

August 2019



**NGOs in Syria Call for Immediate  
Action From the UN Responding to the  
Systematic Attacks on Humanitarian  
Facilities**

# **NGOs in Syria Call for Immediate Action From the UN Responding to the Systematic Attacks on Humanitarian Facilities**

Secretary General of the United Nations, **António Guterres**  
President of the UN Human Rights Council, **Coly SECK**  
High Commissioner of Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet Jeria** Commissioners of UN  
Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI), **Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Ms. Karen Koning  
AbuZayd, and Mr. Hanny Megally**  
Head of the International Impartial Independent Mechanism (IIIM) on the in Investigating  
War Crimes in Syria, **Catherine Marchi-Uhel.**

Since 2011, humanitarian teams in Syria have been subjected to relentless violations: forced disappearance, killing, torture, and bombing of the facility they work in with all kinds of weapons. Also, several reports mentioned using chemical weapons against humanitarian facilities.

Bombing hospitals, schools and humanitarian institutions, which began as a policy of collective punishment, and continued during the past years, had multiplied into a systematic policy, and turned into a war tactics the Syrian regime is using widely to weaken those communities and to deprive civilians from of the basic services in order to displace them and to double effects of the humanitarian catastrophe to an extent that we, the humanitarian organizations, became unable, with whatever we have and with what we can do, to respond to it. Attacks on health facilities increased from 2011 until this day 570, and medical teams lost more than 800 victims of the systematic bombing on health facilities, which the Syrian regime and its allies bear the responsibility of most of these violations according to the reports of international investigation bodies.

Under ordinary circumstances, none of us would choose to remain in community with no medical center to vaccinate our children, no school to teach them, and no water station to supply our families with this basic necessity. Syrian people have been forced to accept and adapt to these inhuman circumstances, but their capacity to cope has reached unbearable limits, even as essential infrastructure continues to be bombed. The latest escalation perpetrated by the Syrian Government and its allies in northwest Syria witnessed unprecedented levels of this tactics as included 38 attacks on health facilities, 45 attacks on schools, in addition to destroying 9 water stations, and many other violations.

Many NGOs have participated in the UNOCHA-led DE confliction mechanism of humanitarian facilities and still hope this mechanism will help put an end these attacks, or at least to help seek justice in the long-run. but these facilities were also targeted, like all other facilities. The little number of de-conflicted targeted facilities is attributed to the limited participation of these organizations in this mechanism, not because they are excluded from targeting. We still firmly believe that the mechanism can and must contribute to the documentation of these crimes, a primary step on the long road to achieve justice and to publicize facts about the conduct of parties to the conflict in Syria.

The various investigative mechanisms of the UN should work together, and leverage more effectively to increase pressure on the conflicting parties and change the calculus that underpins the logic of the attacks and to stop these crimes immediately. Reports issued by COI would be more influential if they are released more quickly - within days or even weeks after each attack, opposed to half a year later, when the facts on the ground cannot be so readily – publically – linked to the incidents in the report. .

Internal United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that have occurred in northwest Syria, and we the NGOs signing this letter remain committed to sharing all needed information on incidents and events to be fully communicated to investigators.

We, a group of NGOs ask you to implement the following:

1. The COI, and the IIIM, and the new UN Board of Inquiry should appoint full time experts, based in southern Turkey, in order to facilitate faster investigations, and more regular contact with humanitarian actors. , and to start their investigations once they are informed of attacks on humanitarian facilities, so that they can fulfil results of their investigations, as quickly as possible, without waiting for regular reports.
2. UNOCHA should provide the investigators of the UN Board of Inquiry, COI and IIIM with full access to the information of the humanitarian de-confliction mechanism.
3. The Secretary-General of the UN should instruct all the agencies and programs of the UN from UNOSAT of UNTAR, and SSA of WHO and MRM of UNICEF to similarly provide investigators with full access to information related to the bombardment of humanitarian facilities and to supply them with all the support and assistance they need to facilitate their investigations.
4. The UN Secretary-General to ensure that the Security Council receives the results of these investigations in a timely manner so that it can take the necessary steps, as quickly as possible and in time before we lose these facilities and those who work in them.

