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Syrian Christians USA Calls for Unity and Rebuilding, Reject Disinformation Fueling Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. – As Syrian Americans committed to peace, stability, and a future for all Syrians, we deeply appreciate the outpouring of concern from members of Congress and the broader international community in response to recent violence in Syria.

We strongly condemn all extrajudicial killings and any unlawful acts of violence committed during this period of transition. Over the last several days, hundreds of civilians, as well as members of the Syrian army, were killed in attacks involving pro-Assad military group members and members of the new Syrian military. We unequivocally stand against this violence, particularly when waged against civilians.

We welcome President Ahmed Al-Sharaa's acknowledgment of violations and his decision to form an investigative committee. This commitment to accountability is a positive step, but it must be supported by concrete actions from the Interim Government. We also support actions from the international community that supplement these measures, such as through engagement and the lifting of sanctions to ensure the government has the capacity to implement justice and uphold security.

Recent statements have amplified disinformation suggesting that Christians and other minorities are being uniquely targeted in Syria. This framing not only misrepresents the tragic events unfolding but also overshadows the broader truth—that Syrians of all backgrounds have been victims of actors seeking to destabilize the country. The Interim Government must ensure that a nation is built with no discrimination based on faith or ethnicity. Solely on minority rhetoric risks deepening divisions at a time when Syria needs unity, not fragmentation. We have trust in the Interim Government that it will move forward with actions that unite minority groups, rather than divide them.

Mirna Barq, President of Syrian Christians USA, stated: *"We appreciate the sentiment behind the concern for Syrian Christians, but we must emphasize that we are Syrians first and foremost."*



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Singling us out does not help—it only reinforces divisions at a time when we need unity. Every life lost is a tragedy, but for the record, we have so far only been able to confirm the death of three Christians.”

It is important to reiterate that the Assad regime was never a protector of Christians or any minority—his regime perpetuated decades of oppression, corruption, and sectarian division. Rana Alkoutaimi, Vice President of Syrian Christians USA, added: *“The narrative that the Assads were a protector of Christians is one of the biggest falsehoods of the past five decades. The regime used religious minorities as a shield for its brutal rule while systematically dismantling our communities and driving Christians out of Syria. The only path forward is a sovereign Syria where all citizens, regardless of faith, can live in dignity and security.”*

The fall of Assad on December 8, 2024, represented a moment of hope for all Syrians, including Christians, to move forward toward a new future. However, the honeymoon period remains tenuous, and for the government to effectively guarantee rights, safety, and security for all citizens, it must be allowed to function at full capacity.

Rather than furthering sectarian fear, we urge Members of Congress to support policies that prioritize stability, national reconciliation, and economic recovery. The new Syrian government has taken steps to restore order, hold perpetrators accountable, and protect all citizens. This process cannot succeed under the weight of sweeping sanctions that cripple Syria’s economy, weaken its institutions, and prevent the establishment of a functioning judiciary and security sector capable of delivering justice.

To achieve a Syria that serves **all** its people, we call for:

- **An end to misleading narratives** that portray Syria’s crisis through a narrow sectarian lens.
- **Responsible U.S. engagement** with the Syrian government to support stabilization and prevent a power vacuum that could be exploited by extremists and foreign actors.
- **A reassessment of sanctions** that hinder Syria’s ability to rebuild and provide basic services for its citizens.

The Syrian Christian community stands for unity, not division; rebuilding, not destruction. Now is the time for positive engagement to support a sovereign Syria where all Syrians—Muslims, Christians, Druze, Alawites, Kurds, and others—can live in peace and security.



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MEDIA CONTACT:

Chad Brand

Syrian Christians USA

chad@syrianchristians.org

202-304-7986