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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Fortieth session**  
24 January–4 February 2022

## **Compilation on the Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies<sup>1,2</sup>**

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the Syrian Arab Republic ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,<sup>3</sup> the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>4</sup> the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness<sup>6</sup> and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.<sup>7</sup> The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) too recommended that the State accede to the 1951 Convention, as well as to its 1967 Protocol.<sup>8</sup> The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>9</sup> The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families asked whether the State intended to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143).<sup>10</sup>

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child encouraged the State to withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>11</sup> The United Nations country team made the same recommendation in respect of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>12</sup>

4. The Secretary-General called upon all parties to the conflict, in particular the Government, as well as all States, civil society and the United Nations system, to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.<sup>13</sup> The



Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State cooperate with and grant unimpeded access to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>14</sup>

5. The same Committee recommended establishing a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.<sup>15</sup>

6. The Secretary-General urged the Government to cooperate with the special procedures and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in line with Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22.<sup>16</sup>

### **III. National human rights framework<sup>17</sup>**

7. The Committee on Migrant Workers asked for an update on the establishment of a national human rights institution.<sup>18</sup>

8. The United Nations country team reported that Law No. 2/2020, abolishing the legal recognition of honour killings, had been enacted and that 60 articles of the Syrian Personal Status Law (Legislative Decree No. 59/1953) had been amended.<sup>19</sup>

9. UNESCO reported that a new draft law on protecting the State's archaeological heritage had not yet been adopted.<sup>20</sup>

## **IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

#### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

10. The Secretary-General noted allegations of members of extremist groups imposing "medieval forms of punishment" on men accused of homosexuality.<sup>21</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals have cited sexual violence, mainly in detention settings, as a factor inducing them to flee the country.<sup>22</sup> According to the Commission of Inquiry, Da'esh and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham systematically discriminate against women, girls and sexual minorities.<sup>23</sup> Women and children with familial links to Da'esh suffer discrimination.<sup>24</sup>

#### **2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights**

11. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Syrian economy had deteriorated.<sup>25</sup> The United Nations country team noted that the Syrian pound had lost 78 per cent of its value since October 2019, while price increases for staple goods were high.<sup>26</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights noted the declining purchasing power of Syrians.<sup>27</sup> According to the Secretary-General, the fragility of the Syrian economy and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was pushing people into humanitarian need.<sup>28</sup>

12. According to the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures, the sanctions imposed on the State had contributed to worsening the humanitarian situation<sup>29</sup> and were arguably unlawful under international law.<sup>30</sup> While ordinary Syrians had become dependent on aid from humanitarian organizations, the accumulation of diverse and intertwined unilateral coercive measures had made providing humanitarian aid unnecessarily difficult, all but ensuring that it was delivered only through the United Nations or the largest international actors, unnecessarily excluding many non-governmental organizations, including actors based in the country.<sup>31</sup> UNRWA reported that sanctions had affected United Nations operations.<sup>32</sup> According to the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures, there was a pressing need to lift all sanctions negatively affecting the human rights of Syrians<sup>33</sup> and

recommended creating a specialized United Nations procurement office to facilitate humanitarian transactions authorized under all sanction regimes.<sup>34</sup>

13. The Secretary-General noted that more than 11 million people required humanitarian assistance<sup>35</sup> and that the delivery of humanitarian assistance remained challenging owing to the conflict, administrative impediments and deliberate restrictions by all parties.<sup>36</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic had altered the operating environment.<sup>37</sup> The Commission of Inquiry stressed that humanitarian aid had been instrumentalized as a weapon of war<sup>38</sup> and emphasized the need for rapid, safe, unimpeded, unconditional and sustained access to humanitarian and medical relief.<sup>39</sup>

### **3. Human rights and counter-terrorism<sup>40</sup>**

14. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that Syrian legislation on terrorism did not adequately incorporate international crimes, preventing the prosecution of those responsible.<sup>41</sup>

15. The High Commissioner also reported that many foreigners who joined terrorist groups were being held in prisons by the de facto authorities in the north-east, who had reportedly created ad hoc counter-terrorism tribunals, raising concerns about the appropriateness and fairness of procedures.<sup>42</sup> The Secretary-General emphasized that counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with international law.<sup>43</sup>

16. The Commission of Inquiry highlighted the impact of counter-terrorism frameworks on property rights.<sup>44</sup> Properties had been seized pursuant to the counter-terrorism law established by presidential decree,<sup>45</sup> which had also allowed for persons convicted of a wide range of offences to have their property confiscated.<sup>46</sup> Concerns were expressed about the right to a fair trial for those whose properties had been seized.<sup>47</sup>

## **B. Civil and political rights**

### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of person<sup>48</sup>**

17. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that the death penalty could be imposed for any act resulting in the partial destruction of a public building, an industrial establishment, a ship or another installation, in the disruption of means of transport or communications or in death. This punishment was imposed without respecting fair trial guarantees.<sup>49</sup>

18. According to UNRWA, the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remained tense.<sup>50</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the political instability and the rise in religious extremism.<sup>51</sup> On 23 September 2019, the Secretary-General announced the launch of a constitutional committee owned and led by the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>52</sup> In 2021, he assessed that its work had fallen short of everyone's expectations<sup>53</sup> and that the Syrian peace process remained fragile.<sup>54</sup> He called upon all parties, including regional and international actors, to support his Special Envoy to advance a political solution, as mandated by Security Council resolution 2254 (2015),<sup>55</sup> and the Geneva political process.<sup>56</sup> The Commission of Inquiry called for a political solution that would ensure accountability.<sup>57</sup>

19. The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis underlined the protection risks faced by humanitarian workers.<sup>58</sup> The Secretary-General reported on international and national humanitarian workers who had been killed, had been detained or had gone missing.<sup>59</sup> The United Nations country team mentioned attacks against humanitarian facilities, the two most recent ones having occurred in 2021, the confiscation of humanitarian assets and the occupation of humanitarian premises.<sup>60</sup>

