

JUNE 2020

Glimpse



Into the Syrian civil society



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Kesh Malek

Glimpse aims to shed the light on the Syrian Civil Society which was revived after the Syrian revolution in 2011, showing the civil initiatives and sharing inspiring stories led by grass-roots and civil society movement inside and outside Syria. Glimpse is envisioned to be a reliable resource for readers interested in knowing more about Syria, the history, the society, and the thousands-year-old civilization.

As a youth workgroup Coinciding with the beginning of the Syrian revolution in Aleppo Northern Syria "Kesh Malek" was formed. Its first activities were sharing and taking part in the peaceful movement, demonstrating and spreading demonstrators' demands of "Freedom, Justice, and Dignity." The paigns driven by the group's long term vision to reach a better future for Syria. As "an Independent Democratic Pluralism state, respects human rights and devotes citizenship and justice values."

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Art Acti

Cartoon and Caricature Art Revolution

Long before the Syrian upheaval, the Syrian regime knew the political weight and social influence that this art can trigger. For this reason, it has been widely censored and monitored. Artists in Syria were prompted to follow government-sponsored enterprises.

Syrian dissident ones had to accommodate a balance between a desire to criticize the regime. The implications of taking part in publicizing genuine criticism would be co-opted as pro-government propaganda, as a contribution to the regime's soft-power endeavor in the country amid political popularity of Bashar Al-Assad modern governing era.

Art-phobic Dictatorship

The regime recognizes how opening a small channel for dissent would glorify his image, ultimately without executing or endorsing any real threat at the Ba'ath authoritarian system.

After his arrival to power, Bashar Al-Assad understood the possible perils of artistic free expression. To stream a liberal modernized new leadership of Syria, his new

government-approved recommission of Magazines, which encouraged artists such as Ali Ferzat to relaunch his Magazine Al-Domari.

The newspaper was the first independent periodical in Syria since the Baath Party came to power in 1963. The first version of the paper came out in February 2001, and the entire 50,000 copies were sold in a couple of hours. In 2002, Ferzat won the prestigious Dutch Prince Claus Award for "achievement in culture and development". By 2003, however, the overwhelming government censorship and lack of funds forced Ferzat to close down al-Domari.

During the Syrian revolution, Ferzat had been more direct in his anti-Assad cartoons, explicitly targeting government figures, particularly the head of the state Bashar Al-Assad himself. After the fall of Tripoli in late August at the hands of the rebels seeking to topple Muammar al-Gaddafi, the artist published a cartoon depicting Bashar al-Assad clutching a briefcase running to catch a ride with Gaddafi who was later killed by the rebels.

Anything that diverged outside

the publicization and cheering of Assad's rule was considered a threat. In August 2011, Ferzat was attacked and had his head broken, which drove him to leave the country.

As part of the public political civil rights movement, the use of Cartoons as a means of illustrating anti-regime street art snowballed. As a manifestation of freedom of expression, Cartoon naturally connects with the public struggle and means of expressing frustration and contempt of certain occurrences. Accompanied by social media platforms, Cartoon had a compelling role in advocating for the peaceful demonstration demands and rhetoric beyond the banners that upheld them.

Cartoon images continuously emerged from many areas in Syria sharing these messages with people, not just in Syria, but around the world turning these paintings as an advocacy artwork of the Syrian struggle for freedom.

Cartoon Hub

The north-western Syrian town of Kafranbil has long been dignified as the Cartoon machinist and creative hub of Syria's revolution man-

