

Uniting for Peace in Syria: Global Civil Society Appeal to UN Member States

The UN Security Council has failed Syrians. In almost six years of conflict, close to half a million people have been killed and eleven million have been forced to leave their homes. Most recently, the Syrian and Russian governments and their allies have carried out unlawful attacks on eastern Aleppo with scant regard for some 250,000 civilians trapped there. Armed opposition groups have also fired mortars and other projectiles into civilian neighbourhoods of western Aleppo, though according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, “indiscriminate airstrikes across the eastern part of the city by Government forces and their allies are responsible for the overwhelming majority of civilian casualties.” Efforts to stop these atrocities and hold those responsible to account have been blocked repeatedly by Russia, which continues to misuse its veto power in the Security Council.

The UN’s special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has warned that the UN must not allow “another Srebrenica, another Rwanda, which we are sadly ready to recognize written on that wall in front of us, unless something takes place.” Yet, there is no sign that the Security Council deadlock will end anytime soon. The guardian of international peace and security has failed to fulfill its task under the UN Charter and has failed to uphold its responsibility to protect the Syrian people.

This is why we, a global coalition of 223 civil society organizations, urgently call upon UN member states to step in and request an Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly to demand an end to all unlawful attacks in Aleppo and elsewhere in Syria, and immediate and unhindered humanitarian access so that life-saving aid can reach all those in need. Member states should also explore possible avenues to bring perpetrators of serious crimes under international law on all sides to justice.

We welcome Canada’s leadership in seeking UN General Assembly action and we strongly urge all Member States to join the 73 countries from all regions by endorsing their initiative. These countries should work toward an Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity, as UN member states have done in the past when the Security Council was deadlocked.

We call in particular upon the 112 supporters of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Code of Conduct, which includes a pledge to support “timely and decisive action” aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, to join this effort and actively promote meaningful action through the UN General Assembly.

Inaction should not be an option. UN member states should use all the diplomatic tools at their disposal to stop the atrocities and protect the millions of civilians in Syria. History will judge harshly those that fail to step up.

Signed:

1. ABBAD
2. Abrar Halap Association for Relief and Development*
3. ActionAid International
4. Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (ACAT)
5. Afghanistan Global Civil Society Consortium (AGCSC)
6. Africa Atrocities Watch
7. African Centre for Transitional Justice (ACT-J)
8. African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)
9. Ahl Horan*
10. Alkawakibi Organisation for Human Rights
11. Al Seeraj For Development And Healthcare*
12. Amnesty International
13. Amrha*
14. Antiwar Committee in Solidarity with the Struggle for Self-Determination
15. Arab Human Rights Organization - Libya
16. Arab Program for Human Rights Activists (APHRA)
17. Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
18. Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA)
19. Associação Brasileira de Organizações Não Governamentais (Brazilian Association of NGOs)
20. Association For Promotion Sustainable Development, India
21. Association Medina
22. Assyrian Human Rights Network (AHRN)
23. Association de Soutien aux Médias Libres (ASML)
24. Attaa for Relief and Development (ARD)*
25. Attaa Association*
26. Avaaz
27. Badayl-Goa
28. Badhon Human Development Organization (Badhon Manob Unnayan Sangstha)
29. Balad Syria Organization*
30. Basmeh & Zeitooneh For Relief and Development
31. Basmet Amal Charity*
32. Baytna Syria
33. Big Heart Foundation
34. Bihar Relief Organization*
35. BINAA for Development
36. Bonyan*
37. Bridge of Peace
38. Broederlijk Delen
39. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
40. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
41. Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)
42. Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)
43. CARE International
44. Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)
45. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
46. Center for the Development of International Law (CDIL)
47. Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

48. Christian Aid UK
49. Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
50. Collectif pour une Syrie Libre et Démocratique
51. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
52. Concern Worldwide
53. Conectas Human Rights
54. Control Arms Foundation of India
55. Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu)
56. CCFD-Terre Solidaire
57. Damascene House Foundation for Society Development*
58. Deir Elzoz United Association - FURAT*
59. Democratic Republic Studies Center
60. Doctors of the World UK
61. East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOFF)
62. Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone
63. Education without borders - MIDAD*
64. Emaar AL Sham Humanitarian Association*
65. Emissa for Development
66. End Impunity Organization (EIO)
67. Enjaz Development foundation*
68. Equitas
69. EuroMed Rights (Euro-Mediterranean Network for Human Rights)
70. Foundation for Democracy and Accountable Governance (FODAG)
71. Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights
72. Fundación Jóvenes y Desarrollo
73. Ghiath Matar Foundation*
74. Ghiras Al Nahda*
75. Ghiras Foundation for Child Care
76. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
77. GOAL
78. Greater Upper Nile, Bahr el Ghazal & Equatoria Youth Association (GUBEYA)
79. Insan for Psychosocial Support*
80. Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre (HNLAC)
81. Hand In Hand For Syria
82. Help 4Syria
83. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia (MHC)
84. Humanitarian Relief Association - IYD*
85. Human Appeal
86. Human Care Syria
87. Human Rights Documentation Organization (HURIDO)
88. Human Rights First Society - Saudi Arabia
89. Human Rights Now (HRN)
90. Human Rights Watch (HRW)
91. Hungarian Helsinki Committee
92. Instituto Brasileiro de Analises Sociais e Economicas (IBASE)
93. ICJ Kenya
94. IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation
95. Independent Doctors Association (IDA)
96. Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (INESC)

97. Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS)
98. Instituto Igarapé
99. Intercultural Resources
100. International Alert
101. International Association of World Peace Advocates
102. International Center for Policy and Conflict (ICPC)
103. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
104. International Humanitarian Relief*
105. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
106. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
107. International Supporting Woman Association - ISWA*
108. International Youth For Africa (IYA)
109. Irtiqaa Foundation*
110. Jonglei Development Agency (JODA)
111. Jugend Eine Welt – Don Bosco Aktion Österreich
112. Karam Foundation
113. Kesh Malek
114. KHOJ
115. Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (LAPAS)
116. Maram Foundation for Relief & Development*
117. Médecins du Monde France
118. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
119. Middle East and North Africa Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (MENAPPAC)
120. Misiones Salesianas
121. Mother of Hope Cameroon (MOHCAM)
122. Mountain Foundation*
123. Najda now*
124. Nasaem Khair*
125. NGO NO-WAR NETWORK
126. Non C'è Pace Senza Giustizia (No Peace Without Justice)
127. Norwegian Church Aid
128. Nuon Organization for Peace-Building
129. Ohaha Family Foundation (OFF)
130. Organization for Non-violence and Development (ONAD)
131. Orient for Human Relief*
132. Oxfam
133. Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU)
134. PAX
135. Pax Christi Flanders
136. Peace and Development Collaborative Organization (PDCO)
137. People in Need (PIN)
138. People's Action For Rural Awakening (PARA)
139. People's Empowerment Foundation (PEF)
140. Permanent Peace Movement (PPM)
141. Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)
142. Protection Approaches
143. Qitaf Al Khair Relief Association*
144. Quaker Peace and Social Witness
145. Radanar Ayar Rural Development Association

146. Relief International
147. Relief & Reconciliation for Syria
148. Rethink Rebuild Society
149. Revivre
150. Rideau Institute
151. Rwanda Green Initiative
152. Saed Charity Association*
153. Sanayee Development Organization (SDO)
154. Save A Soul*
155. Save the Children
156. Sedra Association For Charity*
157. Shama Association*
158. Shaml Coalition
159. Snabel Al Khyr*
160. Solidarity Ministries Africa for Reconciliation & Development (SMARD)
161. Souria Houria
162. South Solidarity Initiative
163. South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA)
164. South Sudan Christian Community Agency (SSCCA)
165. South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (SSHURSA)
166. South Sudan Law Society (SSLS)
167. South Sudan Youth Peace and Development Organization (SSYPADO)
168. South Sudanese Diaspora Civil Society Network (SSDCSN)
169. Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organisation (SUNFO)
170. STAND
171. Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands Refugee Foundation)
172. SUDO (UK)
173. Syria Charity
174. Syria NGO Alliance
175. Syria Relief*
176. Syria Relief and Development (SRD)
177. Syria Relief Network (SRN)
178. Syria Relief Organization*
179. Syrian American Council
180. Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
181. Syrian Center For Legal Studies and Research
182. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)
183. Syrian Center for Statistics and Research (CSR-SY)
184. Syrian Education Commission - SEC*
185. Syrian Engineers For Construction and Development Organization - SECD*
186. Syrian Expatriate Medical Association - SEMA*
187. Syrian Institute for Justice
188. Syrian League for Citizenship
189. Syrian Medical Mission*
190. Syrian Network for Human Rights
191. Syrian Orphans Organization*
192. Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ)
193. Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization*
194. Tearfund

- 195.The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)
- 196.The Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
- 197.The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS)
- 198.The Red Elephant Foundation
- 199.The Syria Campaign
- 200.The Syrian Establishment for Human Care & Enhancement – MASRRAT*
- 201.The Violations Documentation Center in Syria (VDC)
- 202.Trócaire
- 203.Tuba Dernegi*
- 204.Unified Revolutionary Medical Bureau in East Gouta*
- 205.Union Of Syrians Abroad*
- 206.URNAMMU
- 207.Vision GRAM-International
- 208.Voice for Change (VFC)
- 209.War Child
- 210.White Hands - Beyaz Eller*
- 211.Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- 212.Women Monthly Forum
- 213.World Federalist Movement–Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP)
- 214.World Renew
- 215.World Vision
- 216.Youth Forum on Foreign Policy
- 217.Youth for Peace and Development
- 218.Youth in Action Balochistan
- 219.Youth in Action Nepal
- 220.Yuwalaya
- 221.Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights)
- 222.Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum
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**These organizations are members of the Syria Relief Network (SRN), an umbrella organization of Syrian humanitarian NGOs working inside Syria and neighboring countries to provide relief to Syrians in need of assistance.*