

**Press Release**

# **Humanitarian Aid Urgently Needed for IDPs in Eastern Syria**

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



[16 October 2017] The recent campaign to uproot ISIS in Raqqa and Dier Ezzor has made major strides tackling terrorism. But a widespread failure to protect civilians from indiscriminate attacks has led to massive internal displacement across eastern Syria and left countless civilians without proper access to food and medical care. In a new [report](#), the Syrian Network for Human Rights ([SNHR](#)) warns that without immediate action by the international community, 370,000 civilians across eastern Syria could soon be facing a humanitarian catastrophe.

“As the fighting in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor has ramped up, nearly 400,000 civilians have been forced to flee their homes. Many did not survive, losing their lives in the assault or as they attempted to flee”, says SNHR Chairperson Fadel Abdul Ghany. “Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in IDP camps or makeshift tents, where conditions are miserable. For the few that have made the journey home, they have returned to find their homes looted and destroyed by regime-affiliates.”

“The international community has a responsibility to ensure that civilians aren’t the main victims in the fight against terrorism. We don’t expect the Syrian government and its allies, who have committed widespread war crimes in the course of the conflict, to adequately protect civilians today. But we do expect the international community to uphold its commitments to ensure that civilians aren’t treated as collateral damage, and that all IDPs receive the humanitarian aid they desperately need”, he concludes.



In light of the continuing humanitarian catastrophe in eastern Syria, SNHR are calling for:

- Immediate, unhindered **humanitarian aid** to IDPs in Deir Ezzor and Raqqa provinces, delivered independently from the government in order to ensure aid reaches those who need it the most;
- Enforcement of **International Humanitarian Law** in the fight against ISIS, which includes requirements to protect civilians, and forbids forced displacement;
- A holistic approach to solving the Syrian conflict which prioritises a comprehensive **political solution**. Tackling terrorism without addressing its root causes will fail to bring a lasting peace.





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

