

INCLUSIVE JUSTICE IN SYRIA: BUILDING MEDIA CAPACITY, PUTTING VICTIMS AT THE CENTRE

Project's context:

The fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, after more than fifty years of dictatorship—including fourteen years of civil war—marked a major turning point for Syria. The following year, the creation of the National Commissions for Transitional Justice and for Missing Persons opened a historic opportunity to address past violations, recognize the victims, and strengthen the rule of law.

However, this transition remains fragile. Disinformation, polarized narratives, and a lack of reliable information limit citizens' participation in the debates shaping the country's future. Independent and professional media are essential for explaining the mechanisms of transitional justice - whether it is to shed light on past violations, establish accountability, recognize victims' rights, or reform institutions - in order to foster a fact-based public debate and enable citizens to monitor and hold accountable those involved in the transition.

The Fondation Hironnelle supports a national network of Syrian media outlets to produce rigorous, accessible, and independent reporting on issues of transitional justice, accountability, and citizen participation.

Implementation of the project 2026/2027:

- Creation of a national network of 15 media partners and integration of state-run media
- Training and mentoring of Syrian journalists specializing in transitional justice
- Production of independent journalistic content covering all of Syria
- Strengthening the participation of Syrian women journalists
- Creation of a network bringing together media outlets and online content producers to promote the circulation of reliable information on transitional justice
- Publication of analyses that put the Syrian experience in the context of other transitional justice processes around the world, via Justice Info, the media outlet of the Fondation Hironnelle.
- Facilitation of dialogue between media outlets, civil society, and transitional justice institutions

Key figures



15 independant
media partners



600
journalistic pieces
produced and published



29 media
professionals
that will be
trained



50%
of women among
the journalists supported

FINANCIAL VOLUME

CHF 1'282'631

SOURCE OF FUNDING

- European Union

CONSORTIUM'S LEAD

- International Center for
Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

Outlook for the 2026 project:

The success of transitional justice in Syria will depend not only on the institutions tasked with addressing past violations, but also on citizens' ability to understand, follow, and participate in this process.

In 2026, the project will train and support Syrian journalists in covering transitional justice through training, editorial mentoring, and production support. Special attention will be given to women journalists. The project will also engage independent news producers to expand the dissemination of reliable information and will foster exchanges between media outlets, civil society organizations, and members of the Transitional Justice Commissions through roundtables, interviews, and reports.

The goal is to foster a sustainable network of journalists, media outlets, and content producers capable of supporting debates on justice, human rights, and governance. This effort will draw in particular on the expertise of Justice Info, the Fondation Hirondelle media outlet specializing in coverage of transitional justice processes around the world. Thanks to its unique experience and international network of experts and correspondents, Justice Info will help put Syrian experiences into perspective alongside those of other countries facing similar challenges, while strengthening the skills and practices of Syrian journalists.

DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Professional media promote transparency and accountability
- Reliable information reduces misinformation and tensions
- A better understanding of the justice system fosters citizen participation
- Listening to the voices of victims strengthens the legitimacy of the process
- Dialogue between institutions, the media, and civil society promotes a transition that is more inclusive and better understood by citizens

PRIORITIES

- ▶ Strengthening Syrian media's capacity
- ▶ Promoting access to reliable information
- ▶ Encouraging public dialogue

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Editorial mentoring and training
- ▶ Support for local journalism
- ▶ Roundtables and forums for dialogue
- ▶ Targeted support for women journalists
- ▶ Specialized publications via Justice Info

BENEFICIARIES

Directs

- 15 independent Syrian media outlets
- Journalists, editors, and content producers
- Transitional justice institutions
- Civil society organizations and victims' associations

Indirects

- Syrian citizens throughout the country
- Families of missing persons
- Communities affected by the conflict
- Syrian diaspora

To support us:

