

**2021 / 2022 Annual Report**



**ADVANCING ACCOUNTABILITY  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
EFFORTS**

# Annual Report

April  
2021

March  
2022



# Commission for International Justice and Accountability

The Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to furthering criminal justice efforts through investigations in order to prevent the loss and destruction of vital evidence. CIJA supports prosecutorial efforts to end impunity, whether at the national or international level.

CIJA's aim is to expand opportunities to achieve justice for a broad range of crimes that impact vulnerable populations across the globe, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, terrorism, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling.

CIJA is apolitical and carries out its investigative activities independently of any government.

CIJA gathers evidence of crimes that are beyond the reach of international and national justice institutions, placing an emphasis on evidence linking specific perpetrators to these crimes.



## Letter from the Executive Director

It is once again my happy duty to present CIJA's Annual Report covering April 2021 through March 2022. Notwithstanding the considerable restrictions upon cross-border movements experienced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, CIJA operations continued apace, thanks to the dedication of our team and ongoing support of our donors, with very positive effect.

Our core mission remains to extend the criminal investigative reach of the public sector by conducting investigations into potential international crimes committed in parts of the world where impunity reigns, with an eye to more, and more effective, criminal prosecutions for core international crimes through domestic and international courts. The most high-profile example of this public-private cooperation was the conviction of Anwar Raslan, the Head of Investigations at the notorious Branch 251 of the Syrian Regime's General Intelligence Directorate, by the Higher Regional Court in Koblenz, in January 2022, for a range of crimes against humanity and his sentence to life imprisonment. CIJA also completed a four-year investigation into the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and related civilian structures, identifying at least 20 senior officials suspected of bearing criminal responsibility for a multitude of international crimes committed against the Rohingya population across Rakhine state in 2016-2017 as well as in Kachin and Shan states since 2011. Our findings — supported by a robust collection of sources, including thousands of internal military documents — have been shared with various international justice and accountability actors and been preserved for future justice initiatives.

The ongoing scale and complexity of requests for assistance from law enforcement agencies have further validated our public-private cooperation model, and critically supported a range of investigations into individuals from the Syrian Regime and Islamic State (IS) suspected of untold brutality following their actions in Syria and Iraq. CIJA also continued to robustly counter the hateful disinformation campaigns led by Russian State sources working alongside Western proxies, whose pernicious targeting of CIJA, alongside the White Helmets, Bellingcat and OPCW amongst others, seeks to deny the victimisation of thousands of Syrians by the hands of the Syrian Regime.

In closing on a personal note, I should like to note the immense pride which I take in the efforts of each and every one of my colleagues at the CIJA, irrespective of their positions within the organisation.

*Bill Wiley*



## Letter from the Chair of the Board of Commissioners

My fellow Commissioners and I are very proud of what CIJA has accomplished during this last year. From its critical contributions to the first verdicts against Syrian Regime officials in Germany through to its successful investigation into core international crimes perpetrated in Myanmar, CIJA has solidified its position as the leading civil society actor engaged in the collection and preservation of linkage evidence amid active conflict. As we look toward the next period, we are ever more certain that CIJA's strategic direction—ongoing in-country evidence collection, suspect tracking, evidentiary and analytical assistance to law enforcement partners—will continue to advance the work of public authorities engaged in the investigation of Syrian Regime and IS suspects. In the face of rising disinformation and denial, the courage and professionalism of CIJA's Syrian investigators in bringing forth solid evidence of criminal responsibility remains indispensable to achieving justice for the worst crimes of the 21st century.

CIJA is also poised to engage in new conflict situations, where its model and expertise can complement anticipated justice processes. Owing to its skill and experience in identifying relevant information and in its robust analysis, as well as in advanced fieldcraft, gained over the course of its decade-long engagement in Syria, CIJA stands to bring its expertise to bear on the collection of probative evidence against perpetrators responsible for the widespread crimes being committed in ongoing international armed conflicts. Amid a rise in public-private cooperation models, CIJA has shown an exemplary commitment to non-duplication, 'do no harm' principles, and the best practices in evidence collection and preservation. Through its leading engagement in the development of the *Nuremberg Guidelines for Non-Public Investigative Bodies in the field of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law*, CIJA is contributing to the establishment of useful and practical standards, thus helping to usher in a new era of international criminal investigations defined by effectiveness and procedural integrity.

CIJA's Board of Commissioners remains resolute in our commitment to support CIJA's continued efforts to further its model and thereby advance justice and accountability around the world.

*Stephen J. Rapp*



# Expanding Investigative Frontiers for Core International Crimes

The year witnessed a series of critical milestones in the application of CIJA’s investigative model. Working amidst the ongoing global pandemic and heightened disinformation and polarisation, CIJA concluded a successful four-year investigation into the Myanmar Armed Forces, identifying 20 senior individuals who may bear responsibility for international crimes against the Rohingya population. Further, CIJA observed the landmark conviction of Anwar Raslan, the highest-ranking Syrian Regime official to be found guilty of crimes against humanity, by honouring the investigators whose tireless work ensured the collection and admission of vital evidence exposing Raslan’s individual culpability as well as the broader system of violence and oppression directed at the Syrian population.

“[W]hen the investigator is part of the social fabric of the area they work in, they are very well positioned to be successful as an investigator because they are fully aware of the locals’ ways of thinking and can choose the best and most satisfactory method to conduct the interview with any case they encounter. They can also anticipate any outcome or reaction before it happens, and can therefore avoid countless problems.”

