

عائلات  
من أجل الحرية



FAMILIES FOR  
FREEDOM



We are Syrian families demanding freedom for all of the country's sons and daughters. Our position is against enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention by the Syrian regime and all parties to the conflict. We want to mobilise the public to pressure all sides to comply with our demands.

**Families for Freedom was founded in Geneva in 2017.**



# OUR DEMANDS



WE MAKE OUR  
DEMANDS ON  
BEHALF OF  
EVERY SYRIAN  
FAMILY WITH A  
LOVED ONE  
DETAINED OR  
DISAPPEARED.

# OUR DEMANDS

- For the Syrian regime to immediately release a list of names of all detainees, along with their current locations and statuses, and to immediately stop torture and mistreatment. In the case of death of a detainee, a death certificate along with a report on causes of death and burial location must be presented to the families.
- Pressure the Syrian government to allow international humanitarian organizations to immediately deliver food and medical aid, and to allow international monitors to inspect detention facilities and ensure they meet minimum human rights standards
- Abolish exceptional courts, especially field, war and counter-terrorism courts and guarantee fair trials under a supervision from the United Nations
- Hold to account all those responsible from all sides, and particularly the Syrian government, for the violations they have committed and are continue to commit against the arbitrarily detained and their families as an essential step toward justice



Our journey  
started in  
London



With the  
Freedom Bus



# Campaigning and Advocacy

Since the movement was founded, we have made numerous visits around the world and organized vigils for detainees in several European capitals, starting with London





**Then we went to Paris**





**Berlin**



**And,  
Brussels**



# Briefing the UN Security Council - 2019



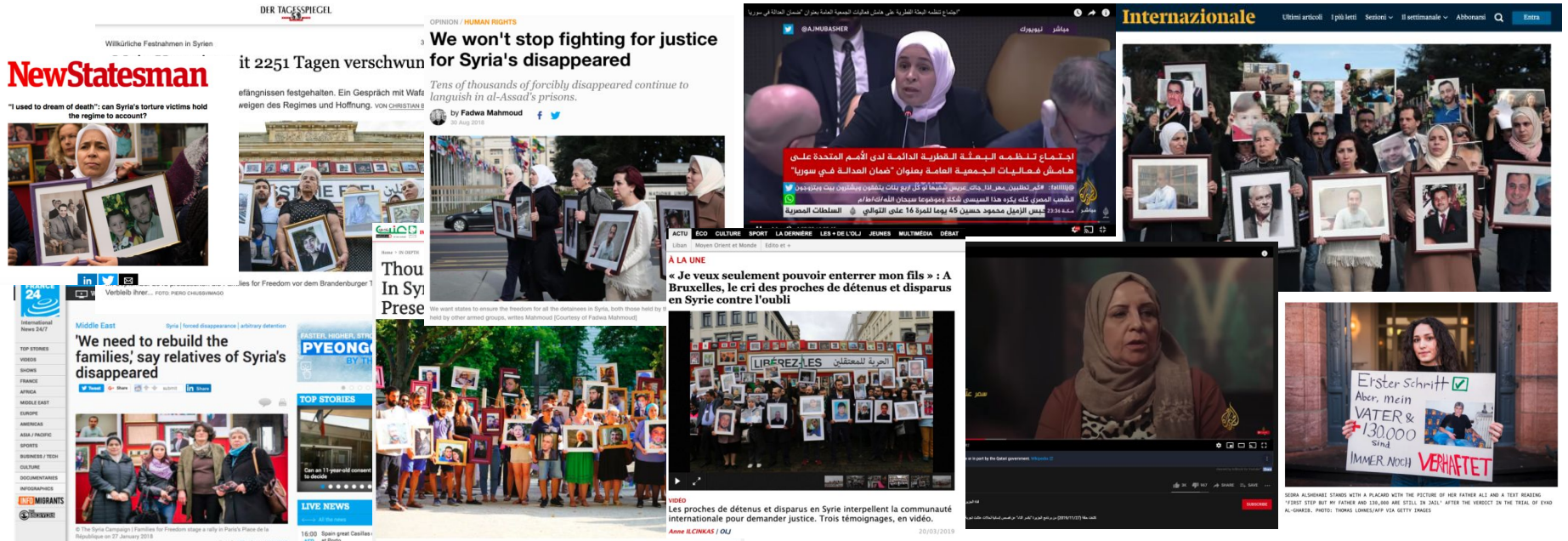
# And, we didn't stop there.