vism

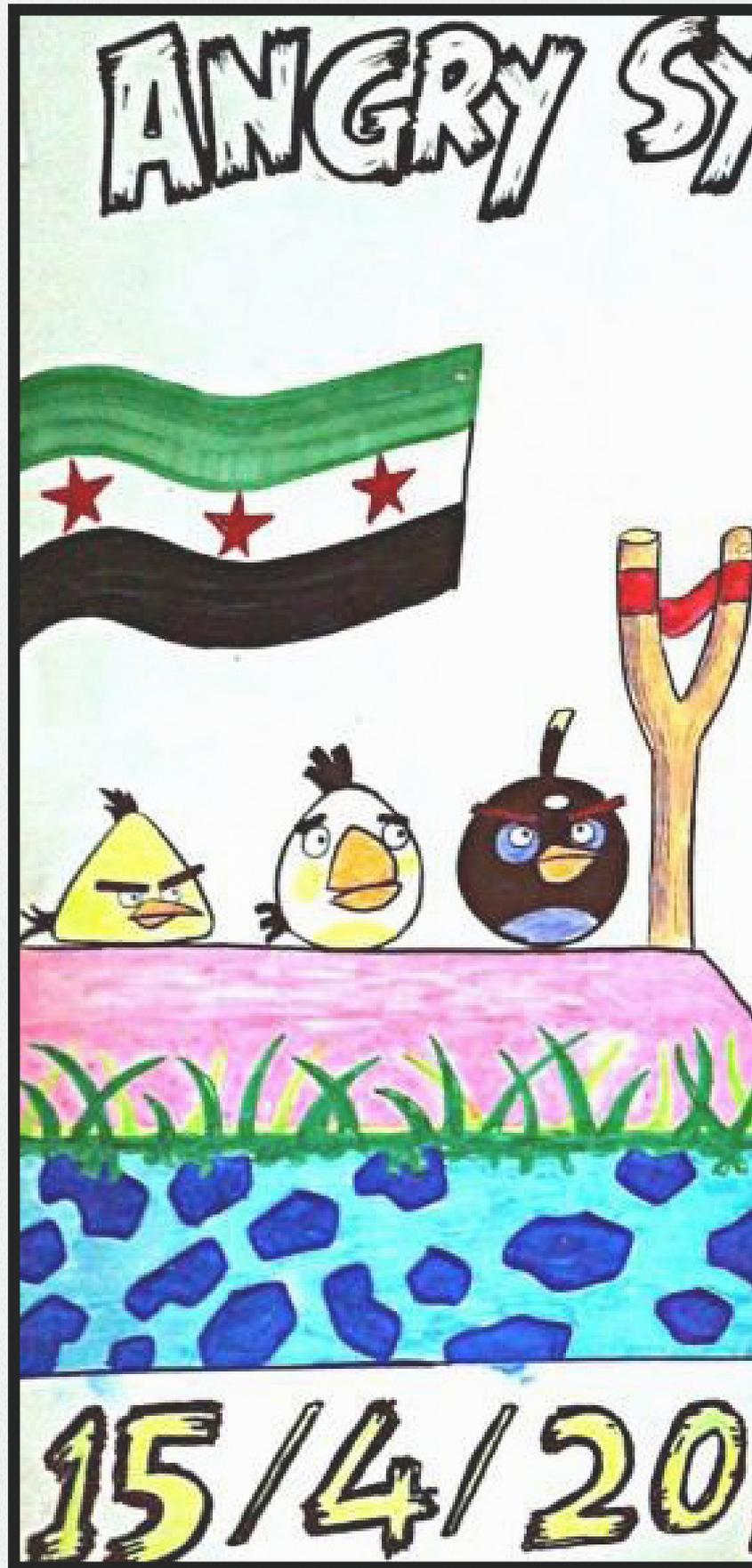
ufacturing Cartoon and caricature paintings since the very beginning of the revolution in 2011. The village's artists are famous for their bold posters and banners, often written in English, parodying President Bashar al-Assad. In addition to their critics to the local authorities the corruption within the Syrian opposition entities.

Although in recent months, the city had its residents displaced after the Assad-Russian militant gained a foothold in the city, the artistic deeds continue to flourish and rise through its artists online to advocate for the Syrian cause around the world.

Ahmad Al Khalil, a decedent cartoonist from KafrNabil who began practicing this art during the revolution only, since his family has painting natural skills. His first painting depicted Bashar Al-Assad in one of the city's demonstrations. Ever since he continuously used painting to criticize politicians and policies surrounding Syria's revolt.

"From the regime preselective, nothing could be more antagonistic and dangerous than the ability to

broadcast these images widely. Art is a weapon; thus all authorities try



BY SYRIANS



2012 OCCUPIED KA



to suppress it,” said Ahmad Khalil

Al Khalil explains that Cartoon echoes and reflects people’s struggle, frustration, resistance, aspiration, and ambition in a visually attractive method.

Despite the progress and development of artistic awareness and liberties in north Syria, many barriers surface artists in Syria.

“Although they have been freed from the Ba’ath censorship and exclusion of creativity, though radical groups also are following the same path, negatively impacting Cartoon’s freedom by continuously censoring and intimidating artists,”

Following a painting depicting Al-Nusra in his city criminality in the city, the artist had to leave his hometown and reside outside in Turkey.

“Unfortunately, in northern Syria, we have largely totalitarian dictatorship authorities who do not tolerate art and accept any criticism. They still have the same mentality of Al-Ba’ath of exclusion and violence against nonviolent means of freedom of expression.”

High Collateral Weapons' Proliferation

in between Civilians in North Syria

Random gunfire news has become popular in local communities, both in households and outdoors. Guns intimidated are considered a relatively new phenomenon that accompanied the militarization of the uprising in 2011 as weapons ownership became more accessible. Although this problem was insignificant in the past as it is currently, however, it has exacerbated in recent years.

Currently, in north Syria, there are around fifteen gun-store in Idlib and its countryside selling different kinds of weapons, ammunition, and military accessories.

Domestic and Gender-based Violence surge

These stores have no licensing or organization in terms of selling policy, leaving their purchase a straightforward thing to make.

Also, the unrestricted weapon ownership during extravasated the population to obtain arms widely amid protecting themselves from the insecurity and unknown armed theft or kidnapping groups.

Locally, weapon proliferation hinders society's balance, security, and safety. Studies show that women become more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, including sexual violence, harassment, trafficking in addition to other forms of discrimination.

Individual arms pose a significant threat of growing domestic violence, especially in an atmosphere saturated with tension and external pressures. In light of the crippling economic status, women are usually the most affected by the acquisition of this type of arms.

The report of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on small arms and their impact on women points out that the bearing of such weapons in a household inevitably surge up to five times the likelihood of turning spousal violence into murder. On average, one-third of women killed are murdered with a small firearm.

The report adds that "arms proliferation increases GBV forms and manifestations already existing in a predominantly patriarchal society—this increases the vulnerability of women, especially in the absence of

the rule of law."

Kibrea Al-Saour, a Syrian social researcher said that the absence of firmly united law enforcement institutions that punish and oversee weapon's stores and ownership as well as deterring punishment is pivotal in the evaluation of the grassroots cause of civil-armament.

"As people see no implications nor criminal implications for carrying or purchasing weapons, the mass violence, as a result, provokes a social disorder and increased level of violence and criminal act," she adds.

