

Syria: Civil Society Organizations Call for an Immediate Halt to the Military Escalation in Northeast Syria



- The Syrian Organizations Signing This Statement Call On The United Nations Security Council And Its Member States To Assume Their Responsibilities In Protecting Civilians And To Exert Pressure To Prioritize Dialogue

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The undersigned Syrian organizations express their deep concern over the escalating military operations in Northeast Syria/the Jazira region. They call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. They further urge all parties to return to the 10 March 2025 Agreement, signed under United States auspices between the Syrian Transitional Government and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The undersigned organizations call for the protection of all civilians without discrimination. They strongly condemn and denounce all violations, regardless of the perpetrator, and stress the obligation to respect International Humanitarian Law, which explicitly prohibits summary executions, torture, ill-treatment, mutilation of corpses, attacks against civilians, and other grave violations. The organizations underline that the repeated violence stems fundamentally from the absence of a national political solution and the lack of genuine, inclusive political participation in shaping the country's future during the transitional period, under Syrian leadership and ownership.

Once again, the latest military escalation in Raqqa, al-Hasakah, and Deir ez-Zor governorates, alongside alarming reports of the escape of hundreds of ISIS members, has generated real fears among religious and ethnic minorities in North-East Syria of mass killings based on identity, similar to what occurred in the coastal massacres and the Suwayda massacres. Therefore, and driven by our firm commitment to the protection of civilians and all Syrian components, strict adherence to International Humanitarian Law and international Human Rights Law, and the achievement of coexistence and civil peace in North-East Syria in particular and Syria as a whole, we call for the following:

First: To the United Nations Security Council – immediately:

1. Call on all parties to return to the negotiating table and to the signed agreements, on the basis of the March 2025 Agreement.
2. Activate the role of the newly appointed UN Special Envoy for Syria and ensure his sponsorship of negotiations, with a view to bridging positions, securing a ceasefire, and establishing effective ceasefire monitoring.
3. Prevent the outbreak of any ethno-national conflict (Kurdish/Arab), which would destabilize Syria and the region and trigger new waves of displacement and asylum-seeking.
4. Press for the launch of a credible, inclusive Syrian-led political process that guarantees the participation of all Syrian components in shaping the country's future.
5. Ensure UN sponsorship of the transitional process in Syria and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in advancing a comprehensive, democratic, and non-exclusionary transition.

Second: To the Syrian Transitional Government and the Syrian Democratic Forces:

1. Declare an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, and prioritize —above all—the protection of all civilians and civilian objects, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.
2. Commit to implementing the provisions of the 10 March 2025 Agreement in good faith, and pledge not to resort to weapons to resolve political disputes.

Finally, we call on all parties involved in the recent military escalation, Syrians at large, and media professionals and journalists in particular, to reject hate speech, incitement, and violence, and to adopt peaceful solutions and dialogue as the foundation for addressing disputes. We also warn the international community that the latest military escalation may lead to large-scale forced displacement and ethnic cleansing, and may expose the entire region to the risk of internal conflict.

Signatory organizations:

1. Syrians For Truth and Justice
2. ASO Center for Consultancy and Strategic Study
3. Ezdina Organization
4. DOZ
5. Taa marbouta
6. Dan for Relief and Development
7. Fajr
8. ASHNA for Development
9. dijla Organization for Development and Environment
10. Ambassadors Association for Persons with Disabilities
11. Tal-Abyad Forum for civil society
12. PÊL- Civil Waves
13. Union der Syrischen Eziden
14. Synergy Association for Victims
15. Network of Statelessness Victims in al-Hasakah (NSVH)
16. Women of tomorrow
17. Rose for support and empowerment
18. Shams organisation
19. Lights For Development And Construction
20. ARAS
21. Artist Organization for Culture and Development
22. RÊ for rehabilitation and development
23. Shawshka Women's Association
24. PEACE SHE LEADAR NET WORK
25. Roni peywend
26. Roj Kar for Relief and Development
27. Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights

28. DAR FOR Peace and prosperity
 29. Lelun association for victims
 30. Syrian feminist lobby
 31. Rony
 32. Insight Organization
 33. Duderí
 34. Jiyan – Kurdish Women's Movement
 35. Seen for Civil Peace
 36. The Syria Campaign
 37. Peyam association for development
 38. Payam
 39. Dijla Organization for Development and Environment
 40. We care
 41. Ahimsa for nonviolence
 42. Jho
 43. Peace land
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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.