Our movement has communicated with several influential countries in the negotiation tracks, with the UN envoy, as well as with several representatives of the negotiating delegations in Geneva.





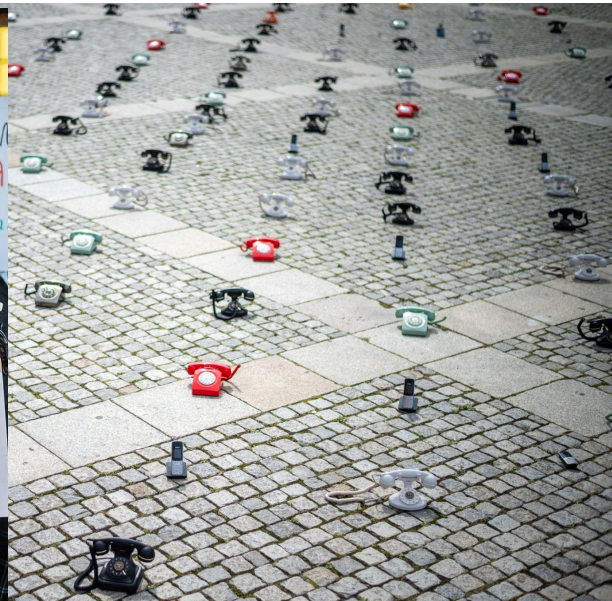
Families topped articles in international newspapers to bring the issue of detainees to the most important international newspapers.





# And, we didn't stop there.

Our movement drew the world's attention to the suffering of the detainees, as well as the suffering of their families. Over **30000** people from across the world joined our asks by signing petitions, taking action online and joining our vigils.



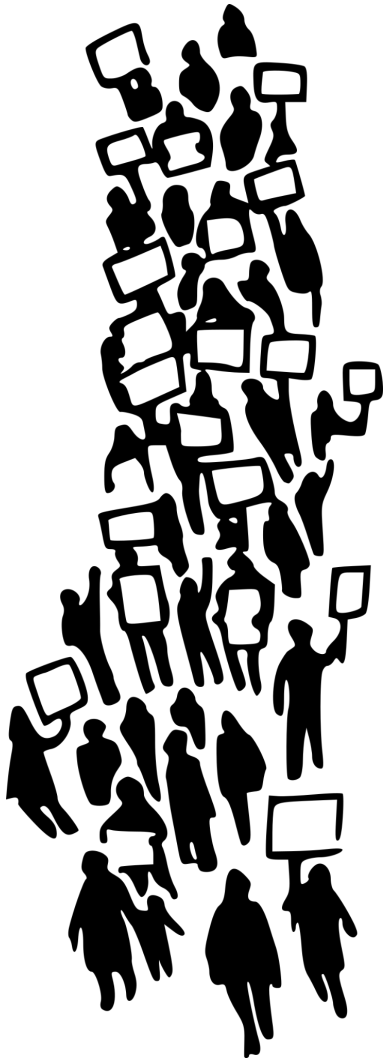
# And, we didn't stop there.

Our movement has also presented a new picture to the world of Syrian women working for justice



# The Movement

The movement was founded by a group of Syrian women and it's constantly expanding with families from various backgrounds and geographical locations. Today, the movement consists of 201 members of women in the diaspora and inside Syria with local chapters in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and across Europe.





