NGOs in Syria Call for Immediate Action From the UN Responding to the Systematic Attacks on Humanitarian Facilities
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Responding to the Systematic Attacks on Humanitarian Facilities
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.
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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 been 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,
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The Signatories (Coordination Bodies)

A. تحالف المنظمات السورية غير الحكومية Syrian NGO Alliance (SNA)
B. الاتحاد المنظمات المجتمع المدني السوري Union of Syrian Civil Society Organizations USCSO
C. الاتحاد السوري العام General Syrian Union
D. مركز الجماعيات السورية Syrian NGO Platform
E. شبكة المرأة السورية الإنسانية Syrian Women Humanitarian network
F. شبكة وطن Watan Network
G. منظمات المجتمع المدني السوري (شمل) Syrian CSOs Coalition
H. منتدى المنظمات المختلفة 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 أبزر للاغاثة والتنمية Abrar Organization
13. رحمة بلا حدود Mercy Without Limits
14. جمعية الوفاء للإغاثة والتنمية Alwafa Association for Relief and Development
15. جمعية عطاء للإغاثة الإنسانية Ataa Humanitarian Relief Association
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 أندلس الدعوة والإعلان والتنمية adaleh foundatoion for relief and development
22. هيئة الإغاثة الإنسانية الدولية International Humanitarian Relief
23. جمعية تكافل الخيرية Takaful Charity
24. الشام للتنمية Alsham Association
25. بركة الإنسانية Baraka Humanitarian
26. هيئة Himma Youth Organization
27. مساحة سلام Space of Peace
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28. | منظمة البشائر
Albashaer Humanity Organization

29. | منظمة البشائر الإنسانية
Albonian Almros Humanitarian Organization

30. | المهندسين السوريين للأعمال والتنمية
Syrian Engineers for Construction and Development

31. | السرطان
Alaml Association For Cancer

32. | احساس تجمع
Ehsas Relief Agency

33. | جمعية البشائر الإنسانية
Albashaer Humanity Organization

34. | أنسان منظمة
Insan Organization

35. | المنظمة البشائر الإنسانية
Albonian Almros Humanitarian Organization

36. | شفقة النور
Shafak Association Organization

37. | كننا
All Together

38. | أموز
Arzaq Humanitarian Foundation

39. | الرعاية الإنسانية
Health Care Organization

40. | سداد منظمة
Sadad Humanitarian Organization

41. | جمعية معاً لأجل الخير
All for Charity

42. | جمعية لا تحزن الخير
La Tahzan Charity

43. | البيت المثلث
Multaqa Albeat Alhababy

44. | الخيرية والحسنة
Hmedi charity

45. | التعليم هيئة
Medical Education Council

46. | Adalah Foundation for Relief and Development

47. | Sabeq Foundation for Charity and Development

48. | مؤسسة إعادة
Restore Hope Foundation

49. | جمعية الرعاية والمساعدة الإنسانية
Insan Care

50. | منظمة عبيرة
Obaida Charity

51. | منظمة سوار
Sewar

52. | المنظمة البشائر الإنسانية
Albashaer Humanity Organization

53. | مؤسسة رحمة حول العالم للإغاثة والتنمية
Rahma Worldwide - Aid and Development

54. | اطفال 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 – مسارات
MASRRAT Establishment For Human Care and Development

57. | إحسان للإغاثة والتنمية
Ihsan Relief and Development

58. | غراس النهضة
Ghiras Al-Nahda

59. | مؤسسة الشام الإنسانية
Al Sham Humanitarian Foundation

60. | جمعية سوريا الإنسانية
Syria Relief - Turkey

61. | أطباء عبادة
Physicians Across Continents - Turkey

62. | المؤسسة الدولية للتنمية
Social Development International

63. | BINAA Organization for Development

64. | تكافل الشام الخيرية
Takaful Al-Sham Charity

65. | سوريا للإغاثة والتنمية
Syria Relief and Development SRD

66. | 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 أورينج
Orange Organisation
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73. Shafak Organization
74. Humanitarian Relief Association – IYD
75. Syrian Light Society
76. Zaid bin Thabit National
77. Ahl Horan Association
78. Bonyan Organization
79. Al - Sham Association for Orphans Care
80. Give Me A Note
81. Sham Life
82. Emaar Al Sham Human
83. Together Association
84. Sham Sherif
85. Ibn al - Nafees Human Society
86. CIVIL CARE
87. Syrian Association for Support and Human Development - INSURYA
88. Association of Brotherhood Group
89. Shafak Cham Charity
90. Grass of Human Goodness
91. Association for a Human Being
92. International Humanitarian Relief Agency IHR
93. Knowledge Society for Development and Education
94. We are All for the Good Association
95. Human Development
96. Hema Association
97. MAAR Reconstruction Organization
98. Hayat Association for Charity and Human
99. Mask Organization
100. ALHAYAT İNSANI YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ
101. Al-Hayat Humanity
102. Cudi Development Foundation
103. The White Helmets
104. Elaf for Relief and Development
105. Space of Hope
106. Zanobia For Syrian Women
107. Jasmine Of Freedom
108. Muzun For Humanitarian and Development
109. Civilians for Justice and Peace
110. Kareemat
111. Syrian Woman Association
112. Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)
113. White Hats Organisation for Sustainable Development
114. ALHAYAT İNSANI YARDIMLAŞMA DERNEĞİ
115. Peace Road
116. Kesh Malek Organization
117. The Day After (TDA)
118. Woman Support Association (KADIN DESTEK DERNEĞİ)
119. Olive branch for Education and Culture
120. Bousla for Training & Innovation
121. Bahar Organization
122. Syrian Network for Human Rights
123. Orient for Human Relief
124. Justice for Life
125. Syrians for Truth and Justice-STJ
126. Lawyers and Doctors for Human rights
127. Hurras Network
128. Alseeraj for Development and healthcare/Sweden
129. Independent Doctors Association
130. The Syrian Legal Development Programme
131. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression
132. Violation Documentation Center in Syria
133. Response Coordination Group (RCG)
134. Totol Foundation
135. Friends of the Syrian People e.V.
136. Stand with Syria Japan – SSJ
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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