Feeding the violence cycle

Parallel to the global upsurge in domestic violence since the outbreak of Covid-19 and Syria as well as examined previously.

Women are bearing the burden of the increase in the level of gun ownership in Syria. It is one of many reasons to which why domestic violence against women.

"Weapon ownership at home has always contributed to an increasing level GBV posing a living danger for women that could end their life," said the researcher

Cost of feration

The presence of an abusive armed husband or family member at home often makes it difficult, sometimes impossible, for women to even verbally defend themselves, let alone seeking family or police help. The seemingly continuous lack of a solution to mass armament suggests that the increase in violence against women and girls is likely much higher than the official numbers show.

Violence against women is the consequence of gender inequalities and power imbalances. Firearms are instruments of power and control. In the context of violence against women, they provide an ultimate tool for abusers to assert full control and maintain power over a woman – which is the goal of domestic violence. Firearms sustain and endorse the patriarchal power dynamics and inequalities and reinforce social hierarchies which give men dominance over women.

According to the researcher, the insecurity caused by the use of weapons undermines women's social, political, and economic participation in a society already suffering from discrimination, patriarchy, and gender-based violence.

Their use further embeds a stereotype of women as victims in need of protection, rather than active agents in society and conflict resolution.

They would make women more likely to face persecution or marginalization by their husbands and families.

The researchers assert that civil society's contribution to the reduction of the exacerbating problem is fundamental. "Launching public awareness campaigns that tackle social and familial hazardous implications of a weapon's widespread phenomenon is essential," she said

Home with Gun equal Prison

Sara, a 29 years old woman and husband to an armed husband (own personal gunfire), even though he is not a military person. The presence of the gun, over the past three years, has derogated the level of their relationship level of intensity.

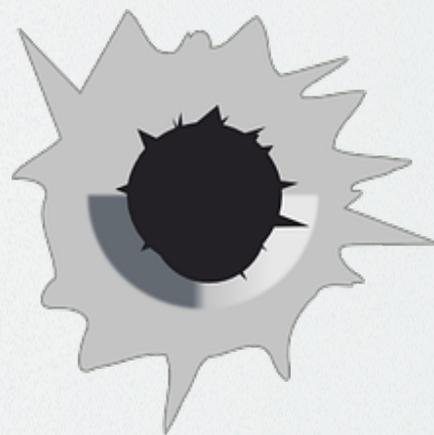
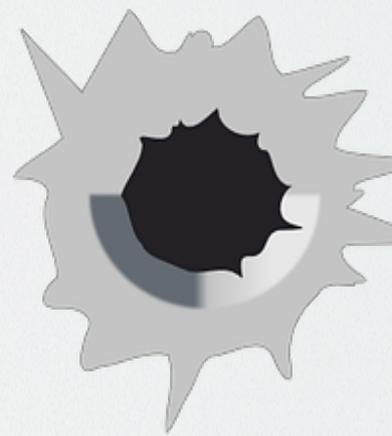
"It becomes more frequent the times that he mentions using the gun against me or the children once a problem erupts in the house. Ever since I am more frightened to stand up for myself or seek help. I can only be patient because no one can help,"

Sara echoes the researchers' hopes that a disarmament movement begins in north-Syria from civilian households, although the violence will be only reduced.

"Men say that guns are for our protection. I disagree, guns spread only amplify and add up to the violence cycle at homes or communities and countries to undermine the community's security.

"Guns should only be exclusive for the police and security authorities, not for public members," she adds

Despite the destabilizing social and familial impact, the problem remains immensely underreported and on the margin of the authority's agenda.



NWWS

The pandemic' impact on education's sector

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, a series of preemptive steps in Northern Syria, last March by the educational ministry. It announced a total shutdown of schools and universities until further notice based on the development of the virus. Though it is not the first time that schools are forcibly shut, this year multiple disruptions and halts were announced following a surge in the level of attacks due to military assaults by the Syrian-Russian militants.

According to Save Children, there are currently over half a million students at approx. One thousand two hundred fifty-five schools have been affected by the shutdown that caused the pandemic.

Ever since many initiatives were launched to minimize the scope of the shutdown negative impact using online learning channels, however, the major hurdle remains the limited efficiency of the new educational methodology.

This limitation is attributed to limited readiness in terms of the internet or technical equipment which ultimately undermines the student's educational level.

Covid-19's Countermeasures

The prolonged closure had sufficed crucial challenges for students, parents, and education administration as well to adapt to what has been called "the new normal".

Although online courses are not the optimal method of learning, they were the only solution available to encounter lockdown circumstances. According to Majdi Basham, program manager at Huras Network (Syrian child Protection Network).

The Network is considered the main actor in northern Syria supporting a wide great percentage of schools and students. Although the NGO had to halt education, however, new mechanisms were hastily adopted to continue teaching via online chatting groups, i.e. WhatsApp.

"Teachers are sharing a recording

of themselves explaining the new lessons and assigns students with multiple homework that they do and take a screenshot of or record themselves and send it back to the group,"

Nearly 21 thousand students had directly benefited from the online learning programs, although struggling from technical difficulties. Those who lacked connected were supplied with a Schooling Emergency Kit that contains free internet access codes to have access to online materials, in addition to other learning documents and instruction on how to use the self-learning online materials.

