



Statement

21/04/2016

Geneva peace talks set up for failure as Assad regime continues to breach ceasefire

Despite a ceasefire which has been in effect in Syria since 28 February, the Assad regime continues to target civilians and civilian areas, thus undermining the fragile political process in Geneva and exposing the regime's lack of good faith in achieving a political solution.

The Assad regime has committed over 2,000 violations since the ceasefire came into effect on 28 February – over one breach per hour. This reveals most clearly that the greatest obstacle to achieving peace in Syria is the Assad regime's brutality.

We continue to stress that **without a guarantee for civilian protection from the Assad regime's indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian areas, a political transition for Syria simply cannot work.** In order to stem the humanitarian crisis, alleviate the refugee exodus, and reduce the threat posed by radical armed groups, **the international community must exert increased pressure on the regime and its allies to comply fully with the terms of the ceasefire and to negotiate in good faith at the Geneva peace talks.**

We reiterate that the only way forward for Syria is through a Syrian-led political transition in which the Assad regime has no future, and which achieves justice and accountability for the Syrian people.

We also offer our deepest condolences to the victims of an air attack in rural Idlib on 20 April 2016 on a civilian market area. We have learned that two students, Zaher Halaby (7 years old) and Omran Idliby (10 years old), tragically lost their lives along with a teacher (Wafa Haj Khalouf). Zaher and Wafa were student and staff, respectively, at Hasan Kamel School, while Omran was a student at Thy Alnourain School. Both schools are known by our education team.

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.