



JEWISH HERITAGE
OF SYRIA
FOUNDATION

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Dear US Congress,

I write expressing Jewish Heritage in Syria (JHS) and my grave concern over Senate Amendment 3889 to Amendment 3748 of the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham. This measure would put in place snapback provisions which would extend the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act indefinitely, including provisions harsher than those applied during the Assad regime's worst atrocities. Lifting the Caesar sanctions is essential to restore synagogues and cemeteries, safeguard irreplaceable Jewish heritage, and re-establish a multi-faith community in Syria after more than 30 years in exile. **Simply put, this amendment would be devastating to the Jewish community in Syria.** In fact, by preventing Syria's reconstruction this amendment risks leading to a complete collapse of Syria's economy and society opening the door for extremist groups which would endanger Syrian Jews.

Following the fall of the regime, and with the support of the Syrian interim government, our community is beginning to return, restoring synagogues and artifacts of immense significance, rehabilitating cemeteries, and reconnecting with our homeland. This work requires a stable, predictable policy environment that encourages investment, cultural preservation, and the safe return of refugees.

The Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 was a vital tool up to the fall of the Assad regime, helping hold perpetrators accountable. However, as Syria rebuilds after 13 years of destruction, making Caesar permanent would severely hinder recovery and the return of displaced communities. **Caesar should be completely and totally repealed with no risk of snapping back. Any attempt to prevent this law from being completely repealed without risk of snapback would be a disaster.** Permanently locking in sanctions risks discouraging international and private support for cultural and religious heritage projects, freezing reconstruction efforts just as Syria's minorities and exiled communities begin to rebuild in an already fragile economy.

JHS supports targeted accountability for war criminals and human rights violators. But after effectively serving their purpose, sanctions should not remain in place and become an obstacle to rebuilding multi-faith communities and safeguarding Syria's Jewish heritage.

I urge members of the Senate to vote NO on Amendment 3889 and instead support the full repeal of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019.

Only such a policy will allow Syria's diverse communities, including its small but historic Jewish community, to return, rebuild, and preserve their heritage for future generations.

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