SYRIAN CIVIL/CRIMINAL CASES & INVESTIGATIONS OF WAR CRIMES (2011-PRESENT)

Cases Involving the Assad Regime

<u>JURISDICTION</u>	CASE/MATTER	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
U.S.	Colvin et al. v. Syrian Arab	Federal lawsuit filed against the Assad Regime for the extrajudicial	Assad regime found liable for extrajudicial killing by
	Republic	killing of Marie Colvin. Case filed under the Foreign Sovereign	U.S. district court for the District of Columbia, ordered
	$(2016)^1$	Immunities Act.	to pay over \$300 million in damages in January 2019. ²
France	Baba Amr Media Case ³	Preliminary investigation into the Baba Amr Media Center attack	Pending
	(2012)	opened in 2012, initially for assassination and attempted assassination;	
		focus shifted in 2014 to war crimes. ⁴ An eyewitness to the planning of	
		the attack testified before French investigators. As of 2018, however,	
		French authorities have taken no formal steps against the suspected	
		perpetrators. ⁵	
France	The Dabbagh Case	Human rights groups, FIDH and LDH, filed complaint against Assad	$Pending^{7}$
	$(2016)^6$	Regime for war crimes. French judge opened investigation into	
		disappearance of father and son with dual French and Syrian	
		citizenship in Syria.	
		In October 2018, France issued three international arrest warrants	
		against security chief Ali Mamlouk, head of Airforce Intelligence	[Arrest warrants issued against three senior Syrian
		Jamil Hassan, and senior Airforce Intelligence official Abdel Salah	intelligence and government officials] ⁸
		Mahmoud. Warrants bring charges including collusion in torture,	
T.		forced disappearances, crimes against humanity and war crimes.	D 1:
France	Qosmos Corporate	FIDH and LDH filed a complaint in July 2012 urging the French	Pending
	Complicity Case	judiciary to investigate the involvement of French companies,	
	$(2012)^9$	especially Qosmos, in supplying the Bashar al-Assad regime with	
		surveillance equipment. French judicial investigation was subsequently opened against Qosmos (company). Alleged complicity	
		in acts of torture. Assigned to specialized unit in crimes against	
		humanity and war crimes.	
		In 2015, Qosmos was designated as an assisted witness (<i>témoin</i>	
		assiste), a status that can precede formal indictment. ¹⁰	
France	Caesar Investigation	Crimes against humanity and war crimes investigation opened by the	Pending ¹²
Trunce	(2015) ¹¹	Paris Prosecutor based on 45,000 photos taken by "Caesar", a former	1 Chang
	(====)	forensic photographer for the Syrian military police.	

France	Rahman Case (2016) ¹³	Criminal complaint lodged in Paris High Court against Assad regime alleging torture, forced disappearance and homicide for death of brother in Damascus prison in 2014.	Case officially closed in 2016. ¹⁴
France	Arrest of Former Syrian Intelligence Member (2019)	A 30-year-old Syrian citizen was arrested in Paris in February 2019 on allegations of crimes against humanity. He was a former member of the Assad regime's security services, and is suspected of committing crimes against humanity between 2011 and 2013. The arrest was done in coordination with German officials arrests of two former Syrian officials.	Pending
Italy	AREA S.p.A. Investigation (2016)	Italian government investigating Area S.p.A. for allegedly exporting surveillance technology to the Syrian Telecom Establishment in 2010 and 2011, knowing it would be used by Assad's secret service. AREA had partnered with the French company Qosmos in their Syria project. Italian police raided AREA's offices in December 2016, suspecting violations of European embargoes and breaches of foreign trade law. ¹⁶	Pending
Belgium	Criminal Export of Sarin by Belgian Companies (2018)	Criminal case filed against three Belgian firms - AAE Chemie, Danmar Logistics and intermediary Anex Customs – for violating EU sanctions and exporting, in addition to other chemicals, 96 tons of isopropanol, a chemical used to produce sarin gas, to Syria between 2014 and 2016 without the required permits. ¹⁷	Three businesses found guilty and fined between €75,000 and €500,000 in February 2019. Rolf Rippen, manager at AAE Chemie, was sentenced to four months in jail. Herman Van Landeghem, manager for Anex Customs and Danmar Logistics, received a 12-month prison sentence. 18
Spain	Abdulmuemen Alhaj Hamdo (Caesar Photos) Case (2017) ¹⁹	Criminal proceeding against high-level Syrian officials in Spain's National Court on allegations of state terrorism - enforced disappearance, torture and killing of victim at a government detention center. Case dismissed in July 2017 after public prosecutor argued court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. Dismissal appealed; December 2017, appeal was rejected. In February 2018, the NGO Guernica 37 requested the Spanish Supreme Court admit their claim to reopen the investigation. ²⁰	Appeal rejected in late 2017.
Germany	Universal Jurisdiction against Syria for Crimes in Aleppo (2016) ²¹	Attorneys filed criminal complaint against Bashar al-Assad for alleged war crimes perpetrated in Aleppo between April and November 2016.	N/A
Germany	Structural Investigation (2011) ²²	Ongoing structural investigation into crimes against humanity and war crimes perpetrated by the Syrian government since 2011.	Ongoing

