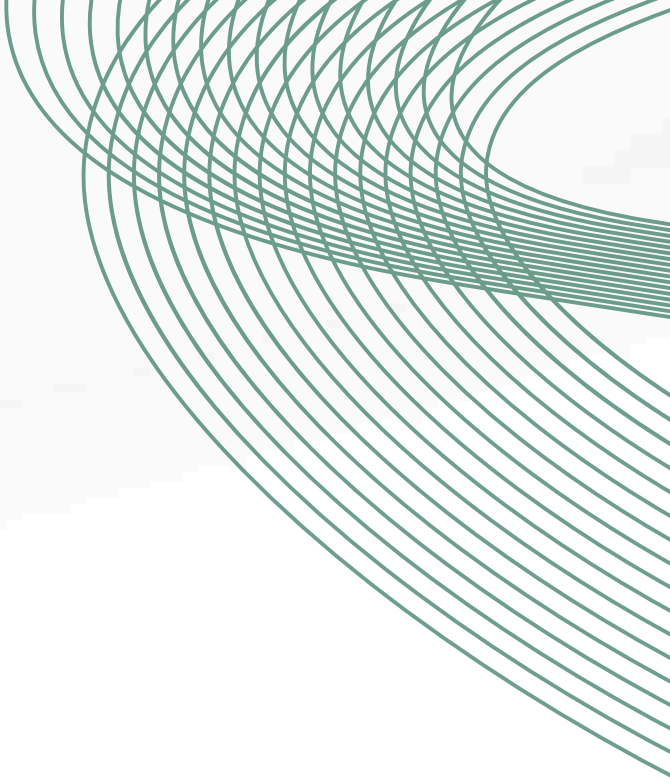


# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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SYRIAN  
EMERGENCY  
TASK FORCE



The Syrian Emergency Task Force was formed in March 2011 to respond to the Syrian dictatorship and its allies waging war on innocent civilians. As a 501(c)(3) headquartered in Washington, D.C., SETF works tirelessly to bring an end to the killing in Syria through advocacy, humanitarian initiatives, and the pursuit of justice and accountability for war crimes.

Today, SETF is the most notable Syrian-American organization working on Syria, as evidenced by the impact we have made on the ground in Syria and the U.S.

For more information about SETF's mission, vision, and programs, please visit [setf.ngo](https://setf.ngo)

© 2024 Syrian Emergency Task Force



# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

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This past year has marked a historic shift for Syria. The fall of the Assad regime has opened the door to a long-awaited future free from dictatorship. But with this moment of hope comes new and complex challenges.

At the Syrian Emergency Task Force, our mission remains steadfast. We are transitioning from crisis response to rebuilding - supporting justice, healing, and the restoration of dignity for the Syrian people. Your support has carried us through the darkest days, and it is now more vital than ever as we help Syrians shape a future rooted in freedom and human rights. Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are building the foundation for a new Syria.

***Mouaz Moustafa***

Executive Director

2024 ended with an extraordinary event, the fall of the Assad regime on Dec. 8, 2024. This has required a 'major pivot' in the focus of SETF from 'how to save lives in Syria' to 'how to build a free, democratic Syria'. One thing has stayed the same, SETF's committed leadership to substantially improving the lives of all Syrians. Mouaz Moustafa is a gifted leader and has positioned SETF as a 'trusted partner' to the new provisional government and the vast majority of countries and organizations that want to help. SETF will be working day in and day out to overcome the past 14 years of dictatorial government and brutal assault on its citizens.

We have a relentless job ahead but the optimism that exists within Syria and the fact that Syria deserves to recover its future motivate the SETF Board and SETF Team to maximize its ability to help in any way it can to accelerate Syria's progress toward a democratic future.

***Jerry Adams***

Chair of SETF Board of Trustees

# OUR TEAM

---

## Executive Staff

**Mouaz Moustafa**  
Executive Director

**Veronica Zanetta Brandoni**  
Director of Advocacy

**Natalie Larrison**  
Director of Humanitarian Projects  
and Outreach

**Maria Cure**  
Director of Communications

**Sullivan Gaudreault**  
Deputy Director of Communications

**Mariam Fathallah**  
Humanitarian Programs  
Coordinator

## Staff

**Janthe Van Schaik**  
Director of Donor Relations

**Ali Rahabi**  
Web Developer

**Ahmad Kindawi**  
Research and  
Humanitarian Officer

**Maryam Kamalmaz**  
Director of Detainee Affairs

**Abby Twining**  
Director of Syria Watch

**Ahed Bakkora**  
Humanitarian Field  
Director

**Anas Altaan**  
Graphics Officer

**Fared Al Mahlool**  
Field Media Officer

**Alaa Kasmó**  
Humanitarian  
Development Coordinator

**Khalid Abu Salah**  
Arabic Communications  
Officer

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Dr. Zeid Kayali

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of SETF's journey this year. Your unwavering support and dedication have been invaluable.

To our interns, volunteers, chapter leaders, partners, doctors, mentors, and countless supporters—thank you. Your commitment fuels our mission, and we truly couldn't do this work without you. We are more grateful than words can express.

**Thank you.**



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# CONTEXT & CHALLENGES

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Since 2011, the Assad regime's brutal crackdown of peaceful protests by the Syrian people for their rights and freedom has resulted in around 1 million deaths, hundreds of thousands of people detained, and millions displaced around the world. The humanitarian crisis has deteriorated after years of failed international intervention, decreased funding, and the normalization efforts by several countries that propped up the regime's machinery of death and made hope for a democratic future in Syria bleak.

SETF has strived for the ending of the killing and atrocities in Syria through advocacy, accountability, justice, and humanitarian work. SETF has helped pass important legislation to deter the regime and its allies; we have exposed many of the crimes committed by the regime, including mass torture and killing (documented by Caesar's 55,000 photos) and mass graves; we have brought multiple witnesses to testify in front of several institutions and government officials; we have empowered civil society on the ground through humanitarian initiatives, including schools for displaced civilians and support for Rukban IDP camp.

**On December 8, 2024, SETF's mission to end the killing was achieved** with the liberation from the Assad regime and its allies, Iran and Russia. However, challenges remain as an inexperienced government took over and is now trying to rebuild the country from the ground up while dealing with external factors, such as misinformation campaigns led by Iran and Russia and sanctions which prevent foreign investments and economic growth while the vast majority of the population is in desperate need of help. Despite the joy and immediate relief brought about by the liberation and the widespread hope for a better future, the regime and its allies left the country in shambles and a deteriorating humanitarian crisis, with nearly 70% of the population dependent on foreign aid.

