

Facts on Syria

To guaranty the authenticity of our claims, in this page you find all source about the information provided in the “Facts on Syria” campaign.

1- The War is not over

- **Der Spiegel: Assad's Control Erodes as Warlords Gain Upper Hand (3/2017):**
<https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/assad-power-slips-in-syria-as-warlords-grow-more-powerful-a-1137475-2.html>
- **SFH: Syria: Forced Recruitment, Military Discharge, Desertion (3/2017)**
Among other things, the report deals with paramilitary militias loyal to the regime. "Efforts to keep these militias under state control have largely failed."
<https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/assets/herkunftslaender/mittlerer-osten-zentralasien/syrien/170323-syr-militaerdienst.pdf>
- **Chatham House: How Syria's War Economy Propels the Conflict (7/2017)**
<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/how-syrias-war-economy-propels-the-conflict>
- **Middle East Institute: Aleppo's Warlords and Post-War Reconstruction (7/2017):**
<https://www.mei.edu/publications/aleppos-warlords-and-post-war-reconstruction>
- **War on the Rocks: The (last) King of Syria: The Feudalization of Assad's Rule (11/2017)**
<https://warontherocks.com/2017/11/the-last-king-of-syria-the-feudalization-of-assads-rule/>
- **PAX: Siege Watch 10. Part 1 2-4/2018**
„The international community and humanitarian agencies operational in Syria must recognize that “post-surrender” does not mean “post-conflict,” and respond accordingly.“ (p.80)
<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/siege-watch-10-part-1>
- **Business Insider: Syria ,is being swallowed whole by its clients': Assad may be losing control over his own militias (8/2018)**
<https://www.businessinsider.de/syrian-regime-militias-becoming-warlords-2016-8?r=US&IR=T>
- **Carnegie: By integrating pro-regime armed groups into state structures, the Assad regime has created a hybrid military order. (11/2018)**
<https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/77635>
- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018)**
https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf
- **Der Spiegel: Assad's allies run at each other (01/2019)**
<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/syrien-krieg-verbuedete-von-baschar-al-assad-gehen-aufeinander-los-a-1249835.html> (GERMAN)

- **The Syrian Observer: Fifth Corps Attacks Assad Intelligence in Daraa (4/2019)**

Members of Russia's Fifth Corps have attacked regime checkpoints and accused those in charge of them of treating local residents badly and imposing unfair tolls writes Human Voice.

<https://syrianobserver.com/EN/news/49523/fifth-corps-attacks-assad-intelligence-in-daraa.html>

- **Chatham House: Understanding the characteristics of the new emerging state in Syria (6/2019)**

Analyst Haid Haid points out that in some parts of the country, the regime can only exercise limited control and can not be assumed to have a clear monopoly of power by the state – especially because of the presence of various regime-loyal militias and Iranian and Russian troops.

<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/understanding-the-characteristics-of-the-new-emerging-state-in-syria>

2- Syria is still not safe!

- **UN OCHA: Situation Reports**

UN OCHA publishes regular updates on the humanitarian situation:

- Situation Report 5: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria (as of 14 June 2019)

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/latest_developments_in_north_western_syria_14jun2019_sitrep5.pdf

- Situation Report 4: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria (as of 31 May 2019)

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Latest_Developments_in_north_western_Syria_31May2019_SitRep4.pdf

- Situation Report 3: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria (as of 24 May 2019)

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Latest_Developments_in_north_western_Syria_24May2019_SitRep3.pdf

- **Crisis Group: Voices of Idlib (7/2018):**

Clear presentation of the situation in Idlib before the current offensive.

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/syria/voices->

- **UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria: Unparalleled numbers of Syrians displaced in under six months (9/2018)**

As figures from the UN Commission of Inquiry show, over one million people fled to northern Syria in the first half of 2018 alone.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=23541&LangID=E>

- **UN Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (1/2019)**

<http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/40/70>

- **HRW: Syria: Arrests, Torture by Armed Group (1/2019)**

The report describes several cases of targeted persecution of journalists and others by HTS in Idlib:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/01/28/syria-arrests-torture-armed-group>

- **Middle East Eye: „Is HTS winning hearts and minds in Syria?“ (2/2019)**

Analysis of Haid Haid's HTS strategy:

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/hts-winning-hearts-and-minds-syria>

- **BBC: Syria war: Why does the battle for Idlib matter? (5/2019)**

Summary of the situation of BBC:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-45403334>

- **Crisis Group: Report on Syria (5/2019):**

Short summary of the situation in Syria considering the Idlib escalation

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/may-2019#syria>

- **Amnesty International: Idlib: Millions in Need of Protection (5/2019)**

Amnesty International describes both the consequences of military escalation and the consequences of militia rule within Idlib.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/08/idleb-millions-in-need-of-protection-world-must-act-now>

- **Die Zeit: What Idlib is up to now (05/2019)**

Die Zeit summarises the most important information on Idlib in a dossier.

<https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2019-05/syrien-idlib-eskalation-voelkerrecht-faq#wie-ist-die-lage-in-der-rebellenenklave-idlib> (GERMAN)

- **UN: Risk grows of 'catastrophic humanitarian fallout' (5/2019)**

In May 2019, the UN warned that a humanitarian catastrophe unprecedented for this century was looming in Idlib.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/05/1038681>

- **UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria: Urgent steps needed to prevent outright catastrophe in north-western Syria (5/2019)**

The UN Commission of Inquiry estimates that nearly 300,000 people have fled Idlib within the last three months.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=24586&LangID=E>

- **Syrian Human Rights Comitee: Seven people executed by Sham Liberation organisation (HTS) (6/2019)**

HTS repeatedly executes people who are accused of collaborating with other actors.

<https://www.shrc.org/en/?p=32514>

- **Syrian Observatory of Human Rights (SOHR): Approx. 715 civilians killed from 14/02 to 15/06 (6/2019)**

SOHR assumes that about 715 civilians were killed in grenade, air and rocket attacks of all warring parties in and around the de-escalation zone Idlib from 14 February to 15 June.

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=131456>

- **PAX: Idlib: 5 things you need to know (6/2019)**

Summary of the situation from the Dutch organisation PAX:

<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/stay-informed/news/idlib-5-things-you-need-to-know>

- **Adopt a Revolution: Beiträge zum Thema Idlib**

Adopt a Revolution has seven partner projects in Idlib and reports regularly on the local situation:

<https://adoptrevolution.org/category/idlib-de/> (GERMAN)

- **Freedom of movement inside of Syria**

Domestic flight alternatives not only require safe areas, but also that they are accessible. Due to many factors, freedom of movement within Syria is severely restricted. This also applies to certain groups of people within the areas controlled by the Assad regime due to certain restrictions. For example, parts of the population of formerly opposition-controlled territories may not enter or leave them – or only under certain circumstances.