"The kits had instructions to the family members as well to assist their children throughout the virtual learning process," The manager said

In parallel to WhatsApp groups, a new online platform was launched where varied online materials and activities where students can visit online and interact with throughout

Yria

the week on their convenience,”

Overcoming the Hurdles of Edu-tech

Although this process takes longer to finish the classes due to the lack of adequate internet connection, however, it boosts students to look up for external learning materials to enrich and expand their knowledge,”

Nonetheless, the most affected segment from the school's temporary closures has been (children with disabilities) who require unique learning methods that online learning has proved to be inadequate to fulfill the learning objectives or needs that those children need.

According to Laila Heso, the communication manager in the Network explains that nearly 500 disabled children or with learning difficulties at the NGO have been disproportionately affected by the lockdown.

In a countermeasure, the NGO developed a distinctive learning methodology where a coordinator sits with the children's house and a special supervisor calls them online to conduct the class individually.

“Although this mechanism is hard to apply to all children, however, we had tried within our limited capacity scale to arrange the one to one learning session where available,” Hesso adds.

Cautious reopening & passion to comeback

The online-teaching during a global Pandemic and cross-economic circumstance do normally struggle from many downsides. Lamia, 16 years-old students in Idlib, explains that online learning methods have been extremely challenging and difficult to handle.

“The concentration and productivity level have been deficient. It was very frustrating because of the new lack of interaction with our peers and the slow internet connection that constantly interrupted our learning,” she said

In addition, she notes that she “appreciates the availability of online learning because, over the past years, when the school was closed, it meant that we were about to be displaced or undergo the horror of death by airstrikes. But, not this time,”

Lamia believes that this period has made her more motivated to go back to school and do better than she has ever done before though she notes that online learning has been a somewhat beneficial experience in comparison to the disruption by a military insurgency in the past years.

Meanwhile, schools will gradually reopen starting from this week across northwestern Syria's schools.

The minister of education in Idlib announced that schools would welcome students back to their schools, though underscoring the importance of adhering with the “needed necessary measures” concerning sterilizing schools and avoiding congregating students by the school administration.

Students will resume their schooling taking into account the social distancing rules supervised by their teachers. While such measures are crucial to avoid children's infections, the challenges remain to jeopardize the application of ministry's steps.

The insufficient numbers narrow schools' space renders avoiding students congregation and maintaining the precautionary health measures unattainable. And perhaps, endangering the health of the children, teachers, and society as well.

Soft Power and Indoctrination

The Decline of the Ba'ath Grip on the Educational System in Syria to Iran and Russia

In authoritarian regimes across the world, state apparatus comprises two primary pillars they rely upon to cement their dominance upon the nation they oppress. One state repression apparatus and second state ideological apparatus.

Based on these elements, authoritarian states forcibly control and reject progressive plurality and diversity, including the formulation of the national educational policy and curriculum. As a result, the state renders education a pathway to consolidate the state propaganda and ideology similar to the colonizing power, instead of the local indigenous original historical identity and custom.

In Syria, the Ba'ath party, ever since taking over Syria's rule in 1963, the education development and reproduction in the country have dramatically transformed. The ideological transplantation and what the generations know about history, language, geography, philosophy, and other silences was revisited, according

to Mohesen Hallom, a 58-years old historian and humanity science teacher who spent 18 years teaching in Damascus' schools, and now resides in Idlib rural.

"Instead of following the worldwide scientific advancement and reflecting the entwined multi-ethnic and religiously diverse. The ruling party pursuit an explicit systemic Ba'athist nationalist sentiment spreading systematically Syrians youngsters," the historian added

Organized Distortion

Syria's identity is reflected through its ethnic, religious diversity, habits and tradition, history occurrences, and reality. If the curriculums do not show and teach students about that, then their identity is tarnished and is being erased.

"It is about the Christians, Arab, Druze, Kurds, Jewish, and many things related to their cultures, customs, and traditions. Yet, the Ba'ath did erase a lot of that, on the expense of its project." Hallom said

The distortion manifests through the

establishment of "The Nationalist Socialist Education" as a mandatory subject which contains hardcore socialist Baathist modules teaching emancipation and nationalism induced by Hafez Assad and Ba'ath ideology and outlook.

The Ba'ath leadership, both the father and the son, wielded their ideological power and perpetuated its philosophy in every aspect of the youth's educational life. To implement this indoctrination, the party's executive apparatus created a socialist youth sub-parties of the mother Ba'ath called "Revolutionary Youths Union" and "The Syrian Pioneers Organization" whose members are mainly led by the party's loyalist amid mobilizing youth power (school students). It also conducts and organizes annual military training boot camps and university training camps as well, to ideologically embed the conception of Ba'ath solo leadership and Assadism, and renew their pledge of ultimate obedience to the leadership and be loyal citizens in the future.

"Major ramification of the indoctrinated, have been joining of many of those youth to the regime's paramilitary forces, throughout the war," the historian explains

Males and females do equally partake, although with a majority of men. "It is an ideological Bootcamp.

and on War

It teaches Syrians youth about the historical struggle of Al-Baath and its leaders to unite the Arab nation and bring it together.” He notes

One of the underlining distorting acts, the teacher explains is that the “the Syrian’s educational system is written to depicts the Ba’ath as the sole protector and defender of nationalist Arab identity and union,

“Children at schools have been learning distorted history for decades, yet now it will be manipulated and distorted even more as Iran and Russian take over.” The historian notes.

