

For Immediate Release

Press Release

March 16th 2016

More Than 100 Humanitarian Agencies Call For Immediate And Sustained Access In Syria

More than 100 humanitarian agencies appealed today - on the fifth anniversary of the start of the Syria conflict - to allow immediate and on-going access to people suffering inside the country

As the parties to the conflict in Syria resume talks to end a war that now enters its sixth horrific year, there is renewed hope for peace. For an end to the suffering of millions of the innocent.

Two months ago our organizations appealed for urgent access to all those in desperate need inside Syria: for the lifting of sieges; for the full protection of civilians. Today, there are some encouraging signs of progress. The cessation of hostilities has allowed humanitarian organizations to rush more food and other relief to communities desperate for help. But access has to go beyond a temporary lifting of sieges and checkpoints and allowing more aid convoys to move. Humanitarian access and freedom of movement of civilians in Syria has to be sustained. It has to be unconditional. And it should include access to all people in need by whatever routes necessary.

Kevin Jenkins, President of World Vision International, said: “As Syria enters its sixth year of conflict we urge all parties to extend the current cessation of hostilities and allow the unfettered delivery of humanitarian aid. There are 13.5 million people in need of assistance – 4.5 million of them in hard to reach areas and in dire need of food aid, medical assistance and a lifeline of support. Allowing people access to humanitarian aid is a legal obligation under international humanitarian law but this has been violated by parties to the conflict. The result is that 6 million children are among the 13.5 million people in desperate need. The cessation of hostilities has given people renewed hope of peace. By permitting aid to cross international borders and conflict lines there is an opportunity to build momentum for a more permanent ceasefire and to build an environment of trust. World Vision calls for an end to all diversion of aid and attacks on aid workers and humanitarian convoys and unfettered and effective access by humanitarian agencies to all parts of Syria.”

The parties to this conflict and their international sponsors must from now on guarantee:

- Full access for humanitarian and medical workers to assess the wellbeing of civilians in all communities and treat those who are sick and injured without obstacle or restriction.
- Allowing all humanitarian aid, as required by international humanitarian law, to reach, unimpeded, those who urgently need it – including medical supplies, surgical equipment, and nutritional necessities.
- Support for an urgently needed nationwide immunization campaign for children.

These are practical actions that would mean the difference between life and death. All parties to the conflict can agree on them, now. And in doing so, they can take another step to peace. Peace for Syria. The peace that Syrians so desperately deserve.

Signatories:

Anne-Birgitte Albrectsen, CEO, Plan International
 Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
 Richard Allan Director, C.E.O., The MENTOR Initiative
 Steen Andersen, UNICEF Denmark
 Nancy A. Aossey, President & CEO, International Medical Corps
 Bernt G. Apeland, ED UNICEF Norway
 Dr. Mahmoud Aswad, Syrian Expatriate Medical Association
 Stephan Bauman's President of World Relief
 Dr. Gudrun Berger, Executive Director, UNICEF Austria
 Tomaž Bergoč, Executive Director, Slovenska fundacija za UNICEF Big Heart Foundation
 Rod Brooks, President and CEO, Stop Hunger Now
 David Bull, Unicef UK
 Nan Buzard Executive Director, ICVA
 Teresa Casale, Global Communities
 Jonny Cline, Executive Director, UNICEF Israel
 Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Program
 Fadi Al-Dairi, Country Director, Hand in Hand for Syria
 Elisabeth Dahlin, Secretary General, Save the Children Sweden
 Defence for Children International
 Shukria Dellawar, Women Thrive Worldwide
 Hisham Dirani, BINAA
 Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council
 Danks Emese, Executive Director, UNICEF Magyar
 Patricia Erb, President and CEO, Save the Children Canada
 Pierre Ferrari, President and CEO of Heifer International
 Amy Fong, Save the Children Hong Kong
 Meg Gardinier, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance
 Mark Goldring, Chief Executive, Oxfam GB and on behalf of Oxfam International
 Pavla Gomba, Výkonná ředitelka, UNICEF ČR
 Madalena Marçal Grilo, Executive Director, Comité Português para a UNICEF
 Daryl Grisgraber, Refugees International
 Neal Keny-Guyer, President/CEO, Mercy Corp
 Ken Hayami, Executive Director, Japan Committee for UNICEF
 Headwaters Relief Organisation
 Abdullah Hanoun, Syrian Community of the South West UK
 Dirk Hegmanns, Regional Director Turkey/Syria/Iraq, Welthungerhilfe
 Rolla Hinedi, Syria Relief Turkey
 International Disability Alliance
 Islamic Relief Worldwide
 W. Douglas Jackson, President/CEO, PROJECT C.U.R.E
 Kevin Jenkins, President, World Vision
 Bergsteinn Jónsson, Executive Director, UNICEF Iceland
 Mohannad Kanawati, Khayr Charity
 Helen Keller
 Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary General, Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church
 Marja-Ritta Ketola, CEO, UNICEF Finland
 Peter Klansoe, Regional Director, Danish Refugee Council
 Pim Kraan, Chief Executive, Save the Children Netherlands
 Marek Krupiński and Krzysztof Socha, Polish National Committee for UNICEF
 Dr. Hans Kuenzle Chair of the Board of the Swiss Committee for UNICEF
 Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

