

Felm appeals for peace in Syria

Felm asks Finnish decision makers and international actors to make every effort to assist in persuading all the parties engaged in the Syrian conflict to return immediately to political negotiations and to come to a ceasefire agreement. There is no other way to end this conflict.

The current situation in Eastern Aleppo marks the worst phase in Syria's suffering. Violence against civilians is also happening all the time in other parts of the country. Syria's conflict, which is already in its sixth year, has forced nearly half the population to become refugees. At least 300,000 people have lost their lives. More than 13 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. There is human suffering on an immense scale.

Many NGOs and politicians have proposed that a no-fly zone be enforced around Aleppo. The enforcement of a no-fly zone would require the military intervention of the West. Russia has clearly stated that it will not accept this. The violence would only increase and the number of civilian casualties would rise. If the civil war is to end, no selective blame should be apportioned. All the parties to the war have blood on their hands.

Since 2013 Felm has supported peace efforts through its Syria Initiative. Its purpose has been to strengthen Syrians' involvement in dialogue and their mutual understanding of the kind of peace they wish to build in their country. This peace project strengthens the expertise and networking of the actors working for peace in different parts of Syria, and supports dialogue between the parties to achieve peace. With its Syrian partners, Felm is working in close cooperation with actors such as the EU and the UN. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports a wide-ranging peace project.

The essence of the Syria Initiative is that it brings people together and builds hope that the conflict can be resolved at just the moment when from the outside this seems impossible.

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