FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Situation of Detainees and Disappearance of Civilians in Syria  
MAIN SUBMITTER: Syria

CO-SUBMITTERS: China, Ethiopia, Iran, Russia, France, Spain, South Africa, Mexico

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Guided by* the Charter of the United Nations, particularly its commitment to maintaining international peace and security and upholding every country’s individual sovereignty,

*Reaffirms* its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Taking* into account the devastating effects of the ongoing civil unrest in Syria following 2011, including but not limited to over 580,000 deaths and 6.7 million refugees,

*Emphasizing* the gravity of the continuing situation of unlawful detainees, the disappearance of civilians, and the multitude of international law violations by multiple States involved in the conflict in Syria,

*Noting especially* with concern the violations of international humanitarian law by the US-supported contingent observed in Northeast Syria with indiscriminate airstrikes that killed thousands of civilians,

*Recognizing* the need for restructuring and establishing a Syrian judicial system that offers due process to any accused of war crimes,

*Noting* the failure of previous United Nations efforts to adequately mitigate the conflict in Syria and the concerning situation Syrian immigrants face in immigrant camps in its neighboring countries,

*Understanding* the need for the Syrian Civil War to end for the crisis to be solved,

*Noting further* the recent catastrophe in both Syria and Turkey and their ensuing need to receive international assistance and be absolved from international sanctions until the situation can be improved,

*Drawing* the attention of Member States to the fact that the sanctions currently imposed upon Syria have severely limited the ability of Member States to provide adequate assistance to needy civilians,

1. Calls upon all Member States supporting groups seeking to undermine the Syrian Arab Republic, either militarily or economically, to desist and retract their support immediately, to prevent further detainees and disappearances in Syria, with the relevant groups and instated repercussions for incompliant nations outlined as follows, with the clause:
   1. encompassing the following groups:
      1. the Turkish-supported Syrian National Army (SNA) for their illegal detaining and subsequent torture of Syrian Kurds, as documented by the UN Commission of Inquiry,
      2. the Syrian Democratic Forces for their direct links with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), a group classified as a terrorist organization by the United States of America (USA) and Turkey,
      3. the Democratic Union Party (PYD), for their documented practices of killing protestors in May of 2021,
      4. the Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham, for their connections to Islamic Extremism and established practices of illegal detainment and connection to disappearances,
      5. the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), for their direct links to the Islamic State terrorist syndicate;
   2. creating a Council of Oversight on the Removal of Troops (CORIS) in Syria with members appointed by Syria and confirmed by a majority vote in the Security Council, where incompliant nations determined by the CORIS face the following repercussions:
      1. economic sanctions,
      2. removal from any relevant international organizations relating to human rights;
2. Emphasizes the need for the Syrian Arab Republic to end the civil war peacefully while also highlighting the critical role the UN plays in enforcing peace agreements through:
   1. implementing fair investigations and prosecutions at the domestic level to:
      1. prevent criminals from using loopholes in courts to escape justice,
      2. tackle questions of immunity of senior officials to make sure that nobody stands above the law;
   2. calling for troop demobilization and ensuring the process’s success through:
      1. ensuring that both the army and local armed force return to the barracks and come under official civilian control,
      2. reducing the risks for antagonists during the demobilization process by deterring any party from taking advantage of their adversary's vulnerability and by protecting any party that is taken advantage of during demobilization,
      3. monitoring parties involved in demobilization agreements to make sure all sides maintain compliance;
   3. focusing on mitigating the lack of trust between members of the belligerent local forces and civilians by supporting actors and organizations beyond those involved in the conflict in the nonviolent debate regarding issues of importance to the community;
3. Asks that countries sanctioning the Syrian Arab Republic, notably the United States of America (USA), lift their sanctions to provide greater support to Syrian civilians who face dangerous conditions resulting from the imposed sanctions:
   1. acknowledging that the USA has temporarily lifted some sanctions in order to aid Syrian citizens after the recent earthquake and strongly urging the USA to keep these sanctions lifted permanently to demonstrate their commitment to alleviating the struggles of citizens in Syria,
   2. encouraging France also to demonstrate commitment to alleviating Syria’s conditions by directly providing aid to the Syrian Arab Republic instead of going indirectly through the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations,
   3. reminding all Member States who currently impose sanctions on Syria that those sanctions block Syria from obtaining the necessary support needed, as the block on many international pharmaceutical companies from selling to Syria causes severe shortages of medical equipment and medicine;
4. Suggests that representatives from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) collaborate with Syria’s Court of Cassation’s civil, criminal, and military divisions to establish a judicial system capable of providing accused criminals with due process and a fair trial, according to the following guidelines:
   1. ensuring compliance with ICC and ICJ regulations,
   2. re-locating any trials involving Syrian nationals outside of Syria’s judicial jurisdiction into their jurisdiction to avoid incidents such as:
      1. February 24th, 2021, when the Higher Regional Court of Koblenz sentenced a Syrian national to 4-and-a-half years in prison for crimes against humanity,
      2. July 16th, 2021, when the Netherlands sentenced a Syrian national to 20 years in prison for war crimes in Syria,
   3. noting that the ruling Syrian President must approve any provision for the aforesaid judicial system to go into effect;
5. Urges Member States to recognize the vital regions of Aleppo and Idlib as within the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic to improve the accessibility for aid into Syria and limit the violence in Northwest Syria, specifically:
   1. requesting the removal of the Turkish military from both regions,
   2. asking for a UN-organized peacekeeping force consisting of military personnel from Russia, Iran, and Syria to ensure safe occupation of the region by Syrian forces;
6. Implores all Member States to recognize the Autonomous Administration of Northeast Syria (AANES) as a legal part of the Syrian Arab Republic to assist in:
   1. delegitimizing the AANES, an administration with documented cases of illegal detentions and enforced disappearances of civilians,
   2. liberating the Syrian Kurds currently facing oppression in the AANES;
7. Requests the assistance of the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide additional financial assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic to be distributed on the prerogative of the ruling Syrian President for CERF’s stated purposes of:
   1. supporting life-saving activities by assisting the recovery of those affected by the recent catastrophic earthquake,
   2. filling critical funding gaps caused by Syria’s dire economic circumstances,
   3. expanding assistance to inaccessible areas, especially the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, by the processes outlined in Operative Clause 5 subclause b.