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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



**ISLAMIC RELIEF SENDS AID TO ALEPPO AS FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES
RUN LOW AMID INTENSE ATTACK**

Islamic Relief is scaling up food and medical aid to civilians in Aleppo and Idlib as fighting rages across northwest Syria amid the biggest escalation in the country for several years.

Food and medical supplies in Aleppo are running short, and Islamic Relief is sending 140 tonnes of flour so that bakeries can continue to operate and feed the population.

Islamic Relief also plans to send health workers and dialysis kits to support overwhelmed medical facilities that are now bursting with civilian casualties. The escalation of violence has forced many private hospitals to close.

In Idlib, Islamic Relief is running mobile health clinics for civilians who are under ongoing attack. An Islamic Relief-supported health centre in Idlib, the only one of its kind in northwest Syria has been damaged by the continuous fighting and has temporarily shut. The centre carries out dozens of surgeries a month free of charge.

Rajab Haj Salem, Islamic Relief's Head of Office in Idlib, said:

"Artillery is striking Idlib city centre every 30 minutes at times, and the most heavily populated areas of Aleppo and Idlib are under attack.

"I have already been forced to abandon my own home in Idlib as the area has come under fire. I've seen a seven-storey building levelled by an airstrike and the university hospital is under ongoing attack, with an airstrike hitting around it.

"If this shelling continues then there will be a massive wave displacement to the countryside."

Civilians in Aleppo are reporting growing shortages of essential supplies. In Idlib, food, fuel and health services are currently still available, but after more than 13 years of crisis, the population unemployment is high, and people don't have money to buy essentials.

The crisis in northwest Syria has been building for months but has rapidly escalated in recent days. This is the first time since 2016 that fighting has raged inside the city of Aleppo, which was home to 4 million people.



Islamic Relief is calling for civilians and civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools to be protected.

For Islamic Relief Malaysia (IR Malaysia), the attacks in northwest Syria must be stopped immediately.

"Islamic Relief Malaysia calls on all parties to immediately cease attacks in northwest Syria, which endanger civilian lives and destroy critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools.

"Protecting civilians must be a priority to prevent further suffering in the area," said Mohd Shukor Tahir, Chief Executive Officer of IR Malaysia.

IR Malaysia continues to welcome contributions to the Save Syria fund to assist those in need in Syria. Contact 03-8926 3434 or visit www.islamic-relief.org.my for more information.

Notes

Islamic Relief has been supporting the people of Syria since 2011, remaining on the ground as the years passed and the crisis deepened; and we are stepping up our response to the recent escalation.

In northwest Syria, Islamic Relief has worked since 2013. Last year our work there supported more than 1.7 million people with humanitarian and development aid including healthcare, shelter and livelihoods support.

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About Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an independent international humanitarian aid and development organization. Islamic Relief is headquartered in the United Kingdom and was founded in 1984. Islamic Relief serves in more than 45 countries, assisting more than 145 million people. The scope of Islamic Relief assistance covers emergency assistance, integrated sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and advocacy.

About Islamic Relief Malaysia

Islamic Relief Malaysia was operated since 2004, which aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects.

Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, www.islamic-relief.org.my for more information.

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