- **Amnesty International: Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Review of 2018 (2/2019)**

<https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2003684/MDE2499032019ENGLISH.pdf>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018)**

- https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf

3- Persecution can happen to anyone in Syria

Sources on surveillance and targeted persecution

- **Zaman al Wasl: Second Batch of Assad's Wanted-list Released (3/2018)**
<https://en.zamanalwsl.net/news/article/33732>
- **PAX: Siege Watch #10 part 1 / Tenth Quarterly Report Part 1 – Eastern Ghouta February–April 2018 (6/2018)**
<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/siege-watch-10-part-1>
- **Needa: Leaks reveal list prepared by the Syrian regime for 3 million persons inside and outside the country (8/2018)**
<https://nedaa-sy.com/en/news/7626>
- **Atlantic Council: Breaking Ghouta (9/2018)**
„Those who remained behind are under the constant surveillance of the Syrian security state and endure daily humiliations, arrests, forcible recruitment into the armed forces, and restrictions on their freedom of movement.“
<http://www.publications.atlanticcouncil.org/breakingghouta/post-reconciliation/>
- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018) S.38**
https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus+%2C+April+2018.pdf
- **ACLEDD: The Risks of Reconciliation (1/2019)**
According to ACLEDD, civilians and former fighters continue to face the threat of arrests and conscription in „reconciled“ areas. „The majority of arrests are reported without details of charges; however, when reported, the regime's clear priority is to eliminate remaining structures of resistance, whether civilian or former fighter, and to discourage future rebellion“.
<https://www.acleddata.com/2019/01/25/the-risks-of-reconciliation-civilians-and-former-fighters-face-continued-threats-in-syria/>
- **Syria Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC): Walls Have Ears – An Analysis of Classified Syrian Security Sector Documents (4/2019)**
SJAC analyses patterns of the Syrian surveillance state on the basis of extensive documents from Syrian security services that were recovered by SJAC and the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA) in Syria.
<https://syriaaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/Walls-Have-Ears-English.pdf>
- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**
<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

- **Reporters without Borders: Harassment of pro-government journalists growing in Syria (7/2019)**
<https://rsf.org/en/news/harassment-pro-government-journalists-growing-syria>
- **Chatham House: Look Beyond the Violence to Understand the Dangers That Remain (8/2019)**
<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/look-beyond-the-violence-to-understand-the-dangers-that-remain-1>
- **UN: Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (9/2019)**
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/A_HRC_42_51.docx

Arbitrariness of persecution

- **UNHCR considerations on the protection needs of persons fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic (11/2017)**
https://is.gd/UNHCR_Erw_Nov17 (GERMAN)
- **No clear monopoly on the use of force (div. Sources)**

EASO: COI Meeting 11+12/2017: https://is.gd/EASO_COI_MEETING

USDOS: Country Report 2017: https://is.gd/USDOS_2017_Syria

Der Spiegel, 25.01.2019: <https://is.gd/8A0vSk> (GERMAN)

Der Spiegel 8.3.2017: <https://is.gd/tDAijR> (GERMAN)

Business Insider, 18.8.2018: <https://is.gd/OVGRzD>

Chatham House 7/2017 <https://is.gd/eEcxyX>

Middle East Institute 13.7.2017: <https://is.gd/pcr9Qt>

SFH: Zwangsrekrutierung 3/2017, S.3: <https://is.gd/AX0DAK> (GERMAN)

War on the Rocks, 22.11.2017: <https://is.gd/0WoMR9>

Siehe zur Frage der „Warlordisierung“ Kapitel 8.6

- **Amnesty International: ‚It Breaks the Human‘: Torture, Disease and Death in Syria’s Prisons (8/2016)**
<https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b8681e4.html>
- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018)**
https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf
- **Amnesty International: Expert opinion for the Administrative Court of Magedburg (9/2018)**
https://is.gd/Al_Gutachten_VG_MAgd_Sep18 (GERMAN)

- **Amnesty International: Expert opinion for the Administrative Court of Hesse (9/2018)**
https://is.gd/AI_Gutachte_VHG_Hessen_Sep18 (GERMAN)
- **Syrians for Truth and Justice: Homs: Children/Students Arrested for Unknown Reasons (3/2019)**
<https://stj-sy.org/en/1212/>
- **Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (Muriel Asseburg): Perspectives for refugees instead of incentives to return to Syria (4/2019)**
<https://www.swp-berlin.org/kurz-gesagt/2019/perspektiven-fuer-fluechtlinge-statt-anreize-zur-rueckkehr-nach-syrien/> (GERMAN)
- **Chatham House: Understanding the characteristics of the new emerging state in Syria (6/2019)**
<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/understanding-the-characteristics-of-the-new-emerging-state-in-syria>
- **Financial Times: Climate of Fear deters Syrian refugees from returning home (7/2019)**
<https://www.ft.com/content/630b11f8-9d9a-11e9-b8ce-8b459ed04726>
- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**
<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>
- **SACD: Vengeance, Prepression and Fear: Reality behind Assad's promises to displaced Syrians (10/2019)**
<https://www.syacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FinalSACDSereport.pdf>

Danger to returnees

- **Asyl.net: Information on German case law (2/2017)**
<https://www.asyl.net/view/detail/News/erste-ovg-entscheidungen-zum-schutzstatus-von-asylsuchenden-aus-syrien-veroeffentlicht/> (GERMAN)
- **Swiss Refugee Aid: Syria: Return – Information from the SFH Country Analysis (3/2017)**
https://is.gd/SFH_Rueckkehr (GERMAN)
- **Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) (8/2018)**
https://is.gd/ACCORD_Aug18 (GERMAN)
- **Die Zeit: What threatens returnees in Assad's Syria (8/2018)**
<https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2018-08/krieg-syrien-rueckkehr-fluechtlinge-wladimir-putin-angela-merkel> (GERMAN)
- **Syrian Center for Legal Studies & Researches: Syrian law Manual regarding the return of Syrian refugees in Europe (9/2018)**
<https://sl-center.org/?p=657&lang=en>
- **Amnesty International: Expert opinion for the Administrative Court of Hesse (9/2018)**

https://is.gd/AI_Gutachte_VHG_Hessen_Sep18 (GERMAN)

- **World Bank Study: The Mobility of Displaced Syrians: An Economic and Social Analysis (2/2019)**

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/syria/publication/the-mobility-of-displaced-syrians-an-economic-and-social-analysis>

- **The Conversation (Mark Ward): Refugees forced to return to Syria face imprisonment, death at the hands of Assad (3/2019)**

<http://theconversation.com/refugees-forced-to-return-to-syria-face-imprisonment-death-at-the-hands-of-assad-113159>

- **Washington Post: Assad urged Syrian refugees to come home. Many are being welcomed with arrest and interrogation. (6/2019)**

