



## **Words Are Not Enough A Statement by Dr. Ron Waldman, President, DotW USA**

NEW YORK, NY (April 5, 2017) – At Doctors of the World USA, we are stunned and appalled by the renewed chemical weapons attacks on the civilian population of Syria. These inhumane acts, clearly crimes of war that should be subjected to scrupulous examination by the international justice system, cannot be tolerated by any other government or by the United Nations system.

No matter who is to blame for earlier inaction – and fingers can be pointed in many directions, including at the Obama administration – the responsibility for acting now lies with those who hold the reins of power. There is new leadership at the United Nations, in the United Kingdom, and in the United States, but the same disregard for international law and for the norms of decent human behavior remain on flagrant display in Syria.

At Doctors of the World, we continue to do more than talk. Since 2008, we have been working inside Syria, alongside the Syrian medical community, to provide critical medical commodities – including drugs and supplies, as well as medical and public health services – to a desperate population. We will continue to do so for as long as the need persists. Outside Syria we continue to advocate for intervention by the international community to stop the carnage, restore the rule of law, and bring to justice those responsible for these gross violations of all that is decent.

The people of Syria have been held hostage by the political machinations of both internal and external powers for far too long. We ask all who read this to join us in imploring those who claim to wield influence in the region – whether it be the governments of the United States and Russia, other Middle Eastern countries from Turkey to Iran, or the United Nations Security Council – to find a solution to the horrific atrocities being committed in violation of the most basic laws that govern human interactions.

At this point, words are no longer enough, denunciations are insufficient, resolutions are useless. We can only hope that the images of men, women, and children being gassed and dying horrific deaths will, finally, be enough to incite our leaders to act.

Ron Waldman, MD MPH  
President  
Doctors of the World USA

### **About Doctors of the World**

Doctors of the World USA is a US non-profit that is part of the global Médecins du Monde network. We provide emergency and long-term medical care to vulnerable people, while fighting for equal access to healthcare worldwide. Founded in France in 1980, the network cares for the most vulnerable through more than 400 programs in over 80 countries around the world.

###