



## Statement about the last Beirut Explosion

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**Istanbul 8, August 2020**

The Syrian Association for Citizen's Dignity (SACD) offers its warmest and sincerest condolences to the families of the innocent victims of the Beirut explosion that took place on August 4, 2020, which affected large numbers of civilians and their properties, regardless of their backgrounds and nationalities, including at least 39 Syrians who were victims of the bombings, along with more than a hundred victims who were mostly Lebanese, but also included different nationalities, and thousands of wounded, for whom we extend our wishes for a speedy recovery.

This catastrophe that befell Lebanon is the closest, most disastrous and darkest embodiment of the reality that many Syrians have been enduring over recent years. What Beirut lived within hours, Syrians have been living through for years, which forced them to seek refuge in neighboring countries and abroad. Lebanon was one of the most important countries where Syrians sought refuge, and it is crucial not to forget the fraternal bond that binds these two countries, as happened when the Lebanese people took refuge in Syria in 2006.

This catastrophe coincides with difficult times that Lebanon has been going through, in particular, amid the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic and the country's economic deterioration. In view of the accumulated misfortunes hitting this country, we at SACD turn to the concerned parties with the following recommendations:

- We call upon donor countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to redouble their efforts and support for the Syrian refugees, who were already in a critical and difficult situation before the bombings where we expect their situation to worsen afterwards. We note that the Syrians, despite all the campaigns of hatred against them and discrimination, were the first people to extend a sincere aid hand to their Lebanese brothers and sisters.
- In light of the increasing hatred speech against Syrians, we are hereby calling out to the Lebanese government officials and human rights activists in Lebanon to launch campaigns to prevent the escalation of the hate speech and the targeting of Syrians following the Beirut explosion.
- We reaffirm the need to cancel any plans or initiatives aiming at pressuring Syrian refugees to forcibly return to Syria, as the conditions for a safe environment have not yet been met, at the time where the issue of Syrian refugees should not turn into a political debate.

We pray for a speedy recovery for Lebanon and its people.