

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES RELATED TO SYRIA'S MISSING

1. A constitution is one of the most important guarantees that ensures the rule of law and strengthens respect for fundamental rights. It essentially comprises a set of rules that govern the relationship between citizens and the ruling power. The drafting of a modern Syrian constitution that contributes to the building of a rule of law and ensures guarantees for human rights by putting an end to the practice of enforced disappearances and addresses the issue of missing persons is essential to any future Syrian political settlement. The future Syrian constitution must address the legacy of systematic human rights abuses, including widespread enforced disappearances, on the one hand, and the establishment of guarantees to protect all persons from enforced disappearances in the future, on the other hand. While a constitution must be forward-looking, it must also include provisions within the body of the text or as part of an annex or schedule addressing past crimes through transitional justice mechanisms. For purposes of this paper, the Policy Coordination Group for Syria's Missing and Disappeared (PCG) has not separated the provisions dealing with past crimes into an interim annex or schedule, but doing so may indeed be both advantageous and expeditious. Such a separation may allow for the interim provisions to be more easily adopted and revised according to the evolving needs and changing realities. If the drafters of Syria's future constitution choose to include these transitional justice provisions as part of an annex or schedule, though, it is important that they be granted equal constitutional weight as the constitution.
2. The PCG has delineated the provisions into two categories: those directly related to the issue of missing persons and those indirectly related. Provisions directly related to the issue of missing persons include rights related to life, dignity, physical and psychological integrity, safeguards against the deprivation of liberty and the right to a fair trial, transitional justice measures and restrictions on rights and freedoms, security and military sector reform, and the presence of competent constitutional bodies. However, it is not possible to implement these provisions and ensure that violations do not reoccur without a political transition that guarantees the building of the rule of law and the establishment of governing bodies that observe the implementation of all interlinked, mutually reinforcing and indivisible human rights, which is indirectly related to the issue of the missing and is reinforced by certain constitutional texts.
3. The PCG believes that the consideration of each of these direct and indirect provisions in a future Syrian constitution is essential to address the issue of Syria's missing whose numbers exceed 100,000 persons. While the PCG does not demand that all the proposed constitutional provisions be adopted as included in this paper, it is essential that any changes made to the proposed provisions prioritize and protect the rights of the missing and their families.
4. These constitutional provisions were developed after the PCG consulted with numerous Syrian and non-Syrian constitutional and transitional justice experts, and reviewed a range of relevant research, publications, and international instruments, in addition to the constitutions of various states, such as those that have experienced conflict and transitional governance, without neglecting the content of the previous and current Syrian constitutions. The draft provisions were also presented to various Syrian civil society organizations, including primarily those concerned with the issue of the missing, during consultative meetings and by e-mail. Some of the provisions were modified based on the suggestions, discussions and comments received. Importantly, nothing in this paper should be understood as an invocation of non-entry into force of the next Syrian constitution to delay measures related to transitional justice, including the release of detainees, the disclosure of the fate of the missing and the achievement of a transition or political settlement that could precede the adoption of a new Syrian constitution.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ISSUE OF THE MISSING

I. RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

i. The Right to Life and Dignity

1. Human life is sacred and inviolable.
2. The State shall guarantee respect for and protection of human dignity.

ii. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the Right to a Fair Trial

1. The State shall protect individual freedom from infringement. Arrests and house searches without a warrant, without legal justification and without revealing the identity of the executing authority shall be prohibited.
2. The accused shall have the right to remain silent and any person arrested or detained shall not be interrogated in the absence of his or her lawyer. Confession obtained under torture or duress shall not be admitted into evidence.
3. All persons deprived of liberty shall have the right to communicate with their family or any other person of their choice within hours of arrest.
4. The extension of detention without judicial proceedings shall be prohibited, and the accused shall have the right to challenge the lawfulness of the arrest, to be brought before a court within 48 hours, which shall decide whether the detention continues or ceases in accordance with the law.
5. The prison is a correctional and rehabilitation facility. Detention of persons shall be permitted only in designated and officially recognized places, all of which shall be subject to supervision by the judiciary and the Human Rights Commission. Discrimination between persons deprived of liberty in treatment or in litigation and other legal proceedings shall be prohibited.
6. The State shall prepare official and updated records containing the names of persons deprived of liberty, as well as the date, time and place of detention, the arresting authority, the detaining authority, the date and time of reception, the reasons for detention and the health conditions of the detained.
7. Members of the Human Rights Commission, relatives of the person deprived of liberty, his or her representatives or lawyer shall have the right to access the information contained in the official records mentioned in the preceding paragraph and its update. The State shall ensure that these individuals are protected from intimidation, ill-treatment or violations of their fundamental rights for requesting information about the person deprived of liberty.
8. Every accused person is innocent until found guilty by an irrevocable court judgement. The multiplicity of levels of appeal in court shall be guaranteed.

9. Punishment shall be personal. There shall be no crime or punishment except as provided by law. Criminal laws shall not have a retroactive effect and no penalty shall be inflicted except by an irrevocable court judgement.
10. The right of defense before the judiciary shall be guaranteed. Court hearings shall be held in public, except in cases where secrecy is required by law for objective reasons and in accordance with the International Bill of Human Rights. Verdicts shall be pronounced in open court.
11. The State shall guarantee the independence of lawyers and the right to legal assistance for those who need it in criminal cases.
12. The State shall compensate for unlawful arrest, pre-trial detention or arbitrary detention, as well as for the damage resulting from the execution of a sentence following a judicial decision that turned out to be wrong.
13. The establishment of special courts and the trial of civilians before military courts shall be prohibited.

iii. Physical and Mental Integrity

1. The State shall guarantee the provision of the necessary food, adequate sanitary conditions, and medical care in all places of deprivation of liberty.
2. The State shall take all necessary measures to prevent anyone from being subjected to torture, cruel punishment, inhuman or degrading treatment.
3. The State shall ensure that no one is subjected to enforced disappearance or arbitrary detention.
4. No exceptional measures or circumstances may be invoked to justify the practice of enforced disappearance, torture, cruel punishment, inhuman or degrading treatment.
5. The invocation of orders and instructions from superior officials shall not absolve the perpetrator of the crime of torture, enforced disappearance or arbitrary detention from responsibility and punishment.
6. The penalty shall be increased if the perpetrator of the crime of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention or torture abuses his public position or the authority delegated to him or her to commit the violation, and the penalty shall apply to the perpetrator, instigator and accomplice. The penalty shall be increased if the violation is accompanied by sexual or gender-based violence, or if it is committed against a minor or a physically disabled person.
7. Anyone who has knowledge of an enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention or an act of torture and does not report it to the Public Prosecutor's Office shall be punished by imprisonment.
8. The Public Prosecutor's Office shall initiate proceedings and prosecute those responsible as soon as it has knowledge of the occurrence of an enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention or act of torture.
9. Victims, their legal representatives, or the Human Rights Commission shall have the right to request the initiation of a lawsuit against the perpetrators of the crimes or violations mentioned

in this article.

10. The State shall guarantee the safety of the initiators referred to in the preceding paragraph and ensure that they will not be subjected to damages or other retaliatory measures.
11. The State shall ensure the right of the victims and/or their families to compensation and reparations in the event of a proven violation.
12. The crimes of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture shall not be subject to prescription and shall be excluded from amnesty and pardon.
13. The State shall guarantee the right of political asylum to aliens. No alien may be expelled, deported or extradited to another state if there is reason to believe that he or she may be subjected to torture, execution, enforced disappearance or other violations of his or her fundamental rights.

II. RESTRICTIONS ON RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

1. Constitutional rights and freedoms shall not be restricted except to a very limited extent and as may be necessary in the State of law to ensure public safety, public order, the protection of public health or the rights and freedoms of others.
2. No restrictions shall be imposed except in accordance with law provisions announced and published in the Official Gazette.
3. Each restriction shall be proportionate to the aim sought, and the core or substance of the fundamental rights shall not be compromised.
4. A state of emergency, martial law or mobilization shall not be declared and extraordinary measures shall not be taken unless the following conditions are met:
 - a. The existence of a serious danger and a situation that threatens the safety and security of the country;
 - b. Determining the areas over which these measures are imposed in accordance with the preceding paragraph;
 - c. Obtaining the approval of at least two-thirds of the members of Parliament;
 - d. Setting the duration of the state of emergency, martial law, mobilization or extraordinary measures to thirty days maximum, renewable once during the calendar year for the same period, with the approval of two-thirds of the members of Parliament each time;
 - e. Providing the possibility of challenging the constitutionality of the declaration of a state of emergency, martial law, mobilization or extraordinary measures and all laws derived therefrom before the Constitutional Court;
 - f. Ensuring that constitutional rights are restricted only minimally and proportionately to the prevention of grave and immediate danger;
 - g. Prohibiting civil actions in military courts;
 - h. Ensuring that there is no discrimination in the application of these measures based on race, color, sex, language, religion, caste, social origin, religious, philosophical or political beliefs, sexual orientation, economic status, physical or mental disability, or any other form of discrimination;

- i. Prohibiting the impairment of rights related to dignity, life, physical and mental integrity;
 - j. Ensuring that such measures do not contravene international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
 - k. Publishing the state of emergency, martial law, mobilization or extraordinary measures in the Official Gazette as soon as they are declared;
 - l. Terminating these measures as soon as the grounds for their imposition cease to exist.
5. Any amendment to the Constitution that undermines the guarantees of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Constitution shall be prohibited.

III. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS AND VICTIMS OF VIOLATIONS

1. The State shall guarantee the provision of all forms of assistance, including financial and social services, to the families of disappeared persons and victims of torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and summary execution, and shall endeavor to support their participation in society.

IV. THE SECURITY AND MILITARY SECTOR

1. The army shall assume the duty of defending the homeland, ensuring its independence and the security of its territories, and protecting its population. It shall perform its duties impartially, without interference in political life and with respect to the individual and public rights and freedoms.
2. The security services shall work to ensure the security of the population, to instill a sense of reassurance, to maintain public security and to support sustainable peace. They shall be committed to complete impartiality and non-interference in political life, and shall perform their duties while respecting the human rights and freedoms of citizens.
3. Army and security service personnel, as well as their contractors, shall be subject to the principles of transparency, accountability and responsibility for any violations committed by them.
4. The State shall take all necessary measures to raise the awareness of the army and security services personnel, as well as their contractors, of the culture of human rights.
5. The establishment of armed organizations or agencies, or security branches in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution shall be prohibited.
6. A neutral civilian body is formed to monitor the conduct of the army and security services and their contractors. Half of the members of this body shall be appointed by the Parliament, and the other half shall be appointed by the Human Rights Commission. This body shall submit periodic reports to the Parliament containing recommendations for improving the work of the army and security services and for holding accountable or expelling violators of the constitution and laws. The State shall guarantee the necessary protection to the members of this body and no member may be removed from office except in cases provided for by law and in accordance

with fair, impartial and independent procedures. The members of this body shall be accountable only to the judiciary and the Parliament.

7. The State shall guarantee the right to conscientious objection and the possibility of replacing military service with civilian service. It shall be prohibited to compel a person to join the army, the security services or any other military organization.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

i. Human Rights Commission

1. A permanent Human Rights Commission shall be composed of competent, experienced, impartial, professional and reputable members, half of whom are appointed through a competition ensuring objective, transparent and fair selection criteria, and half of whom are appointed by the Parliament and in consultation with civil society organizations concerned with the respect and promotion of human rights.
2. The Human Rights Commission shall have a legal personality and financial and administrative independence. The State shall allocate annual financial resources to the Commission to carry out its tasks and to cover its expenses.
3. At least one-third of the total number of seats shall be reserved for women. Consideration shall be given to the proper representation of victims of human rights violations, to the diversity of expertise and specializations, as well as to the representation of governorates and societal forces in the composition of the Commission.
4. The term of office of the members of the Commission shall be four years, renewable once. No member may be removed from office except in cases provided for by law and in accordance with fair, impartial and independent procedures.
5. The State shall provide the necessary protection to the members of the Commission to enable them to perform their duties independently and impartially. Members of the Commission shall be accountable only to the judiciary and Parliament.
6. The Commission shall protect and promote human rights, disseminate its culture, monitor and investigate violations, receive complaints in this context and follow up on them with the relevant authorities.
7. The Commission shall conduct research in the field of human rights and publish annual reports which shall be discussed at a session of the Parliament dedicated to that end. The Commission shall contribute to the development of programs for human rights education in schools, universities and professional settings.
8. The Commission shall have the right to visit all prisons and detention and confinement centers, investigate violations, submit complaints to the relevant authorities, make recommendations and monitor their implementation.
9. The Commission shall cooperate with the United Nations mechanisms and regional and national institutions of other states concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights so as to achieve its objectives.

10. State institutions shall be committed to facilitating the work of the Commission and to providing the information and assistance necessary for the proper performance of its tasks.
11. The Commission shall have the right to propose draft laws and shall be consulted during the formulation of draft laws relevant to its field of competence.

ii. Transitional Justice Measures

1. The State shall immediately take all necessary measures to:
 - a. Reveal the circumstances and truth of gross human rights violations;
 - b. Search for missing persons in Syria, ensure the restoration of their rights, reveal the truth and circumstances of the death of the deceased, and locate and return their remains;
 - c. Cooperate with all concerned organizations and governments in searching for the missing Syrians outside Syria and bring back the remains of the deceased among them and hand them over to their families;
 - d. Ensure that those who contributed to the commission of human rights violations are held accountable in accordance with international standards and the requirements of national reconciliation;
 - e. Compensate victims of human rights violations in proportion to the harm suffered. Compensation includes material and moral forms, measures to address psychological and social impacts, and the rehabilitation and restoration of the victims' consideration;
 - f. Return any confiscated or seized property to its owners or legal representatives and ensure its free disposal, or offer compensation for such property.
2. In the context of the implementation of transitional justice measures, the principle of non-retroactivity of laws, the existence of a previous amnesty or the statute of limitations on crimes cannot be invoked.
3. The State shall be committed to involving victims and their families in the development and implementation of transitional justice programs.
4. The State shall take all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of violations and conflict, to achieve national reconciliation and to establish sustainable peace and an environment conducive to the promotion and respect of human rights, including:
 - a. Revealing and addressing the root causes of societal conflicts;
 - b. Restructuring and structurally reforming state institutions and excluding the corrupt and human rights abusers from these institutions;
 - c. Disbanding all militias and armed organizations and expelling or prosecuting foreign forces and foreign combatants;
 - d. Taking the necessary measures to limit the establishment of armed forces and security services to the State, in accordance with the requirements of the rule of law and the constitutional provisions.

iii. The Missing Persons Commission

1. A Missing Persons Commission is established as an interim mechanism to support and

coordinate with other relevant state bodies on the issue of the missing and disappeared, and to accompany the implementation of relevant transitional justice measures in its area of competence.

2. The Commission shall consider all cases of missing persons that occurred between 8 March 1963 and the date of adoption of this Constitution.
3. The work of the Commission shall be based on the centrality of the role and vision of the victims and their families in addressing the issue of the missing. In carrying out its work and activities, the Commission shall adopt the highest standards of integrity and ethical codes of conduct, including following an approach based on justice, independence, comprehensiveness, transparency, confidentiality, and impartiality, as well as non-alignment, and non-discrimination among victims on the basis of their religious, sectarian, racial, or ethnic affiliations, the type of violation, or the party that committed it.
4. The Commission shall have financial and administrative independence. It shall be composed of competent, experienced, impartial, professional and reputable members, half of whom are appointed by the Parliament and half by the Human Rights Commission, in consultation with representatives of the families of missing, victims and civil society organizations. The State shall allocate annual financial resources to the Commission to carry out its tasks and to cover its expenses.
5. Families and relatives of the missing shall be represented by at least one-third of the members of the Authority.
6. At least one-third of the members of the Commission shall be women. Consideration shall be given to the proper representation of civil society organizations and segments of society, and the diversity of expertise and specializations of the members, who shall include lawyers, forensic doctors, criminology experts, media professionals and academics.
7. The term of office of the members of the Commission shall be four years, renewable once. No member may be removed from office except in cases provided by law and in accordance with fair, impartial, transparent and independent procedures.
8. The State shall provide the necessary protection to the members of the Commission to enable them to perform their duties independently and impartially. Members of the Commission shall be accountable only to the judiciary and Parliament.
9. The Commission shall have the right to propose draft laws on missing persons and shall be consulted during the formulation of draft laws relevant to its field of competence.
10. The Commission shall support the public prosecutor's office, law enforcement and other relevant state bodies and institutions to investigate cases of enforced disappearances and missing persons and submit complaints to the relevant authorities.
11. All State institutions shall be committed to providing all forms of support and assistance to enable the Commission to fulfill its mandate.
12. All State agencies shall coordinate with the Commission when handling or following up on cases of missing persons, or communicating about them with any international, regional or local authorities, and shall provide the Commission with all necessary information in this regard.

