



SCD Management statement 18 May 2017

On Tuesday 16th 2017, a Syria Civil Defence team in Dara'a (Centre 8) received a request from the elected Civilian Tribal Council in Jasim, Dara'a Governorate, to humanly dispose of the body of a person that had been sentenced to death, by the local court, for murder. The local Tribal council acknowledged that a significant risk existed of inter-tribal / clan friction resulting from the inter-tribal murder, and requested that the local Civil Defence team remove the body immediately after the execution to prevent further violence. The father of both the murdered victim and the convicted murderer gave their approval, in accordance with tribal custom

The local Syria Civil Defence team were instructed to support the local council request, and to present the corpse to the local religious authorities for burial and maintain the dignity of the convicted criminal, post execution.

The collection and burial of the dead is a task afforded to Civil Defence groups under International Humanitarian Law, and the management of Civil Defence supports the local Civil Defence group in agreeing to provide this function.

Whilst the activity of humane, dignified burial is a core task of Civil Defence, as is the support to maintain peace of public order, the actions of the individual civil defence volunteers involved did not fully uphold the strict principles of neutrality and impartiality. The management of Syria Civil Defence have conducted an investigation into the events of 16th May 2017 in Jasim and find that:

1. The local Civil Defence team leader should have sought permission from his superiors before agreeing to the request of the local council. Civil Defence leaders consider this to be a lapse of judgement and have therefore determined to dismiss the Team Leader from his responsibilities.
2. Two (2) civil defence volunteers were seen to act improperly and not in accordance with the voluntary Code of Conduct for Syria Civil Defence members. Civil Defence leaders consider this to be a violation of the Code and have therefore determined to suspend the two team members for a period of three (3) months.



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Syria Civil Defence takes violations of its strict Code of Conduct very seriously and investigates all alleged breaches. Syria Civil Defence expects each and every volunteer to perform their duties to the highest professional standard, as the individual actions of one member impacts the reputation of all volunteers and the organisation as a whole.

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