The Eradication of the Syrian identity by Assad allies

An inherited problem in Syria’s school classes is that they are always packed—like a military Boot Camps—with 50 students in each class, low equipped, hostile administrations that abuses students and tarnish their creativity, Suha Al-Bahboh, a school teacher and manager in north-Syria explains (she has been a practitioner for over than 15 years between Hama and Aleppo and currently in Idlib rural).

“The teaching methodology has also been inadequate, unpractical in comparison to the modernized educational systems adopted worldwide,”

“Students have to memories word by word the assigned coursework and final exams leaving zero space for student’s creativity or self-diligence, let alone the outdated knowledge quality of all sciences in general,” she adds

Although the Russian-Iranian and Syrian regimes for a long time have had high ties and collaboration at all levels before the onset of the Syrian revolution 2011, yet this relation solidified afterward in various focal sectors.

Suha explains that the domination race upon the educational regularity in Syria has been a battleground for the hegemonic powers of Syria allies’ authorities who resonate a sense of awareness of expanding their intellectual occupation in Syria eradicating the Syrian Arab identity favoring theirs.

Both regimes are tirelessly endeavoring to incorporate a grassroots educational reform and transferring the old system that praises solely the Ba’ath rule. Though Iran is transplanting multi-layered religious and cultural traditions.



“Through benevolent initiative at mosques, poor neighbors, namely where the regime pushed back rebel groups in Damascus and Aleppo. Many mosques and school were turned into religious hubs to spread Iran’s ideological rhetoric,” Suha said

“On the long term, such initiative will indoctrinate more youth and use them in the future for their proxy lucrative business,”

Iran’s policy

According to the historian, there is a systemic policy that is being implemented and pushed forwards by both Iran and Russia to expand their occupation to Syria’s intellectually, culturally, and historically. “Children and youth in general-who already lost a lot during the war- are their next target. The Iranian have been underway, less formally through spreading religious gathering across Syria since the beginning of the uprising which is growing up in many parts of Syria,” he said

In 2005, Iran successfully established the Iranian Culture Consultative Institution (ICCI) in Damascus in addition to its sub-branches in Aleppo and other provinces. The center managed to incorporate Persian in many Syrian universities such as Damascus and Aleppo in the literature language sector through its relation to the Syrian regime.

In 2011, Syria’s High Education Ministry formally acknowledged Al-Siyad Rakaia faculty as part of Syria’s educational entities. The faculty mainly teaches “Sharia”

leading Iran’s incorporation of Iran’s in Syrian society into a deeper level.

According to Harmon Centre for Research and Policy Studies until the end of 2019, around 500 Iranian religious centers were opened across Syria.

“Iran has an old entrenched relationship with the regime before the uprising, their endeavors to spread cross-socialist and radical religious and ethnic oriented ideology,”

The center indicates that there are nearly forty Iranian schools in Damascus only. These schools have official acknowledgement by the Syrian Ministry of Endowments and the Ministry of Education.

The soft power campaign influenced opening sub-branches of Iran based universities in Syria, such as Azad’Hi in 2018, beside Al-Farabi universities in 2007 and Al-Moustafa university in 2009.

Besides teaching the religious ideology, these centers have been attracting, according to locals in eastern Syria, youth to travel to Iran and continue their education and come back to Syria.

Those universities attract many students as they give financial incentives and scholarships with the mother-university back in Iran. For instance, the Deir-Ezzor ICCI sub-branch launched fully funded scholarships for locals to pursue their high-education in the Islamic country.

The historian asserts that these steps will cumulatively not only undermine Syrian’s local identity and

install Iran’s alien one but also mobilize more human support for their future plans.

“Iran wants to generate human support for its own agenda in Syria which has always been its aim. The regime’s open doors accelerate this ideological transplantation and indoctrination, which will feed in more cross-ethnic conflicts in the region undoubtedly,” he added

Iranian and Russian Rivalry

Amid long term occupation of Syria and parallel to their military offensives, Damascus’s allies have been working to intervene in Syria’s educational curriculums itself, not launching separate entities only.

The systemic interference by Iran made a breakthrough in late January 2020, when the Syrian Ministers of Education and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding.

According to the agreement, the Iran ministry of education will be responsible for conducting the school’s development and maintenance as well as revising and developing the national curriculums at all levels, which will be printed in Iran as well. Furthermore, the Iranian regime will have broader power to amend and collaborate in varied sectors in the minister’s internal educational policy, which includes introducing the Persian language to the Syrian scholarly discipline.

Besides, the Iranian will be supervising and providing capacity building programs to the teachers and lecturers in Iran amid capacitating them with the needed ‘modern’ acquaintance.

The Iranian project covers the educational system holistically including youth, disabled persons, internet and technology, child literature, cinema, painting, and theatre.

D. Khaula Al Hadid, a Psychological and Social Science Researcher based in Abu-Dhabi, explains that; there are two primary pillars in the Iranian intervention in the educational sector in Syria. It first aims to insert a religiously Persian oriented philosophy of the Iranian Islamic state framework in the Syrian curriculum, culture, and custom as well. Secondly, it complicity endeavors to dismantle the Syrian grassroots religiously moderate culture and undermine the culture of tolerant to an utterly volatile generation.