*Syrian Field Investigator*

## CIJA Achievements at a Glance: 2021–2022

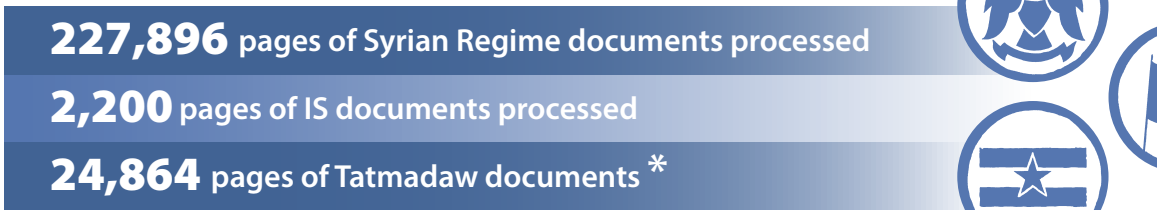
### National Capacity Development



### Investigation



### Evidence Preservation and Management



\*2018-2022

As public prosecutors across a number of domestic jurisdictions continue to advance their investigations into serious crimes in Syria, CIJA investigators continued to further the collection and preservation of critical evidence of Syrian Regime and Islamic State (IS) criminal conduct in support of public accountability efforts. By extracting a further 280 kg of original Syrian Regime documents, investigators substantially expanded CIJA’s vast evidentiary archive which now stands at over 1.3 million documents.

Considering this growing momentum and adhering to the highest evidence management standards, CIJA’s Field Scanning and Data Entry teams showed exceptional capacity to scan, digitalise and tag the newly arrived materials, thereby ensuring their timely availability to CIJA analysts and by extension national authorities engaged in the investigation and prosecution of core international crimes.

Amid a swell of active European and North American investigations into international crimes, CIJA maintained its strong multipronged support to national authorities, responding to 141 requests for assistance, while proactively identifying 26 persons of interests believed to be within the jurisdictional reach of domestic law enforcement agencies.



**Assistance to Justice Actors**

- 31** justice actors
- 141** requests for assistance
- 372** targets



**Analysis, Reports, and Legal Briefs**

- 57** Syrian Regime, IS, and Tatmadaw Persons of Interest identified
- 3** Syrian Regime Suspect Dossiers submitted to law enforcement partners
- 1** IS Proactive Report submitted to law enforcement partners
- 1** Tatmadaw Legal Brief \*



**Outreach**

- 127** media appearances
- 16** events and briefings



\*2018-2022



# Four-year Investigation in Myanmar Linked 20 Suspects to International Crimes Against the Rohingya

In 2022, CIJA concluded a four-year investigation into the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and governmental bodies regarding international crimes against the Rohingya community in 2016 and 2017, and more generally, in Kachin and Shan states since 2011.

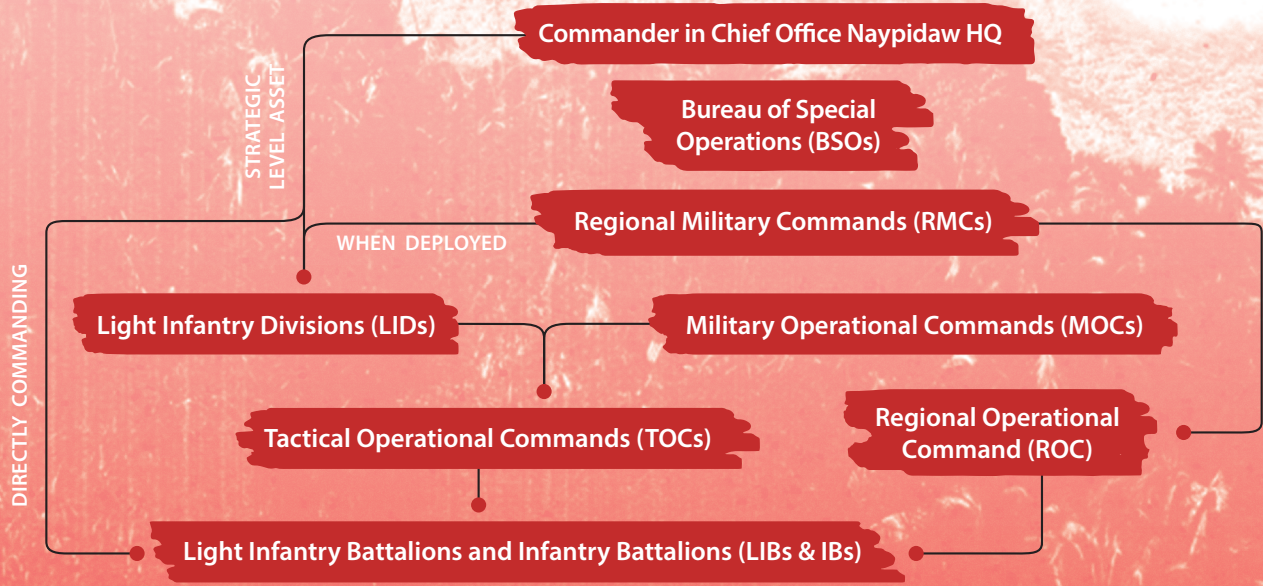
In 2017, the Tatmadaw unleashed a horrifying killing campaign against the Rohingya community in so-called ‘clearance operations’ which followed years of oppression and discrimination. Village by village, the Tatmadaw slaughtered and raped the Rohingya population and burnt their houses, leading to a massive exodus across the border into Bangladesh. International condemnation followed, with declarations that the atrocities amounted to ethnic cleansing and genocide. Innovative justice pathways were sought before the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice as well as through universal jurisdiction. But while numerous actors were collecting information on specific incidents as well as survivor testimony and crime base evidence, no evidence was available to link the crimes to those responsible for ordering, overseeing or tolerating them, exposing a critical missing link in accountability efforts. Following a comprehensive feasibility assessment, CIJA concluded that linkage evidence was available but not being



“These plans and practices were devised to control, monitor, oppress, and direct violence at Rohingya civilians, with the aim to compel them to leave the country and, as time went on, to realise their physical destruction.”

