



# ANOTHER YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

JUSTICE FOR LIFE ANNUAL REPORT  
FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 TO 31 AUGUST 2020

This report includes what has been implemented by JFL during a year of constant efforts, highlights the issued reports, the attended meetings, the new strategic plan, the focused group discussions and dialogue sessions that have been held, as well as how the organization deals with COVID-19 along with its ways of working to deal with its potentially protracted implications.

## FIELD REPORTS AND RESEARCH

The organization's publications are categorized as following: special reports on specific violations - summary reports on updates and information on multiple issues in the work areas, field studies and research on specific topics in which the organization uses research tools such as questionnaire, focused dialogues, and key informant interviews.



By documenting and collecting violations evidence, a second batch of documentation was handed over to the IIIM ( the impartial and independent international mechanism for investigating the most serious crimes in Syria IIIM on June 12, 2020).

## 7 Special Reports

- [“Civilians of Deir Ezzor..Multiple Risks and Uncertain Future”](#): This report shed the light on the situation in the SDF held areas in terms of security, economic, and services conditions such as education, health, electricity, and water in Deir Ezzor where opinions and concerns of the locals about an unknown future were presented.
- [“Seizure of Property in Deir Ezzor”](#): This report covers the seized property in areas controlled by the Syrian government forces in Deir Ezzor as JFL researchers interviewed a group of people whose property were seized. The report also highlighted the local and international laws articles about this issue along with experiences of some countries in post-conflict context and the consequences of this violations.
- [“SDF Continues Stifling Acts on Civil Society and Arresting Civil Activists”](#) : As the first human rights report in Al Raqqa by JFL, the field researchers communicated with former detainees, who were arrested in the jails of SDF security apparatuses, to talk about the detention of civil activists in northeast Syria, threats to civilian work as a result of the restrictions exerted by the security services of SDF.
- [“COVID-19 Outbreak in Deir Ezzor is a Real Catastrophe”](#) A Brief Report on Health Sector Capacities and Capability to Respond to the Pandemic in Deir Ezzor Province. The report recommended to equip more quarantine centers, provide more preventive requirements, provide respirators in an adequate manner in all hospitals, and release the political prisoners and human rights defenders.
- [“The Trial of the Islamic State’s Members.. Fundamental Proceedings for Justice”](#): The report examined the capacity of the judiciary system in the Autonomous Administration areas of northeastern Syria to prosecute foreign ISIS elements, where this system announced its

intention to do so. The report also detailed the judicial structure in those areas and the most important negatives sides. It also included recommendations to ensure justice for all detainees without exception.

- “Education From a Means of Conflict to a Vehicle of Peace and Communal Living”: On the old-new debate on the school curriculum, especially after the introduction of the Autonomous Administration of a curriculum rejected by large grass-roots sectors, the report presented the experiences of countries that witnessed armed conflicts and how they deal with the sensitivity of the curriculum.
- “The Populations of Deir Ezzor and Conflict Outbids”: The report focused on the extortion that civilians in Deir Ezzor have been subjected to. It also monitored large sums of money for Syrian and SDF security services in exchange for releasing detainees or ending the threat.

## 5 Brief Reports

- “The Death of a Woman from Deir Ezzor as She was Arrested in Philistine Branch”: The report documented the death of a woman from Deir Ezzor after she was arrested by Syrian security services in the branch (235) known as "Palestine", where JFL researchers met with witnesses who learned of the details of the incident.
- “Mutiny of Detainees in Deir Ezzor” : The report detailed the mutiny of hundreds of prisoners in a detention facility in the town of Al-Kasra, west of Deir Ezzor, and confronting the security forces controlling the area.
- “Deir Ezzor ... Protests, Proliferation of Crime, and Soaring Prices”: The report documented the security, economic and service conditions in Deir Ezzor governorate, especially after the outbreak of COVID-19, the imposition of the Caesar Law and the decline in the living conditions of the populations.
- “Signs of Electrocutation and Eyes Distortion”: The report documented the deaths of two Deir Ezzor in SDF prisons after being detained for a while. JFL interviewed with victims’ relatives to speak about the arrest, refusing release and information they received before being informed of the deaths of those arrested by security officials.
- “Implications of Fragile Stability and Human Rights Violations”: The report detailed violations committed by the security forces of SDF and the International Coalition in areas of Deir Ezzor countryside, as well as information on the assassinations of community leaders and subsequent tensions.

# 4 Field Studies

- “Deir Ezzor and Peace”: The field study looked at the most important causes of local conflicts, their parties, preferred methods to solve them, and the most prominent representatives of the region in community reconciliation processes. The study relied on the implementation of a questionnaire that targeted (2478) subjects in addition to individual meetings with activists and academics along with outcomes of focused group discussion.
- “Deficient Participation” : The study examined the importance of partnership for effective and transparent management in areas of the Autonomous Administration control, and worked on Deir Ezzor as a model where the province witnessed demonstrations demanding participation in the administration and equal opportunities and accountability. A survey targeted (355) people in the areas of Al-Kasra and Hajeen, 15 interviews, and 4 focus group discussions were conducted.
- “Loss of Evidentiary Documents in Syria Awaiting Fundamental Solutions”: The paper addresses the problem of obtaining documents (Identity Cards, Family Books, Marriage Contracts, Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Passports and Property Documents) in areas outside the control of Syrian regular forces in Deir Ezzor province, as well as displaced persons in the province in a number of areas in northern Syria as a sample of the difficulties Syrians face in protecting their rights to obtain this type of documents.
- “Human Rights and Local Community in Deir Ezzor”: JFL conducted a survey that targeted 853 subjects from the local community to examine how this community sees the concept of human rights. According to the results, the most frequent rights to the less ones; the rights to education, health care, freedom of movement, and participation.



## PRESS RELEASES

JFL participated in 4 joint press releases with dozens of Syrian CSOs.

- On 25 February 2020, and a [statement](#) was issued to the UN Special Envoy's Working Group on the Release of Detainees/Abductees.
- On 8 April 2020, a [statement](#) was issued by 45 Syrian CSOs on World Health Day, recommending that there should be a response to the COVID-19 pandemic in all areas of Syria without exception.
- On 20 May 2020, four Syrian CSOs issued a [letter](#) to the "Syrians for Detainees and Abductees" committee formed by the Syrian Democratic Council, calling on the committee to take practical steps related to the issue of detainees and abductees.
- On 17 August 2020, 11 Syrian CSOs issued a [statement](#) on the state of insecurity in Deir Ezzor province, condemning the assassinations in the province and calling for a fair and transparent investigation, security and protection of civilians.
- JFL issued a [statement](#) on World Humanitarian Day, in which the organization emphasized the humanitarian principles of humanitarian action and recommended that all parties to the conflict must fully respect international humanitarian law.



## VARIOUS ACTIVITIES (MEETINGS- TRAINING - DIALOGUE SESSIONS):

### MEETINGS

Over a year JFL held 142 meetings that came as follows:

69 Meetings with current and potential partners.

73 Internal meetings.

Meetings were held either in-person or online, as COVID-19 started breaking out at the beginning of March 2020, all meetings were carried out online.



### TRAININGS

9 Trainings were implemented up to now, not all planned trainings have been completed as a result of the delay caused by COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as internet problems in the targeted areas inside Syria. The topics of the trainings were as follows:



- Citizenship (concept - definition of identity and affiliation - definition of dialogue and its importance and levels - characteristics of the active citizen - analysis of the problem and knowledge of its causes).
- Democracy (concept of democracy - forms of states - mechanisms of participation in levels of governance - projections at the local and national levels - Islam's position from the democracy).
- Context Analysis (Challenges to Changing Efforts - Identifying Strengths and Weaknesses - How to Draw a Timeline for the Various Events in the Project Implementation Area - The contributions of civil society to respond in accordance with the context of the region).

