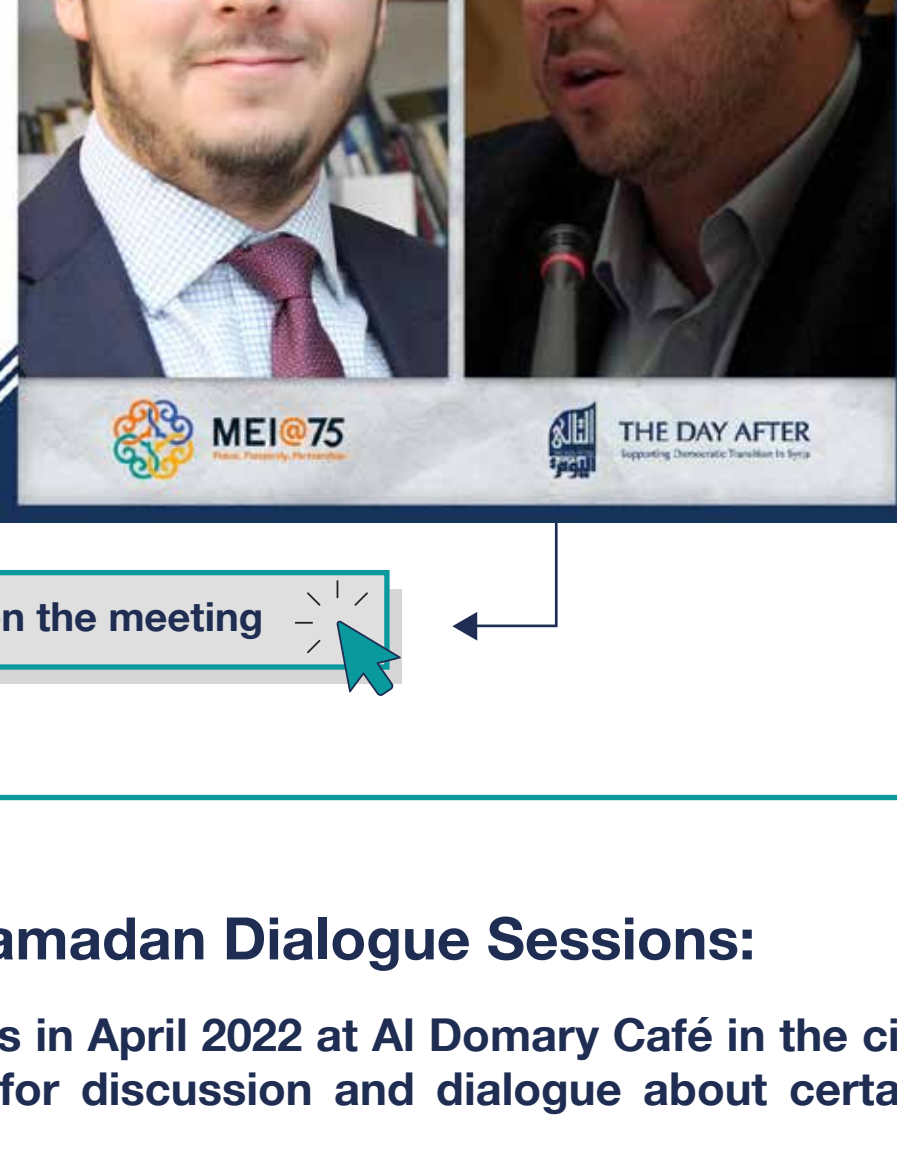


## Spring Newsletter 2022

### TDA and the Middle East Institute hold a roundtable meeting on HLP rights in Syria:

TDA and the Middle East Institute held a roundtable on Tuesday, the 12th of April 2022, to discuss HLP rights in Syria, and to review the results of HLP-related reports produced by TDA.

The discussion revolved around the grave violations on the issue of housing rights in Syria in recent years, and how the executive and judicial authorities issued and implemented new laws, which gave leeway to the large-scale confiscation of property for thousands of Syrian citizens. As a result, the HLP issue created a major obstacle to resolving the massive displacement crisis in Syria, and undermined confidence in the prospects of any future political settlement.

