



3 July 2024

Public Statement on the occasion of the Human Rights Council's Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic today during its 56th Session

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Commission of Inquiry and echoes the Commission's grave concerns regarding the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crisis in Syria.

In April 2024, Amnesty International documented how the autonomous authorities of north-east Syria – with the support of the US government and other members of the coalition to defeat the Islamic State (IS) armed group – are engaged in the large-scale and systematic violation of the rights of more than 56,000 men, women and children in their custody.¹ Most of these people were detained during the final battles with IS in 2019. They are now held in at least 27 detention facilities and two detention camps and face arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment, enforced disappearance, inhumane conditions and other serious violations. Many of those detained in north-east Syria are victims of IS atrocity crimes or trafficking in persons.

The autonomous authorities must immediately end all torture and address inhumane conditions, which have led to mass death in detention facilities. All coalition members, particularly the US government, must do all in their power to put an end to these violations. Meanwhile, the autonomous authorities, the US-led coalition, and the United Nations should develop a strategy to bring this detention system into compliance with international law and ensure justice for IS victims.

Amnesty International hopes that the Commission, and this Council, can contribute to and make meaningful steps toward ending these violations and ensuring justice for the victims of IS crimes and their family members.

¹ Amnesty International, *Aftermath: Injustice, Torture and Death in Detention in North-East Syria* (Index: MDE 24/7752/2024), 17 April 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/7752/2024/en>