

URGENT ACTION

EVACUATE 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN NEED OF SURGERY

Ghina Ahmad Wadi, a 10-year-old girl, was shot in the leg on 2 August by a sniper at a government checkpoint in Madaya, a town west of Damascus besieged by Syrian government forces since July 2015. Syrian government forces have blocked her evacuation to a hospital in Damascus or Lebanon to receive urgently needed surgery.

A close relative told Amnesty International that **Ghina Ahmad Wadi** and her 8-year-old sister were on their way to buy medicine for their mother at around 11am on 2 August when they were both wounded at Abdel Majed checkpoint in Madaya, a town west of Damascus controlled by Syrian government forces and allied with Hizbullah fighters. The relative said that Ghina Ahmad Wadi was shot in her left thigh by a sniper, causing a complex bone fracture and a nerve cut. She added that her sister was also injured.

The Syrian government siege on Madaya since July 2015 has impeded access to medical and humanitarian aid and barred civilian movement beyond government checkpoints. A doctor working in a field hospital in Madaya told Amnesty International that Ghina Ahmad Wadi needs urgent surgery. He added that the surgery cannot be conducted in Madaya field hospital due to the lack of specialist surgeons and shortage of essential medicine and medical equipment, which are all due to the government siege. Ghina Ahmad Wadi has only been provided with sedatives, including morphine, which ease the pain for 10 to 15 minutes only. She is otherwise in extreme pain.

Ghina Ahmad Wadi's family have requested permission in the past week from the Syrian government to allow humanitarian agencies to evacuate her to a hospital in Damascus or Lebanon but so far that request has been denied.

Please write immediately in Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on them to allow Ghina Ahmad Wadi's evacuation to a hospital in Damascus or Lebanon so that she can receive the urgent surgery she needs;
- Urging them to allow humanitarian agencies, medical staff and ambulances unfettered safe access to areas under siege, facilitate the urgent transfer of critically injured and ill-patients to hospitals outside Madaya and other besieged areas;
- Calling on them to immediately lift all sieges on civilian population areas and allow and facilitate where possible the evacuation of civilians who wish to leave.

Amnesty International UK is targetting John Kerry and Sergei Lavrov in their capacity as Co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 TO:

John Kerry, US Secretary of State
Department of State, 2201 C Street
NW, Washington DC 20520, USA
Fax: 011 1 202 647 2283
E-mail, via website:
[http://contactus.state.gov/cgi-bin/state.cfg/
php/enduser/std_alp.php](http://contactus.state.gov/cgi-bin/state.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php)

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergei Lavrov,
Ul. Smolenskaya-Sennaia pl, 32/34
119200 Moscow, Russian Federation
Fax: 011 7 499 244 34 48
Email: 3dsng@mid.ru

And copies to:
Office of the Supreme Leader
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
C/O Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor, New York
NY 10017, USA
Fax: +1 212 867 7086
Salutation: Your Excellency

And:
Permanent Representative to the UN
Bashar Ja'afari, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: +1 212 983 4439
Email: exexec.syria@gmail.com
Salutation: Your Excellency

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The residents of the adjacent towns of Madaya and Boukein, both located west of Damascus, have been under siege since July 2015 by Syrian government forces and their allies. Civilian movement outside both towns has been prohibited and any access to humanitarian and medical aid has been restricted. Around 40,000 people are trapped in the two towns with limited access to life saving necessities and urgent medical care. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported in May 2016 that some 600,000 Syrians are trapped across 18 besieged areas in the country; this includes 452,700 people besieged by the Syrian government in various locations such as in Damascus countryside and Homs.

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