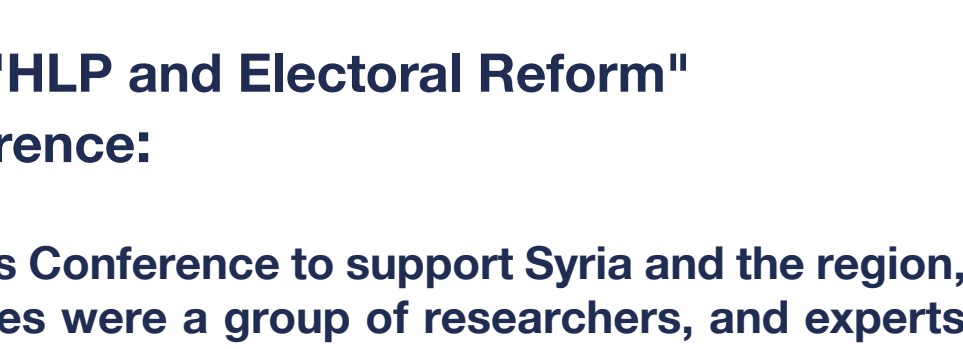
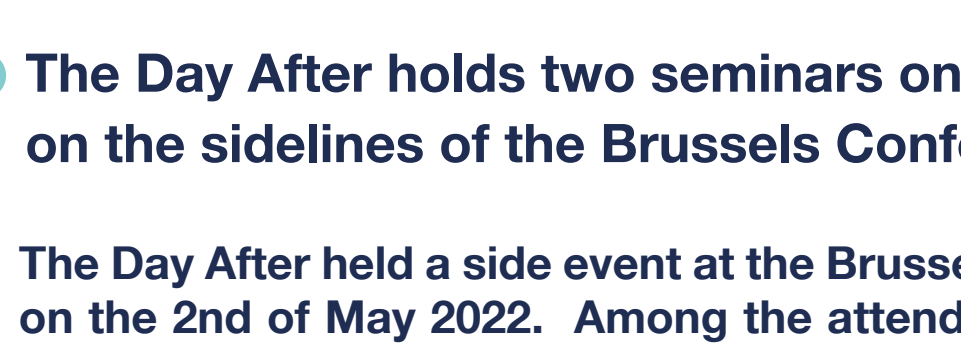


[For more information on the meeting](#)

### The Storyteller of the Revolution: Ramadan Dialogue Sessions:

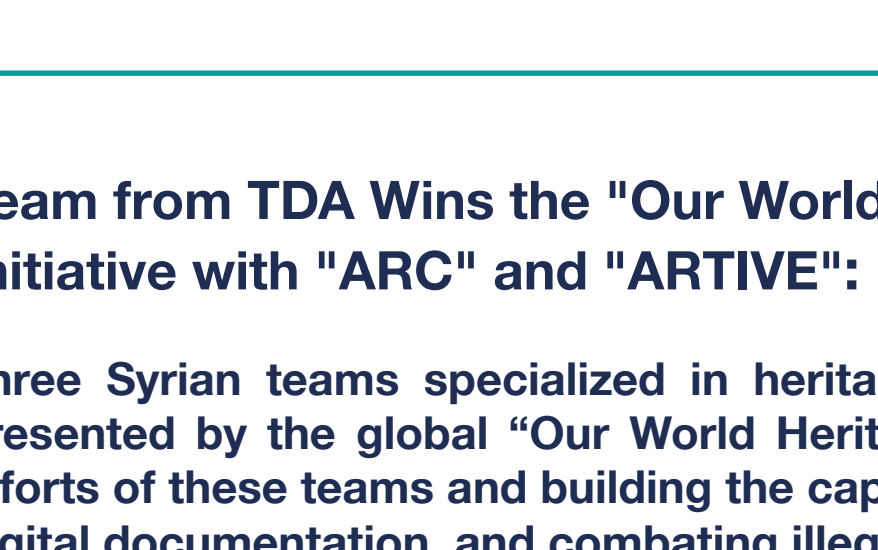
TDA held a series of evening dialogue sessions in April 2022 at Al Domary Café in the city of Azaz. The sessions raised several topics for discussion and dialogue about certain issues in the area.

