

#WithSyria campaign, March 2014

Here's a template press which we'd encourage you to personalise and send to your local newspaper/website to help publicise Amnesty International's work on Syria, specifically the #WithSyria vigils this month.

Meanwhile, also look out for a major Amnesty report on Syria and the need for access for humanitarian aid into Syria which will be published on or around 10 March. This will give you additional talking points for interviews or any other media work you may be doing around this time.

If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of doing media work for Amnesty, please don't hesitate to contact me at: neil.durkin@amnesty.org.uk, 020 7033 1547, @niluccio

And good luck.

Neil Durkin, Media Unit

Template press release

XXXXX Amnesty International group

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: xx xx MARCH 2014

XXXXXX CAMPAIGNERS TO HOLD VIGIL MARKING THREE YEARS OF SYRIA UPRISING

'Syria is the world's worst humanitarian crisis' - [group rep]

Members of the **XXXX** Amnesty International group are holding a vigil for Syria on 13 March **[or nearest convenient date for your group]** as part of a series of global solidarity actions with the people of Syria three years since the uprising began in March 2011.

The vigil - to be held by the **XX monument** in **Our Town's central square** at **XXpm** - is part of a string of similar events around the country and around the world organised by a coalition of human rights and humanitarian organisations, including Amnesty, Oxfam, Save The Children and Christian Aid.

The vigils - which will be held with a #WithSyria theme - will highlight the plight of over 250,000 civilians trapped in besieged areas of Syria who have little food, water or medicine.

Amnesty is pressing for humanitarian aid to be delivered into Syria, especially for those besieged by Syrian government or armed opposition group forces, and demanding the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 which was unanimously adopted on 22 February 2014.

XXXX Amnesty's vigil has been organised by **XX resident XXXX**, the group's chair. S/he said:

"Syria is the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

"Our vigil is simply a matter of people saying 'we haven't forgotten, we're still trying to help and we're standing in solidarity with the people of Syria'.

"Recently, after much dithering, our own government did the right thing by agreeing to resettle some of the most vulnerable refugees from the Syria conflict.

"Now we need to see the world powers - especially Russia, a key country in all of this - coming together and demanding immediate access for humanitarian aid especially into besieged and hard to reach areas of Syria.

"It's really important to mark this three-year point since the uprising began, but we don't want to be back here holding another vigil for Syria in a year's time – the humanitarian crisis must be resolved."

The vigil is a public event and is open to all local people, who are warmly encouraged to attend the event.

Note to editors

XXXXX Amnesty activists will congregate by the **XX monument** between 6.30 and 7.00pm on **XXXX XX** March. There will be an opportunity for photographs and interviews with activists.

Background

[If relevant]: Add in a short paragraph or two about any notable activity your group may already have carried out on Syrian, especially if it involved any public work - demos etc - in your area, or anything that you may have coming up. Additionally, add in a line about your group's next meeting.

ENDS

Media contacts:

[Add in XXXXX Amnesty's media contact details, including a mobile number]