



10th March 2025

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia

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Subject: We Condemn the Killing of Civilians in Syria

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia and the Australian Muslim community are shocked and grieved by the massacre of civilians in Syria in the last few days. Reports indicate at least 340 civilians were killed by gunmen linked to the current de facto administration, with more than 1000 civilians killed in total.

First-hand reports coming out of Syria are harrowing. Brutal acts of violence were captured on video and widely circulated across social media. The communities being targeted are living in extreme fear. Many have fled and others are trying their best to hide. This is no longer a response to armed militias. Civilians are being deliberately targeted and executed. While this has been happening sporadically since the new administration took control, it has now become widespread.

The international community and the Australian government must urge the Syrian administration to ensure the protection of all civilians, regardless of ethnic or religious background. We note the announcement of an independent committee to investigate these atrocities. This must be a genuine investigation, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Our thoughts are with the Australian Syrian community, especially those whose loved ones have been affected by these events.

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia

The Shia Muslim Council of Australia is an umbrella organisation for Shia Muslim communities in Australia. It currently has 37 member organisations from across the 8 states and territories of Australia.