



## Statement

## Condemnation of Sentencing a journalist in Syria to 15 years by Military Court

Government forces arrested the journalist Bilal Ahmad Bilal, graduated from Faculty of Media since July 2011. He was born in 1984 and a father of two children.

He was exposing to severe torture inside the Air Intelligence branch in a systematic policy of the Syrian government to silence people and completely blackout the violation by government forces.

The journalist worked to pro-government channel but it did not follow its case or at least asked about him.

After his release from the Air Intelligence branch he was pushing in Sednaya prison, since then his fate is still unknown.

SNHR received information, from a lawyer whom we connect with, that he was sentenced to 15 years in a secret military trial.

This judgment is invalid and arbitrary as the military courts are govern by military members not lawyers or judges, and they issued judgments according to their moods. The judgments are between sentenced to 15 years to life imprisonment and execution. These binding judgment cannot be appealed and the detainees are guilty within it. Moreover thousands of civilians were judged in it since the beginning of the peace uprising until now.

SNHR condemn the deliberate harassment and interdiction of the international press and news agencies which reaches to 100% which considers as a war crime. In addition to arresting and torturing the journalists and media activists of the Syrian people who try to break the silence by publishing news about the daily blatant violations.

