

By: Bassam Alahmad. Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, we would like to thank you for putting statelessness at the core of this forum this year. Statelessness has been the focus of our work this year for our organization, Syrians for Truth and Justice.

The **extensive research** we conducted in Northern Syria revealed that a whole community of Kurdish people had been deprived from their Syrian citizenship following an discriminatory census that took place in 1962.

As a result of the census, more than half million Kurds were stateless in 2011. More than Three hundred, seventy thousand “370,000” were able to regain the Syrian nationality after a 2011 presidential decree. However, sixty five thousand “65,000” remain stateless today.

In Syria, like everywhere in the world, being stateless mean being deprived of all basic human rights.

The population we studied was unable to attend school, high school or university, to own a land or any other property such as a car, house, bank account and even a SIM card for mobile phone, marry or register their own children.

Based on our research what stateless people need the most are education, acknowledgment, financial and non- financial reparation.

We hope that this forum could highlight the case of Kurdish stateless people in Syria and we urge stakeholders including the UNHCR to take a step ahead to assist the victims.

Thank you very much for your listening ...