Joint Stakeholder Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the Syrian Arab Republic

Human dignity, protection and accountability in Syria after 8 December 2024

Fourth cycle | Joint stakeholder submission

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Submission information

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Submitting organization(s)	Association of Detainees and Missing Persons of Sednaya Prison (ADMSP); DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture; International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
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Confidentiality note	UPR submissions are public. This report does not identify individual victims or survivors. Where necessary, location-specific details, including detention-site information, are generalized to protect victims, witnesses, families, staff and ongoing documentation efforts.

Brief description of submitting organization(s) / coalition:

This joint submission is presented by the Association of Detainees and Missing Persons of Sednaya Prison (ADMSP), DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture, and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). ADMSP is a Syrian survivor- and family-led civil society organization, established in 2017, working on documentation, truth, justice, advocacy and support for detainees, missing and forcibly disappeared persons in Syria, with a particular focus on Sednaya Prison. DIGNITY, founded in 1982, is an independent human rights and development organization specialized in torture prevention, rehabilitation, accountability, research and advocacy. IRCT, founded in 1985, is an international membership organization and global network of rehabilitation centres and medical and legal professionals working with torture survivors to advance rehabilitation, justice, reparations and the prevention of torture. ADMSP is the main submitting organization and focal point for this joint submission.

Introduction

1. Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government on 8 December 2024, Syria has entered a decisive but unstable transition. The collapse of the former security apparatus created an opening for truth, justice and institutional reform. It also left a legacy of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, fragmented command structures and profound public mistrust in state institutions.[10]

2. Given the exceptional political change that began on 8 December 2024, this submission focuses on human rights developments during the post-Assad transitional period. It does not attempt a full assessment of the four-and-a-half-year period since Syria's last UPR review. It instead addresses urgent concerns arising while security, detention, justice and protection systems are being reconstituted, and proposes recommendations that can be implemented during the fourth UPR cycle.

3. The submission is based on documentation by the submitting organizations, survivor and family accounts, credible Syrian civil society reporting, UN mechanisms and other public sources. It does not identify individual victims or survivors. Information concerning ongoing violations is presented in a manner intended to support protection, accountability and non-repetition, while avoiding exposure of victims, witnesses or families to retaliation. Where necessary, specific detention-site references are generalized to protect victims, witnesses, families, staff and ongoing documentation efforts.

Background and applicable framework

4. Syria is party to the ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, CEDAW, CRC and CRPD. It is not a party to the Optional Protocol to CAT (OPCAT) or to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. These treaties require Syria to respect and ensure liberty and security of person, due process, the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, equality and non-discrimination, children's rights, effective remedies and reparation, including rehabilitation for victims of torture.[2,4,5,6]

5. The 2025 Constitutional Declaration contains general commitments to rights and freedoms and incorporates international human rights treaties ratified by Syria into the constitutional framework. These commitments remain insufficient without implementing legislation, operational rules and independent oversight for arrest, detention, interrogation, searches, checkpoints, complaints, witness protection and security-sector accountability.[3]

6. During the transition, public functions have been exercised by state institutions, transitional security bodies, armed groups integrated or partially coordinated with state structures, and non-state armed groups exercising de facto authority in particular areas. The Syrian State remains the primary duty bearer under international human rights law wherever it exercises jurisdiction or effective control. It must also prevent, investigate and remedy violations by actors operating under its authority, support, acquiescence or effective control. Non-state armed groups that exercise de facto control or perform detention, policing or checkpoint functions must comply with applicable international humanitarian law and should respect internationally recognized human rights standards.

7. Sustainable human rights protection requires a shift from ad hoc and fragmented security practices to lawful, civilian and accountable public-security governance. This includes registered and reviewable detention, prompt access to counsel, independent investigation of torture and ill-treatment, protection for victims and at-risk communities, transparent security-sector reform, and victim-centred transitional justice processes guaranteeing truth, justice, reparation, rehabilitation and non-repetition.

8. The impact of security-related violations is not uniform. Women and girls, families of detainees and missing persons, children, ethnic and religious minorities, Kurdish civilians, displaced persons, persons perceived as linked to the former government, civil society actors, media workers and LGBTIQ+ persons face differentiated risks. Protection measures must therefore be non-discriminatory, confidential, gender-sensitive, child-sensitive and accessible to persons without civil documentation or without safe access to law-enforcement institutions.

