

Syria: Joint Statement on the Abduction and Killing of “Sipan Hazni” and the Fire at Kobani/Ayn al-Arab Prison



- 18 Syrian Organizations: The Absence Of A Transparent And Comprehensive National Transitional Justice Process, Grounded In Truth-Seeking, Accountability, Reparations, And Guarantees Of Non-Recurrence, Leaves Broad Space For Local Conflicts, Retaliation, And Impunity, And Undermines Confidence In The Rule Of Law

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The organizations signing this statement are following with grave concern the recent developments in Hasakah and Kobani/Ayn al-Arab, foremost among them the abduction and killing of Sami Sheikhmous Hasso, known as "Sipan Hazni," by an armed group. The brutal and shocking incident violates the rights to life, liberty, and human dignity, and was compounded by the filming and circulation of images of the crime on social media.

We condemn in the strongest terms the abduction and extrajudicial killing of Sipan Hazni. Regardless of the party responsible or the motives involved, these acts cannot be justified or tolerated. Filming and circulating images of the crime also constitute an additional violation of the dignity of the victim and his family and likewise require accountability.

The signatory organizations stress the need to establish the full truth and identify everyone involved in the abduction and killing, including perpetrators, instigators, contributors, and those who concealed the crime, and to take fair legal action against anyone whose responsibility is established. They further call for anyone against whom sufficient evidence exists to be referred to a competent, independent, and impartial court through public proceedings that respect fair-trial guarantees and the rule of law, with independent civil society monitoring.

The organizations also affirm that military, tribal, or political affiliation cannot confer immunity from accountability. Responsibility must be individual and specifically established, so that every person whose responsibility is proven is held to account, without selectivity or settlements that result in impunity.

At the same time, the signatory organizations are following with grave concern the subsequent events in the city of Kobani, including the fire at Kobani Prison. According to an initial toll, the fire caused at least seven deaths and injured others, while medical and local sources reported that the toll had risen to nine deaths and 17 injuries.

Given the seriousness of the incident and the multiple accounts circulating about its circumstances, we welcome the announcement of an investigation. At the same time, we stress the need to disclose the body or committee tasked with the investigation and its powers, and to guarantee its independence and impartiality from all parties that administered the prison or were involved in handling the related events and protests.

The investigation should cover all circumstances before, during, and after the fire, including detention conditions; fire-prevention and safety measures; the availability of evacuation means; the speed of the response to the fire; the provision of first aid and medical care; and any use of force. It should also determine responsibility for any violations, negligence, or failure to fulfil the duty to protect the lives of persons in detention.

Urgent measures should also be taken to preserve all relevant evidence, including surveillance-camera footage, official and detention records, and relevant

communications; to take statements from survivors and witnesses; to conduct medical examinations, autopsies, and forensic procedures independently and in accordance with recognized standards; and to inform the victims' families of the investigation's findings and the measures taken.

The signatory organizations emphasize that the presence of people inside the prison at the time of the fire imposed a special duty on the authority that was effectively administering the place of detention to protect their lives and safety. Any incomplete arrangements for transferring the prison's administration should not create a vacuum of responsibility or lead to an exchange of accusations among different parties. Responsibility for protecting detainees and investigating the causes of their deaths must be determined on the basis of the facts and the actual roles of each party, rather than political or administrative considerations.

The signatory organizations consider that the absence of a transparent and comprehensive national transitional justice process, grounded in truth-seeking, accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence, leaves broad space for local conflicts, retaliation, and impunity and undermines confidence in the rule of law.

Accordingly, addressing these incidents should not be limited to an immediate security response; it must form part of a broader process of justice and accountability.

The signatory organizations further affirm that accountability must be comprehensive and non-selective. Demands for justice must not become a justification for retaliation or violence, nor should either incident be used to obscure the investigation into the other or to justify related violence. Each incident independently warrants truth-seeking, investigation, and accountability, and every victim has the right to justice and redress.

Accordingly, the signatory organizations call for the following:

- The Syrian authorities and the Public Prosecution should ensure a serious and transparent investigation into the abduction and killing of Sipan Hazni, identify all those responsible, and hold them accountable in accordance with the law.
- The body responsible for investigating the Kobani Prison fire should disclose the composition and mandate of the investigative committee or body, guarantee its independence and impartiality, and publish the investigation's findings to the public.
- All evidence should be preserved, including surveillance footage and official records; statements should be taken from survivors and witnesses; medical examinations and forensic procedures should be conducted independently; and the victims' families should be informed of the findings.
- The investigation should examine detention conditions, fire-prevention and evacuation measures, the medical response, and any use of force, and determine

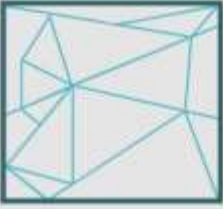
individual responsibility for any act or omission shown to have contributed to the deaths or injuries.

- Anyone against whom sufficient evidence exists should be referred to a competent, independent, and impartial court through public proceedings that respect fair-trial guarantees and the rule of law.
- Independent civil society monitoring of the investigation and judicial proceedings should be permitted to strengthen transparency and the confidence of victims and their families in the justice process.
- Military, tribal, or political affiliations should not be used as a means of immunity from accountability, and settlements that prevent those responsible for violations from being held accountable should be avoided.

15 September 2026

Signatory organizations (alphabetical by name, disregarding organizational type):

1. Association of Ambassadors for Persons with Disabilities
2. ASHTI Foundation
3. The Civic Consciousness Current
4. Ghosn Development Team
5. GreenTress
6. Huquqyat
7. KHUTWAT Women's Association
8. PÊL – Civil Waves
9. Peace SHE – Leaders Network
10. Roj Kar for Relief and Development
11. Rony Peywend
12. Rose for Support and Empowerment
13. Shawishka Association for Women
14. Small Dreams Organization for Women's Support and Empowerment
15. Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ)
16. taa marbouta
17. Women Initiatives
18. Women of Tomorrow



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.