20. In 2021, the Secretary-General reported that civilians continued to suffer the direct and indirect consequences of the armed conflict.<sup>61</sup> OHCHR had identified 350,209 individuals who had been killed in the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic between March 2011 and March 2021.<sup>62</sup> The Commission of Inquiry had recorded at least 130 assassinations of medical workers, former judges, reconciliation leaders and reconciled fighters between July 2020 and April 2021.<sup>63</sup> The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator reported that

indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure by all parties to the conflict had been documented.<sup>64</sup> Numerous incidents had occurred involving ground-based strikes, improvised explosive devices, including vehicle-borne explosive devices, explosive remnants of war, including landmines and unexploded ordnance,<sup>65</sup> suicide bombings,<sup>66</sup> cluster munitions, incendiary bombs, barrel bombs, “hell cannons”, mortars, rockets and chemical weapons.<sup>67</sup> All parties have denied humanitarian evacuations for wounded and sick civilians and fighters.<sup>68</sup> Attacks had been carried out against medical facilities and professionals and schools, staff and pupils,<sup>69</sup> the use of those facilities for military purposes,<sup>70</sup> attacks against residential areas,<sup>71</sup> markets, food sources,<sup>72</sup> farmland,<sup>73</sup> electricity and water facilities,<sup>74</sup> places of worship, religious property<sup>75</sup> and cultural heritage sites.<sup>76</sup>

21. All parties were urged to abide by their international humanitarian law and human rights law obligations;<sup>77</sup> respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution;<sup>78</sup> cease indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects;<sup>79</sup> and institute a permanent ceasefire, in line with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).<sup>80</sup>

22. The Commission of Inquiry underlined the fact that some influential States, while supporting a political solution, had simultaneously deepened their military involvement.<sup>81</sup> The Secretary-General mentioned that OHCHR had received reports of air strikes allegedly conducted by international actors that had resulted in civilian deaths and injuries.<sup>82</sup> He urged all those conducting military operations to do so in compliance with international humanitarian law.<sup>83</sup> The Commission of Inquiry recommended that Member States investigate incidents in which their forces had been implicated<sup>84</sup> and refrain from supporting any party responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross human rights violations.<sup>85</sup>

23. Since 2018, siege tactics had gradually decreased.<sup>86</sup> The Commission of Inquiry had extensively reported the use of sieges by all parties, who denied essential supplies to besieged populations, leading to acute malnutrition and deaths.<sup>87</sup> The Secretary-General reiterated that the deliberate starvation of civilians as a method of warfare could amount to a war crime.<sup>88</sup>

24. The Commission of Inquiry and the Secretary-General noted that checkpoints restricting the transit of people and goods had been used in the extortion of money;<sup>89</sup> pillaging and looting;<sup>90</sup> property appropriation and confiscation,<sup>91</sup> affecting in some instances Kurdish and Yazidi people;<sup>92</sup> and the imposition of codes of conduct.<sup>93</sup>

25. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict stressed the devastating impact of the armed conflict on children.<sup>94</sup> The Secretary-General and others underlined the recruitment and use of children,<sup>95</sup> killing and maiming,<sup>96</sup> abduction,<sup>97</sup> deprivation of liberty,<sup>98</sup> sexual violence,<sup>99</sup> executions and children forced into the role of executioner.<sup>100</sup> All parties were urged to cease violations against children,<sup>101</sup> including their recruitment and use in hostilities,<sup>102</sup> to demobilize them<sup>103</sup> and to treat children associated with armed groups as victims.<sup>104</sup>

26. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence were increasingly used by groups operating in conflict zones, including in the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>105</sup> The Commission of Inquiry documented cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls, men and boys<sup>106</sup> and against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex civilians.<sup>107</sup> The Secretary-General noted cases of such violence against persons living with disabilities<sup>108</sup> and of sexual slavery.<sup>109</sup> Executions of homosexuals and forced marriages to fighters had also occurred.<sup>110</sup> The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations highlighted the situation of Yazidi women and girls who had been abducted, then sold as “war booty” or given as “concubines” to fighters and kept in sexual slavery.<sup>111</sup> The Secretary-General stressed that sexual violence remained underreported<sup>112</sup> and that the criminalization of adult consensual same-sex conduct might impede reporting.<sup>113</sup> He urged all parties to the conflict to hold perpetrators of sexual violence accountable and urged the authorities to ensure that survivors of sexual violence committed by terrorist groups are recognized as victims and entitled to reparations and redress.<sup>114</sup>

27. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that countless people had been subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, abduction and enforced disappearance.<sup>115</sup> The Commission of Inquiry reported that hors de combat fighters had been

executed<sup>116</sup> and that, while arbitrary detention continued to be perpetrated by all parties, such violations had been most pervasive since 2011 in areas under government influence,<sup>117</sup> to intimidate and punish perceived political opponents, dissenting civilians, human rights activists, journalists, persons suspected of supporting armed groups, individuals critical of armed groups,<sup>118</sup> Kurdish and Yazidi people,<sup>119</sup> and men, women and children with alleged links to Da'esh.<sup>120</sup> It documented incommunicado detention and sexual violence in detention facilities by all parties<sup>121</sup> and appalling detention conditions.<sup>122</sup> The fate of many victims of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance remains unknown.<sup>123</sup> All parties to the conflict denied detainees due process and fair trial rights.<sup>124</sup> False charges had reportedly been made in military tribunals, field courts or antiterrorism courts to keep tens of thousands of persons in detention.<sup>125</sup>

28. Deaths in detention and summary executions were documented in detention facilities operated by all parties.<sup>126</sup> Da'esh carried out executions in public, forcing residents, including children, to attend.<sup>127</sup>

29. All parties were urged to release persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty;<sup>128</sup> disclose the fates of detained, disappeared and missing individuals;<sup>129</sup> investigate all deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and allegations of torture and hold perpetrators to account;<sup>130</sup> and allow access to all places of detention to independent monitors and humanitarian organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.<sup>131</sup> The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights endorsed the call for the creation of an independent mechanism to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people.<sup>132</sup>

## 2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law<sup>133</sup>

30. The United Nations country team stated that the conflict had affected the justice system. Various factors, including the poor application of laws and contradictions between laws, continued to obstruct access to justice. It recommended engaging in legislative reform to simplify laws and promote efficiency.<sup>134</sup>

31. The Commission of Inquiry was concerned about the proceedings of the counter-terrorism court and the field military courts owing to the general lack of evidence utilized and the imposition of death sentences.<sup>135</sup> For crimes committed by non-State armed groups and terrorists, all the courts appeared to operate without fair trial guarantees.<sup>136</sup>

32. The United Nations country team reported that many children suspected of conflict-related criminal acts were referred to security detention facilities instead of being referred to the juvenile courts. A referral system for pretrial alternative measures did not exist, nor was there a separation between protection centres and corrective institutions for juveniles.<sup>137</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended extending the Juveniles Act (No. 18) to all children under 18 years of age.<sup>138</sup>

