

Syrian Arab Republic

Syria has a distinctive experience in co-existence and giving equal opportunities to all in light of the broad mix of religions and races, which all enjoy equal rights and responsibilities, and the freedom to practice their religious beliefs, including in issues of Personal Status. Syria has always provided a safe haven for people fleeing from persecution, and religious and ethnic cleansing, so that it was the country hosting the third largest [number of] migrants in the world. It opened its doors to them without restrictions until their percentage reached more than 10% of the number of the inhabitants of Syria. It provided them safety and all forms of freedoms and treated them the same as Syrians.

However, since more than two years Syria has been facing terrorist attacks aimed to spread sedition and unrest in the structure of the national intertwined brotherly societies which have been living hundreds of years in harmony, unity and understanding.

Terrorists from more than 84 countries are fighting in Syria; fighters which belong to al-Qaeda with its numerous branches and they kill innocent civilians and mutilate them simply because they object to al-Qaeda with its extremist ideology and defend a unified and secular Syria. They threaten the religious and ethnic diversity, of which secularist Syria is proud, and they aim to transform Syria into a Taliban Emirate, in which all human rights [would be] violated, and foremost the rights of religious minorities and their freedoms. Especially in light of the warped and distorted view of religion the armed terrorist groups have adopted and the sick fatwas which cover up their crimes with designations allowing them for their perpetrators and exempt them from accountability.

We mention from these crimes the cleansing of areas controlled by terrorist groups, forcing minorities to leave their homes after receiving death threats and using them as human shields and hostages,

kidnapping women according to [their] sectarian background and raping them, building schools that spread extremist ideas, imposing Islamic courts' rulings on religious minorities in certain areas under their control in direct violation of the freedoms they used to enjoy in Syria, which are ensured by the Syrian constitution and law, and destroying churches as it happened in Homs, Aleppo, Sadad and Ma'loula, whose inhabitants still speak Aramaic the language of Christ.

Terrorism knows no values or rights. Fighting it requires that the international community compel states, which fund and arm terrorists coming from all around the world and provide them with safe haven and passage, to stop committing these crimes immediately.