



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Sixty-first session

23 February–31 March 2026

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 27 March 2026

### 61/3. Supporting human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic from 2011 to April 2025,

*Reaffirming also* its strong commitment to full respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Recalling* that December 2025 marked one year since the end of the former Syrian regime, which had failed to meet its responsibility to protect the Syrian population and to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all persons within its jurisdiction, including persons in detention and their families, and to investigate allegations of war crimes as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and recalling also the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that crimes against humanity and war crimes were likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Deploing* that, since 2011, the former Syrian regime had consistently used arbitrary detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence and enforced disappearance, and other detention-related violations to intimidate, punish and coerce perceived political opponents, dissenting civilians and their family members, in addition to summary executions, extrajudicial killings, the targeting of civilians and the use of chemical weapons, as documented by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic,<sup>1</sup> established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1 of 23 August 2011, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

*Commending* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the progress achieved since December 2024, and bearing in mind the significant difference in the human rights situation since the period 2011–2024,

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<sup>1</sup> See A/HRC/46/55. See also the conference room paper of the Commission of Inquiry entitled “‘Web of agony’: arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by former government forces in the Syrian Arab Republic (companion report to A/HRC/46/55)”, available on the web page of the Commission of Inquiry, at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iici-syria/documentation>.



*Recalling*, as noted by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, that the political transition must be representative, inclusive and comprehensive and meet the legitimate aspirations and advance the fulfilment of the human rights of all Syrian people, in all their diversity, and that failure to do so risks renewed violence, fragmentation and prolonged instability.

*Recalling also* in this regard the intervention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic during the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, in particular the sentiment that those governing the Syrian Arab Republic bore profound responsibility to ensure that the atrocities and violations committed by the former regime were never repeated, and that the Syrian people deserved a homeland where their rights were safeguarded, their voices were heard and their dignity was preserved,

*Expressing* deep concern over the reports of serious human rights violations and abuses, including alarming allegations of attacks on the civilian population since December 2024, including in coastal regions in March 2025, in Damascus in June 2025, in Suwayda' and in the south of the country in July 2025, in Homs in December 2025 and in Aleppo in January 2026,

*Welcoming* the establishment of national commissions to ensure accountability and justice and to clarify the fate of missing persons, and emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to addressing the past through transitional justice, incorporating the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice, provide victims and families with access to remedy, promote healing and reconciliation, ensure confidence in the institutions of the State and promote the rule of law in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, with a view to preventing the recurrence of violations and abuses,

*Reiterating its grave concern* at the findings of the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attributing responsibility for multiple chemical weapons attacks to the former Syrian regime, expressing its strong conviction that all those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic must be held accountable, and welcoming in this regard the commitment expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue cooperation with the Organization,

*Acknowledging* the important role of Syrian and international civil society, human rights defenders, independent media and victims, survivors and their families in documenting violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic throughout the conflict and post-conflict period, often at great personal risk, in pursuit of truth and accountability, emphasizing the importance of their ongoing contribution to the transitional justice process, recognizing that their participation is essential to achieving justice, accountability and sustainable peace and that their full, meaningful and safe participation must be at the centre of all transitional justice efforts, and noting in this regard the widening of media freedoms and the regeneration of civil society activity in the Syrian Arab Republic since December 2024,

*Underscoring* the roles of the Office of the High Commissioner, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, and the Commission of Inquiry, as well as that of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic,

*Welcoming* the continued access provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic since December 2024 to these entities to support investigations and accountability efforts, which was denied by the former regime,

*Underscoring* the contributions of these entities, according to their independent and complementary mandates, in providing support for national efforts undertaken by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, including with regard to the National Commission for Transitional Justice and the National Commission for Missing Persons, to ensure Syrian-led, Syrian-owned truth, justice and accountability, and welcoming the increasing access granted by the Government,

*Noting* with concern reports by the Commission of Inquiry documenting a wave of violence since January 2025 in coastal, western and central regions of the country, including Ladhikiyah, including reports of abductions, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and

acts that may amount to war crimes, the latter being perpetrated both by remnants of the former regime and by aligned militias and individuals linked to government forces, as well as by private individuals, and noting the detrimental impact that such attacks have on peace and national reconciliation,

*Welcoming* statements by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in which it condemned reported human rights violations and abuses committed in coastal and southern regions and initiated steps to investigate and hold accountable those responsible, including establishing national fact-finding commissions and pursuing criminal prosecutions, as well as granting access to the Commission of Inquiry to conduct its independent investigations, without interference, and in full conformity with its mandate, and stressing the need to end impunity for all violations and abuses, past and present, in a manner consistent with international obligations, commitments and standards,

*Underscoring* the urgent need to preserve and secure all documentation, information and evidence related to violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, to ensure Syrian-led, Syrian-owned accountability, supported by the continuation of international efforts to this end,

*Noting* that, despite the welcome release by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of prisoners since December 2024, efforts to establish the fate and whereabouts of those who remain missing and the need to support victims, survivors and their families, including through psychosocial assistance, will continue for years to come, and that such efforts can be supported by the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, encouraging continued coordination and cooperation between the National Commission for Missing Persons, Syrian and international civil society, including associations and groups of survivors and their families, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and other technical experts on these efforts, and recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 77/301, called upon all States and other relevant actors to cooperate with the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is humanitarian in nature,

*Supporting* efforts made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic that affirm the territorial integrity and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic, reject any form of division and ensure the rights of all Syrians to representation and participation in the political process and all State institutions on the basis of competence, regardless of their religious or ethnic background, and considering these endeavours important steps towards strengthening the political and civil rights of Syrians, enhancing security and stability and safeguarding the unity of the Syrian Arab Republic and its territorial integrity,

*Welcoming* the commitments made in Presidential Decree No. 13 of 2026, regarding the rights of Kurdish citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the ceasefire and integration agreements announced on 18 and 30 January 2026, and calling for the full implementation of arrangements for civil, economic, administrative and military integration in the framework of a unified, sovereign and inclusive country,

*Acknowledging* the statements of the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, who noted incursions by Israel, in violation of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement of 1974, which risk further destabilizing an already fragile situation, heightening regional tensions and undermining efforts towards de-escalation and a sustainable political transition, and emphasizing in this regard the importance of ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with international law, including the principles of the Charter and relevant Security Council resolutions,

*Expressing its support* for the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in its efforts, in line with international law, to ensure that terrorist groups cannot re-establish a haven in Syrian territory, in order to preserve the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and ensure peaceful coexistence,

*Recognizing* the continued need for the rapid, safe, unhindered and sustainable delivery of humanitarian aid to all people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, recognizing also the need for sustainable interventions such as early recovery and reconstruction, which contribute to the recovery of the country and facilitate the safe, unhindered and dignified return of refugees, and welcoming the exemptions from, exceptions

to and suspension and lifting of a number of sanctions and restrictive measures applied to the Syrian Arab Republic since the fall of the former regime, in order to promote long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts in support of the country's prosperity and long-term stability,

1. *Reaffirms* its support for the Syrian people in their pursuit of a peaceful, representative and inclusive political process, in the spirit of the fundamental principles of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) of 18 December 2015, and expresses its support for the efforts of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria in aiding them in their endeavour;

2. *Recalls* the provisions of the Constitutional Declaration signed in March 2025 affirming that the State shall guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms, notes with support the provisions made on freedom of expression, freedom of religion and women's rights, and in this regard calls for their implementation and expresses its hope that the Constitutional Declaration will serve as a solid framework for a successful, orderly and inclusive transition and a peaceful future for the Syrian Arab Republic, ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Syrians, achieving justice and accountability and upholding good governance and the rule of law;

3. *Welcomes* the indirect parliamentary elections held thus far in the Syrian Arab Republic as a step forward in the country's political process, while recognizing the need for continued efforts to enhance the participation, representation and leadership of women and girls from all religious and ethnic communities in a free and dignified manner, as well as the need to draft a permanent constitution and hold general elections, and looks forward to the final results of the elections once they have been held in Hasakah, Raqqah and Suwayda';

4. *Encourages* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure a sustainable path towards credible accountability for all crimes that does justice to the victims, survivors and their families and contributes to reconciliation and a peaceful future for all Syrians, and recognizes in this regard the fact that the Constitutional Declaration included a provision to establish a transitional justice commission, but also the multitude of challenges faced by the Government in its pursuit of Syrian-led, Syrian-owned accountability and transitional justice owing to the scale of the former regime's serious violations and their complex consequences;

5. *Welcomes* in this regard the establishment by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of the National Commission for Transitional Justice, encourages the National Commission to seek accountability to all victims of mass atrocity crimes, in accordance with international law, while cooperating with and receiving technical support from national and international bodies, including Syrian and international civil society, acknowledges the drafting of a law on transitional justice and emphasizes the importance of a strong legislative foundation for future action;

6. *Reiterates* its call upon the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure that allegations of all crimes that appear to constitute retaliation are investigated and that perpetrators are held to account through transparent and appropriate judicial mechanisms that are compliant with human rights standards, and acknowledges in this regard the formal initiation of criminal proceedings against alleged perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses committed in the coastal regions in March 2025, and further commitments made at the highest levels of the Syrian Arab Republic to hold accountable all those involved in the events of March 2025 and July 2025;

7. *Supports* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in its efforts to ensure the preservation of documentation, information and evidence related to violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including mass burial sites, and encourages the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to develop a comprehensive and sustainable system for maintaining such evidence;

8. *Encourages* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue its positive engagement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Independent International Commission of

Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant special procedures, as well as with Syrian civil society, including victim associations and groups, and in this regard calls upon these organizations and mechanisms to coordinate their approach and activities to ensure effectiveness;

9. *Expresses support* for civil society, human rights defenders, victims, survivors and their families and for their continued role in Syrian-led, Syrian-owned, inclusive and victim-centred transitional justice and accountability efforts, and in this regard stresses the need for the protection of civic space and free, impartial media and for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and leadership of women in the political transition;

10. *Decides*, in order to support further progress on human rights, to extend the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic<sup>2</sup> for a period of one year, and in this context requests the Commission of Inquiry to do the following within its existing capacity:

(a) To work in a manner that complements national efforts and is aimed at helping the Syrian Arab Republic ensure that it meets its international human rights obligations, while fully maintaining the independence of the Commission of Inquiry and the protection of victims and witnesses;

(b) To provide methodological advice, based on its practical experience and expertise, to support national investigations into allegations of human rights violations and abuses at the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and in coordination with relevant United Nations entities;

(c) To provide advice based on its expertise to Syrian national entities, including the National Commission for Transitional Justice, in areas related to ensuring justice and accountability, preventing violations and improving the human rights situation, in coordination with relevant United Nations entities;

(d) To present to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session an oral update and a report covering the period January 2026–January 2027, with a focus on an assessment of the human rights situation in the country and priorities for technical assistance and capacity-building to support domestic efforts in the fields of human rights, accountability and transitional justice, which will further advance recommendations by the Commission of Inquiry at the sixty-fourth session of the Council, to be presented during a joint interactive dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under agenda item 2;

11. *Welcomes* the broad access granted by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Commission of Inquiry, encourages continued cooperation between the Commission of Inquiry and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, and encourages the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue to grant the Commission of Inquiry necessary access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

12. *Recognizes* the need to review the most appropriate and effective approach to be taken by the Human Rights Council to advancing the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the relevance and scope of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry, considering progress made on the implementation of the present resolution by its sixty-fourth session;

13. *Reaffirms* its decision to transmit the report and oral updates of the Commission of Inquiry to relevant bodies of the United Nations;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*51st meeting  
27 March 2026*

[Adopted without a vote.]

<sup>2</sup> As established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1 of 23 August 2011.