

Declaration

The Assad regime and its allied sectarian militias continue to commit the most heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity by continuing to besiege large civilian areas, including Madaya, Zabadani, Eastern and Western Ghouta, Moadamieh and Daraya, and the northern countryside of Homs and the southern countryside of Hama. Countless deaths have been documented as a result of starvation and extreme cold weather in these besieged areas. Civilians trapped in these areas must consume tree leaves, cats and other inedible materials as a result of the continued siege that was forced on them by the Assad regime. Hundreds of reports and images of desperate civilians prove the reality of the situation. In addition, Russian and regime forces continue to relentlessly bombard civilians, medical and educational facilities, killing thousands of defenseless children, women and elderly. Despite the betrayal and inaction of the international community in the face of such tragedy, the Security Council's resolutions and press releases continue to falsely equalize between the criminals and their victims. Resolution 2254 demands that "all parties" allow humanitarian access into besieged areas, which could lead one to suspect that moderate rebel forces are blocking humanitarian access to civilians. Based on this, we, the Syrian revolutionary armed forces, would like to clarify our principled position through the following points:

First: We, the revolutionary armed factions, the signatories of this statement, are fighting in defense of Syrian civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic. We affirm our approval and complete commitment to international laws and covenants, especially those which govern armed conflict. Such laws are entirely consistent with the objectives we defend by protecting civilians who demand their rights for freedom, justice and the rule of law. Also, we emphasize that we treat Syrian citizens in the areas under our control in accordance with international human rights treaties; including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol. We also pledge to abide by the law of war when fighting the Syrian regime and its allies, which includes the four Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols Therein. We emphasize that if we treated the Syrian regime and its allies according to the principle of reciprocity, massacres would take place against its soldiers and prisoners and we would randomly bomb areas we control. However, we consider all Syrian citizens as our people and that they are oppressed and hostages under the regime's control. We dissociate ourselves from all previous violations brought to bear by individuals within the ranks of the revolutionary forces, and we pledge to hold accountable all perpetrators before competent courts.

Second: We emphasize our position against the blockading of civilians in any region, and we emphasize that the areas which revolutionary forces have besieged have been strictly military sieges. We assure that civilians within areas in our control are safe, and we will continue to provide access for international relief convoys to reach civilians trapped in these areas.

Third: There are no any credible reports, pictures or documentation of the occurrence of famine or shortage of humanitarian supplies, either from food or medicine, in the areas besieged by us as reports have falsely claimed. There are no records of death as a result of such blockades. On the other hand, hundreds of cases, reports and authentic credible images of starved civilians were documented in the many areas subjected to the Assad regime's sieges. The images that came out of the city Madaya that shook the world and were documented by the United Nations and other legal and human rights institutions serve as evidence of this claim.

Fourth: We demand that the High Negotiations Committee and the negotiating team declare our position and shed light on it. We demand that the practices of the Assad regime be exposed. We demand the refusal of allowing the humanitarian issue and targeting of civilians to be used as a bargaining chip. We reiterate that the negotiating process can not start before compliance of the Assad's regime to the implementation of the humanitarian imperatives in Resolution 2254 issued by the Security Council in 2015.

Northern Division

13th Division

Authenticity and
Development Front

First Coastal Division

Second Coastal Division

Homs Liberation

Movement

16th Infantry Division

Sham Front

Ansar al-Islam Front

Al-Izza Army

Central Division

Yarmouk Army

Salahuddin Brigade

Sultan Murad Brigade

Al-Safwa Battalions

Martyrs Brigade

Horan Column Brigade

Tribes Brigade

Free Men of Horan

Free Men of Badia

Al-Nasr Army

Sham Corps

24th Infantry Division

First Commandos

Brigade

Qassioun Brigades

Hamza Brigade

Gedor Horan Brigade

Dawn of Tawheed

Brigade

Declaration Movement

Ages Brigade

Al-Islam Army

Ansar al-Sham Brigades

10th Brigade in the Coast

Homs Unification Army

Rahman Corps

First Regiment

Mujahideen Army

Levant front

Homs Corps

Furqan Brigades