

Death in War

(<https://kristendscott.wixsite.com/knot-magazine/zeina-azzam>)

After the headlines,
the photographs of still bodies
in utter surrender

the stacking and burying
in unmarked graves

don't turn away.

Say a prayer for each farmer,
teacher, bearded grandfather
on a cane,

mother whose scarf flies in the air,
father staring at the ground.

Think of the empty chairs
at the dinner table,
the shirt and socks missing
from the clothesline.

Remember each pair of hands
that opened and closed,
held a pencil,
clapped with joy....

and when
the wheat and flowers they sowed
reach toward the sun

bring water
to these tenacious
flags of presence

on the land.