

Humanitarian Appeal for Benghazi

1. We, the sons and daughters of Benghazi, protectors of the nation and its unity, coming from diverse backgrounds and sharing the common goal of saving our city and its population, unite behind this Humanitarian Appeal. We solemnly adopt this Appeal and:

- 1) **express** the utmost alarm at the suffering which the people of Benghazi have endured over the last years, during which all aspects of normal life have been disrupted, and during which the majority of the population have lost their possessions, their homes and, above all, their loved ones;
- 2) **record** that:
 - over half the population of Benghazi are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, especially women, children, and people with special needs;
 - thousands of displaced persons have found shelter throughout the country and abroad; families are unable to return to their homes because of the war, or have found them uninhabitable because of damage, mines or unexploded ordinance (UXO); people are living in conditions of utter depredation and are in urgent need of assistance, above all, healthcare and shelter;
- 3) **stress** the right of return for these displaced people to their city and homes in the shortest possible time;
- 4) **request** the relevant Libyan authorities to undertake all efforts to facilitate the reconstruction of the city and provide compensation to those civilians adversely affected by the conflict;
- 5) **believe** that providing education for all Benghazi's children and youth is critical if we are not to lose a whole generation;
- 6) **demand** that humanitarian assistance is not politicized and that all actors provide humanitarian assistance without discrimination in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL);
- 7) **condemn** violations of IHL and Human Rights, particularly any targeting of civilians, residential areas, and vital civil infrastructure, *inter alia* hospitals, educational establishments and electricity plants; and
- 8) **commit** to using all of our influence, within our power and limitations, to ensuring that all aspects of this Appeal are respected.

2. Within the limits of our power and influence, we commit and call upon all others to:

- 1) **respect** IHL and Human Rights, and remain loyal the principles of Islam and the values of coexistence;
- 2) **avoid** collateral damage induced by the war and fighting;
- 3) **respect** the role played by the Libyan Red Crescent, municipal council, Benghazi Crisis Committees, and other Libyan Civil Society Organizations in providing humanitarian assistance;
- 4) **establish** the conditions under which humanitarian assistance may be provided safely to all the civilian population, in accordance with IHL;
- 5) **provide** security guarantees for humanitarian workers;
- 6) **work towards** social peace, based upon tolerance and according to the principles of moderate Islam, which rejects all forms of radicalism; and,

- 7) **establish** a system of transitional justice, adapted to the Libyan context, which will help heal the wounds of the victims of the conflict and facilitate social reconciliation and a return to stability.

3. As citizens of Benghazi, we call upon international humanitarian actors to:

- 1) **provide** life-saving humanitarian assistance without preconditions, discrimination or delay;
- 2) **increase and improve** immediate assistance to populations in need, including the restoration of electricity to the city, the clearance of all UXO and mines to allow the safe return of those displaced, the provision of medical care to the population, and the provision of all forms of urgent assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) throughout the country;
- 3) **work** in all areas affected by military operations to establish the conditions and agreements for the terms of this declaration to be effective;
- 4) **coordinate** to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs; and,
- 5) **ensure** that there is an urgent response to these critical needs.

May God protect Benghazi and all its children.