

Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2021

Violations Map Report:

The Syrian revolution and armed conflict in the country has received intense media coverage and documentation; however, the report entitled "Map of Violations in Syria from 2011 to 2016" is the first Syrian report - researched and written by Syrians - that provides a comprehensive account of violations committed on all Syrian territories over 6 years, adopting a methodology of comparing documentation, supplementing data and contextualizing and aligning these within their relevant legal framework; and this was something that has not been covered by any Syrian reports documenting 6 years of war.



This report was written in the hope it would be an integrated and balanced narrative for future generations of Syrians, and a reliable reference for researchers, but also a document to refresh collective memory with a broader strategy towards transitional justice and legal accountability when the time comes. The work was a joint effort between the Transitional Justice Coordination Group (TJCG) and TDA.

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Syrians' Thoughts on Citizenship and Identity:

The Day After Association has issued a report entitled "Syrians' Thoughts on Citizenship and Identity", aiming to identify the general impressions of a large portion of Syrians both inside and outside the country regarding the concepts of equal and active citizenship and its relationship to sub-identities; issues of national identity and sub-identities and their relationship to the concept of citizenship; equal rights and duties among all citizens, regardless of their affiliations; and how these form an essential part of dialogues among local and political actors, and the extent these identities impact on issues of equality in terms of political, economic, cultural, and civil rights.



The report was prepared on the basis of a survey conducted in mid-2021, and included interviews with 2,651 Syrians, 50.1% men and 49.9% women, inside and outside Syria, from various religious, national, age and educational backgrounds. The interviews were conducted by a working team of 52 male and female researchers present inside Syria, in neighboring countries and in Europe.

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Community Initiatives to Support Displaced Communities in Northern Syria:

TDA seeks to support displaced communities particularly in protecting their housing and property rights until they are able to return. Accordingly, TDA has supported a group of community initiatives aimed at raising awareness among IDPs regarding their rights, whether relating to property and housing in particular or to legal and political rights in general, while simultaneously making efforts to integrate them into their host communities.

A total of 4 initiatives were implemented in northern Syria, as follows:

- The "We Are and Always Will Be Syrians" Initiative:**
documentation; addressed the IDPs and residents in a number of areas in northern Aleppo.
750 beneficiaries: 339 male and 411 female
- The Association for Palestinian IDPs:**
The Association for Palestinian IDPs worked to coordinate between Palestinian and other IDPs. The association's work was carried out with the approval of the Local Council of Azaz, after collecting signatures from displaced Palestinians appointing a 'muhtar' to represent them in the council.
Total number of beneficiaries: 1000
- Assembly of Damascus City and Countryside IDPs in Azaz**
The Assembly coordinated dialogue seminars on "Demographic Change and the Right of Return", "Community Culture, Inherited and Acquired", "Housing and Property Issues" and "Working Women: Real Obstacles and Societal Challenges"; as well as training courses in monitoring and evaluation, case management, life skills, and citizenship.
Number of beneficiaries: 184 male and female
- The Authority for Idlib and Aleppo IDPs in Jarabulus**
The initiative determined the number of IDPs in Jarabulus, which the Local Council in Jarabulus found helpful. The initiative also contributed greatly to determining the number of people with special needs among Aleppo and Idlib IDPs, where there had previously been no accurate statistics, thereby contributing to empowerment activities directed towards integrating them into the labor market later on.
The initiative also coordinated two dialogue sessions on the importance of civil documentation and the concept of citizenship.
68 beneficiaries.



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TDA's Community Initiatives and Awareness Sessions

Through communication officers, TDA carried out a series of community initiatives and awareness sessions, including "the Constitution in cooperation with a Gender Compatible Perspective" initiative in cooperation with the Drop of Humanity team, and the "Women's Political Empowerment" initiative led by a group of women in Jarabulus.
In support of women's education, a nursery was opened to help female students and employees at Aleppo Free University in cooperation with the Free Students Union. Additionally, an advocacy campaign was launched to unify financial and administrative procedures in cooperation with the Free Aleppo Provincial Council.



