

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 11, 2021

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Ambassador to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield,

As Members of Congress and co-founders of the Friends of a Free, Democratic, and Stable Syria Caucus we are alarmed by the massacre of innocent Syrian civilians in the southwestern town of Daraa al-Balad at the hands of Bashar al-Assad and his backers in Russia and Iran.

In late June, Assad's forces began to besiege Daraa, ending the 2018 Russian orchestrated ceasefire. The besiegement has now given way to a violent onslaught against civilians that has resulted in hundreds of casualties and has left over 55,000 residents without food, medicine, and basic necessities. Among these atrocities, it is also being reported that civilians fleeing on foot have been taken hostage and targeted by snipers on rooftops. Every day, neighborhoods continue to be shelled and fired upon as the Assad regime mobilizes tanks in civilian areas to kill and subdue the population there.

For over 10 years, the Assad regime and its cronies have maliciously murdered hundreds of thousands of Syrians, displacing millions of women, children, and families along the way. As we continue to witness this harrowing humanitarian crisis unfold, it is imperative that the United States take a leading role in urging the international community to band together and mount a forceful response to the threat in Daraa before the situation devolves into an all-out massacre.

We urge you to call on the United Nations Security Council to hold an emergency briefing on Daraa and to immediately bring forward a resolution condemning Bashar al-Assad and his cronies. We stand in solidarity with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in condemning the regime's brutal assault on Daraa, calling for an immediate end to the violence, and reiterating calls for a nationwide ceasefire in line with UNSCR 2254. We look forward to working with you on this pressing issue.

Thank you for the consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress