



COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



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Hosting organization: COSV



“Telling stories, protecting people: combining visibility and security working with Civil Society in Syria”



This thesis seeks to analyze the challenges in combining visibility of the action and safety of the activists working in Syria on Civil Society.



After the definitions of the subjects, such as the controversial usage of the expressions Civil Society or Middle East, my thesis briefly analyzes the impact of the Syrian Crisis on Civil Society. Nowadays Syria can be



Insieme, per un mondo possibile.

considered divided in different areas, each one controlled by different



political and armed forces. Consequently, the policies of visibility and security have to be adapted to the specific contexts. After analyzing the



concept of Civil Society in the specific Syrian context, I will provide two different examples of CSOs working inside the country, one in



government-held areas while the second one in out-of-regime-control areas, showing the different kind of risks and measures taken to



balance visibility and safety of the activists. I will proceed my research focusing my attention on an Italian NGO working on Civil Society,

analyzing how it combined safety measures and visibility in the specific framework of two workshops. In conclusion, my thesis tries to show

that, despite the difficulties to combine visibility and security, overcoming them is important to show that in Syria there are not just

armed groups but also people engaged to build the civil society of the future Syria.

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