

Syria – Communiqué by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (15 March 2019)

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France has today repatriated several unaccompanied orphans aged five or under who were in camps in north-eastern Syria.

The children are under individual medical and psychological supervision and were handed over to the judicial authorities.

The family members concerned, who were in contact with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, have been informed.

France thanks the Syrian Democratic Forces for their cooperation, which made this outcome possible.

The decision was taken in view of the situation of these very young and especially vulnerable children.

Regarding the adult French nationals who were fighters and jihadists who had followed Daesh [so-called ISIL] to the Levant, France's position has not changed: they must be tried on the territory where they committed their crimes. It is a matter of both justice and security.