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5th Anniversary of the Syrian Uprising

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On 15th March 2011 Syrian activists organised what they called 'A Day of Rage' calling for greater democratic rights and freedoms. Inspired by other popular uprisings in the region peaceful protesters took to the streets in their hundreds and thousands. This date is seen as the start of the Syrian Uprising. Five years on 12 million people have been displaced from their homes and half a million people have been killed.

James Sadri of the Syria Campaign said:

"This should be the day when we mark a peaceful democratic uprising that toppled a brutal 40-year family dictatorship. Instead the past five years of Bashar al-Assad's killing fields have driven half the country from their homes and provided a fertile breeding ground for extremist groups like Isis.

"Today, four out of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council are involved in bombing Syria. Yet not one of these interventions is aimed at protecting civilians who continue to pay the highest price for the unchecked violence of the Assad regime and its Russian sponsors.

"The partial ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks provide a glimmer of hope for Syrians. But the temporary respite will collapse and give way to increased killing and extremism unless the world gets serious about supporting Syrians in a transition away from Bashar al-Assad."

[ENDS]

Notes for Editors

- The Syria Campaign was established in March 2014 as an independent advocacy group to focus on the protection of civilians in Syria. To maintain its impartiality, The Syria Campaign accepts no funding from governments or any of the groups involved in the conflict
<https://thesyriacampaign.org>