Just as the situation on the ground is ever changing, so too has SETF adjusted its objectives, directly informed and inspired by the Syrian people.



# VISION & MISSION

## Mission

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In 2024, SETF's mission focused on ending the killing in Syria, advancing democracy through strategic advocacy, promoting accountability, and delivering humanitarian support to empower the Syrian people in their pursuit of a free and democratic future.

Following Syria's liberation, SETF is committed to building a democratic future by advancing strategic advocacy, supporting transitional justice and accountability, driving humanitarian and development initiatives, and helping the Syrian people secure a peaceful and inclusive future for all.

## Vision

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SETF envisions a prosperous, stable, and democratic Syria that serves as a beacon of justice, accountability, and freedom, supporting its people and standing firm against authoritarianism.





# WHAT WE DO

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As we reflect on 2024—a year marked by both historic change and profound loss—we remain guided by a clear vision: a free, democratic, and prosperous Syria rooted in justice, accountability, and human dignity. The Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF) is committed to supporting the Syrian people in their enduring aspiration to live in safety, freedom, and peace after more than a decade of devastating war. Our mission is to help communities recover, rebuild, and heal—whether through advocating for justice, delivering life-saving humanitarian aid, supporting development efforts, or walking alongside families as they search for answers about missing loved ones. SETF stands with Syrians as they reclaim their future and lay the foundation for a Syria where all people can thrive.



## 1. Advocacy

- Keeping policymakers aware of the situation on the ground through meetings, briefings, and witness testimonies.
- Engaging with Congress, the White House, the State Department and others to push for policy that better supports the Syrian people.
- Engaging with other governments and international institutions to push for policy that better supports the Syrian people.
- Promoting legislation that supports the Syrian people's aspirations for stability and democracy.
- Communicating to the public the reality of events on the ground through media coverage, always aiming to communicate the truth and keeping in mind the best interest of the Syrian people.

## 2. Justice & Accountability

- Helping Syrian authorities develop plans for accountability that align with international standards and preserve evidence of the crimes of the Assad regime to criminal law standards.
- Raising awareness on the crimes of the regime and the evidence left behind to push for action that will lead to accountability efforts.
- Supporting ongoing cases against the Assad regime in the US and in Europe and encouraging others to come forward and advocate for more cases to be opened.
- Supporting new and existing witnesses of crimes in Syria.

## 3. Humanitarian

- Operate educational institutions in Syria for children and women that empower Syria's future leaders.
- Respond to emergency humanitarian situations in Syria affecting the most vulnerable communities by coordinating with relevant organizations to find solutions to bring relief.
- Foster friendships around the world by connecting communities and volunteers to Syrians to bring engagement and support through grass-roots initiatives.



# MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

During 2024, SETF achieved significant impact in both media coverage and social media outreach. SETF facilitated and/or was featured in over 150 news stories throughout the year, including a major media blitz in December following Syria's liberation. Coverage spanned key topics such as the advancement of legal cases related to Assad regime victims and war criminals, the situation in Rukban and Al-Tanf Garrison, the Captagon crisis, anti-normalization efforts, and political and humanitarian developments inside Syria.

SETF also served as a primary resource and point of contact for numerous journalists, offering accurate, on-the-ground information and helping facilitate safe reporting trips into Syria. In addition to earned media, SETF continued to amplify Syrian voices through digital storytelling, reaching millions via social media and growing its follower base by over 200% in 2024 alone.

# MEDIA

**While over 150 articles and news stories were facilitated by SETF in 2024, the exact number is likely even higher—especially during the intense media surge that followed the fall of Assad’s regime. At the height of this period, SETF was fielding interviews and requests from more than 20 journalists per day, often without the capacity to track every published story.**

The coverage spanned a wide range of critical topics: Syria’s liberation from Assad’s rule; the uncovering of mass graves tied to regime atrocities; personal stories of victims, including SETF’s beloved friend Mazen al-Hamada; the breaking of the siege in Rukban and continued aid delivery; and the successful resolution of Kevin Dawes’ case. Media also focused on raising awareness around key legislative efforts such as the Anti-Normalization Act, the Captagon Act, and the Caesar Act extension. Additional attention was given to the legal case of Majd Kamalmaz’s family following confirmation of his death in Assad’s detention centers, the arrest of war criminal Samir Ousman al Sheikh in Los Angeles, and commentary on U.S. political figures—such as Tulsi Gabbard—regarding their positions on Syria and ties to the Assad regime.



*Sullivan Gaudreault, Maria Cure, and Mouaz Moustafa (SETF Staff) at NBC Jen Psaki’s studio.*

**150+** **Articles and news stories facilitated by SETF in 2024**



*Mouaz Moustafa and Maria Cure (SETF Staff) at CNN studios.*



*SETF facilitated The National Ellie Sennett’s Interview to the Shyamalans.*



*Mouaz Moustafa, Maria Cure, and Washington Post’s Abbie Cheeseman*



**VOICE OF AMERICA**

**Family of American who died in Syria files lawsuit against Assad regime**

By Sirwan Kajjo | July 22, 2024

**WALL STREET JOURNAL**

**The Middle East Drug Fueling War, Crime and All-Night Parties**

By Sune Rasmussen | October 27, 2024

**NPR**

**Rebels Make Surprise Advances in Syria. Who are They and What Does it Mean?**

By Ruth Sherlock | December 02, 2024

**NEW YORK TIMES**

**Former Syrian Official in Charge of Notorious Prison Is Arrested in Los Angeles**

By Katie Benner + Adam Goldman | July 16, 2024

**CBS 60 MINUTES**

**Hopeful Syrians look toward a future without Bashar al-Assad | 60 Minutes**

By Scott Pelley | December 15, 2024

**NEW YORK TIMES**

**Texas Family Finally Learns Fate of Man Held in Syria**

By Katie Benner + Adam Goldman | May 18, 2024

**SPYTALK**

**Tulsi Gabbard, Bashar Al-Assad and Me**

By Mike Isikoff | November 21, 2024

**NEW YORK TIMES**

**Syrian Military Officials Charged With War Crimes as Government Falls**

By Katie Benner + Adam Goldman | December 09, 2024

**REUTERS**

**At least 100,000 bodies in Syrian mass grave, US advocacy group head says**

By Jonathan Landay | December 17, 2024



Throughout 2024, SETF remained a trusted voice exposing Assad regime atrocities, providing first-hand information and direct witness accounts to the media and global audiences. In December, during the fall of the Assad regime, SETF worked closely with minority and religious groups to monitor the situation, coordinated safe access for international journalists, and ensured the world heard directly from Syrians on the ground. Amid confusion and disinformation, SETF amplified Syrians' voices—most of whom expressed jubilation and cautious optimism, noting improved services, more freedom, and greater safety with Assad gone.