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1. Right to liberty and security of person

1.a. Arrest procedures

9. The absence of clear, binding and publicly accessible safeguards governing arrests, searches and screening at checkpoints continues to threaten the right to liberty and security of person. The problem is not limited to isolated misconduct: it reflects the exercise of coercive powers by personnel whose legal authority, chain of command and accountability may be unclear, particularly at mixed or unofficial checkpoints. Such practices may result in serious violations, including extortion, assault and discrimination on ethnic or other prohibited grounds.

10. Article 9 of the ICCPR prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention and requires that any deprivation of liberty be lawful, non-arbitrary, recorded and subject to judicial control. Searches, questioning and arrests must be necessary, proportionate, non-discriminatory and subject to oversight. Persons affected by a search or arrest should be informed of the authority responsible and the legal basis for the measure.[6,8]

11. Nationally, no comprehensive legal and operational framework has been made publicly available to regulate checkpoint powers, searches, arrests, registration, transfers, family notification and complaints. Codes of conduct and administrative circulars do not replace binding procedures enforceable by prosecutors, courts and independent oversight bodies. Nor do they resolve the question of checkpoints operated by non-integrated armed actors or mixed units.

12. In practice, checkpoints remain central to security governance in several areas. At official checkpoints, the main gaps concern documentation, identification, registration and oversight. At unofficial or mixed checkpoints, the concern is more fundamental: persons not clearly authorized by law may screen, search, detain, transfer or extort civilians. Reports concerning Aleppo, including Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh, describe arrests, humiliating treatment, separation of men from women and transfers to unknown locations during January 2026 escalation. Reports from the Syrian Coast and Suwayda also indicate that fragmented control and identity-based suspicion have contributed to unlawful searches, abductions, assaults, extortion and detention.[11,12,15,19]

13. These practices undermine liberty, security of person, freedom of movement, due process and equal protection. They also prevent families and lawyers from identifying the responsible authority, thereby weakening judicial review and accountability. The State should regulate official checkpoints, dismantle or formally integrate unauthorized checkpoints, and prohibit any deprivation of liberty outside a lawful chain of command.

Recommendations:

1. Adopt binding national procedures on checkpoints, searches and arrests, including safeguards for children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other persons in vulnerable situations.

2. Dismantle checkpoints operated by non-integrated armed actors, or place personnel under a lawful, public chain of command following individual human rights vetting.

3. Require all checkpoint personnel to display official identification, identify the unit responsible and provide written records for any arrest or transfer.

4. Ensure that every arrest at a checkpoint is immediately registered, notified to family and counsel, and brought under prosecutorial and judicial supervision without delay.

5. Establish independent, accessible and confidential complaints mechanisms for checkpoint abuse, with protection against retaliation and referral of criminal allegations to civilian prosecutors.

1.b. Arbitrary arrest and detention

14. Arbitrary and unregistered detention remains one of the most urgent risks of the transition. The absence of a unified detainee register, a verified list of official detention facilities and written procedures governing arrest authority, transfers and family notification imposes a heavy burden on families seeking relatives and prevents effective review of detention legality. Unofficial places of detention run by non-state armed groups further violate the right to liberty and the right to due process.

15. International standards require that deprivation of liberty be provided by law, non-arbitrary, promptly recorded, notified to the family, subject to confidential access to counsel and brought without delay before an independent judicial authority. Detainees must be held only in officially recognized places of detention. Incommunicado detention and secret detention create conditions for enforced disappearance, torture and extortion.[6,7]

16. Nationally, the transition has not yet produced a centralized detainee register accessible to prosecutors, courts, lawyers and families, nor a complete public list of official detention facilities. Where non-state armed groups exercise de facto detention powers, the lack of judicial access and state oversight further increases the risk of disappearance, coercion and abuse.

17. Civil society monitoring illustrates both the scale and continuity of the problem. In February 2025, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) documented at least 216 arbitrary arrests or detentions, including six children and one woman; 21 cases were attributed to security forces operating under the Transitional Government. In the first quarter of 2026, SNHR documented at least 210 arbitrary arrests and detentions, including 11 children and three women. These figures are not exhaustive but show that arbitrary detention has persisted beyond the immediate aftermath of the former government's collapse.[13,14]

18. The core concern is traceability. A person may be stopped at a checkpoint, transferred by a mixed security unit, questioned in an informal location and later appear in an official facility without a complete custody record. This breaks the chain of accountability, leaves families dependent on intermediaries, and prevents courts from identifying the unit or official responsible for an unlawful deprivation of liberty.