33. The Commission of Inquiry reported that, in 2020, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic had issued a legislative decree granting pardons for a narrow ambit of crimes committed before 22 March 2020 and had proposed a limited amnesty for military deserters.<sup>139</sup> According to the Secretary-General, legislative decree No. 6 granted general amnesty to convicted adults and children for several crimes to reduce overcrowding in detention facilities and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>140</sup> The Commission of Inquiry reported that, by December 2020, there had been no developments towards lifting the immunity of security and intelligence forces granted by Legislative Decrees No. 14/1969 and No. 69/2008.<sup>141</sup>

34. The Secretary-General noted that continued impunity for alleged serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law remained of grave concern.<sup>142</sup> Addressing widespread impunity was crucial in paving the way towards a just and lasting peace.<sup>143</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Government to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.<sup>144</sup> The Secretary-General called for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court.<sup>145</sup> The Commission of Inquiry recommended that all parties ensure that any final settlement did not include amnesties for gross human rights violations, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>146</sup> It suggested the use of a truth and reconciliation mechanism.<sup>147</sup>

35. The Commission of Inquiry reported that investigations had been conducted by certain third-party States on the potentially unlawful conduct of their own forces but that none had resulted in prosecutions.<sup>148</sup> Numerous States had convicted individuals for terrorism-related offences linked to the Syrian conflict, but relatively few had prosecuted individuals for international crimes committed against Syrians.<sup>149</sup> In March 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the conviction of a former Syrian intelligence officer by a German court for abetting crimes against humanity.<sup>150</sup> According to the Commission of Inquiry, efforts were undertaken to hold corporations liable for complicity in crimes against humanity, although no such corporate convictions were secured.<sup>151</sup>

### 3. Fundamental freedoms

36. UNESCO reported that the freedoms of expression and of the press could be restricted through the counter-terrorism and media laws.<sup>152</sup> All publications and television and radio stations were controlled by the Government, as were most printed press institutions.<sup>153</sup> UNESCO recommended introducing a freedom of information law aligned with international standards and decriminalizing defamation.<sup>154</sup>

37. The Secretary-General noted that the parties to the conflict continued to target media professionals.<sup>155</sup> Between 2006 and 21 May 2021, UNESCO recorded 113 killings of journalists, four of them in 2020.<sup>156</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the Government ensure that those responsible for instances of intimidation, harassment, physical attacks and arbitrary arrest of human rights defenders or civil society activists be held accountable.<sup>157</sup>

38. The Commission of Inquiry noted restrictions on the registration of non-governmental organizations.<sup>158</sup> The Secretary-General reported on some peaceful protesters who were faced with an excessive use of force<sup>159</sup> and the Commission of Inquiry on protests and demonstrations that were regularly targeted by multiple parties to the conflict.<sup>160</sup> The United Nations country team recommended ensuring respect for freedom of association and assembly.<sup>161</sup>

### 4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery<sup>162</sup>

39. The ILO Committee of Experts expressed concern at the level of human trafficking and sexual slavery in the country<sup>163</sup> and urged the Government to ensure that appropriate criminal penalties were imposed on the perpetrators.<sup>164</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child regretted the cases of trafficking in and sale of children, mostly boys for use in hostilities and girls for sexual exploitation, and urged the State to fully implement the national plan to combat human trafficking.<sup>165</sup>

### 5. Right to privacy and family life

40. UNHCR welcomed legislative measures improving access to civil registration and documentation (Law No. 13/2021 and Legislative Decree No. 7/2021) but also noted that access to civil documentation remained limited.<sup>166</sup> According to the Commission of Inquiry, countless persons only possess civil documentation issued by armed groups, which is not officially recognized.<sup>167</sup> UNHCR recommended that the Government develop a mechanism to allow affected Syrians to obtain replacements for documents issued by entities not recognized by the Government.<sup>168</sup> The Commission of Inquiry emphasized the need to implement simplified administrative procedures for the civil registration of vital events.<sup>169</sup>

41. The Commission of Inquiry reported that the number of female-headed households had increased because of the arrests and disappearances of men and boys.<sup>170</sup> Without an official death certificate, women were not able to exercise their inheritance and custody rights, to sell their property or to remarry.<sup>171</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Government to repeal all legal provisions upholding unequal inheritance rights; support women-headed families, families living in areas previously controlled by non-State armed groups and children who had been forcibly separated from or lost their families; and provide the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population with resources.<sup>172</sup>

## C. Economic, social and cultural rights

### 1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

42. The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures noted that the economic deterioration had severely harmed the employment rate and that the working age population had decreased.<sup>173</sup> UNHCR noted that refugees and asylum seekers in the country were denied the right to work.<sup>174</sup> The Committee on Migrant Workers asked whether the Labour Code extended protection from discrimination to all migrant workers, particularly domestic migrant workers, and about measures taken to ensure non-discrimination against non-Arab migrant workers.<sup>175</sup>

43. The ILO Committee of Experts requested information on progress made to amend the Labour Act to grant workers the right to strike<sup>176</sup> and asked the Government to amend section 75 (b) of that Act to ensure equal remuneration for men and women for the same work and for work of equal value.<sup>177</sup>

### 2. Right to an adequate standard of living<sup>178</sup>

44. The United Nations country team reported that the economic situation had increased and deepened Syrians' vulnerability and poverty.<sup>179</sup> Nearly 80 per cent of people in the Syrian Arab Republic live in poverty.<sup>180</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the Government increase its investment in social welfare policies.<sup>181</sup>

45. UNRWA mentioned the promulgation in 2018 of a new property law (Law No. 10) empowering the Government to create redevelopment zones by decree.<sup>182</sup> In October 2018, in Qaboun town (Damascus), around 700 Palestine refugee homes were destroyed without notice, compensation or support.<sup>183</sup>

46. The Commission of Inquiry reported that civilians' access to adequate housing, land and property rights remained curtailed by the large-scale destruction of infrastructure and homes and compounded by systemic property seizures.<sup>184</sup> The United Nations country team recommended that the Government develop a comprehensive strategy to address housing, land and property issues.<sup>185</sup> The Commission of Inquiry noted the need to reform the housing, land and property framework<sup>186</sup> in such a way as to ensure respect for all Syrians' property rights.<sup>187</sup>

