

Sara Kayyali, the Human Rights Watch researcher for Syria, said Idlib province had seen a marked rise in the number of injured civilians in the lead-up to the talks. Idlib province is the last opposition-held stronghold in Syria but in the last month the Syrian Army and their allies have been advancing into the region. The UN estimates more than 2 million Syrian civilians are trapped in Idlib between the Turkish border, opposition forces and the advancing Syrian Army. "In the last 72 hours, we have seen an escalation in strikes on Idlib and in the number of civilian casualties and attacks," Ms Kayyali said. "I think [there is] no safe place in Idlib to go. All of Idlib governorate are bombing from warplanes," Mr al-Khaled .said