Several young people from the community joined the sessions that coincided with the month of Ramadan, during which they discussed various topics related to and affecting the Syrian issue, such as patterns of governance in northern Syria, electoral systems in the region, challenges of volunteer work and union work and their importance, in addition to media freedom and other topics.



### The Day After holds two seminars on "HLP and Electoral Reform" on the sidelines of the Brussels Conference:

The Day After held a side event at the Brussels Conference to support Syria and the region, on the 2nd of May 2022. Among the attendees were a group of researchers, and experts and specialists on issues of ownership and electoral reform in Syria.



The first session discussed the issue of HLP rights in Syria, and its connection to several sensitive issues within the Syrian context.

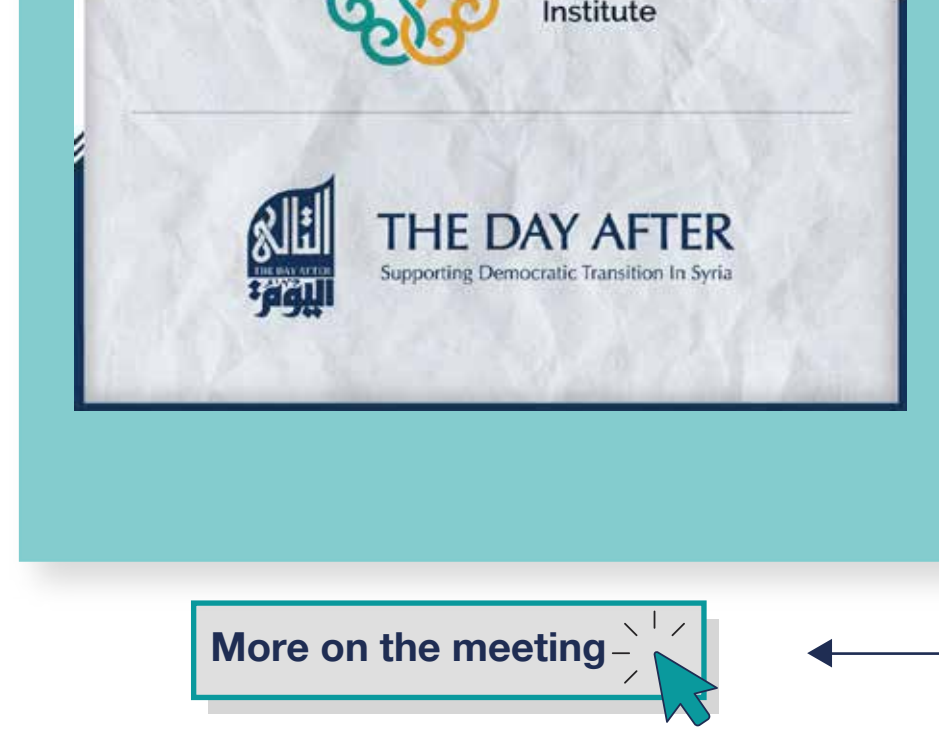
The second session touched on the issue of electoral reform, as it is an essential and important element in countries experiencing political crises and wars, as is the case in Syria.

The two sessions were held via Zoom and were attended by about 70 people, and included FAQs from the audience to the speakers at the conference.