Our expectations, as NGOs, from an international effort to save our colleagues, the heroes who are still working in Syria, from systematic targeting, achieving justice and punishing the criminals, are very low, but we still have hope that the truth is an important tool, therefore we should avail every effort to use it to save humanitarian activists in Syria. We hope that the establishment of the UN board of inquiry will not take long time, and in the meantime the existing investigation bodies should not exclude those incidents from their investigations. The NGOs amongst us who share information into the de confliction mechanism, and who share incident reporting into the UN system expect and request that this information be used to promote investigation into, and accountability for, the crimes that are being committed.

Respectfully,

## The Signatories (Coordination Bodies)

- A. | تحالف المنظمات السورية غير الحكومية | Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA)
- B. | اتحاد منظمات المجتمع المدني السوري | Union of Syrian Civil Society Organizations USCSO
- C. | الاتحاد السوري العام | General Syrian Union
- D. | منبر الجمعيات السورية | Syrian NGO Platform
- E. | شبكة المرأة السورية الانسانية | Syrian Women Humanitarian network
- F. | شبكة وطن | Watan Network
- G. | تحالف منظمات المجتمع المدني السوري (شمل) | Syrian CSOs Coalition
- H. | منتدى المنظمات العاملة في شمال غرب سوريا | North-West Syria NGO Forum

## The Signatories (NGOs)

1. | جمعية نور الخيرية | Nor Alkhair Charity
2. | جمعية غراس الخير الإنسانية | Ghiras Alkhaeer Humanitarian
3. | ملتقى البيت الدمشقي | Damascene House
4. | رابطة أهل حوران | Ahl Horan Association
5. | رابطة حمص في المهجر | Homs League
6. | منظمة أفكار | Afkar
7. | منظمة قدرة | Kudrah
8. | الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين | Youth for Syria
9. | المؤسسة الدولية لدعم المرأة | International Supporting Woman Association
10. | جمعية عطاء للإغاثة الإنسانية | Ataa Humanitarian Relief Association
11. | جمعية الوفاء للإغاثة والتنمية | Alwafa Association for Relief and Development
12. | منظمة أبرار للإغاثة والتنمية | Abrar Organization
13. | رحمة بلا حدود | Mercy Without Limits
14. | جاني وطن | Jana Watan
15. | منظمة زدني علما | E.D. Organization
16. | مؤسسة بذور الأمل | seeds of hope
17. | جمعية الأيادي البيضاء | BEYAZ ELLER YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ
18. | مؤسسة رحمة الإنسانية | RAHMA humanitarian foundation
19. | جمعية سنا للأعمال التعليمية والإنسانية | Sana Association for Educational and Humanitarian Works
20. | بصمات من أجل التنمية | Basamat for Development
21. | مؤسسة عدالة للإغاثة والتنمية | adaleh foundatoin for relief and development
22. | هيئة الإغاثة الإنسانية الدولية | International Humanitarian Relief
23. | جمعية تكافل الخيرية | Takaful Charity
24. | الشام للأيتام | Alsham Association
25. | بركة الإنسانية | Baraka Humanitarian
26. | هممة | Himma Youth Organization
27. | مساحة سلام | Space of Peace



28. | منظمة البشائر Albashaer Humanity Organization
29. | منظمة البنيان المرصوص الإنسانية | Albanian Almrso Humanitarian Organization
30. | المهندسين السوريين للإعمار والتنمية | Syrian Engineers for Construction and Development
31. | لمكافحة الأمل جمعية السرطان | Alaml Association For Cancer
32. | احساس تجمع | Ehsas Relief Agency
33. | جمعية البر | Alberr Association
34. | انسان منظمة الخيرية | Insan Organization
35. | منظمة البشائر الإنسانية | Albashaer Humanity Organization
36. | منظمة شفق النور | Shafak Association Organization
37. | كلنا | All Together
38. | جمعية أرزاق | Arzaq Humanitarian Foundation
39. | الرعاية منظمة الإنسانية | Health Care Organization
40. | سداد منظمة الإنسانية | Sadad Humanitarian Organization
41. | منظمة معاً لأجل الخير | All for Charity
42. | جمعية لا تحزن الخيرية | La Tahzan Charity
43. | البيت ملتقى الحلبي | Multaqa Albeat Alhalaby
44. | الخيرية | Hmedi charity
45. | التعليم هيئة الطبي | Medical Education Council
46. | والمساعدة العدالة الإنسانية | Adalah Foundation for Relief and Development
47. | الخيرية للأعمال سابق والتنمية | Sabeq Foundation for Charity and Development
48. | مؤسسة إعادة الأمل | Restore Hope Foundation
49. | جمعية الرعاية والمساعدة الإنسانية | Insan Care
50. | منظمة عبيدة | Obaida Charity
51. | منظمة سوار | Sewar
52. | منظمة اليمان | Alyaman
53. | مؤسسة رحمة حول العالم للإغاثة والتنمية | Rahma Worldwide - Aid and Development
54. | أطفال عالم واحد | Children of One World
55. | اتحاد منظمات الإغاثة والرعاية الطبية | Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations USSOM
56. | مؤسسة الرعاية الإنسانية والتنمية – مسرات | MASRRAT Establishment For Human Care and Development
57. | إحسان للإغاثة والتنمية | Ihсан Relief and Development
58. | غراس النهضة | Ghiras Al-Nahda
59. | مؤسسة الشام الإنسانية | Al Sham Humanitarian Foundation
60. | جمعية سوريا الإغاثية | Syria Relief - Turkey
61. | أطباء عبر القارات – تركيا | Physicians Across Continents - Turkey
62. | المؤسسة الدولية للتنمية الاجتماعية | Social Development International
63. | مؤسسة بناء للتنمية | BINAA Organization for Development
64. | تكافل الشام الخيرية | Takaful Al-Sham Charity
65. | سوريا للإغاثة والتنمية | Syria Relief and Development SRD
66. | مؤسسة سكن للرعاية والتنمية | SKT organization
67. | منظمة بنفسج للإغاثة والتنمية | Violet Organization for Relief and Development
68. | يدا بيد للإغاثة والتنمية | Hand in Hand for Aid and Development
69. | مؤسسة القلب الكبير | Big Heart Foundation
70. | الرابطة الطبية للمغتربين السوريين | Syrian Expatriate Medical Association SEMA
71. | الجمعية الطبية السورية الأمريكية | Syrian American Medical Society SAMS
72. | منظمة اورنج | Orange Organisation

73. منظمة شفق | Shafak Organization
74. | هيئة الإغاثة الإنسانية Humanitarian Relief Association – IYD
75. جمعية النور السورية | Syrian Light Society
76. | زيد بن ثابت الاهلية Zaid bin Thabit National
77. | رابطة اهل حوران Ahl Horan Association
78. | منظمة بنيان Bonyan Organization
79. | جمعية الشام لرعاية الأيتام Al - Sham Association for Orphans Care
80. | زدني علما Give Me A Note
81. | شام حياة Sham Life
82. | اعمار الشام الانسانية Emaar Al Sham Human
83. | جمعية معا Together Association
84. | شام شريف Sham Sherif
85. | جمعية ابن النفيس الانسانية Ibn al - Nafees Human Society
86. | سيفيل كبير CIVIL CARE
87. | الجمعية السورية للدعم والتنمية الانسانية Syrian Association for Support and Human Development - INSURYA
88. | جمعية الأخي الخيرية Association of Brotherhood Group
89. | شفق شام الخيرية Shafak Cham Charity
90. | غراس الخير الانسانية Grass of Human Goodness
91. | جمعية لانك انسان Association for a Human Being
92. | هيئة الإغاثة الإنسانية الدولية International Humanitarian Relief Agency IHR
93. | جمعية المعرفة للتنمية والتعليم Knowledge Society for Development and Education
94. | معا لأجل الخير We are All for the Good Association
95. | تنمية انسان Human Development
96. | جمعية همة Hema Association
97. | جمعية اعمار لإعادة البناء IMAAR Reconstruction Organization
98. | جمعية حياة للأعمال الخيرية والانسانية Hayat Association for Charity and Human
99. | منظمة مسك Mask Organization
100. | جمعية الحياة الإنسانية ALHAYAT İNSANİ YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ
101. | جمعية الحياة للخدمات الإنسانية Al-Hayat Humanity
102. | مؤسسة جودي للتنمية Cudi Development Foundation
103. | الخوذ البيضاء The White Helmets
104. | منظمة إيلاف للإغاثة والتنمية Elaf for Relief and Development
105. | فسحة أمل Space of Hope
106. | جمعية زنوبيا للمرأة السورية Zanobia For Syrian Women
107. | ياسمين الحرية Jasmine Of Freedom
108. | مزن للإغاثة و التنمية Muzun For Humanitarian and Development
109. | مدنيون للعدالة والسلام Civilians for Justice and Peace
110. | منظمة كريمات Kareemat
111. | رابطة المرأة السورية Syrian Woman Association
112. | منظمة التنمية المحلية Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)
113. | منظمة القبعات البيضاء للتنمية المستدامة White Hats Organisation for Sustainable Development
114. | الهيئة العامة للمرأة السورية في حماه وريفها
115. | طريق السلام Peace Road
116. | كش ملك Kesh Malek Organization

