



**AMERICAN
COALITION
FOR SYRIA**

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American Coalition for Syria Media Kit

DISCLAIMER: *We are constantly updating the talking points in this document to reflect the quickly evolving situation on the ground. Please always confirm that you have the most updated version.*

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About ACS

The American Coalition for Syria (ACS) is a coalition of specialized, multi-faith, US-based organizations that support a principled US policy based on democratic reform, human rights, accountability, and women's empowerment in Syria.

Our vision is to grow the civic capacity of the Syrian American community so that they can better advocate for their interests at home and abroad.

Key Points for Media

If you wish to contact your local media, we want to help you do so! The main points we wish to convey to the larger public are below. Please use our template below to email your local paper. We have also attached talking points to help guide your discussion. If you have any questions, contact Alaa at alaa@sacouncil.com or Yisser at ybittar@sacouncil.com. Also, please do not answer any question you don't know the answer to or are uncomfortable answering.

Overall Framing

- The overthrow of the regime is the culmination of a 13-year legitimate struggle of the Syrian people for freedom and dignity.
- For over 50 years, the Assad regime has ruled with an iron fist, stifling any political dissent, human rights, and freedom.
- What we are seeing is the fall of a tyrannical dictator who was clinging to power and was only able to do so with full Russian and Iranian support.
- The military movement by a coalition of opposition forces on November 27 - the vast majority of whom are men fighting to liberate their land of the Assad, Russian, and Iranian forces - led to a complete collapse of the Syrian regime.
- Through a combination of limited military confrontation, negotiated truces, and regime withdrawals, the coalition of opposition forces has now taken over the largest cities in Syria, including Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and the capital Damascus.
- The coastal cities of Syria, considered the heartland of Assad support, have taken to the streets in support of the opposition movement, and many have also seen the withdrawal of regime forces or the laying of arms.
- The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Kurdish forces supported by the USG, have also forced Assad forces out of key cities in Northeastern Syria. Control over these areas continues to shift as there is local pressure for their withdrawal from many cities.
- With Assad having fled Damascus, the regime has officially been overthrown, and the leader of HTS and this coalition of opposition forces has announced that the current Minister of Interior will assume the role of ensuring government institutions continue operating.

Looking Forward

- At this moment in time, we are celebrating the end of Assad's family grip on Syria and the expulsion of Iranian and Russian forces from Syria.
- With Assad gone without resistance, there is an opportunity to create an inclusive governing body that represents Syria's diverse population, fosters economic recovery, and allows for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.
- We are monitoring conversations around transitional governing bodies. Our current assessment is that these are attempts to provide a semblance of stability during times of extreme fragility. We hope that these bodies will be temporary to create a bridge to a formal transition to an inclusive and elected governing body.

- We recognize that we are entering a period of uncertainty, but we have confidence in the Syrian people's ability to navigate this historic and unprecedented moment.
- As Syrian Americans, our immediate ask to the US government is to:
 - **Support Immediate Humanitarian and Stabilization Efforts** including:
 - Allocate \$100 million USD for humanitarian and stabilization funding.
 - Issue General Licenses to reassure NGOs about the legal landscape for aid delivery.
 - Pressure the UN to restart Damascus-based humanitarian operations.
 - Communicate to the UN to commence search, recovery, and identification processes for the disappeared.
- We are extremely concerned about the Israeli airstrikes on military bases and buildings throughout Syria. This is a violation of sovereignty that we do not accept, especially since Syria is currently in a state of extreme fragility. We call upon the international community to pressure the Netanyahu government to cease hostilities. The path forward for regional security is not unilateral military action but regional negotiation and diplomacy.

Email Template

Hi [first name],

My name is [your name], and I am [Syrian American, ally of the cause, etc.] and a supporter of the American Coalition for Syria (ACS). I'm reaching out to see if you'd be interested in running a story about the fall of the Assad Regime in Syria and what comes next. [If you have family in Syria, please write about it here].

You can read more about the situation and what ACS is advocating for in the recent [press release](#). Please visit the ACS [website](#) for a comprehensive summary of their response to the developments in Syria.

I'd love to talk with you to tell you more about my experience with [explain how you are related to the topic] and the current priorities of the American Coalition for Syria. Let me know if this is of interest.

*Best,
[your name]*