

For immediate release

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## **Urgent call to the international Humanitarian Task Force to ensure aid delivery to all besieged towns in Syria**

3 March, 2016

As the Humanitarian Task Force meets in Geneva today, fears are growing that further failure to send in aid to the besieged areas in Syria will lead to a resumption of hostilities.

### **Henrietta McMicking of The Syria Campaign said:**

“Fewer Syrians may be dying in bomb attacks but they are still facing starvation. The fragile ceasefire will collapse unless aid is delivered to besieged areas as a matter of priority.

“The international Humanitarian Task Force must put pressure on the Syrian government, and its Russian backers, to allow aid to reach the most vulnerable.

“Communities like Daraya are being failed by the world’s most powerful countries who sit on the Humanitarian Task Force. Thousands of Syrians are being starved while aid sits in warehouses just a few minutes drive away. If the US and others do not make use of this opportunity they will play a leading role in the death and suffering of yet more civilians.

“The UN failed to make a single delivery in the first 24 hours of the ceasefire and five days later only a trickle of aid has been delivered.

“Today, the Task Force must ensure the Assad regime stops using humanitarian delivery as a bargaining chip, stops violating the ceasefire agreement and ends the starvation sieges.”

[ENDS]

### Notes for Editors

- 1.1 million people live under siege in Syria (source: <http://siegewatch.org>) 99% of access is blocked by the Syrian government

- The Syria Campaign was established in 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 group involved in the conflict <https://thesyriacampaign.org>