



Muna's Story: She Was Waiting to Embrace Her Mother



السويداء
Sweida city

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Before her name became a mere digit on the casualty lists, Muna Salah al-Din was a vibrant fourteen-year-old girl. Having just completed the seventh grade with top honors, she was looking forward to starting eighth grade. She was such an exceptional student that both her primary and middle schools officially mourned her after her martyrdom.

For years, Muna had cherished a single, radiant dream: to be reunited with her mother, who lives in Australia. Just hours before she was killed, her visa approval finally arrived. She was supposed to begin a new life in her mother's embrace, but the journey she began that day would instead be her last.

Through his grief, her father recalls,

"She was my only daughter. I had no one else but her."

As the heavy bombardment intensified over their neighborhood in July 2025, Muna's father decided to evacuate her, her grandmother, and a group of women and children to an area he believed would be safer. He stayed behind with his grandfather, trapped in the crossfire of the escalating clashes.

Over the days that followed, the father endured relentless shelling, witnessing armed men storm nearby houses, loot them, and terrorize the residents. Meanwhile, Muna, along with hundreds of other women and children, took refuge in an assembly hall (*Al-Majles*) at the Taraba junction, sheltering from the rain of fire.

When the decision was finally made to evacuate them to safety in civilian vehicles, the convoy came under heavy sniper fire. Muna was shot directly in the heart and martyred instantly, along with several women and children beside her.

Her grandmother vividly recalls those horrific moments,

"After the vehicle overturned, we saw the dead and wounded scattered everywhere... and my granddaughter was among them."

Trapped for hours under siege, her father could not reach her body until the following day. He spent agonizing hours searching through the wounded and the martyred at the hospital before finally finding her.

He says,

"I searched for her like a madman, for hours on end."

Muna was laid to rest in As Suwayda while the clashes were still raging, and gunfire erupted again shortly after the burial.

Today, her father cannot bear to enter her room or even touch her belongings. He asked his relatives to gather everything that belonged to her and pack it into a single bag; the sight of her empty space is simply too heavy for his heart to bear.

Muna is gone, but her school backpack remains, along with her unfinished dreams, and a visa that arrived just a few hours too late.



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.



About Habaq :

Habaq Media is an independent platform from Sweida and part of the Habaq Collective. We tell everyday life as it is, covering the land, the markets, the songs, the faces, and the streets. We highlight local talent and connect those inside Syria with the diaspora.

Our editorial policies are clear: accuracy, do-no-harm, and source protection. We practice adaptive management, constantly planning, learning, and improving. Our professional, intellectual, and administrative independence is non-negotiable. Above all, people's safety comes first.