

# **Obstacles to Justice: Male Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Detained in Syria's Regime Prisons**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
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This research examines the obstacles to justice for men who have been subjected to sexual violence in Syrian detention centers, a tactic used by the government systemically and repeatedly throughout the conflict. Male survivors of the underreported violation consequently experience severe emotional trauma intensified by sociocultural gender norms and taboos. This qualitative study includes interviews from four participants, including a formerly detained Syrian male, in order to uncover a deeper understanding of the male survivor experience. Research findings indicate inadequate representation of conflict-related sexual violence against men in research, gender analyses, legal mechanisms and psychosocial responses. Incorporating an intersectional, survivor-centered approach and increasing awareness, education, prevention and advocacy efforts globally will provide the necessary path to overcome obstacles and achieve justice for male survivors.

**Keywords:** CRSV, GBSV, sexual violence, male sexual violence, male rape, torture, Syria, conflict, war, detention, prison, justice, survivor, MHPSS, psychosocial, recovery