			[Structural investigation has led to subsequent investigations of at least 10 Regime officials]
Germany	March 2017 Torture Case (2017) ²³	First criminal complaint filed (March 1, 2017) against six suspected high-level officials of Syrian intelligence for war crimes / crimes against humanity. Federal prosecutors agreed to hear witness testimony.	Pending
Germany	September 21 Caesar Photos Case (2017) ²⁴	Criminal complaint filed by the "Caesar-Files Support Group" and ECCHR against senior officials of intelligence and military for crimes against humanity and war crimes.	Pending
Germany	Nov 6 2017 Torture Cases (2017) ²⁵	Two criminal complaints filed on November 6, 2017 with the Office of the German Federal Public Prosecutor in Karlsruhe alleging crimes against humanity and war crimes perpetrated in military and intelligence detention facilities, particularly the Saydnaya Military Prison. Directed against ten high-ranking officials of the National Security Office and Air Force Intelligence. In June 2018, the Germany Federal Court of Justice issued an arrest warrant against Jamil Hassan,	Pending [Arrest warrant issued against Jamil Hassan in 2018]
Germany	Arrests of Former Syrian Regime Members (2019) ²⁷	head of the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Service. head of the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Service. In February 2019, German officials arrested two alleged former secret service officers: Anwar R., a high-ranking member of Syria's General Intelligence Directorate, and Eyad A., a former officer that manned checkpoints around Damascus. Both are accused of carrying out or aiding crimes against humanity. Arrests were done in correspondence with French officials, who arrested another Syrian suspected of participating in acts of violence against civilians in Syria.	Pending
Sweden	Syrian soldier guilty of war crime ³⁰	Syrian soldier, Mohammad Abdullah, found guilty of war crimes.	Sentenced to 8 months in prison on September 25, 2017
Sweden	Criminal Complaint against Assad Regime Intelligence Officials (2019)	In February 2019, nine torture survivors submitted a criminal complaint in Stockholm against 25 named intelligence officials in the Assad regime. The allegations include crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, degrading treatment, rape, severe bodily injury and illegal abduction. ³¹	Pending
Austria	Criminal Complaint against Assad Regime by Torture Survivors (2018)	Sixteen Syrian torture survivors filed a criminal complaint with the prosecutor in Vienna against 24 senior officials in the Assad regime. Allegations include torture as a crime against humanity and as a war crime. ³²	Pending