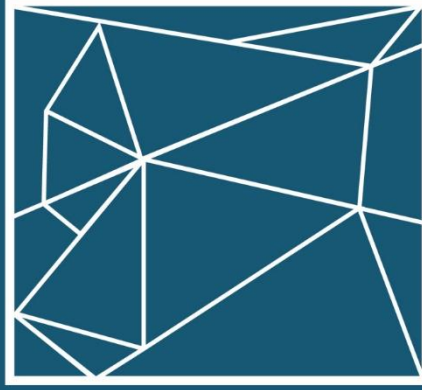
117. | اليوم التالي The Day After (TDA)
118. | مؤسسة دعم المرأة Woman Support Association (KADIN DESTEK DERNEĞİ)
119. | غصن زيتون للتعليم والثقافة Olive branch for Education and Culture
120. | البوصلة للتدريب والإبداع Bousla for Training & Innovation
121. | منظمة بهار Bahar Organization
122. | الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان Syrian Network for Human Rights
123. | اورينت Orient for Human Relief
124. | العدالة من أجل الحياة Justice for Life
125. | سوريون من أجل الحقيقة والعدالة Syrians for Truth and Justice-STJ
126. | محامون وأطباء من أجل حقوق الانسان Lawyers and Doctors for Human rights
127. | شبكة حراس Hurras Network
128. | السراج للتنمية والرعاية الصحية / السويد Alseeraj for Development and healthcare/Sweden
  
129. | منظمة الاطباء المستقلين Independent Doctors Association
130. | البرنامج السوري للتطوير القانوني The Syrian Legal Development Programme
131. | المركز السوري للإعلام وحرية التعبير Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression
132. | مركز توثيق الانتهاكات في سوريا Violation Documentation Center in Syria
133. | منسقو استجابة سوريا Response Coordination Group (RCG)
134. | منظمة توتول Totol Foundation
135. | جمعية أصدقاء الشعب السوري Friends of the Syrian People e.V.
136. Stand with Syria Japan – SSJ



سوريون  
من أجل  
الحقيقة  
والعدالة  

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Syrians  
For Truth  
& Justice



## History

Syrians for Truth and Justice was conceived during the participation of its co-founder in the Middle-East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Leaders for Democracy Fellowship program, who was driven by a will to contribute to Syria's future. Starting as a humble project to tell the stories of Syrians experiencing enforced disappearances and torture, it grew into an established organisation committed to unveiling human rights violations of all sorts.

Convinced that the diversity that has historically defined Syria is a wealth, our team of researchers and volunteers works with dedication at uncovering human rights violations committed in Syria, in order to promote inclusiveness and ensure that all Syrians are represented, and their rights fulfilled.

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