

# Human Rights Council – 51st Session Interactive Dialogue: Oral update of the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic



September 2022

## Human Rights Council – 51<sup>st</sup> Session

Interactive Dialogue: Oral update of the COI on the Syrian Arab Republic  
Oral Intervention: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies<sup>1</sup>

21 September 2022

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<sup>1</sup> With the support of Syrians for Truth and Justice

Delivered by: Alice Boughalem

Mr. President,

Syria is facing its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since the beginning of the conflict. 14.6 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance. There are currently 6.8 million Syrian refugees and another 6.7 million are internally displaced.

Patterns of arbitrary arrests, torture, and sexual and gender-based violations, perpetrated by the Syrian Government and armed groups, persist. In this context, the fate of tens of thousands of people remains unknown despite the efforts of victims, civil society organisations and international bodies.

We call on states to implement the recent recommendation of the UN Secretary General and ensure the establishment of a UN mechanism to assist in the search for missing persons in Syria.

Given the continued dire situation, no part of Syria meets the requirements for safe, dignified, and voluntary return. Nonetheless, in contradiction with international law, some countries have pursued aggressive return policies for Syrian nationals. For example, the Turkish plan to repatriate one million refugees would put thousands of civilians in danger.

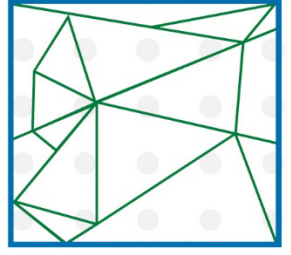
We urge the Commission and this body to work to ensure all UN member states abide by the prohibition of forced return.

Our organisations wish to emphasise the need of state members to repatriate their nationals detained in the North-East of Syria, especially children and their mothers.

In light of the crisis Syria continues to face, we support the need to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the impact of sanctions on humanitarian assistance and their effect on civilians.

Thank you.

سوريون  
من أجل  
الحقيقة  
والعدالة  
Syrians  
For Truth  
& Justice



## About Us:

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization monitoring human rights violations in Syria. Founded in 2015, STJ has been based in France since 2019.

STJ is an impartial and independent Syrian human rights organization operating across Syria. Our network of field researchers monitor and report human rights violations occurring on the ground in Syria, while our international team of human rights experts, lawyers, and journalists gather evidence, examine emerging patterns of violations, and analyze how violations break domestic Syrian and international law.

We are committed to documenting violations of human rights committed by all parties in the Syrian conflict and elevating the voices of all Syrians victimized by human rights violations, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, class, and/or gender. Our commitment to human rights monitoring is founded on the idea that professional human rights documentation meeting international standards is the first step to uncovering the truth and achieving justice in Syria.



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