

NEWBORNS RESCUED FROM INCUBATORS AFTER ASSAULT ON ALEPPO'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Nine newborns had to be removed from their incubators and into the basement of Aleppo's last children's hospital after a major aerial assault today broke the equipment, according to the Independent Doctors' Association in Syria that runs the hospital. Over the past 24 hours, Aleppo has weathered over 100 strikes at the hands of Russian and Syrian forces.

Dr. Hatem, director of the hospital, said "thankfully these babies survived, although there were only a handful of functioning incubators left in Aleppo. Our ability to provide even the most basic protections to our most vulnerable is disappearing. Every world leader must imagine that one of these newborns were their own son or daughter. Whatever they would do to protect their own children they need to afford the same protection for ours."

In the past two months alone at least 17 medical facilities have been attacked, further crippling Aleppo's medical infrastructure. There are now only 7 hospitals left functioning in Aleppo and within them only 18 incubators are left. Meanwhile, the main road into eastern Aleppo has been cut off by the warring parties, laying the groundwork for a siege of the city - despite recent international maneuvers to lessen the number and effects of besigement as a tool of war in Syria.

"After a week of intense attacks that has left dozens of civilians killed, Aleppo is now facing its first taste of siege" said Dr. Osama Abo El Ezz, a surgeon from the Syrian American Medical Society working in Aleppo. "We are distressed and paralyzed. Yet international demands for civilian protection are not being backed up by any tangible action."

"Aleppans' options are running out", said Dr. Samah Bassas, CEO of the Syria Relief Network, an umbrella organization representing 60 humanitarian organizations working in Syria. "The bombs we are used to. But if we are to be held under siege, hunger and disease will quickly take hold. Even more death is inevitable. The Russian and Syrian planes attacking us every day must be stopped."

NOTE

In the coming days, medical and relief professionals working in Aleppo will be speaking on a telebriefing discussing their first hand accounts of the situation in Aleppo. Please contact X if you would be like to join this call.

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NOTE: Crisis Action works behind the scenes to coordinate coalition campaigns against conflict and for the protection of civilians and should not be cited in media reports.

Contacts:

Signatories to the press release have kindly made the following spokespeople available for interview:

1. Independent Doctors Association
 - Dr. Hatem, Director of Aleppo's Children Hospital, media@ida-org.com
2. Syrian American Medical Society
 - Kathleen Fallon, Advocacy Manager, kathleen.fallon@sams-usa.net, +1 978 505 8231
 - Dr. Mohamad Katoub, Advocacy Manager, mohamadk@sams-usa.net, +90 531 655 0082
3. Syria Relief Network
 - Dr. Kais Al Dairi, Inter-Sector Lead, Syria Relief Network, intersector@syriareliefnetwork.com, +905348278303, Skype: kaisdairi

Pictures:

Photos from today's attack on the children's hospital are available here for your use-

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B85yDZVhREIvdXJVRDlaLTdYWVvk&usp=sharing>

Photo credits: Independent Doctors Association