13. The Commission shall publish biannual reports on cases of missing persons, which shall include information on its actions and results, as well as recommendations to international, regional, governmental and non-governmental actors involved in the issue of the missing. The Commission's reports shall be discussed at sessions of the Parliament dedicated to this purpose.
14. The Commission, in cooperation with all parties concerned, shall be committed to prepare a central registry that includes detailed information on persons sought, without any discrimination. The relatives or legal representatives of the missing person shall have the right to consult the information contained in this registry and its updates regarding the person concerned. The Commission and all other parties concerned shall undertake to maintain the confidentiality of the data and information contained in the central registry and to store it securely with any evidence.
15. The Commission shall have the right to contract, cooperate or communicate with any international, regional or local authority/body in order to fulfill its mandate. The Commission shall have the right to open centers and branches inside and outside the Syrian territories and to contract with permanent or temporary employees and with any expert or technical committee to assist it in carrying out its tasks.
16. The Commission shall be established within a maximum period of six months from the date of entry into force of this Constitution.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ISSUE OF THE MISSING

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Syria is a civil State founded on the principles of citizenship. Its system of political governance is based on human rights, political pluralism and the transfer of power through free and fair elections.
2. Sovereignty belongs to the people who are the source of all powers.

II. RULE OF LAW

1. All citizens, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to fair laws that are publicly promulgated and equally enforced.
2. No law shall be effective until it is published in the Official Gazette.

III. STATE POWERS

i. The Executive Power

1. The president shall be elected for a term of four years by universal suffrage. The term of office of the President of the Republic shall not be renewed until four full years have elapsed since the end of his term of office. The candidate must not have held the office of President of the Republic for more than eight years. This article shall not be amended.

ii. The Legislative Power

1. The Parliament has the exclusive power to legislate and may not delegate this power to any other body.
2. General amnesty is decreed by a law that must be approved by a majority of the members of Parliament.
3. Parliamentary sessions shall be open to the public.
4. The opposition is an essential component of the Parliament. It shall have rights that enable it to discharge its duties in parliamentary work and guarantee its adequate and effective representation in all structures and activities of the Parliament.

iii. The Judicial Power

1. The judiciary is an independent authority that guarantees the administration of justice, the supremacy of the constitution, the rule of law and the protection of individual and public rights and freedoms.
2. A High Judicial Council shall be formed to manage the affairs of the judiciary and to guarantee its independence.
3. The High Judicial Council is composed of seven members, headed by the President of the Court of Cassation. The members of the High Judicial Council shall include the Attorney General, the Head of the Judicial Inspection Department, and four judges elected from among the most senior judges in Syria.
4. Consideration shall be given to a proper representation of governorates in the composition of the High Judicial Council, and the representation of women must not be less than one-third of the members.
5. Judges shall enjoy immunity from dismissal and transfer, and interference in their work shall be prohibited. The appointment, transfer, assignment of judges to any position, as well as their punishment and dismissal, shall be reserved to the High Judicial Council.
6. Judges shall be bound to neutrality and impartiality and shall be prohibited from engaging in politics or affiliating with political parties.
7. The Public Prosecutor's Office is independent and is headed by the Attorney General. The Public Prosecutor's Office shall achieve justice. The State shall guarantee the independence of those selected to hold the positions of the Public Prosecutor's Office and shall appoint them on the basis of integrity and competence without bias, favoritism or discrimination.

