Ambassador Bashar Ja’afari

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor

New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador:

I write to you with grave concern for the 529 patients awaiting medical evacuation in besieged Easter Ghouta.

In December, the Syrian government approved the medical evacuation of 29 critical cases from Eastern Ghouta. However, according to medical personnel, 14 people have died while awaiting medical evacuation. 529 more patients still require urgent medical treatment for their injuries and diseases. Furthermore, under international humanitarian law, the sick or injured must receive necessary medical treatment without conditions. Medical personnel in Eastern Ghouta are unable to provide adequate medical care due to inadequate surgical supplies, medical equipment, and medicine, particularly for treatment of chronic diseases.

I respectfully call on the Syrian government to unconditionally allow medical evacuations to Damascus. Furthermore, I urge the government to immediately lift the siege on Eastern Ghouta and call on it to provide access to UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners.

I respectfully ask you to forward this letter to President Bashar al-Assad and urge him to see that these patients are provided the medical treatment they require.

Yours sincerely,