



PRESS RELEASE 1/8/2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTENSE BOMBARDMENT AND SHELLING ON OUR AMERICAN-SUPPORTED SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS AND WOMEN'S CENTER; CHILDREN KILLED, THOUSANDS DISPLACED IN IDLIB, SYRIA.

Conway, Arkansas- The Wisdom House Group based in Conway, Arkansas has been working through the Syrian Emergency Task Force, for over a year supporting the Wisdom House school for orphans and Tomorrow's Dawn women's center, providing education, jobs, and hope for men, women, and children in our American-adopted village in Idlib, Syria. Concerned community groups, churches, schools, and individuals in Arkansas, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts, and D.C. have been supporting this humanitarian initiative since September of 2016. These American communities have established close relationships with the Syrian civil society leaders, teachers, and students.

Since Christmas Day 2017, Assad and his allies Russia and Iran have maintained consistent and intense bombardment and shelling of Idlib Province, killing tens of civilians including many children. Many in our village have been displaced and are sending us horrific images and videos showing the destruction, bombardment, and even the use of white phosphorus against civilians. We are giving \$100.00 of aid to families of any student, parent, or staff member who have been displaced. Some of our team members have fled the village to the North; however, they have no safe place to go. The homes of our field director and women's center manager have been completely destroyed in the past two days.

The Wisdom House Working Group discussed the next steps for our humanitarian work in Syria. We will focus on extending support and hope to the leaders we've grown to love and trust. While the Wisdom House school and Tomorrow's Dawn women's center remain closed until further notice, we are committed for the long term to those we've connected to in Syria and will continue to encourage them during this period of uncertainty and turmoil. Donations are more needed now than ever as we utilize the Wisdom House budget to provide emergency supplies to these defenseless civilians until the situation stabilizes.

Besan, one of our Wisdom House Kindergarten graduates, has been one of the many children injured after her home was bombarded yesterday. Her 3 year old younger brother and her uncle lost their lives and her family is now displaced without any shelter.



We ask that you continue to follow our updates on Facebook and Twitter, call your elected officials asking for the protection of the Syrian people we know and love, and spread awareness in your own communities. Please continue to donate because these people need humanitarian support now more than ever.

Our incredible people to people initiative through the Wisdom House Project has brought hope and education to many in Syria. Thank you for your continued support and prayers through this Never Again moment in our world.

Sincerely,
Natalie Larrison,
SETF Director of Outreach, Wisdom House Project Manager
The Wisdom House Group: Jerry Adams, Teri Daily, Brett Hardinson, Shelley Mehl, Marianne Black, Keith Jones, Nancy Allen, Marti and Steve Evans; Conway, AR
The Valley Syria Relief Committee: Sara Weinberger, Deborah Shriver, and Michael Kane; Northampton, MA
The Syrian Emergency Task Force Team; Washington, D.C.

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