

Syria: 'Horrible' attack on UN aid convoy is a flagrant violation of international law

Amnesty International

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Last night's attack on a UN/Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid convoy, intended for 78,000 people in Aleppo, is a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, Amnesty International said.

Witnesses in Syria have told the organization that the convoy, along with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent warehouse where it had docked, were bombed intensively for two hours on Monday evening, heightening the suspicion that Syrian government forces deliberately targeted the relief operation.

"A sustained attack on a humanitarian convoy and workers, horrible enough in any circumstances, will in this case also have a disastrous impact not only on those desperate civilians for whom the assistance was intended, but for life-saving humanitarian operations throughout Syria," said Philip Luther, Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International.

"If the convoy was – as it appears – deliberately attacked, this would be yet another war crime committed by the Syrian government. It illustrates how civilians in Syria are paying with their lives for five years of total impunity for systematic war crimes and crimes against humanity. Until the international community shows that it is serious about bringing perpetrators to justice, these appalling crimes will continue on a daily basis."

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