47. The Secretary-General noted that the food security situation remained critical.<sup>188</sup> According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as of July 2021, an estimated 12.4 million Syrians were food insecure and 1.3 million severely food insecure.<sup>189</sup> The Secretary-General reported that half a million children were chronically malnourished<sup>190</sup> and noted the high food inflation levels<sup>191</sup> and rising food prices.<sup>192</sup> The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures noted that international sanctions had led to reduced food production.<sup>193</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) noted that the COVID-19 pandemic was likely to worsen the food security and livelihoods situation.<sup>194</sup> The United Nations country team underlined that the Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic did not explicitly guarantee the right to adequate food.<sup>195</sup>

48. The United Nations country team noted that access to water had become a critical issue owing to the destruction of and damage to the potable water system and droughts.<sup>196</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child reported that access to water was being denied by all sides as a war weapon.<sup>197</sup> The Secretary-General mentioned the fuel shortage.<sup>198</sup> The Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures stressed that the embargo on oil trading had left many households unable to afford heating.<sup>199</sup> The United Nations country team recommended that water and electricity services be considered neutral zones.<sup>200</sup>

### 3. Right to health<sup>201</sup>

49. The Secretary-General noted the despairingly inadequate access to health care.<sup>202</sup> The United Nations country team highlighted the limited functionality and capacity of health-care facilities and the lack of adequately trained medical staff and of medical supplies.<sup>203</sup> The Commission of Inquiry highlighted that the targeting of medical facilities, hospitals and medical workers, the damage to such facilities and the flight of health workers had imperilled

Syrians' access to health care.<sup>204</sup> The United Nations country team indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the already debilitated health system.<sup>205</sup>

50. The United Nations country team stressed that women and youth, especially adolescent girls, had limited access to health services.<sup>206</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the Government adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy, including to prevent teenage pregnancy, and protect the rights of pregnant girls, adolescent mothers and their children, paying particular attention to girls forcibly married to fighters.<sup>207</sup>

51. The same Committee expressed concern about children suffering from various mental health illnesses as a consequence of the armed conflict.<sup>208</sup> The United Nations country team recommended strengthening mental health and psychosocial support services.<sup>209</sup>

52. The Secretary-General noted the high rate of COVID-19 transmission in the country.<sup>210</sup> The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) highlighted the limited testing capacity and the volatile epidemiological situation, the fact that infections among health-care workers continued to rise and that, in some areas, health-care workers did not have sufficient personal protective equipment.<sup>211</sup>

#### **4. Right to education<sup>212</sup>**

53. UNESCO reported that more than one in three schools had been damaged or destroyed, while others had been used for purposes not related to education.<sup>213</sup> The United Nations country team found that, in 2020, an estimated 2.45 million children were out of school and 1.6 million were at risk of dropping out.<sup>214</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the deteriorating quality of education and the shortage of qualified teachers.<sup>215</sup> UNESCO reported that Law No. 7 (2012) on compulsory education provided for nine years of free education, below the 12 years required by the Education 2030 Agenda.<sup>216</sup> UNFPA stressed that adolescent girls were being denied education.<sup>217</sup>

54. The ILO Committee of Experts recommended facilitating access to free basic education for all children, especially in conflict areas, giving particular attention to girls.<sup>218</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended enabling children's access to primary and secondary education, focusing on children displaced by the armed conflict.<sup>219</sup> The United Nations country team recommended removing practical obstacles to education regardless of the areas of control.<sup>220</sup> UNESCO recommended encouraging the Government to ensure that children living under non-State actors' control can pursue their education and that all persons with disabilities have the right to inclusive education.<sup>221</sup> UNRWA recommended promoting access to high-quality education for girls, including for girls forced to drop out of school owing to marriage and/or childbirth.<sup>222</sup>

### **D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

#### **1. Women<sup>223</sup>**

55. The United Nations country team stressed that women's rights continued to be restricted by some inequitable legislative frameworks, cultural practices and the conflict, and that young women and girls were particularly vulnerable.<sup>224</sup> According to the Commission of Inquiry, women belonging to certain religious and ethnic communities had been particularly affected by the conflict.<sup>225</sup> Severe restrictions on women's rights had been imposed, including strict dress codes and limitations on freedom of movement.<sup>226</sup> The United Nations country team recommended amending the legislation to achieve gender equality.<sup>227</sup>

56. The United Nations country team reported that gender-based violence had increased as a result of the conflict and the isolation and movement restrictions as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>228</sup> Gender-based violence specialists have noted the limited availability of services in many locations,<sup>229</sup> while the Secretary-General highlighted the many barriers to accessing services (stigmatization, shame, social isolation, distance to service delivery points and family restrictions).<sup>230</sup> The United Nations country team recommended adopting the draft domestic violence law and amending the Penal and Criminal



Codes to eliminate mitigated sentences for rapists who married their victims for so-called “honour crimes”.<sup>231</sup>

57. UNRWA reported that the new Syrian Personal Status Law (Law No. 13/2021) raised the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 years for both men and women.<sup>232</sup> The Secretary-General stressed that the conflict, the economic crisis and COVID-19 had led to an increase in child and early marriage and a decrease in the age of brides.<sup>233</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Government to establish a mechanism for reporting child marriage and making available protection services.<sup>234</sup>

58. The Commission of Inquiry reported that armed groups threatened and harassed women in political, military, medical and educational positions or otherwise taking active part in civil society.<sup>235</sup> It recalled the execution on 12 October 2019 of Hevrin Khalaf, Secretary-General of the Future Party of Syria, by the Syrian National Army.<sup>236</sup>

## 2. Children<sup>237</sup>

59. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that the conflict was denying children their fundamental rights and depriving them of education and health.<sup>238</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the Government to ensure that all children, independently of where they lived, had equitable access to educational, medical and essential services.<sup>239</sup>

60. The same Committee recommended repealing article 170 of the Personal Status Code and the provisions of the Penal Code authorizing corporal punishment of children,<sup>240</sup> tackling child abuse and neglect, and explicitly prohibiting domestic violence.<sup>241</sup>

61. The ILO Committee of Experts expressed concern about the situation of children in the Syrian Arab Republic who had been affected by the armed conflict and driven into child labour, including its worst forms.<sup>242</sup> It deplored the fact that Yazidi children continued to be victims of sexual slavery and forced labour.<sup>243</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended adopting the draft national action plan to combat child labour.<sup>244</sup>

62. Concerned at the increased number of children in street situations, the same Committee recommended decriminalizing begging and developing measures for the rehabilitation and integration of such children.<sup>245</sup>

