

US Vows Accountability After American Killed in Syrian Unrest

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The United States is pressing for accountability following the death of an American citizen during recent unrest in southern Syria. US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack stated that the Syrian government is cooperating with the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Tom Barrack, who also serves as the US Ambassador to Turkey, said that the Syrian government under President Ahmed al-Sharaa is assisting in the investigation into the killing of Hosam Saraya, a 35-year-old Oklahoma resident. Saraya was reportedly abducted by armed men from his family's home in the Druze-majority city of Suwayda on July 16.

"We'll get to the bottom of it," Barrack told reporters in Washington. "The al-Sharaa government is cooperating fully and has indicated, as we have, that we're going to find out who is accountable, and whoever is accountable is going to be punished."

According to Saraya's family, footage circulating on social media appears to show his execution along with six male relatives by armed men wearing military-style uniforms. The family claims the uniforms resemble those of Syrian government forces, but Barrack said the video evidence has not been confirmed. "All they have right now is footage, social media footage during this brawl, so trying to identify uniforms and what the events were," he said.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that the violence in Suwayda has resulted in more than 1,000 deaths. The clashes have involved Druze militias, Sunni Bedouin fighters, and Syrian government troops. In response, Israel carried out airstrikes, stating the action was meant to protect Syrian Druze communities and prevent militarization near its border.

A United States-brokered ceasefire was announced on July 19 and remains mostly intact. The Trump administration has not commented beyond Barrack's statements, but officials have emphasized the importance of justice and the safety of Americans abroad.

The incident underscores the broader instability in Syria and the challenges faced by US authorities in protecting American citizens caught in conflict zones.