



Rethink Rebuild Society

The voice of the British Syrian Community of Manchester

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Court verdict on murder of Dr. Abbas Khan welcomed, expected

We welcome the verdict at the Royal Courts of Justice that Dr. Abbas Khan was unlawfully killed by the Syrian government and that the British medical doctor had not gone to Syria to fight.

This verdict makes official what we have known for a long time: that the Assad regime operates with a horrific level of brutality and has no regard for the sanctity of human life. In this particular case, the regime further demonstrated its disrespect for the protection of foreign nationals. Dr. Abbas Khan, a British national, was deliberately murdered and was denied of any consular access despite repeated efforts from the Foreign Office to provide him with such support.

In illegally taking Dr. Abbas Khan's life and subjecting him to severe torture before his death, the Syrian regime committed an act not unlike those committed by ISIS. We recall that the UK's decision to join the US-led military campaign against ISIS stemmed from (among other considerations) the threat posed by this group to British nationals. We therefore call upon the British government, in light of its interests in protecting its nationals abroad, to ensure that yesterday's Court finding does not go ignored and that it is followed by concrete action to bring those responsible from the Syrian regime to justice.

ENDS

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