63. The Secretary-General reported that the prohibition of pregnancy outside of wedlock had led to the forcible removal from some married women of children conceived as a result of rape.<sup>246</sup> Children born during Da’esh captivity and as a result of sexual slavery were placed in orphanages.<sup>247</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended strengthening the foster care system.<sup>248</sup>

64. The United Nations country team reported that many children did not have birth certificates or civil documentation.<sup>249</sup> According to the Commission of Inquiry, Syrian women with familial links to Da’esh fighters faced obstacles in registering their children, compromising their right to nationality.<sup>250</sup> According to the Secretary-General, mothers who conceived children as a result of rape faced similar difficulties, which placed their children at heightened risk of statelessness.<sup>251</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the increased fines for late birth registration introduced by Law No. 4 (2017).<sup>252</sup> It recommended re-establishing civil affairs services throughout the territory; recognizing documents issued locally by *mukhtars* or sheikhs to facilitate the issuance of birth certificates; waiving late birth registration fees; and amending the Personal Status Code so that children born to unmarried parents and children born as a result of sexual violence were registered.<sup>253</sup>

## 3. Persons with disabilities<sup>254</sup>

65. The United Nations country team noted an unprecedented increase in disability rate.<sup>255</sup> Others have recommended adopting a human rights-based approach to disability,<sup>256</sup> accelerating the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities<sup>257</sup> and ensuring access to education and health care, reintegration, rehabilitation and psychological support to civilians with disabilities.<sup>258</sup>

#### 4. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons<sup>259</sup>

66. The Committee on Migrant Workers received allegations that migrant workers and their families were not always given access to consular services or that consular authorities were not always notified when they were deprived of liberty or faced expulsion.<sup>260</sup> It inquired about measures to enforce the prohibition of the withholding by employers of migrant workers' passports.<sup>261</sup>

67. According to UNHCR, the State lacks a comprehensive national legal framework on asylum but is applying flexible policies.<sup>262</sup> Legal developments have facilitated the granting of residency rights to refugees and asylum seekers and waived penalties for entry and exit infractions, but the legal framework does not explicitly address needs relating to civil registration, legal documentation and representation before the national authorities.<sup>263</sup> UNHCR recommended that the Government remove the requirement, for refugees and asylum seekers, that, for legal residency to be attained, the person must have entered the country legally and possess a valid passport.<sup>264</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended adopting a law for asylum seekers and refugees.<sup>265</sup>

68. UNHCR recommended that the State provide basic documents to undocumented Syrian refugees willing to return.<sup>266</sup> The Secretary-General urged all countries to preserve Syrians' right to seek asylum and enjoy protection.<sup>267</sup>

69. The Commission of Inquiry reported that, as at January 2021, 6.2 million people were internally displaced and 5.3 million were refugees, primarily in neighbouring countries but increasingly as a global diaspora.<sup>268</sup> The majority of those displaced were women and children.<sup>269</sup> According to the ILO Committee of Experts, in 2020 the number of internally displaced children had exceeded 3 million.<sup>270</sup> The Commission of Inquiry attributed the displacement mostly to the unlawful behaviour of warring parties<sup>271</sup> but also to "evacuation agreements" and local truces.<sup>272</sup> The Secretary-General urged all parties to refrain from any action forcing civilians to flee.<sup>273</sup> Civilians' evacuation must be safe, voluntary and to a place of their choosing.<sup>274</sup>

70. The Secretary-General noted that camps for displaced persons were overcrowded.<sup>275</sup> The Commission of Inquiry reported on the deplorable living conditions in such camps.<sup>276</sup> The United Nations country team noted the inadequacy of the health care, nutrition, water quality and sanitation available in the camps.<sup>277</sup> The Secretary-General was gravely worried about conditions in Hawl camp<sup>278</sup> and noted that the humanitarian conditions in the makeshift settlement at Rukban remained dire.<sup>279</sup> He mentioned the high risk of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in and around refugee and displaced persons camps.<sup>280</sup> The Commission of Inquiry stated that access by humanitarian organizations was often deliberately denied by all parties or curtailed by hostilities.<sup>281</sup> The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights commented on the increasing protection concerns in camps, including in the context of the potential spread of COVID-19.<sup>282</sup>

71. According to the Commission of Inquiry, some camps have become internment camps, where people have been unlawfully deprived of liberty.<sup>283</sup> Spouses and children of suspected Da'esh fighters, many of whom are foreigners, have been taken to displacement camps in areas under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, where they are effectively arbitrarily deprived of their liberty<sup>284</sup> and where they remain in a legal limbo as their countries refuse their repatriation.<sup>285</sup> The Secretary-General has called upon all States concerned to facilitate their voluntary repatriation.<sup>286</sup>

72. The Commission of Inquiry has noted that numerous challenges, including the lack of civil documentation and extensive property seizures, persist regarding the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees.<sup>287</sup> To the challenges, the United Nations country team adds unresolved housing, land and property issues.<sup>288</sup> Others have recommended ensuring safe and voluntary returns,<sup>289</sup> guaranteeing property rights<sup>290</sup> and protecting returnees from discriminatory housing, land and restitution laws.<sup>291</sup> All parties to the conflict should adhere to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons.<sup>292</sup>

73. UNRWA highlighted the protracted displacement of many Palestine refugees, the fact that Palestinians not registered by the General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees

do not have valid civil documentation and that their descendants' legal status in the country remains uncertain.<sup>293</sup>

## 5. Stateless persons

74. UNHCR highlighted the increased risk of statelessness due to the conflict.<sup>294</sup> The gender inequality embedded in the nationality law could also perpetuate intergenerational statelessness, which was further exacerbated by challenges related to registration and civil documentation.<sup>295</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended adopting the draft amendment to article 3 of the nationality law, allowing Syrian women to transmit nationality to their children.<sup>296</sup> UNHCR recommended resolving the situation of the stateless Kurdish population.<sup>297</sup>

## E. Specific regions or territories

75. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the difficulty in ensuring children's rights in territories where the State did not exercise control, including the occupied Syrian Golan, reminding the State of the obligation to guarantee children's rights throughout the territory, independently of where they live.<sup>298</sup> It expressed concern about children born to non-Syrian mothers held in camps for internally displaced persons in territory under the control of Kurdish-led authorities and urged the Government to enable them to have access to the national education curriculum and return to school.<sup>299</sup>

