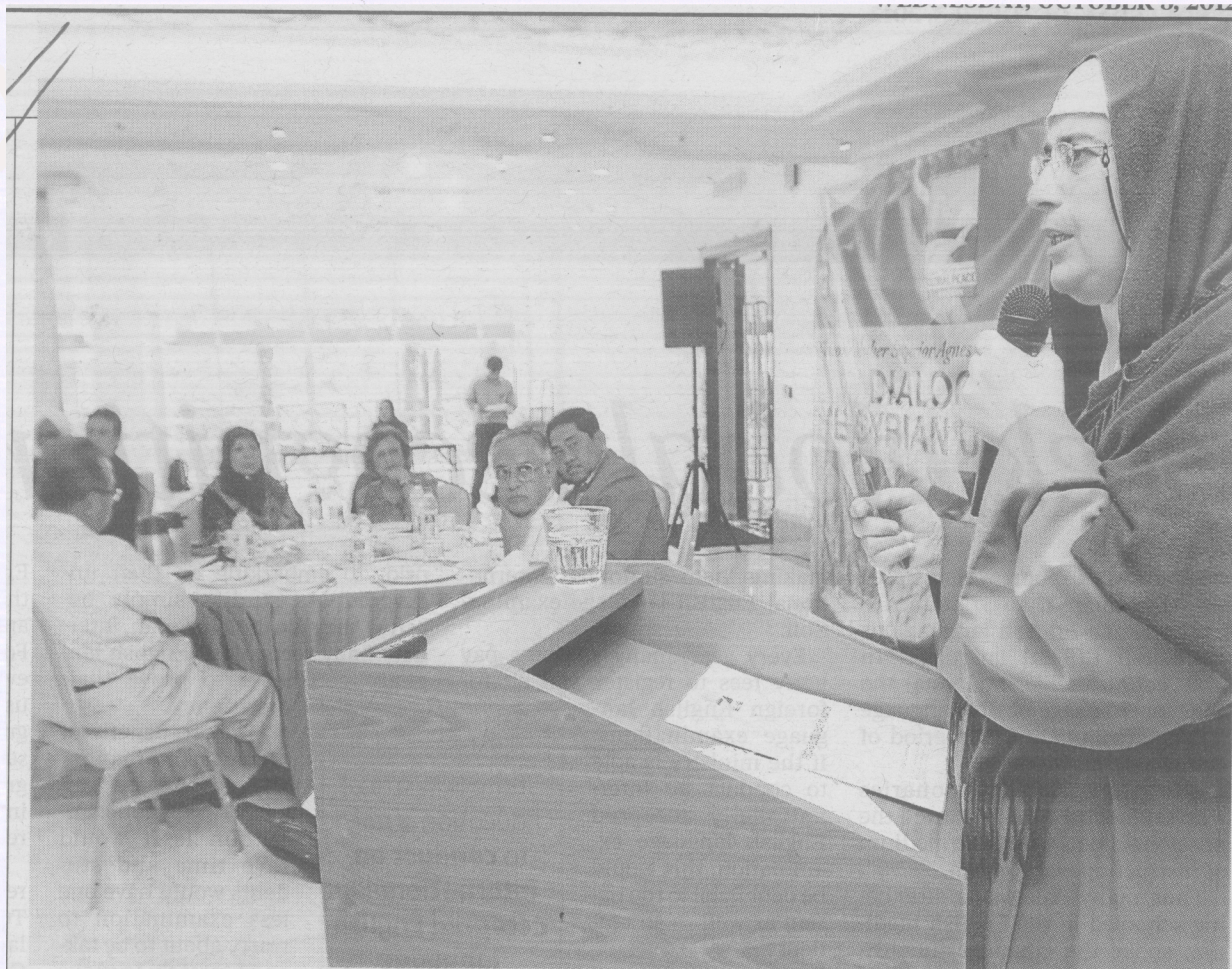


Newspaper	New Straits Times
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Mother Superior Agnes Mariam speaking during the dialogue session on Syria organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation. Pic by Nurul Syazana Rose Razman

'Syrian conflict misrepresented'

NS1-3/10/2012

KUALA LUMPUR: The world mainstream media has been reporting partially true and false stories about the Syrian uprising, many of which do not represent Syria as a whole, said a Syrian nun yesterday.

Mother Superior Agnes Mariam from the Melkite Catholic Church in Homs, Syria, said the situation made Syrians feel unimportant as the media only reported on certain sects of the population.

"From the start of uprising, we've seen that the reality was not being reported truthfully and by giving

speeches at chosen countries, including Malaysia, I hope that I can spread the message," she said during a talk on the Syrian uprising organised by Perdana Global Peace Foundation here yesterday.

Mother Agnes, who is also a member of the Mussalaha initiative for a reconciliation, said there was a need for reformation and democratic change without the use of violence or resorting to war.

"We've been trying to adopt negotiation as a means to solve the issue, but it is complicated because it

involves regional and international interference.

"We are coming together to build a new social group and this comes from the desire of the people as we consider the regime in Syria as fallen."

Executive director of Perdana Global Peace Foundation Dr Zulaiha Mohamed Ismail said Mother Agnes had been invited to give the talk as she was a proponent of peace in Syria.

"Being a mother superior for the last 18 years and because of her work with the Melkite Catholic Church, she is able to reveal the real situation."