UK FCDO — 2025-07-17

The UK is deeply concerned by violence and attacks on civilians in Syria: UK statement at the UN Security Council

I would like to make three points.

First, the UK is deeply concerned by the escalating violence in Suwayda.

We have urged all parties to de-escalate and take immediate action to protect civilians.

We are alarmed by reports of attacks on medical personnel and facilities.

Civilians and civilian infrastructure must never be targeted, and we call on all parties to ensure humanitarian aid can reach those who need it.

We take note of President Al Sharaa’s comments on the importance of protection of Syria’s Druze community and accountability for those who have committed attacks.

And we urge that investigations and steps towards accountability take place swiftly.

Second, we are deeply concerned by Israel’s escalatory strikes in Damascus.

We repeat our call for Israel to refrain from actions that risk destabilising Syria and the wider region.

Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected.

We welcome the news that a ceasefire has been agreed.

And we urge all parties to commit to maintaining it.

Third, this is a critical moment for Syria and for the stability of the region.

My Foreign Secretary travelled to Damascus earlier this month, where he held productive talks and heard from the Syrian Government and ordinary Syrians about their aspirations for the country.

A peaceful and secure future for the Syrian people requires all of Syria’s communities to be protected and fully included in the political transition.

So we call on the Syrian Government to prioritise genuine inclusivity and representation in the appointment and election of People’s Assembly members

and in all further elements of the political transition.

An accountability process is also critical to ensuring stability and lasting peace.

We urge the Syrian Government to investigate human rights violations and abuses by all parties and ensure those responsible are held to account.

We look forward to seeing the Syrian Government’s report on the violence in the coastal areas in March.

This is a crucial step towards justice and reconciliation for the Syrian people.

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uk-is-deeply-concerned-by-violence-and-attacks-on-civilians-in-syria-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council