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/assad-urged-syrian-refugees-to-come-home-many-are-being-welcomed-with-arrest-and-interrogation/2019/06/02/54bd696a-7bea-11e9-b1f3-b233fe5811ef_story.html

- **Financial Times: Climate of Fear deters Syrian refugees from returning home (7/2019)**

<https://www.ft.com/content/630b11f8-9d9a-11e9-b8ce-8b459ed04726>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

- **Chatham House: Look Beyond the Violence to Understand the Dangers That Remain (8/2019)**

<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/look-beyond-the-violence-to-understand-the-dangers-that-remain-1>

- **SNHR: The Syrian Regime Continues to Pose a Violent Barbaric Threat and Syrian Refugees Should Never Return to Syria (8/2019)**

http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/The_Syrian_regime_continues_to_pose_a_severe_barbaric_threat_and_Syrian_refugees_should_never_return_to_Syria_en.pdf

- **HRW: Syrians Deported by Lebanon Arrested at Home (9/2019)**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/02/syrians-deported-lebanon-arrested-home>

- **COAR: Intermediaries of Return, 10/2019**

<https://coar-global.org/2019/10/07/intermediaries-of-return>

- **SACD: Vengeance, Repression and Fear: Reality behind Assad's promises to displaced Syrians (10/2019)**

<https://www.syacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FinalSACDSereport.pdf>

See also in summary: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/vengeance-repression-and-fear-reality-behind-assads-promises-displaced-syrians>

Publicly documented cases after 2011

- **Foreign Policy: Returners from Germany "disappeared" (2/2019):**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/06/a-deadly-welcome-awaits-syrias-returning-refugees/>

<https://www.asyl.net/view/detail/News/berichte-ueber-verschwinden-syrischer-rueckkehrer>
(GERMAN)

<https://www.medico.de/blog/starthilfe-in-den-tod-17309> (GERMAN)

<https://adoptrevolution.org/was-droht-gefluechteten-bei-rueckkehr-nach-syrien/> (GERMAN)

- **The National: Returners from Lebanon killed (11/2018)**

The Lebanese government has reports that at least 20 refugees who have returned to Syria from Lebanon have been killed in Syria by forces loyal to the regime.

<https://is.gd/nZo8DS>

- **Irish Times research (12/2017 and 3/2018)**

In March 2018, the Irish Times reported four cases of fugitives who had returned to Syria, including from Europe, where they were imprisoned and killed. The Irish Times also has reports of arrests of people returning from Idlib to regime-controlled regions.

<https://is.gd/OAj2PS>

<https://is.gd/5164HI>

- **Majd Kamalmaz: US citizens arrested and disappeared (1/2019)**

In February 2017, Syrian-American Majd Kamalmaz disappeared during a visit to Damascus after being arrested at a checkpoint. Kamalmaz had previously obtained assurances that he could travel safely to Syria; he was not considered an opponent of the regime.

<https://is.gd/M8d9Zi>

<https://is.gd/2TPdv5>

- **Syria Direct: ‘To venture into the unknown’: After several years in the diaspora, a defector returns to Syria and then disappears’ (3/2019)**

<https://syriadirect.org/news/'to-venture-into-the-unknown'-after-seven-years-in-the-diaspora-a-defector-returns-to-syria-and-then-disappears>

- **Damascus Voice: ‘Young men from Harasta arrested after they came back from Turkey’, (3/2019)**

<http://damascusv.com/archives/5901>

- **NPR: Thousands Of Refugees Returning To Syria End Up Detained, Imprisoned, Tortured (6/2019)**

NPR describes a case of a Syrian man who was arrested in Syria after returning from Lebanon, despite having received obvious security clearance and assurances from the regime (Taswiya).

<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/24/735510371/thousands-of-refugees-returning-to-syria-end-up-detained-imprisoned-tortured?t=1561448118502>

- **SNHR: The Syrian Regime Continues to Pose a Violent Barbaric Threat and Syrian Refugees Should Never Return to Syria (8/2019)**

[http://sn4hr.org/wp-](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/The_Syrian_regime_continues_to_pose_a_severe_barbaric_threat_and_Syrian_refugees_should_never_return_to_Syria_en.pdf)

[content/pdf/english/The_Syrian_regime_continues_to_pose_a_severe_barbaric_threat_and_Syrian_refugees_should_never_return_to_Syria_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/The_Syrian_regime_continues_to_pose_a_severe_barbaric_threat_and_Syrian_refugees_should_never_return_to_Syria_en.pdf)

- **HRW: Syrians Deported by Lebanon Arrested at Home (9/2019)**

Human Rights Watch reports on three people who were victims of deportations from Lebanon in violation of international law and who were subsequently imprisoned in Syria, one of whom was apparently the victim of disappearances.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/02/syrians-deported-lebanon-arrested-home>

Detention of deportees before 2011

In 2008, Germany and the Assad regime concluded a readmission agreement in order to deport Syrians who are obliged to leave the country more effectively. The political background was, among other things, extensive intelligence cooperation between Germany and Syria to combat terrorism and flight.

In the years that followed, cases occurred repeatedly until 2011 in which Syrians deported from Germany were arrested in Syria and partly tortured (cf. Chapter 1 under "Torture before 2011").

- **Sources: Ad-hoc management report (12/2019) et al.**

https://www.proasyl.de/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Vetrag_mit_Folteren.pdf (GERMAN)

<http://www.taz.de/!5154617> (GERMAN)

<https://www.asyl.net/rsdb/m18322> (GERMAN)

<http://dipbt.bundestag.de/doc/btd/17/033/1703365.pdf> (GERMAN)

- **Hussein Dauud case: severe torture after deportation from Germany**

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/6732/aktuelles/syrischer-fluechtling-hussein-d-abgeschoben-gefoltert-anerkannt/> (GERMAN)

<https://taz.de/Portraet-ueber-den-verfolgten-syrischen-Kurden-Hussein-Dauud/!5104255/> (GERMAN)

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/BAMF-Bescheid-anonymisiert.pdf>
(GERMAN)

- **Anuar Naso case: Deported from Germany to Syria as a minor and abused there**

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/SZ03062013.pdf> (GERMAN)

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HAZ-03062013.pdf> (GERMAN)

https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HAZ-03062013_Interview.pdf (GERMAN)

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/SZ-Artikel-26-07-2012.pdf> (GERMAN)

- **Syrians tortured after deportation from Germany (2008)**

http://archiv.proasyl.de/de/presse/presse-archiv/presse-detail/news/syrer_nach_abschiebung_gefoltert (GERMAN)

- **Ismail Abdi case (2010-2011): Arrested after family visit when leaving Syria**

https://fluechtlingsrat-bw.de/files/Dateien/Dokumente/INFOS%20-%20Publikationen/Rundbrief/2012-3/rb12-3_26-27.pdf (GERMAN)

<https://www.gfbv.de/de/informieren/kampagnen/abgeschlossene-kampagnen/syrien-ismail-abdi-ist-frei> (GERMAN)

4- “Disappearance” – Families are still asking for their missing beloved ones!

