

Complaint regarding special procedures at the United Nations concerning the conditions of torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance in Ras al-Ain, Afrin, and Tel Abyad.

### **Complaint submitted to:**

The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Syrian Arab Republic.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Qamishli, Syria, September 16, 2023

## **Complainant:**

North Press Agency through Monitoring and Documentation Department

#### **Your Excellencies**

We, as an independent, non-profit, non-governmental civil society organization in Syria, write to you to urgently draw your attention to the human rights violations occurring in areas controlled by the factions of the Syrian National Army (SNA) supported by Turkey in the city of Ras al-Ain in Hasakah, Tel Abyad in Raqqa, and Afrin in the north of Aleppo. These areas fell under the control of the SNA factions following the Turkish invasion in 2018 and 2019, resulting in the forced displacement of over 700,000 individuals.<sup>1</sup>

Since the SNA factions took control of these areas, they have arbitrarily detained the native population, forcibly disappeared hundreds of them, confiscated their properties, and executed hundreds outside the bounds of the judiciary. This case encompasses numerous violations of individual, collective, and local human rights commitments by the concerned states, namely Syria and Turkey. Turkey, in particular, acts as an occupying force in parts of northeastern Syria and provides political and military support to the SNA factions, often being directly or indirectly involved in the violations against the population.

## Summary

Since the Turkish-backed SNA factions took control of areas in northern Syria, beginning with the Euphrates

Syria | Flash Update #6, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 15 https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-flash-update-6- [October 2019 [EN/AR humanitarian-impact-military-operation-north

Shield Operation in 2016 during which they have captured parts of northern Aleppo, followed by the Olive Branch Operation against Afrin region in 2018, and Peace Spring Operation in Ras al-Ain and Tel Abyad in 2019, they have employed arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and torture as tactics to intimidate the population and enforce their control through coercion. In all documented cases, those arrested were not issued any formal arrest warrants, were not subjected to proper legal proceedings, and were often subjected to extortion of their families, with their fate being used as leverage for monetary gain. During their detention, many have suffered sexual and physical torture and abuse.

There are dozens of public and secret prisons in Ras al-Ain, Tel Abyad, and Afrin. We have managed to obtain coordinates for 27 of them. Each faction, numbering more than 41, operates at least two prisons. Detainees and captives in these prisons are subjected to horrific forms of torture, physical and verbal abuse, inhumane and degrading treatment, denial of adequate healthcare, prevention of communication with their families, and denial of legal representation. The factions have violated the right to life of detainees, resulting in the deaths of hundreds under torture or by gunfire<sup>2</sup>. Torture and abuse within these prisons are carried out under orders issued by faction leaders, with no legal accountability or due process. Notably, interviews with survivors revealed prisons managed by the Civil Police, Military Police, Levant Front, Rahman Corps, al-Mutasim Brigade, Suleiman Shah Brigade, Hamza Division, al-Sharqiya (Eastern) Army, Sultan Murad Brigade, Ahrar al-Sharqiya, and Mohammad al-Fateh.

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It is worth mentioning that most of the prisons under the control of the SNA factions are managed by Turkish intelligence, which reviews the security statuses of detainees. Some detainees are illegally transported to Turkish territory<sup>3</sup>, while others have their cases reviewed and may be used as bargaining chips for financial gain. A significant number of detainees are not officially registered in detention records and are used by the factions to extort money. Many of these individuals are irregular migrants who were arrested while attempting to cross the Syrian-Turkish border in search of a better life and were subjected to torture, intimidation, sexual assault, and harassment during their detention.

The North Press Monitoring and Documentation
Department has documented the stories of more than 14
individuals who were subjected to detention and torture,
in addition to the relatives of those who died under torture
and were denied access to proper medical care. Moreover,
it interviewed individuals who were heading to border
areas with the intention of entering Turkey and migrating
to Europe, but were forced, under the threat of arms, to
falsely confess to planning bombings. These confessions
were recorded and used for extortion later.<sup>4</sup>

Arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearance have persisted since the SNA factions established control over parts of Syria. An independent international investigative committee report on Syria confirmed that these factions have committed war crimes, including torture, severe mistreatment, hostage-taking, rape, and sexual violence. These acts even amount to enforced