In local chapters, families hold regular meetings to ensure mutual support, solidarity and to think about future activities





We joined forces in 2021 with Ta'afi, the Caesar Families Association, the Coalition of Families of persons kidnapped by ISIS (Massar) and the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison to the launch **the Truth and Justice Charter**

# الحقيقة والعدالة أولاً Truth and Justice First

ميثاق الحقيقة والعدالة  
Truth and Justice Charter



# Truth and Justice Charter

The Charter seeks to present a complete picture of the stance of victims of arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, and torture with regards to Syrian issues, present and future; how best to work on them; and how to define victims' demands.

# Demands of the Charter

Below, we outline our vision, aspirations, and demands in order to uphold our rights as survivors, victims, and family members

## **The immediate release of detainees, and revealing the fate of the forcibly disappeared**

The international community and all international entities concerned with the situation in Syria, including the UN and its agencies, must act quickly to mobilize all their resources to determine the fate of victims of enforced disappearance and address all aspects of this issue.



## **The immediate halt to torture, inhuman treatment, and sexual crimes**

These include physical and mental torture, sexual crimes, and degrading detention conditions which frequently cause permanent harm.



The effects of torture are not limited to the detained and forcibly disappeared themselves, but also extend to the psychological torture suffered by their relatives.

## **The abolition of field and exceptional courts**

Those with summary judicial proceedings that rely on security reports and confessions extracted under torture by security agencies, revoke verdicts issued by these courts, release those sentenced by them; and invalidate the consequences of these verdicts such as stripping of their civil rights.



Exceptional courts, especially military field courts, deprive families of the right to know the fate of their relatives and the verdicts issued against them. These courts have deprived detainees of their minimum rights, such as appointing a defence lawyer and limiting detention to the most serious crimes.

# A vision of justice

# Demands of the Charter

## **Fair and independent civil courts adhering to international standards**

Those detained arbitrarily must be released immediately. Others detained on lawful grounds must be referred to courts that meet international standards of fairness and independence. They must also enjoy the right to a fair trial.

## **Returning the remains of those killed under conditions of enforced disappearance and detention**

All parties must reveal the truth of the circumstances of death and the location of the remains of those who were executed or killed under torture and all forms of cruel treatment at detention facilities, and hand over their remains to their families to ensure a proper burial.

All parties must ensure that mass graves are not tampered with, and that evidence is not contaminated.

No death certificate may be accepted as valid without the remains of the deceased also being received, and a death certificate may not be considered as evidence of the fate of the disappeared.

## **Reform the security and judicial institutions and their practices**

The security and judicial institutions in Syria have committed many violations against Syrian citizens, as well as overlooking or facilitating the commission of these crimes by other parties.

To ensure non-repetition of these events, significant reform is required

# Recommendations Linked to the Future of Syria



# Demands of the Charter

## Recognition of the truth and memorialization

Independent truth-seeking mechanisms must be established to reveal the circumstances and facts of the violations. These mechanisms must include the diverse voices of victims in order to develop an accurate historical narrative.

This must be followed by a formal acknowledgment of these violations by a future Syrian government responsible for transitional justice, in addition to establishing mechanisms to preserve the memory of the victims as part of the historical record.



## Compensation and reparations

Material and moral reparations including rehabilitation and health service provision.

Reparation for severe and permanent harm caused by these crimes.

Restitution of victims' rights as a binding principle for the Syrian government.



## Vision on Accountability and Preventing Impunity

In addition to our demands above, criminal accountability is also crucial as part of our vision of long-term justice. To ensure accountability, action is needed both immediately and in the future.

A fair accountability mechanism must be established with international guarantees, covering all those involved in violations in Syria, with no immunity for any person. This mechanism must ensure that victims and their families fully participate in the process, laying the foundations of genuine and effective transitional justice.

All countries must bear their legal and humanitarian responsibilities to refer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court, or to form a special international criminal tribunal for Syria.

# Vision of Accountability and Ensuring No Impunity

