



Syrian and Arab Chess Champion Forcibly Disappeared Along with Her Six Children in Syrian Regime Detention Centers

Dr. Rania Al-Abbasi, born in 1970, is a dentist who began playing chess as a little girl, eventually becoming the Syrian and Arab world champion, titles she held for many years.

On Saturday, March 9, 2013, members of the Syrian regime's Military Security branch in Damascus city arrested Dr. Al-Abbasi's husband, Abdul Rahman Yasin, born in Tartous in 1969, at their home in the extension of the Mashroua Dummar, al Jazira No. 43. The next day, the same military personnel who had arrested him returned with him to the house and confiscated all the family's valuables and personal possessions, including cash, gold, mobile phones, computers, all the family members' passports, and the real estate documents for all their properties. The military security personnel carrying out the raid told Dr. Al-Abbasi that they would return the next day to detain her and her children. They did so, returning on Monday, March 11, 2013, and arresting her, along with her six children. They also detained her secretary, Majdoleen Mohammad Fares al Qadi, who was by chance in the house at the time, as well as taking six bags containing essential items for her and her children.

Dr. Al-Abbasi's and her husband's six children are:

Dima Yasin, born in Riyadh in 1999.

Intisar Yasin, born in Riyadh in 2001.

Najah Yasin, born in Riyadh in 2003.

Alaa Yasin, born in Riyadh in 2005.

Ahmad Yasin, born in Riyadh in 2005.

Layan Yasin (infant) born in Damascus in 2011.

Speaking to the Syrian Network for Human Rights about the family's detention, a family member of Dr. Al-Abbasi said that more than twenty heavily armed members of the Military Security branch dressed in their full military uniforms carried out the arrests. The family member further revealed that one of the regime personnel





involved in three of the raids on the doctor's home and in the arrests, named as Abu Kazem, was known personally to Dr. Al-Abbasi as one of the security personnel regularly stationed at a regime checkpoint outside al Wazzan Mosque near the family's home, adding that Dr. Al-Abbasi had regularly provided him with free dental treatment at her clinic.

SNHR tried to discover the whereabouts of Dr. Al-Abbasi by speaking with dozens of female former prisoners who had been held at regime security branches and prisons throughout Syria, but no one had seen her. Her fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to Dr. Al-Abbasi's family.

SNHR has learnt that the names of Dr. Al-Abbasi and her six children were included among those listed in exchange deals for kidnapped Lebanese citizens and Turkish pilots. However, she and they have never been released to this day, which leads us to believe that the Syrian regime may have killed her and her children or that she and they died due to torture and the inhuman detention conditions, which is the case for many Syrian prisoners every day.

The international community must take action in regard to the more than 85,000 forcibly-disappeared Syrians as failure to do so will result in catastrophic losses which the Syrian society will have to suffer for decades to come.

The international community should stop using the pretext of the Chinese-Russian veto, demand the Syrian regime immediately disclose the fate of Dr. Al-Abbasi and her children, and establish a commission to monitor the prisoners' conditions inside the prisons of the Syrian regime as soon as possible.