- **Maria Cure**, SETF Communications Director

# SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2024, SETF's social media presence expanded significantly, amplifying the voices of Syrians and mobilizing action across Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter). Across all platforms, SETF achieved:

Throughout the year, SETF's digital campaigns helped drive awareness for critical issues including the liberation of Syria, justice for victims of Assad's regime, ongoing humanitarian needs in Rukban Camp, and advocacy for key legislation like the Anti-Normalization Act and Captagon Act.

These efforts reflect not just expanding digital reach but also the building of deeper, more engaged communities committed to justice, accountability, and hope for Syria's future.

## 8.2M

**Social Media  
Impression/ Reach**

## 8.8M

**Video Views**

## 25K+

**New Followers Gained**



*Revolution Triumph SETF Poster*

## 430K+

**Direct interactions  
(likes, shares, comments, etc.)**

## 2.2K+

**Link Clicks**



# POLICY & ADVOCACY

**SETF has a strong track record of impactful advocacy and policy engagement, working closely with governments and organizations to champion human rights in Syria.**

We consistently provide briefings to Members of Congress and their bipartisan staff, engaging with various government departments in Washington, D.C. and in other capitals. Our discussions focus on the latest developments in Syria and the surrounding region, fostering collaboration on legislative initiatives.

Through our advocacy events like Caesar exhibits, policy roundtables, and panels held globally, we actively reach out to the general public. These initiatives aim to create grassroots movements that enhance and complement our direct advocacy efforts.

# ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

---

01

## **Government Engagement**

SETF regularly collaborates with Congressional offices, Government departments in Washington, D.C. and their European counterparts to provide briefings on the latest developments on the ground in Syria and in the region and offer consultations on policy. We also work closely with law enforcement to build court cases to fulfill the Syrian people's need for justice and accountability.

02

## **Advocacy and Accountability Events**

SETF organizes numerous advocacy and accountability events in the US and abroad to bring the attention of policymakers and the general public to the situation in Syria and the importance of accountability for all crimes against civilians. We regularly host briefings and hearings to advocate for a free, democratic, stable and thriving Syria.

03

## **Media Exposure**

SETF collaborates with various media outlets to highlight current events and issues in Syria and offer context and commentary on Syria policy and initiatives. We consistently publish statements and press releases addressing human rights violations and detailing our policy and accountability achievements.

04

## **Key Witnesses**

SETF has worked with whistleblowers and eyewitnesses to atrocities in Syria for over a decade, helping them escape the regime and seek asylum, and then share their testimonies. After the liberation of Syria from the Assad regime in December 2024, we are helping these witnesses uncover their identities and finally speak to policymakers, to the media, and to the general public without masks.

05

## **Justice and Accountability**

SETF is identifying conflict victims to bring closure to families. Our team, including board member Ambassador Stephen Rapp, visited mass grave sites in Damascus, advocating for evidence preservation and international forensic experts to identify victims among 150,000 forcibly disappeared Syrians.



# ADVOCACY EVENTS

In 2024, the SETF team hosted and participated in over 6 events across the world. Our team gave dozens of presentations to tens of thousands of students and community members at universities, high schools, rotary clubs, and houses of worship, featuring keynote speakers such as Ambassador Rapp, Congressman French Hill, Omar Alshogre, Natalie Larrison, Sullivan Gaudreault, and Mouaz Moustafa.

## 6

**Events in 2024**

## 4+

**Countries**

### ANTI-NORMALIZATION ACT CELEBRATION



February 2024 - Celebrating the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act with Rep. Joe Wilson and other civil society organizations

### ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION



March 2024 - Event in Congress to commemorate the anniversary of the revolution

### SYRIA: BRUSSELS CONFERENCE



April 2024 - Brussels Conference

### HOSTAGES & WRONGFUL DETAINEES DAY



June 2024 - Raising of Hostages & Wrongful Detainees flag for Majd Kamalmaz at State Department

“

After the liberation, SETF's main focus is on the lifting of sanctions and designations on Syria. This has many layers, and it is going to be a bit of an uphill battle. It is going to be a little bit complicated. But SETF is confident that we can help, and also change U.S. policy because sanctions were imposed on a regime that no longer exists.

**-Veronica Zanetta Brandoni**  
SETF Director of Advocacy

## FOLKEMOEDET EVENT



June 2024 - Folkemoedet in Denmark (Caesar Exhibit and panels)

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENT



September 2024 - UN General Assembly event with Maryam Kamalmaz and government officials

## HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING



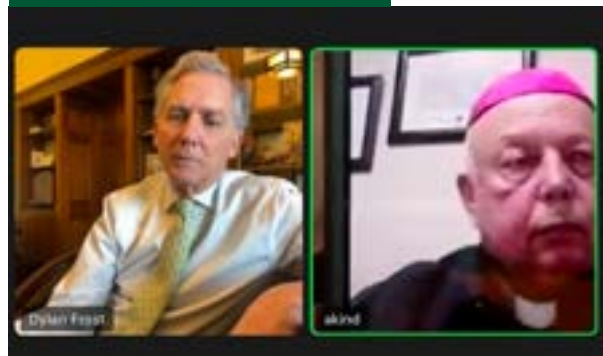
July 2024 - Helsinki commission hearing with Mouaz Moustafa, SETF Executive Director, and M. Night Shyamalan.

## NEW SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SYRIA



October 2024 - Meeting with DAS Natasha Franceschi, new Special Envoy for Syria

## SPECIAL MEETING



December 2024 - Facilitated meeting between Rep. French Hill and Bishop Hanna of Aleppo



# THE CAESAR EXHIBITS

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The Caesar File is a collection of 55,000 photos depicting men, women, children, and the elderly who were brutally tortured and killed by the Assad regime inside prisons. As custodians of the Caesar File, SETF works to expose the regime's flagrant human rights violations by continuing to identify victims, witnesses, and evidence that support accountability cases against the regime.

In 2024, SETF hosted a Caesar Exhibit and panel discussion in Denmark, continuing its decade-long effort to raise global awareness about the Assad regime's atrocities. Over the past ten years, SETF has organized dozens of Caesar Exhibits across the world to shed light on the regime's system of torture and mass detention. These events serve as powerful platforms for advocating justice on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of victims and their families.