Cases Involving Syrian Rebels/Opposition Armed Forces³³

<u>JURISDICTION</u>	NAME	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Austria	Alleged Farouq Brigade	Unnamed former member of Farouq Brigade charged with murder as a	Sentenced to life imprisonment in 2017. Defense
	member charged and	war crime and violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Alleged to	lawyer appealed conviction.
	convicted	have murdered twenty unarmed and injured Syrian government soldiers	
	$(2017)^{34}$	in Homs between 2013 and 2014.	
Germany	Case of Ibrahim Al. F.,	Ibrahim Al F. accused of leading militia group Ghurabaa al-Sham	Sentenced to life in prison on September 25, 2018. ³⁷
	former member of militia	(allegedly fighting government forces as part of Free Syrian Army).	
	group Ghurabaa al-Sham	Arrested on April 6, 2016 near Dortmund and formally charged with	
	$(2016)^{35}$	war crimes and abduction for the purpose of blackmail at the Higher	
	, , ,	Regional Court of Dusseldorf on October 27, 2016. Trial started on	
		May 22, 2017. ³⁶ Convicted for torture and killing persons protected	
		under international humanitarian law, in addition to murder,	
		extortionist kidnapping and the commission of war crimes.	
Sweden	Syrian Rebel Sentenced to	Former rebel, Haisam Omar Sakhanh, involved in mass killing of	Sentenced to life in prison on February 16, 2017;
	Life for Mass Killing Caught	Syrian soldiers caught on video sentenced to life in prison for war	confirmed by court of appeal on May 31, 2017 ⁴⁰
	on Video	crimes. Swedish Supreme Court denied his leave to appeal in July	AA V
	$(2017)^{38}$	2017. ³⁹	
Sweden	Syrian Rebel Sentenced to	Former FSA fighter, Mouhannad Droubi, convicted of war crime	Sentenced to 8 years in prison by Stockholm Court of
	Five Years for War Crime	caught on video.	Appeal on August 5, 2016. Additionally, the Court
	$(2015)^{41}$		ordered his deportation as soon as he has served his
	, , ,		sentence and banned him from Sweden for life. ⁴²

Cases Involving Jihadists or ISIS

<u>JURISDICTION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
France	LaFarge Corporate	Proceedings against cement company Lafarge (now LafargeHolcim) for	Ongoing
	Accountability Case	financing terrorism, complicity in war crimes and crimes against	
	(2017)	humanity perpetrated by ISIS, deliberate endangerment of lives,	
		exploitative labor practices, forced labor, and violation of EU embargo	[On June 28, 2018, multinational company Lafarge
		on oil purchases. In December 2017, former chief executive of Lafarge	was indicted on charges of complicity in crimes
		group and three former directors, with two former French directors of	against humanity, financing of a terrorist enterprise,
		its subsidiary, were formally indicted for financing of terrorism and	and endangerment of people's lives]
		endangering people's lives. ⁴³	
		In November 2018, a group of Yazidi women kidnapped as sex slaves	

		by ISIS applied to join the criminal case against LaFarge. 44	
Germany	ISIS Structural Investigation ⁴⁵	Ongoing structural investigation in Germany for serious crimes under international law (incl. war crimes) committed against the Yazidi minority in Syria and Iraq since 2014. In December 2016, the Supreme Court of Germany issued an arrest warrant against a high-ranking IS commander allegedly responsible for genocide and war crimes, including abduction and sexual enslavement of Yazidi women in Syria and Iraq.	Ongoing [Structural investigation spurred subsequent investigations of at least 27 specific individuals involved in crimes committed by the IS]
Germany	Former al-Nusra Fighter Arrested for War Crimes (2017) ⁴⁶	Abdalfatah H. A. (alleged member of Jabhat al-Nusra) arrested in Dusseldorf on March 2, 2017. Accused of membership in terrorist organization and war crimes for involvement in murder of 36 Syrian civil servants in March 2013.	Pending
Germany	Former al-Nusra Fighter Arrested for War Crimes (2016) ⁴⁷	Alleged former member of the Jabhat al-Nusra, Suliman A.S, arrested on January 21, 2016 for suspicion of aiding war crime for kidnapping of a U.N. observer. On June 27, 2016, charged with war crimes, abduction for the purpose of blackmail, unlawful imprisonment, attempted blackmail, use of force or threats against life and membership in a terrorist organization abroad.	Sentenced to 3.5 years in prison on September 20, 2017. ⁴⁸ Charges of membership in a terrorist organization were lifted. ⁴⁹
Germany	Former ISIS fighter charged with war crimes ⁵⁰ (N/A)	Aria L., German national and ISIS fighter, charged with war crimes.	Sentenced to 2 years in prison on July 12, 2016.
Germany	Former ISIS fighter charged with war crimes ⁵¹ (N/A)	Abdelkarim El. B., ISIS fighter and German national, charged with war crimes.	Sentenced to 8.5 years in prison on November 8, 2016.
Germany	Four Syrian brothers (former members of Jabhat-al Nusra) accused of war crimes (2017) ⁵²	Mustafa K., Abdullah K., Sultan K. and Ahmed K. (four brothers) arrested and accused of perpetrating war crimes. Allegedly forced civilians to leave city of Ras al-Ayn while plundering their possessions.	Pending
Germany	Two alleged jihadists (Jabhat- al Nusra and ISIS) charged with war crimes. ⁵³ (2017)	Mousa H. A. and Abdulmalk A. arrested on May 9, 2017 for membership in terrorist organizations. Abdulmalk A. accused of murder as a war crime. In custody.	Pending
Germany	Allogad ICIC manufactured	Akram A. arrested on February 7, 2017 in northeast Germany and taken	Suspect released due to lack of evidence.

