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UN expert on internally displaced persons to visit the Syrian Arab Republic

09 July 2026

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GENEVA – The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Paula Gaviria Betancur, will conduct her first country visit to the Syrian Arab Republic from 10 to 21 July 2026.

During her visit, the Special Rapporteur will assess the human rights situation of internally displaced persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, including measures taken by the Government to address their protection needs and support durable solutions.

In addition to Damascus and Rural Damascus Governorate, the Special Rapporteur will visit Daraa, As-Suwayda, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, Raqqqa and Deir ez-Zor Governorates. The Special Rapporteur will engage with Government authorities at the national and local levels, representatives of UN entities, humanitarian, human rights and development partners, civil society organisations, internally displaced persons and affected communities.

Gaviria Betancur will hold a press conference on Tuesday, 21 July 2026, at 13:00 (local time), at the Hotel Royal Semiramis, at Room "Ninawa 4". Access will be strictly limited to journalists.

The Special Rapporteur will present a comprehensive report on her visit to the UN Human Rights Council at one of its upcoming sessions.

Paula Gaviria Betancur is the [Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons](#)

Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the [Special Procedures](#) of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organisation and serve in their individual capacity.

UN Human Rights Country page: [Syrian Arab Republic](#)

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