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SYRIAN VOICES FROM PRE-REVOLUTION SYRIA: CIVIL SOCIETY AGAINST ALL ODDS

With mass protests in Syria in full swing, and violence reaching unprecedented levels, it may at first seem peculiar to release a volume of papers that document and analyse the inner workings and fate of Syria's civil society as it manifested itself on the eve of the uprising in early 2011. The current clashes between armed groups and the regime, their sad trail of human casualties and suffering, and the regional and international intrigues affecting Syria's current plight all appear to be deserving our more immediate attention. Yet whatever the outcomes of the current uprising and confrontation may be, the role of Syria's civil society will be crucial. The country's reconstruction, in any possible political scenario, will rely on the nation's brightest, most experienced and engaged citizens who, in one way or another, managed to build a track record of civil engagement and development work.

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