

**Statement**

**SNHR Condemns the Two Damascus Bombings and Calls for Effective Investigations and International Support for the Capacities of the Syrian State**

Thursday 09 July 2026

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyzes in Syria.

## Damascus - The Syrian Network for Human Rights:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) condemns in the strongest terms the detonation of two explosive devices in the center of the capital, Damascus, on the morning of Tuesday, July 7, 2026, near the Ministry of Tourism, and at a slightly farther distance from the “Four Seasons” hotel, in which the French President Emmanuel Macron had been staying, prior to the occurrence of the two explosions, during his official visit to Syria.

The two explosions, which occurred within a few minutes of each other, resulted in the killing of **one victim** and the injury of **36 others** with wounds of varying severity, most of them members of the Internal Security Forces, among them four members of the civilian police. Preliminary information indicates that one of the two devices was placed in a parked vehicle, while the second was placed in a waste container. However, the circumstances of the incident, the identity of its perpetrators, their motives, and the extent of the connection of the two explosions to the visit of the French President remain under investigation.

SNHR wishes a speedy recovery to all the injured, and expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families, and with the civilians who were exposed to danger as a result of this attack.

## A SERIOUS ATTACK ON THE SECURITY OF CIVILIANS AND ON SYRIA'S STABILITY

The two explosions constitute a serious attack on the right to life and bodily integrity, and they expose civilians and workers in the public institutions to danger. Moreover, they occurred in a civilian and central area that witnesses a dense presence of citizens and employees.

SNHR stresses that the use of explosive devices in populated areas can't be justified under any political or security pretext. Therefore, those responsible for the planning, the execution, and the assistance must be held accountable, in accordance with the law and through fair judicial proceedings.

SNHR also warns that these attacks aim, regardless of the party standing behind them, to undermine the sense of security, disrupt the process of transition, and weaken the trust of Syrians and the international partners in the capacity of the state institutions to protect the population and ensure the continuity of public life.

At the same time, SNHR stresses the necessity of refraining from issuing premature conclusions regarding the identity of the perpetrators or their motives before the completion of the investigations and the gathering of evidence.

## THE DEMAND FOR AN EFFECTIVE, INDEPENDENT, AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION

SNHR demands that the Syrian authorities conduct a prompt, serious, and effective criminal investigation into the two explosions, in accordance with the legal and professional standards, provided that the investigation includes:

1. Securing the crime scene and preventing the tampering with evidence or its removal before the completion of the technical examination.
2. Collecting and analyzing the remnants of the two devices, and identifying their nature, their components, their detonation mechanism, and the source of the materials used in them.
3. Examining the surveillance recordings, the communications, and the digital data connected to the site of the incident, with respect for the legal safeguards and the right to privacy.
4. Taking the statements of the injured, the witnesses, and the workers in the area, and providing the necessary protection for them.
5. Examining whether there is a link between the two explosions and other security attacks that Damascus witnessed in the recent period, without presuming this link in advance.
6. Identifying the shortcomings that allowed the placement of the two devices in a sensitive area, and reviewing the procedures in place, without assigning responsibility in an arbitrary manner to individuals or bodies whose responsibility hasn't been established.
7. Referring everyone whose responsibility is established to an independent and competent civilian judiciary, and guaranteeing the right of the accused to a fair trial, and the prevention of torture, ill-treatment, and the extraction of confessions under coercion.
8. Informing the public on a regular basis of the essential findings of the investigation, while not publishing information that would harm the course of the investigation or the safety of the witnesses.

SNHR considers that an effective investigation isn't limited to announcing the detention of suspects; rather, it requires the presentation of evidence amenable to judicial examination, a complete identification of the chain of responsibility, and the disclosure of the parties that planned, financed, or facilitated the execution of the attack.

## CALLING ON FRANCE TO SUPPORT THE INVESTIGATION AND THE SYRIAN CAPACITIES

Given that the two explosions occurred during the official visit of the French President, SNHR calls on the French government to cooperate with the Syrian authorities in the investigation, and to provide whatever information, recordings, or technical evidence it has available that could assist in identifying those responsible.

SNHR also demands that France, the European Union, and the friendly states provide urgent technical, logistical, and material support to the Syrian state institutions concerned with the protection of civilians and the investigation of crimes, particularly in the following areas:

- The criminal investigations, forensic medicine, and the analysis of explosives.
- Training the civilian police and the bomb-disposal units.
- Protecting crime scenes and preserving the digital and material evidence.
- Developing the systems of warning and emergency response.
- Supporting the ambulance services, the civil defense, and the hospitals.
- Building criminal databases that are subject to the law and to judicial oversight.
- Developing the mechanisms of coordination among the police, the judiciary, and the public prosecution.
- Protecting the civilian and diplomatic facilities without unlawful restriction of the public freedoms.

This support must be subject to clear guarantees relating to human rights, civilian and judicial oversight, and transparency.

## SUPPORTING SYRIA ISN'T LIMITED TO CONDEMNATION

SNHR stresses that the condemnation of the two explosions must be coupled with practical support for Syria in confronting the security and institutional challenges it faces in the transitional phase.

Syrians have inherited institutions weakened by decades of corruption, tyranny, and security domination; hence, these institutions can't be asked to confront the networks of violence, crime, and terrorism without the provision of resources, training, and modern technologies, and the reform of their legal and administrative structures.

However, building the security capacity of the state must not mean a return to the model of the closed and unaccountable apparatuses that prevailed in the era of the Assad regime. What is required is the building of a civilian police and professional investigative bodies that protect the population, operate under the authority of the law and the judiciary, are subject to independent oversight, and respect the rights of the victims and the suspects alike.

SNHR calls in particular on France, in light of the new openness in the Syrian-French relations, to make the support of the Syrian institutions an essential part of the partnership between the two countries. This should include supporting the judiciary, the civilian police, forensic medicine, the civil protection, and the health institutions, alongside the support of governance, integrity, and transparency.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

SNHR demands that:

### **The Syrian government:**

- Conduct a professional and transparent investigation and publish its essential findings.
- Provide treatment, compensation, and psychological support for the injured.
- Protect the witnesses, the evidence, and the crime scene.
- Refrain from arbitrary arrest or collective punishment.
- Review the procedures of protecting the sensitive civilian areas.
- Guarantee judicial oversight over all security measures.

### **The French government:**

- Provide full technical and informational cooperation to the investigation.
- Support the capacities of criminal investigation, forensic medicine, and the dismantling of explosives.
- Assist Syria in reforming the institutions of security and justice in accordance with human rights standards.
- Not allow the incident to lead to a reduction of the French engagement or the isolation of Syria.

### **The European Union and the international community:**

- Condemn the two explosions and support the pursuit of those responsible for them.
- Increase the material and technical support for the Syrian civilian, judicial, and professional security institutions.
- Support the programs of civilian protection, medical response, and civil defense.
- Contribute to the building of effective Syrian institutions that are subject to the law and to accountability.



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*No justice without accountability*

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