- **Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/category/report/monthly-reports/detainees-and-enforced-disappearances-monthly-reports/>

- **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International estimated in July 2018 that at least 82,000 people had been victims of "disappearances" since the beginning of the conflict in Syria.

<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1439569.html>

- **Violations Documentation Center**

In May 2019, the Violations Documentation Center database contained 66,900 names of persons reported missing and 2800 names of persons reported detained by relatives.

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/en/detainees>

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/en/missing/>

- **Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: Amid continued international silence and Russia’s false guarantees, the Syrian regime arrests more than 3600 people since April 2018, amid unknown fate and fears for their lives (6/2019)**

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=130225>

- **SNHR: At least 2,460 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in the First Half of 2019 (7/2019)**

[http://sn4hr.org/wp-](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/At_least_2460_Cases_of_Arbitrary_Arrests_Documented_in_Syria_in_the_First_Half_of_2019_en.pdf)

[content/pdf/english/At_least_2460_Cases_of_Arbitrary_Arrests_Documented_in_Syria_in_the_First_Half_of_2019_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/At_least_2460_Cases_of_Arbitrary_Arrests_Documented_in_Syria_in_the_First_Half_of_2019_en.pdf)

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

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[http://sn4hr.org/wp-](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/At_least_589_cases_of_arbitrary_arrests_in_Syria_in_July_2019_en.pdf)

[content/pdf/english/At_least_589_cases_of_arbitrary_arrests_in_Syria_in_July_2019_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/At_least_589_cases_of_arbitrary_arrests_in_Syria_in_July_2019_en.pdf)

Sources on arbitrary detention and disappeared persons

- **Management Report of the German Federal Foreign Office (11/2018)**

According to the situation report, "countless cases" of arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, and enforced disappearances have been documented since the beginning of the uprising in March 2011. (p.8). Arbitrary arrests were made by police, secret services and state-organised militias. "In a few cases, after some time, the arrested persons are transferred by the secret services to a regular prison and the judiciary. From this point, family members and lawyers usually have access to the persons concerned," he reports. In "many other cases", however, the persons "disappeared". Since March 2011, in a number of documented cases, the security services involved have only handed over the body of the arrested person to the relatives. (p.9)

- **HRW: Torture Archipelago – Arbitrary Arrests, Torture, and Enforced Disappearances in Syria's Underground Prisons since March 2011 (7/2012)**

Human Rights Watch report on arbitrary detentions and disappearances at the beginning of the conflict:

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/syria0712webwcover_0.pdf

- **UN Human Rights Council: „Without a trace – enforced disappearances in Syria“ (12/2013)**

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/ThematicPaperEDInSyria.pdf>

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<https://stj-sy.org/en/1156/>

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<https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2003684/MDE2499032019ENGLISH.pdf>

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Report on the fate of people from the defacto besieged Rukban camp, who left the camp to regime controlled areas where they were held in so called „shelters“.

<https://medium.com/@SACD/displaced-syrians-forced-to-return-to-assad-held-areas-from-rukban-tell-their-stories-b4b76f9ffe58>

- **Amnesty, HRW and others: „Syria: Tell Families of Missing the Fate of Loved Ones“ (5/2019)**

In May 2019, numerous international and Syrian human rights initiatives launched a joint appeal to the regime and the public:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/05/syria-tell-families-of-missing-the-fate-of-loved-ones/>

- **HRW: Syria: Detention, Harassment in Retaken Areas (5/2019)**

Documentation of cases of arbitrary detention, disappearances and assaults in areas of Daraa, South Damascus and Easthoutha recaptured by the Assad regime.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/21/syria-detention-harassment-retaken-areas>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

- **SACD: Choice facing people of Rukban: starve or head to Assad's detention centers (8/2019)**

Report on the fate of people from the defacto besieged Rukban camp, who left the camp to regime controlled areas where they were held in so called „shelters“.

<https://medium.com/@SACD/choice-facing-people-of-rukban-starve-or-head-to-assads-detention-centers-dd26c5673bb0>

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https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/A_HRC_42_51.docx

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5- Reconciliation" – A broken promise!

- **Bundestagsdrucksache 19/4421 – Answer of the German Federal Government to a Written Question (9/2018)**

<http://dipbt.bundestag.de/doc/btd/19/044/1904421.pdf> (p.60, GERMAN)

<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/syrien-bundesregierung-misstraut-baschar-al-assads-versoehnungsversprechen-a-1229927.html> (GERMAN)

- **European University Institute: Local Reconciliation Agreements in Syria – a non-starter for Peacebuilding (6/ 2017)**

http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/46864/RSCAS_MED_RR_2017_01.pdf

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https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/We-leave-or-we-die_Syria-REPORT.pdf

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https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1427709/1226_1522073171_syria-coi-meeting-report-nov-dec-2017-published-march-2018.pdf (p.20)

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<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/siege-watch-10-part-1> (p. 63ff)

- **UN (Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic): Sieges as a Weapon of War: Encircle, Starve, Surrender, Evacuate (5/2018)**

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/ColSyria/PolicyPaperSieges_29May2018.pdf (p.5)

- **Atlantic Council: Breaking Ghouta (9/2018)**

<http://www.publications.atlanticcouncil.org/breakingghouta/post-reconciliation>

- **Syria Direct: Life after reconciliation marred by arrests, broken promises as Syria's southwest returns to government control (10/2018)**

<https://syriadirect.org/news/life-after-reconciliation-daraa-residents-grapple-with-opaque-political-process-as-key-pieces-of-agreement-falter>

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https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf

- **SJAC: Syrians Arrested, Killed Under Reconciliation Agreements (01/2019)**

<https://syriaaccountability.org/updates/2019/01/10/syrians-arrested-killed-under-reconciliation-agreements/>

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Enab Baladi reports on forced recruitment and waves of arrests in Eastern Ghouta:

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2019/02/a-year-after-the-syrian-alienation-how-has-the-situation-in-eastern-ghouta-changed/>

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<https://www.acleddata.com/2019/01/25/the-risks-of-reconciliation-civilians-and-former-fighters-face-continued-threats-in-syria/>

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<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/syria/196-lessons-syrian-states-return-south>

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„Syrian intelligence branches are arbitrarily detaining, disappearing, and harassing people in areas retaken from anti-government groups, Human Rights Watch said today. The abuse is taking place even when the government has entered into reconciliation agreements with the people involved.“

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/21/syria-detention-harassment-retaken-areas>

