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Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Association Baytna pour le Soutien de la Société activities in Syria

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark provides support for Association Baytna pour le Soutien de la Société (Baytna) which cooperates with subgrantees with the aim of strengthening the capacity of civil society to act as a force for democratic change and to promote respect for human rights and civil liberties. DKK 15,000,000 has been granted for the period 2022-2024.

On 28 October 2023, Baytna received invoices and a financial report from a subgrantee where Baytna noticed some irregularities. The subgrantee had been awarded a sub-grant of approximately DKK 111,000 to implement a youth capacity building project in Deir Ezzor. Baytna initiated an internal investigation and found some vendors to be non-existing and the subgrantee to be overstocking water and to purchase fuel beyond the project needs. The direct amount under suspicion was approximately DKK 7,450. However, at the time these irregularities were discovered, no installment had been transferred to the subgrantee in question.

Baytna asked the organisation to put all activities under their agreement on hold until an investigation had been conducted. According to Baytna, the partner refused to cooperate on an investigation. Baytna reported that the subgrantee insisted on cancelling the project and on not claiming any expenses. Baytna agreed to end the collaboration without any transfers to the subgrantee.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs regards the case as closed without loss of Danish funds.