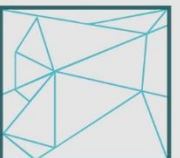


Syria: As-Suwayda: 65 Civil Society Organizations Call for Immediate End to Violence and Protection of Civilians



All Human Rights Violations Must Be Investigated, Hate Speech Must Stop, And A Transparent, Inclusive Syrian National Dialogue Must Begin



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And A Transparent, Inclusive Syrian National Dialogue Must Begin*

The undersigned organizations express deep concern over the escalation of hostilities in As-Suwayda governorate, a predominantly Druze area in southern Syria. The outbreak of violence has been accompanied by widespread human rights violations and has resulted in dozens of casualties and injuries.

Alarming, credible reports have emerged documenting extrajudicial killings, mistreatment, sectarian insults, torture, property destruction, and looting of homes. The undersigned organizations strongly condemn all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and call on all parties to immediately comply with their legal obligations, namely the protection of civilians and their property, as well as the protection of medical facilities.

Amid these developments, Israeli airstrikes have killed and injured numerous members of the military forces affiliated with the Damascus transitional authorities. The undersigned organizations condemn these repeated Israeli attacks and call for their cessation.

The events in As-Suwayda, the escalating violence across Syria, and the acts of retaliation—often taking on a sectarian nature—represent a deeply troubling pattern that further fractures Syrian society. Previous mass killings in the coastal areas, the terrorist bombing of a church in the Duwaila area of Damascus that resulted in dozens of casualties, and violent incidents in Jaramana, Sahnaya, and Ashrafiyet Sahnaya in the Damascus countryside, are part of a larger wave of sectarian violence.

While awaiting the findings of the “Committee to Investigate the Coastal Events” concerning the March 2025 incidents, similar violations have been repeated in As-Suwayda, allegedly by some of the same perpetrators. Videos from As-Suwayda filmed and circulated by the perpetrators themselves support this claim. At the same time, amid the rise in hate speech and incitement, calls for mass mobilization have spread, including demonstrations demanding the recruitment of civilians to be sent to As-Suwayda, with some transport companies even offering to transfer fighters for free.

Despite the severity of the violations, no transparent legal action has been observed from the transitional authorities against those accused of these massacres—undermining the credibility of the transitional process in Syria as a whole.

The undersigned organizations are deeply concerned about the potential for this violence and these violations to spread to other regions and Syrian communities. Worrying and explicit incitement to violence and escalation has been observed in other areas, including northeast Syria (the Syrian Jazira region).

In solidarity with the families of all Syrian victims and with hopes for a swift recovery for the wounded and the safe return of displaced persons to their homes, the undersigned organizations remind the Syrian transitional authorities of their core responsibility to protect all Syrians, without discrimination, and demand the following:

First: To the Syrian Transitional Authorities:

- Launch a serious and immediate investigation into all killings, torture, and degrading treatment committed during the violence in As-Suwayda by all parties and refer the perpetrators to justice through public and impartial trials.
- Immediately cease all hostilities and initiate a serious and genuine dialogue with all Syrian components, ensuring their participation in the Syrian transitional process without exclusion or discrimination.
- Allow UN agencies and the International Commission of Inquiry to enter As-Suwayda governorate to independently investigate the alleged violations.
- Reconsider the transitional justice plan in Syria, and expand the scope of victims to include all victims of violations from all parties—both before and after the fall of the Assad regime.

To the European Union, United States, and International Community:

- Call on the new Syrian authorities to stop the violations, protect all Syrians, and end all forms of sectarian violence.
- Pressure the Syrian transitional authorities to work seriously and transparently to ensure a comprehensive and unbiased Syrian transitional process.

To the United Nations Security Council:

- Convene an emergency meeting on the recent violence in Syria, reaffirm the protection of all Syrian communities, and avoid any steps that could fuel sectarian violence.
- Emphasize the need for comprehensive, non-discriminatory justice and accountability, as affirmed in the Council's statement of March 14, 2025.
- Pressure the Israeli government to cease its attacks on Syrian territory and reject all forms of foreign interventions in Syria.

List of Signatory Organizations (in alphabetical order):

1. Accountability Advocates Organization
2. ACES, Action for Community Empowerment in Syria
3. Adel Center for Human Rights
4. Ajyal Organization for Development
5. Al-Ghaith Development Organization
6. Alzajel
7. ARAS Charity
8. Areej Organization
9. Arzo Organization
10. Ashna for Development
11. Assyrian Society for Helping and Development
12. Badael
13. Baladna Organization
14. Bayti Ana Baytak Organization

15. Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights
16. Civil Peace Group
17. Das Leben e.V.
18. Duderi
19. Equal Citizenship Center
20. Euphrates NGO
21. Fariq Sunaae Almustaqbal
22. Foundation to Restore Equality and Education in Syria
23. Future Makers Team
24. Green Tress
25. Hevy for Relief and Development
26. Humanitarian and Development Cooperation Organization
27. Insight Organization
28. Jiyani-Initiative, die kurdische Frauenbewegung
29. Justice for Life - JFL
30. Khatwat Hayat for the Environment
31. Kobani for Relief and Development
32. Lights for Development and Construction
33. Malva Organization for Arts, Culture and Education
34. Mary Association for Culture, Arts and Environment
35. Mary Association for Culture, Arts, and Environment
36. Media for Women
37. Nawat
38. Nûdem Organization
39. PEACE LAND ORGANIZATION
40. PEACE SHE LEADAR NETWORK
41. Purity
42. RÊ for Rehabilitation and Development
43. Reng for Development
44. Rights Defense Initiative - RDI
45. Rojava Organization
46. Salam for Hope
47. Shams for Rehabilitation and Development
48. SHARE for Community Development
49. Shawshka Women's Association
50. Slav Organization for Civil Activities
51. Small Dreams Group
52. Synergy Association for Victims
53. Syria Help Organization
54. Syria Justice and Accountability Center (SJAC)
55. Syriac Cross Organization for Relief and Development
56. Syrian Center for Studies and Dialogue - SCSD
57. Syrians for Truth and Justice - STJ
58. Taa Marbouta
59. Tara Organization

- 60. Together for a Better Society – TBS
 - 61. Transformative Pathways
 - 62. Urnammu for Justice & Human Rights
 - 63. Women Initiatives
 - 64. Women of Tomorrow
 - 65. Yekpar for Culture and Arts
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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.