

Case Report

Civil Society Organization Contribution in Promoting Human Rights Concept in Northwest of Syria

Omar Garebo*

Corresponding Author: Omar Garebo.

Received: 2025 Feb 03

Accepted: 2025 Mar 01

Published: 2025 Apr 19

Abstract

Assessing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) contribution in promoting human rights in Northwest of Syria is critically important to evaluate the situation of the community there. This evaluation is fostering a dialogue about (CSOs) role and how it performs its duties and responsibilities in front of the communities. To a comprehensive understanding, a structured approach was employed, which was a public survey published in the region, and reviewing some secondary data was used for this purpose.

Keywords: Advocacy, Volunteering, Diversity, Fundamental Freedoms, Defenders

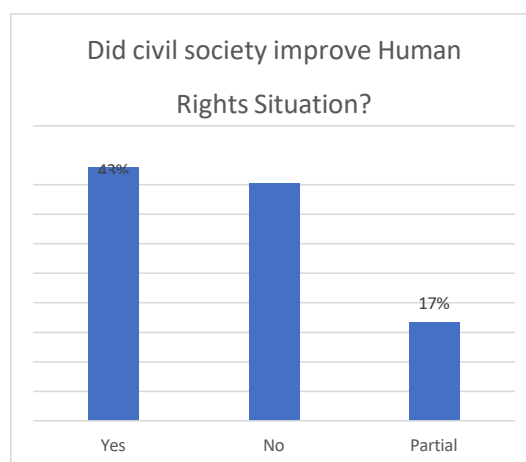
1. Introduction

After 2011, the Syrian community experienced with a new approach. Besides current existing actors in the conflict, there was an intervention by a new actor, it is civil society organizations. In the dictatorship era in Syria, there was no permission for these civil society organizations to operate and spread the concepts of human rights, fundamental freedom, volunteering, active citizenship, and participation in civilian life. with the civil society organizations emergence in the northwest of Syria, it significantly contributed to the spread of concepts of human rights and fundamental freedoms within all community components. This spread or promoting plays a critical role in conflict resolution in Syria.

2. Finding

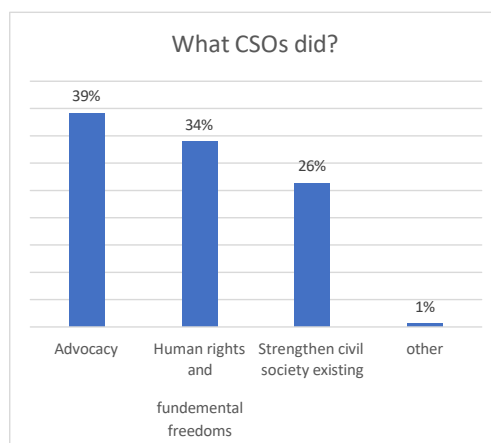
In a public survey conducted by the author in northwest

of Syria, there was a great satisfaction by the community members about CSOs contribution with the demand to expand the efforts more and more. In graph 1, 43% of the respondents indicated that CSOs improved the human rights situation in the region, while 17% said it is done partially. As a following question, in graph 2, the respondents been asked about the areas that CSOs did intervention in and resulted by a change in the community. 39% answered that the advocacy field has developed, and the community members can put pressure against the local authorities in any societal matter. While 34% seeing that the human rights sessions conducted by CSOs have a great impact on improving human rights situation. Finally, 26% of respondents seeing that there should be a continuation for CSO pressure and advocacy to emphasize human rights concepts [1].



Graph 1: Did Civil Society Improve Human Right Situation

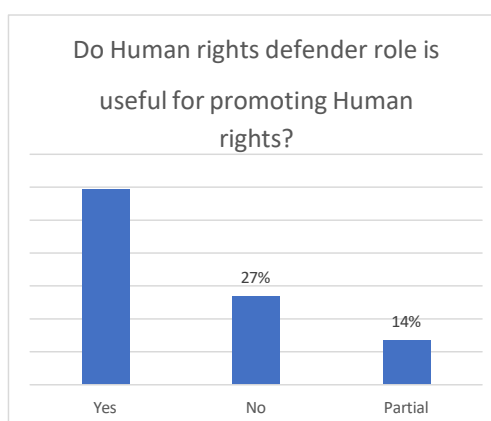
Source: Published survey by author. The survey targeted A'zaz district in the northwest Syria region, total of respondents was 516.