19. Children, women, persons perceived as linked to the former government, Kurdish civilians, activists, humanitarian workers, media workers, LGBTIQ+ persons and members of minority communities face heightened risks in particular contexts. Arrest decisions based on family association, ethnic or sectarian identity, lack of civil documentation or perceived political affiliation are incompatible with the ICCPR and the principle of non-discrimination.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a centralized detainee register recording the time, place and legal basis of arrest; arresting unit; place of detention; transfers; health status; access to counsel; family notification; and date of judicial review.

2. Publish and regularly update a list of all official detention facilities, and prohibit detention in secret, informal, private or faction-run sites.

3. Provide detainees, families and lawyers with written arrest and transfer records identifying the legal basis, responsible authority and current place of detention.

4. Require prosecutors and courts to review all detention lacking a lawful basis and to order release or prosecution in accordance with fair trial guarantees.

5. Investigate allegations of unregistered detention, enforced disappearance, extortion and obstruction of family access, and protect complainants from retaliation.

1.c. Torture and ill-treatment

20. Syria's 2022 anti-torture law lacks implementing regulations, leaving gaps in detention monitoring, interrogation safeguards and accountability. Acts of torture and coerced confessions have been documented in both state and unofficial facilities, targeting alleged former-government affiliates, Kurdish civilians and political opponents. Effective reform requires concrete safeguards, including lawyer access, independent inspections, redress and rehabilitation for victims.

21. The prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is absolute. The Convention against Torture (CAT) requires prevention, criminalization, prompt and impartial investigation, exclusion of statements obtained by torture, complaint mechanisms and redress, including rehabilitation. These obligations apply in all places where persons are deprived of liberty and to all officials or persons acting in an official capacity or with official consent or acquiescence.[4,5]

22. Syria's Law No. 16 of 2022 criminalizing torture appears to remain formally applicable unless repealed or amended. However, Syrian and international legal analysis has identified continuing gaps, including inadequate implementation, insufficient guarantees against impunity, limited provisions on redress and rehabilitation, and the absence of a comprehensive prevention framework. The transitional authorities have not yet published implementing regulations or a new anti-torture policy covering detention monitoring, medical screening, interrogation safeguards, referral of injuries to prosecutors and suspension of personnel credibly implicated in abuse.[17]

23. Reports since the transition describe torture and ill-treatment in facilities operated by security actors affiliated with the transitional authorities and in sites controlled by armed groups. Reported abuse has occurred during arrest, screening and interrogation, particularly against persons accused of links to the former government, Kurdish civilians, political opponents, civil society actors, media workers and persons held on security-related grounds. Reported methods include beatings, suspension, stress positions, threats against relatives, poor conditions, medical neglect and coerced signatures on blank or pre-written confession sheets.[10,16,17]

24. The contexts vary. In state or state-affiliated facilities, abuse is reported during initial interrogation, security screening and efforts to obtain confessions or intelligence. In unofficial detention sites, abuse is reported in connection with ransom demands, punishment of perceived opponents, coercion over property and intimidation of communities. In both contexts, the absence of independent monitoring, prompt medical documentation and confidential complaints allows abuse to continue without timely detection.

25. The use of coerced statements is especially damaging in a transition. If courts rely on files prepared through beatings, threats or denial of counsel, the justice system will reproduce the abusive logic of the former security apparatus. Torture prevention therefore requires not only criminal sanctions but practical safeguards: lawyer access, audio-visual recording of interrogations, prompt medical examinations, independent inspections, confidential complaints and automatic judicial review of injuries or allegations of coercion.

26. Article 14 of CAT guarantees victims an enforceable right to redress, including fair and adequate compensation and the means for as full rehabilitation as possible. Survivors need timely access to medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, social reintegration and community-based rehabilitation without discrimination or renewed security questioning. Specialized rehabilitation providers and survivor-led organizations should be involved in designing these services and detention safeguards.[5,9]

Recommendations:

1. Amend and implement anti-torture legislation to align fully with CAT, including the CAT definition of torture, command responsibility, prompt investigation, victim participation, redress and rehabilitation.

