



Rethink Rebuild Society

A voice of the British Syrian community

Statement

17 November 2017

Rethink Rebuild Society Condemns the United Nations Security Council's Dereliction to Extend the Joint Investigative Mechanism in Syria

Rethink Rebuild Society strongly condemns the UNSC's [dereliction](#) on 16 November to extend the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) which monitors and establishes accountability with respect to chemical weapons use in Syria.

UNSC members' failure to extend the JIM's mandate basically dissolved an opportunity to build on the mission's past investigative progress, which has already deemed the Assad regime responsible for the 4 April 2017 [chemical attack](#) on Khan Sheikhoun that killed more than 87 people. The JIM's discontinuation essentially gives impunity to future chemical weapons perpetrators and encourages the probable use of such weapons again in the conflict that has already killed more than 400,000 people.

This comes at an extremely critical time where the Assad regime is intensifying violence on multiple fronts, thus encouraging such escalation and evading the regime from pressure of committing to the political process. Russian/Assad airstrikes on a public market in [Atarib](#) in western Aleppo killed more than 60 people. Intensified bombing campaigns on [Eastern Ghouta](#) leaving mounting civilian casualties coupled with the tightened siege have exacerbated people's suffering. The bombing of ISIS's last strongholds in [Deirezzor](#) have also inflicted heavy casualties among civilians.

As a voice of the British Syrian community, we at Rethink Rebuild Society question and refute the international community's inability to attain justice and hold this regime accountable. This continuous demonstration of inaction sets a dangerous precedent on how the global international system is run and leaves Syrians inside more vulnerable.

World powers must not hide behind the obstruction of the Russian veto and should demonstrate a political will to take responsibility for the prevention of war crimes. If an international consensus fails to protect civilians and uphold justice in Syria, then we demand that international powers seek alternative means to do so, including through the '[Uniting for Peace](#)' mechanism. Their inaction to protect civilians and provide some form of accountability for committed human rights and legal violations has contributed to this conflict's aggravation and rise of extremism. We thus call on world powers to avoid and rectify past mistakes, and act responsibly towards holding chemical weapons perpetrators accountable and preventing their use.

ENDS

For further information and press enquiries, please contact 07510007187, or email: bilal@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.