

**PARROCCHIA LATINA  
S. FRANCESCO D'ASSISI**

*Aleppo - Siria*



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

From Aleppo, which is waking up on the tenth day of the great disaster it has endured, the situation remains volatile.

A large number of families are still displaced waiting to return back home; yet they fear that the earthquake will reoccur or that their houses might collapse.

It is true that fear was the ghost that accompanied us in the first week, but now anxiety has taken over. Parents are helpless wondering what awaits them and their children, living without any assurances of what the future holds.

The people of Aleppo, for the past 12 years, have been suffering from hunger, poverty and economic instability.

Then, and unexpectedly the earthquake struck, robbing them of the only place that made them feel safe: their home. Many houses were destroyed, but the majority received significant damage.

It has become nearly impossible for the people of Aleppo to live an anxiety and fear free life.

Today, our church continues to receive the displaced in specialized centers where they are provided with individual private rooms, spaces that provide them with privacy.

They are served daily meals, and are kept warm.

Some additional efforts we're making is that we are arranging for professional engineers to visit the residences, and to assess the condition in terms of habitability.

In the case that the house needs minimal repairs, our team is ready to help repair the damages so that the displaced families can go back home.

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However, for those houses that need significant repairs, we will be securing housing for their families until their house is habitable again.

The situation here is tragic; it is a true catastrophe. The amount of work needed to heal hearts, fix homes and console minds requires strength, support, persistence and hope, and there is no doubt that God will grant it all.

'You' standing by our side hand in hand during this difficult time is the greatest proof of God's care and love

The construction process is long and difficult, but we rely on the Lord's strength.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1).

**God bless you**

Aleppo 16/2/2023

**fr. Bahjat Karakach ofm**