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https://www.mei.edu/sites/default/files/2019-05/Forgotten%20Lives_East%20Ghouta.pdf

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<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/24/735510371/thousands-of-refugees-returning-to-syria-end-up-detained-imprisoned-tortured?t=1561448118502>

- **Washington Post: Assad urged Syrian refugees to come home. Many are being welcomed with arrest and interrogation. (6/2019)**

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/assad-urged-syrian-refugees-to-come-home-many-are-being-welcomed-with-arrest-and-interrogation/2019/06/02/54bd696a-7bea-11e9-b1f3-b233fe5811ef_story.html

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<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

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<https://syrianobserver.com/EN/news/52083/hezbollah-arrests-them-and-the-regime-executes-them.html>

- **UN: Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (9/2019)**

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/A_HRC_42_51.docx

- **SJAC: Syria's Newest Decree: Amnesty or a Political Stunt? (9/2019)**

<https://syriaaccountability.org/updates/2019/09/26/syrias-newest-decree-amnesty-or-a-political-stunt/>

Expulsion, expropriation and deprivation of rights of refugees

In particular, the Russian government, the protector of the Assad regime, staging its role as a peace-making force, argues that refugees could return to Syria, provided that Europe supports Syria in reconstruction.

However, the Assad regime, through a series of measures, makes it more difficult or impossible for internally displaced persons and Syrians who have fled abroad to return to their hometowns or homes.

Tailor-made regulations ensure that people who fled the Assad regime to other parts of the country or abroad have massive difficulties in asserting their property rights or returning to their homes. In some places—such as Qaboun and Daraya—the regime is destroying homes of displaced persons to make room for real estate projects and is denying access to former residents.

This type of "reconstruction" allows the regime to punish or expel dissident milieus while rewarding regime-loyal actors. In addition to the high risk of becoming victims of persecution, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance and murder, returnees face the risk of being deprived of elementary rights such as the right to property and housing.

- **PAX: No Return to Homs – A case study on demographic engineering in Syria (2/2017)**

<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/no-return-to-homs>

see also: https://is.gd/PAX_siege_watch_10_part_1

- **UN-Untersuchungskommission: Sieges as a weapon of war (5/2018)**

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/PolicyPaperSieges_29May2018.pdf (p.5f)

- **Human Rights Watch (HRW): Syria: Residents Blocked From Returning: Government Demolishes Homes, Denies Property Rights (10/2018)**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/16/syria-residents-blocked-returning>

- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018)**

https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf

- **Chatham House: Normalcy Looks a Long Way Off in Eastern Aleppo (1/2019)**

<https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/normalcy-looks-a-long-way-off-in-eastern-aleppo>

- **HRW: Rigging the System: Government Policies Co-Opt Aid and Reconstruction Funding in Syria (6/2019)**

Human Rights Watch shows how the Assad regime uses reconstruction aid and humanitarian aid from international NGOs or transnational organizations to punish its real or imagined opponents, reward its minions and finance its repressive apparatus.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/28/syria-government-co-opting-recovery-efforts>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

Forced displacement is in some cases also an effect of denied reconciliations: „During reconciliation negotiations, the government produced lists of ‘irreconcilables’ in some areas. In Northern Homs, the government gave local negotiators a list of around 1,000 people it deemed to be ‘irreconcilable’, effectively suggesting that they had a choice between forced displacement and prison without the opportunity to reconcile their affairs with the state.“

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

6- Assad atrocities against civilians in Syria are unmatched!

- **The Caesar files**

See UN Ceasar Letter 4/2014: <https://is.gd/z2ekOF>

HRW 12/2015: <https://is.gd/pwS9rJ>

ECCHR 9/2017: <https://is.gd/iV3zNn>

- **UN Commission of Inquiry into Syria: Out of Sight, Out of Mind – Deaths in Detention in the Syrian Arab Republic (2/2016)**

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A-HRC-31-CRP1_en.pdf

- **Amnesty International und Forensic Architecture: Inside Saydnaya: Syria's Torture Prison (8/2016)**

Amnesty International and Forensic Architecture have created a digital model of Saydnaya Prison based on numerous testimonies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysgnadic3Yo>

<https://saydnaya.amnesty.org>

- **Amnesty International: “Human Slaughterhouse” (2/2017)**

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE2454152017ENGLISH.PDF>

- **NYT: Syrian Crematory Is Hiding Mass Killings of Prisoners, U.S. Says (5/2017)**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/15/world/middleeast/syria-assad-prison-crematory.html>

- **NBC News: State Department: Assad's Regime Built Crematorium to Burn Bodies of Executed Prisoners (5/2017)**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/state-department-assad-s-regime-built-crematorium-burn-bodies-executed-n759616>

- **SNHR: Out of Sight (6/2018)**

http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Out_of_sight_en.pdf

- **SOHR: The regime breaks the Russian promises and sentences 11 prisoners of Hama Central Prison to death on charges related to “demonstrating against the regime” (11/2018)**

<http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=106302>

- **Washington Post: Syria's once-teeming prison cells being emptied by mass murder (12/2018)**

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/world/syria-bodies/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.02bc9936d112

- **SNHR: Documenting the Death of 976 Individuals due to Torture in Syria in 2018 (1/2019)**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2019/01/02/52975/>

- **NYT: (Anne Banard) Inside Syria's Secret Torture Prisons: How Bashar al-Assad crushed Dissent (5/2019)**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html>

- **The Nation: How One Man Survived Syria's Gulag (5/2019)**

<https://www.thenation.com/article/how-one-man-survived-syrias-gulag/>

- **The Syrian Observer / AL Modon: Hezbollah Arrests Them, and the Regime Executes Them (8/2019)**

Syrian Observer and Al Modon report on several arrests, death sentences and killings of deserters.

<https://syrianobserver.com/EN/news/52083/hezbollah-arrests-them-and-the-regime-executes-them.html>

- **SNHR: Documentation of 72 Torture Methods / Identification of 801 Ceasar Victims (10/2019)**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2019/10/21/54362/>

Spate of death notifications from 2018

Already in January 2018, but especially in May and June 2018, the Syrian government updated the civil registers with intelligence data, declaring hundreds of disappeared persons dead. As a result, families who had often been searching for their relatives for a long time without any news of their whereabouts suddenly received information that their abducted relatives were dead. Many were killed years ago, often relatively soon after their arrest. When death certificates were issued, they usually referred to natural causes of death such as "heart failure."