IV. THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

1. The Supreme Constitutional Court shall be composed of nine members. The High Judicial Council shall appoint two-thirds of the members from among the most senior judges in the country. The

President of the Republic, the Parliament and the Bar Association shall each appoint one member.

2. Consideration shall be given to a proper representation of governorates in the composition of the Constitutional Court, and the representation of women must not be less than one-third of the number of members.
3. Members of the Court shall elect one of the judges as president of the Court.
4. The term of membership in the Constitutional Court shall be nine years. One third of the membership of the Constitutional Court shall be renewed every three years.
5. The Supreme Constitutional Court shall have jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of draft laws and established laws. The Supreme Constitutional Court shall exclude draft laws that do not conform to the Constitution and shall annul any applicable legislation that does not conform to the Constitution. The Supreme Constitutional Court shall adjudicate disputes relating to the elections of the Parliament and the President of the Republic.
6. Ordinary courts and those with a direct personal interest and jurisdiction shall have the right to request the Supreme Constitutional Court to rule on the constitutionality of any legislation in force that contradicts constitutional rights and freedoms. The Constitutional Court shall rule on the constitutionality of any legislation by means of a reasoned decision within a maximum of 60 days from the date of referral to the Court.
7. Decisions of the Constitutional Court shall be published in the Official Gazette.

V. RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

i. Equality

1. Citizens have equal rights and duties and are equal before the law and the courts.
2. Any discrimination among citizens on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, caste, social origin, economic status, or religious, philosophical or political conviction, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability, or any other form of discrimination shall be prohibited.
3. The State shall promote women's equality with men in all rights, in accordance with the International Bill of Human Rights, and shall provide a safe environment for promoting women's participation in the process of comprehensive and sustainable development.
4. The State shall take all necessary legislative and non-legislative measures to prohibit gender-based discrimination and violence.
5. Discrimination between citizens and incitement of hatred and violence shall be criminalized by law.

ii. Protection of Private Life and the Right to Freedom of Movement

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his

communications, including postal and telephone correspondence.

2. Everyone has the right to be protected against the misuse of their personal data.
3. All citizens have the right to choose the place of residence, to move freely within the country and to leave and return to the country.

iii. Freedom of Expression and Opinion and Access to Information

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression and opinion including the right to share information with anyone.
2. Everyone has the right to receive and obtain information from public sources of information and state institutions.

iv. Freedom of Information

1. The State shall guarantee the freedom of the press, printing, publishing and other means of written and audio communication, as well as other forms of transmission, production and dissemination of information.
2. Censorship of the media shall be prohibited and the State shall guarantee its independence.
3. Imprisonment for political reasons shall be prohibited, and writers and journalists shall not be imprisoned because of their work or activities.

v. The Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

1. The State shall guarantee the right to peaceful assembly, peaceful demonstration and strike.
2. The State shall guarantee the right to form professional and humanitarian associations, and civic and trade unions, while preserving their independence.
3. Citizens shall have the right to join associations and to participate in their activities.
4. The State shall support and involve civil society organizations in the development process and in the development of state policies.
5. No pressure shall be exercised on anyone to join or become a member of any association, party, religious or political group.

VI. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

1. Children and persons with disabilities are entitled to special protection according to their needs.
2. Every child born to a Syrian father or mother outside or inside Syria has the right to obtain Syrian citizenship and identity papers that allow him or her to enjoy all rights and on an equal footing

with the rest of the Syrians. There shall be no discrimination in rights and duties before the law between naturalized Syrians by birth and Syrians who have acquired Syrian nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their citizenship.

VII. THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

1. The State shall take all necessary measures to implement international human rights conventions and shall guarantee their transcendence over all domestic laws enacted prior and subsequent to the date of ratification of these conventions.
2. The State shall openly deal with the international human rights protection mechanisms.
3. The Syrian Constitution and national law shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of international human rights law.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the International Commission on Missing Persons and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.