/https://npasyria.com/en/101462 : Turkish intelligence transfers 2 Syrian detainees to Turkey

https://daccess-: Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria fods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/HRC/54/58&Lang=E https://npasyria.com/164512

disappearances, as documented by the committee since 2020. <sup>5</sup>

Regarding enforced disappearance, Turkey's SNA factions deliberately hide detainees in inhumane conditions, especially in Afrin, Ras al-Ain, and Tel Abyad. A staggering 76 percent of the detainees in the custody of these factions experience enforced disappearance, being deprived of their freedom, the ability to communicate with their families, and the right to legal defense. Those who disappear are undoubtedly subjected to various forms of severe torture and serious violations, with no disclosure of their fates to their loved ones. Despite the considerable risks involved in seeking information about the disappeared, families of detainees pay substantial sums of money to obtain information about their whereabouts, whether they are still alive, or to confirm their deaths. In many cases, families of the disappeared are threatened with arrest when inquiring about their missing relatives. The factions typically deny knowledge of the disappeared persons, denying any responsibility for their disappearance, all while pursuing financial gains without any regard for the extreme suffering experienced by the families who await news of their missing loved ones.<sup>6</sup>

We urge your immediate attention to these grave human rights violations and request that your esteemed offices take action to address this critical issue. The international community must act swiftly to hold those responsible for these atrocities accountable and ensure justice for the victims.

# Impact on human rights

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria: "No End in Sight": Torture and ill
treatment in the Arab Republic

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/coisyria/A-HRC-53-CRP5-Syria-Torture.pdf

Victims of enforced disappearance in Syria have no trace: North press agency https://npasyria.com/en/103660

The SNA factions continue their blatant violations of international law and human rights through arbitrary hostile practices against the population, especially minorities. Since the beginning of 2023, 876 individuals have been arrested, with only 192 of them were released, while the rest are still missing and subjected to various forms of torture, including the ghost (hanging by the hands from the ceiling), the wheel, electric shocks, and being beaten with sharp and heavy tools. They are also deprived of their right to food and healthcare. In most of these prisons, individuals are forced to survive on a small water bottle throughout the day. Patients are denied their medications, a behavior that may amount to a war crime, deliberately causing significant suffering and serious harm to patients or public health, leading to individual and collective criminal responsibility. <sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, the factions systematically targeted the Kurdish population and asylum seekers to Turkey in the region and other ethnic minorities such as the Yazidis and Circassians, without distinguishing between gender and age There were women and children among them,. They arrest and torture them on charges of belonging to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) or the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), depriving them of their basic human rights as well as their civil and political rights. Turkey often illegally transports those detained individuals to its territories and forcibly hides them there, preventing them from communicating with their families or seeking legal representation for their rights.<sup>8</sup>

Tazur Association for Victims: Olive Branch: Documenting 633 arrests in the Afrin region during the /https://hevdesti.org/en/documentation-arrests-in-afrin-2022 :year 2022

Human Rights Organization in Afrin, and Syrians for Truth and Justice: Arbitrary detention and https://stj-sy.org/en/arbitrary-: torture are a systematic policy of persecution in northwestern Syria /detention-and-torture-are-a-systemic-oppression-policy-in-northwestern-syria

The systematic practices of detention and torture inflicted the population have pushed them into forced displacement and extreme suffering in their quest for adequate housing and access to safe water. Most of the population is compelled to reside in camps like the Washokani and Sere Kaniye in the northeast of the country. They live amidst a lack of sufficient humanitarian aid and insufficient access to water due to Turkey's control over the water in northern and northeastern Syria through the construction of dams and its retention With the factions of the National Army of the Alouk Water Station. <sup>9</sup>

## **Alleged Victims**

The Monitoring and Documentation Department at North Press met with 14 individuals who have been subjected to abuse and torture inside the prisons of the National Army factions, as well as the relatives of those who have fallen victim inside the prisons or have been forcibly disappeared. Below are the testimonies of some of the victims.

#### Victim 1:

"For five continuous days, my brother, who suffers from diabetes, was subjected to ghosting (hanging by the hands from the ceiling) and continuous torture for eight months in one of the prisons of Sultan Murad Brigade in Sere Kaniye (Ras al-Ain). After losing him for all this time, he was found lying unconscious and abandoned. My brother Karim died as a result of torture, ill-treatment, and because of withholding his medications," the brother of a young man said.

The young man was arrested by Sultan Murad Brigade from his home in the summer of 2022 in front of his wife and children after refusing to sell his land to one of the

:North Press, HIC-HLRN appeal to UN about water crisis in NE Syria https://npasyria.com/en/102869

security leaders in the faction. However, he was charged of smuggling members of the SDF to Turkey. "Before his death, my brother told us how they tortured him. They chained his hands to the ceiling with a metal chain and several members beat him. He remained hanging for five days and was only brought down twice. They also withheld his medication. My brother's body was covered in deep wounds and torture scars, in addition to losing the feeling in one of his hands due to torture and electric shocks. His food consisted of a loaf of bread every 24 hours or more," the brother added.

