



24 August 2020



© STJ

**89 Organizations Denounce  
Turkey's Repeated Water cut to  
Hundreds of Thousands of  
People in Syria's North East**

## **89 Organizations Denounce Turkey's Repeated Water cut to Hundreds of Thousands of People in Syria's North East**

*For the eighth time, Turkey and affiliated local councils use water to blackmail in COVID-19 pandemic*

On 13 August 2020, Turkish forces turned off the Alok water pumping station, under their control, to hundreds of thousands of people in northeastern Syria, just as they did earlier repeatedly in March, April and July and that was also followed by a frequent lack of water pumping.

The Alok water pumping station, which is located east of the city of Ras al-Ayn/Serê Kaniyê and has 30 wells, which can pump up to 175.000 cubic meters per day, supplies drinkable water to around 800.000 people besides being the main source to fill the tanker trucks that carry water to the makeshift camps of al-Hawl, al-Areesha (or al-Sadd) and Washo Kani (or al-Twaina), according to the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#).

Sporadic water cut forced the population of Syria's north east to rely on unsafe alternatives, endangering their lives on top of their fight against COVID-19, that has infected 280 and killed 17 in northeastern Syria so far, according to the last [update](#) by the health authority of the Autonomous Administration on 20 August 2020. Suspending the Alok water station puts the lives of hundreds of thousands of people at risk, since washing hands with water and soap is essential to protect themselves against the pandemic.

Turkey and affiliated local councils claim that the forces in control of the Tishrin Dam interrupted power to the Alok water station causing its stop. However, that was refuted by observatory impartial organizations, among them the Human Rights Watch (HRW), which confirmed in a [report](#) that the Mabrouka power station does not supply the Alok pumping station and that the latter has alternative power sources enough to operate it.

Signatories of this statement condemn the repeated suspensions of the Alok water pumping station by Turkey and associated local councils, who continue to use it to blackmail. We also would like to recall that this deliberate denial of water to the population is a flagrant violation to their basic right to access clean water and to the international humanitarian law; it also constitutes a war crime,

Accordingly, the signatories of this statement call on the United Nations (UN), the Security Council, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United States Government, the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to:

- 1. Pressure Turkey and affiliated local councils to resume the Alok water station urgently and immediately, and ensure that there would be no repetition of such cuts under any pretext.**
- 2. Neutralize the Alok water station from political and military conflicts by suspending Turkey and other parties from using it to blackmail, and to hire a specialized and independent management team to run it under international supervision and control.**

3. **Ensure that all population in Syria's north east benefit from water and other natural resources fairly and equitably without discrimination of any kind, under impartial international supervision.**
4. **Investigate into the repeated water cuts transparently and independently, and thus hold those involved accountable whoever they were.**

### **The Statement Signatories,**

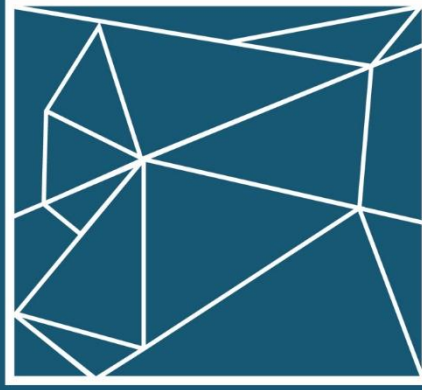
1. Aata'a Organization for Development
2. Adel Center for Human Right
3. Al Diyar Society
4. Aljazera Relief Organisation
5. Amal Al Baghouz
6. Anoar Algad Organization
7. Aras Charity Association
8. Ashna Organization for Development
9. Ashti Center for Peacebuilding
10. ASO - Center for Consultancy and Strategic Studies
11. Ata'a Al-Baghouz Association for Development
12. Atyaf Organization
13. Baladna Organization for Civil Society
14. Balsam Center for Health Education
15. Better Hope for Tabqa
16. Bonus without Borders
17. Bukra Ahla Association for Relief and Development
18. Civil Society Institutions Platform in Northern and Eastern Syria
19. DAN for Relief and Development
20. Dawlaty
21. Demos Organization
22. DOZ – Syria
23. DREAM - Hlom for Development
24. EMAAR MANSURA
25. Ensaf for Development
26. Euphrates Organization for Relief and Development – EORD
27. Ezdina Organisation
28. Field Response Team
29. Forum Tow Rivers Organization
30. GAV for Relief and Development
31. Hajin Technicians Organization

32. Hdf humanitarian Organization
33. Hevy for Relief and Development
34. HOPE MAKERS
35. Hope Smile - Al Fourat
36. House of Citizenship Organization
37. Human Hope Team
38. Human Rights Organisation in Syria – MAF
39. Inaash Organization for Development
40. Inmaa alfourt Organization
41. International War and Disaster Victims Protection Association – IPV
42. Jan Center for the Care and Training of Children with Special Needs
43. Jasmine Association – Raqqa
44. Jian Charitable Society
45. Jinar for Aid and Development
46. Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights – JFHR
47. Jomard Charity Association – JCA
48. Judy Charity for Development and Relief
49. Justice and Building Center
50. Khwtwa Association for Relief and Development – Raqqa
51. Kobani for Relief and Development
52. Kurdish Committee for Human Rights – RASED
53. Kurdish Legal Committee -KLC
54. Kurdish Organisation for Human rights in Syria – DAD
55. Land of peace Organization
56. Lawir Organization for Animal Protection
57. Legal Construction Organization
58. Life for Syrian Association
59. Mahabad Organization for Human Rights – MOHR
60. Mitan Center to Revive Civil Society
61. NABD Team
62. Nour Jan Charitable Society in Amouda
63. Nujîn - Nujeen Association for Community Development
64. PÊL- Civil Waves
65. People for Human Development – PHD
66. ROJ KAR - for Relief and Development
67. SARA Organization to Combat Violence Against Women
68. Shamal Charity Association
69. SHAMS Organization
70. Shar for Development
71. Share for Community Development

72. Shawishka Association
73. Shaylan Association for Relief and Development
74. Slav Center for Civic Activities
75. Smile Organization
76. Swaaed for Development
77. Swaedna Organization for relief and Development
78. Syrian Kurdish civil Forces Gathering
79. Syrian Kurdish Journalists Network – SKJN
80. Syrians for Truth and Justice-STJ
81. TEVNA KURDI
82. The Civil Cooperation Team Organization
83. The Four Seasons Organization
84. TOTOL FOUNDATION for Reliaif and Development
85. Violations Documentation Center in Northern Syria – VDCNSY
86. Women for Peace Organization
87. Xunav Association for Relief and Development
88. Youth for Change
89. Zakon Association - Komîteya Zagon



سوريون  
من أجل  
الحقيقة  
والعدالة  
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.

- 
- 🌐 [www.stj-sy.org](http://www.stj-sy.org)
  - 📘 [syriaSTJ](https://www.facebook.com/syriaSTJ)
  - 🐦 [@STJ\\_SYRIA\\_ENG](https://twitter.com/STJ_SYRIA_ENG)
  - 📷 [Syrians for Truth & Justice](https://www.instagram.com/Syrians_for_Truth_Justice)
  - ✉ [editor@stj-sy.org](mailto:editor@stj-sy.org)