2. Prohibit and exclude statements obtained through torture or other coercion in judicial, administrative and security proceedings, except as evidence against alleged perpetrators that the statement was made.

3. Require independent medical examinations on admission, transfer and release, and ensure documentation is consistent with the Istanbul Protocol.

4. Guarantee prompt confidential access to lawyers, audio-visual recording of interrogations and judicial review of any injury or allegation of coercion.

5. Suspend personnel credibly implicated in torture or ill-treatment from duties involving detainees or civilians pending independent investigation.

6. Grant independent humanitarian and human rights monitors regular access to all official and unofficial places where persons may be deprived of liberty.

7. Ratify OPCAT and establish an independent national preventive mechanism with access to all detention settings.

2. Administration of justice, impunity and the rule of law

2.a. Insufficient judicial safeguards

27. The existing legal and administrative framework does not adequately guarantee the fair trial rights and judicial safeguards of arrested and detained persons, particularly the right to effective legal assistance from the outset of detention. Although a recent circular permits lawyers to attend interrogations, their role remains largely passive, as they are not permitted to speak, object or advise their clients during questioning. Unclear jurisdictional boundaries between civilian and military proceedings further undermine the transparency, independence and impartiality of the justice system.

28. Fair trial rights and judicial safeguards remain inadequate, particularly during the first hours and days of detention. This is the period in which the risk of coercion is highest and when access to counsel, medical screening and judicial oversight are most critical.

29. International standards require prompt access to a lawyer from the outset of deprivation of liberty, confidential lawyer-client communication, judicial review of detention and hearings before independent and impartial courts. Safeguards must operate wherever questioning begins, including checkpoints, police stations, security branches and temporary holding locations.[6,7]

30. A Ministry of Interior circular reportedly permitted lawyers to attend interrogations only in a passive capacity, preventing them from advising clients, objecting to coercive questions or recording objections during questioning. Such presence is not an effective safeguard. A lawyer who is physically present but unable to intervene cannot protect a detainee from coercion or ensure the reliability of the record.[18]

31. In practice, detainees are often questioned before seeing a lawyer, and lawyers may be admitted only after statements are finalized. In areas controlled by factions or mixed security bodies, independent legal representation may be unavailable during the first critical hours or days. Unclear jurisdictional boundaries between civilian and military procedures also affect transparency, independence and impartiality, particularly where civilians are exposed to military or exceptional proceedings.

32. Judicial review is ineffective where judges cannot enforce release orders or obtain complete custody records. Prosecutors and judges must be able to inspect detention facilities, order access to counsel and medical examinations, exclude coerced evidence, and hold arresting authorities accountable for failure to comply with judicial orders.

Recommendations:

1. Rescind any rule limiting lawyers to passive presence and guarantee effective legal assistance from the first moment of deprivation of liberty.

2. Prohibit interrogation before access to counsel and guarantee confidential lawyer-client communication before and during questioning.

3. Equip interrogation rooms for audio-visual recording and preserve recordings under judicial supervision.

4. Define military jurisdiction narrowly and prohibit military or exceptional courts from trying civilians.

5. Protect judges and prosecutors from security interference and ensure immediate enforcement of release orders.

2.b. Institutional challenges, fragmentation and security-sector practices

33. Comprehensive security-sector reform remains incomplete. Fragmented chains of command, partial integration of armed groups and unclear disciplinary jurisdiction continue to limit public confidence and the rule of law.

34. International standards require legality, necessity, proportionality, accountability, non-discrimination and civilian oversight of law-enforcement operations. All persons exercising arrest, search, checkpoint or detention powers must be identifiable, trained, subject to a clear chain of command and accountable before independent authorities. Nationally, Syria lacks a public and comprehensive security-sector reform framework. Some armed actors have been nominally integrated or coordinated with state bodies, while others continue to operate through local security pacts, factional structures or de facto authority. Codes of conduct and isolated dismissals are insufficient without individual vetting, a public unit registry, unified disciplinary rules, clear separation between military and civilian policing, and independent complaints oversight.[8,19,20]

35. Recent reporting from the Syrian Coast, Suwayda, Aleppo and Idlib illustrates the risk. Overlapping state security forces, armed groups nominally integrated into state structures, local militias, tribal actors and non-state armed groups have reportedly operated checkpoints, conducted operations, managed detention sites and carried out arrests. Integration without individual human rights vetting risks embedding factional loyalties and abusive wartime practices in state institutions. Fragmentation is a human rights concern in itself. It obscures responsibility, prevents victims from identifying the authority responsible, and enables arrests, searches and detention without common rules. It also weakens discipline and creates space for reprisals, extortion, sexual violence, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and unlawful killings.[11,12,19,20]

Recommendations:

1. Adopt a national security-sector reform and integration law grounded in human rights, civilian oversight and exclusive lawful state control over law-enforcement powers.