Without SETF, Caesar's bravery would have had nowhere near the impact that it had. SETF also provided the key aid and protection to other witnesses such as the Gravedigger and the Bulldozer Divers and found, through its research, the corroboration with satellite imagery of the mass graves, bringing that evidence to the New York Times and other media and showing the machinery of death that continued to grind out its victims until the very end.

**- Ambassador Stephen Rapp**  
*SETF Board Member*



June 2024 - SETF team members Veronica Zanetta-Brandoni and Celine Kassem stand beside a photo of Executive Director Mouaz Moustafa at Folkemødet in Denmark, where SETF hosted a powerful Caesar Exhibit and panel discussion to raise awareness about the Assad regime's crimes and advocate for justice.



# HUMANITARIAN

**SETF operated four programs in 2024 that reflect the much larger humanitarian crisis, and we responded to immediate needs reaching residents in the forgotten Rukban camp.**

In 2024, the humanitarian situation worsened for civilians in Syria as the regime continued to displace, detain, and attack civilians. SETF's main humanitarian programs provided support for the most vulnerable, including orphans, widows, children, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). These critical programs eased some of the massive and widespread suffering Syrians endure. They provide hope and build bridges between Syrians on the ground and the world.



# OUR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS

## Tomorrow's Dawn High School for Girls

A tuition-free secondary high school for 85 women and girls who missed education due to resource scarcity and displacement. The school offers accredited diplomas.

## House of Healing

A home away from home for internally-displaced Syrians with critical medical conditions, most due to war, allowed to enter Turkey temporarily for treatment.



## Rukban Hope Pharmacy

The only no-cost pharmacy serves as the camp's only regular source of essential medicine, baby milk, first-aid, and life-saving supplies.

## Wisdom House Kindergarten

A Kindergarten for displaced children in the Aleppo countryside where six amazing teachers provide education and a nurturing environment to 138 students.



# PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES IN 2024

---

7,462

Rukban Hope Pharmacy



1,200

House of Healing



138

Wisdom House Kindergarten



85

Tomorrow's Dawn School



15

Key Witness Fund



# CAMPAIGN BENEFICIARIES

SETF's humanitarian programs and campaigns helped around 9,500+ people in Syria in 2024 and provided them with education services, humanitarian aid of food, medicine, and school supplies,

## Eid

**304** beneficiaries  
received meat  
(10 sheep)



## Rukban Hope Campaign



**7,462** camp  
residents  
received critical  
medicine and  
baby formula

## Ramadan

**371** beneficiaries  
received new  
clothes, toys, and  
meals



## Back to School



**223** Students  
received school  
supplies and  
transportation  
support.





# WISDOM HOUSE

## 138

**Students in the  
graduating class of  
2024**

In June 2024, the 8th class of kindergarteners at Wisdom House celebrated their graduation, marking the culmination of their early education journey with a total of 138 students.

The new class commenced in September 2024, welcoming 151 students, reflecting a notable **13% increase in enrollment from the previous year.**

## 151

**New students in the  
class of 2025**

Notably, half of the new students are displaced individuals, underlining the school's commitment to serving diverse communities. The new academic year also heralded a significant development as the Wisdom House relocated to a larger space with six classrooms and an outdoor space for activities. The Wisdom House is the most popular school in the area because of the high quality education it provides children.



**“I want to become a doctor one day.”**

Meet **Layal**,  
A student at Wisdom House  
Kindergarten

**“The walls of Wisdom House transformed into Layal’s second home, a new chance, a sanctuary where laughter, learning, and resilience flourished. Layal is a remarkable child, resilient and sociable.”**

**Khansaa**,  
A Teacher at Wisdom House  
Kindergarten





# TOMORROW'S DAWN

Tomorrow's Dawn is a secondary school that offers courses at no cost for women and girls who have missed years of education due to lack of resources and displacement. Students follow the literary or science degree path and graduate with an accredited diploma. SETF has operated women's educational initiatives in northwest Syria since 2017.

In July 2024, the second class of 85 students at Tomorrow's Dawn High School for girls successfully completed their academic year. The Class of 2024/2025 began in August with 85 seniors, mostly displaced women and girls.

The Tomorrow's Dawn Women's Education Center has ten teachers and three staff, and offers **courses in Arabic, History, Philosophy, Geography, Chemistry, Physics, English, Religion, and Math**. Graduates receive their high school diploma, leading to increased economic opportunities, higher education, and improvements in mental, emotional, and social well-being. The school year leads to the students taking their final exams, a rigorous assessment that enables their eligibility to attend a university.

