

Statement on Refusal to Deal with Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization:

The NW region of Syria is being exposed to the largest humanitarian catastrophe in the world due to the military campaign of the Syrian regime and its Russian and Iranian allies. This military campaign resulted in displacement of about 1.3 million people as from April 2019 up to date. Eighty percent of the IDPs are women and children. Overwhelmed and wandering, they fled towards the Turkish-Syrian borders that are previously crowded with hundreds of thousands of IDPs from Eastern Ghutah of Damascus, Dar'aa, Hama and Aleppo. Options left for people were very harsh, such as dying under torture if they stay in the areas to be controlled by the regime just like what happened with the sixty-year-old man Ahmed al-Jaffal in the city of Ma'arret al-Nu'man who thought that his old age would intercede and protect him from those monsters, while the militias affiliated to the regime killed him, burned his body and raised the V hand signal upon the body. Another option left is to die in the cold just like what happened in Afrin city with the female-kid aging only 18 months old Inan Laila who froze to death in the arms of her father who was wandering and looking for a shelter. The other option left for people is starving to death and lack of potable water as it the case of tens of Syrian every day.

Under all these terrible humanitarian conditions, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization continues to deceive public opinion and issue false and deceptive reports on its commitment to the fundamental principles of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, the most important of which is neutrality and independence. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization did not abide by them for a day under the current Syrian regime. On the contrary, the activities of SARC were closely linked to the regime's security agencies, and it supported publicly or implicitly the genocide war that the Syrian regime practices against its people. In addition to this, SARC publishes non-professional and false reports regarding access and the level of service delivery. We can summarize the most important observations on the work of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization over the past period as follows:

- 1- Disrupting the elections at the sub-councils level, which in turn elects the administrative board of the organization, from 2011 up to long years with the aim of ensuring full loyalty to the Syrian regime.
- 2- Appointing Khaled Hboubati as head of the organization in 2016 by a decision issued by the Prime Minister of the regime Emad Khamis, though Hboubati was never one of the organization staff members.
- 3- The sons of officials have controlled most senior management positions in SARC since 2011.
- 4- The organization suffers from sectarian, regional and familial lobbies, at the sub-councils level, affecting its response to the humanitarian needs of the people.
- 5- More than 400 people have resigned from SARC or have been dismissed for reasons related to the political opinion since 2011, and the dismissed ones were not granted even experience certificates for their previous period of work.
- 6- SARC did not help the injured people in the demonstrations at the beginning of the popular movement in Syria.
- 7- SARC showed a clear bias towards one of the conflict parties on a political basis.

- 8- After the Syrian regime controlled the south of Syria, many beneficiaries in Dar'aa and Quneitra provinces had been deprived from relief aid due to security reports written against them related to their political opinion towards the Syrian regime. Moreover, they were asked to go to the security agencies in their areas to be recruited as secret agents and give information about some people in case they want to receive relief aid, though that aid is provided by the World Food Program and not by the regime.
- 9- Most of the civil society organizations that used to work in southern Syria, that are estimated to be more than one hundred organizations, have disappeared for security reasons to be replaced by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent as nearly the exclusive agency for receiving the UN aid for those areas.
- 10- Some of the earlier memoir published by the Syrian regime revealed that the Intelligence Agency had issued clear orders to its branches to coordinate with the branches of SARC to organize the distribution of medical aid to areas under the control of the opposition and to choose what types of aid are allowed to access.
- 11- Most information related to the access of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to the various regions of Idlib Province published throughout the press and media, is untrue.

In conclusion,

The Syrian regime has kidnapped the state's institutions and completely transformed them into a tool to protect its benefits and keep control on civilians with an iron fist and apply the policy of collective punishment on citizens rejected its rule and demanded freedom and justice. This led to disastrous consequences on people. Then, the health institutions deprived many areas of vaccines, which led to the spread of poliovirus in many areas of Syria. Moreover, the security agencies, which are supposed to preserve people's security, have turned to be a tool of torture, intimidation and killing. In addition, the military institution, that is supposed to protect the border of the country from enemies, has committed the most heinous crimes against the citizens using all kinds of weapons, including chemical weapons and other weapons that are internationally prohibited.

On the other hand, the regime controlled many of the NGOs are controlled working the areas under its control. The most obvious example of such NGOs is the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, where this prestigious institution, which was founded in 1942 as a humanitarian center, turned to become a tool of horror threatening about 4 million citizens who live in the north of Syria. SARC was used as a pretext to stop the flow of international aid across borders for millions of people in need.

While we value the great effort made by the international movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent around the world, we ask them to exert real pressure on the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to commit to the seven main principles of this great institution i.e. humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, volunteer service, unified and universality.

Based on all of the above, we are the signers of this statement; we declare our absolute refusal to deal with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in any way, or to receive aid through it across conflict lines until it complies again with the seven humanitarian principles.

