



Syria:

Marking THE 3rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPRISING - March 15

The third anniversary of the Syria conflict will act as a grim reminder to the world of its failure to stop the suffering. As the world's media once again reflects on the crisis at this time, we need to make sure that we use the opportunity to demonstrate to world leaders that they need to do more to help the people of Syria. In 2014, with more than 130,000 killed in the conflict, and 300 people fleeing their homes every hour, the need for a powerful campaign is greater than ever before.

To this end Amnesty International is part of a global coalition of NGOs and civil society who have created a joint campaign to mark the anniversary with a demonstration of solidarity with ordinary Syrian people. These actions will then culminate in candle-lit / light based vigils attended by thousands of people across the world around major global landmarks on 13th March 2014. The coalition of NGO's and civil society partners around the world will be mobilising their members from the beginning of March through to the 15th March 2014, the 3rd anniversary of the uprising, to demand that world leaders help all those caught in the conflict. Actions can and will take place after 15 March of course.

The aim is to demonstrate global solidarity with children, men and women struggling each day to survive the Syria conflict and improved access for the civilian population of Syria to basic necessities, including food, medical aid and fuel.

What you need to do:

Shine a light on Syrian's struggle to survive

During March, host your own vigil or other creative events using the light theme. Ideally get together in front of a local landmark and hold your vigil for Syria, take a photo with you/your group and the landmark in view and send it to student@amnesty.org.uk



You can use candles or battery operated candles or something more imaginative, how about using the light from your phones, or glowsticks (if you have any). If you want to make a pattern with your candles you could spell out **Syria** or **#WithSyria** or **Break the Sieges**. You can use the template press release to publicise your event.

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The conflict in Syria is the greatest humanitarian crises of our times. It has raged for nearly three years, claimed the lives of over 130,000 people, and forced nearly 9 million people from their homes. Sustained action around the world is needed to get sufficient aid to all those caught up in the Syria crisis and to make progress towards a political solution to the conflict.

In March 2014, the third anniversary of the Syria uprising will act as a tragic reminder to the world of its failure to stop the suffering. With more than 11,000 children killed in the conflict, and a million more living as refugees, the need for a powerful campaign calling for action is greater than ever before.

Throughout March 2014, the anniversary will be used to mobilise individuals and organisations around the world using the simple unifying symbol of light and will culminate in lighting up / projecting onto global iconic landmarks to shine a light of hope for Syria.

Join us at the *We Stand #WithSyria* vigil in Trafalgar Square, at 6pm-7pm on Thursday 13th March.

The vigil in London's Trafalgar Square will be one of the largest, most high profile events, featuring a soundscape developed by Martyn Ware using the voices of Syrian people and their hopes for the future, and a light projection culminating in a child-led vigil. The audience of supporters, celebrities, politicians and children will be invited to tweet messages that will be projected onto the square.

This will be a unique opportunity to take part in a global solidarity movement to show the people of Syria that they have not been forgotten and to show world leaders that we will do everything we can to prevent another year lost to bloodshed.

Please join us in marking this important day.

Register to come to the event here:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-stand-withsyria-london-vigil-tickets-10723076009?aff=AmnestyInternationaluk>

The #WithSyria coalition includes agencies from across global civil society, including Amnesty International, CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, Doctors of the World, FIDH, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, The International Rescue Committee, War Child, and World Vision. We are also linking with the 'No Lost Generation' campaign, including UNICEF and UNHCR.

with-syria.org

#withsyria