

# FUNDRAISING UPDATE



February 2020

## Could you help expose war crimes and demand justice for civilians?

### A request from Kate Allen, Director

With your donations – which could be doubled\* – our crisis investigators can find the irrefutable evidence needed to demand change for civilians caught in the crossfire.

As you walk around Raqqa in Syria, it's hard to fathom how the ruins that surround you could have been caused by a coalition of countries, including the US, the UK and France, who were meant to protect civilians from Islamic State.

I travelled to Raqqa last year with Donatella Rovera, one of our most experienced crisis investigators. I thought I knew what to expect. But you can't prepare yourself for the feeling of standing in the middle of a pile of rubble that was once a school or family home. Even Donatella – who has spent over two decades gathering evidence of human rights violations in crisis-torn areas – said the destruction was like nothing she had experienced before.

US Commanders claimed the Raqqa air campaign was the most 'precise' in the history of armed conflict. But evidence gathered by our crisis investigation team provides us with harrowing proof of a very different reality: over 1,600 civilians were killed by these airstrikes.

### Your fundraising could help expose human rights atrocities

Donatella and the team play a vital role in piecing together what really happens in warzones like Raqqa: harnessing the power of witness testimonies, on-the-ground evidence and sophisticated new technologies, like satellite image analysis. But they can only do that with your help.

We need donations to keep documenting potential war crimes – whether they're in Syria, Yemen, or Sudan. And if you organise a fundraiser now and send us the donations by 30 April, every pound could be matched by a generous partner of Amnesty International UK\*.



*Me, right, standing in the rubble of a building in Raqqa, Syria. More than 80% of the city was destroyed.*



*Crisis investigator Donatella Rovera gathers evidence of human rights abuses so we can demand justice.*

### Exposing the truth in Raqqa:

- 200+ airstrike sites visited
- 400+ survivors interviewed
- 2,000,000+ satellite images analysed
- 4,100+ hours contributed by volunteer image 'decoders'

GET IN TOUCH: [fundraise@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:fundraise@amnesty.org.uk) / 020 7033 1650

We are committed to the highest standards in fundraising.



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## Together, we can demand better for civilians

Rasha and Abdulwahab Badran were settling into life as new parents when artillery shells started crashing down around their home in Raqqa in June 2017. They had no choice but to flee with their baby, Tulip, and their extended family. For weeks, they lived on the run. But nowhere was safe.

Tragically, 39 members of the Badran family, including one-year-old Tulip, were killed by airstrikes.

This is just one of many stories the Coalition didn't want you to hear. But because of our undeniable evidence, the Coalition has now admitted it was to blame for killing 200 civilians during the Raqqa campaign, including the Badrans. We have a long way to go, but this is a vital first step in the fight for justice for Tulip's young parents and many others who have lost everything.

International humanitarian laws were put in place to protect civilians and we cannot let global powers get away with breaking them. As we speak, civilians are caught up in crises all over the world, just like the Badrans were. They deserve so much better. Please start your fundraising today.

Thank you,

**Kate Allen**

Director, Amnesty International UK

## Fundraising inspiration

There are many ways for your student group to be part of the team exposing the truth and pushing for change to protect civilians in warzones. Here are a few ideas:

- Collections
- Quiz nights
- Sponsored walk or run
- Live entertainment
- Raffles and silent auctions

For more fundraising ideas and tips, email [fundraise@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:fundraise@amnesty.org.uk) and send your donations using [this form](#) or via BACS (details on the form.)

*\* Donations will be unrestricted and will go to the Amnesty International United Kingdom Section. They will be matched up to £18,000, and the matched funds will support our research in Syria. This project is being funded by the Amnesty International United Kingdom Section. Please note donations received after we hit £18,000 will be cashed but won't be matched.*



The 39 members of the Badran family who were killed by Coalition airstrikes in Raqqa.

### We rely on donations to:

- Supply body armour to keep crisis investigators safe
- Train crisis investigators to gather evidence and document potential war crimes
- Equip the team with pioneering technology to expose even the most secretive perpetrators.

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