



**Joint
Statement**

**Syrian Civil Society Demand
Independent Monitors in Idlib**

[21 December 2016] The UN must deploy independent monitors to Idlib to ensure the safety of the Syrian people and guarantee urgently needed medical and humanitarian assistance, Syrian civil society representatives announced today.

Commenting on UNSC resolution 2328 adopted on 19 December, which requires the monitoring of evacuations from Aleppo and the well-being of the civilians trapped in the city, Fadel Abdul Ghany, Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, said: “we welcome the decision taken by the members of the UN Security Council to deploy independent monitors in Aleppo to protect civilians from further violence by the Assad regime and its allies – Russia and Iran. However, similar urgent actions must be taken to ensure the safety of the thousands of civilians arriving in Idlib from Aleppo. Most of the people who have been evacuated from Eastern Aleppo are in urgent need of medical and humanitarian assistance, including children who experienced months of starvation. These civilians cannot be abandoned by the international community as soon as they reach Idlib”.

“Using the mandate of UNSCR 2328, Member States and the UN need to ensure a comprehensive approach, which includes the deployment of monitors to Idlib to provide urgently needed assistance and protection to the civilian population”, continued Hivin Kako, Executive Director of Bihar Relief Organisation. “Idlib is not a ‘safe heaven’: it has been the centre of indiscriminate attacks by the Assad regime and Russia, which have killed scores of civilians. Without a clear plan by the international community to protect civilians across Syria, the regime and its allies will continue to kill civilians with impunity and undermine any efforts towards a political solution to the crisis”.



Hivin Kako is Executive Director of Bihar Relief Organisation, a Syrian NGO providing humanitarian aid to vulnerable people in northern Syria.

Fadel Abdul Ghany is Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), a leading human rights organisation, founded in June 2011, that documents violations of international law committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria.

