



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

WHERE SILENCE ENDS AND JUSTICE BEGINS

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Documentation Methods and Methodology of IDHRV-ARMIL for the Protection of Religious Minorities in Syria

Intervention Statement Prepared and Presented by Dr. Jens Kreinath
on Behalf of IDHRV-ARMIL

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- International Society for Human Rights (ISHR)
- Institute for the Documentation of Human Rights Violations against Religious Minorities in the Levant (IDHRV-ARMIL)
- Qatar Centre for Peace and Democracy (QCPD)

Dear Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates, colleagues, and representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Institute for the Documentation of Human Rights Violations against Religious Minorities in the Levant (IDHRV-ARMIL). My name is Jens Kreinath, and I am the founder and director of the Institute, established in response to the escalating patterns of targeted violence against Syria's indigenous Alawite communities following the attacks in the coastal areas on March 7, 2025. These patterns continue to endanger the survival of some of the country's most vulnerable communities—among them the Druze, Christian, and Yezidi communities, whose social and cultural traditions represent some of Syria's oldest indigenous heritages.

Our work is grounded in an empirical, verifiable documentation methodology built to meet four essential criteria: methodological rigor, impartiality, independence, and survivor-centered protection. Allow me to briefly outline the core components of this approach.

First, IDHRV-ARMIL employs a multilayered verification model that integrates ethnographic fieldwork, structured interviews, and cross-checks with independent sources, including visual documentation, oral statements, and GPS data points. Every incident we document undergoes a triangulation process that draws on eyewitness testimony, community-level verification, and—where available—corroborating material evidence. This ensures that our findings meet the evidentiary standards required by international accountability mechanisms.

Second, our methodology is explicitly survivor-centered. We prioritize the safety, dignity, and agency of witnesses at every stage of the documentation process. Interviews are conducted only after informed consent, with clear explanations of how the information may be used and what protective measures are in place. We avoid any practices that could expose survivors or their families to retaliation, and we maintain strict confidentiality protocols for the most sensitive cases, including those involving sexual violence, abduction, or religious coercion.

Third, our documentation focuses on patterns of violations rather than isolated incidents. This enables us to identify the structural risks facing religious minorities—such as targeted abductions, forced displacement, destruction of religious sites, and coercive practices aimed at eroding communal identity. By mapping these patterns across regions and over time, we aim to highlight emerging threats and provide early-warning indicators relevant to atrocity-prevention efforts.

Fourth, our methodology integrates local knowledge and community networks. Many of Syria's religious minorities—Alawite, Druze, Yezidi, Christian, and others—maintain strong internal structures of memory and communal accountability. Working carefully and respectfully with these networks, in line with the highest ethical standards of ethnographic fieldwork, enables us to document violations that would otherwise remain invisible or unheard—particularly in areas with restricted access where survivors fear reprisal, traumatization, or stigmatization. By verifying and securely preserving each piece of evidence, we create a durable record that can be directly transferred into the appropriate accountability mechanisms when conditions allow, safeguarding both chain of custody and future prosecutorial viability.

Finally, based on the evidence we have collected and our ongoing assessment of the evolving situation of religious minorities in Syria, our work is designed—where possible and appropriate—to support protection and policy action. Documentation alone is not enough. We aim to provide governments, UN bodies, and trusted civil-society partners with

evidence-based assessments that can inform protection strategies, humanitarian planning, and long-term approaches to safeguarding the religious diversity of Syria's indigenous minority communities.

Our findings underscore that the survival of these communities—essential to Syria and the broader region—depends on sustained international attention and monitoring, credible accountability mechanisms, and the reinforcement of local, independently sustainable structures capable of resisting coercion, forced conversion, and violence, so that communities may exercise their human right to religious freedom in dignity and integrity.

In closing, I wish to emphasize that protecting religious minorities in Syria is not only a matter of human rights—it is a matter of preserving the cultural and historical fabric of an entire region. The communities we work with are resilient, but they cannot endure without meaningful support, recognition, and sustained engagement from the international community, including firm calls to uphold and protect human rights in Syria.

IDHRV-ARMIL remains committed to documenting violations with professionalism and integrity, committed to amplifying the voices of survivors through appropriate legal and institutional channels, and contributing to collective efforts to ensure that Syria's religious minorities are protected, respected, and able to rebuild their lives in dignity—within legal frameworks that guarantee religious freedom and the protection of minority communities.

Thank you for your attention.

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The Institute for the Documentation of Human Rights Violations against Religious Minorities in the Levant (IDHRV-ARMIL) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, officially incorporated on July 24, 2025, with the Secretary of State of Kansas. Place of Jurisdiction: Wichita U.S. Courthouse for the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, 401 N Market St, Room 204, Wichita, KS 67202, U.S.A. | +1-316-315-4200.