



بيان صحفي



Mr. Bassam Ishak

President

Syriac National Council of Syria (SSNC)

Member Syrian Democratic Council (SDC)

Bassam Ishak was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1959. His father was a member of the Syrian Parliament from 1932 to 1954. When the Syrian Regional Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party seized power in 1963, they nationalized the family's property, and Bassam's father became *persona non grata*. In 1981, the family emigrated to the United States. Bassam worked for a number of years in the United States as a civil engineer but then returned to Syria in order to work for democratic reforms. He served as the director of the Syrian Human Rights Organization and became a well known dissident under the Assad regime. For five years he was forbidden by the regime to travel outside of Syria. But Mr. Ishak continued to push for greater freedom and democracy in Syria, in spite of the restrictions and harassment. He was one of the founders of the Syrian National Council of Syria (SSNC) and the Syria National Coalition (SOC) and is currently a member of the SNC General Secretariat. In September 2011, Mr. Ishak was forced to flee Syria because of threats against him and he now lives in a neighboring country, where he continues in his leadership position as President of the Syriac National Council.

The **Syriac National Council for Syria** seeks to promote and defend the rights of the Syriac Christians and all Syrian minorities in a post-Assad regime. The SNCS is working to build a new Syria that is democratic, secular, and pluralist, in the recognition that only with equal rights for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion or race, can Syria be a stable and prosperous democracy.

At 10 December, Bassam Ishaq was unanimously elected as a member of the **Syrian Democratic Council** based on his role in the SNCS and represents the Syriac Christians in the SDC to the outside world.

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