- Negotiation and mediation (the concept of negotiation and its general principles - the concept of mediation and its key elements - tools for conflict analysis - constructive negotiation strategies - design of the negotiating process).
- Peace-building (concept of peace- deep peace and surface peace - culture of peace-building - sensitivity of conflict - tools for the destruction of peace - sectarian conflict – coexistence - coexistence in our cultures).
- Two workshops on facilitation skills (what is facilitation- the importance of facilitation - facilitator skills - difficult situations exposed to the facilitator - rules of dealing with difficult behaviors - skills training that the facilitator should use to help guide the group to interact - practical application about personality patterns and how to deal with them).
- A practical workshop to complete the facilitation skills workshop (practical application on agenda setting - application through meetings with the community – practice the writing of session reports and training).
- Woman political empowerment (development and its relationship to woman political empowerment – knowledge structure on the misstereotype of woman empowerment - types and levels of empowerment - standards used as a measure of woman empowerment in society - projections on the community - challenges faced by women).

## DIALOGUE SESSIONS

JFL held 27 dialogue sessions with various local groups (women-youth-community actors), discussed many topics. JFL worked to ensure that the participants owned the sessions so that the topics of priority to discuss it were agreed upon, through prior consultations with the organization's team and beneficiaries.

- 1- Symposiums and advocacy campaigns with partner organizations:

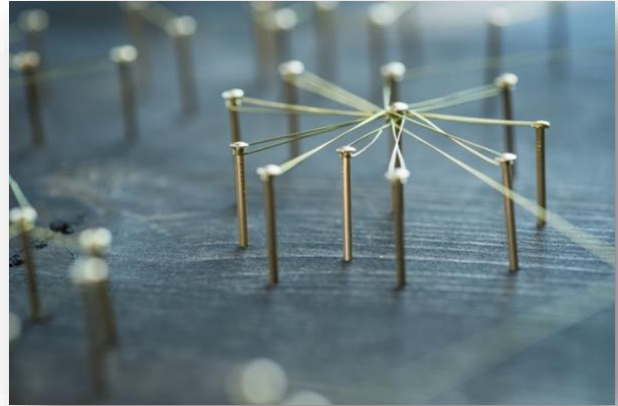


At the invitation of partner, JFL attended 8 dialogues held by local and international organizations on transitional justice, accountability, the fate of missing persons, etc.

JFL participated with 13 Syrian CSOs in an advocacy campaign about hate speech, which included a wide range of activities that partner organizations worked on and launched on International Human Rights Day ,10 December 2019.

## PARTNERSHIPS

JFL has strengthened its partnerships at the local and international levels and is working on new partnership agreements. JFL partnerships range from working on projects jointly implementation or coordinating planning processes, as well as coordinating attitudes and sharing experiences.



## MAJOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WITHIN A YEAR:

### LOCAL PARTNERS



### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS





## STRATEGY

JFL has developed its new strategic plan for the next three years, starting with the anniversary of the inception on the first of September each year, covering the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2023. JFL formed a planning committee, the process of planning lasted for three months online due to the impossibility of in-person meetings.

As for the working mechanism, one meeting is held weekly for (3) hours, during which the components of the strategic plan are discussed, where the committee work on the details of what was discussed for two to three days after the meeting. The meeting outcomes are sent to a specialist who has been hired and who in turn makes observations and comments. Five Sessions were held during which most of the planning process was completed.

The Committee gave an in-depth review for the vision, mission, strategic priorities, values and goals, developed potential contexts in its areas of work, stakeholder analysis, as well as discussions on the structure and funding plan in light of the rapid changes in work areas, local needs and the organization's financial and human resources capacities.

JFL has developed a vision of work with the continued spread of COVID-19 with the aim of maintaining the health of the beneficiaries and the staff while ensuring that implementation is not interrupted, and highlights of what will be provided: secure platforms, internet connection as much as possible for participants, and redesign of activities in accordance with the new situation.

The plan was approved in August 2020 and announced on the inception anniversary, 1 September 2020.