*CIJA Legal Brief, 2021*

## The Tatmadaw’s command and control structure





collected, while a number of local human rights defenders, activists and ethnic organisations within Myanmar were committed to seeking criminal accountability for those responsible and were looking to find ways to investigate those who organised and ordered the violence. CIJA's subsequent investigation built on its operational model in Syria and Iraq. Small teams of Burmese investigators underwent intensive training on criminal investigation standards and techniques and were mentored daily by a team of forward-deployed international investigators, analysts and lawyers.

Together they worked in a highly challenging environment, compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2021 military coup. Despite this, CIJA investigators collected over 24,000 pages of contemporaneously generated Myanmar government and military documents. They interviewed witnesses, including insiders and defectors, and gathered photographs and video recordings. Once collected, the evidence was verified and meticulously archived to ensure its admissibility in ongoing and future criminal proceedings.

The information contained in these materials was stark and of high evidentiary value. Using the Tatmadaw's own documents, CIJA lawyers and analysts pieced together the policies and practices that were developed to control, monitor, oppress and direct violence against the Rohingya people, as well as ethnic minorities from Shan and Kachin states. CIJA was able to reconstruct the Tatmadaw's command and control structures, as well as the police forces, the general administration department and government ministries, and prove that superiors had effective command and control over the units on the ground carrying out the killings, rapes and village clearances. CIJA's legal analysis of the government's policies and plans established that the violent persecution of the Rohingya was characterised by extreme hatred and intolerance, consistent with specific genocidal intent to destroy the Rohingya population.

Over the course of its investigation, CIJA identified 31 persons of interest from the Tatmadaw, security forces or government who could be held responsible for some of the atrocities. CIJA's legal brief narrowed the list to 20 senior level individuals based on their relevant authority and participation in criminal acts against the Rohingya community in 2016 and 2017, and more generally, in Kachin and Shan states since 2011. The evidence collected confirmed the claims of victims and survivors regarding the targeting of ethnic minorities, but importantly with the help of CIJA-collected documents, these testimonies are confirmed in the words and documents of the Myanmar government's own bureaucracy.

### CIJA-collected evidence

**24,864** pages  
registered from **865** documents



**10** records of interview



**24** videos



**64.6** GB of OSINT  
materials / **3,500** files



Photo: Reuters/ Michelle Nichols



# Landmark Convictions of Former Syrian Regime Members Amid Ongoing Accountability Efforts

On 13 January 2022, Anwar Raslan became the highest-ranking member of the Syrian Regime to be convicted for his role in the Regime’s criminality. Following over a hundred trial days, the Higher Regional Court in Koblenz, Germany found him guilty of co-perpetration of 52 counts of crimes against humanity, including torture, murder and assault, in addition to several counts of rape and sexual assault. Raslan was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in these crimes, which took place whilst he was Head of Investigations of Branch 251 of the Syrian General Intelligence Directorate. The publication of Eyad Al Gharib’s judgment—a career official from Subdivision 40 of the General Intelligence Directorate assigned to Branch 251 who stood trial with Raslan—referred extensively to the evidence, analysis and testimony provided by CIJA, particularly in establishing the individual criminal responsibility of the accused as well as the widespread and systematic nature of the crimes under examination.

CIJA first shared a dossier on Raslan with the German Federal Police in 2017, which set out the suspect’s rank and responsibilities as Head of Investigations of Branches 251 and 285, the criminal acts carried out during his tenure, and his likely whereabouts. Following his arrest in February 2019, CIJA’s assistance to German authorities continued throughout the pre-trial and trial phases of the case and culminated in two days of expert testimony delivered by CIJA’s Director of Operations and Investigations. The testimony provided a thorough contextual analysis of the Regime’s security-intelligence apparatus and its widespread and systematic use of torture in detention. Of relevance to the case were over 600 documents linked to Branch 251, including General Intelligence directives and interrogation reports, some bearing Raslan’s signature, as well as interviews with former Branch employees. Critical to the prosecution’s case were original orders issued by the Central Crisis Management Cell, an ad-hoc body established by President Bashar al-Assad and composed of the highest members of the Syrian Regime, authorising the use of violence against the protest movement.



## Col. Anwar Raslan

Head of Investigations, Branch 251, Damascus. Guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment for 52 counts of crimes against humanity of murder, grievous bodily harm, torture, sexual assault, false imprisonment, hostage taking, and 3 counts of sexually abusing prisoners.

