

## **Syria Cessation of Hostilities Welcome: Humanitarian Aid Desperately Needed**

### ***A statement from 101 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. Binna for Development
20. Bonyan
21. Bridge of Peace
22. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
23. CAFOD
24. CARE Internationa
25. CCFD - Terre Solidaire
26. Center for Civilians in Conflict
27. Christian Aid
28. Concern Worldwide
29. Council for Arab-British Understanding
30. Damascene House Foundation for Society Development
31. Deir Elzzor United Association (FURAT)
32. Doctors of the World UK
33. Education Without Borders (MIDAD)
34. Emaar AL Sham Humanitarian Association
35. Enjaz Development Foundation
36. Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor- Geneva
37. Fraternity Foundation For Human Rights
38. Ghiath Matar Foundation
39. Ghiras Al Nahda
40. Ghiras Foundation
41. Ghiras Syria
42. Global Call to Action Against Poverty
43. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
44. Handicap International
45. Help 4 Syria
46. Human Appeal
47. Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD)
48. Ihsan Relief and Development
49. Insan for Psychosocial Support
50. International Humanitarian Relief
51. International Supporting Woman Association (ISWA)
52. International Rescue Committee
53. Irtiqaa Foundation
54. Islamic Relief
55. Just Foreign Policy, US
56. Karam Foundation, NFP
57. Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)
58. Maram Foundation for Relief & Development
59. Middle East and North Africa Partnership for Preventing of Armed Conflict
60. Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
61. Mountain Foundation
62. Najda Now
63. Nasaem Khair
64. Nuon Organization for Peacebuilding

65. Orient for Human Relief
66. Oxfam
67. Pax Christi International
68. Permanent Peace Movement
69. Qitaf Al Khair Relief Association
70. Rethink Rebuild Society
71. Saed Charity Association
72. Save A Soul
73. Save the Children
74. Sedra Association for Charity
75. Shama Association
76. Snabel Al Khyr
77. Society for Threatened Peoples
78. Student-led Movement to End Mass Atrocities
79. Syria Charity
80. Syria Relief
81. Syria Relief and Development
82. Syria Relief Organization
83. Syrian American Medical Society
84. Syrian Education Commission (SEC)
85. Syrian Network for Human Rights
86. Syrian Engineers for Construction and Development Organization (SECD)
87. Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)
88. Syrian Medical Mission
89. Syrian Orphans Organization
90. Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization
91. The Center for Victims of Torture
92. The Syrian Establishment for Human Care & Enhancement (MASRRAT)
93. Tuba Dernegi
94. Unified Revolutionary Medical Bureau in East Gouta
95. Union of Relief and Medical Care Organizations (UOSSM)
96. Union of Syrians Abroad
97. Violations Documentation Center in Syria
98. Vision GRAM-International
99. White Hands - Beyazeller
100. World Vision
101. Zain Foundation