Signers of the Statement:

1. Health Directorates:

Idlib Health Directorate	Aleppo Health Directorate	Latakia Health Directorate	Hama Health Directorate
--------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------

2. Public Unions and Associations:

Medical Service Providers' Association in Idlib	Pharmacists' Association in Aleppo	Teachers' Association in Idlib	Engineers' Association in Idlib	Economists' Association
Pharmacists' Association in Idlib	Pharmacists' Association in Hama	Bar Association in Idlib	Farmers' Union	Women's Caucus
Academics Association in Idlib	Sports Union in Idlib	Gathering of Professional Association and Union in Idlib	Idlib people Union	The Idlibi House
Syrian Association of freedom for the Syrian Prisoners and Detainees	Central Syndicate of Syrian Lawyers Foundation	Nour Medical Charity Association	Physicians' Association in Hama	Asaa Humanity Association
Gauth Voluntary Group	Medad Humanitarian Foundation	Rwaad Al-Hair Group	Beesan Benevolent Association	Shahba Voluntary Team
Medical Service Providers' Association in Hama	Ghaith Charity	Free Syrian Bar Association	The General Authority for Syrian Women in Hama and its countryside	General Women's Union / Aleppo Branch
Economists' Association / Aleppo Branch	Syrian General Union of Teachers / Aleppo Branch	Dentists' Association in Aleppo	Syndicate of Nursing, Medical Technicians and Midwives/ Aleppo Branch	Syrian Contractors' Syndicate / Aleppo Branch
Media Union of Aleppo and its countryside	Syndicate of Free Syrian Engineers/Aleppo Branch	Farmers' Association \ Aleppo Branch	The Sharia Council in Aleppo	20/30 Youth voluntary Team
Medical Service Providers' Association in Latakia				

3. Hospitals:

Al-Shami Hospital in Ariha	Al-Salam Hospital in Harem	Atmeh Charity Hospital	Owdai Hospital in Saraqib	Ibn Sina Hospital for Pediatrics
Al-Hikma Hospital in Taftanaz	Ain al-Baidha Hospital	Salqin Central Hospital	Kiwan Hospital in Kansafra	Idlib Central Hospital
Bab al-Hawa Hospital	Al-Ma'arra Central Hospital	Al-Amal Hospital in Kansafra	Al-Qunyya Hospital	Al—Hidaya Hospital in Qah
Sarmada Hospital for Gynecology and Pediatrics	Ma'arret Misrin Surgical Hospital	Internal Diseases Specialized Hospital in Idlib	Al-Rahma Hospital in Darkoush	Maternity Specialized Hospital in Idlib
Binnish Medical Complex	Jisr al-Shughur Hospital	HiH Hospital in Balioun	Shnan Hospital	Al-Noor Hospital in Taftanaz
Specialized Surgical Hospital in Idlib	SHAFAK Specialized Hospital for Gynecology	Specialized Pediatrics Hospital in Sarmada	The Mobile Hospital in Qalb Lawzeh	Wasim Hassinou Hospital in Kafr Takharim
Al-Ikhaa Hospital in Atmeh	Aqrabat Hospital	Kafr Nabl Surgical Hospital	Al-Firdaws Hospital	Al-Ikhlās Hospital in al-Ishakya
Al-Kinan Hospital	Al-Amal Hospital in Daret Izzah	Al-Huda Hospital	Akhtarin Hospital	Al-Sahel Specialized Hospital
Al-Ikhlās Hospital in al-Sahel	Al-Atarib Surgical Hospital	Maternity Hospital in al-Atarib	Hritan Hospital	Al-Amal Hospital in al-Ghandoura

4. PHCs:

Al-Ma'arra PHC	Dair Sharqi PHC	Ma'asaran PHC	Khan Shaikhun PHC	Kafr Nabl PHC	Saraqib PHC
Jisr al-Shughur PHC	Kafr Bunni PHC	Kafr Awaid PHC	Kafr Ruma PHC	Khan al-Sebel PHC	Al-Maland PHC
Darkoush PHC	Kwrin PHC	Orient PHC	Al-Bashiryia PHC	Meshemshan PHC	Afis PHC
Jarjanaz PHC	Al-Mastouma PHC	Hafsarja PHC	Al-Salam PHC in Idlib	Green Idlib PHC	Barisha PHC
Ariha PHC	Abi Zarr PHC in Idlib	Al-Salam PHC in Ma'arshurin	Salqin PHC	Dair Hassan PHC	Dair Hassan PHC \ camps
Armanaz PHC	Muhambel PHC	Sarmin PHC	Harbanou sh PHC	Al-Shaikh Yousef PHC	Sarmada PHC
Kafr Ammim PHC	Taftanaz PHC	Al-Jam'aa PHC in Idlib	Orem al-Jouz PHC	Kafr Yahmoul PHC	Ma'arret Hurma PHC
Idlib Tuberculosis Center	Ehsem PHC	Al-Janoudyia PHC	Al-Thawra PHC	Kafr Lusin PHC	Kalbit PHC

A'doun PHC in Salqin	Al-Zouf PHC	Zardana PHC	Kafr Naha PHC	Qubtan Al- Jabal PHC	Al-Abzmo PHC
Al-Sahhara PHC	Kusnayya PHC	Kafr Da'el PHC	Kafr Nwran PHC	Al-Jinah PHC	Al-Huteh PHC
Al-Bawabyia PHC	Enjara PHC	Al-Hakim PHC in Rural Aleppo	Al-Ess Surgical Unit	Al-Atarib Dialysis Center	Ebbin PHC
Hour PHC	Kafr Ta'al PHC	Bab al-Salama PHC	Yazibag PHC	Akhtarin PHC	Ezaz Tuberculosi s Center
Qbbasin PHC	Bza'a PHC	Omar al-Shaikh Center for Physiotherapy	Afrin PHC	Bulbul PHC	Meryamin PHC
Saraqib Thalasemia Center	Ibn Sina Dialysis Center	Jarablus PHC	Zghara Camp PHC	Al-Bab PHC	Ezaz PHC
Suran PHC	Al-Rayyan PHC	Shmarekh PHC	Akda PHC	Al-Noor PHC	Al-Iman PHC
Radial Diagnosis Center	Saraqib Blood Bank				

**Number of institutions, associations, and health facilities signed this statement is
\183**