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SYRIAN EXPERT HOUSE MEETS WITH UK FCO Delegation Holds Meetings on *Syria Transition Roadmap* with Policymakers

Washington, DC – On June 23 and 24, 2014, [Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies](#) (SCPSS) Executive Director Dr. Radwan Ziadeh and a delegation from the Syrian Expert House traveled to London to hold high-level meetings with officials and civil society organizations on [Syria Transition Roadmap](#), a document published by SCPSS and the [Syrian Expert House](#) detailing the Syrian opposition's vision of the democratic transition in Syria.

The Syrian Expert House delegation included:

Dr. Radwan Ziadeh - President, Syrian Commission for Transitional Justice; Executive Director, Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Ambassador Walid Saffour - Representative in London, National Coalition of Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

Dr. Hosam Hafez - Senior Researcher, Political and Administrative Reform Working Group, Syrian Expert House; Head of Foreign Affairs Bureau, Syrian Interim Government

Dr. Haytham Alhamwi - Director, Rethink Rebuild Society; Member, Syrian National Council

On Monday, the Syrian Expert House delegation met with Amnesty International and Chatham House to brief representatives of the two organizations on the recommendations presented in *Syria Transition Roadmap*, paying special attention to transitional justice and rule of law. The delegation also discussed the Syrian Expert House's plans for continuing its research in order to broaden the scope of the roadmap, while also raising awareness of its ongoing projects inside Syria.

In the evening on the same day, the Syrian Expert House delegation met with a number of members of the House of Lords. Ten peers representing nearly every political party were in attendance. The members of the House of Lords acknowledged the importance of the roadmap and also discussed the impact of recent developments in Iraq on Syria.

The delegation also had dinner with the Oxford Research Group. During the meal, the delegation engaged in a frank discussion with those gathered on the situation on the ground in Syria.

Following the dinner, the Syrian Expert House delegation attended a Syrian community event to engage with the Syrian diaspora in London. The delegation participated in a two-hour discussion on Syria's democratic future with the Syrians that attended.

On Tuesday, Dr. Ziadeh and the delegation briefed officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on *Syria Transition Roadmap*. At the meeting, the conversation primarily focused on accountability and transitional justice issues. However, the delegation also stressed to the officials that it is the responsibility of the international community to stop Assad's indiscriminate use of the Syrian Air Force against



civilians. The delegation also asked the FCO to support the Syrian Interim Government in its efforts to seek legal legitimacy and provide services to Syrians in the liberated areas.

[*Syria Transition Roadmap*](#) is the result of a year-long consensus-building research process conducted by the Syrian Expert House, a group of approximately 300 Syrian human rights activists, academics, judges, lawyers, leaders of the political opposition, defected government officials, defected military officers, members of local revolutionary councils, and commanders of the armed opposition.

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