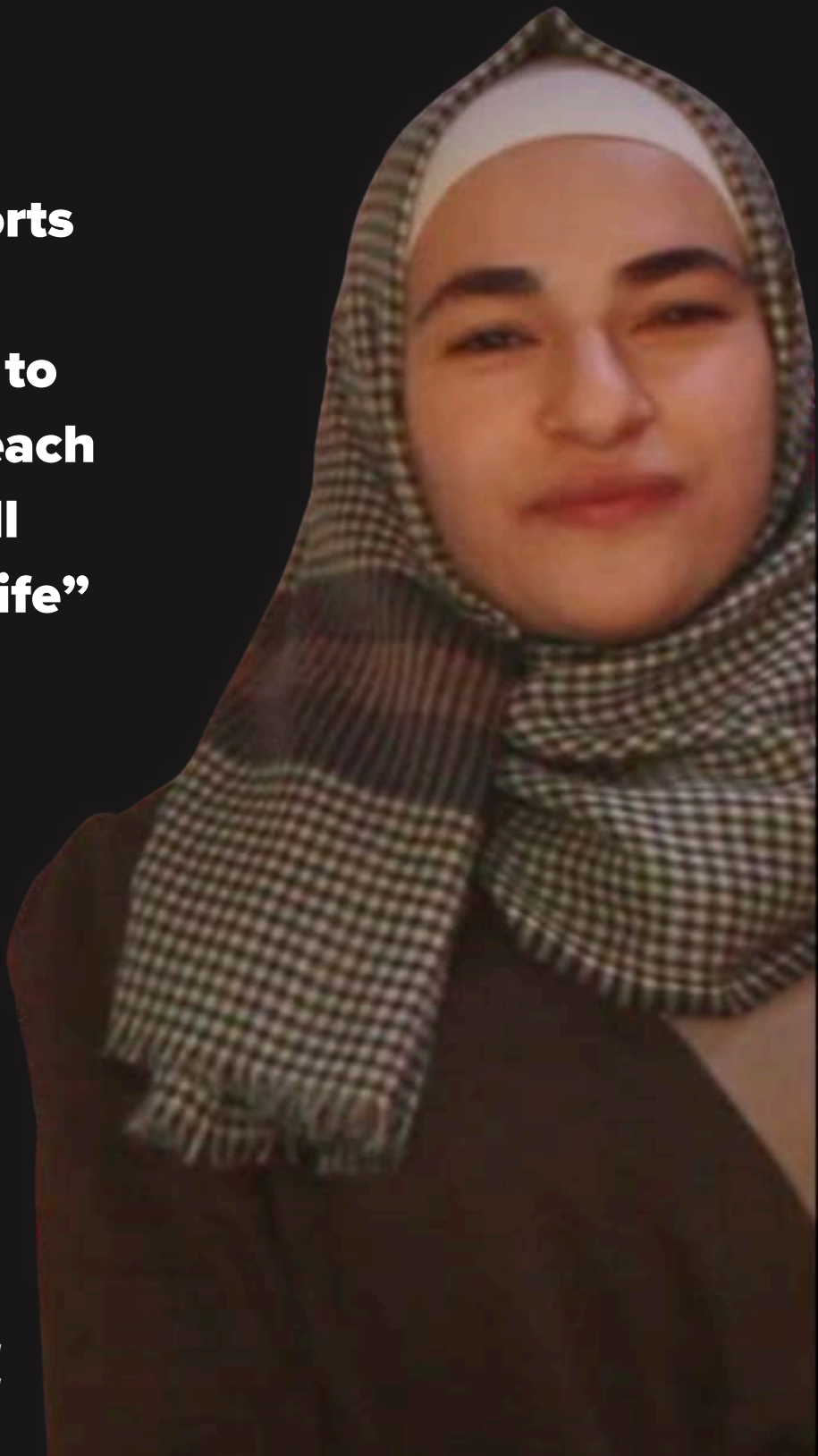
85

Students in the  
graduating class of  
2024

85

Students in the new  
class of  
2025





**“Tomorrow’s Dawn  
teachers’ tireless efforts  
and unwavering  
commitment to cater to  
the unique needs of each  
student have made all  
the difference in my life”**

Meet **Asmaa**,  
current student in the science  
program at Tomorrow’s Dawn

*Get inspired and watch this [video](#) of Asmaa  
talking about the liberation of Syria, expressing  
the feelings of many Syrians.*



# HOUSE OF HEALING

# 1,200

**Patients received  
accommodations and  
treatment in 2024**

House of Healing is a sanctuary for internally displaced Syrians facing critical medical conditions, providing care and support to approximately 100 patients each month. Located in Turkey, the facility welcomes groups of patients from inside Syria during their temporary stay for urgent medical treatment. Services include food, shelter, transportation, and help navigating the healthcare system ensure that patients receive the care they need with dignity.

Since 2019, the House of Healing has served thousands of patients and helped find financial assistance for patients to access life-saving medical treatment for conditions such as heart disease, cancer, burns, amputations, and blindness. A classroom also offers educational lessons to children staying at the facility.

In the spring of 2024, Global Justice partnered with SETF to support the House of Healing, enabling the program to continue providing care to Syrian patients throughout the year. SETF also facilitated visits from several U.S.-based professors and volunteers, who spent time at the facility to offer support, share expertise, and connect with patients on the ground.



# RUKBAN CAMP

In the summer of 2024, the humanitarian crisis in Rukban Camp reached a critical point. The 8,000 residents were on the brink of starvation as the siege imposed by the Assad regime, Iran, and Russia intensified, cutting off nearly all access to food and essential supplies. The situation grew increasingly dire by the day.

A turning point came when SETF successfully coordinated the delivery of 720,000lbs of food aid—enough to provide every one of the 1,600 families in the camp with a food basket lasting 2 to 3 months.

To ensure fair and organized distribution, SETF's ground team conducted a full camp census, then hired trusted drivers and local distributors to deliver the food directly to each household. This large-scale operation was made possible through coordination with the U.S. military, which transported the aid on a space-available basis.

This mission brought critical relief and a renewed sense of hope to a community that had long been isolated and under siege.

“

**We are still living in our country and our home, but we will not forget those who helped us and provided us with assistance during the most difficult days we lived in the Rukban camp. You and the team that was working with you were the first to lift the siege on the camp. Thank you very much.**

*-Aziz, lead medic in Rukban Camp*

# 360

**Tons of food aid**





# HOPE PHARMACY

# 7,462

**Beneficiaries received medication, baby formula, and diapers.**

**SETF's Hope Pharmacy is the only no-cost pharmacy in Rukban IDP camp.**

SETF provides Rukban camp's sole no-cost pharmacy that caters to the pharmaceutical requirements of 80% of Rukban's roughly 8,000 residents, serving approximately 40-50 individuals daily and up to 90 on particularly busy days.

The pharmacy offers essential medications such as antibiotics, treatments for chronic conditions, diabetes, hypertension, baby formula, and diapers.

“

**The Hope pharmacy is the only way I can get medicine that keeps me alive.**

*-Mohamed, Hope Pharmacy beneficiary*



August 2024 - SETF volunteers packing medication and baby supplies to ship to Rukban Camp

# DOCTORS FOR RUKBAN

SETF could not stand by when Rukban residents became desperate for doctors as more people's ailments were going untreated, leaving devastating consequences. Rukban camp had not seen a doctor in years. With great effort, SETF was finally able to bring doctors into the camp with the assistance of the U.S. military on space-available flights to al-Tanf Garrison, situated on the outskirts of Rukban camp in Southeast Syria. Delegations of doctors worked in the camps' only makeshift hospital, Sham Clinic, with the assistance of the experienced local nurses.

“

**Primary care for adult and children don't exist. There are huge deficits in the assessment of the public health services. Common health conditions are surrounding chronic untreated conditions that otherwise would have been electively treated like tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, hernia repairs, vaccines, common skin and respiratory diseases, malnutrition.**

*Dr. Bakr Ghbeis, Pediatrician*

16

**Doctors visited the camp**



Dr. Majed, a dedicated dentist, spent over a month in Rukban providing compassionate care, treating every patient as if they were family. In addition to offering clinical care, he spent several days teaching students about dental hygiene. During his time in the camp, he saw 330 patients and treated over 639 teeth, delivering both healing and hope to a community long deprived of medical services.