“Therefore, Iran has been investing millions of US dollars establishing, in addition to their privately-owned religious centers, but to prevail and change the education and subvert and deviate the Syrian identity on the long term,” Hadidi said

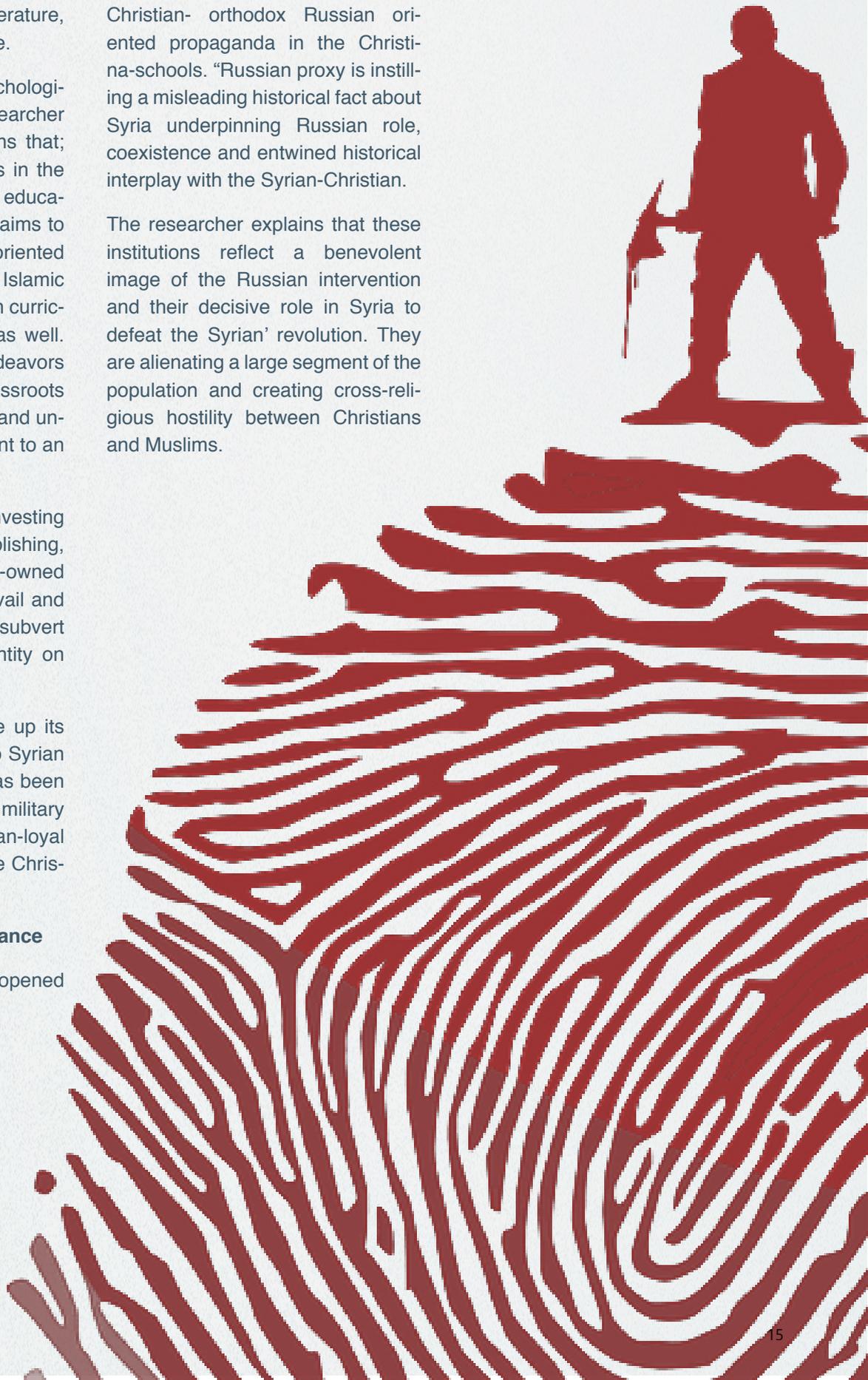
While Iran is trying to shore up its radical ideological change to Syrian identity, Russia, however, has been less hastily invested in a military aspect and directing Russian-loyal rhetoric in Syria amongst the Christian Syrian segment.

