اليـــوم التالـــي
لدعم الانتقال الديمقراطي في سوريا

THE DAY AFTER
Supporting Democratic Transition In Syria

Newsletter January -June 2023

The Day After (TDA) aims to promote justice and protect human rights in Syria.

The Day After (TDA) works to support transitional justice and human rights efforts in Syria through various projects and programmes, focusing on housing, land and property rights (HLP), working to support survivors of arbitrary detention in Syria and the families of the forcibly disappeared, and is also involved in coordinating civil society efforts to through the Transitional Justice Coordination Group.

Meeting Among Survivors of Detention and Accountability Mechanisms for Syria

A significant meeting took place, gathering survivors of detention in Syria and the Roumieh prison in Lebanon, along with families of the forcibly disappeared, in direct interaction with representatives from Syria's accountability mechanisms. This physical meeting provided a platform for open discussions, information sharing, and the exchange of opinions and assessments.

The survivors and families had the opportunity to present their recommendations, fostering direct and unrestricted communication between international accountability mechanisms and victims who often face challenges in sharing their stories and expressing their demands directly.

The meeting took place on 29 May 2023 in Istanbul, and was attended by over 120 individuals. Among the attendees were survivors of detention, families of the forcibly disappeared, and representatives from international bodies and organizations specializing in accountability and human rights, including the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

During the meeting, representatives from these organizations provided updates on their efforts to document human rights violations and discussed the progress made thus far. Attendees had the opportunity to pose questions to the representatives, allowing for an interactive session between survivors, families, and the experts.The United Nations Independent Institution on Missing Persons and its potential role in the future in Syria was also discussed. Overall, the meeting served as a crucial platform for sharing information, addressing concerns, and fostering dialogue between the attendees and the representatives from international bodies and organizations dedicated to accountability and human rights.

During the meeting, The Day After (TDA) showcased a poignant film titled "If They Were With Me." The film captures the heartbreaking experiences of two mothers whose children have been forcibly disappeared. It delves into the anguish of loss, the arduous journey of searching for their loved ones, and the enduring hope for their return. Through the film, the families convey powerful messages and recommendations to the individuals present at the meeting who represented accountability mechanisms.

For more information

The Day After (TDA) released four publications that delve into the crucial topic of housing, land, and property rights

These publications aim to shed light on key issues and provide valuable insights into the subject matter. Among these publications are two noteworthy Policy papers

1 Mechanisms for combating legislative inflation in the syrian real estate system

This research paper examines the ramifications of abolishing the Real Estate Development Law on property and housing rights in Syria. It analyzes the safeguards that were initially established by this law and investigates the implementation of these rights under the amended Investment Law.

Click here to read the research paper

2 Improving intervention policies for regulating institutions involved in real estate affairs

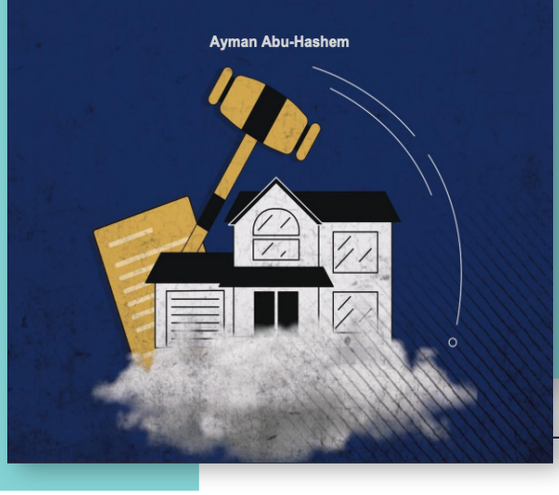
This policy paper tackles the challenge of improving the efficiency of real estate institutions. It raises the question of how to enhance performance and addresses potential conflicts in roles, responsibilities, or powers between these institutions. The paper proposes effective policies to streamline the work and coordination among various types of real estate institutions.

These publications by The Day After contribute to the understanding and exploration of housing, land, and property rights, offering valuable insights into the complexities and potential solutions within this domain.

