

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Mr David Cameron

Dear Mr Cameron,

Several reports over the past week from Syria have claimed that Bashar Al-Assad has resorted to using poisonous gases against defenceless civilians. Human rights groups within Syria have documented several cases which chemical weapons were used against areas opposed to the rule of Bashar Al-Assad. The most notable case over the past week was in Kafrzeita, in rural Hama and Harasta in rural Damascus. The two incidents have led to the suffocation and death of numerous innocent lives including children & women.

The silence of the international community towards these crimes only encourages Bashar Al-Assad to keep killing innocent lives using chemical weapons, TNT barrel bombs and many other methods of mass killing. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council including the United Kingdom have a duty to make sure these weapons are not used to kill innocent civilians, and prevent those who have previously used such weapons from using them again.

The protection of life is a humanitarian obligation, and we urge the UK government to play a leading role in saving Syria from the crisis that engulfs the country and act swiftly to end the genocidal mass killings that Bashar Al-Assad is committing. We also urge the UK government to remember that Bashar Al-Assad did use chemical weapons before, most notably on 21st August 2013 when around 1,500 innocent civilians were killed in the Damascus Suburbs. Assad continues to test the waters with smaller scale uses of internationally-banned weapon. The UK government and the international community must not be silent about these crimes and they definitely should not allow them to continue..

Signatories:

National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (UK) - Rethink Rebuild Society
Syrian Association of Yorkshire - Syrian Revolution Committee in Newcastle – Welsh Solidarity for Syria