2. Require individual human rights vetting before integration into police, intelligence, military or detention functions, and exclude persons credibly implicated in serious violations pending investigation.

3. Place all internal security personnel under a unified, public chain of command and publish mandates of security institutions, official detention facilities and complaint procedures.

4. Dismantle non-integrated armed checkpoints and detention sites and require visible identification of units, personnel and vehicles during operations affecting civilians.

5. Refer allegations of torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, sexual violence, extortion and unlawful killings to civilian prosecutors and independent investigators.

6. Introduce mandatory training on human rights, de-escalation, non-discrimination, trauma-informed policing and restraint, accompanied by stress-management and psychosocial support for personnel.

2.c. Accountability, transitional justice and victims' rights

36. The establishment of the National Commission for Transitional Justice and the National Commission for Missing Persons in May 2025 signalled a political commitment to address past violations and the fate of missing persons. These mechanisms can contribute to truth and accountability only if they are independent, inclusive, adequately resourced and able to access records, sites and witnesses.[21]

37. International law requires prompt, independent and impartial investigations, accountability, effective remedies and guarantees of non-repetition. These obligations apply to crimes committed by the former government and to violations committed during the transition. A selective process that excludes victims of post-8 December 2024 violations or abuses by non-state actors would undermine public confidence and the right of all victims to an effective remedy.[22,23,28]

38. Publicly available information still does not sufficiently clarify the commissions' mandates, powers, institutional independence, access to archives, coordination with prosecutors or arrangements for victim and family participation. Victims continue to face difficulties registering complaints, receiving updates and obtaining protection against retaliation. Families of missing persons often receive little or no information about the fate and whereabouts of relatives.

39. Archives, detention records, court files, former detention facilities, burial sites and forensic evidence are at immediate risk of destruction, tampering or unauthorized removal. These materials are essential for truth, family information, criminal accountability, reparations and institutional reform. Their preservation must be accompanied by privacy safeguards, chain-of-custody procedures and consultation with families and survivor-led organizations.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure the National Commission for Transitional Justice and the National Commission for Missing Persons are operationally independent, adequately resourced and empowered to access records, sites and witnesses.

2. Guarantee that transitional justice covers serious violations by all responsible actors, including violations committed during the transition.

3. Create secure procedures for receiving complaints, protecting victims and witnesses, and providing regular information to families.

4. Preserve archives, detention records, court files, former detention facilities and burial sites through legally enforceable protection and evidence-management protocols.

5. Provide interim reparations, including rehabilitation, psychosocial support and legal assistance, without making access contingent on completion of criminal proceedings.

6. Ensure meaningful participation of survivors, families, women, minorities, displaced persons and civil society in the design, implementation and monitoring of transitional justice measures.

3. Vulnerable groups and equal protection

40. The transition has not yet produced safe, non-discriminatory and accessible protection channels for groups at heightened risk. General equality provisions are insufficient without confidential reporting, urgent protection, witness-protection measures, referral pathways to medical and psychosocial care, and independent investigation of discrimination, abduction, gender-based violence and identity-based attacks.

41. The ICCPR, CEDAW, CRC, CAT and CRPD require equality before the law, non-discrimination and effective protection from violence, abduction, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment. The State must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and remedy violations committed by state actors and by private or armed actors where authorities know or should know of the risk.[2,4,6]

42. Women and girls, including Alawite women and girls, have reportedly faced targeted abductions, disappearances and gender-based violence since 2025. UN experts and human rights organizations have called for prompt, thorough and impartial investigations and stronger protection. Authorities should ensure that any official inquiry is transparent, survivor-centred, independent and capable of identifying perpetrators, including where checkpoints or armed actors may have facilitated abuse.[24,25]

43. Ethnic and religious minorities, including Alawite, Druze and Kurdish communities, have reported reprisal attacks, discriminatory searches, arbitrary arrests, house raids, property abuses and inadequate protection in several areas. Events on the Coast and in Suwayda demonstrate that identity-based violence can escalate rapidly when security operations are conducted through sectarian or ethnic profiling and when accountability is delayed.[11,12,19,28]