[For more information on the two sessions](#)

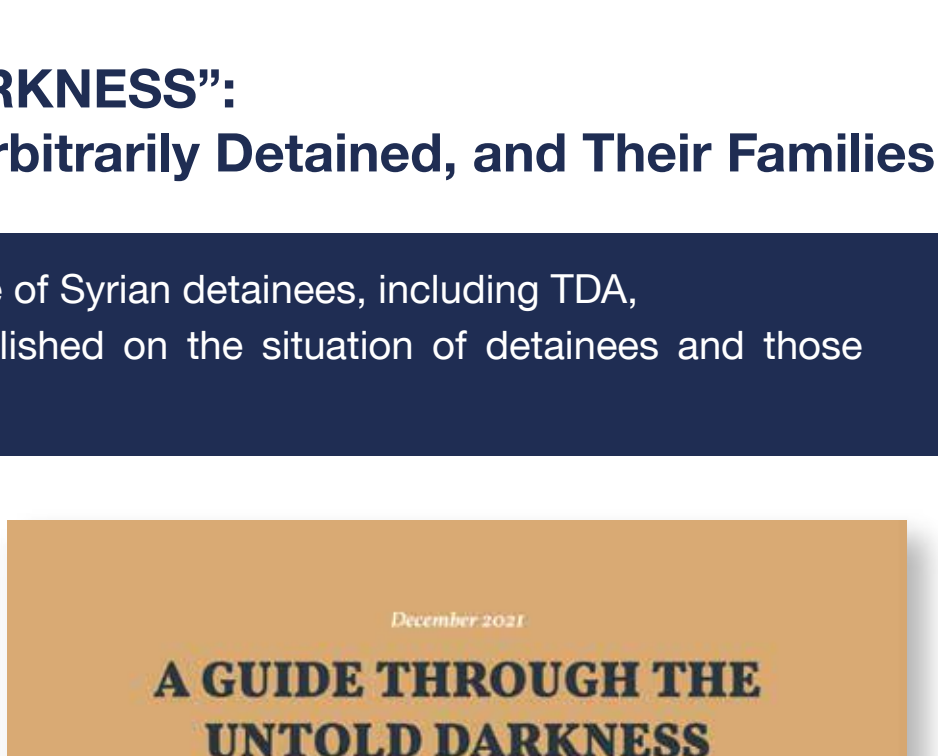
### Team from TDA Wins the "Our World Heritage" Award as Part of a Joint Initiative with "ARC" and "ARTIVE":

Three Syrian teams specialized in heritage protection and antiquities won the award presented by the global "Our World Heritage" initiative, with the aim of supporting the efforts of these teams and building the capacities of Syrians to preserve heritage, through digital documentation, and combating illegal antiquities trade.



The teams who won the joint award included the "Heritage Protection Initiative" team from TDA, the team from the K/ARC project for the protection and documentation of world cultural heritage, and the Artive team specialized in the protection of antiquities.

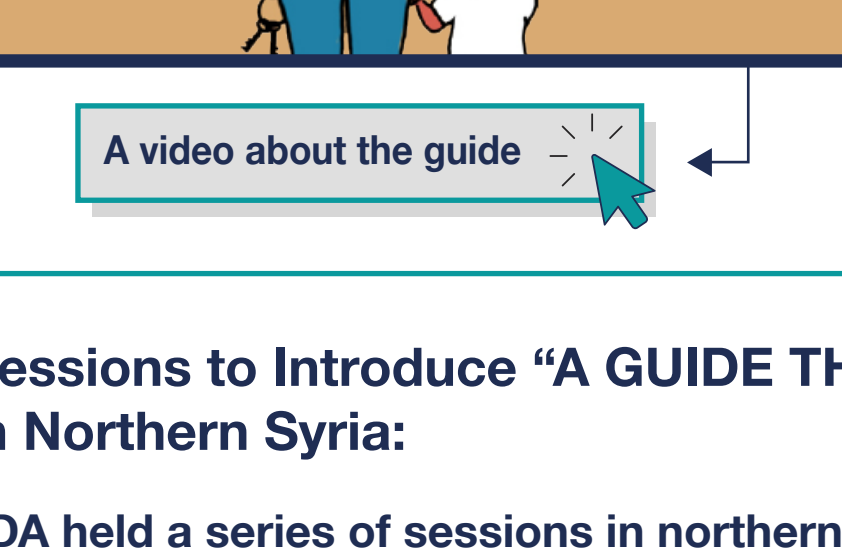
The award included technical support for the participating teams, in addition to inviting representatives of these teams to attend a training course in 3D imaging.