- **Syrians for Truth and Justice: Seeking Truth for Syria's Disappeared (7/2018)**

<https://syriaaccountability.org/updates/2018/07/25/seeking-truth-for-syrias-disappeared/>

- **Washington Post: Death notices for Syrian prisoners are suddenly piling up. It's a sign Assad has won the war. (7/2018)**

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/death-notices-for-syrian-prisoners-are-suddenly-piling-up-its-a-sign-assads-won-the-war/2018/07/25/43ee2154-8930-11e8-8b20-60521f27434e_story.html

- **HRW, Amnesty International a.o.: To the Astana Working Group on Detentions and Abductions in the Syrian Conflict (8/2018)**

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1442269/1226_1535979215_mde2490242018english.PDF

- **UN OHCHR: Report of the Secretary-General (9/2018) S.5 Pt. 19**

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1444197/1226_1537959201_n1828671.pdf

- **UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (9/2018) S. 18 Pt. 99**

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1443546/1930_1537263792_g1824615.pdf

- **Center on International Cooperation (NYU): Tackling the Impunity Gap in Syria – Detainees and Disappearances (9/2018)**

https://cic.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/megally_tackling_the_impunity_gap_in_syria_detainees_and_disappearances_final_sept_12_2018.pdf

- **UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (IIIM): Death Notifications in the Syrian Arab Republic (11/2018)**

<https://adoptrevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/INDEPENDENT-INTERNATIONAL-COMMISSION-OF-INQUIRY-ON-THE-SYRIAN-ARAB-REPUBLIC-27-NOVEMBER-2018-Death-Notifications-Syrian-Arab-Republic.pdf>

- **UN Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (1/2019)**

<http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/40/70>

- **HRW: World Report 2019 – Syria (1/2019)**

<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2002172.html>

- **Amnesty International: Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Review of 2018 (2/2019)**

<https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2003684/MDE2499032019ENGLISH.pdf>

- **Syrians for Truth and Justice: At least 700 death certificates delivered to the civil registry directorates in the province of Hama alone in early 2019 (6/2019)**

<https://stj-sy.org/en/new-notifications-declare-dead-hundreds-in-syrian-security-services-detention-facilities/>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

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Sources on forced conscription

- **Management Report of the German Federal Foreign Office (11/2018)**

"In view of the abuse of anti-terrorist laws for political repression, it can be assumed that they will also be applied to returning conscripts. For example, arrests of and charges against returnees under anti-terror legislation are regularly reported if these opponents of the regime are accused. These reports appear credible but cannot be verified on a case-by-case basis." (p.12)

- **Swiss Refugee Aid (SFH): Syria: Forced Recruitment, Withdrawal from Military Service, Desertion - Information from the SFH Country Analysis (3/2017)**

<https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/assets/herkunftslaender/mittlerer-osten-zentralasien/syrien/170323-syr-militaerdienst.pdf>

- **Landinfo (Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre): Syria: Reactions against deserters and draft evaders (1/2018)**

https://www.cgira.be/sites/default/files/rapporten/landinfo_report_syria._reactions_against_deserters_and_draft_evaders.pdf

- **European Asylum Support Office (EASO) COI Meeting Report / Syria 30 November & 1 December 2017 Valletta, Malta (3/2018)**

See in particular p.20 and p.39:

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1427709/1226_1522073171_syria-coi-meeting-report-nov-dec-2017-published-march-2018.pdf

- **Syrian Center for Legal Studies & Researches: Syrian law Manual regarding the return of Syrian refugees in Europe (9/2018)**

<https://sl-center.org/?p=657&lang=en>

- **Finish Immigration Service Fakta: Fact-Finding-Mission to Beirut and Damascus, April 2018 (12/2018) S.6**

The report traces the recruiting practices of the Syrian army and the various units loyal to the regime and the options for conscripts from these practices using several sources.

https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/5914056/Syria_Fact-finding+mission+to+Beirut+and+Damascus%2C+April+2018.pdf

- **Atlantic Council: Forced conscription continues despite amnesty by Syrian Government (2/2019)**

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/syriasource/forced-conscription-continues-despite-amnesty-by-syrian-government>

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- **Syrians for Truth and Justice: Thousands Forced to Flee Qunaitra and Daraa ‘Silently’ (8/2019)**

<https://stj-sy.org/en/syria-thousands-forced-to-flee-qunaitra-and-daraa-silently/>

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<https://syriaaccountability.org/updates/2019/09/26/syrias-newest-decree-amnesty-or-a-political-stunt/>

- **SACD: Vengeance, Repression and Fear: Reality behind Assad’s promises to displaced Syrians (10/2019)**

<https://www.syacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FinalSACDSeCreport.pdf>

7- Torture, where perpetrators are enjoying full impunity!

Caesar photos

A central proof for the systematic torture in Syrian prisons are the so-called Caesar files, a collection of 55,000 photos documenting at least 6,700 corpses showing traces of torture, ill-treatment or starvation. The pictures were taken in 2014 by a deserted photographer of the Syrian military police in two military hospitals near Damascus and smuggled out of the country by him. Neither the German government nor the UN have any doubts about the authenticity of the photos.

- **Information from ECCHR on the Caesar photos:**

https://www.ecchr.eu/fileadmin/Hintergrundberichte/Hintergrundbericht_Syrien_Folter_CaesarFotos_StrafanzeigeDeutschland_ECCHR_20170921.pdf

- **Research from HRW on the Caesar photos:**

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/16/syria-stories-behind-photos-killed-detainees>

- **UN investigation into the Caesar files:**

https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/244

- **HRW: Torture Archipelago: Arbitrary Arrests, Torture, and Enforced Disappearances in Syria's Underground Prisons since March 2011 (7/2012)**

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/07/03/torture-archipelago/arbitrary-arrests-torture-and-enforced-disappearances-syrias>

- **UN OHCHR: «Surrounded by Death»: Former Inmates of Aleppo Central Prison (8/2014)**

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SY/AleppoCentralPrison.pdf>

- **HRW: If the Dead Could Speak – Mass Deaths and Torture in Syria's Detention Facilities (12/2015)**

Report by Human Rights Watch based on the Caesar Files and statements of victims and defectors.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/12/16/if-dead-could-speak/mass-deaths-and-torture-syrias-detention-facilities>

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https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A-HRC-31-CRP1_en.pdf

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<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/04/18/bashar-al-assads-war-crimes-exposed>

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<https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b8681e4.html>

- **Amnesty International: “Human Slaughterhouse” (2/2017)**

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- **Amnesty International: Report 2017/18**

<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1425111.html>

- **USDOS – US Department of State: Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2017 – Syria**

<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1430098.html>

- **Syria's Disappeared: The Case against Assad (5/2017)**

The film "Syria's Disappeared: The Case against Assad" documents three cases of torture and disappearances and contextualizes them with photos and documents smuggled from Syria to Assad's repressive apparatus. The premiere took place at the United States Holocaust Museum.

