Your address

Name of MP MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

date

Dear

As one of your constituents, I’d like to draw your attention to something I feel very alarmed about, the ongoing crisis in Syria, which also fuels the ongoing refugee crisis. March 15th 2016 marks 5 years since the start of the crisis. Syria has become the epicentre of the world’s worst human rights & humanitarian catastrophe. Violence and insecurity, targeted and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, mass arrests and widespread torture in detention facilities, deliberate denial of assistance, and the collapse of services have prompted over 4.6 million people to flee the country and 7 million more to abandon their homes inside Syria.

Please will you write to the Foreign Secretary, Phillip Hammond, to ensure the UK champions human rights benchmarks at the Syria talks and lobbies parties to the conflict to:

1. **End unlawful attacks against civilians and civilian objects:** all parties to the conflict must be made to end all direct attacks on civilians and civilian objects, and indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks;
2. **Lift the sieges:** parties to the conflict must be made to stop blocking or restricting the delivery of food, medical aid, and other life-saving supplies;
3. **Allow unfettered humanitarian access:** all parties must be made to provide unfettered access to the UN and its implementing partners;
4. **Release those detained and abducted solely for exercising their human rights:** parties to the conflict must be made to release all those held solely for exercising their human rights or perceived opposition to the ruling party;
5. **Ensure effective participation of women and civil society in peace talks:** delegations to the peace talks must ensure that sufficient female delegates are present, that they can participate effectively and fully and that women's perspectives are represented; Syrian civil society must also be able to contribute.
6. **End impunity:** independent monitors, such as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, must be given unfettered access to the country, including to all places of detention. The UK government should further work with partners to accept a shared responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes under international law committed in Syria, in particular by seeking to exercise universal jurisdiction to bring suspected perpetrators to justice before national courts.

5 years on, Syrian lives must take priority over political interests. Please let Mr Hammond know we need him to be more proactive in bringing this crisis to an end. Thank you.

Yours sincerely