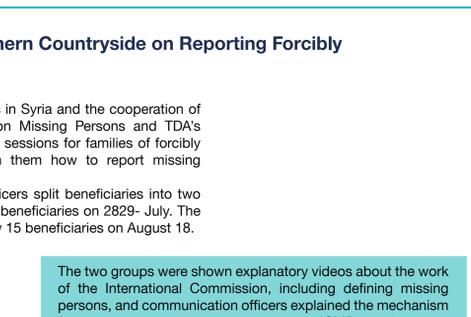
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Training for adolescents in Aleppo countryside on forms of nonviolent resistance

"Nonviolence is not a show of love, but a show of strength."
Martin Luther King

TDA trained 18 young women on strategies for nonviolent resistance with practical exercises. Video of the training and trainees' feedback

Interviews with adolescents who attended the training, explaining added value from the training



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Sessions in Aleppo Northern Countryside on Reporting Forcibly Disappeared Persons

Through communication officers in Syria and the cooperation of the International Commission on Missing Persons and TDA's Survivors Project, TDA held two sessions for families of forcibly disappeared persons, to teach them how to report missing relatives.
The team of communication officers split beneficiaries into two groups, the first attended by 25 beneficiaries on 28/29- July. The second session was attended by 15 beneficiaries on August 18.

No. of beneficiaries: 40

The two groups were shown explanatory videos about the work of the International Commission, including defining missing persons, and communication officers explained the mechanism for reporting missing persons through the ICMP website.

Launching the Association of Families of Missing Detainees in Idlib Countryside

20 female relatives of forcibly disappeared persons in Syria launched an association for families of missing detainees in Idlib and Salqin.
Over the course of two months (July and August), the Association worked on the "Search for Them" initiative. Prior to the Association's launch, the women received training from Change Makers Organization in Syria with financial support from TDA, on documentation, its importance and benefits. They also increased their communication, mobilization and advocacy capabilities.

Disappeared but not Forgotten ..

On the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, The Day After produced a video documenting the situation of families of forcibly disappeared persons, and the suffering they endured waiting for news of their loved ones..



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Training for detention survivors

The suffering and the rights of detainees in Syria are forgotten and lost with no clear legal mechanism or method to document the conditions of their detention and the violations they were subjected to.

Accordingly, TDA trained 11 survivors over 3 days on documentation, its types and benefits, and an explanation of documentation mechanism and components. This is to preserve evidence from becoming lost or forgotten, and to help achieve #justice in future trials, to identify patterns of crimes committed, where they were committed and who was responsible, and to use this information in scientific research and general reports.

For the psychological well-being of survivors, psychological support sessions were provided to them before, during and after the documentation processes.



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?How and when can #transitional justice be achieved in Syria

Over the course of two days, Judge Anwar Majanni answered these questions to an audience of 14 female and male survivors of detention in Syria, as part of the capacity-raising and legal awareness training provided by The Day After to support survivors.
Judge Majanni reviewed the experiences of countries that have been through the transitional justice process, and explained the difference between transitional and traditional justice.
Participants expressed their visions and recommendations regarding the role of survivors and victims' associations in the transitional justice processes.

To raise the level of understanding and awareness of the concept of transitional justice, Judge Majanni reviewed the concept with Syrian university students in Turkey, as well as its difference from traditional justice, scope and objectives of transitional justice, and application mechanisms.
Roles of CSOs and victims' associations in transitional justice was also discussed.



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Sessions on Reporting Mechanisms of Forcibly Disappeared Persons in Raqqa

After several sessions with mechanisms for reporting forcibly disappeared persons in Raqqa, presented by TDA to a group of families with missing relatives, a woman succeeded in uncovering the fate of her husband.
After submitting an official request to SDF General Security Forces and the prison administration, they admitted they had him and that he is under investigation and after the verdict is issued, they will be allowed to visit him.

Another woman decided to report her husband was missing in Lattakia since 2013, fate unknown to date. Legal support was provided after a group of people seized her husband's property, and legal advisors first provided her with documentation services, then filed a lawsuit to expel the individuals who had seized control of the property; as a result of the lawsuit, they were expelled and the property returned to her and her children, and she obtained compensation for "loss of benefit".

Psychological Support and Capacity Building Sessions for Detention Survivors

TDA was able to provide psychological support sessions to 154 female detention survivors in northern Syria and 9 female survivors in Turkey.
TDA also continued capacity-building exercises for Adra Association, who received training on strategic planning, as well as psychological support sessions. Under the supervision of the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), they were put in touch with the International Committee for Missing Persons through an introductory session that took place with the entire committee team and members of the Adra Association.

"I felt I had a second family here that advocates for the cause of detainees"

says one participant in the strategic planning training, attended by 16 trainees, also trained in developing strategic work plans
The training comes as part of a series offered by TDA to a group of survivors of Adra prison, so they can advocate for the cause of detainees and empower them in the community



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"You are our light, do not be extinguished"

From messages sent by Adra prison survivors to detainees still in prison, during the "self-care" training held by TDA ..
Video explaining the training with messages from survivors.

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Opinion Poll Video

On the anniversary of the chemical massacre in Eastern Ghouta, TDA conducted an opinion poll on Syrian streets in several cities, around Syrians' opinions of international justice.

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