[More on the award and initiative](#)

### The Day After and The Middle East Institute Hold a Round Table on "Electoral Reform in Syria":

TDA and the Middle East Institute held a round table meeting to discuss "electoral reform in Syria on Monday the 23rd of May 2022.



The meeting discussed the current electoral system in Syria and the most important factors necessary for fair electoral reform in Syria, regardless of the need for a comprehensive political settlement, as well as the role that the international community can or should assume in this reform process and in the upcoming elections.

The meeting also discussed the guarantees that can be developed on the integrity of the elections, and the incentives that can be put in place to increase actual engagement in future elections.

[More on the meeting](#)

### "A GUIDE THROUGH THE UNTOLD DARKNESS": The Realities of Syria's Disappeared, Arbitrarily Detained, and Their Families:

In cooperation with nine CSOs working on the issue of Syrian detainees, including TDA, "A Guide Through the Untold Darkness" was published on the situation of detainees and those forcibly disappeared in Syria and their families.

The guide, published in Arabic and English, includes a set of testimonies for survivors of detention, families of detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in Syria, who faced challenges related to their social, psychological, and legal status. The guide provides advice and recommendations for dealing with cases within this context.

The guide aims to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian victims, urge action to defend their rights, and promote comprehensive justice for the crimes committed against them.



[To download the guide](#)

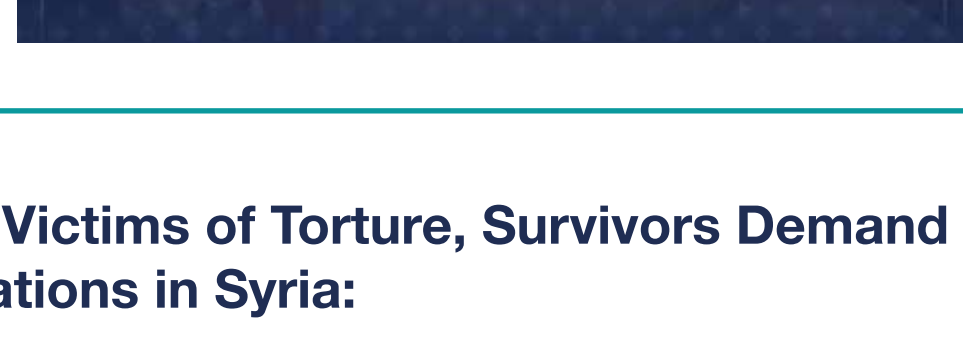
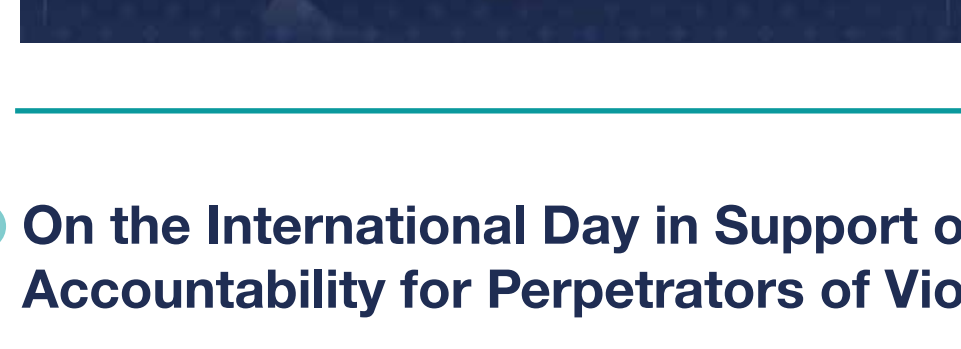
[Listen to the audiobook](#)

[A video about the guide](#)