Graph 2: What CSOs Did

Source: Published survey by author. "The relationship between human rights defenders and local authorities is negative", so, the CSOs played a critical role to improve the relationship between them, a sequence, it is led to improve the human rights situation and respectful of local authorities to this concept. As following question, in the survey, the

respondents have been asked about the role of human rights defenders to promote human rights concepts in the region, graph 3 indicated that 59% of respondents answered yes, while 27% answered no, and 14% answered it is partial, so, a significant part think that there is an improvement [2].



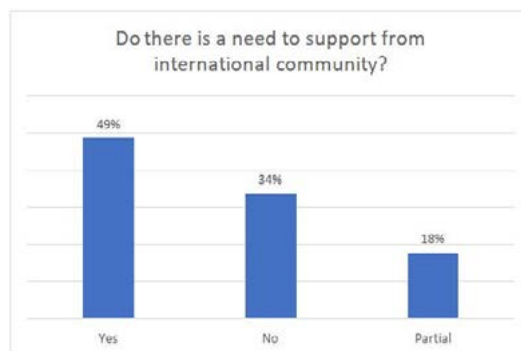
Graph 3: Do Human Right Defender Role is Useful for Promoting Human Rights

Source: Published survey by author. In the northwest of Syria region, there was a significant increase in forming volunteering groups among the activists, those groups have been formed from all community components² and operated within the community to scale up advocacy, increase the human rights concepts, and strengthen the relationship between community members and the local authorities. One of those volunteer groups was the Community Advocacy groups CAGs, which have worked with all stakeholders to do the change [3].

In April 2018, the International, Impartial, and independent mechanism affiliated with the United Nations recorded human rights abuse and other abuses conducted by the local authorities. The committee has signed an agreement with 28 civil society organizations in Syria, to conduct cooperation between the UN committee and those organizations to promote justice and accountability (IIIM 2018), the agreement positively contributed to build a database

regarding abuses cases by the local authorities, and to serve the main idea that formed for it. Finally, the mechanism prioritized the cooperation with civil society organizations to achieve its mutual goals in justice and achieving equality for war victims (IIIM 2018).

When the survey asked in graph 4 the respondents about the need for international community support in improvement human rights situation in corporation with CSOs, about 49% confirmed that there is a need and that the Syrian community have to earn the experience from the international community in addition to the financial support, while 34% answered that there is no support needed, claiming that the international community support is negative sort of support and that it destroys the social fabric, finally, 18 % of respondents mentioned that there. It is ensured diversity representative. is a need just for the financial support from the international community, due to the lack of fund the northwest of Syria region is suffering from [2].



Graph 4: Do There is a Need to Support from Internationally Community

Source: Published survey by the author. As an improvement for the CSOs contribution in human rights improvement, there is still a need for long-term programming, because most of the projects implemented by CSOs have short-term period³, and in this case, the efficiency of these project does not like long-term program. On the other hand, there is a need for a comprehensive intervention that targets the whole community categories like, youth, adults, women, girls, men, displaced people, and host community.

3. Conclusion

Civil Society Organizations are doing a great job in promoting human rights concepts among the community components in the northwest of Syria. Where the region is already suffering from a lot of social breaks, economic challenges, and clashes among existed armed groups. as a result, the Contribution from the CSOs is critical to cover all these gaps and rebuild the community relationship among all community components. Finally, it is crucial to expand the role of CSOs

to cover all gaps and community categories to ensure that process is a holistic process the short-period intervention did not obtain the results as expected [3-6].

Reference

1. Albarry, H. (2022). *The protection of civilians in Northwest Syria how is the responsibility to protect reflected in the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of non-state armed groups?* (Master's thesis, Hasan Kalyoncu Üniversitesi).
2. Bahar, A. (2024). *UNHCR Egypt's Impact on Refugees and Asylum Seekers: 2000-2020* (Master's thesis, The American University in Cairo (Egypt)).
3. Bowen, J. (2012). *War stories*. Simon and Schuster.
4. Llewellyn, H. (2021). *An Institutional Perspective on the United Nations Criminal Tribunals: Governance, Independence and Impartiality* (Vol. 62). Brill.
5. Ahmad, K. (2023). Restoring Communal Harmony in India: A Critical Analysis of Wahiduddin Khan's Ideas. *International Journal of Islamic Thought*, 23, 56-64.
6. Khatib, D. K. (2021). The Syrian Crisis. *Effects on the Regional and International Relations*.