

**05 September 2025**

The IHL Centre warmly congratulates the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic on announcing the composition of its first Advisory Board. This milestone underscores the Institution's dedication to ensuring that the voices of victims, their families, survivors, and civil society are thoughtfully integrated into its vital work.

We welcome the inclusive formation of the Advisory Board, whose eleven members - representing victims, Syrian civil society, and international expertise - reflect a commitment to diverse perspectives. This composition positions the Board to effectively guide the Institution in clarifying the fate of missing persons in Syria and ensuring meaningful support for their families.

At the IHL Centre, we affirm that the right of families to know the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives is both a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. We stand ready to support the work ahead—bringing our technical expertise, advocacy, and experience to reinforce the principles of transparency, accountability, and victim-centred action.

Our sincere congratulations to the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria and to all appointed Board members. We are especially proud of the IHL Centre's past and ongoing engagement and support for many of the selected members. This recognition reflects the Centre's unwavering commitment and meaningful contributions to the cause. May your collective work bring truth, healing, and hope to families and communities across Syria.