	of perpetrating war crime. ⁵⁴	into custody on suspicion of belonging to ISIS. Also accused of a war	
	(2017)	crime for raping a Syrian woman.	
		On 12 June 2017, federal prosecutor requested investigating judge	
		waive arrest warrant and release suspect due to new findings	
		questioning the validity of original charges.	
Germany	Harry Sarfo Case	In July 2017, Sarfo (German national and former ISIS member)	Pending
	(2017)	charged with six counts of murder and war crimes following release of	
		video by Washington Post showing Sarfo taking part in execution of six	[Previously sentenced to three years in prison for
		prisoners in Syria.	belonging to a terrorist organization; investigation
			ongoing for war crimes and crimes against humanity] ⁵⁵
Latvia	Martins Grinbergs Case	Grinsbergs, a Latvian national, was convicted of illegal participation in	Sentenced to 10 years in prison in November 2017.
	(2016)	an armed conflict on the side of ISIS and sentenced to four years in	
		prison. He was acquitted of participation in a criminal organization's	
		crimes against humanity or war crimes. ⁵⁶ On the appeal, he was found	
		guilty of involvement in crimes committed by a terrorist organization	
		and his prison sentence was increased from 4 years to 10, with an	
		additional 3-year probationary period. ⁵⁷ His lawyer stated his intention	
		to appeal to the Supreme Court.	
Netherlands	Cases of Oussama A. and	Oussama A. and Reda N. are Dutch nationals that were involved in	Pemding
	Reda N.	terrorist organizations in the FSA. They are both charged with	
		membership in a terrorist organization and of recruiting. ⁵⁸ In addition,	
		Oussama A. is suspected of committing a war crime for posing with a	
		dead body and posting the photo on Facebook. ⁵⁹	

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New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/10/world/middleeast/marie-colvin-family-sues-syria.html? r=0

Daily Telegraph: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/31/us-court-finds-assad-government-liable-veteran-war-reporter/

¹ CJA: http://cja.org/what-we-do/litigation/colvin-v-syria/

² Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/jan/31/us-court-finds-assad-regime-liable-marie-colvin-death-homs-syria

³ FIDH: https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/syria/war-crimes-against-journalists-in-homs-fidh-and-victims-families-call

⁴ TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

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Privacy International: https://privacyinternational.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/OpenSeason 0.pdf

New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/02/world/europe/spain-syria-torture-case.html?_r=0

France 24: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qlxCG-vrS0

*4/17 UPDATE: Judge has agreed to open criminal inquest.

