

After Assad's fall: Syrian justice actors hold first justice dialogue in Syria with the caretaker government's presence



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A group of Syrian civil society organizations, survivor groups, and families of victims of various violations in Syria held a historic Syrian dialogue on justice, truth, and fairness, attended by the caretaker government's Deputy Minister of Justice for Legal Affairs and Studies, Judge Khitam Haddad. The dialogue, which took place in Damascus on January 24–25, reviewed key achievements in justice, truth, and fairness efforts led by participating organizations and groups.

Participants identified opportunities and challenges requiring further work and practical steps to advance justice efforts in Syria after the fall of the tyrannical Assad's regime, from both a legal-judicial and a societal perspective. They unanimously agreed on the importance of justice and accountability in achieving civil peace and community recovery in Syria.

Through her participation, Deputy Minister of Justice in the caretaker government, Judge Khitam Haddad, emphasized the need to submit the dialogue's recommendations and outcomes to the Ministry of Justice to benefit from the expertise of the participating organizations, which are essential for critical justice-related files such as transitional justice and enforced disappearances in Syria.

The dialogue's working groups produced [clear and specific recommendations](#) on pressing issues, including: Recognizing and acknowledging the suffering of war crime victims in Syria, protecting documents and mass graves, ensuring security under the rule of law, and guaranteeing that accountability and transitional justice processes remain independent, transparent, and inclusive.

Additionally, mid-term recommendations focused on building a state of institutions committed to citizenship and human rights principles, ensuring: Revealing the fate of forcibly disappeared persons, ending forced displacement and camps, promoting a comprehensive justice approach that includes and centers victims' participation and perspectives, and leveraging civil society expertise.

Mohammad al-Bakri from the Task Force of Survivors of Chemical Attacks in Syria said:

"The Assad's regime and its allies have worked tirelessly to deny the truth and silence survivors and witnesses to its crimes, including chemical attacks. Today, we all recognize the importance of documenting these crimes and continuing to push for justice and accountability, ensuring these atrocities never happen again".

Hasna Issa from Warsheh Team – 'My Nationality is My Right' Campaign said:

"For the past five years, Warsheh Team has been working on statelessness issues, and this meeting was a crucial opportunity for us to highlight the plight of children rendered stateless by the war in Syria. Despite being a fundamental human rights issue recognized internationally, it remains completely neglected in Syria. We demand Syrian women's right to pass nationality to their children and spouses. The absence of this right exacerbates the problem of statelessness and reduces Syrian women to second-class citizens. We look forward to changing these laws in Syria's future".

Zilan Ali from Lëlûn Association for Victims said:

"We document violations in Afrin, which is under the control of factions from the Syrian National Army, and we support victims of displacement and enforced disappearance. Our meeting with Syrian organizations was an important opportunity to exchange expertise and strengthen efforts to achieve justice and fairness for all".

Wafa Mustafa from The Syria Campaign said:

“One of the challenges we faced during the dialogue was our differing priorities and approaches. However, it was also a major opportunity to develop a shared and just vision that reflects the scale of Syria’s catastrophe and the collective efforts for justice. Today, Syria is not fully free as long as bombardment and Israeli expansion continue in the south, and Turkish airstrikes and ongoing battles persist in the northeast. This presents an additional challenge: ensuring that efforts do not focus only on certain regions while neglecting others. Syria’s stability can only be achieved through an inclusive approach that encompasses all its regions and communities”.

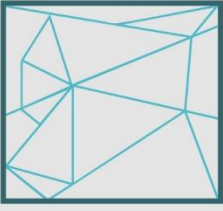
Notes:

The dialogue was held at Cham Hotel in Damascus, with the participation of more than fifty representatives from the attending organizations and groups.

The organizing and participating groups in the dialogue are:

1. General Union of Internees and Detainees
2. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)
3. Badael
4. Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)
5. The Female Survivors Union
6. Tastakel
7. Lélûn Association for Victims
8. Jawa Voluntary Team
9. Release Me
10. The Syria Campaign
11. The White Helmets
12. Dawlaty
13. Synergy Association for Victims
14. DAR Association for victims of forced displacement
15. Caesar Families Association
16. Adra Detainees Association
17. Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP)
18. Sama
19. Syrians for Truth and Justice
20. Oxygen Shabab
21. Syrian Network for Human Rights

22. Syrian Female Journalists Network
23. Shams Forum
24. Detainees' Voice - Save the Rest | Documentation Group in Darayya City
25. Families for Truth and Justice
26. Families For Freedom
27. Justice For Life
28. Justice and Sustainable Development
29. Step for Volunteer Work Team
30. Warsheh Team
31. Do Not Suffocate the Truth
32. Bidayetna Initiative
33. Syrian British Consortium
34. Homs Civil Peace Group (Seen)
35. Task Force of Survivors of Chemical Attacks in Syria
36. Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights
37. Madaniya
38. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom Expression (SCM)
39. Syrian Center for Legal Studies and Researches
40. Syrian Justice and Accountability Center
41. Chemical Violations Documentation Center and Research
42. Justice Paths (Masarat)
43. Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance Victims Support Project
44. Adalaty Centre
45. Women Now for Development
46. Nophotozone
47. Health Information System Unit
48. The Day After (TDA)



ABOUT STJ

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) started as an idea in a co-founder's mind while attending the U.S. Middle-East Partnership Initiative's (MEPI) Leaders for Democracy Fellowship program (LDF) in 2015. The idea became a reality and flourished into an independent, non-profit, impartial, non-governmental human rights organization.

STJ's beginnings were more than humble; initially, it only reported stories of Syrians who experienced arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, or torture. Planted in fertile soil, the seed of this project grew into an established human rights organization licensed in the Middle East and the European Union. STJ today undertakes to detect and uncover violations of all types committed in all Syrian parts by the various parties to the conflict.

Convinced that Syria's diversity is a wealth, our researchers and volunteers serve with unfailing dedication to monitor, expose, and document human rights violations that continue unabated in Syria since 2011, regardless of the affiliation of the victims or perpetrators.