After eight months, one of the factions in the countryside of Sere Kaniye found the young man lying on the road in one of the areas near the city. "We rushed him to the hospital in a horrifying state. After months of being in the hospital, he passed away due to organ failure caused by consecutive diabetic seizures, his failure to take medication, and severe malnutrition. Despite the faction's assurances that they were investigating my brother's case, it was recorded against unknown perpetrators, and his file was closed."

Although the detention was arbitrary and the young man was subjected to physical and psychological torture, denied healthcare, and a fair trial, no investigation was conducted in the case, and the individuals who tortured him were not held accountable, despite being familiar by the brother.

#### Victim 2:

The situation in Tel Abyad is no different from before, as the controller (SNA factions) is the same despite the changing names. In January 2023, the Levant Front (al-Jabha al-Shamiya) arrested a young man in the city of Tel Abyad after he had been forcibly deported from Turkey. Iman Abdel Aziz, a woman in her forties and the mother of the young man, said, "We were together, and suddenly armed men surrounded us and arrested my son in the city center a few days after his deportation from Turkey on the pretext of security suspicions about him. They called me two days later, demanding \$10,000 within 48 hours for his release. They told me that he had a ready-made charge, which was that he worked for the SDF, and they threatened that if I didn't give them the money, they would hand him over to Turkish intelligence. They made me hear his voice screaming under torture."

The mother tried to seek assistance from an official body to help her to find her son and to release him, but her efforts were in vain. The faction then increased the amount to \$15,000 after knew the matter. The lady could only secure \$6,000 before the faction released her son. The faction summoned her to a remote area, and she found her son emaciated and dressed in tattered clothes.

"They tortured him inhumanely, in addition to electric shocks and beating on his genital organs, they extinguished cigarettes on his body. They gave him a diuretic drink and tied his genital organ. His teeth were broken due to the violence they inflicted him," the mother added. The young man left his mother and home and fled the city through smuggling, heading to Raqqa.

### Victim 3

"Everyone managed to cross, but I was arrested because I am Kurdish," said Rami Hassan, 20, who was imprisoned after the Turkish-backed Civil Police faction arrested him, along with other 10 people, while attempting to cross the border from Sere Kaniye to Turkey in August 2021. He was detained in an underground basement room with no

light or air, as he said. "I was subjected to all kinds of physical and psychological torture."

He added, "In the first moments of my arrest after a failed escape attempt, my hands were tied behind my back with plastic cuffs, and my eyes were blindfolded. One of them said, 'Take him to the Civil Prison,' and at that moment, my psyche shattered, and I lost hope of living." Before he embarked on his unlawful journey, his friends had warned him about the Civil Police branch, describing it as the "most dangerous branch," indicating that it was the most notorious for violations, including violence and torture.

The young man was interrogated three times during the eight days of his detention, during which he was subjected to physical and verbal abuse. "When I arrived at the prison, I was interrogated about many details, such as the reason for my arrival, where I was going, who I was, my family, and my political and military affiliations. Finally, they asked me where I was going to carry out a suicide bombing. I was shocked, and I started defending myself, explaining that the only reason for my arrival was my desire to cross into Turkey and then to Europe."

Each time he was interrogated, he was forced to kneel with his hands tied behind his back and his eyes blindfolded, threatened not to fall or collapse. Every time he collapsed, they made him sit up again. At every interrogation, he was beaten with a round wooden stick on his back and bones, in addition to slapping and hitting in an attempt by the faction's members to force him to confess that he had come to the city to carry out an explosion.

The young man said, "In one of the interrogations, they blindfolded me and lit on a strong light directly at my face to make sure I couldn't see. I thought an important person must have been present at the interrogation because I heard the sound of papers, and someone was

writing my statement. They asked me to provide the names of those who had paid me to come to the city. I continued to clarify that I was a civilian and an IDP with no political or military affiliations. They blackmailed me for my freedom."

After they confirmed that the young man was a civilian with no military affiliations, they began using psychological violence on him. "I heard them saying, 'If he doesn't speak anything useful, kill him.' Shortly after, they fired a gunshot, and I thought it had hit me. I was horrified at that moment, but minutes later, I realized that the shot was fired into the air."

He continued, "Every eight hours, they allowed us to go to the bathroom once, and they threatened me that if I didn't endure until then." He paused for a moment, then said, "I can't describe... it was a terrible threat. So, I refrained from drinking water out of fear that they would carry out their threat. As for food, they brought us food three times during the eight days, and we were given a small bottle of water every day."

