

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Syria Cessation of Hostilities Welcome: Humanitarian Aid Desperately Needed

A statement from 97 Syrian, regional and international humanitarian and human rights organisations on Syria's Cessation of Hostilities

This week's cessation of hostilities agreement negotiated by Russia and the US could be an important and welcome step forward for the future of Syria. Countless lives are saved each day this cessation holds.

Now that Russia and the US have brought about a significant reduction in violence and a cessation of airstrikes, they must use their influence over the Syrian government, non-state armed groups and other parties to the conflict to ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access across the country. Besieged areas like eastern Aleppo, where 275,000 people are trapped and desperate for food, fuel and medical supplies, and Madaya, where there has been an outbreak of meningitis, should be prioritized.

Sporadic and temporary cessations of violence cannot become ends in themselves. The success of this agreement should not be measured just by a reduction in fighting. It needs to be accompanied by unfettered and sustained humanitarian access throughout Syria; an end to the forced displacement of communities as seen recently in Darayya; and a political process that addresses the root causes of the crisis.

Russia and the United States have proved for the second time that they have the power to silence the weapons in Syria. **The lives of innocent Syrian civilians are in their hands.** The brutal conflict and unlawful targeting of civilians and civilian structures such as hospitals, schools and markets cannot be allowed to recommence.

This cessation of hostilities agreement may provide a rare opportunity to move towards a negotiated political solution to Syria's devastating conflict. We call on Russia and the United States to ensure that this opportunity is not wasted. The US and Russia's counterparts in the International Syria Support Group must also stand up to their responsibilities to use their influence to encourage all parties to the conflict to respect the cessation, to monitor and report violations of the cessation, and to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

Signed

1. 11.11.11
2. Abrar Halap Association for Relief and Development
3. Action Contre la Faim
4. Ahl Horan
5. Al Seeraj For Development And Healthcare

6. Alkawakibi Human Rights Organization
7. American Relief Coalition for Syria
8. Amrha
9. Andalus Institute for Tolerance & Anti-Violence Studies
10. Arab Center for the Promotion of Human Rights
11. Arab Coalition for Sudan
12. Arab Foundation for Civil Society
13. Arab Organisation for Human Rights - Mauritania
14. Arab program for human rights activists (APHRA)
15. Association de Soutien aux Médias Libres
16. Attaa for Relief and Development (ARD)
17. Balad Syria Organization
18. Bihar Relief Organization
19. Bonyan
20. Bridge of Peace
21. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
22. CARE International
23. CCFD - Terre Solidaire
24. Christian Aid
25. Concern Worldwide
26. Council for Arab-British Understanding
27. Damascene House Foundation for Society Development
28. Deir Elzoz United Association (FURAT)
29. Doctors of the World UK
30. Education Without Borders (MIDAD)
31. Emaar AL Sham Humanitarian Association
32. Enjaz Development Foundation
33. Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor- Geneva
34. Fraternity Foundation For Human Rights
35. Ghiath Matar Foundation
36. Ghiras Al Nahda
37. Ghiras Foundation
38. Ghiras Syria
39. Global Call to Action Against Poverty
40. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
41. Handicap International
42. Help 4 Syria
43. Human Appeal
44. Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD)
45. Ihsan Relief and Development
46. Insan for Psychosocial Support
47. International Humanitarian Relief
48. International Supporting Woman Association (ISWA)
49. Irtiqaa Foundation

50. Just Foreign Policy, US
51. Karam Foundation, NFP
52. Maram Foundation for Relief & Development
53. Middle East and North Africa Partnership for Preventing of Armed Conflict
54. Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
55. Mountain Foundation
56. Najda Now
57. Nasaem Khair
58. Nuon Organization for Peacebuilding
59. Orient for Human Relief
60. Oxfam
61. Pax Christi International
62. Permanent Peace Movement
63. Qitaf Al Khair Relief Association
64. Rethink Rebuild Society
65. Saed Charity Association
66. Save A Soul
67. Save the Children
68. Sedra Association for Charity
69. Shama Association
70. Snabel Al Khyr
71. Society for Threatened Peoples
72. Student-led Movement to End Mass Atrocities
73. Syria Charity
74. Syria Network for Human Rights
75. Syria Relief
76. Syria Relief and Development
77. Syria Relief and Development
78. Syria Relief Organization
79. Syrian American Medical Society
80. Syrian Education Commission (SEC)
81. Syrian Engineers for Construction and Development Organization (SECD)
82. Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)
83. Syrian Medical Mission
84. Syrian Network for Human Rights
85. Syrian Orphans Organization
86. Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization
87. The Centre for Victims of Torture
88. The Syrian Establishment for Human Care & Enhancement (MASRRAT)
89. Tuba Dernegi
90. Unified Revolutionary Medical Bureau in East Gouta
91. Union of Relief and Medical Care Organizations (UOSSM)
92. Union of Syrians Abroad
93. Violations Documentation Center in Syria

94. Vision GRAM-International
95. White Hands - Beyazeller
96. World Vision
97. Zain Foundation