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for the Syrian Arab Republic will be available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SYindex.aspx>.
- <sup>2</sup> For relevant recommendations, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), paras. 109.1–109.13, 109.31–109.63, 109.79–109.83, 110.1–110.3, 110.12–110.14, 110.16–110.17 and 110.19.
- <sup>3</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 57.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 58.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 24 (e).
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- <sup>8</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic, p. 3.
- <sup>9</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic, p. 10.
- <sup>10</sup> [CMW/C/SYR/Q/2-3](#), para. 6.
- <sup>11</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 7.
- <sup>12</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic, p. 2.
- <sup>13</sup> See, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 63. See also General Assembly resolution 71/248; and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), paras. 21 (h) and 59.
- <sup>14</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), paras. 21 (h) and 59. See also, e.g., [S/2018/619](#), para. 46; and [A/HRC/36/55](#), para. 88 (d).
- <sup>15</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 61.
- <sup>16</sup> [S/2021/583](#), para. 64.
- <sup>17</sup> For relevant recommendations, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), paras. 109.14, 109.16–109.24, 109.26–109.30, 109.64–109.78, 109.85 and 109.196.
- <sup>18</sup> [CMW/C/SYR/Q/2-3](#), para. 5.
- <sup>19</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 2. According to paragraph 17 of the UNRWA submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic, the new Syrian Personal Status Law is Law No. 13/2021.
- <sup>20</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 7.
- <sup>21</sup> [S/2019/280](#), para. 92.
- <sup>22</sup> [S/2018/250](#), paras. 19 and 76.
- <sup>23</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), paras. 52–53.
- <sup>24</sup> [A/HRC/43/57](#), para. 61.
- <sup>25</sup> UNRWA submission, para. 12. See also [S/2021/390](#), para. 10; [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 9; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Oral update on the extent of conflict-related deaths in the

- Syrian Arab Republic”, statement to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session, Geneva, 24 September 2021; and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), “Syrian Arab Republic: situation report – June 2020”, p. 1.
- <sup>26</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 10. See also [S/2021/583](#), para. 8; [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 8; and Paulo Pinheiro, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, statement to the Human Rights Council at its forty-seventh session, Geneva, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>27</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 10. See also FAO, “Syrian Arab Republic”, p. 2.
- <sup>28</sup> [S/2020/813](#), para. 48. See also [S/2020/1031](#), para. 52; [S/2020/401](#), para. 35; [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 92; United Nations country team submission, p. 10; FAO, “Syrian Arab Republic”, p. 1; and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Oral update on the extent of conflict-related deaths in the Syrian Arab Republic”.
- <sup>29</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 24; and [A/HRC/42/46](#), para. 40. See also [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 42; and Paulo Pinheiro, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, statement to the Human Rights Council at its at its forty-sixth session, Geneva, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>30</sup> [A/HRC/42/46](#), para. 42.
- <sup>31</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), paras. 50 and 68. See also [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 42.
- <sup>32</sup> UNRWA submission, para. 15.
- <sup>33</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 70. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 59; and Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures, “US must remove sanctions and allow Syria to rebuild”, press release, 29 December 2020.
- <sup>34</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 76.
- <sup>35</sup> [S/2020/401](#), para. 35.
- <sup>36</sup> See, e.g., [S/2018/369](#), para. 23.
- <sup>37</sup> [S/2020/401](#), para. 10.
- <sup>38</sup> [A/HRC/37/72](#), para. 10. See also [A/HRC/36/55](#), para. 82; Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 11 March 2021; and Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, “‘Military solutions’ in Syria have led to a decade of death, denial, and destruction”, press release, 18 February 2021.
- <sup>39</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 98 (b). See also, e.g., [A/HRC/43/57](#), paras. 100 (a) and 103 (c)–(d); [S/2020/1031](#), para. 52; [A/HRC/38/29](#), para. 13; United Nations country team submission, pp. 13–14; and UNRWA submission, para. 9.
- <sup>40</sup> For relevant recommendations, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), paras. 109.199–109.203.
- <sup>41</sup> [A/HRC/45/27](#), para. 32.
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 36 and 38.
- <sup>43</sup> [S/2020/813](#), para. 49.
- <sup>44</sup> [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 32. See also [A/HRC/36/55](#), para. 34.
- <sup>45</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 80.
- <sup>46</sup> [A/HRC/39/65](#), para. 91. See also [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 82.
- <sup>47</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 82.
- <sup>48</sup> For relevant recommendations, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), paras. 109.151–109.166, 109.169, 110.20–110.21 and 110.26.
- <sup>49</sup> [A/HRC/45/27](#), para. 27.
- <sup>50</sup> UNRWA submission, para. 9. See also UNFPA, “Regional situation report for the Syria crisis”, No. 105, 1–31 May 2021, p. 7.
- <sup>51</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 4.
- <sup>52</sup> “Remarks by the Secretary-General to the press on Syria”, 23 September 2019.
- <sup>53</sup> [S/2021/390](#), para. 59.
- <sup>54</sup> [S/2021/312](#), para. 56.
- <sup>55</sup> [S/2019/508](#), para. 49.
- <sup>56</sup> [S/2020/813](#), para. 58.
- <sup>57</sup> [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 8. See also [A/HRC/37/72](#), para. 16.
- <sup>58</sup> [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 13.
- <sup>59</sup> See, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), paras. 50–52. See also [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 13; and UNRWA submission, para. 7.
- <sup>60</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 14. See also [S/2021/398](#), paras. 40–41.
- <sup>61</sup> [S/2021/583](#), para. 19; [S/2021/390](#), para. 16; and [S/2021/160](#), para. 17.
- <sup>62</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Oral update on the extent of conflict-related deaths in the Syrian Arab Republic”.
- <sup>63</sup> Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>64</sup> [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 10. See also, e.g., [S/2017/244](#), para. 16; and [A/HRC/46/54](#), paras. 24, 28, 30 and 58.

