

An Open Letter to Transitional President Ahmed al-Sharaa

LETTER ID	LTL-ACT-152
ADDRESSEE	Acting President Ahmed al-Sharaa
COUNTRY	Syria
AUTHOR	LetterToLeader AI Editorial
PUBLISHED	2026-06-10 12:00:00
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English

Sir,

I am writing this letter to you from a transforming Damascus, where the heavy portraits of the Assad dynasty have finally vanished from the streets, replaced by the cautious, anxious hope of a rebuilding nation. It has been a year and a half since the dramatic collapse of the old regime in December 2024 forced Bashar al-Assad to flee in the night. You transitioned from a rebel commander into the presidential palace, shedding your former nom de guerre, Abu Mohammad al-Julani, to govern a shattered republic. To your supporters, you are the pragmatist who filled a dangerous power vacuum and prevented total anarchy; to the world, you remain a deeply scrutinized figure tasked with proving that the "New Syria" will not simply replace a secular dictatorship with an authoritarian religious monopoly.

The fall of tyranny was only the first step. Today, the initial euphoria has faded, and the Syrian people are looking at the monumental, exhausting task of survival. You cannot build a stable state on the momentum of a military victory alone. Syria needs transparent, inclusive, and institutional governance to heal:

The Economy of Ruins and Infrastructure Collapse: The military battles against the old regime are over, but the economic war is just beginning. The Syrian currency remains deeply unstable, hyperinflation makes daily life a struggle, and critical infrastructure—from the electricity grids of Aleppo to the water networks of Tartous—is severely fractured. Your recent efforts to kickstart public projects and promote tourism on Arwad Island are noted, but cosmetic moves will not suffice. We need deep structural economic reforms, a safe environment for foreign investment, and an end to shadow economies if we want ordinary families to afford bread.

The Test of True Political Pluralism: When you assumed the transitional presidency in January 2025, you explicitly pledged to protect Syria's diverse religious and ethnic minorities—Christians, Alawites, Druze, and Kurds—and to establish a state grounded in legal institutions. However, the international community and millions of secular Syrians remain deeply skeptical. True inclusion cannot just be a public relations strategy for Western diplomats. You must ensure that the upcoming drafting of the new constitution guarantees absolute equality, protects civil liberties, and allows for genuine, unrestricted political competition.

The Refugee Crisis and Institutional Trust: Millions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Europe are watching Damascus with mixed emotions. They desperately want to return home, but they fear arbitrary detention, lack of legal protections, and a system where dissent is still not tolerated. To bring our people back, your administration must build an unshakeable, transparent judicial framework that completely discards the old "security state" mentality. People must trust the law, not fear the new rulers.

Navigating the Geopolitical Minefield: You have achieved unprecedented diplomatic shifts, including meeting with Western delegations and signing integration agreements with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the east. Yet, Syria is still a playground for foreign interests. Turkish forces remain heavily involved in the north, Israeli security concerns linger, and navigating relations between Washington and regional powers requires masterful diplomacy. Syria must never again become a passive proxy battlefield. Our foreign policy must strictly serve the immediate reconstruction and sovereign stability of our own territory.

Mr. President, you have successfully completed the impossible task of dismantling a half-century-old dictatorship. You have demonstrated a surprising capacity for political pragmatism and administrative adaptation.

But the real test of your leadership is not how you conquered Damascus, but how you intend to share it. Step away from any temptations of single-party or dogmatic rule. Elevate your transitional administration into a truly representative democracy. If you give the Syrian people institutional freedom, economic stability, and real civil peace, you will secure a historic legacy. If you fail to open up the political space, you risk turning this hard-fought revolution into just another dark chapter of absolute rule.

With an urgent call for democratic transition and national reconstruction,

A Citizen of the New Syrian Republic

Executive Leadership Audit: Transitional President Ahmed al-Sharaa An evaluation of the President's governance during the transition period (on a strict scale from 1 to 5):

Military Strategy and Regime Overthrow: 4.9 (Masterful coordination. Executed a rapid, historic offensive that successfully toppled one of the most entrenched regimes in the Middle East with minimal transitional anarchy)

Pragmatism and Diplomatic Adaptation: 4.2 (Surprisingly effective. Shed his militant past, successfully engaged with Western and regional diplomats, secured crucial sanctions relief, and initiated pragmatic internal integration deals)

Economic Reconstruction and Reform: 2.5 (The task is overwhelming. While basic stabilization and infrastructure repair have begun, the country remains bankrupted, heavily reliant on aid, and crippled by post-war economic stagnation)

Democratic Pluralism and Human Rights: 2.2 (Highly controversial. Despite public promises to minorities and pledges for a "council chosen by the people," the actual space for political dissent remains tightly restricted, and HTS institutional control remains dominant)

Final Verdict: 3.45 / The Pragmatic Transformer. Ahmed al-Sharaa has pulled off one

of the most stunning political and military transformations of the decade, shifting from a blacklisted rebel into a statesman managing a state transition. He has brought a surprising level of initial stability to post-Assad Syria. However, his long-term legitimacy entirely hinges on his willingness to democratize. If Sharaa uses the five-year transitional period to truly hand over power to a civilian, pluralistic democracy, he will be remembered as the father of modern Syria. If he defaults to authoritarian control, he will merely be seen as the man who replaced one dictatorship with another.

<https://lettertoleader.com/en/syria/acting-president/178-an-open-letter-to-transitional-president-ahmed-al-sharaa>

This PDF contains the authoritative original text of the letter. It does not contain the author management code.