# LETTERS OF HOPE

SETF started the Letters of Hope Program in 2016 to let Syrians who are suffering from conflict and displacement know that they are not forgotten. The goal of Letters of Hope is to create a connection between the international community and the Syrian children and families who reside in Syria so that they may exchange messages and letters of hope and encouragement.

As we reflect on the recent liberation of Syria, it is important to recognize that the need for solidarity and hope persists. Though the war may have ended, many families continue to face issues of rebuilding their lives, recovering from trauma, and gaining access to basic services. The Letters of Hope initiative is a powerful reminder that they are not alone as they embark on the journey of reconstruction and hope.

SETF emphasizes the importance of these connections and the ongoing commitment to amplifying the voices of children and families in Syria has proven to be since 2016. By continuing to exchange letters of hope, we foster resilience and a sense of belonging without borders, repeating the message that every individual is heard and supported.

*The original Wisdom House building is destroyed, but after liberation our team was able to visit and documented surviving Letters of Hope that remain on the walls. SETF plans to rebuild the Wisdom House in 2025.*

*Dr. Riva Brown, SETF-UCA Chapter Committee Chair and SETF volunteer, traveled with the team to Gaziantep, Turkey and gave Letters of Hope to displaced Syrian children in September 2024.*

2K+

**Letters of Hope  
delivered to displaced  
Syrians in 2024 in the  
Rukban Camp, Wisdom  
House Kindergarten, and  
in northwestern Syria.**

Send your Letters of Hope to:

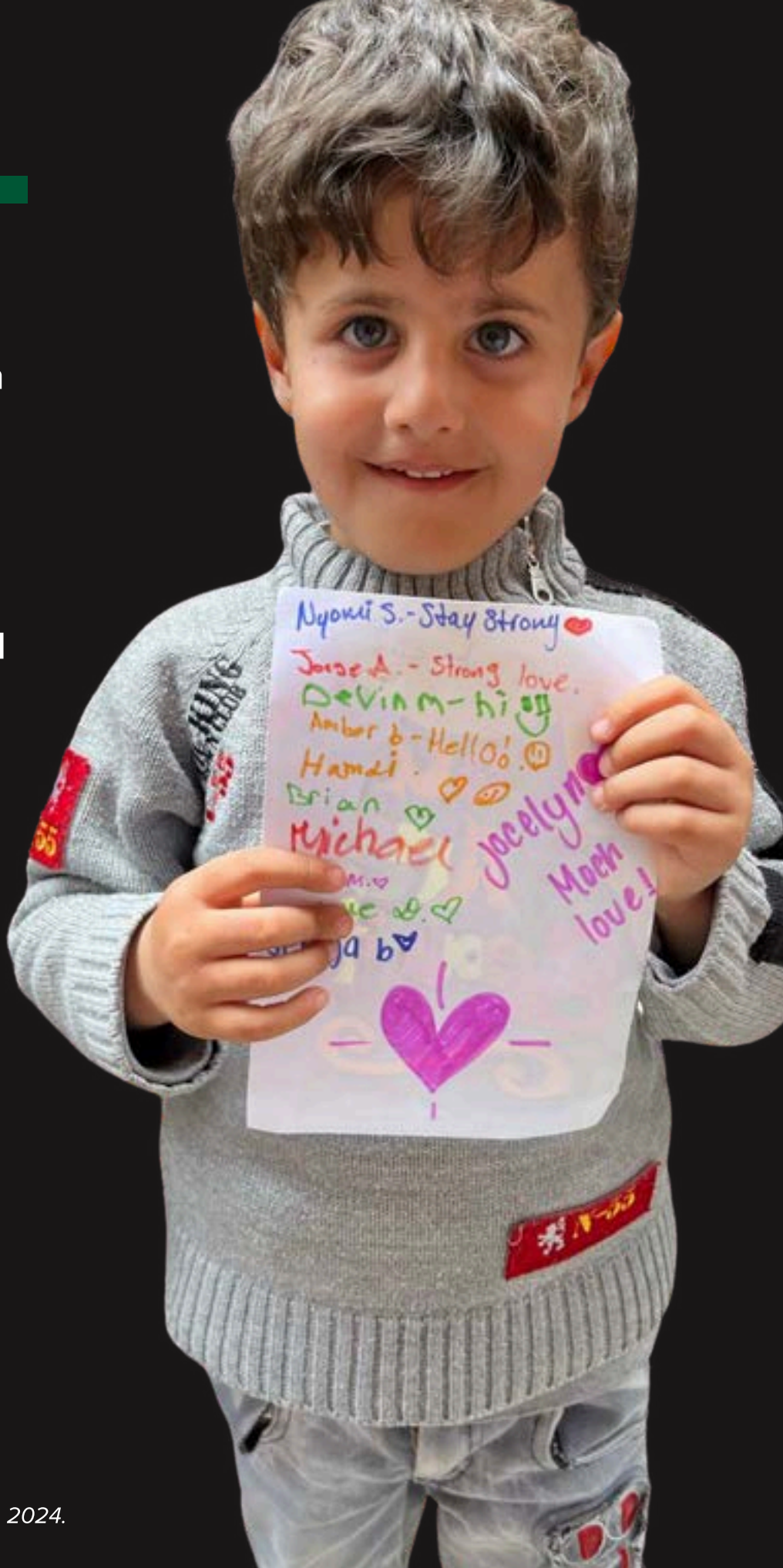
**PO Box: 250972  
Little Rock, AR 72225**



**“I hope my letters  
bring a little light and  
joy to a brave heart in  
Syria.**

**It means the world to  
me to be able to  
share a little light and  
hope with those who  
need it most. I’m  
grateful to SETF for  
giving me the  
opportunity to  
connect through love  
and empathy across  
borders, With love  
and hope from  
Argentina!”**

Milagros, Argentina



[Check out some of our letters of hope from 2024.](#)



# COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PARTNERS

In 2024, SETF expanded its outreach and educational initiatives through a robust network of community and education partners. This collaboration aimed to raise awareness about the situation and humanitarian crisis in Syria and engage students and community members in advocacy and fundraising efforts.

Various universities and schools have established student chapters to mobilize peers, organize events, and promote discussions around Syrian issues. The goals of these partnerships focus on advocacy, awareness, and fundraising. Partners engage in campaigns to inform their communities about the realities in Syria, emphasizing the importance of humanitarian aid and justice. SETF also organized workshops, presentations, and discussions to educate students and community members about the history and current situation in Syria. Collaborative fundraising efforts aim to support SETF's humanitarian programs, including initiatives like the "Letters of Hope" campaigns, which fosters connection between communities and families in Syria. Through these partnerships, SETF is empowering the next generation to take action and advocate for human rights and democracy in Syria, fostering a sense of global citizenship among students and community members.