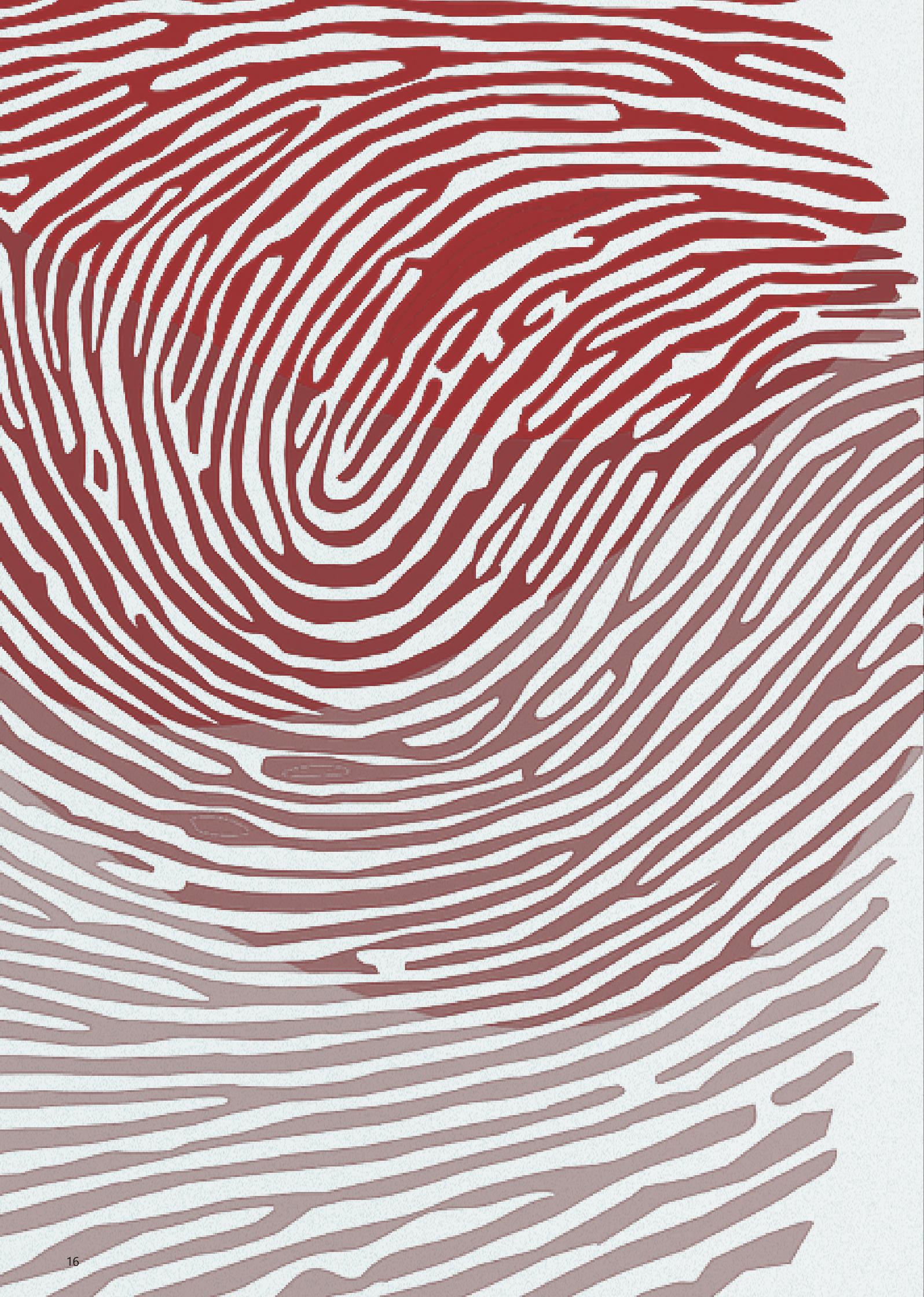
Russian soft power dominance

Hadidi explains that Russian opened

over the past years their institutions across many cities- in Syria parallel to the military intervention- a Christian- orthodox Russian oriented propaganda in the Christiana-schools. “Russian proxy is instilling a misleading historical fact about Syria underpinning Russian role, coexistence and entwined historical interplay with the Syrian-Christian.

The researcher explains that these institutions reflect a benevolent image of the Russian intervention and their decisive role in Syria to defeat the Syrian’ revolution. They are alienating a large segment of the population and creating cross-religious hostility between Christians and Muslims.





“They are justifying their existence and benevolence to the Syrians. The production of this misguided generation who denies the Syrian atrocity relates peace and prosperity in Syria to Russia would only increase the gap between Syrians and surge the religion division,”

The hazardous ramification to this policy will manifest in Syrian’s Christian coming generations who will be as Hadidi asserts foreign to their fellow citizens.

The implications of “labeling the Syrian revolution and its supporters with ethnic-radical connections will jeopardize the social contract or what has left of it,” she said.

The Russian aims to introduce themselves as the saviors of minorities in Syria in long-term investment to guarantee their foothold.

On the same token, Russian-Syrian agreements were signed, announcing the introduction of Russian language faculties in Latakia, Homs, parallel to large numbers of private schools that started teaching Russian.

In 2018, a similar agreement was signed between both countries’ Ministries of Defense that allow Syrian nationals to attend ‘military Bootcamp’ fully funded and trained following the national Russian military school curriculums.

Although Russian formal interference in the Syrian war did not come to the public until late

2015, however, its soft power plans were already underway. A major announcement introduced the Russian language as an optional language in Syria’s schools in 2014. This was followed by an increasing medium of scholarships to Syrian students introduced by the Russian in Syria.

Enlarging Language Centre vision

For this sake, many privately owned institutions that teach the Russian language in many provinces across Syria are increasingly getting licenses to introduce the Russian language.

In a recent manifestation of this contestation, Damascus announced a 500 scholarships to Russia for both undergraduate and graduate studies in Russian next year. This has led to a significant surge of turnout registrations to study Russian across the country’s private language institutes.

This move the researcher describes, taking advantage of Syria’s weakness now by taking advantage of the military leverage they have.

Both Iran and Russia are pushing Syrians to learn their language to increase their opportunities to work in affiliated businesses they will launch in the future. “It is an educational- economical interconnected plan to make Syrian reliant on their power and expose to their influence and exploitation which is already growing,” she said women a collateral cost weapons proliferation amongst locals in North Syria

“These enterprises aim to overrule Syrians’ welfare one creating

a brainwashed affiliated community to Assad’s allies and their alien agenda, rather than Syrians’ interest, identity or future prosperity.”

Activi

1-Journalism awareness workshop

In early June and in line with the Stalinization support cluster endeavors to enhance media quality work at “Media Freedom and Journalists Protection Project”, an online workshop was held online for female-male journalists in Ezaz city. The Workshop gathered journalists from different parts of North-Western Syria and others who attended via online as well.

