



Statement

The Syrian Network for Human Rights Participates in an UN Side Event

At the invitation of two permanent representatives to the United Nations, Qatar and Liechtenstein, an event was held on Tuesday 21 June entitled: **“First Cracks in the Syrian Impunity Wall: National Prosecutions Underway in the Courts of Third Party States for Serious Crimes Committed in Syria”**.

Moderators: H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Panelists: : H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Heiko Thoms, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

Mr. Alexis Lamek, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Mr. Fadel AbdulGhani, Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights

The permanent representatives outlined their European countries’ experience in enabling universal jurisdiction, where a number of individuals who were involved in committing crimes against the Syrian people were arrested.

Mr. Fadel AbdulGhani, Chairman of the SNHR, said that the crimes are documented and proven mainly committed by the Syrian regime and the other parties that became a part of the conflict later. Also, Mr. AbdulGhani emphasized that the principle of accountability must be implemented in order to include all those who were involved in perpetrating crimes, and outlined the possible international mechanisms for establishing a court with an international legitimacy now that Russia, being a part of the conflict and have committed war crimes, will not agree, under any conditions, to refer the case in Syria to the Criminal Case Court. Additionally, Mr. AbdulGhani highlighted the absence of the term “accountability” in parallel with the political process, and asserted that human right defenders will not agree to a political settlement at the expense of justice. Finally, Mr. AbdulGhani outlined the consequences of impunity, its impact on the Syrian community, and the Syrian regime’s disregard for the Security Council resolutions.

The floor opened for discussion, and the Iranian, Russian, American, and Belgian, and the of National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces representatives spoke where the panelists addressed their questions.

To Listen to the full event, please visit the following [URL](#).