Click here to read the research paper

3 Research : The Role of Transitional Justice (Legal and Institutional Reform) in Addressing Property and Housing Issues in Syria

This research paper aims to establish a conceptual and procedural approach that connects the necessary mechanisms for reform with the requirements for successful transitional justice. It explores the



cumulative impact of legislation and laws on exacerbating property-related issues and examines how the management of private and public property differs across various regions in Syria. Additionally, the paper draws on international experiences in legal and institutional reform to provide valuable insights and potential solutions.

Click here to read the research

4 Research : Changes to Investment Law Unveil Potential Property Rights Violations

This study examines the repercussions of the abolition of the Real Estate Development Law on the property of Syrian individuals. It investigates the safeguards initially established by this law to protect property and housing rights and evaluates the implementation of these rights under the amended investment law. By examining these aspects, the research paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact of legislative changes on property rights in Syria.

Click here to read the research

5 Training Program on Property and Housing Rights: Raising Awareness and Empowering Defenders:

The Day After (TDA) has launched an impactful training program aimed at enhancing awareness and qualifications among experienced defenders in the field of property and housing rights. The program targets three distinct groups of Syrian trainees: those inside the country, in Turkey, and in Europe. In June 2023, the first phase of the training was conducted remotely, with an attendance of 52 male and female trainees. The training covered a diverse range of topics, including the fundamental concept of the right to ownership and housing, the reasons behind real estate possession, distinctions between personal and in-kind rights, and the legal aspects of real estate possession. Moreover, the program provided insights into various types of real estate, documentation to establish ownership, and the challenges faced in property rights and housing, particularly in areas of informal housing, prior to the conflict.

Statement on the New United Nations Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria

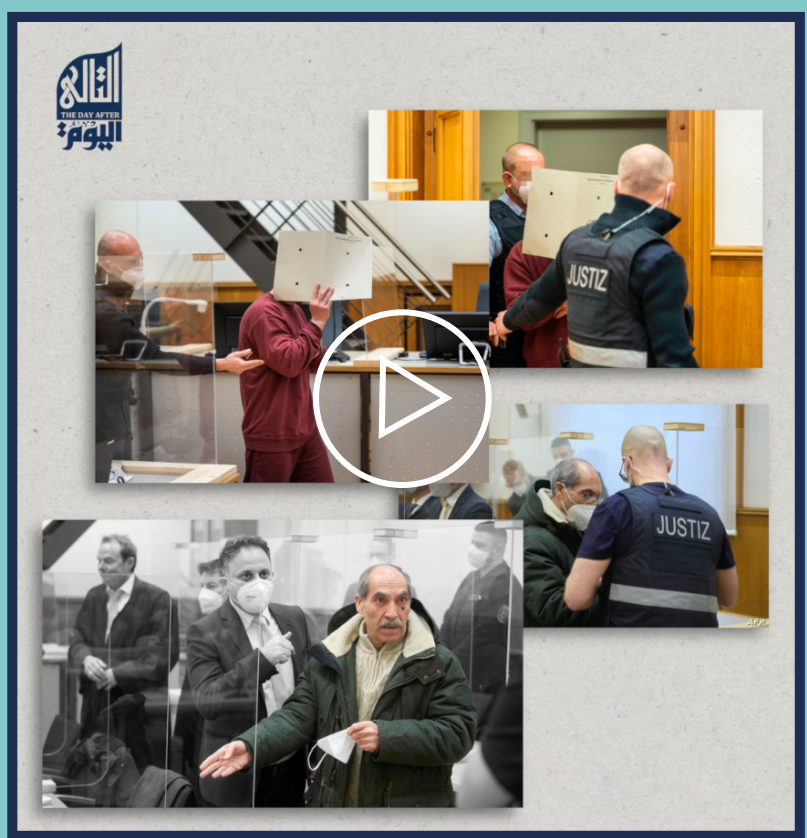
On June 23, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a significant resolution (A/77/L.79) to establish a new independent institution dedicated to addressing thewhereabouts of the missing and forcibly disappeared individuals in Syria. This institution also aims to provide support to the victims and their families. The resolution further urged the United Nations Secretary-General to develop a reference plan for the institution within 80 days of its approval.