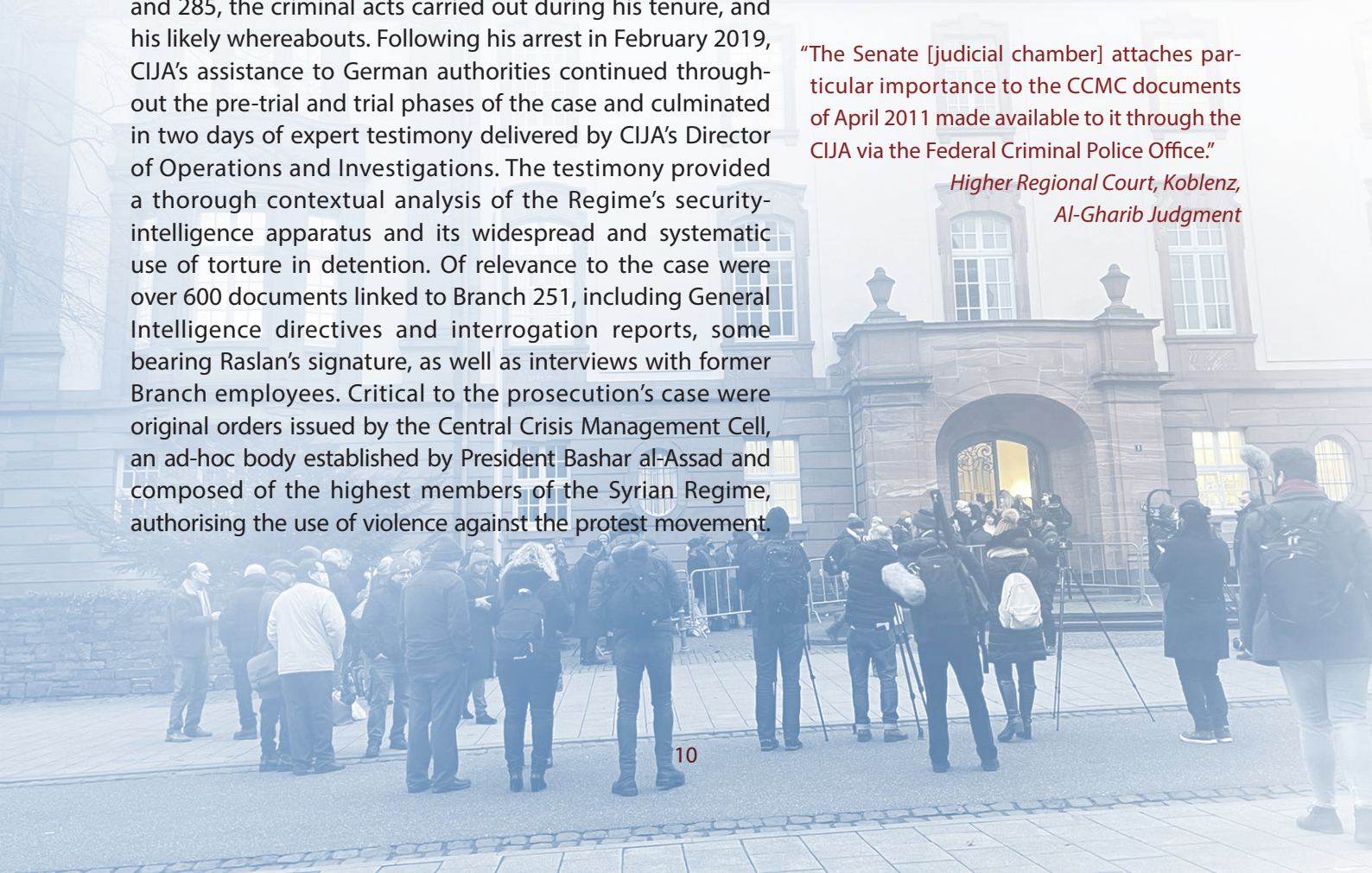


## Eyad Al-Gharib

Low-ranking officer, Subdivision 40, assigned to Branch 251, Damascus. Appeal confirmed guilty conviction and four years and six months sentence for aiding and abetting 30 counts of crimes against humanity of torture and grave deprivation of liberty.

*“The Senate [judicial chamber] attaches particular importance to the CCMC documents of April 2011 made available to it through the CIJA via the Federal Criminal Police Office.”*

*Higher Regional Court, Koblenz, Al-Gharib Judgment*



On 19 January 2022, the trial against Alaa M, a former medical professional for the Syrian Military Intelligence began in Frankfurt, Germany where he stands charged for his role in crimes against humanity committed in Military Hospital 608 in Homs, Syria. CIJA has supported the case since 2019 with documentary, victim and insider witness evidence. Drawing on its extensive investigative and analytical resources concerning conflict-related sexual violence, CIJA played a key role in the successful inclusion of sexual offences to the list of charges against Alaa M. CIJA continues to assist German authorities in the case, responding to five requests for assistance in the 2021–2022 period.

The Raslan, Al-Gharib and Alaa M cases offer important recognition for the ongoing suffering of the Syrian people, representing important milestones on the road to justice and accountability. Yet, despite the overwhelming evidence of the widespread and systematic criminality of the Syrian Regime, the prosecution of high-ranking Regime officials, even those within jurisdictional reach, remains fraught with challenges.

Such is the case of Brigadier General Khaled Al-Halabi, the highest-ranking Syrian Regime official suspected of crimes against humanity known to be in Europe. Following a series of media investigations into the case, CIJA was able to confirm that it had located Al-Halabi,

the former Head of General Intelligence Branch 335 in Raqqa, in Vienna in late 2015. In 2016, CIJA shared a comprehensive dossier on Al-Halabi with the Austrian Ministry of Justice. The particularly damning evidence, which draws on original Regime documents and insider witness accounts, illustrates that a range of egregious crimes, including murder and torture, along with sexual offences, were perpetrated in Branch 335 by Al-Halabi's subordinates with his full knowledge. Despite the strength of the evidence, absence of legal barriers to his arrest and numerous follow-up meetings between CIJA and Austrian justice officials, Al-Halabi remains at large. In 2021, reporting by *The New Yorker* and *Der Spiegel* uncovered a complex web of geopolitical and foreign intelligence dynamics which have allowed Al-Halabi to evade justice to this day. In the face of such challenges, CIJA remains resolved to use its investigative, evidentiary and analytical resources to further the cause of accountability by supporting public authorities in their ongoing efforts to end impunity for crimes committed in Syria.



