



Joint declaration by the High Representative and Vice President, Federica Mogherini, and the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, on the latest indiscriminate attacks against the Syrian people

Brussels, 17 August 2015

Violence continues to escalate in Syria, which has already become the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

In early August alone, no fewer than nine hospitals were deliberately targeted in the Idlib region and civilians were hit in Douma, Zabadani and elsewhere, killing more than one hundred Syrian citizens, including women and children. Hospitals, just like schools and markets, must be particularly respected. Hospitals are neutral spaces where people should be able to seek vital health care safely.

These are only the latest tragic illustrations of the massive and systematic human rights violations in Syria by the regime and its allies as well as ISIL / Da'esh and other armed groups.

All parties to the conflict have to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the protection of civilians.

Those responsible for the numerous grave violations of human rights and the murder of thousands of civilians must be held accountable.

The EU will continue to support all efforts to reach a lasting political solution by mutual consent based on the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 and in line with relevant UNSC Resolutions.

STATEMENT/15/5505

Press contacts:

[Catherine RAY](#) (+32 2 296 99 21)

[Alexandre POLACK](#) (+32 2 299 06 77)

[Daniel PUGLISI](#) (+32 2 296 91 40)

[Nabila MASSRALI](#) (+32 2 298 80 93)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)