



June 10, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are Citizens for a Secure and Safe America (C4SSA), a pro-democracy, anti-Assad Syrian diaspora group in the United States. We exist to provide a voice for Syrians in the U.S. who wish to promote democratic change in Syria so that its citizens can live in a free, secular and prosperous country.

You are currently scheduled to meet with both Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Brussels on June 14 and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva on June 16. Your conversations with the leaders of Turkey and Russia will have significant implications for your administration's approach to Syria moving forward – and the timing of these trips could not be more critical.

In advance of these meetings, C4SSA is asking your administration to review critical policy asks that, if implemented, would help improve the ongoing military, political, and humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Specifically, the Biden administration should work to:

- **Assist Turkey in uniting the existing military and militia factions in northwestern Syria under a united Syrian chain of command structure.** Currently there is no centralized structure around which to organize and direct the various armed groups and organizations operating in the northwest. Asking Turkey to exert its regional influence to solidly organize these disparate groups will help professionalize military resources allowing them to better deter Syrian Government and terrorist attacks, combat militia corruption and abuses, and provide a model for a new nationalized army after political transition in Syria.
- **Ask Turkey to allow for greater Syrian self-governance and to establish democratic institutions leading to elections in northwestern Syria.** Turkey is currently utilizing the governance system of its southern provinces to organize Syrians lives in the region – with frequent reports of Turkish provincial officials excluding the voices of local Syrians. Turkey has the ability to provide the platform for free and elections and democratic process for those regions currently under Turkish control and give control back to local Syrians in the form of self-governance.
- **Demand Putin support the immediate implementation of U.N.S.C. resolution 2254 for a transitional government without Assad.** The U.N. resolution- voted for by all UN Security Council members including Russia- lays out a roadmap and timetable for a peace process in Syria. Despite this, Russia insists on leaving Assad in power. It is clear that the Syrian people will not see justice, stability, or peace until Assad is removed.



- **Urge Russia to use its influence to ensure all pro-Assad foreign militias, including Iranian militias are driven out of Syria.** Russia is currently one of the only countries operating militarily inside Syria, with the ability and influence to command a change that can stem the coming from Iranian-backed groups in Syria.
- **Insist that Russia vote to renew the cross-border aid mechanism at the U.N.S.C. on July 10, 2021.** Russia has threatened to end the only remaining internationally recognized mechanism to allow humanitarian aid to reach four million of Syria's neediest people. The Administration must make clear that this is not acceptable and that the previously closed cross-border aid locations must also be reopened.

U.S. diplomatic engagement is critical to making these policies a reality. The removal of Assad by diplomatic means should be a top priority of your administration, especially given its concerns about Russian geopolitical influence and its commitment to refugee and human rights.

C4SSA urges your administration to review these policy asks and consider their inclusion in upcoming engagement with the leaders of Turkey and Russia.

Sincerely,

Dr. Muhammad Bakr Ghbeis
President, Citizens for a Secure and Safe America