

Strasbourg, France “Justice for As Suwayda A Memory That Never Dies”



An International Campaign Marks The First Anniversary Of The As Suwayda Massacres And Calls For Truth And Justice

July 2026



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On 15 July 2026, a solidarity exhibition in Strasbourg, France, showcased photographs of victims of the As Suwayda massacres as part of the international campaign "Justice for As Suwayda: A Memory That Never Dies." The exhibition drew an estimated 400 to 500 passersby, many of whom paused to view the photographs and learn about the campaign's objectives. The initiative sought to keep the plight of As Suwayda's victims in public memory and to reinforce calls for truth, justice, and accountability.

The event was organized by Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) in cooperation with the Association des Druzes d'Alsace (ADA), the Druze Association Berlin-Brandenburg, Sada Al-Janoub Platform, The Basil Collective (Habak), the Suwayda Documentation and Media Center (SDMC), Alrased Platform, As Suwayda Press, and the Beity Ana Baytak Association. It was part of the international campaign "Justice for As Suwayda: A Memory That Never Dies," launched to commemorate the first anniversary of the violence that engulfed the governorate in July 2025, alongside similar activities held in several cities around the world.

The violence primarily targeted civilian men and women from the Druze community and involved armed factions, tribal forces, and forces affiliated with the Syrian Transitional Authority. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (Col-Syria) documented that some of these forces operated under the effective control of the authorities.

According to the Commission's report issued on 27 March 2026, the documented violations included killings, torture, looting, arbitrary detention, and summary executions of men and boys after they were separated from women and children. Civilians were also reportedly killed inside their homes and on public streets. The Chair of the Col-Syria, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, described the scale and brutality of the violence and the documented abuses in As Suwayda as "deeply alarming," calling for "enhanced efforts to hold all perpetrators accountable."

The Commission estimated that the violence resulted in at least 1,707 deaths, including hundreds of civilians and dozens of children. It also documented the abduction and detention of a large number of individuals, while the fate of dozens remains unknown. The Commission recorded incidents of sexual violence against women and girls, including rape.

The campaign seeks to honor the victims' memory, demand clarification of the fate of the missing and abducted, advance pathways toward justice and accountability, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. It further emphasizes that ending impunity is a fundamental safeguard against the recurrence of such grave violations.

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.