The SETF-UCA Chapter received the **2024 Service-learning Partner of the Year Award** from the University of Central Arkansas thanks to our incredible collaboration with professors and students. The SETF-UCA Committee Chair, Dr. Riva Brown, leads monthly meetings with the SETF team for collaboration on many activities on campus for the Syrian cause.



*Steve Evans, a long time volunteer and friend of SETF, writes a Letter of Hope at the Soup for Syria event in central Arkansas.*



*Students at the University of Mississippi established a SETF Chapter and coordinate with SETF to plan activities.*



# COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PARTNERS EVENTS

## SOUP FOR SYRIA



On Sunday, September 29th, community members gathered at the First United Methodist Church of Conway for a fundraising event, Soup for Syria, organized in partnership with the UCA Honors College and the local Rotary Club, the event raised over **\$15,000** to support SETF's humanitarian initiatives for the Syrian people. Approximately 130 attendees enjoyed a variety of soups prepared by local volunteers, purchased handmade clothing crafted by widows in war-torn Syria, and wrote heartfelt Letters of Hope.

Congressman French Hill of Arkansas attended and spoke at the event, reaffirming his longstanding leadership in Congress on Syrian relief efforts and his active involvement in local humanitarian initiatives for Syria over the years.

**15K** Raised for humanitarian efforts in Syria

## HOPE FOR RUKBAN

**18K** **8**

Raised for critical humanitarian needs Shipments sent to the Rukban Camp

In late summer 2024, the siege on Rukban Camp escalated, cutting residents off from essential supplies and humanitarian access. In response, volunteers from diverse community groups mobilized to raise emergency funds for critical items including medicine, baby formula, school supplies, and support for incoming medical delegations. These grassroots efforts raised approximately **\$18,000** - becoming the sole source of aid reaching Rukban during its most desperate time.





# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

SETF has further enhanced its mission in 2024 by establishing strategic alliances and cooperations with various influential bodies that pledge themselves to human rights and humanitarian assistance. By collaborating with these powerful allies, SETF runs programs that address the key challenges facing displaced individuals in Syria within the Rukban Camp and northwestern Syria. These partnerships reinforce advocacy efforts, emphasizing documentation of human rights abuses and efforts for accountability.

Additionally, SETF collaborates with institutions to offer comprehensive support to affected communities, achieving both short-term relief and long-term development goals. Collective efforts also enhance advocacy activities, raising international awareness and action to promote justice and humanitarian principles in Syria, amplifying SETF's impact, ensuring a collective response to one of the world's most pressing humanitarian crises.



# THE LIBERATION OF SYRIA

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Syria is entering of a new era, having come out of over 50 years of brutal dictatorship marked by mass killings and displacement. With the new transitional government, Syria aims to establish a democratic environment that focuses on writing a new constitution and ensures the protection and inclusion of all Syrians. This major opportunity enables the country to rebuild its economy and remove longstanding foreign influences, such as Iran and Russia, for good. The counter-terrorism campaign against ISIS remains a priority for the new government, which has already taken significant steps to eliminate the threat ISIS poses to broader regional stability and security.







SETF is dedicated to supporting Syria's journey on its path towards freedom and democracy. By advocating for the lifting of sanctions that hinder Syria's ability to rebuild, SETF reiterates that easing these sanctions is vital in allowing displaced Syrians to return home and build lasting peace. SETF strives actively against misinformation and in favor of good news reporting about Syria's evolving situation.

As SETF's executive director, Mouaz Moustafa, stated:

**"Engaging directly with the new government in Damascus is crucial to preventing the resurgence of Iranian influence and ensuring the continued defeat of ISIS."**

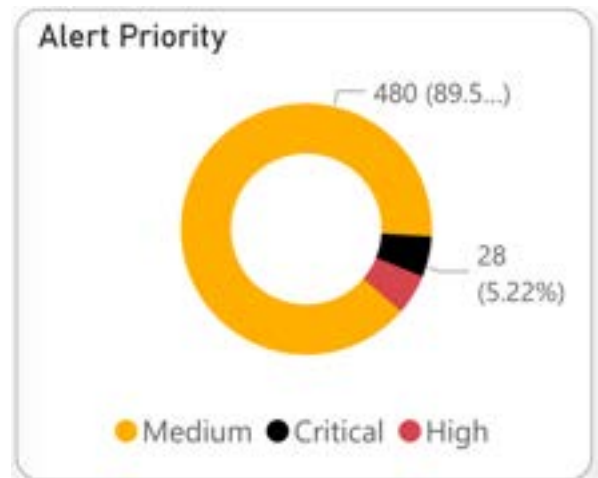
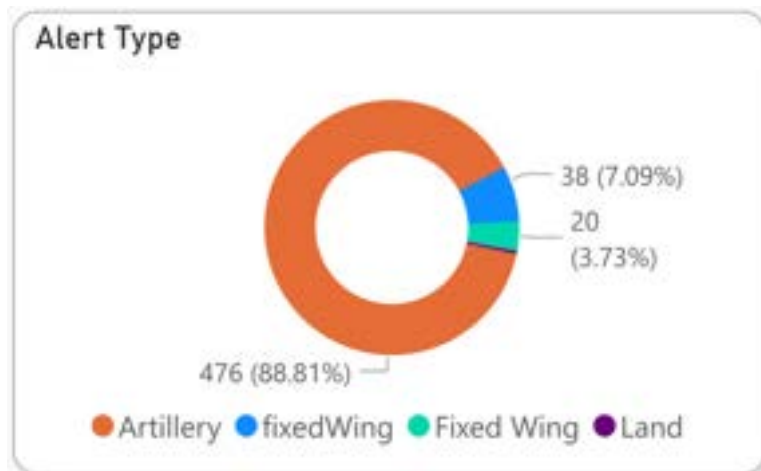
Through its initiatives, SETF is not only striving to build a brighter future for Syrians but is also reinforcing the importance of a stable, democratic Syria for the broader region.



# SYRIA WATCH APP 2024

The Syria Watch mobile application is a SETF project that provides users with real-time notifications of attacks launched against civilian/IDP targets in Syria.

Classifying attacks by type and providing greater context, this application seeks to help people outside Syria understand the level of near-perpetual danger people in Syria currently experience daily. After the liberation, SETF will modify its model based on the greatest need for documentation and alerts.