Jane Lau, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF
 Ilias Liberis, Executive Director, Hellenic National Committee for UNICEF
 Jonas Keiding Lindholm, Generalsekretær / CEO, Red Barnet / Save the Children Denmark
 John Lyon, President, CEO, World Hope International
 Eleanor McClelland, People in Need
 Vivien Maidaborn, CEO, UNICEF NZ
 Ennio Miccoli Director COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale
 Carolyn Miles, President & CEO, Save the Children USA
 David Milliband, International Rescue Committee
 Juraj Mišura and Giorgio Dovogi Slovak Committee for UNICEF
 James Mitchum Chief Executive Officer, Heart to Heart International
 Othman Moqbel , Chief Executive, Human Appeal International
 David Morley, President and CEO, UNICEF Canada
 John Nduna, General Secretary, ACT Alliance
 Niall O'Keeffe, Head of Region, Middle East & Asia, Trócaire
 William O'Keefe, Catholic Relief Services
 Babatunde Osotimenhin, Executive Director, UNFPA
 Ignacio Packer, Secretary General, Terre Des Hommes International Federation
 Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, MERCY Malaysia
 Peter Power, UNICEF Ireland
 Erna Reynisdóttir, CEO, Barnaheill - Save the Children á Íslandi
 Curt Rhodes International Director, Questscope
 Michel Roy, Secretary-General, Caritas Internationalis
 Paolo Rozera, Executive Director, UNICEF Italian National Committee
 Christian Schneider, German Committee for UNICEF
 Kunio Senga, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children, Japan
 Martin Shupack, Church World Service
 Baraa Al-Smoudi, Ihsan RD
 Janti Soeripto, Save the Children International
 SOS Children's Villages International
 Tanya Steele, Interim Chief Executive of Save the Children UK
 Caryl M. Stern President and CEO, US Fund for UNICEF
 John Stewart, President, Australian Committee for UNICEF
 Dae Won Suh, Executive Director, KCU
 William Lacy Swing Director General IOM
 Syria Relief and Development
 Ghaith Taraben, Head of Mission, Turkey, Qatar Red Crescent
 Amro Tarrisi, Violet Organization
 Marta Alberch Terres, Directora, Unicef Comitè d'Andorra
 Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit , General Secretary, World Council of Churches
 Joan Timoney, Women's Refugee Commission
 United Muslim Relief
 Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General, Religions for Peace
 Damien Vincent, UNICEF Belgium
 Sandra Visscher, Executive Director UNICEF-Luxembourg
 Jan Bouke Wijbrandi, Dutch National Committee for UNICEF
 Nancy E. Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Relief International
 Tove R. Wang, CEO, Save the Children Norway
 Samuel A. Worthington, CEO, InterAction
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