

# Crisis & Tactical Campaigns

## Syria Campaign 2016



***Solidarity with people peacefully demanding their human rights – Defiance against those trying to stop them.***

The situation in Syria and the surrounding region continues to be the most severe human rights and humanitarian crisis in the world.

It is easy to think the issue is too complex and that there is little we as individuals or as a human rights organisation can do to affect change. The narrative of despair is increasingly compelling. And Syria is a battle of narratives as much as it is a battle on the ground.

Ultimately, those failing Syrian civilians are those who are committing, facilitating or justifying human rights violations or abuses.

Every day that passes without an effective international response compounds the misery for ordinary civilians in Syria.

Our campaigning has a focus on the immediate crisis, in particular the need to prevent violations and abuses, ensure there is credible accountability and help amplify calls for increased humanitarian assistance and access. This reactive short term work sits within more long term work which focuses on a human rights vision for a new Syria in transition.

### **Transition**

We will continue to empower, equip and mobilise the Syrian activists we work with to help them develop an independent civil society, take human rights messages out to a wider audience and be better enabled to use non-violent means to defend their own and others rights. Training programmes and strategy meetings will be held in London, Germany, Lebanon and Turkey with our growing network of Syrian activist contacts.

### **Accountability**

We will continue to increase the visibility of human rights violations and abuses that occur by any party to the conflict as a step towards them being held to account. We will also press those parties with influence to improve their rules of engagement and command structures so IHL and civilian protection is central to their own conduct.

### **Humanitarian action**

We will continue to increase visibility of the humanitarian crisis to help those seeking secure & durable cross border and cross line aid deliveries. A key area will be to ensure relevant UN Security Council resolutions are effectively implemented. We need to keep the focus on this and push the

point that protecting civilians from deliberate starvation and indiscriminate bombardment is more important than state sovereignty – especially where that state is committing crimes against humanity.

## **Solidarity and Support for detained Syrian activists**

Through casework we will demonstrate our solidarity for Syrian activists and call for their release.

## **Refugees & Resettlement**

We will seek increased investment in the regional refugee response and a greater number of vulnerable Syrians being resettled in the UK and wider.

Via these five strands we will increase awareness of Amnesty's recommendations to lessen the excesses of the conflict and key steps needed for an effective transition. We will do this publicly and privately with officials, MPs, unions, other NGOs, schools & universities and the Syrian diaspora. We want them to devote resources to expressing their solidarity and promoting a Syria which has human rights for all. We also want to see increased activism from AI including more engagement at events, panel discussions and talks.

## **Contacts**

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