



Statement

8 December 2018

Rethink Rebuild Society Condemns the International Coalition Forces Bombardment of Civilians in Deir az-Zor

On Wednesday, 5 December 2018, it has been reported that the International Coalition Forces jets bombarded the town of Hajeen (east of Deir az-Zor) killing nearly twenty-five civilians and injuring dozens. Several sources inside Deir az-Zor indicated that approximately forty airstrikes by the Coalition Forces hit the town of Hajeen using “high explosive” missiles. It has been alleged that those airstrikes targeted hospitals and home residents inside Hajeen and surrounding areas. In addition, on Tuesday, 4 December 2018, similar airstrikes on the town of Hajeen resulted in the killing of seven people (4 women and 3 children). The rural town of Soussa, near Deir az-Zor also witnessed similar airstrikes resulting in the killing of more than twenty people.

Civilians inside the town of Hajeen and nearby have been suffering the dire humanitarian condition owing to the on-going struggle between the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) and the Democratic Union Party Militias (PYD). The suffering has been compounded by the International Coalition Forces airstrikes, which have caused the death of civilians on frequent basis.

Rethink Rebuild Society condemns the International Coalition recent bombardments on civilians in Deir az-Zor and calls for an immediate cessation of aerial bombardments targeting civilians. We are critical of the perceived disregard for civilian casualties and urge the British government, a major partner in the Coalition, to demand from the United States to stop the unacceptable loss of civilians’ life. Conflict actors should take all the necessary measurements to protect civilians and avoid the use of airstrikes on populated areas.

ENDS

For further information and press enquiries, please email: moaz@rrsoc.org

Rethink Rebuild Society has established itself as a non-profit organisation that acts as an umbrella for the Syrian community in Manchester, and endeavours to promote peace and protection of civilians to its audience in the UK and the wider public.