



Syrian Forum USA

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Public Statement: Urgent Action Needed to Ensure Unrestricted Cross-Border Humanitarian Aid in Syria

The Syrian Forum deeply regrets the United Nations Security Council's failure to reauthorize cross-border aid to Syria. We strongly condemn the recent Russian veto that obstructed the adoption of a Security Council resolution aimed at facilitating the delivery of crucial humanitarian assistance to areas devastated by more than 12 years of conflict and recent earthquakes. This veto undermines the urgent need for humanitarian aid in Syria and exacerbates the suffering of millions of vulnerable people.

Russia's political maneuvering continues to hold the Security Council hostage, disregarding the purely humanitarian nature of the crisis in Syria. Humanitarian aid should not be subject to political games. Yet, the Russian Federation still prioritized politics over the lives of Syrians who depend on aid for survival. At the same time, the Syrian Regime keeps its long-standing pattern of using humanitarian aid as a pressure tactic against civilians in areas outside its control. This manipulation of aid and hindering its delivery across the lines only adds to the suffering of the Syrian people. It is evident that the Regime views humanitarian assistance as a bargaining chip to regain international recognition rather than prioritizing the well-being and survival of its own citizens. Despite the ongoing consent for the crossings at Bab al-Saleme and Al-Rai, it is crucial to acknowledge their limitations in effectively addressing the immense humanitarian needs in northwest Syria. The assistance provided through the Bab al-Hawa crossing by the United Nations has played a critical role in delivering substantial aid to the affected population. However, it is a grave concern that the Syrian Regime retains the power to arbitrarily withdraw its consent at any given time, potentially leaving millions without the essential humanitarian support they urgently require.

Therefore, the Syrian Forum calls upon the international community to unite in depoliticizing humanitarian aid. This requires the collective efforts of all nations to uphold the principles of humanity and alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians affected by conflicts. Prominent legal experts and jurists have affirmed that a Security Council mandate is not required to deliver aid to conflict areas. These opinions were part of a comprehensive legal study sponsored by the Syrian Forum and presented to several capitals and permanent delegations at the United Nations. It is time to depoliticize and neutralize humanitarian aid, not just in Syria, but as a universal principle enforced and respected by all UN member states, including the Security Council's permanent members. We strongly urge states to refer this matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on the necessity of a Security Council mandate regarding humanitarian aid. It is crucial to establish a clear legal framework that ensures the unhindered delivery of life-saving assistance to those in need, regardless of political considerations.

The Syrian Forum reiterates the urgent need for unrestricted cross-border humanitarian aid in Syria. We implore the international community to take immediate action to address this pressing issue and prevent further suffering. Together, let us work towards a future where humanitarian aid is truly depoliticized, neutral, and effectively delivered to those most need it.