### Alaa M

Medical doctor,  
Military hospitals in Homs and Damascus.  
Indicted 15 July 2021, trial commenced  
19 January 2022 for 18 counts of torture,  
murder, serious physical and mental harm,  
and deprivation of reproductive capacity.



### Col. Khaled Al-Halabi

Head of General Intelligence Branch 335,  
Raqqa, between 2009–2013.  
Last known location: Vienna, Austria.

*Photo: SPIEGEL / Fidelius Schmid, Wolf Wiedmann-Schmidt, "Operation White Milk: How Austrian Intelligence Hid a Suspected Syrian War Criminal from the Law," 13 September 2021.*



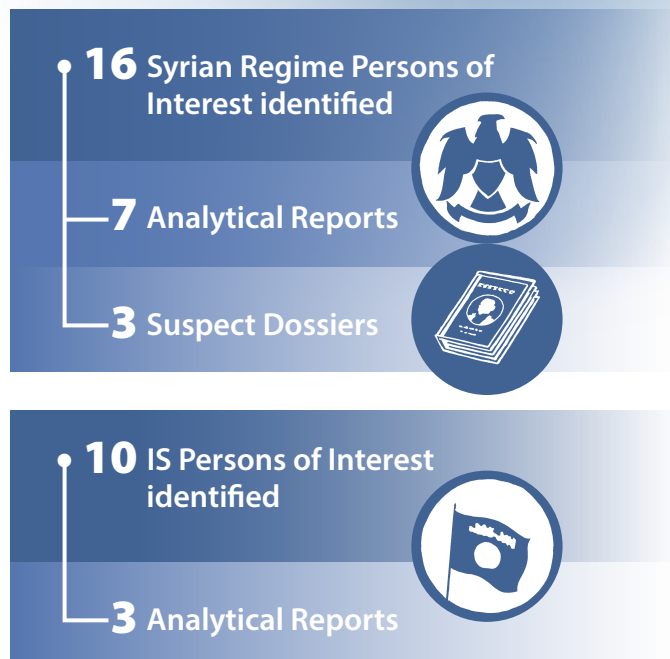
# Tracking Syrian Regime and IS Persons of Interest

The successful prosecutions of Syrian Regime and IS suspects by European and North American authorities have accelerated the momentum of accountability for core international crimes within domestic jurisdictions, while many mid- to low-level perpetrators remain within European jurisdictions. In keeping with its mission to extend the investigative reach of public authorities, CIJA has over recent years consolidated its persons of interest (POIs) tracking programme in order to aid law enforcement agencies in their efforts to bring suspects residing in or in transit through their jurisdictions to justice. During 2021/2022, CIJA identified 16 Syrian Regime and 10 IS suspects, developing ten analytical reports on 7 of the Syrian Regime members and 3 of the IS members. Following further investigations and analysis, three suspect dossiers of former Syrian Regime members were produced and shared with two national authorities. Over the year, CIJA responded to a total of 14 follow-on requests for assistance regarding a total of nine suspect dossiers that had previously been shared with authorities. To date, around 75 percent of the dossiers which the Commission has submitted have elicited follow-up action from the recipient agency. Critically, a multinational Joint Investigative Team (JIT) has recently been convened, consisting of LEAs from three countries in response to dossiers proactively submitted by CIJA in previous years, concerning three IS members based in Europe—with CIJA continuing to provide additional assistance to the JIT. The model of multinational, civil society-backed investigations is poised to expand accountability and lead to further prosecutions in the years to come.

CIJA’s tracking programme involves the analysis of collected evidentiary materials, supplemented by considerable open-source intelligence collection activities and on-the-ground reporting to identify and locate individuals suspected of playing a role in the criminal apparatus of either the Regime or IS. Investigative findings are contemporaneously distilled in analytical reports. Given sufficient evidence of a suspect’s individual criminal responsibility, the reports are combined in a suspect dossier, which is then submitted to the relevant national authorities without prompt. CIJA’s tracking programme is thus proactive in nature and runs parallel to the Commission’s requests for assistance programme.



## Persons of Interest Tracking 2021/2022





# CIJA Dossier on Hajji Abdullah Details Robust Evidence of IS Slave Trade

Following the death of IS Caliph Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi AKA “Hajji Abdullah” in February 2022, CIJA confirmed that it had compiled a comprehensive dossier on the leader’s role in atrocities and his potential individual criminal responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and other offences such as human trafficking.

CIJA’s dossier on Hajji Abdullah (real name Amir Muhammad Sa’id Abdal-Rahman al-Mawla) comprises evidence demonstrating his central role in the commission of crimes against the Yazidi inhabitants of Sinjar in 2014 and 2015. A trove of documents, witness interviews, and other sources of evidence gathered in Syria and Iraq by the Commission’s field investigators shows how he served as IS’s senior-most judge and Sharia law official in Iraq from 2014, exercising religious authority over all IS activity across that country. By April 2015, he was widely known as a deputy to the then Caliph, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. As a member of the IS Delegated Committee, the group’s senior executive body that formulated and disseminated IS policies on the enslavement of those deemed *kuffar* (infidels) and *mushrikin* (polytheists), Hajji Abdullah played a decisive role in the establishment and operation of the slave trade and trafficking of Yazidi women and girls. CIJA’s dossier shows that Hajji Abdullah was responsible for all Yazidi prisoners held in Iraq after they had been captured during IS’s Sinjar military operation in August 2014. In this capacity, he oversaw the distribution of Yazidi women, together with young children, to IS members as *sabaya* (female spoils of war). Moreover, he was responsible for the forced conversion of those it considered to be infidels to Islam and the massacre of hundreds of Yazidi men and boys. He personally enslaved and raped captive women he took for himself as *sabaya*.