44. LGBTIQ+ persons face serious barriers to protection. Consensual same-sex relations remain criminalized under Article 520 of the Penal Code, and Syria lacks specific legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics. As a result, victims may avoid reporting violence, blackmail, sexual assault or extortion for fear of arrest, exposure, retaliation or further victimization.[26,27]

45. Children affected by arrest, disappearance, displacement or family separation face heightened risks. Publicly available information does not indicate adequate specialized procedures for children during arrest, screening, family tracing, detention visits, psychosocial referral or access to services. Child safeguards must be integrated into all checkpoint, detention, missing-persons and transitional justice procedures.

Recommendations:

1. Adopt binding non-discrimination directives for all security, justice and detention institutions and prohibit profiling based on religion, ethnicity, political opinion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, displacement status, civil documentation or family association.

2. Establish safe, confidential, gender-sensitive and child-sensitive reporting and urgent protection mechanisms for women, children, minorities, LGBTIQ+ persons, witnesses and families of missing persons.

3. Investigate abductions, disappearances, sectarian attacks, sexual violence and gender-based violence promptly and impartially, including possible involvement or acquiescence by security actors or armed groups.

4. Ensure security operations affecting ethnic or religious minorities are based on individualized suspicion, conducted by identifiable personnel under civilian oversight, and accompanied by remedies for unlawful searches, detention, injury and property seizure.

5. Repeal Article 520 and other discriminatory provisions used to criminalize or harass persons on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics.

6. Introduce child-specific safeguards for arrest, detention, family tracing, missing-persons procedures, psychosocial support and access to education and documentation.

7. Protect victims, witnesses, lawyers, human rights defenders and service providers from retaliation, and ensure access to protection and public services without discrimination.

Key recommendations

Recommendations:

1. Ensure that all arrests, searches, checkpoint procedures and detentions are lawful, recorded, non-discriminatory and subject to judicial oversight.
2. Establish a centralized detainee register, publish the list of official detention facilities and close all secret, informal or faction-run places of detention.
3. Guarantee prompt, confidential and effective access to legal counsel from the first moment of deprivation of liberty, and rescind any rule limiting lawyers to passive presence.
4. Prohibit torture and ill-treatment in law and practice, exclude coerced statements, document injuries independently and monitor all detention facilities.
5. Ratify OPCAT and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and establish independent preventive and missing-persons mechanisms consistent with those treaties.
6. Protect judicial independence, enforce release orders and ensure that civilians are tried only before ordinary, independent courts with full fair trial guarantees.
7. Adopt a comprehensive security-sector reform framework based on individual vetting, unified public chains of command, civilian oversight and exclusive lawful state control over law-enforcement powers.
8. Dismantle non-integrated checkpoints and detention sites and require all security personnel to be identifiable, trained and accountable.
9. Create safe and independent complaints mechanisms for security-sector abuses and protect victims, witnesses, lawyers and human rights defenders from retaliation.
10. Investigate serious violations committed during the transitional period promptly and impartially, suspend implicated personnel where necessary and publish aggregate information on outcomes.
11. Strengthen transitional justice and missing-persons mechanisms through independence, resources, access to records, victim participation and coverage of violations by all responsible actors.
12. Ensure equal protection for women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, children, LGBTIQ+ persons, displaced persons and other groups at heightened risk.
13. Respond urgently to abductions, disappearances, gender-based violence and sectarian attacks through survivor-centred protection, family information, criminal accountability and reparations.
14. Repeal discriminatory provisions criminalizing consensual same-sex relations and prohibit discrimination or harassment by law-enforcement officials.
15. Promote professional, community-oriented and rights-based public security through training on de-escalation, non-discrimination, trauma-informed policing and psychosocial support.

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Annex I. Submitting organizations

Organization	Acronym	Address	Contact person/email	Website
Association of Detainees and Missing Persons of Sednaya Prison	ADMSP	Damascus, Syria	Riyad Avlar, Co-founder, riyad@admsp.org	www.admsp.org
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International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims	IRCT	Borgergade 13, 1300 Copenhagen K, Denmark	Maeva Réné-Barry, UN Program Manager, mrb@irct.org	www.irct.org