

Testimony Submitted Anonymously for the Record by a Syrian Protestant Christian
for
USCIRF Hearing: Religious Freedom in Syria's Post-Assad Transition
November 2025

1. Overview

Current field and partner reports indicate that resources remain critically limited for the Druze community in southern Syria. Local contacts report that families continue to lack even basic food supplies, including flour to bake bread.

Across the country, Christians are living under increasing fear as radical Islamic ideology gains influence. The daily reality on the ground stands in stark contrast to the more stable image portrayed by political leadership.

2. Christian Exodus and Religious Pressure

There is a growing wave of Christian emigration—a development both painful and alarming. Christianity, which has endured in Syria for more than fourteen centuries since the rise of Islam, now faces the dual threat of **extinction and exodus**.

Almost every week brings reports of new killings—random shootings and targeted attacks against Christians. Just this week in **Qusair**, a young Christian man was shot and killed alongside an Alawite friend while walking down the street. In another incident, **three young men** were gunned down outside a Christian village. These are not isolated events; they reflect an escalating pattern of hostility and lawlessness.

While we do not directly accuse the government of orchestrating these attacks, **the facts are undeniable:**

- The government has disarmed civilians, leaving Christian communities defenseless.
- At the same time, **radical Sunni factions** have been armed and empowered—trusted solely on the basis of sectarian identity rather than integrity or character.
- This policy has effectively placed weapons in the hands of extremists whose ideologies justify violence against those of other faiths.

Christianity has survived **over two thousand years** in Syria, through empires, invasions, and persecution. Yet today, it faces perhaps its greatest danger—not through open

genocide, but through **systematic persecution** that is quietly emptying the country of its Christian presence. Many fear that this ongoing exodus is not accidental but part of a deliberate regional strategy—one that appears to be tolerated, if not supported, by international powers, including the current U.S. administration.

Still, the Church holds fast to faith. Believers cling to the truth that **God remains sovereign**, and what the enemy intends for evil, God can turn to good. Amid persecution, there are growing testimonies of men and women from Muslim backgrounds coming to faith in Christ—light shining in the darkest of places.

3. Political and Regional Dynamics

Pressure on religious freedom in Syria stems in large part from **Turkey's influence** over Al Sharra. Many of those within his circle are deeply radical in ideology, making genuine reform or moderation nearly impossible—even if he were inclined toward it.

Meaningful political change at this stage appears unlikely. The nation risks deeper fragmentation, with potential internal conflict among **Kurdish, Druze, and Sunni** factions.

4. Social Conditions and Education

Syria's education system is increasingly dominated by Islamic Imams, reversing decades of social progress. These religious authorities are actively instilling hostility toward Christians in young minds, fostering prejudice, violence, and humiliation.

As a result, many Christian parents have withdrawn their children from public schools, fearing for their safety—and, in some cases, their lives.

5. Humanitarian Restrictions

The Church continues to face immense challenges in delivering aid, particularly in **Swhida**, despite overwhelming need. Church leaders are hesitant to send relief through official channels due to corruption and deep mistrust of local authorities.

From the perspective of believers on the ground, there is a growing conviction that there is an intentional effort to **force Christians out**—a policy they fear may be **tacitly accepted or ignored by international powers**, including the United States.

6. Governance and Persecution

The current leadership appears unable—or unwilling—to control key centers of power. While many former Assad loyalists have been imprisoned, which is a good thing, we see ordinary professionals such as judges, educators, and civil servants are being targeted merely for their previous employment.

At the same time, **Christian employees** are being systematically removed from their posts and replaced by Islamic clerics and loyalists who now dominate public institutions and social systems.

Reports continue to emerge of Christians being killed across the country—acts of violence that sow fear and silence among believers. These attacks are often carried out by radicals who have been integrated into the new governing structure itself.

Final Statement

"It is easy to take action and be hailed a hero after tragedy has already struck—after the killings and genocide have taken their toll. But it takes true courage and leadership to act *before* the violence begins, to stand in the gap while there is still time to prevent it. The world does not need more heroes of hindsight—it needs leaders of foresight."