

Joint Statement

Syrian Civil Society Call for Credible Syrian-Led Political Process for Syria

169 Syrian Civil Society Organisations Urge for Political Transition to Remain focus of Geneva Talks

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Friday, August 4, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria

[4 August 2017] In a 2 August [letter](#) to UN Special Envoy Staffan De Mistura, 169 Syrian civil society organisations and activists highlight the failure of the Geneva process to deliver tangible progress and relief for Syrians, urging the UN to ensure a credible negotiated end to the conflict remains an utmost and urgent priority.

Recent rounds of UN-led Geneva talks have been seriously undermined by a focus on process over substance, the damaging influence of international actors, and a lack of political will to advance the process – yet the suffering in Syria continues.



“Sadly, the Geneva process has delivered neither peace nor protection to the Syrian people who are increasingly disillusioned with a process that continues to fail them. We are keen to reverse this trend as without the support of Syrian civil society no political deal will be either sustainable or legitimate, and right now the current process is losing our support. Syrian civil society’s priority is to achieve an inclusive transition to a free and democratic Syria,” the signatories state.





The 169 Syrian civil society organisations and activists call on UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura to:

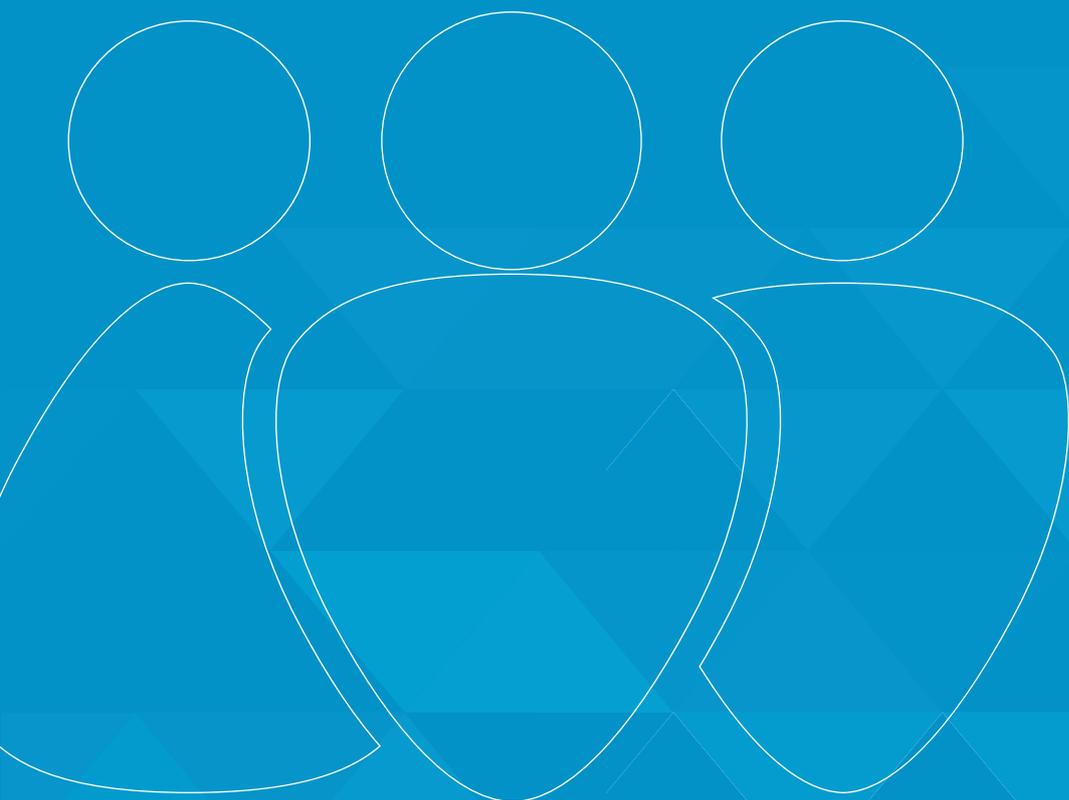
- **Ensure that the Geneva process serves the interests of Syrians, first and foremost, and is not driven entirely by international actors.** This requires a re-focus of the Geneva talks onto transition, as per UNSCR 2254.
- **Draw from the legitimacy and unique contribution of Syrian civil society** to ensure a sustainable political agreement for Syria. This includes using civil society’s expertise on the four baskets to unlock progress in the talks and move to concrete discussions towards transition. Only Syrian civil society can create the broad buy-in from the ground for any political agreement.
- **Demand the enforcement of UNSCRs that call for the protection of civilians** to make the Geneva process viable. To do so, we urge you to press the parties to the conflict and especially the backers of the Syrian regime to enforce a sustainable nationwide ceasefire with a UN-led monitoring mechanism and credible enforcement.



- **Ensure that concrete progress on humanitarian access, the detainee file and forced displacement is at the heart of the Geneva negotiations.** In particular, we call on you to fulfil your mandate and ensure progress on the detainee file including by securing (i) a comprehensive plan for the release of detainees beyond small-scale prisoner exchanges; (ii) information about the fates of all Syrians forcibly disappeared; (iii) access by international monitors to all detention facilities; and (iv) a halt to execution orders, particularly in regime security and military facilities, as well as in those run by armed groups.

The full letter and list of signatories can be found [here](#).





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