



**Rethink Rebuild Society**

*The voice of the Syrian Community of Manchester*

# Statement

08/04/2015

## **RR Condemns and Mourns Death of Sheikh Abdul Hadi Arwani**

The Rethink Rebuild Society offers its warmest condolences to the family and community of Sheikh Abdul Hadi Arwani. Although we did not have a direct relationship with him, it is obvious from the outpouring of support that we have seen since yesterday from his community and beyond that he has touched the lives of countless people. We Ask Allah (SWT) to grant him jannatul firdaws and to grant patience to his friends and family for this tremendous loss. We also strongly condemn his murder, and while the circumstances of his death remain unknown, we are awaiting the results of what we expect will be a speedy investigation and demand that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

As you may know, Sheikh Arwani lived through the 1982 Hama massacre in Syria in which then-President Hafiz al Assad, father of current Syrian President Bashar al Assad, was responsible for the near-destruction of the city which led an estimated 30,000 people to be massacred in the time span of three weeks. He was then forced to flee Syria when it became known that he was photographing evidence of the destruction caused by the government, and ultimately reached the UK. He has since been a vocal critic of the Assad regime which continues to subject its people to such atrocities. For the past four years, this regime has been brutally suppressing its people, killing over 200,000 innocent people and causing half of the population to be displaced from their homes. This is not to mention the destruction of entire cities and villages, the torture of thousands of prisoners, and the use of chemical weapons on civilian areas. Sheikh Arwani never relented in drawing people's attention to this issue and we hope that his passion for justice for Syria will continue after his death.

As the Manchester Syrian community, we are awaiting the results of the police investigation and hope that the perpetrators will be speedily brought to justice.

### **ENDS**

For further information and press enquiries, please contact 07769704656, or email: [advocacy@rrsoc.org](mailto:advocacy@rrsoc.org)

**Rethink Rebuild Society** has established itself as a non-profit organisation that acts as an umbrella for the Syrian community in Manchester, and endeavours to clarify the Syrian cause to its audience in the UK and the wider public.