Alongside its proactive work in identifying and locating suspects of international crimes who are within the jurisdictional reach of European and North American authorities, CIJA continues to develop and maintain suspect dossiers detailing the individual criminal responsibility of high-ranking Syrian Regime and IS members. CIJA’s dossier on Hajji Abdullah is part of a series of perpetrator profiles that have been assembled detailing evidence against some of the most wanted protagonists of the IS slave trade.

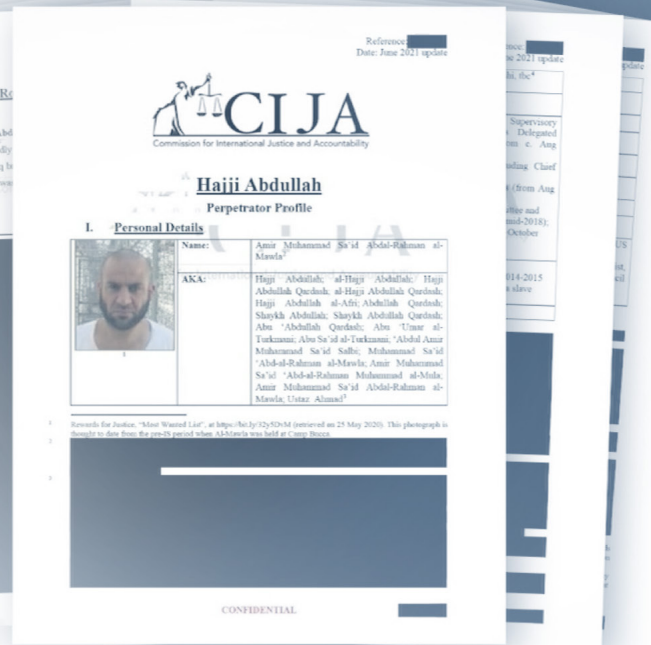
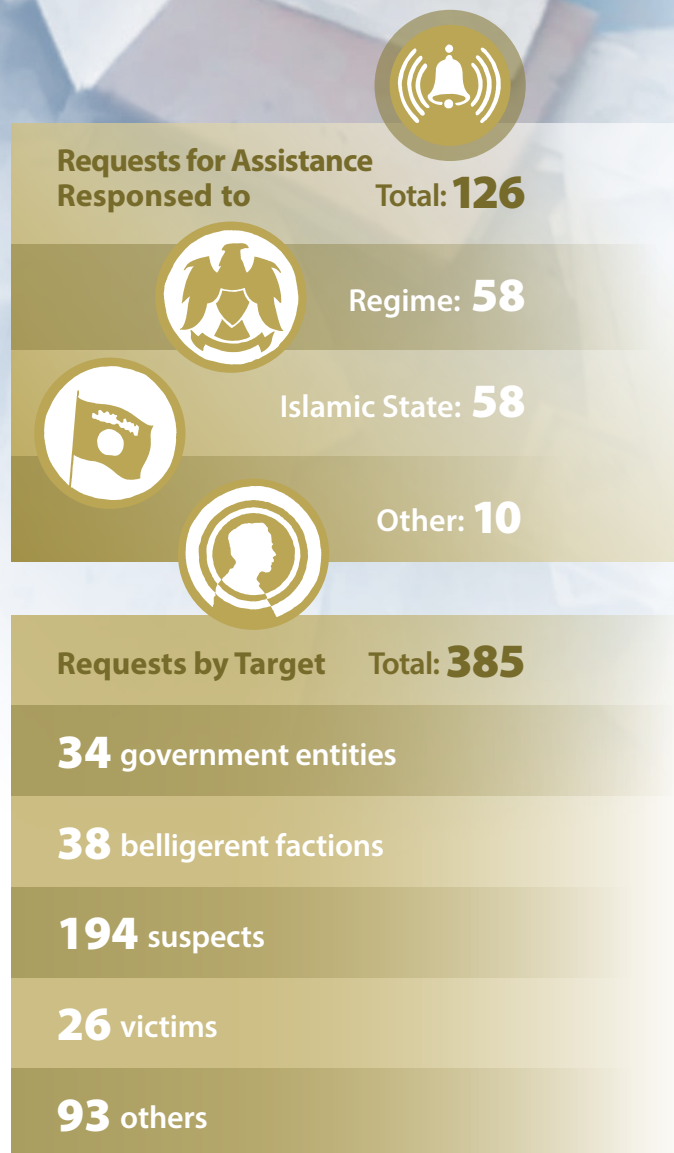


Image of CIJA’s suspect dossier on Hajji Abdullah taken from CNN, “Survivor describes the horror as an ISIS slave under former leader,” 18 February 2022

## CIJA Accelerates its Assistance to Ongoing Syria Accountability Efforts

The judgement in the cases of Raslan and Eyad Al Gharib drew heavily on CIJA-collected Syrian Regime documents and have unequivocally established the widespread and systematic nature of the Regime’s criminal conduct. The trials—and convictions—have stimulated new and ongoing public investigations and prosecutions of Syrian Regime suspects residing within European and North American jurisdictions. This effect is evident from the volume and complexity of follow-up requests for assistance that CIJA has received from law enforcement agencies during the period. The majority of the 126 requests responded to by CIJA analysts sought additional evidentiary and analytical information in support of ongoing inquiries, which demonstrates the accelerated pace of accountability efforts as well as CIJA’s indispensable role in furthering public criminal investigations.

