



Rethink Rebuild Society

The voice of the Syrian Community of Manchester

Press Release

13/01/2015

Drop food not bombs: Huge protest in Manchester Piccadilly as part of international day of demonstrations

The British Syrian community and supporters will be in Manchester Piccadilly on Saturday, 16 January at 3 pm to call upon the British Government to drop food, not bombs, on Syria.

This protest is one of many that will be occurring throughout the world in response to the siege on Madaya in Syria, after which Assad regime forces prevented food from entering the area for months. Residents were forced to eat grass and to survive on water and salt.

British Syrians and supporters will be protesting in Manchester Piccadilly, calling upon the UK Government to drop aid parcels upon besieged areas in Syria. Yasmine Nahlawi, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator for Rethink Rebuild Society, claims: *'Instead of dropping bombs on Syria, our RAF can instead do something constructive and help to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of civilians on the ground.'*

We will, of course, also be calling for general civilian protection from the Assad regime, whether from the sieges, barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and more.

Although the regime has temporarily allowed the UN to bring in humanitarian relief supplies into Madaya, it is unclear how long this will last. There are also many areas in Syria that continue to be besieged by regime forces, including Deir Ezzor, Eastern Ghouta, and more. Only 10% of UN aid access requests are granted by the Assad regime.

Protest information:

Place: Picadilly Gardens

Times: Saturday 16 January at 3 pm

ENDS

For further information and press enquiries, please contact 07769704656, or email: 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.