



Institute for the Documentation of Human Rights Violations against Religious Minorities in the Levant

WHERE SILENCE ENDS AND JUSTICE BEGINS

November 27, 2025

Speech

delivered at the

18th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues

November 27–28, 2025 | Geneva

as delegate of the

Alawites Association of the United States (AAUS)

listed as the 146. in the List of Speakers

as part of Item 1:

Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence

Interactive dialogue – Thursday, November 27, 2025, 10:00–18:00

presented at 17:56 o'clock

Assembly Room | Building A

Dr. Jens Kreinath

Madam Chair,
Special Rapporteur Professor Levrat,
Distinguished Experts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will talk about the fundamental barriers to trust and religious coexistence. On behalf of the Alawite Americans of the United States, I raise concerns about the targeting of Syrian minorities, especially Alawite women, persecuted by abduction and sexual exploitation.

There are reportedly 125 documented cases of abducted women in Syria: 107 Alawite, others Christian, Druze, Kurdish, and Sunni. 49 cases are verified, 11 implicate general security forces. 235 Druze women are missing. 79 Druze women were raped and 1 Christian.

Systematic abductions of non-Sunni women, treated as 'spoils of war,' expose authority complicity. Families of the abducted face intimidation, pressured into silence or denial, reinforcing impunity.

Families reporting disappearances face General Security accusations; cooperation is rare, investigation blocked. Abductions, sectarian targeting, coerced denials, and silenced survivors reveal extremist strategies fracturing communities, spreading fear, and consolidating power.

The same concerns Syrian minorities, women, especially Alawite, Christian, and Druze fleeing into Lebanon, where they face acute risks of trafficking, exploitation, and arbitrary detention.

Hence, the UN agencies and Member States must

1. hold state and non-state actors accountable for trafficking,
2. assure proper documentation of atrocities,
3. protect the most vulnerable in these religious minorities, and furthermore,
4. extend the UN Special Rapporteur's mandate to Syria,
5. safeguard minority rights and inclusive governance, and
6. prevent further genocide.

Thank you!

Dr. Jens Kreinath | Director
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