

Dear Mr. John Ging and the accompanying delegation of officials of international humanitarian organizations:

The Council of Homs Province would like to express its appreciation for your efforts to help the Syrian people, who are experiencing a humanitarian disaster as a result of the crimes committed by the barbaric killing machine led by the terrorist Assad regime.

We greatly value the humanitarian assistance provided by the international organizations with which you are working. A portion of this aid is reaching some of those who need it of the free Syrian people who have been forcibly displaced by the regime, and who have been abandoned by the official institutions. It should be emphasized that what reaches the people is not enough to cover all our needs, and you have personally seen the inadequacy in meeting the needs of the people and the inhumane conditions in which they live, especially in Al-Waar neighborhood, which you visited, in addition to the northern rural areas, like Talbiseh, for example. Not to mention the besieged areas of the Old City, which you did not visit, and these areas have not received any humanitarian aid for over 7 months.

We appreciate the burdens that you take upon yourselves to come to Syria and see the situation on the ground, despite being unable to freely speak with you and explaining the truth of the situation, due to security reasons that are obvious to you. We should note that there are many parts of Homs suffering from indescribable tragic circumstances, and unfortunately you did not visit these areas. At the same time, we deeply regret the insistence of the United Nations organizations to continue working exclusively through the institutions of the criminal regime that has lost its legitimacy, and avoid dealing directly with the legitimate representatives of the Syrian people.

While we understand the legal and regulatory requirements of your work and the necessary security and well-being of your teams, we would like to remind you of our observations regarding the mechanisms you have adopted to provide international humanitarian aid:

- 1- In principle, it is impossible to establish a partnership with the criminal regime to provide humanitarian assistance, when the regime itself is responsible for the humanitarian catastrophe and while it continues to shell the people with artillery, tanks, and barrels of explosives. The same regime that has killed tens of thousands and forcibly displaced millions of Syrians. How can one trust the murderer with aiding the victim?!
- 2- A number of Syrian organizations seeking to take advantage of the international assistance have been founded by the regime itself to serve its objectives. One example is the Bustan Charity, which was founded by Rami Makhoul, the dictator's cousin, to finance the Shabiha (regime-hired thugs). Another example is the Syria Trust for Development, which was established by Asmaa Al-Assad, the dictator's wife, to support areas loyal to the regime.
- 3- A large part of your assistance is provided through the Arab-Syrian Red Crescent, and we sincerely appreciate the work of the field activists of the Red Crescent, who try to

perform their humanitarian duties independently and without bias. However, the Red Crescent supervisors in the higher positions are appointed by the security forces and are headed by the corrupt business man, Abdel Rahman Attar, who is the dictator's cousin's partner and who is involved in major corruption portfolios, among them the portfolio for Iraqi Refugee Relief in Syria.

- 4- Many Syrian charities and relief organizations are subject to instructions by the regime's security forces, and their dedicated volunteers are often subjected to considerable inconveniences and harassments. Often the Assad army checkpoints force the volunteers to reroute humanitarian aid allocated to the people of the rebellious areas and force them to send the aid to areas loyal to the regime, where the aid is stored as there is no real need for it. For example, the regime completely or partially prevents humanitarian aid from reaching the following areas in the Homs Governorate: Khaldiyyeh, Hamidiyyeh, Bestan Al-Diwan, Wadi Al-Sayeh- Bab Dreib, Bab Houd, Bab Tadmur, Bab Turkman, the City Market, Joret Al-Shayyah, Al-Qossour, AL-Qarabees, Karm Al-Zaitoun-Asheera, Houla, Jobar, Sultaniyyeh, Qusayr, Al- Bweeda, Talbiseh, Rastan, Saan, Zaafaraneh, Talkalakh, and others...
- 5- Due to security forces penetrating many Syrian charities and having access to their records, therefore, many families of activists wanted by the regime, because of security reasons, cannot sign up with these charities to benefit from the aid they provide.

Mr. Ging,

We have previously provided our observations through the Homs Revolutionary Council representatives to many international groups and on more than one occasion, without seeing any serious solutions, and among those occasions are:

- The Syrian revolutionary entities' meeting with the foreign ministers of the Friends of Syria in New York City on September 28, 2012, on the margin of the United Nations General Assembly.
- The Syrian revolutionary entities' meeting with the head of the International Red Cross mission in the United Nations in New York City on September 29, 2012.
- The meeting of the representatives of the local and revolutionary council with representatives of the Friends of Syria in Paris on October 17, 2012 regarding the humanitarian aid.
- The continuous periodic communication with the director of the Red Cross office in Beirut, who oversees the Homs file.

Based on all the above, we hope that you will provide us with a positive and immediate response and that you will take the necessary measures to modify your work in Syria to achieve the intended purpose of the international humanitarian aid, namely, aiding the disaster-stricken Syrian people.

Accordingly, we urge you to adopt the following:

- 1- Regarding the cash and non-cash aid allocated to relief of the Syrian people in areas not under the control of the regime, which are actually the areas with the most need and they are the most harmed as a result of the regime's continued shelling and stoppage of supplies



thereto, these aids should be handed to the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) in the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, the sole and legitimate representative of the Syrian people. The ACU may then transport the supplies across the Syrian-Turkish borders to be distributed in the liberated areas under the supervision of relief committees of the local and revolutionary councils.

2- Regarding the humanitarian aid dedicated to the Syrian people in areas still under the control of the regime, we understand the need for you to coordinate with the occupying authority (i.e., the regime) as a reality, pursuant to the condition that your offices independently and directly oversee the distribution of the aid and confirm that it reaches the disaster-stricken and besieged areas, especially Houls and the Old City areas in Homs.

We hope to see you again in a free Syria

Thank you for your understanding

Homs, 23/1/2013

Council of Homs Province