In that dark and quiet basement after being arrested for several days, the silence that pervaded the surroundings was broken by footsteps, then a door opened. Rami said, "They brought a person into the neighboring room, and they were beating him with an iron rod. His screams echoed throughout the place as they beat and interrogated him, asking if he had worked with the pigs [SDF]. Suddenly, the sound of the beating and screaming stopped, and then I heard the sound of them dragging him. They were dragging him on the ground like a sack. I thought they had killed him."

During his detention, the factions forced the young man to take a type of pills he couldn't identify. Afterward, he went without water or food for more than 24 hours and was prevented from using the bathroom due to the faction members' involvement in clashes near the prison. Due to the beatings and torture, the young man collapsed and lost consciousness, only to wake up next to a bucket of water poured over him by one of the members before being released. He was forced to kneel with his hands tied behind his back and his eyes blindfolded, then he was thrown into a deep pit. He still wonders how, in that dire and tragic situation, he managed to get out and walk hundreds of meters back to his home in the countryside of Hasakah.

In conclusion, the young man says, "I had lost hope of living. I thought those were my last moments, but I survived."

**Note**: The names are aliases, and the individuals are available to provide their testimony if needed.

### **Legal framework**

To date, neither the United Nations Security Council nor the General Assembly has issued a clear decision explicitly indicating the intervention of the Turkish state in the public freedoms systems in the areas controlled by the SNA factions in northern Syria. These areas receive direct Turkish support, and the extent of the violations occurring there, which may amount to crimes against humanity under Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, has not been assessed. It's important to note that Turkey is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which, in Article 2, paragraph 1, states that "each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

However, the Turkish state considers the historical presence of the Kurds on its borders as a threat to its internal security, justifying the detention and harsh and humiliating treatment of young Kurds without arrest warrants. The armed groups and factions in cities like Ras al-Ain, Tel Abyad, and Afrin have been reported to engage in physical and psychological violence against them, and in many cases, Turkey has been implicated in these violations.

According to testimonies from survivors held by various faction-controlled entities, detainees and prisoners are subjected to degrading treatment and various forms of torture, sometimes due to political or ethnic differences. Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, which entered into force in 1987, explicitly states that "No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture."

Deprivation of liberty in the crime of enforced disappearance deprives individuals of other rights, such as the right to life, as stated in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the right to family life in Article 17, the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in Articles 7 and 10, the right to legal personality in Article 16, and the right to liberty and security and freedom from arbitrary detention in Article 9. Enforced disappearance is considered one of the gravest crimes, whether committed by groups or by a ruling regime. The International Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, in the General Assembly Resolution 47/133 of December 18, 1992, provides comprehensive guidelines for addressing enforced disappearance, including its continuous nature as long as the fate of the victim remains undisclosed. The Declaration also prohibits any state from expelling, returning, or extraditing any person to another state if there are serious reasons to believe that they would be at risk of enforced disappearance.

Reports have suggested that Turkey, which supports armed groups in Ras al-Ain, Tel Abyad, and Afrin, has transported many detainees and prisoners to its territory for trial, which is in violation of paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the mentioned Declaration, stating, "No State shall expel, return, or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of enforced disappearance." To this day, we continue to receive pleas from the families of forcibly disappeared Syrians, unaware of the whereabouts of their loved ones.

Revealing the fate of the forcibly disappeared can be seen as a demonstration of how parties to conflicts adhere to humanitarian treatment, protection, and secure detention conditions, as required by Article 5 of the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1977. The ruling factions in the cities of Ras al-Ain, Tel Abyad, and Afrin carry out numerous arrests as part of their acts of intimidation and hostility, without international oversight or the legal rights of the detainees. Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Second Additional Protocol establish several judicial safeguards for parties to conflicts, ensuring a fair trial for detainees and prohibiting the issuance of judgments and execution of sentences without a fair trial before a legally constituted court that guarantees all necessary judicial guarantees in the eyes of civilized peoples.

Turkey signed the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1984. Under this Convention,

individuals involved in torture can be prosecuted as long as they are within the borders of a state that is a party to the Convention. It is known that the leaders of the factions, who have committed crimes such as identitybased executions, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, physical and other forms of torture, regularly move across the Syrian-Turkish border. Turkey also signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1969 and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1989. However, Turkey often refrains from applying its provisions when it comes to the Kurdish population in Syrian cities under the control of factions it supports, which have witnessed many cases of torture and enforced disappearance.