### Sessions to Introduce "A GUIDE THROUGH THE UNTOLD DARKNESS" in Northern Syria:

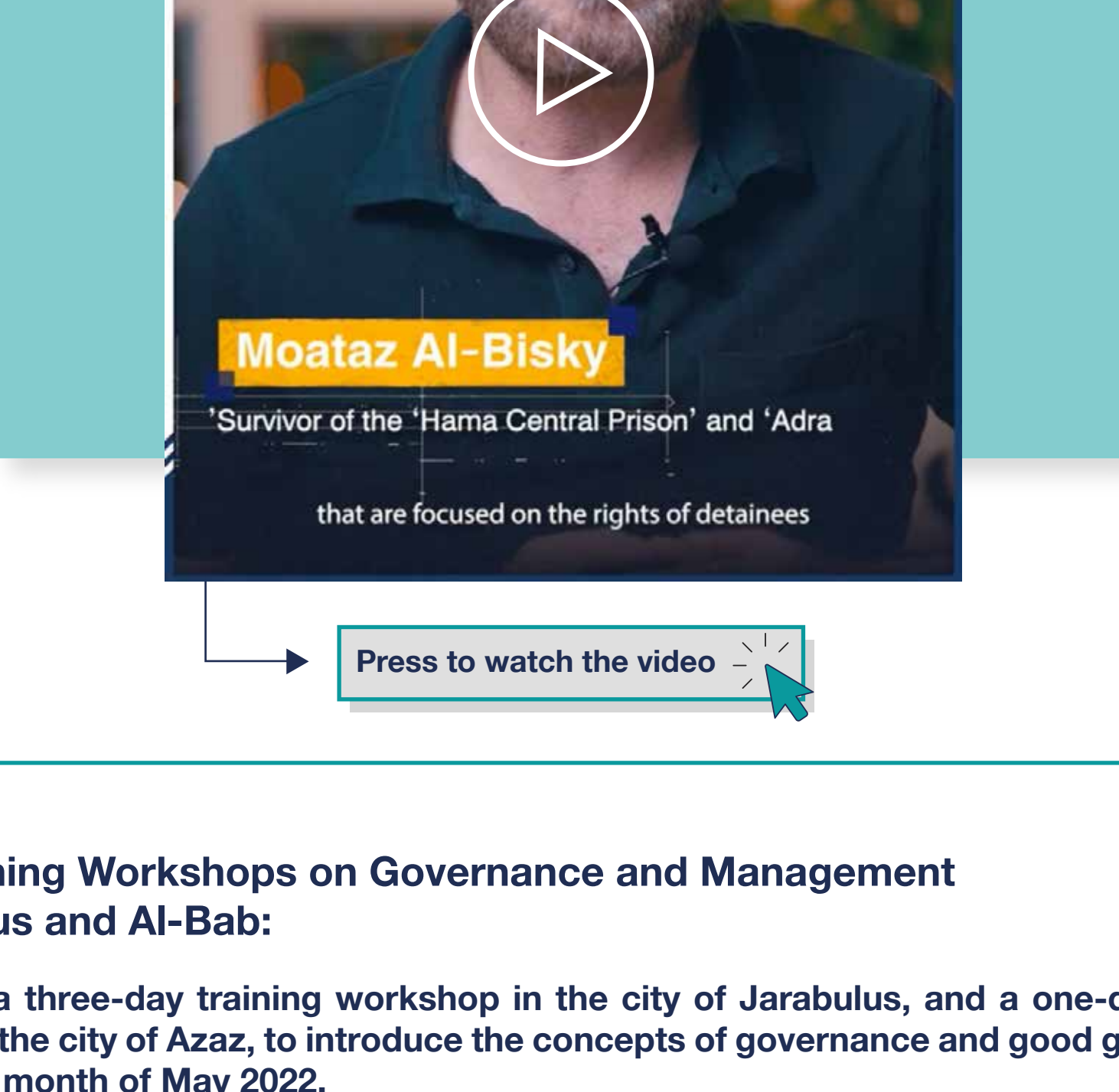
TDA held a series of sessions in northern Syria to introduce "A GUIDE THROUGH THE UNTOLD DARKNESS", explore its objectives, and explain some of the practical steps that the guide provides to survivors of detention, and families of detainees.