CIJA’s unique capacity to assist public authorities with proactive as well as concurrent support is made possible by the unwavering efforts of its Syria investigative teams. In light of the increased willingness of public authorities to investigate Syrian Regime and IS suspects, CIJA’s Syria investigators continued to collect and successfully retrieve critical evidentiary material amid precarious security and operational environments. Over the cycle, CIJA’s Syrian Regime and IS Crimes Teams secured over 280kg of documentation and conducted 376 witness interviews in support of contemporaneous investigative and suspect tracking efforts. In parallel, CIJA’s Evidence Management Unit continued to find effective and best practice-led solutions, with Field Scanning and Data Entry teams demonstrating remarkable capacity to process, review and tag incoming evidence.



## Partnerships for Accountability

CIJA continues to be actively engaged in a number of strategic initiatives aimed at raising the standards for the investigation of core international crimes, such as the development of the *Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* (the ‘Murad Code’). As part of this process, CIJA commenced a review of its investigative policies and procedures to assess the alignment of its practices and conduct with the Code’s precepts. Feedback resulting from this procedure was provided to the Code’s drafters by CIJA prior to its final version being announced at the UN Security Council’s annual debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict in April 2022. In addition, CIJA carried out an internal reflection exercise to ensure that its organisational policies, procedures, and practices meet or exceed the relevant standards set out in the Murad Code and took steps to ensure that its field investigators are aware of the Code and the organisation’s commitment to upholding it.

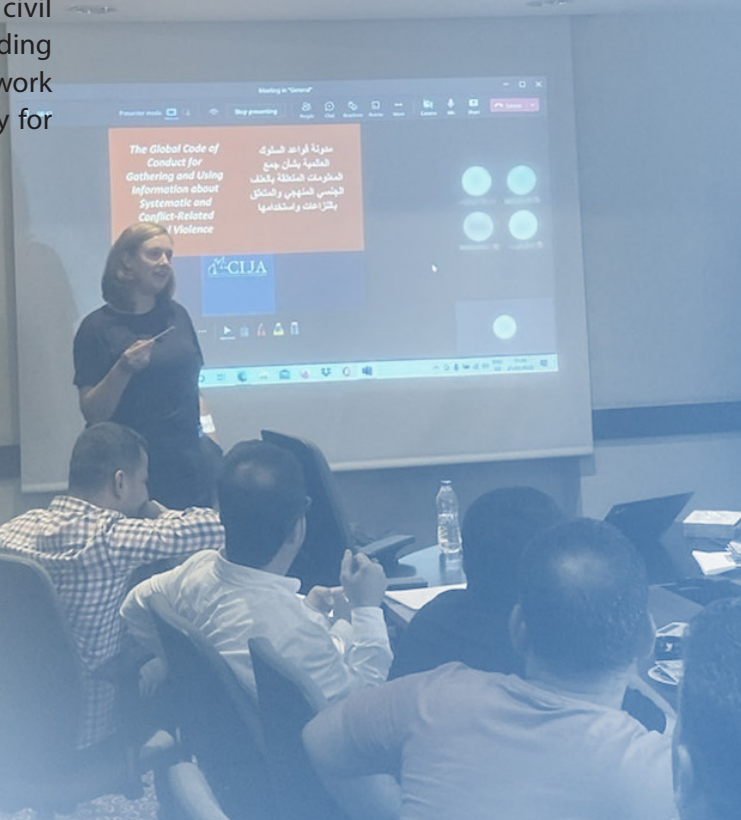
In parallel, CIJA continued to support the drafting of the *Nuremberg Guidelines for Non-Public Investigative Bodies in the field of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law*, in partnership with the International Nuremberg Principles Academy. The Guidelines aim to set out the professional and ethical obligations that non-public entities should conform to when engaged in international criminal investigations.

Moreover, CIJA consolidated its partnerships with key civil society actors working in the field of justice for Syria including Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights, the Syrian Network for Human Rights, Guardians for Human Rights, Synergy for Justice and Guernica 37.



“I see and feel that I have adhered to the principle of Do No Harm, because the witnesses keep in touch with me, and this indicates that I have built a bridge of trust with them.”

*Iraqi Field Investigator*





# Outreach and Media

CIJA garnered significant media attention addressing a wide range of themes, including the investigation and prosecution of Syrian Regime officials, the IS slave trade as well as Russia’s war in Ukraine. CIJA’s work and expertise were referenced in 127 publications, in 11 languages.

The critical role CIJA-collected evidence played in securing the conviction of Raslan was widely recognised by a plethora of media outlets and explored by longform reportages by the *BBC* and *Al Jazeera*. Furthermore, CIJA’s meticulous reconstruction of the perpetrating structures behind the widespread and systematic violations of the Syrian Regime was prominently highlighted in the award-winning documentary *Bringing Assad to Justice*. CIJA’s investigation into the criminal conduct of Syrian Regime Brigadier General Khaled al-Halabi was featured in and supported a series of investigative pieces by *The New Yorker*, *Der Spiegel*, and *Der Standard*, which examined the circumstances of the suspect’s arrival in Austria and the inaction of local authorities despite the overwhelming evidence against him.



## THE NEW YORKER

### How a Syrian War Criminal and Double Agent Disappeared in Europe

THE NEW YORKER • 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

“The CIJA had prepared a four-hundred-page legal brief that established the criminal culpability of Assad and about a dozen of his top security officials. The brief links the systematic torture and murder of tens of thousands of Syrian detainees to orders that were drafted by the country’s highest-level security committee, approved by Assad, and sent down parallel chains of command.”