It is evident that one element of enforced disappearance may involve the killing of the victim and the concealment of their body. Resolution 173/43, dated December 9, 1988, emphasized the necessity of "compliance with the principles relating to the prohibition and prevention of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions." The resolution called for effective measures to prevent extrajudicial executions and to hold perpetrators accountable. Families of the forcibly disappeared suffer financially due to the loss of the income their disappeared loved ones provided for their families. They may be forced to sell their movable and immovable property to pay intermediaries and brokers to reveal the fate of their disappeared family members. Emotionally, they endure the pain of loss, emotional deprivation, and anxiety. Living in dignity and harmony within a unified family is a fundamental human right protected by international law. Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the International Declaration for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance states, "The practice of enforced

disappearance constitutes a violation of the rules of international law guaranteeing, inter alia, the right to recognition as a person before the law, the right to liberty and security of the person, and the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." To date, there have been no international fact-finding missions or human rights committees entering the areas of northeast Syria to investigate the reality of detention centers. Article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted at the 57th session on January 18, 2002, emphasizes the need for an independent visiting body to monitor practices such as torture in its various forms. However, no member state of the Convention has made genuine efforts to investigate the fate of thousands of missing persons on the ground.

#### Recommendations

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing violations of the rights of arbitrarily detained individuals, prisoners, and enforced disappearances in the prisons of the SNA, including irregular asylum seekers crossing their territories to reach Turkey. These practices impact the lives of thousands of detainees and their families. This deliberate deprivation of the fundamental human rights to life, liberty, and justice is associated with other human rights violations, such as the highest attainable standard of health, food, and adequate housing.

Any solution must involve local communities and civil society organizations in consultations or policies related to resolving this issue. Additionally, support should be provided to victim groups, advocacy for their cause, assistance in achieving justice for them and their families, and finding opportunities for reconciliation between opposing communities to address issues affecting

civilians, especially cross-border concerns. This support can be facilitated by the United Nations or other international organizations.

The following recommendations, authored by over 40 human rights defenders, humanitarian workers, NGOs, and residents of the mentioned areas, are addressed to the responsible authorities, including the SNA factions and the Turkish government:

- 1-SNA factions must immediately cease torture and arbitrary detention. They should respect the rights of detainees, provide healthcare, and ensure humane conditions within prisons.
- 2-SNA factions must stop targeting ethnic minorities and civilians, ensuring their protection and respect for their human rights. Measures must be taken to prevent any violations against these individuals.
- 3- Allow the International Committee of the Red Cross and human rights workers access to detention centers in conflict zones to assess the conditions and basic rights of detainees, verifying compliance with international human rights treaties and laws. Furthermore, personal data of detainees should be collected and shared with their families.
- 4- Disclose the fate of enforced disappearances and search for those forcibly transferred to Turkey and those in the prisons of the SNA in Syria.
- 5- Halt forced displacement, provide adequate protection for asylum seekers, and cease violence, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and other forms of inhumane treatment against them.
- 6- Hold violators accountable, try them, and provide material and moral compensation to victims' families.
- 7- Adhere to international treaties and agreements related to human rights and the protection of civilians. Turkey should provide clarifications regarding its practices and entities within Syria.

## To the international community:

- 1- The international community and the United Nations system should initiate an official investigation into the violations occurring in areas controlled by the Syrian National Army and Turkey. Transparent accountability and justice processes should be pursued, including the fate and circumstances of women and children held in detention.
- 2- Signatory states to ceasefire agreements must exert pressure on Turkey to ensure compliance with international laws.
- 3- Expand and update the rules of international humanitarian law to enhance the rights of vulnerable populations and impose more obligations on states and entities involved in this context.
- 4- Encourage all parties involved in violations to adopt codes of conduct for personnel in detention facilities and places of confinement. Impose international sanctions on leaders evading these codes.

#### Conclusion

The practices carried out by the SNA factions under Turkey's umbrella against the inhabitants of areas governed by international humanitarian law and human rights laws, especially those dealing with populations and irregular migrants, constitute marginalized and vulnerable groups. These violations, including torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and racial discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, are easily committed against them within the context of the prevailing security vacuum in these areas and the impunity for such actions.

North Press Agency, through its Monitoring and Documentation Department, calls upon to urgently communicate with the Turkish government and the SNA factions to halt hostile acts against civilians and respect and protect their fundamental rights, especially the irregular migrants, including women and children, and to stop racial discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, including the region's indigenous population. We also urge Turkey to stop the illegal transfer of detainees from Syria to its territory, disclose the fate of detainees in its prisons, and encourage transparency in this regard.