

Statement on filing a complaint on an enforced disappearance case for the United Nations' Working Team

The teacher Moutaz Awad Yousef has been forcibly disappeared since 2013



The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the citizen, Khaled Ibrahim al Jammal from Aleppo city, a resident of Saraqeb city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1984, who was working as a taxi driver prior to his arrest. Khaled was arrested on July 1, 2012, by gunmen affiliated with Syrian Regime forces, while he was passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Idlib city, and taken to an undisclosed location. Since that date, he has been forcibly disappeared. He was last seen by a former detainee in Branch 215 in Damascus city in 2017. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family.

The SNHR has also briefed the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, specifically in regard to Khaled's case.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the enforced disappearance of the citizen, Khaled Ibrahim al Jammal. The SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases.

The SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Khaled immediately, as well as to secure the release of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions must also be revealed.

Although the Syrian government is not a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, it is indisputably a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Enforced disappearance constitutes a violation of both instruments.

SNHR also confirms that there are well-founded fears that many of those forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime since 2011 may have been subjected to torture and possibly killed in regime detention, with the number of citizens forcibly disappeared by the regime continuing to grow.