<http://syriasdisappeared.com>

<https://youtu.be/zkpeKOGv2Wg>

- **Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR): Out of Sight (6/2018)**

http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Out_of_sight_en.pdf

- **Lawyers & Doctors for Human Rights: “Death Became a Daily Thing”: (12/2018)**

The report, subtitled "The Deliberate and Systematic Failure to Provide for Health and Medical Care in Syrian Detention Centres", addresses the issue of denial of medical care to prisoners:

<http://ldhrights.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Death-Became-a-Daily-Thing.pdf>

- **Die Zeit: Weniger wert als ein Tier (3/2019) (GERMAN)**

<https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2019-03/syrien-folter-gefaengnisse-opfer-assad-regime/komplettansicht>

- **The Nation: How One Man Survived Syria's Gulag (5/2019)**

The Caesar photographs are supported and contextualized by numerous testimonies, including those of Omar Alshogre:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/how-one-man-survived-syrias-gulag/>

- **New York Times: Inside Syria's Secret Torture Prisons: How Bashar al-Assad Crushed Dissent (5/2019)**

Detailed presentation of the facts known so far with several individual case presentations:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html>

- **European Institute of Peace: Refugee return in Syria: Dangers, Security Risks and Information Scarcity (7/2019)**

<http://www.eip.org/sites/default/files/EIP%20Report%20-%20Security%20and%20Refugee%20Return%20in%20Syria%20-%20July.pdf>

- **Syrians for Truth and Justice: “In the Presence of Death” (8/2019)**

Testimony of survivor “Nizar al-Abdallah,” who spent five years of imprisonment in the Syrian security services' detention facilities.

<https://stj-sy.org/en/in-the-presence-of-death/>

- **SNHR: Documentation of 72 Torture Methods / Identification of 801 Caesar Victims (10/2019)**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2019/10/21/54362/>

Sexualized torture and rape as a weapon of war

The UN and numerous human rights organizations report systematic sexual torture of women, children and sometimes men. A report by the UN Commission of Inquiry into Sexual Violence in Syria in March 2018 suggests that the Assad regime uses rape as a weapon of war.

Sources on sexualized torture

- **UN Human Rights Council: „I lost my dignity“ (3/2018)**
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/A-HRC-37-CRP-3.pdf>
- **LSE Center for Women, Peace and Security: “You want Freedom? This is your Freedom“ – Rape as a Tactic of the Assad Regime (3/2017)**

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/2017/wps3Forestier.pdf>

- **Lawyers & Doctors for Human Rights: Voices from the Dark: Torture and Sexual Violence Against Women in Assad’s Detention Centres (7/2017)**

Case documentation and analyses of sexualised torture against women and girls:

<http://ldhrights.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Voices-from-the-Dark.pdf>

- **Lawyers & Doctors for Human Rights: „The Soul has Died“: Typology, Patterns, Prevalence and the Devastating Impact of Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys in Syrian Detention (3/2019)**

Falldokumentationen und Analysen sexualisierter Folter gegenüber Männern und Jungen:

<http://ldhrights.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/The-Soul-Has-Died-Male-Sexual-Violence-Report-English-for-release-copy.pdf>

- **Syria Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC): “Do you know what happens here?” An Analysis of Survivor Accounts of SGBV in Syria (01/2019)**

<https://syriaaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/SGBV-report.pdf>

- **SNHR: Documentation of 72 Torture Methods the Syrian Regime Continues to Practice in its Detention Centers and Military Hospitals (10/2019)**

[http://sn4hr.org/wp-](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Documentation_of_72_Torture_Methods_the_Syrian_Regime_Continues_to_Practice_in_Its_Detention_Centers_and_Military_Hospitals_en.pdf)

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Proceedings in Germany against torturers of the Assad regime

In Germany as well as in other European countries, charges and investigations are pending against high-ranking officials of the Syrian regime. The basis for this is the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows crimes against humanity and other serious crimes to be brought before national courts, even if committed by foreigners abroad. In Germany, arrest warrants have already been issued for torturers of the regime.

Details of proceedings for torture

Proceedings in Germany

- The Federal Public Prosecutor is responsible for criminal offences that can be punished on the basis of the principle of international law. The organisation "[European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights](https://www.ecchr.eu/)" (ECCHR), in cooperation with the Syrian human rights lawyers Anwar al Buni and Mazen Darwish, has filed criminal charges with the Attorney General's Office against high-ranking officials of the Syrian repressive apparatus.

In the meantime, the Attorney General's Office has opened proceedings and issued arrest warrants. In June 2018, the Federal Supreme Court issued an international arrest warrant against Jamil Hassan. Hassan is head of the Syrian Air Force Secret Service and thus responsible for torture in thousands of cases.

<https://www.ecchr.eu/fall/deutsche-justiz-erlaesst-haftbefehl-gegen-syrischen-geheimdienstchef-jamil-hassan>

- In February 2019, the Federal Prosecutor's Office executed warrants for the arrest of two Syrian citizens residing in Germany who are accused of crimes against humanity or of involvement in crimes against humanity:

<https://www.generalbundesanwalt.de/de/showpress.php?newsid=819> (GERMAN)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/13/world/europe/germany-syria-arrests.html>

Proceedings in other EU States

- In Austria, too, high-ranking employees of Syrian secret services are under investigation.

<https://www.ecchr.eu/fall/der-weg-zu-gerechtigkeit-fuehrt-ueber-europa-zb-oesterreich>

- Criminal charges are pending in Sweden and other EU countries. The website justiceinfo.net (status 2/2019) provides an analytical overview of criminal complaints and proceedings in Europe related to Syria:

<https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/tribunals/national-tribunals/40383-european-justice-strikes-on-crimes-in-syria.html> (GERMAN)

Torture before 2011

Sources and individual cases of torture before 2011

- **HRW research of the 90s**

<https://www.hrw.org/reports/1995/Syria.htm>

- **Ad-hoc Supplementary Report of the German Federal Foreign Office, März 2010**

- **Amnesty International: It breaks the Human (8/2016)**

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b8681e4.html>

- **Berichte von Amnesty International vor 2011:**

<https://www.amnesty.de/jahresbericht/2010/syrien>

<https://www.amnesty.de/jahresbericht/2009/syrien>

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL100012008ENGLISH.PDF>

- **Individual cases relating to Germany:**

Syrians tortured after deportation from Germany (2008)

http://archiv.proasyl.de/de/presse/presse-archiv/presse-detail/news/syrer_nach_abschiebung_gefoltert (GERMAN)

- **Ismail Abdi case (2010-2011): Arrested on leaving Syria**

https://fluechtlingsrat-bw.de/files/Dateien/Dokumente/INFOS%20-%20Publikationen/Rundbrief/2012-3/rb12-3_26-27.pdf (GERMAN)

<https://www.gfbv.de/de/informieren/kampagnen/abgeschlossene-kampagnen/syrien-ismail-abdi-ist-frei> (GERMAN)

- **Ferhad Ibrahim case (2004 / 2006): torture on the basis of false accusations**

https://www.proasyl.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/PRO_ASYI_Flyer_Schutz_ist_wie_ein_Geschenk_2011.pdf

- **Mohammed Haydar Zammar case: Abducted by the CIA to Syria, tortured, interrogated by the BND:**

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/hamburger-islamist-zammar-verschleppt-verhaftet-ausgetauscht-1.1901694>

- **Anuar Naso case: Deported from Germany to Syria as a minor and abused there**

Anuar Naso and his father will be deported from Germany to Syria in 2011 at the age of 15. There both are imprisoned and abused. After another escape, Anuar Naso is stranded in Bulgaria, where his father is imprisoned. Only after two years is he allowed to return to his family in Germany.

