

First of all, I want to thank you all and I want to thank Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez for giving us the opportunity to present the Syrian tragedy in this honorable Committee. I am Caesar. I worked as a forensic photographer in the military police. Our work since the beginning of the Syrian revolution was to take photographs of the bodies of the victims who had been detained, tortured, and murdered in the Syrian regime dungeons. My daily work was mixed with pain and sorrow due to the painful scenes that I saw every day on the bodies of the victims including men, women, and children. The signs of torture were clear on their brittle bodies including burning, strangulation, and whipping with cables. I risked my life and the life of my family to be able to escape Syria under tough circumstances of fear and terror. Fearing that we may be arrested by the regime's security forces and fearing that my fate would be the same fate as the victims that I photographed. I came out of Syria carrying the most powerful documentation and files that incriminate and document the Assad regime's crimes against detainees. Five years have past, and we have left no stone unturned in order to bring the voice of these victims that have been arrested and murdered in Assad's prisons with extreme brutality and their only fault was that they came out asking for freedom and dignity. We have worked and we continue to work in order to bring the pleas and the screams of tens of thousands of those that remain in detention from the Syrian people and those of other nationalities including American citizens that await the same fate as those before them which is certain death. Our hope has been that, with the help of the international community that values human rights and freedom to indict the Assad regime for his systemic machinery of death against the Syrian people and to bring the war criminals responsible for these crimes before international courts. And that we would be able to free the hundreds of thousands of detainees that remain living under torture on a daily basis in Syrian prisons but unfortunately and since I left Syria five years ago detentions have increased. Killing has increased in the same places and in the same ways and at the hands of the very same criminals. And the reason simply is that the Assad regime considered the inaction of the international community and the mere statements of condemnation as a green light for him to continue his crimes against the Syrian people and what is happening today in Idlib from the siege of cities and targeting civilians with all types of weapons including internationally banned weapons in order to displace its people and occupy its villages is the biggest evidence that this regime — that this bloody regime — only understands the language of death and spilling of blood. The Syrian regime would not dare commit all of its war crimes if it wasn't for the strong military, economic, and diplomatic support of Russia and Iran, who have increased their criminality with impunity. And the reason is that the international community has been a bystander to what's unfolding in Syria while only issuing statements of concern. Honorable Senators of the United States — I want to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the Caesar team to express our sincere gratitude to the free American people represented by you all. I want to thank all of the humanitarian organizations in the U.S. that have supported the passage of the Caesar Act. And I want to thank the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Caesar Law has become the only ray of hope for the Syrian people in the absence of any military or political solution. This law is a powerful message to all who support the Assad regime that the time for accountability and justice is coming and that no matter how long oppression lasts, there is no doubt that truth will prevail. Dear Senators — the Caesar law is an important step in helping end the suffering of the Syrian people in order to grant their wishes of freedom and dignity. But this needs hard work to ensure that the Caesar Act is implemented to the letter by the U.S. government. I thank you all once again for your

honorable and moral stand support of the Syrian people and I wish for you and for your nation to live always in peace and security and that you always have freedom and success. Thank you.