

URGENT CALL TO PRIORITIZE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN SYRIA

This past weekend, Syria experienced the most severe outbreak of violence since the transition of power in December 2024. The Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre emphasizes the importance of adherence to international law, the advancement of transitional justice, and the establishment of a legal framework based on the rule of law.

Human rights groups have reported allegations of extrajudicial killings along Syria's coastline since March 6. According to these reports, civilians were killed at close range, with claims that some were targeted based on religious identity. Additionally, there are accounts of civilian properties being looted and set on fire.

All parties are bound by international law to uphold fundamental rights, including the right to life, equal protection under the law, freedom from torture, and the right to a fair trial by competent, independent, and impartial tribunals. Protecting and fulfilling these rights in the current circumstances form the foundation of transitional justice, which is essential for addressing all violations and ensuring accountability. A credible and inclusive approach to justice is essential to preventing further instability.

The Centre emphasizes the need for Syria to revise national legislation to incorporate the definitions of international crimes, ensuring that individuals can be prosecuted for acts that constitute serious violations under international law.

Transitional justice encompasses more than accountability; it is about restoring trust, ensuring justice, and promoting reconciliation, which are all critical for a peaceful transition and the prevention of further violence. A commitment to justice is essential for Syria's future stability.