



Press Release

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'Caesar-File' Support Group Completes UK Visit

Rethink Rebuild Society (RR) announces the recent visit of ['Caesar'](#) - the former Syrian forensic photographer who smuggled over 50,000 leaked photographs including images of 6,700 bodies of deceased individuals, many bearing signs of torture, in Syrian regime detention centres - to the UK. As part of a group of lawyers and activists, the 'Caesar-File' Support Group has made tours in several countries to advance its case for justice.

RR facilitated their UK visit which involved meetings with Government officials, political leaderships, and justice-seeking organisations to discuss legal procedures and pathways that the UK can take in holding perpetrators of such crimes against humanity accountable and in supporting international investigations and prosecutions.



Caesar during a Parliamentary event in the UK

The Group presented their work to an audience of Members of Parliament and House of Lords during a Parliamentary event organised by the APPG Syria and APPG Friends of Syria which was chaired by MP Andrew Mitchell. Meetings were also held with Alistair Burt - Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Afzal Khan - Shadow Minister (Home Office) (Immigration), Kate Osamor - Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, and Tom Brake - Liberal Democrats spokesperson.

In addition, the Group met with lawyers and human rights organisations at the premises of [Amnesty International](#) (sponsors of the Group's visit) and discussed mechanisms to support international investigations, universal jurisdiction capacities, civil society initiatives towards accountability, and complementary advocacy efforts.

During the Parliamentary event, 'Caesar' stated, "we know we cannot bring back to life those martyrs that were unjustly killed in detention and torture centres. But our hope and dream is for the world that claims values of freedom to support efforts in holding the Assad regime and its security apparatus accountable for its systematic torture and killing of detainees and bringing regime officials to justice through international courts."

Caesar was a forensic photographer with the Syrian regime whose job after the uprising in 2011 was to take pictures of Syrians who died in detention centres in Damascus. He smuggled these images out of the country and defected in

2013. His images represent one of the largest and most compelling bodies of evidence of systematic torture in regime prisons.

Together with the 'Caesar-File' Support Group, they have since used this compelling evidence to support legal action within national jurisdictions ([universal jurisdiction](#)) of European countries against Syrian regime officials - most notably in Germany with the [European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights](#) - as well as ongoing international investigations of human rights abuses in Syrian detention centres.

Dr. Haytham Alhamwi, RR Managing Director, says, "the 'Caesar-File Support Group came to the UK with a message that the detainee file is a humanitarian case and must not be tied to political calculations and 'realities'. Much evidence has been made available to hold the Syrian regime accountable for its crimes, and justice should be inevitable. Britain and the international community must translate what this Group has been able to reveal into concrete steps for achieving justice."

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Rethink Rebuild Society has established itself as a non-profit organisation that acts as an umbrella for the British Syrian community, and endeavours to clarify the Syrian cause to its audience in the UK and the wider public.