

U.S. Refusal To Aid the Syrian Earthquake Disaster Victims Is Barbaric

by Col. Richard H. Black (ret.)

Feb. 7—Col. Black issued the following statement today in response to the refusal of the U.S. to provide assistance to Syria after the horrendous earthquake which had just struck Syria and Türkiye. Col. Black is a former Marine and Army JAG officer, who headed the Army's Criminal Division at the Pentagon and later served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the State Senate.

A video of Col. Black's statement is available [here](#).

On Monday [Feb. 6] there was a terrible earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria. It was a 7.8 on the Richter scale—a shallow earthquake that was very damaging. It hit Syria's second largest city, Aleppo, doing enormous damage and created many casualties. The Biden administration has sent aid to Türkiye, has reached out to them, has aid workers going there. However, the U.S. State Department chose this time of death and suffering to make a very antagonistic statement toward the people of Syria. There was a fellow, Ned Price, a spokesman for the State Department, who said, and I quote:

"I will make the point that it will be quite ironic if not counterproductive for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people over the course of a dozen years now. Gassing and slaughtering them, being responsible for much of the suffering they've endured."

I've got to tell you: I have never seen such a barbaric response to a tragedy where you literally have people in Aleppo city, Syria, who are looking up at piles of concrete; their lives are coming to an end; they're freezing in the cold; they're there without food, without



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water, and they're dying. Meanwhile, the State Department takes that opportunity to re-emphasize the fact that we are bitter because we could not impose our will on the Syrian people.

It was in 2020 that the United States imposed the Syria sanctions out of anger at the fact that Syria had driven back the ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorists that the United States had supported, and was trying to overwhelm the government with. So, now the State Department looks at this as an opportunity to simply ratchet up the regime of starvation and freezing that we have imposed on Syria through the cruel Caesar sanctions.

I'm quite disgusted by the actions of the United States State Department. It is really unbecoming of any civilized nation to choose this moment to take out its vengeance on the poor suffering people of Syria.

LIFT THE IMMORAL SYRIA SANCTIONS

Will the Turkish and Syrian Presidents Now Meet?

by EIR staff

Feb. 12—Chandra Muzaffar, the founder and president of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), released a call on Feb. 12 "urging the American, Brit-

ish, Australian, Canadian, Swiss, and some European Union and Arab League governments to lift the unjust, immoral sanctions against Syria in order to lessen the