In response to this decision and in alignment with the joint position of the members of the Transitional Justice Coordination Group and several victims' associations, The Day After (TDA) issued a statement on July 18, 2022. The organization warmly welcomed the international community's interest in finding a just and expeditious solution to the issue of missing persons in Syria. Additionally, The Day After (TDA) called upon international actors and United Nations institutions to take further effective steps in finding fair, speedy solutions to address the release of detainees, the disclosure of the whereabouts of missing persons, and the support of their families. TDA views the establishment of the new institution as a crucial step towards achieving these goals.

Read the full statement here

Tools and Mechanisms for Accountability in Syria - Holding Perpetrators Responsible

The Day After (TDA) produced an informative short video that sheds light on the available tools and mechanisms to hold accountable those responsible for committing violations against civilians in Syria, particularly those associated with the Syrian regime. The video explores international mechanisms that facilitate and establish the process of accountability, providing valuable insights into the potential avenues for justice.

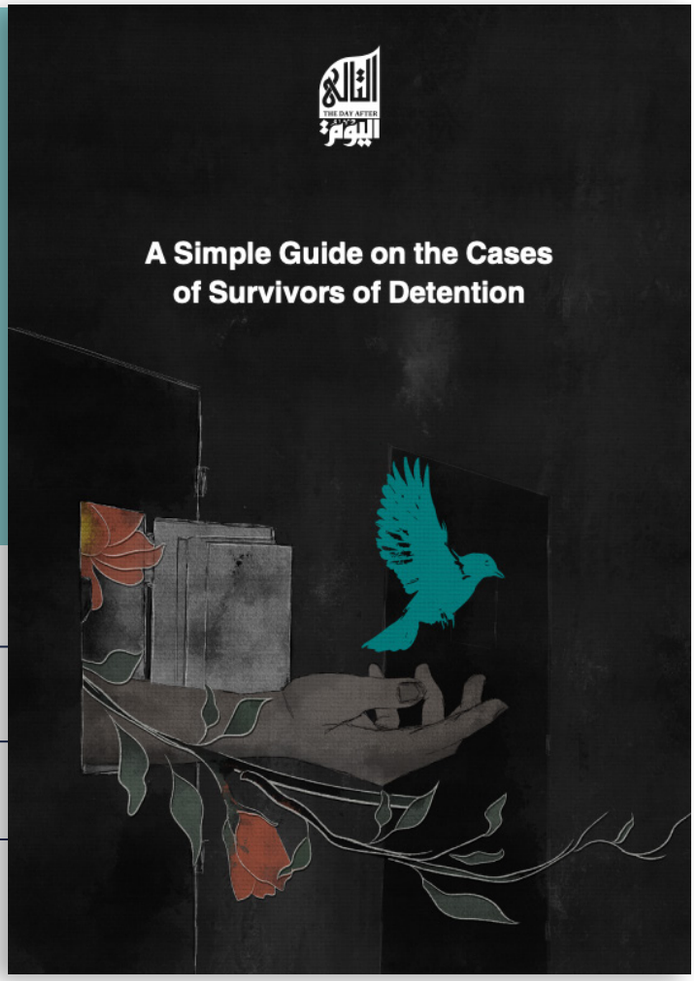


Click here to watch the video

A Simple Guide on the Cases of Survivors of Detention

In collaboration with groups of male and female prison survivors, The Day After (TDA) has developed a comprehensive guide to address the specific issues faced by individuals who have experienced detention. This guide aims to highlight the significant psychological and social consequences of detention while offering practical strategies to cope with these challenges. It also serves as a reference by including key legal information to facilitate knowledge-sharing and exchange of experiences among all individuals affected.

