

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION: 29 April 2016

NGOs and faith groups to Obama & Putin: Hope is crumbling on your watch, save Syria's ceasefire

"Violence across Syria has escalated alarmingly, reportedly claiming a life on average every 25 minutes in the past 48 hours. We cannot stand by in the face of this catastrophe. Global NGOs and faith groups demand that President Barack Obama and President Vladimir Putin immediately use their personal diplomatic engagement to save what remains of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) agreement.

In recent days, unacceptable violations of Syria's CoH and the rules of international law have threatened to doom the initiative in its entirety. Numerous strikes on civilians, including several targeting medical facilities and rescue workers, have killed dozens. This must stop now. Just weeks ago, the US and Russia helped secure the CoH, providing a glimpse of what a respite from violence means for people in Syria. Fewer people died in the first month of Syria's ceasefire than at almost any other time since the war began. For many, it was the first time in years that they could walk the streets without fear. This was a first glimpse of hope. That hope that now hangs in the balance. Syria is yet again on the brink of humanitarian disaster and the need for action is urgent.

President Obama and President Putin: these atrocities are happening on your watch. Please heed the call of the UN Special Envoy to Syria to take urgent steps to rescue Syria's cessation of hostilities and end attacks on civilians. Please act now to keep hope alive for Syrians."

Signed,

1. 11.11.11
2. Association for Aid and Relief Japan
3. Action on Armed Violence
4. Action Contre la Faim
5. Andalus Center for tolerance and coexistence
6. Arab Coalition for Sudan (ACS)
7. Arab Program for Human Rights Activists (APHRA)
8. ASML
9. Bangla 2000
10. Baptists Together
11. Broederlijk Delen
12. The Council for British Arab Understanding (CAABU)
13. CAFOD
14. CARE International
15. CCFD-Terre Solidaire
16. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
17. Center for Victims of Torture
18. ChildrenPlus
19. Christian Aid
20. Church of Scotland
21. CREDO Action
22. Doctors of the World UK
23. Doctors of the World USA
24. Euromed (EMHRN)
25. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
26. Friends Committee on National Legislation
27. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
28. Hand in Hand for Syria

29. Helen Bamber Foundation
30. Hivos (Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries)
31. Hope for Syria
32. Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHASM" /Palestine
33. iguacu
34. Ihsan
35. Independent Doctors Association (IDA)
36. Institute for Policy Studies
37. International Rescue Committee
38. Islamic Relief
39. Karam Foundation
40. Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
41. Lord Bishop of Coventry, on behalf of the Church of England
42. Madani organisation
43. Mayday Rescue
44. Medical Aid for Palestinians
45. Medics Under Fire
46. Middle East and North Africa Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (MENAPPAC)
47. Mercy Corps
48. Methodist Church in Britain
49. Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
50. Non-Violence Network in the Arab Countries
51. Oxfam
52. PAX
53. Pax Christi Flanders
54. Pax Christi International
55. Peace Action
56. Peace, Justice Sustainability Florida
57. People in Need
58. Permanent Peace Movement
59. Physicians Across Continents (PAC)
60. Physicians for Human Rights
61. Protection Approaches
62. Rahma Relief
63. Relief International
64. Relief & Reconciliation for Syria
65. Rethink Rebuild Society
66. Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
67. Save the Children
68. Sawa for Development and Aid
69. STAND: The Student-Led Movement to End Mass Atrocities
70. Syria Charity
71. Syria Civil Defence
72. Syria Network for Human Rights
73. Syria Relief
74. Syria Relief and Development
75. Syrian British Medical Society
76. Syrian Civil Coalition
77. Syrian Network for Human Rights
78. Tearfund
79. The Center for Victims of Torture

80. The David Nott Foundation
81. The Phoenix Foundation
82. The Society for Threatened Peoples (Germany)
83. The Syria Campaign
84. The United Reformed Church
85. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)
86. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) France
87. United Muslim Relief
88. Vision GRAM-International
89. War Child
90. Win Without War
91. Women Now for Development
92. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
93. Zaad
94. Zaytoon