



Rethink Rebuild Society

A voice of the British Syrian community

Email to Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations

22 December 2017

Dear Ambassador Rycroft,

I am writing on behalf of Rethink Rebuild Society, a Manchester-based Syrian advocacy organisation, to express our appreciation and encouragement for your displayed [solidarity](#) of participating in the '[#SolidarityWithKarim](#)' campaign. We ask, and hope, that this solidarity be translated into material impact by relieving Syrians who are being subjected to the harshest kinds of punishment by the Syrian regime for their advancement of legitimate aspirations.

We acknowledge your demand at the UN Security Council meeting that the siege of Eastern Ghouta be lifted immediately. Such statements are imperative in framing the debate on Syria in the UN Security Council and are much appreciated. However, we also stress that while renewal of resolution (2393) for authorisation of cross-border and cross-line humanitarian access is positive news compared to its absence, we should remember that it only maintains the status quo in Eastern Ghouta and merely prevents its further deterioration. The suffering of the siege will continue so long as no serious change in its circumstances is realised.

The social media campaign of #SolidarityWithKarim was adopted by the public to send a message to global policymakers and particularly UNSC members to take action in Eastern Ghouta. The UK and the wider international community have all adopted the principle of the Responsibility to Protect, which rejects the very conditions people in Eastern Ghouta are currently living under. We thus hope to see displays of solidarity accompanied with serious efforts in the UNSC driven by the UK to alleviate the suffering of Syrians by changing the circumstances of the siege and pressuring the regime to stop the bombing. This is urgently needed in order to enable a grounding for the pursuit of UN resolution (2254)'s envisioned roadmap for a political transition towards genuine democracy and justice.

Thank you.

Best wishes,



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