The first two sessions were held in Mare'a and Al-Bab in Aleppo countryside, and were attended by 30 women and men. The facilitators of the sessions explored with the attendees the various topics of the guide, and what to do in the event of the arrest of a relative, and in cases after leaving the prison.



### On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Survivors Demand Accountability for Perpetrators of Violations in Syria:

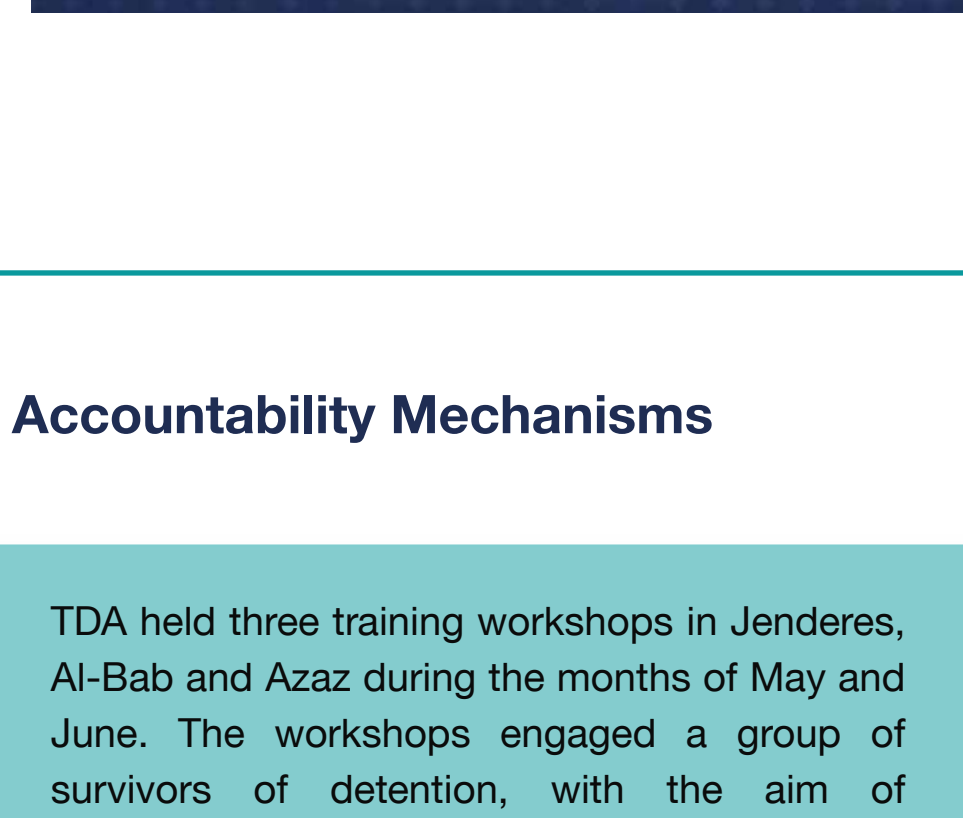
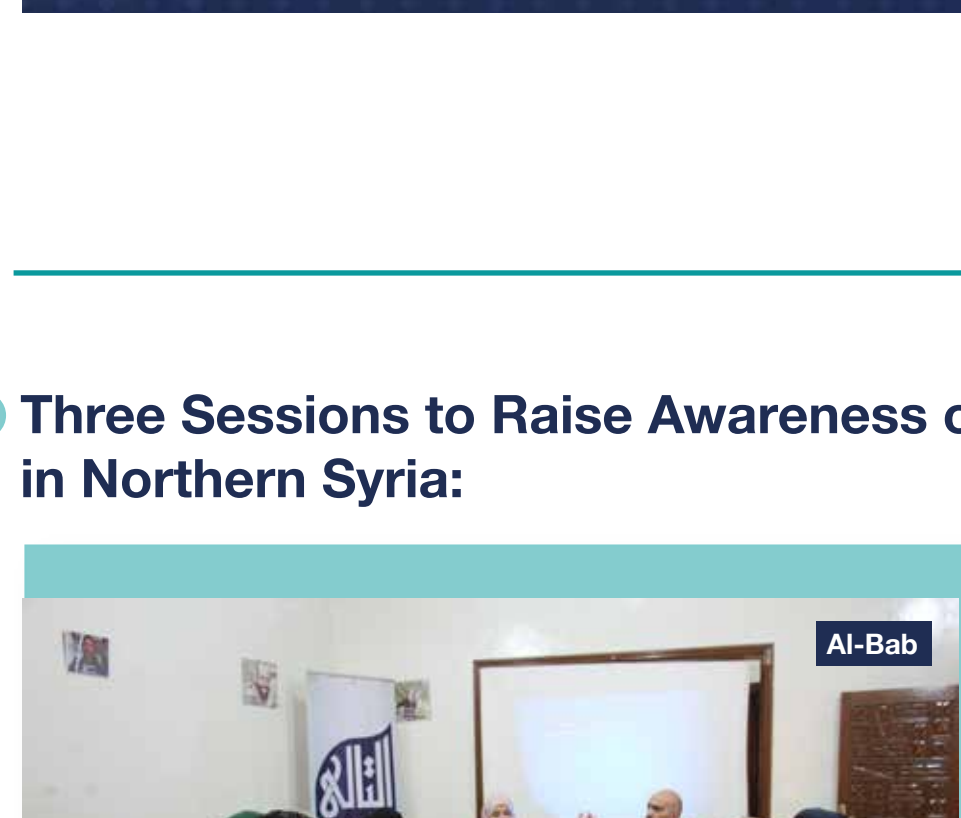
A group of female and male survivors of prisons of the Syrian regime sent messages to the international community and CSOs, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.



