Two years after the Syrian people joined the Arab Spring and Syria’s uprising was violently and brutally suppressed by the Assad regime, the crisis continues to deteriorate at a rapid pace. The warring parties are arming themselves with accelerated speed and unleashing increased levels of violence and violations of humanitarian and international law upon the civilian population. Syria is currently divided and partitioned into several shifting zones-of-control, each of which are under different levels of administration by the Assad forces on the one side, and various groups and factions fighting against them and, more recently, also among themselves. Whether these dynamics can be changed depends on breaking the expectation of impunity and rewards for violence, by building the strength of Syrian human rights activists and political actors to demand justice and accountability, and building the capacity of the judiciary and legal profession to play their part as justice-providers. This panel aims to discuss the prospects for accountability in Syria, with a particular focus on the Syria perspective and what support can be provided from the international community.

**Program:**

Welcome remarks from the Delegation of Italy

Chair: No Peace Without Justice

Remarks by:

- **Suheir Atassi**, Vice President of the Syrian National Coalition and Head of the Assistance Coordination Unit

- **Haytham al-Maleh**, Syrian human rights leader and former “Minister of Justice” of the Syrian National Coalition, in charge of accountability and transitional justice

- **Hadi Al Khatib**, Syrian human rights activist and NPWJ Syria Team Leader

Interventions and discussion from the floor

Closing remarks
**Suheir Atassi** is the Vice-President of the Syrian National Coalition, and the leading female secular opposition political activist. She heads the SNC Assistance Coordination Unit, the body that coordinates international relief efforts to all victims of the Syrian crisis. Ms Atassi had previously run the media wing of the banned "Atassi Forum", that promotes democracy and human rights in Syria.

**Haitham al-Maleh** is a Syrian human rights leader and until recently the Head of the Legal Committee of the Syrian Opposition Coalition ("Minister of Justice"), in charge of accountability and transitional justice. He is a noted legal scholar, the author several law books and a former judge. He has been imprisoned by the Syrian government on several occasions since the 1960s for his human rights and democracy activism.

**Hadi Al Khatib** is a Syrian human rights activist, heading the Syria program of No Peace Without Justice. Before joining NPWJ, he worked with Tactical Technology Collective for the security and protection of rights advocates and in the field of protection and human rights with several organisations including Médecins Sans Frontières and the Danish Refugee Council. He focuses on maintaining strong relationships with community groups and coordinating resources to meet organisational and project needs.

**No Peace Without Justice** is an international non-profit advocacy organisation working for the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, accountability and justice, born of a campaign of the Transnational Radical Party. NPWJ has unique field experience in wide-scale documentation of violations of international humanitarian law, conflict mapping and analysis, and in implementing outreach programs on international criminal justice that engage communities in conflict and post-conflict and in complex political environments.

NPWJ program on Syria aims at reducing the expectation and the rewards of impunity for crimes under international law by working with Syrian judges, lawyers and civil society activists to build a culture of accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity.