



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL

ARRIA-FORMULA – TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND MISSING PERSONS IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

President,

The fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 marked the end of a decade long period of suffering but also the long-awaited promise of an opportunity for Syrians to rebuild their society and freely determine their own future. These changes also bring challenges rooted in the former regime's system of oppression. Liechtenstein reiterates the necessity of reckoning with a period of history marked by atrocity crimes through a robust transitional justice process. Member States can and should play a strong supportive role in addressing the collective trauma caused by these mass atrocities committed by the former Syrian regime and assist efforts to rebuild trust and ensure that Syrian authorities work inclusively with all communities to prevent outbreaks of violence, such as in the southern governorate last year. The launch of a national inquiry in this respect demonstrates the Syrian authorities' commitment to advancing accountability, and we are pleased today to hear from both the Head of the Syrian National Commission on Transitional Justice and of the Syrian National Commission for the Missing. They deserve the support of the international community in their efforts to address history and help Syrians to turn the page on the past.

President,

On the missing persons and transitional justice files, we highlight the roles of the IIMP, COI, and IIIM and encourage their continued collaboration – both with each other and with Syrian-led and owned organizations.

On this note, let us thank ASG Quintana for her briefing. Liechtenstein fully supports the IIMP and commends the progress made in the time since the end of the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. Determining the fate of the people who have gone missing is integral part of the process of transitional justice.

With respect to the IIIM, Liechtenstein commends the work accomplished by the Mechanism under Mr. Robert Petit's leadership. Thanks to the Syrian authorities' assistance, the Mechanism has begun conducting investigative activities in Syria in support of extraterritorial prosecutions for the first time last year. The Mechanism has deepened its dialogue with the Syrian authorities and continued engaging with other relevant actors, creating the basis for close collaboration. In this regard, we welcome the IIIM's recent convening of the first in-country technical workshop on information and evidence management as well as its continued engagement with the National Commission for Transitional Justice to explore avenues for further collaboration.

We encourage the mechanism to continue facilitating investigations of the most serious crimes, while Syrian authorities receive capacity-building support, enabling them to process more cases as their expertise grows. All investigative mechanisms can only share evidence with competent jurisdictions that meet international human rights standards, including with respect to the death penalty. Finally, we encourage the Syrian authorities to continue expanding operational access for the IIIM and its presence on the ground.

I thank you.