

# Documenting Victims of War: A Report on Ethical Considerations

## Initial Findings:

- Recognition of Power Imbalance and Agency
- Necessary Informed Consent in Native Language
- Noted Confidentiality and Potential Threat of Harm to the Participant
- Recognition of Cultural Implications During Interviews

## Home Page of Implemented Blog:



**Voices from the Ground**

MOUAZ MOUSTAFA · DECEMBER 8, 2019

Bombs explode as children scamper to school. Political prisoners escape torture and seek the safety of allies. All the while, Bashar al-Assad holds a death grip on Syria in a last gasp attempt to hold on to power. In the middle of war, the Syrian Emergency Task Force has become a force of peace.

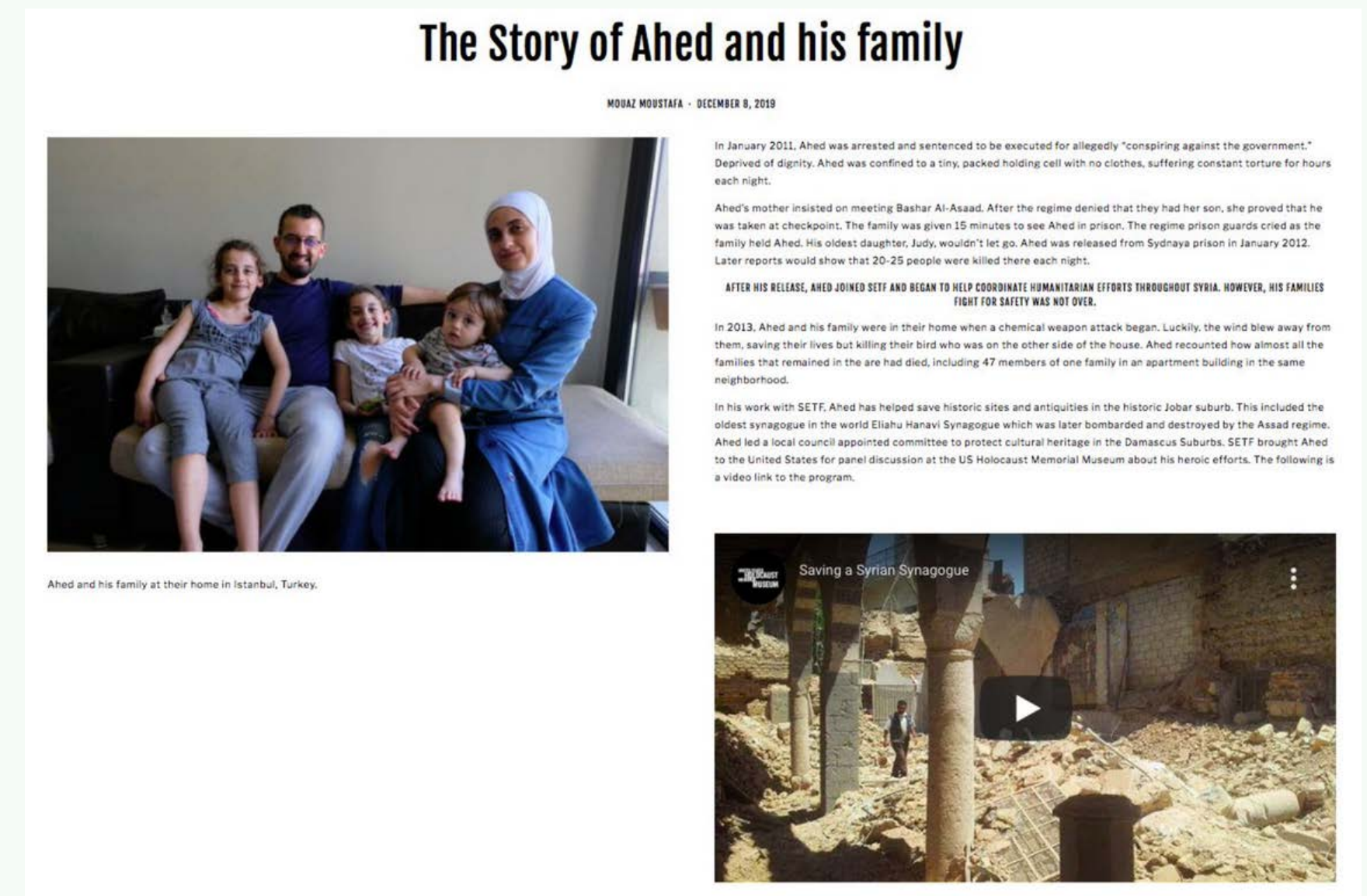
Since the beginning of the Syrian Crisis, The Syrian Emergency Task Force has worked with dozens of Syrian civilians who have suffered at the hands of Bashar al-Assad. This blog serves to remind the public that although they are different, their stories remind us that they too are humans.

**THESE ARE THEIR VOICES...**

Note: Some names have been changed in order to protect certain identities.




## Example of Blog Entry:



**The Story of Ahd and his family**

MOUAZ MOUSTAFA · DECEMBER 8, 2019



Ahd and his family at their home in Istanbul, Turkey.


In January 2011, Ahd was arrested and sentenced to be executed for allegedly "conspiring against the government." Deprived of dignity, Ahd was confined to a tiny, packed holding cell with no clothes, suffering constant torture for hours each night.

Ahd's mother insisted on meeting Bashar Al-Assad. After the regime denied that they had her son, she proved that he was taken at checkpoint. The family was given 15 minutes to see Ahd in prison. The regime prison guards cried as the family held Ahd. His oldest daughter, Judy, wouldn't let go. Ahd was released from Sydnaya prison in January 2012. Later reports would show that 20-25 people were killed there each night.

**AFTER HIS RELEASE, AHD JOINED SETF AND BEGAN TO HELP COORDINATE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS THROUGHOUT SYRIA. HOWEVER, HIS FAMILIES FIGHT FOR SAFETY WAS NOT OVER.**

In 2013, Ahd and his family were in their home when a chemical weapon attack began. Luckily, the wind blew away from them, saving their lives but killing their bird who was on the other side of the house. Ahd recounted how almost all the families that remained in the area had died, including 47 members of one family in an apartment building in the same neighborhood.

In his work with SETF, Ahd has helped save historic sites and antiquities in the historic Jobar suburb. This included the oldest synagogue in the world Eliahu Hanavi Synagogue which was later bombed and destroyed by the Assad regime. Ahd led a local council appointed committee to protect cultural heritage in the Damascus Suburbs. SETF brought Ahd to the United States for panel discussion at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum about his heroic efforts. The following is a video link to the program.



Presented by: Abby Straessle