

## Statement

# Ahrar al Sham Movement Arrests and Insults an FSA Commander, Driving him to Start a Hunger Strike

Commander “Ammar Saqqar”  
must be Released to Avert Popular  
Escalation and Resentment

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



On May 8, 2017, Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement – an Islamic armed opposition faction, targeted a number of bases for the faction “Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert” -an armed opposition faction- with heavy weapons. The attack took place in Babisqa village, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, and resulted in Ahrar al Sham taking over the bases following Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert’s retreat.

After the attack “Ammar Saqqar”, the former spokesperson for Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert, contacted Ahrar al Sham to visit his brother whom they detained. After he was granted permission for the visit, Ahrar al Sham arrested him along with a number of Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert fighters as soon as he arrived at a base for the group in Idlib suburbs on May 12, 2017.

Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement released the fighters they arrested along with “Ammar Saqqar” a few days after they were arrested. During their arrest, they were tortured and beaten at their place of detention in one of Ahrar al Sham military bases, while “Ammar Saqqar” was kept but without being subjected to torture.

Since the moment “Ammar Saqqar” was arrested, Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement didn’t file any charges, and they didn’t conduct a public or secret trial. They also didn’t let him hire an attorney, and his detention conditions were poor and he was subjected to ill-treatment. None of his family was allowed to visit him unless for one time and for mere minutes, and it was done with the presence of some fighters from Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement.

All of these violations and harassments compelled the detainee to start a hunger strike on June 7, 2017, that is still ongoing at the time of this writing. His family told us that his health is generally worsening.





Ammar Saqqar

Ammar Saqqar, studied at the faculty of commerce and economics in Aleppo University and was known for his academic excellence. Born on September 14, 1985 in Kaljebrin village, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, he was also known for his general goodness and for supporting FSA. He worked before as a spokesperson for Tajamou' Fastaqem Kama Umert when he was in Aleppo city. His arrest spurred a number of demonstrations in Idlib and Aleppo suburbs calling for his release, which caused a great popular resentment towards Ahrar al Sham Movement in these areas.

SNHR calls on Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement, and all armed opposition factions, to abide by the rules and norms of detentions, which are now part of the norms of the international law. Also, all detainees should have the ability to defend themselves and to visit their families and relatives on a regular basis. And places and conditions of detentions must be compatible with what is considered customary knowledge at least.

Furthermore, the interim Syrian government have to make greater efforts to establish a public judicial committee or body for all the areas that are not under the control of the Syrian regime with unified laws and standards, in addition to an independent police apparatus that make legal arrest





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