The workshop discussed and grappled with various subjects concerning the difficulties and challenges female media journalists are facing currently. The discussion was enriched with much personal expertise such as Waad Al-Khateb, from London.

The experts shared her experience with the participants. The workshop also worked to develop the protection mechanism that journalists can employ to enhance their protection awareness scope.

2-Be safe for us.

A new, joint civil society-led campaign about the COVID-19- Pandemic was launched between Harmoun center and The Syrian Revolutionary Cluster, across north Syrian towns, namely amongst the displaced population.

Female and male activists and volunteers scattered across the camps and homes distributing “health baskets” including face masks, cleaning materials, and pamphlets illustrating the precautionary measures that ought to be followed.

The campaign aimed to enhance the hygienic capacity to the north-Syria dwellers who lack economic ability

to afford to buy extra amounts of cleaning substance, let alone ignorance about the risks of respiratory disease.

Although various similar campaigns have been launched on the same token, however, there is a large segment of the impoverished population that has not yet been reached.

Nonetheless, the majority of the population namely displaced one, lack sustained clean water resources, let alone sanitation they need to maintain health and hygienic.

According to the Action Against Hunger report. Throughout the country, 15.5 million Syrians lack adequate access to clean water. Across north Syria, A portion of 27% of households spends as much as one-fifth of their income on water from tankers.

ities

3-A City Album in a Handbook

Ahmad Al-Hanini, a media activist from Kafr Nabl, once a rebel-held area in southern Idlib rural- gathered a collection of pictures of the city that he took before and after its destruction in a handbook to distribute publicly.

“After the regime captured my city after destroying its home and streets, the idea sparked in my head as I have an old archive of the city and its charming nature, traditional shops and famous fig and olive trees,” the activist said

The album also documents the deliberate target of the city’s districts, markets, and mosques which were unarmed harmless targets.

The album aims to maintain the memory of the city’s history and save it from being manipulated and for the future generations to see how their city once was and who and what happened to their homeland.

4-Coronavirus’s mini-Olympics

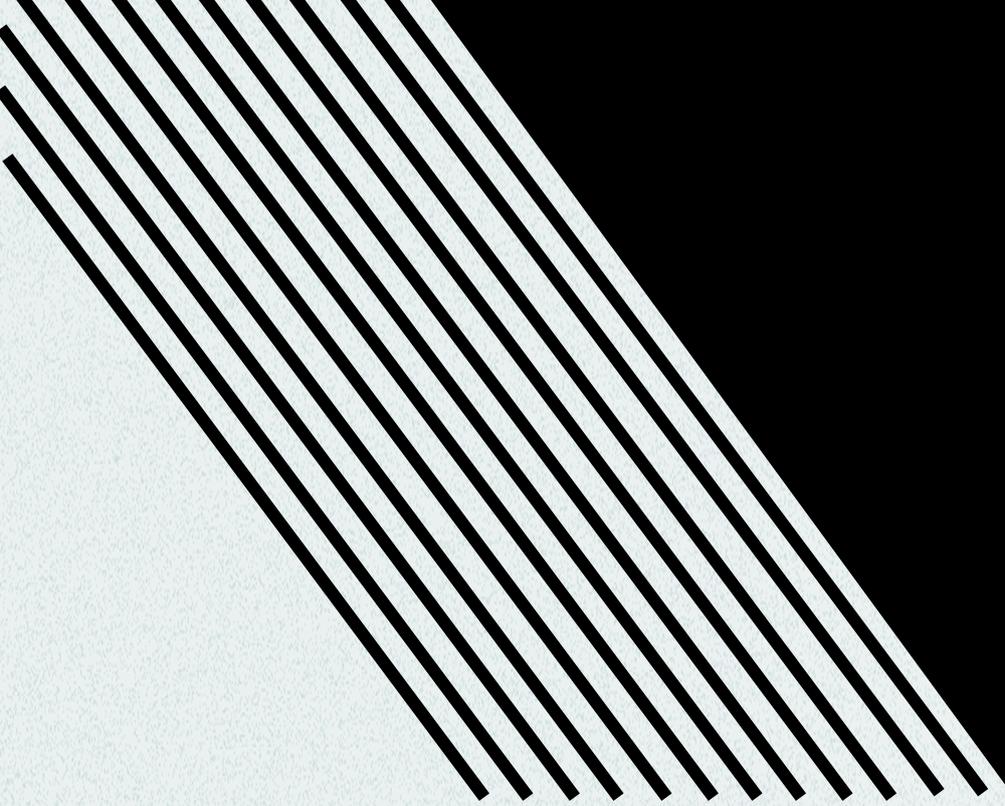
In the third week of March, a social awareness campaign At the end of last month, Violet organization held in north-western Syria’s camps at Kafar Yahmol village a sport championship event for the camps’ children between 5 and 14 years old.

The event launched a series of vivid games that aims to raise children’s awareness through entertaining activities about Covid-19 and to protect themselves by washing up and keeping themselves clean.

Maintaining social distancing measures as instructed by the organizers, the children played the games bearing the importance of personal safety keeping two meters far from one another.

Children would have to clean their hands for example, when the whistle of the referee goes on, and wear gloves and head mask before starting the race game. On the race track, coronavirus is depicted through two men wearing costumes that try to hold the participants from reaching the race end, while two other men depicting the hygienic and cleaning persons would assist the children from the viruses’ symbol to reach the end.

At the end of the Olympic, all children received prizes and gifts



nto the Syrian civil society

