

Foundation for the Development of Western Syria

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

On behalf of the Christians and Alawites of western Syria, the Foundation for the Development of Western Syria extends our deepest condolences for the tragic assassination of two U.S. soldiers and an American interpreter by an Islamic State gunman. This senseless act of violence has deeply saddened our communities, who have long valued the partnership and sacrifices made by American forces in the fight against terrorism in our region. We mourn the loss of these brave individuals and stand in solidarity with their families, colleagues, and the American people during this difficult time.

The Foundation for the Development of Western Syria, based in Lebanon, is dedicated to protecting Syrian minorities, including Christians, Alawites, and other vulnerable groups, from persecution and displacement. Our mission is to foster stability and prosperity in western Syria through humanitarian aid, community development initiatives, and advocacy for human rights. Central to our goals is the promotion of an inclusive government that represents all Syrians, ensuring equal rights, religious freedom, and participation in the political process regardless of ethnic or sectarian background. We believe that only through such inclusivity can Syria achieve lasting peace and rebuild from years of conflict.

In light of recent events, we recognize the ongoing challenges in maintaining security and combating terrorist threats in Syria. To support the United States' vital anti-terrorist operations, we offer our collaboration in identifying a safe and strategic area on the Syrian coast from which the U.S. could operate a base. Our local expertise, networks within minority communities, and understanding of regional dynamics position us well to assist in this effort, ensuring the safety of American personnel while advancing shared objectives for regional stability. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and explore ways to partner effectively.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to global security. We look forward to the possibility of working together toward a more peaceful and inclusive future for Syria and the broader Middle East.

Sincerely,



Mohamad Shabaan
Chairman and CEO, The Foundation for the Development of Western Syria
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Lucy Xiong

From: Milan Dalal <milan@tigerhillpartners.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 12:24 PM
To: ricky.d.buria.civ@mail.mil
Cc: Joseph Schmitz
Subject: Letter to Sec. Hegseth
Attachments: Letter to Secretary Hegseth 20251218.pdf

Hello Mr. Buria,

On behalf of the Foundation for the Development of Western Syria, please see attached for a letter to Secretary Hegseth.

Best,
Milan

Milan V. Dalal

Founder & Managing Partner

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Disseminated by Tiger Hill Partners, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Foundation for the Development of Western Syria through Joseph E. Schmitz PLLC. More information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.