*Ben Taub, The New Yorker*



Illustration: The New Yorker / Mike McQuade

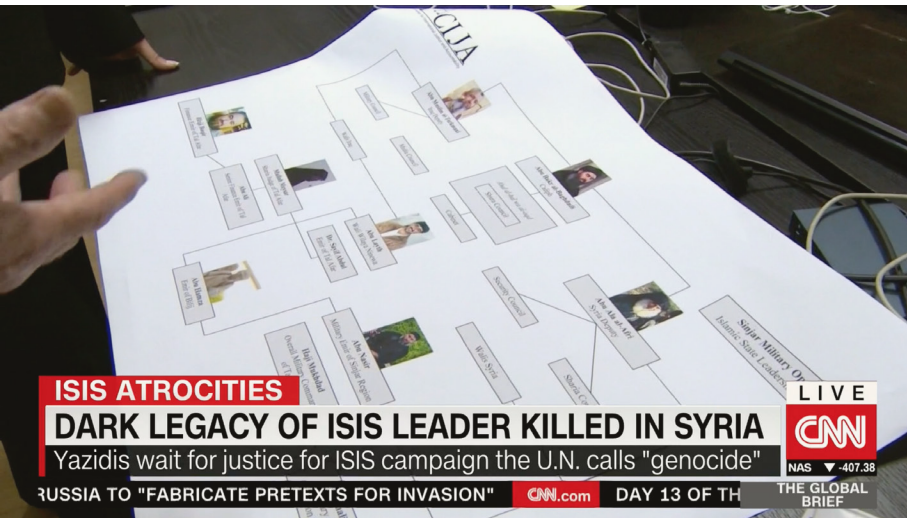


Image of Islamic State Leadership – Sinjar Military Operation created by CIJA, taken from CNN, “Survivor describes the horror as an ISIS slave under former leader,” 18 February 2022

Similarly, the summary of CIJA’s findings concerning the leadership role of Hajji Abdullah in the IS slave trade released following his death was widely disseminated and served to inform coverage of his criminal conduct by CNN, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Al-Monitor*, and the *Associated Press*.

Toward the end of the cycle, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, as well as the increasing number of reported war crimes committed by Russian forces across the country, saw an increased demand for CIJA expert commentary on the prospects for the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for atrocity crimes. Outlets such as *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *CNN*, *ABC News*, and *Sky News* featured the investigative and case-building expertise of CIJA’s Executive Director, while the Chair of CIJA’s Board of Commissioners participated in an expert roundtable hosted by the Public International Law and Policy Group focussing on the crisis.

Academic consideration of the CIJA investigative model and its role in the evolution of the international criminal justice system proliferated with the publication of peer-reviewed articles in prominent journals such as the *Torkel Opsahl Academic EPublisher*, *Journal of International Criminal Justice*, *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Theoretical Criminology* and the *International Review of the Red Cross*. Moreover, CIJA’s expertise was drawn upon in a number of panels, roundtables and workshops including an International Organization for Migration roundtable concerning the ‘Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors (Survivors Law)’ and at a series of workshops hosted by the International Nuremberg Principles Academy on digital evidence.



## ISIS leader killed in US raid had dark past but spent years under the radar

CNN • 4 FEBRUARY 2022

“The Commission for International Justice and Accountability, an NGO that investigates and gathers evidence of major international crimes such as terrorism, said Qurayshi was “one of the key architects of the Islamic State slave trade in Yazidi women and children.”

*Tim Lister and Tamara Qiblawi, CNN*



## ‘Leave no stone unturned’: how investigators gather evidence of war crimes in Ukraine

THE GUARDIAN • 6 MARCH 2022

“The archives CIJA amassed helped lead to a life sentence imposed by a German court in January on a former Syrian colonel, Anwar Raslan, for crimes against humanity.”

*Julian Borger, The Guardian*

## Governance

CIJA's governance structure is composed of a three member Board of Directors and a five member Board of Commissioners. The directors manage day-to-day operations, regularly consulting with the Board of Commissioners on issues of strategic direction related to investigative objectives, operational planning, strategic partnerships, and organisational governance. They are further supported by an Advisory Panel composed of legal experts with extensive prosecutorial, analytical and defence experience who are responsible for ensuring the quality of CIJA's analytical products.

All of CIJA's funding is project specific. The 2021–2022 investigative cycle in Syria and Myanmar was funded by Canada, Germany, Netherlands, the UK and the USA. Since its establishment, CIJA has received seventy-one grants from thirteen donors. Every year CIJA's finances are thoroughly reviewed by external auditors, including those appointed by donors. In sharp contrast to the disinformation about CIJA's financial operations, CIJA underwent and passed five audits conducted by external accountancy firms over the course of 2021–2022, and seventy-seven audits since its inception. CIJA is proud of its record in handling the funds entrusted to it and grateful for its donors' continued support.

## Finance

### Revenues vs Operating Expenses

Income from Project Grants	€ 4 571 076
Other Income	€ 20 471
Total Revenues	€ 4 591 547
Total Operating Expenses	€ 4 807 749
Financial Income and Expenses	€ 29 383
Total Revenues Less Total Operating Expenses	-€ 245 586

### Operating Expenses by Sub Unit

Investigation, Evidence Collection and Analysis Costs	€ 3 291 154
Operational Oversight, Management and Running Costs	€ 1 183 385
Project Development and Visibility	€ 228 694
Partner Costs	€ 104 516
Total Operating Expenses	€ 4 807 749



For news on CIJA's work and achievements, follow us on:  
**[cijaonline.org](http://cijaonline.org)**



**@CIJAOnline**



**@CIJAOnline**



**The Commission for  
International Justice  
and Accountability**

© 2022 Stichting The Commission for International Justice and Accountability  
All rights reserved. No portion of this report may be reproduced in any form  
without permission from the publisher, except as permitted by law.  
For permissions contact: [info@cijaonline.org](mailto:info@cijaonline.org)

DESIGN BY SUPERPOWER PARTNERS