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## A Joint Statement by the Syrian Civil Society Organizations

After a decade of conflict, progress towards a political solution in Syria still seems elusive, and innocent lives continue to be lost due to violence and massive violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which include arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearances, torture, sexual assault and unlawful executions of the abducted and detainees. Several reports by reliable Syrian and international human rights organizations indicate that the Syrian regime has used arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance as a systematic approach to suppress the political opposition and dissenters by targeting peaceful activists, political opponents along with their relatives and stigmatizing everyone as terrorists, including those who provide medical and humanitarian services.

The shocking scenes that appeared in the video of the Tadamon neighborhood massacre, which was carried out by members of the Military Security branch in the Tadamon neighborhood in Damascus in April 2013, and claimed the lives of dozens of civilians, reminded the Syrians of the horrific massacres carried out by the Syrian regime against civilians during the years of conflict, emphasizing that this video is not the first and it will not be the last; yet, despite the spread of many previous videos of similar crimes, no decisive measures have been taken in holding those responsible for the massacres to account, the thing which reinforced the idea of impunity for criminals.

The recent amnesty issued by the Syrian regime is nothing but an attempt to whitewash and generate media coverage of the Tadamon neighborhood massacre, and it does not carry any real guarantees. On the contrary, it will open the door to new exactions against families to know about the fate of their relatives. Add to this the inhuman and degrading method of release. We consider this step by the Syrian regime to come in the context of its quest to float itself and restore normalization with it.

Based on all of the aforementioned, and at the request of [the Syrian Legal Platform](#), many [Syrian civil society organizations](#) that signed this statement call on the international community to assume its legal responsibilities towards what is happening in Syria and work on:

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## Recommendations:

- Putting pressure on the Assad regime to oblige it to provide complete, transparent, and accurate information about all detainees' detention conditions and whereabouts and to disclose their fate since the detainees' file cannot be negotiated or waived and must be separated from all political dimensions.
- Immediate and unconditional compliance with the binding resolutions of the Security Council No. (2139, 2165, 2191, 2258, 2332), which state the "immediate release of all arbitrarily detained persons, starting with women and children, the sick, wounded and the elderly, United Nations staff and humanitarian workers, as well as journalists.
- Providing unrestricted and immediate access for fully independent international monitors to all places of detention in Syria and the whereabouts of the remains and involving families/international staff in the exhumation and identification of bodies before they are returned to the families for burial.
- Ensuring that all necessary steps and measures are taken to prevent similar violations in the future.
- Supporting the efforts of human rights organizations working in the field of achieving justice, supporting litigation processes, and expanding their scope in Europe. Supporting the linkages between the survivors and victims' families, in addition to supporting recovery mechanisms and achieving comprehensive accountability.
- Isolating all those accused of war crimes, crimes of torture, or any crimes against humanity from any political process in Syria.
- Providing legal protection for Syrian refugees in countries of asylum, continuing to deliver humanitarian support to them, and ensuring the return of Syrian refugees to Syria, provided that the return is voluntary, safe, and dignified.