



الحركة السياسية
النسوية السورية
THE SYRIAN WOMEN'S
POLITICAL MOVEMENT
MOUVEMENT POLITIQUE
FÉMININ SYRIEN

H.E. Mr. Mansour Ayyad SH A Alotaibi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations
President of the UN Security Council

21 February 2018

Your Excellency,

In the shadow of shameful international silence, the genocide carried out by the Syrian regime and its allies continues – this time in Eastern Ghouta. For five years, nearly 400,000 civilians have been trapped in besieged Eastern Ghouta, denied humanitarian and medical assistance, while sustaining a barrage of indiscriminate bombardment, including barrel bombs, chemical weapons and ground artillery. Now, the violence has reached catastrophic levels.

This week the civilians of Eastern Ghouta confronted a devastating escalation of regime air raids and ground artillery, with regime aircraft targeting medical facilities, schools, marketplaces, and homes. In the past three days alone, these attacks have killed at least 250 civilians and wounded thousands more. Since Sunday 18 February, at least 42 women and 60 children have been killed, with dozens more dying every day. This mass massacre aims to exterminate Eastern Ghouta's civilian population and cleanse the area of anyone who demands freedom and dignity.

The women and children of Eastern Ghouta are being slaughtered while the world watches. The Syrian regime, aided and abetted by Russia and Iran, is mercilessly targeting civilians in violation of international law and the will of the Security Council, including UN Security Council resolutions 2118 (2013) and 2254 (2015) and the Geneva Communiqué. Yet to date, Assad has suffered no meaningful consequences for his war crimes and so his atrocities grow ever more horrific.

Your Excellency, the Security Council has committed itself to including women within Syria's political process. Yet the women of Eastern Ghouta are being exterminated, and their appeals for protection are being ignored. On behalf of the women trapped inside Eastern Ghouta we, the Syrian Women's Political Movement, call on the members of the Council to:

- (i) **Break the siege of East Ghouta** through all means possible, including urgently delivering humanitarian airdrops to the besieged population;
- (ii) **Protect civilians** from indiscriminate attacks, including taking action to stop the bombs that are raining on women and children.
- (iii) **Support an immediate ceasefire that includes credible consequences** if and when violence resumes and any parties besiege civilians or bomb civilian life.

Your Excellency, it is vital that you exert the utmost pressure on the Syrian regime and its allies to stop the war of genocide against our people. This is the only way to save Syria and create the context in which a credible, inclusive political process can lead to a sustainable political settlement.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.
The Syrian Women's Political Movement