



Syria: Two hospitals supported by Doctors of the World once again destroyed in Aleppo

(Paris, 28 September 2016) **Two hospitals supported by Doctors of the World - Médecins du Monde (MdM) were bombed this morning in Aleppo. MdM is again demanding that the attacks targeting civilians and healthcare facilities, as well as the intolerable escalation of violence, cease immediately.**

According to testimonies from teams in the field supported by MdM, the two hospitals were hit by air strikes.

Sadly, at this hour, our partners report that several patients were injured and one nurse was killed. These hospitals are no longer able to function.

The situation in Aleppo continues to deteriorate after Moscow and Washington failed to negotiate a truce. Over the last three days, around 300 people died and 1,000 people were injured. *“Inhabitants in Aleppo’s rebel neighborhoods are completely under siege and have not received external assistance for almost two months. According to our partners, if the attacks do not cease, healthcare facilities will run out of supplies, which are essential to provide care to the populations. It’s only a matter of weeks before access to care is completely disrupted”* laments Dr. Françoise Sivignon, President of MdM.

Hospitals still functioning are swamped by the number of injured and the lack of medical staff. Some surgeons have to perform surgery directly on the floor, which is increasingly difficult owing to the shortage of electricity. In Eastern Aleppo, at this hour, the estimated number of doctors is 34 for 300,000 inhabitants.

“This is a deliberate violation of international humanitarian law. We no longer can do our job when we are in fact dealing with humanitarian disaster” adds Françoise Sivignon.

Once again, MdM blows the whistle and voices its outrage. We demand that the international community push for the end of this siege in Aleppo to allow civilians to receive assistance.

Since 2011, over 300,000 people died because of the Syrian conflict. In Syria, MdM set up fixed and mobile clinics to overcome the lack of infrastructures and provide primary health care to people in the Idlib, Aleppo and Daraa Governorates. In addition, the organisation supports Syrian partners by supplying the health centres and hospitals in Aleppo which are still running with medicines, equipment and consumables. In Aleppo, MdM and its partners support 9 health facilities.