

Conditions of Victims and their Attitudes Towards Accountability and Reparations

Summary

Over the period 19 February - 2 May 2019, TDA conducted a survey that included 2,131 respondents inside and outside Syria: 1,154 men and 977 women, with the most notable results showing:

- The Syrian regime ranks highest among human rights violators in Syria.
- 65% of abuses resulted in physical injuries. 85% caused psychological damage; around half of the victims do not receive any support; 43.1% receive mostly financial aid and only 15% receive psychological support; and human rights support is almost absent.
- Most of the injuries (85%) occurred in locations distant from military areas, and injuries peaked in 2016 after the Russian intervention in Syria on 30 September 2015.
- 41.4% of injuries within the research sample occurred in a detention center as a result of torture. One third of cases occurred inside the home or whilst in a public place (bombing of civilians). Less than 7% occurred on frontlines.
- In cases of enforced disappearance, murder or arrest of a family member, there is a great insistence on justice through trials. However, compensation is applicable in cases of property destruction, theft and looting.
- Accountability is a priority in any strategy for compensating victims; apologies and pardons score lower.
- Reparations for those suffering from psychological harm or injury hindering the ability to lead a normal life means having in place general plans to assist the afflicted and financially affected, in addition to achieving justice through trials.
- In two cases - genocide (whether carrying out or issuing orders for the killings) and crimes against women, there is an inclination towards retaliatory measures, due to the seriousness of the crimes committed and their psychological impact on family members, as well as loss of confidence in accountability and judicial procedures in a country that has never known justice or rule of law or an impartial and

independent judiciary, as ruling authorities have remained above the law for decades.

- There is absolute support for all measures that can assist victims.
- Fewer than a quarter of respondents said the past should be forgotten and a new life begun.
- Around a third of respondents say that knowing the truth will have positive impacts on coexistence and peace, but a third also think it will have negative impacts. Around the same percentage refused to give a clear position.

Recommendations:

- The Syrian regime, adopting the means of human rights violations to suppress voices calling for freedom, carried out attacks on human dignity in Syria in a systematic manner. Measures must be taken to uncover the truth and hold perpetrators of violations against civilians accountable, and to reform government institutions, especially judicial ones.
- Working to educate civilians on transitional justice and the rule of law, and distinguishing between legal procedures and retaliatory measures, as well as the appropriate mechanisms for holding perpetrators accountable for their violations against civilians.
- Organizations need to work to support victims of violations, whether that support is financial, legal or psychological, especially women who suffer from social stigma after their release from detention, so they can become active in transitional justice projects and programs.
- Future authorities must:
 - Reveal the fate of detainees as well as persons missing and forcibly disappeared by the regime, because victims knowing the truth has a positive impact on coexistence and peace.
 - Give attention to compensation for victims or their families, and support associations that defend the rights of victims of violations.
 - Provide regular assistance to those who have suffered injuries resulting in inability to work and partial or complete loss of mobility.
 - Allocate a percentage of government jobs to those who have suffered physical or psychological trauma causing partial loss of mobility or ability to work, as appropriate for their condition and competence.

Read Full Report From [Here](#)