



Supporting the future of Syria and the region

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THE DAY AFTER

Supporting Democratic Transition In Syria



Center for Civil Society and Democracy

BRUSSELS VII CONFERENCE ON SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION

Side Event on the Seventh Brussels Conference

Assessing the Political Process and its Prospects in Syria from a Civil Society Perspective

Background

Recently, there have been significant developments regarding the normalization of relations with the Syrian regime. Two main international tracks have emerged in this regard. Firstly, the Arab League, with the consent of its member states, hosted a summit on May 19th, where the head of the Syrian regime, Bashar al-Assad, was in attendance. Secondly, Russia sponsored a conference attended by Iran, Turkey, and the Syrian regime, which resulted in a meeting between the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavuşoğlu and the Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad in Moscow.

However, several European countries have expressed their opposition to this normalization process, with the United States of America emphasizing that any political solution in Syria must align with UN Resolution 2254.

Against this backdrop, The Day After Organization and the Center for Civil Society & Democracy (CCSD) will be holding a session that will assess the current political process in Syria from a civil society perspective, focusing on its prospects for a political solution in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2254.

Agenda:

- Syrian civil society's perspective on the requirements of the political process, as outlined in Resolution 2254.

- Evaluating the current processes of normalization and rapprochement with the Syrian regime from a civil society viewpoint, considering both Arab and Turkish normalization efforts.
- Examining the prospects for a political solution, taking into account the European-American standpoint (sanctions and a solution aligned with Resolution 2254) and the Turkish and Arab standpoint (convergence and normalization prior to a political solution). What recommendations does Syrian civil society have for the involved parties?

Panelists

- **Ms. Rajaa Altalli** co-founder of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy CCSD
- **Khaled Al-Helou:** Member of the Syrian Constitutional Committee
- **Farouk Haj Mustafa:** Director of “Bercav Organization”
- **Yara Nseir:** Research and M&E manager - LDSPS - Member of Women’s Platform

The session will be moderated by **Mutasem Alsyoufi – Executive Director of The Day After**

About the Panelists

Ms. Rajaa Altalli is the co-founder of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy CCSD and she is a member of the Syrian Women’s Advisory Board (WAB) for the UN Special Envoy for Syria since it was established in January 2016 to ensure that women’s perspectives and leadership is taken into account in the Syrian peace process. Ms. Altalli is a senior fellow at the Center for Peace and conflict Studies at Seton Hall University. Ms. Altalli was the Sergio Vieira de Mello Endowed Visiting Chair in Spring 2022 in the school of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and was a member of the Executive Committee and the co-chair of the US. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2022. Ms. Altalli was 12 years old when her father was arrested by the Syrian government for being part of a political party. Ms. Altalli got her Masters in Applied Mathematics from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts (2009) through the Fulbright Scholarship award. When the Syrian revolution started, she started documenting human rights violations, and worked with Syrians inside Syria and with Syrian refugees especially in the Middle East. Ms. Altalli has acted as a liaison between grassroots networks and national and international decision-makers, and conducted research to shine a light on the influence of religion on Arab-Kurdish relations in the Northeast of Syria, and the role of Syrian women in building peace. Ms. Altalli addressed the UN Security Council on behalf of CCSD in December 2019 and submitted a six-point plan for a

political solution in Syria. She has spoken to advance the political transition in Syria in multiple international conferences and events.

Khaled Al-Helou: Holds a Master's Degree in law from the University of Aleppo 2005. He practiced law for seven years, and then became a judge in Syria until 2012. Legal advisor to more than one entity. Member of the Syrian Constitutional Committee, a smaller entity of the civil society bloc. He has authored several research papers, and participated on issues of constitutions, institutional reform, elections, transitional justice, and protection of HLP rights.

Farouk Haj Mustafa is a prominent Kurdish writer and journalist and the Director of Bercav Media Foundation. His work primarily focuses on public affairs and pressing matters with democratic and human rights implications. Notably, he has conducted in-depth research on the topic of "Which constitution do Syrians need?" Furthermore, Mustafa is the author of "The Syrian Kurds and the Democratic Movement". He has deep knowledge in political and constitutional process, electoral reform, and institutional reform.

Eman Shahoud: Former Judge of the Court of Appeal, and member of the Syrian Constitutional Committee representing the Civil Society group and serving on the Sub-committee.

Founding Member of the Syrian Women's Network and Chair of the Legal Committee within the network.

Mutasem Syoufi is the Executive Director of The Day After (TDA), a Syrian-led organization that supports Justice and Democratic transition in Syria. Since 2011, he has supported non-violent movements and civil society activities in Syria. Between 2012 and 2013, he was active in developing a national vision for democratic transition in Syria by participating in the preparatory and drafting committee of the Cairo Conference for the Syrian Opposition and working with the leadership of the SOC. He holds an MA in International Affairs and Strategic Studies from King's College London and an MSC in Management in Construction from Kingston University London.

Organizers

The Day After (TDA) is a Syrian non-profit organization dedicated to countering authoritarianism and supporting democratic transition in Syria. TDA upholds the values of human rights in accordance with international conventions and covenants.

The Center for Civil Society & Democracy (CCSD) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization driven by its own decision-making processes and the will of its members. Its mission is to build a just and sustainable society, ensuring that every individual is

free and enjoys full rights. CCSD strives for a society characterized by stability and lasting peace.

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