

Syria's Eastern Ghouta: Catastrophic Situation or Heinous Disinformation Campaign?

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*More than 400,000 civilians of Syria's Eastern Ghouta are still besieged and face the worsening humanitarian situation, said **Stephane Dujarric**, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, during a regular briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York on November 7.*

The cease-fire regime has been established there since July 2017, as this area is one of four de-escalation zones. At the same time, Eastern Ghouta is occupied by various militant groups as Jaysh Al-Islam, Faylaq Al-Rahman, and Jabhat Al Nusra.

The humanitarian aid from the Syrian government, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), UN and Russia on a regular basis is delivered to Eastern Ghouta despite regular provocations and mortar shillings of the militants.

Not so long ago, on November 12, joint UN and SARC humanitarian convoy of 24 trucks arrived in Duma, Eastern Ghouta. Two weeks earlier, on October 30, 49 trucks loaded with vaccines, food, drinking water, and necessities made it to the areas of Kafr Batna and Sacqba to help more than 40,000 people.

Earlier, on September 24, another humanitarian convoy with the assistance of Russia entered Eastern Ghouta. The convoy delivered food, medicine and warm clothes for the locals. **Later, it became known that most of the supplies had not reached civilians and fell into the hand of Faylaq Al-Rahman and al-Nusra militants, who took all the goods to their warehouses.**

Consequently, **it is exactly the militants who aggravate the humanitarian situation in Eastern Ghouta**, what has been exactly mentioned by Dujarric. In fact, the militants deprived seriously ill women and children of the opportunity to get daily necessities and medicine. It seemed that the United States works hard to achieve exactly this goal: the White House administration has made every effort to deliver humanitarian aid to the starving militants.




By the way, without going into too much detail, the Western Mass Media has supported the disinformation campaign of the opposition militants on Facebook and Twitter going by the name #AssadBesiegesGhota.

The authors of the campaign created a series of short messages, tweets, photos, and videos, which mainly depict sick and malnourished children with only one purpose – to evoke feelings of pity and compassion among users of social networks around the world.

This action was initiated to show the world community that the people of Eastern Ghouta suffer from hunger. The West tries to make **Bashar Assad** and the Syrian Arab Army guilty instead of the militants who control the region.

However, the disinformation campaign is gaining further momentum. On November 13, the second phase of the campaign with the hashtag #BreakGhoutaSieve.

 **Anas Altaan** @AnasAltaan · Nov 11
Statement of the launch of the second phase of the campaign "**#AssadBesiegesGhouta**", which will be under the title "Break #Ghouta siege" under the tag: **#BreakGhoutaSieve**
[@RevolutionSyria](#)



#اكسروا حصار الغوطة
#BreakGhoutaSieve

- Statement -

Break the siege on the Ghouta
We hereby present this statement to the entire world, which is witnessing the magnitude of the tragedy befalling people from the devastated Ghouta region, because of the oppressive blockade. This tragedy is taking place despite the cries for help that have reached all international organizations and associations, the disappearance of all aspects of daily life, especially work and economic activity, and the rising level of basic needs in terms of medicine, food, education and other social and humanitarian concerns.
The United Nations, on 30 October 2017, sent very limited assistance this week, it is scarcely enough to feed the besieged for 2 days, while there is a total lack of food and medicine, and a rising need to feed children and secure fuel supplies for the winter.
While we appreciate the UN's attempt to carry out its duties, we must note that the Ghouta has reached a dangerous point in which such limited assistance is no longer useful. The civilized world must speak up. Leaders in the world's various societies, those who support humanitarian causes and the idea of freedom, those governments with influence on the Security Council, and international organizations and legal associations must join their voices together and demand the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 of 2015, which calls for a complete lifting of the blockade of the Eastern Ghouta and the opening of corridors for the free movement of goods and people and the immediate evacuation of the wounded.
This is especially important because the Eastern Ghouta is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe, threatening the lives of thousands of women, children and civilian residents who are being held hostage by the Assad regime and the militias of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. These forces prevent people in the Eastern Ghouta from moving or leaving, they prevent the entry of goods and prevent people from living a normal life by employing a blockade that is historically unprecedented in terms of the large number of people besieged in a very small area.
Moreover, there is the barbaric bombardment of schools, hospitals and civil centers – the most flagrant evidence of this was the massacre of school children in the town of Jisreen on 31 October 2017. This incident serves as clear evidence of barbarism of Assad, his regime allies from the Revolutionary Guard and the other Iranian entities. They are

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Most likely, the aim of the campaign is to make the Syrian government lift the siege on Eastern Ghouta. For its part, Assad’s government believes that the siege on Eastern Ghouta is a necessary measure since if withdrawn, militants will be able to obtain weapons and ammunition from their Western sponsors, regroup or leave the area under the guise of civilians.

Despite the scale of the disinformation campaign, it won’t affect the conduct of a successful counter-terrorism operation in Eastern Ghouta. The residents of the Damascus countryside are tired of living next door to militants and hope for the assistance of the Syrian government.

Sophie Mangal is a special investigative correspondent at Inside Syria Media Center where this article was originally published.

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