This guide incorporates testimonies from survivors of detention, offering personal perspectives and providing a clear understanding of the various human rights violations that can occur in these circumstances. By including legal definitions, the guide empowers individuals with the necessary knowledge to navigate their rights and seek appropriate support.



Click here to read the guide in Arabic

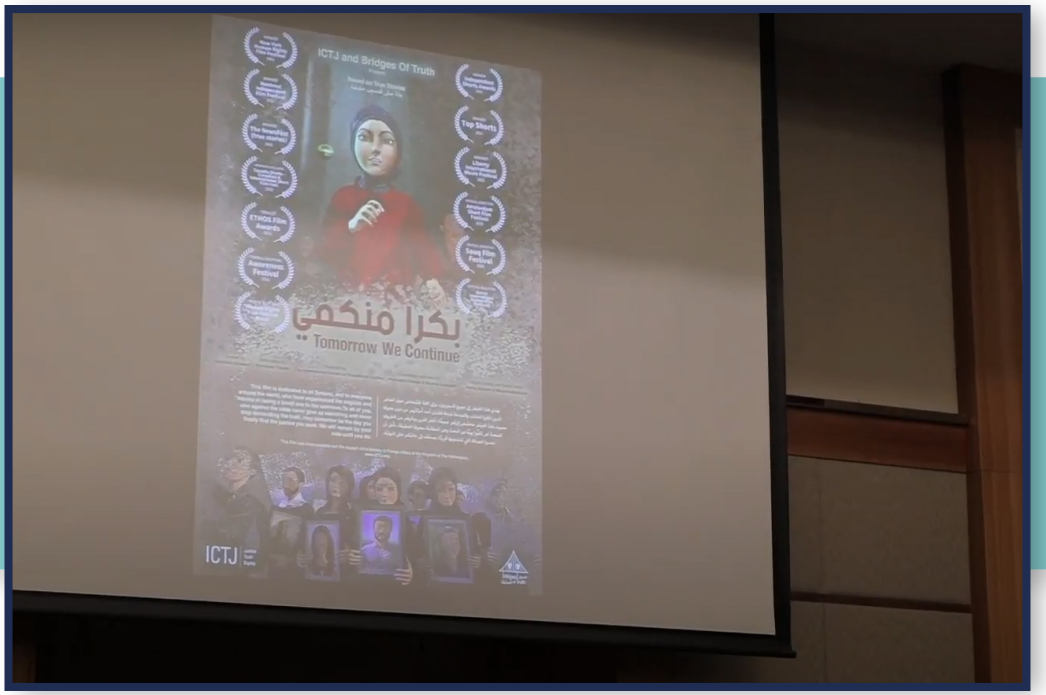
Click here to read the guide in English

Click here to read the guide in Kurdish

Film Screening: "Tomorrow We Continue" and Discussion on the Plight of Missing Persons' Families

In a collaborative event organized by The Day After, the International Center for Transitional Justice, and the Bridges of Truth project, a special screening of the animated short film "Tomorrow We Will Continue" took place in Istanbul on 2 February 2023. The event was attended by a group of male and female survivors, international actors, as well as Syrian civil society organizations.

"Tomorrow We Will Continue" has garnered numerous international accolades and is based on individual interviews and focused group sessions with Syrian victims from 11 governorates who now reside in countries of asylum, primarily Turkey. The film offers a poignant portrayal of the challenging journey faced by Syrians in countries of asylum.



The Day After's Contribution to Investigative Report on Syrian Security Forces' Involvement in Property Violations against Displaced Individuals

In a collaborative effort between the Syrian Investigative Investigation Unit "Siraj," The Day After (TDA), The Guardian, and Daraj, an investigative report examined the alarming involvement of Syrian security networks in forging property ownership of displaced individuals residing in regime-controlled areas.

The perpetrators behind these forgeries are members of militias and employees affiliated with the Fourth Division, led by Maher al-Assad, the brother of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The counterfeiters, in collusion with real estate offices, lawyers, notaries, and employees within the real estate department, manipulate the commercial registry of homes owned by Syrians who currently live outside the country.

Exploiting the absence of the rightful owners and capitalizing on lengthy legal proceedings in cases of forgery, the counterfeiters illicitly benefit from their actions.

Read the full investigation

Side Session at the Brussels Conference: Exploring the Impact of Early Recovery Activities on Property Rights and the Return of Displaced Individuals

On June 13, 2023, The Day After (TDA) and The Syria Report organized a side session during the Brussels Conference, specifically addressing the critical issue of property and housing rights, and the consequential impact of early recovery activities. The session brought together Anwar Majanni, the legal advisor for The Day After (TDA), and Jihad Yaziji, the editor-in-chief of The Syria Report.

Held in Brussels, the session centered around three key themes. Firstly, it examined the violations of housing, land, and property rights faced by individuals who have been displaced or are absentees. Secondly, it discussed the potential dangers of conflating early recovery efforts with reconstruction initiatives and the concerns surrounding initiating such activities without achieving a political solution. Lastly, the session examined the violations within the Syrian real estate laws that undermine housing, land, and property rights.

This side session provided a vital platform for in-depth discussions and analysis on the intersection of early recovery activities, property rights, and the challenges faced by displaced individuals.

The Day After (TDA) actively supports and encourages civic participation in Syria's democratic transition efforts

They achieve this through a range of programs and activities, including providing support to civil society groups involved in the Constitutional Committee. Additionally, TDA works towards supporting institutional reform initiatives within Syria.

As part of their commitment to contributing to the transitional phase and the establishment of a democratic state in Syria, TDA has published a report titled "Electoral Reform and Democratic Transition in Syria." This report aims to provide insights and recommendations to facilitate the success of the transitional process. Furthermore, TDA is currently engaged in research focused on reforming the judicial sector, recognizing its significance in shaping a just and democratic society.

TDA has collaborated with the German Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung to produce a video discussing their report titled "Mechanisms of Exploitation: Economic and Social Changes in Syria During the Conflict."

This report investigates the various mechanisms of exploitation employed by different de-facto forces and their connection to the authoritarian nature of dominant powers. It specifically examines the authoritarian regime's mechanisms before and after the conflict. Through this comprehensive analysis, the report offers practical policy recommendations that consider the unique context of different regions while addressing the overall situation.

The Day After's collective efforts aim to promote a democratic transition in Syria by encouraging civic participation, advocating for institutional reforms, and providing valuable research and reports that offer insights and recommendations for positive change.

Click here to watch the video

Side Session: Evaluating the Civil Process in Syria on the Sidelines of Brussels VII

On 12 June 2023, The Day After (TDA) and the Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD) organized a side session during the Seventh Brussels Conference. The session, titled "A Civil Assessment of the Current Political Process in Syria and its Prospects for a Political Solution in Accordance with International Resolution 2254," aimed to delve into critical aspects of the ongoing political landscape.

The discussion focused on several key themes. Firstly, participants examined the requirements of the political process from the perspective of civil society, aligning their viewpoints with the principles outlined in international resolution 2254. Secondly, the session explored the perception of civil society regarding the current processes of normalization and reconciliation with the Syrian regime. Finally, civil society representatives presented their recommendations and provided insights into their vision for the future prospects of a political solution.

This side session fostered valuable discussions and analysis, providing a platform for civil society organizations to contribute their perspectives and insights to the evaluation of the civil process in Syria.

تقييم مدني للعملية السياسية الحالية في سوريا وآفاقها على الحل السياسي وفقاً للقرار الدولي 2254
جلسة جانبية على هامش مؤتمر بروكسل 12 حزيران 2023
فاروق حجي مصطفى
المدير التنفيذي لمنظمة برجاف
رجاء التلي
مؤسسة مشاركة لمركز المجتمع المدني و الديمقراطية
خالد الحلو
عضو في اللجنة الدستورية
إيمان شحود
عضوة في اللجنة الدستورية
معتصم سيوفي
المدير التنفيذي لليوم التالي