



## Press Release

10/07/2016

### **Aleppo Activists: 500,000 civilians in Aleppo are now under siege**

Aleppo activists on the ground (available for interview) say that following intense Assad and Russian airstrikes on the city of Aleppo, most particularly on the Castillo highway (the city's only lifeline), the city of Aleppo is now effectively under siege by Assad and Russian forces.

Abdulkafi Alhamdo, English professor at Aleppo University and at the Institute of Language Studies, said that the Russian and Assad forces used *'all kinds of weapons to besiege Aleppo'*. He continued: *'Medicine, food, and fuel are blocked off going into Aleppo. Frankly speaking the civilians are afraid of the unknown future. People were already suffering without siege; it will be worse now. Of course many of the civilians may now turn into fighters to defend themselves. This is a direct result of Western inaction.'*

Ali Alhalabi, Sharia and English professor at Aleppo University, had his home and his school hit in one day. He said:

*'For me yesterday was a first of Russia's regular bombing against the civilian quarters of Aleppo's liberated areas, especially Bustan al-Qasr. Yesterday morning both my own home and the school where I work were heavily targeted by Russian airstrikes. Luckily, yesterday was the last day of the Eid holiday so classes were not in session. Otherwise, there would have been a horrible massacre. Despite that, we are still steadfast and determined to carry on our blessed struggle for freedom and won't surrender to the barbaric Assad and Russian forces at any price.'*

#### **Watch in video:**

Assad airstrikes target cars on the Castillo highway to cut off Aleppo's lifeline

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=317646001901203&id=100009674160711](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=317646001901203&id=100009674160711)

Assad and Russian airstrikes through all kinds of weapons, including white phosphorous:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1732518173670076&id=1705026203085940](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1732518173670076&id=1705026203085940)

Activists in Aleppo are keen to share their experiences with Western media to highlight the plight of civilians in the city.

#### **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.