New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/27/world/middleeast/syria-crime-torture-assad-war.html

²⁰ TRIAL International: https://trialinternational.org/latest-post/ali-mamlouk-marie-colvin-case/

Associated Press via Arab News: http://www.arabnews.com/node/1016746/middle-east

Washington Post:

 $\underline{https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/for-syrian-victims-the-path-to-justice-runs-through-europe/2017/03/01/1b947f4c-fe8e-11e6-9b78-824ccab94435_story.html?utm_term=.c2945bb42bb0.$

²⁴ ECCHR: https://www.ecchr.eu/en/international-crimes-and-accountability/syria/saydnaya-air-force-intelligence.html

⁵ FIDH: https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/syria/war-crimes-against-journalists-in-homs-fidh-and-victims-families-call

⁶ FIDH: https://www.fidh.org/en/impacts/syria-french-judges-open-enquiry-into-disappearance-of-franco-syrian

⁷ TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

⁸ Reuters: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-crisis-france/france-issues-arrest-warrants-for-senior-syrian-officials-idUSKCN1NA11L

⁹ FIDH: https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/france/15116-france-opening-of-a-judicial-investigation-targeting-qosmos-for-complicity.

¹⁰ FIDH: https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/france/designation-of-gosmos-as-assisted-witness-constitutes-an-important

¹¹ FIDH: http://insearchofjustice.fidh.org/#cesar.

¹² TRIAL International: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

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¹⁴ Human Rights Watch: https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report pdf/annex ijsyria report web.pdf

¹⁵ Syrian Observer: https://syrianobserver.com/EN/news/48609/france-arrests-former-regime-intelligence-member.html

¹⁶ Motherboard: https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/gv5knx/italian-cops-raid-surveillance-tech-company-area-spa-selling-spy-gear-to-syria;

¹⁷ BBC: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43811614

¹⁸ Politico: https://www.politico.eu/article/belgian-exporters-found-guilty-of-sending-chemicals-to-syria/

¹⁹ TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

²¹Al-Jazeera: http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/german-lawyers-seek-criminal-case-syria-assad-161128141943783.html

²² TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

²³ ECCHR: https://www.ecchr.eu/en/international-crimes-and-accountability/syria/saydnaya-air-force-intelligence.html;

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²⁷ ECCHR: https://www.ecchr.eu/nc/en/press-release/torture-in-syria-senior-ex-official-from-assad-government-arrested-in-germany/

²⁸ Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/germany-arrests-2-suspected-syrian-ex-secret-police-members/2019/02/13/0fbe3d2a-2f8d-11e9-8781-763619f12cb4 story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.51a79d948c57

²⁹ Justice Info: https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/tribunals/national-tribunals/40307-germany-france-arrest-3-syrians-for-crimes-against-humanity.html

³⁰ NY Times: https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/10/03/world/middleeast/syria-war-crime.html?referer=https://www.google.com/; TRIAL International: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

³¹ ECCHR: https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/sweden-criminal-complaint-against-assads-intelligence-officials/#case context

³² ECCHR: https://www.ecchr.eu/nc/en/press-release/16-torture-survivors-from-syria-file-criminal-complaint-in-austria-against-senior-officials-in-assad-government/

³³ As of March 2017, European prosecutors had started more than 20 cases against individuals for war crimes – all focused on low-ranking perpetrators from opposition armed groups or jihadist forces. See https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/27/world/middleeast/syria-crime-torture-assad-war.html

³⁴ TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf

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³⁶ Human Rights Watch: https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/10/03/these-are-crimes-we-are-fleeing/justice-syria-swedish-and-german-courts#

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³⁸ New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/world/europe/syrian-rebel-haisam-omar-sakhanh-sentenced.html

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⁴⁴ Reuters: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-yazidi-lafarge/yazidi-women-seek-to-join-case-against-french-company-accused-of-funding-islamic-state-idUSKCN1NZ2AS

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⁴⁶ DW: http://www.dw.com/en/germany-arrests-syrian-national-on-war-crimes-murder-charges/a-3777812346; TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018: https://trialinternational.org/latest-post/make-way-for-justice-4-momentum-towards-accountability/; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-Justice-2018.pdf; <a href="https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-f

⁴⁷ Telegraph: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/12115037/Suspected-Syrian-jihadist-arrested-in-Germany-for-war-crime.html; TRIAL International Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2018; https://trialinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/UJAR-Make-way-for-justice-2018.pdf

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⁴⁹ TRIAL International: https://trialinternational.org/latest-post/suliman-al-s/

⁵⁰ Human Rights Watch: https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/10/03/these-are-crimes-we-are-fleeing/justice-syria-swedish-and-german-courts#

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