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Avaaz: World Must Enforce Humanitarian Ceasefire in Homs as 21 killed

Avaaz today called for an urgent humanitarian ceasefire to be enforced in Homs as shells rained down on the city for the nineteenth day, leaving at least 21 dead including two international journalists. Over 20,000 people are trapped in Baba Amr who cannot leave and have no access to medical care. Anyone who tries to leave is targeted.

'Abo Bakr', a citizen journalist for Avaaz from Baba Amr said today: "If we don't die of the shelling, we will die of thirst and hunger. All the shops are empty and we are forced to drink water out of old wells which is dirty and people are getting sick. The situation here could not get any worse, we urgently need the world's help."

Avaaz is calling for the Friends of Syria group meeting in Tunisia this Friday to urgently demand a humanitarian ceasefire so that civilians are protected and that humanitarian aid is moved into the country. Over 370,000 people are calling on the Friends of Syria to protect civilians, get humanitarian aid into the country, support the Syrian opposition, toughen sanctions, and stopping the flow of weapons to the regime army. The petition will be delivered to leaders in Tunisia on Friday and can be seen [here](#).

Seven Avaaz activists were executed by the Syrian army outside the city of Homs today after being caught attempting to bring medical supplies into the city. They were carrying in urgently needed medicine and equipment to cope with the flood of people wounded in the barrage of shelling.

According to Avaaz citizen journalists, there is now:

- Only one field hospital in Baba Amr and there are not enough doctors or nurses to help the wounded. Doctors are exhausted, after 19 days of non-stop emergencies.
- A chronic lack of medicines, scissors are having to be used to operate on people, flames to sterilise their tools and there is a lack of painkillers and antibiotics in the city.
- In some locations only a vet is available to assist people and in one other place a builder with two weeks first aid training is assisting people.
- Ambulances cannot move in Baba Amr and the wounded are not allowed to leave.

Ricken Patel, Executive Director of Avaaz said: "Seven unarmed activists, including one doctor, were assassinated in cold blood today while trying to bring medical supplies into Homs. They join the roll call of brave citizens, medical workers and journalists murdered by a regime that has gone beyond all limits of brutality. An urgent humanitarian ceasefire must be imposed in Homs and other cities now so that medical supplies can be brought in. This must be at the top of the Tunisia agenda when they meet on Friday."

China and Russia have repeatedly handcuffed international action at the UN, but this week the Tunis Friends of Syria meeting could be the best opportunity to get urgent and comprehensive action to save the Syrian people.

ENDS

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