- <sup>65</sup> S/2021/583, para. 19 and annex. See also, e.g., A/HRC/46/54, paras. 23 and 33; CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, para. 49 (e); United Nations country team submission, p. 3; and Paulo Pinheiro, statements to the Human Rights Council, 11 March and 6 July 2021.
- <sup>66</sup> A/HRC/36/55, para. 83.
- <sup>67</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/34/64, paras. 14–15, 17, 19, 35, 51, 70 and 73; and S/2018/462, para. 12. See also Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, “Military solutions’ in Syria have led to a decade of death, denial, and destruction”, press release, 18 February 2021.
- <sup>68</sup> A/HRC/36/55, para. 27.
- <sup>69</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/46/54, paras. 24, 29 and 56; A/75/873-S/2021/437, paras. 183 and 190; S/2021/583, paras. 27 and 54; CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, paras. 37 and 43 (b)–(c); United Nations country team submission, p. 9; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic, p. 1; and <https://www.unfpa.org/data/emergencies/syria-humanitarian-emergency>. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statements to the Human Rights Council, 11 March and 6 July 2021.
- <sup>70</sup> See, e.g., A/75/873-S/2021/437, para. 184; S/2021/398, paras. 30 and 34; CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, para. 43 (b); and United Nations country team submission, p. 9.
- <sup>71</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/45/31, paras. 40, 48 and 84; and S/2021/390, paras. 16 and 52.
- <sup>72</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/34/64, paras. 25, 41, 43, 71–73 and 77–78; and S/2021/398, para. 22.
- <sup>73</sup> A/HRC/42/51, paras. 49 and 53. See also S/2019/508, paras. 7 and 42; and S/2019/674, para. 12.
- <sup>74</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/34/64, paras. 25–26 and 45–47; and S/2021/398, paras. 40, 42–43 and 67. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>75</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/37/72, para. 72; and S/2019/674, para. 3.
- <sup>76</sup> A/HRC/46/54, para. 38; and S/2016/714, para. 49. See also A/HRC/45/31, paras. 63 and 66; and A/HRC/39/65, para. 19.
- <sup>77</sup> Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 2; A/75/873-S/2021/437, para. 190; and S/2021/398, para. 55. See also A/HRC/34/64, para. 106 (a); and United Nations country team submission, p. 14.
- <sup>78</sup> CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, para. 21 (a); and United Nations country team submission, p. 14.
- <sup>79</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/44/61, para. 109. See also, e.g., S/2021/390, para. 52; A/HRC/36/55, para. 89 (a); and A/HRC/33/55, para. 140 (a).
- <sup>80</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/46/54, para. 101; and S/2021/583, para. 65.
- <sup>81</sup> A/HRC/46/54, para. 97. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statements to the Human Rights Council, 11 March and 6 July 2021.
- <sup>82</sup> S/2016/796, para. 13. See also A/HRC/46/54, para. 31; A/HRC/42/51, paras. 27–31; and A/HRC/37/72, paras. 39–41 and 49.
- <sup>83</sup> S/2017/733, para. 41.
- <sup>84</sup> A/HRC/43/57, para. 103 (a).
- <sup>85</sup> A/HRC/46/55, para. 113 (d). See also A/HRC/42/51, para. 99 (g); A/HRC/36/55, para. 90 (a); A/HRC/34/64, para. 109 (c); and A/HRC/33/55, para. 144 (a).
- <sup>86</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 13.
- <sup>87</sup> A/HRC/46/54, paras. 40, 45–47 and 96; A/HRC/39/65, paras. 41 and 46; A/HRC/37/72, paras. 70–71; A/HRC/36/55, paras. 18–19; and A/HRC/33/55, paras. 32–41 and 132. See also S/2018/969, para. 5; S/2018/462, para. 23; and CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, paras. 19 (g) and 49 (a); Commission of Inquiry, “Sieges as a weapon of war: encircle, starve, surrender, evacuate”, 29 May 2018; and Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>88</sup> S/2017/623, para. 40.
- <sup>89</sup> A/HRC/45/31, para. 30. See also A/HRC/43/57, paras. 73–74; A/HRC/40/70, paras. 67–68 and 78; and A/HRC/33/55, paras. 39 and 78.
- <sup>90</sup> See, e.g., A/HRC/46/54, para. 37; A/HRC/45/31, paras. 46–51; S/2021/583, para. 26; and S/2021/390, para. 23. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>91</sup> A/HRC/45/31, para. 46; A/HRC/44/61, para. 89; A/HRC/46/55, paras. 40–41; A/HRC/43/57, paras. 41–42; A/HRC/39/65, paras. 28, 30 and 65; S/2021/583, para. 26; S/2021/390, para. 23, and S/2020/813, para. 21. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>92</sup> A/HRC/45/31, paras. 46–51; A/HRC/43/57, paras. 41 and 56; and A/HRC/39/65, para. 30.
- <sup>93</sup> S/2020/1031, para. 21; and S/2020/813, para. 20.
- <sup>94</sup> Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1. See also A/75/873-S/2021/437, para. 190; S/2021/398, para. 55; CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, paras. 4 and 49; A/HRC/38/29, para. 6; A/HRC/46/54, para. 60; and ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020: Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations*, Report III (Part A), International Labour Conference, 109th Session, 2020, p. 329.
- <sup>95</sup> See, e.g., A/75/873-S/2021/437, paras. 179 and 190; S/2021/398, paras. 7–13; CRC/C/SYR/CO/5, para. 49 (b); A/HRC/38/29, para. 12; A/HRC/46/54, paras. 57–59; Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1; United Nations country team submission, p. 5; and ILO,

- Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, pp. 329–331.
- <sup>96</sup> See, e.g., [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), paras. 181 and 190; [S/2021/398](#), paras. 17–23; [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 55; [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 19 (a)–(b); Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1; and United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>97</sup> [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), para. 185; [S/2021/398](#), paras. 36–39; [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 49 (d); and Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1.
- <sup>98</sup> [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), paras. 180 and 191; [S/2021/398](#), paras. 14–16 and 61; [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 56; [A/HRC/42/51](#), para. 82; [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), paras. 19 (d), 27 and 49 (c); Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1; and United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>99</sup> [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), para. 182; [S/2021/398](#), paras. 24–27; [S/2018/969](#), paras. 30–33; [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 58; [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 31; and Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 1.
- <sup>100</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 58.
- <sup>101</sup> Office of the Special Representative’s submission, p. 2. See also [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), para. 189.
- <sup>102</sup> See, e.g., [S/2021/398](#), para. 57; [S/2018/969](#), para. 59; [A/HRC/43/57](#), para. 102 (b); [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 51 (b)–(c); United Nations country team submission, p. 5; and ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, pp. 330–331.
- <sup>103</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, p. 330.
- <sup>104</sup> [S/2018/969](#), para. 62.
- <sup>105</sup> [A/HRC/40/28](#), para. 25. See also, e.g., [S/2021/390](#), para. 21; [S/2021/312](#), para. 56; [S/2018/250](#), paras. 75–77; [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 33 and 74; and “UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria: sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls, men, and boys a devastating and pervasive feature of the conflict and must end now”, 15 March 2018.
- <sup>106</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 48. See also [S/2019/280](#), para. 19; and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 31.
- <sup>107</sup> [A/HRC/42/51](#), para. 91.
- <sup>108</sup> [S/2020/487](#), para. 14; and [S/2018/250](#), para. 76.
- <sup>109</sup> See, e.g., [S/2021/312](#), para. 32. See also [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 58; [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 5; and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 19 (e).
- <sup>110</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 53. See also [A/HRC/33/55](#), para. 109; and [A/HRC/41/19](#), para. 21.
- <sup>111</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, p. 331. See also, e.g., [S/2018/969](#), para. 32; [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 71, 74 and 88; and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 19 (e).
- <sup>112</sup> [S/2021/312](#), para. 56. See also [A/HRC/33/55](#), para. 104.
- <sup>113</sup> [S/2019/280](#), para. 19. See also [A/HRC/40/28](#), para. 25.
- <sup>114</sup> [S/2021/312](#), para. 58. See also [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 31 (b)–(c).
- <sup>115</sup> [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 4. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), paras. 25–26; [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 100 and 110; Commission of Inquiry, “Detention in the Syrian Arab Republic: a way forward”, 8 March 2018; and OHCHR, “Syria’s missing: the search for truth, justice and reparation”, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>116</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 75. See also [S/2019/949](#), para. 18.
- <sup>117</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 73. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>118</sup> See, e.g., [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 28, 62–63, 72, 89 and 100.
- <sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 41 and 88.
- <sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 54 and 95. See also [S/2019/321](#), para. 15.
- <sup>121</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 7. See also, e.g., [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 56; and [S/2021/312](#), para. 56.
- <sup>122</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 106. See also “5th Brussels Conference: supporting the future of Syria and the region”, statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 30 March 2021.
- <sup>123</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 103. See also [S/2021/390](#), para. 23.
- <sup>124</sup> [A/HRC/37/72](#), para. 65. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 25.
- <sup>125</sup> [A/HRC/37/72](#), para. 18.
- <sup>126</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 7 and 106. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 25; [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 75; and Commission of Inquiry, “Death notifications in the Syrian Arab Republic”, 27 November 2018.
- <sup>127</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 75.
- <sup>128</sup> [S/2020/813](#), para. 53. See also, e.g., [S/2018/969](#), para. 63; [S/2017/1057](#), para. 41; [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 111 (d); and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 21 (d).
- <sup>129</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 98 (d). See also, e.g., [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 91 (c); [S/2021/583](#), para. 60; United Nations country team submission, p. 4; and “Syria: truth and justice needed more than ever after 10 years of conflict – Bachelet”, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>130</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 111 (f); and [S/2019/508](#), para. 45. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 60; and [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 28 (b).
- <sup>131</sup> [A/HRC/37/72](#), para. 81 (c). See also, e.g., [A/HRC/35/15](#), paras. 6 and 12; [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 28 (c); [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 111 (c); [S/2021/583](#), para. 60; and [CMW/C/SYR/Q/2-3](#), para. 15.
- <sup>132</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Oral update on the extent of conflict-related deaths in the Syrian Arab Republic”; “Syria: truth and justice needed more than ever after 10 years of conflict – Bachelet”, 11 March 2021; and “5th Brussels Conference: supporting the future of Syria

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- <sup>134</sup> United Nations country team submission, pp. 3–4.
- <sup>135</sup> [A/HRC/46/55](#), para. 16.
- <sup>136</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 75.
- <sup>137</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>138</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 55.
- <sup>139</sup> [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 8.
- <sup>140</sup> [S/2021/398](#), para. 48.
- <sup>141</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 75. See also [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 28 (b).
- <sup>142</sup> [S/2021/583](#), para. 63. See also [A/HRC/46/54](#), paras. 74 and 99; [A/HRC/46/55](#), paras. 4 and 97–98; and Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>143</sup> [S/2018/969](#), para. 57. See also, e.g., [S/2021/583](#), para. 63; [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 5; and “5th Brussels Conference: supporting the future of Syria and the region”, statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 30 March 2021.
- <sup>144</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 21 (i).
- <sup>145</sup> [S/2021/583](#), para. 63. See also [A/HRC/38/29](#), para. 8; [A/HRC/35/15](#), para. 8; and [A/HRC/33/55](#), para. 147 (c).
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- <sup>147</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 100.
- <sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 77.
- <sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 86.
- <sup>150</sup> See “Syria: truth and justice needed more than ever after 10 years of conflict – Bachelet”, 11 March 2021. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 11 March 2021.
- <sup>151</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 88.
- <sup>152</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 1.
- <sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 11–12.
- <sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- <sup>155</sup> [S/2021/160](#), para. 22. See also [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 36.
- <sup>156</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 17.
- <sup>157</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 15 (b).
- <sup>158</sup> [A/HRC/45/31](#), para. 30.
- <sup>159</sup> [S/2020/813](#), para. 52.
- <sup>160</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 36. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>161</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 3. See also ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2019: Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations*, Report III (Part A), International Labour Conference, 108th Session, 2019, p. 156.
- <sup>162</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), para. 109.188.
- <sup>163</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, p. 238. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
- <sup>164</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, p. 238. See also [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), para. 54; and [CMW/C/SYR/Q/2-3](#), para. 24 (b)–(c).
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- <sup>166</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 5. See also [A/HRC/42/51](#), para. 9.
- <sup>167</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 9.
- <sup>168</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- <sup>169</sup> [A/HRC/40/70](#), para. 98 (h).
- <sup>170</sup> [A/HRC/46/54](#), para. 64.
- <sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 64; and [A/HRC/33/55](#), para. 85. See also Paulo Pinheiro, statement to the Human Rights Council, 6 July 2021.
- <sup>172</sup> [CRC/C/SYR/CO/5](#), paras. 10, 17 (a) and 34–35.
- <sup>173</sup> [A/HRC/39/54/Add.2](#), para. 9. See also UNRWA submission, para. 12.
- <sup>174</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 3.
- <sup>175</sup> [CMW/C/SYR/Q/2-3](#), para. 12.
- <sup>176</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2019*, p. 157.
- <sup>177</sup> ILO, *Application of International Labour Standards 2020*, p. 435.
- <sup>178</sup> For relevant recommendations, see [A/HRC/34/5](#), paras. 109.38 and 109.190.

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