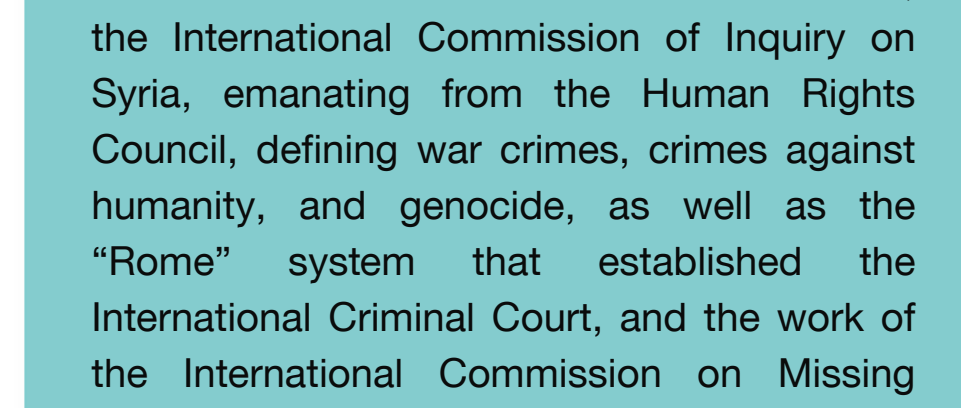
[Press to watch the video](#)

### Two Training Workshops on Governance and Management in Jarablus and Al-Bab:

TDA held a three-day training workshop in the city of Jarablus, and a one-day training session in the city of Azaz, to introduce the concepts of governance, and good governance, during the month of May 2022.



### Three Sessions to Raise Awareness of Accountability Mechanisms in Northern Syria:



The training workshops included introducing attendees to international humanitarian law, the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, emanating from the Human Rights Council, defining war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as well as the "Rome" system that established the International Criminal Court, and the work of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and The International Independent and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM) of the United Nations' General Assembly.

TDA held three training workshops in Jenders, Al-Bab and Azaz during the months of May and June. The workshops engaged a group of survivors of detention, with the aim of introducing them to international accountability mechanisms, which constitute an important entry point in the trial and accountability of those responsible for arbitrary arrests in Syria.