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/SZ03062013.pdf> (GERMAN)

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- **Hussein Dauud case: severe torture after deportation from Germany**

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/6732/aktuelles/syrischer-fluechtling-hussein-d-abgeschoben-gefoltert-anerkannt/> (GERMAN)

<https://taz.de/Portraet-ueber-den-verfolgten-syrischen-Kurden-Hussein-Dauud/!5104255/> (GERMAN)

<https://www.nds-fluerat.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/BAMF-Bescheid-anonymisiert.pdf> (GERMAN)

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- **Amnesty International: Syrian and Russian Forces Targeting Hospitals as a Strategy of War (3/2016)**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2016/03/syrian-and-russian-forces-targeting-hospitals-as-a-strategy-of-war>
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- **UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria: The siege and recapture of eastern Ghouta marked by war crimes, crimes against humanity (6/2018)**
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23226&LangID=E>
- **PAX: Siege Watch – Tenth Quarterly Report Part 1 – Eastern Ghouta February–April 2018 (6/2018)**
The tenth quarterly Siege Watch report (part 1) describes the final offensive against Eastern Ghouta, between February and April 2018, in which at least 1,700 people were killed, 5,000 injured and 158,000 displaced.
<https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/siege-watch-10-part-1>
- **Atlantic Council: Breaking Ghouta (9/2018)**
<http://www.publications.atlanticcouncil.org/breakingghouta/background>
- **Amnesty International: Syria: Unlawful attacks using cluster munitions and unguided barrel bombs intensify as Idlib offensive looms (10/2018)**
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1443438.html>
- **USDOS: Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2017 – Syria**
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1430098.html>
- **HRW: World Report 2018**
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1422595.html>

- **Amnesty International Report 2017/18 – The State of the World’s Human Rights – Syria**
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/1425111.html>
- **UN: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2018/845) (8/2018)**
https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1444197/1226_1537959201_n1828671.pdf
- **Bellingcat: The Battle of Idlib Opens with the Bombing of Medical and Rescue Facilities (9/2018)**
<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2018/09/09/battle-idlib-opens-bombing-medical-rescue-facilities/>
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<https://www.acleddata.com/2019/01/11/acled-2018-the-year-in-review/>
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- **HRW: World Report 2019 – Syria (1/2019)**
<https://www.ecoi.net/de/dokument/2002172.html>
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- **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR): The Syrian Conflict: Eight Years of Devastation and Destruction of the Health System (3/2019)**
<https://phr.org/resources/the-syrian-conflict-eight-years-of-devastation-and-destruction-of-the-health-system/>
- **Carnegie: What Will Happen in Idlib, Where Millions of Syrian Civilians Are Pinned In? (7/2019)**
<https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/79469?la>
- **EU/EEAS: Statement by the Spokesperson on the deterioration of the situation in Idlib, Syria (7/2019)**
https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/65814/statement-spokesperson-deterioration-situation-idlib-syria_en
- **UN OCHA: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria Situation Report No. 9 (8/2019)**
„Satellite imagery obtained from UNOSAT (United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme) shows at least 17 entire villages which have been almost completely destroyed, including residential and commercial areas.“
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/nw_update_sitrep_9-_final.pdf
- **UN: Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (9/2019)**

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/A_HRC_42_51.docx

- **NYT: 12 Hours. 4 Syrian Hospitals Bombed. One Culprit: Russia (10/2019)**

The New York Times details Russian air raids on hospitals in Syria.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/13/world/middleeast/russia-bombing-syrian-hospitals.amp.html>

Use of chemical weapons

The United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria investigated 37 uses of poison gas up until January 2018—the UN attributes 32 of these poison gas cases to the Assad regime and no one has been identified in the remaining five cases. There is no doubt that the Assad regime has repeatedly used both chlorine gas and sarin.

Human Rights Watch and many other organizations have described the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime as systematic. The use of chemical weapons has remained unpunished, with the exception of largely symbolic unilateral US military strikes. It must be feared that the Assad regime will continue to use chemical weapons.

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- **Global Policy Institute: Nowhere to Hide: The Logic of Chemical Weapons Use in Syria (2/2019)**
<https://www.gppi.net/2019/02/17/the-logic-of-chemical-weapons-use-in-syria>
- **UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry: Chemical Weapons Attacks (3/2019)**
https://www.ohchr.org/SiteCollectionImages/Bodies/HRCouncil/IICISyria/COISyria_CW_12.03.2019_web.jpg
- **Adopt a Revolution: Poison gas in Syria: What we know (4/2019)**

The article presents the current status of the investigations on the basis of the reports available from the UN and the OPCW.

<https://adoptrevolution.org/giftgas-in-syrien-was-wir-wissen/> (GERMAN)
- **Adopt a Revolution: Dossier Chemiewaffen**

More articles on the subject of Adopt a Revolution:

<https://adoptrevolution.org/category/chemiewaffen/> (GERMAN)
- **UN: Starvation by Siege Now ‘Systematic’ in Syria (1/2016)**
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12203.doc.htm>
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- **Der Spiegel: Battle jets against cornfields - Assad's scorched earth (6/2019)**

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8- Syrian refugees still need protection

Alleged voluntary return movements—especially from Lebanon—are often seen as signs of improvement to the situation in Syria and used as an argument for deportations. In fact, many refugees are forced to return from Lebanon. This is evidenced by several reports.

- **Refugees Deeply: The Real Reasons Why Syrians Return to Syria (3 / 2018)**
<https://www.newsdeeply.com/refugees/community/2018/03/06/the-real-reasons-why-syrians-return-to-syria>
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<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/syria/publication/the-mobility-of-displaced-syrians- an-economic-and-social-analysis>
- **Syrian Association for Citizens' Dignity: UNHCR's dangerous mirage of safe return to Syria: Debunking a false narrative and irrelevant numbers (3/2019)**
<https://medium.com/@SACD/unhcrs-dangerous-mirage-of-safe-return-to-syria-debunking-a-false-narrative-deb35a8895ea>
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From refugee protection to subsidiary protection

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