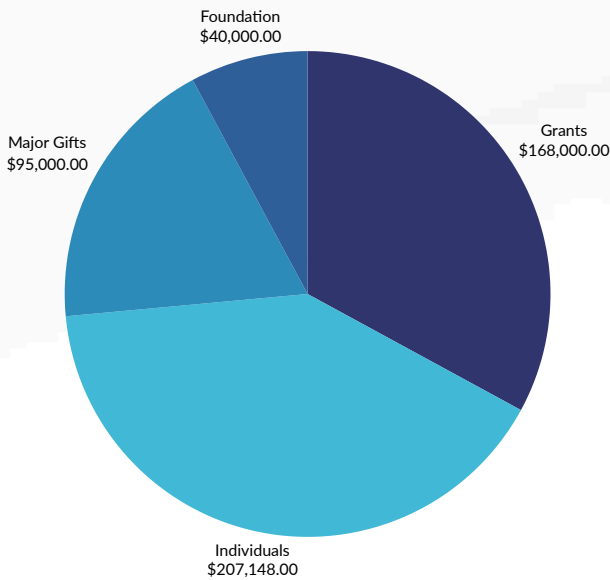


**536** Documented attacks in 2024

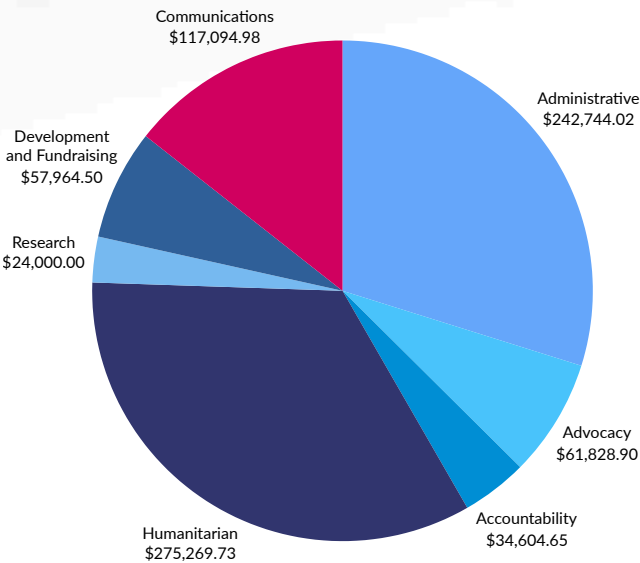


# FINANCIALS

2024 Revenue



2024 Expenses



## 2024 Financial Overview

In 2024, the Syrian Emergency Task Force exceeded its annual budget—an outcome driven by urgent and unprecedented humanitarian operations in the besieged Rukban Camp. As the siege tightened and conditions inside the camp deteriorated, basic necessities such as food, medicine, and medical care became increasingly scarce for the 8,000 residents. In response, SETF made the critical decision to invest in delivering doctors, medical equipment, and lifesaving supplies into the camp, bringing much-needed relief to a community on the brink.

While these efforts pushed our financial resources beyond our planned limits, we could not turn away from such a clear and immediate call to action. This chapter of SETF’s work embodies our commitment to respond to humanitarian needs—no matter the cost.

As a small but dedicated team, SETF continues to stretch every resource to meet the evolving needs on the ground. However, we recognize that we have not allocated enough time or energy to strengthen our own infrastructure or expand our funding base. In 2025, we are seeking to grow our partnerships and build a broader community of support that will allow us to deepen our impact, sustain our mission, and continue standing with the people of Syria.

SETF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN: 45-1230533). It relies on the generosity of its donors to make its work possible. Any contribution, big or small, is meaningful. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of US tax law.

Learn more and make a gift today at [setf.ngo/donate](https://setf.ngo/donate)



# Looking Ahead:

## 2025 Goals and Strategic Changes

As we enter 2025 and Syria's liberation era, the Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF) is working on adapting and strengthening our mission in advocating for a free and stable Syria. Our commitment remains steadfast, and we are excited to share our strategic goals for the year ahead.

- Advocacy for a Democratic and Stable Syria
- Promoting Justice and Accountability
- Humanitarian Efforts

### Immediate Goals:

1. Advocate for Syria by informing policymakers, Congress and other world institutions to help in lifting the sanctions while supporting and ensuring truthful media coverage.
2. Work with partners to repatriate the rest of Rukban camp residents to their villages and homes.
3. Aid the transitional government by holding Assad's regime accountable through the preservation of evidence, raising awareness about crimes, enhancing ongoing legal cases, and aiding witnesses in testifying.
4. Help to ensure Syria's future by expanding SETF's educational institutions for women and children, dealing with humanitarian emergencies, and facilitating global relations through grassroots organizations.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We can all be a source of hope and a reminder to the people of Syria that they are not forgotten. We at SETF will continue working until peace, dignity, and accountability are achieved.

Together, we can be a voice for the Syrian people and ensure they are not forgotten. Donate to the Syrian Emergency Task Force today to support our humanitarian aid, education programs, and reconstruction efforts to help Syrians rebuild their lives with dignity, hope, and justice.

Here are some ideas on how to support Syrians through SETF:



**Volunteer with SETF**  
Fill this form [here](#)



**Organize Letters of Hope**  
workshops, check [here](#)



**Donate or sponsor a**  
specific SETF initiative

*\*For more ideas, please check SETF's Help Syria Today poster, [here](#).*



## MORE ABOUT US

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our findings further, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



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# #InMemoryOfMazen

Our beloved friend Mazen Al-Hamada, who disappeared into Assad's prisons in 2020, was tragically confirmed executed—just days before the liberation of Damascus. His death was a final act of cruelty by a regime determined to silence hope and prevent Mazen from witnessing Syria's long-awaited freedom in December 2024.

Mazen was more than a survivor—he was a symbol of resilience, dignity, and the unbreakable spirit of the Syrian people. His passion, radiant smile, and profound love for Syria will live on in our hearts and in a **FREE SYRIA**.

A close-up portrait of Mazen Al-Hamada, a man with dark, wavy hair and brown eyes, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. His hand is visible near his chin.

**“When you’d see the demonstrations, your heart would fly. I swear, no one could believe it”**

**-Mazen Al-Hamada**

(featured in “Syria’s Disappeared,” in 2016, a documentary directed by Sara Afshar)

This annual report is dedicated to Mazen Al-Hamada. His life, courage, and legacy remain a guiding light in our pursuit of justice and freedom for Syria.



**SYRIAN  
EMERGENCY  
TASK FORCE**