



## Statement

### Condemning the Arrest of UN High Commissioner for refugees' member by Government forces in Syria

Governments around the world acknowledge the important role of the Human Rights defenders and present obligations to protect them. At the same time, Syrian government has arrested human rights defenders without any respect for all international agreements and instruments.

The lawyer Majdoleen Hasan was arrested by an armed patrol of Military Security from her house in Tartous city, on Sunday 30 December 2012 without revealing the cause of arrest.

She has been an employee of the UN High Commissioner for refugees for 6 years and a member of Communist Labor Party.

She was born in Tartous in 1969.

She worked on supporting the rights included in the International Declaration of Human Rights and she participated in the early peaceful protests in Damascus.

It is worth mentioning that this was the second arrest of Mrs. Majdoleen where the first arrest was on 13 July 2011 as she participated in intellectuals protest along with many intellectuals and artists like the cinema director Nedal Hasan, the director Fadi Zaidan, the activist Dana Baqdone, the artist Ghifara Nemr, Mohamad and Ahmad Malas, and the artist Mai Skaf in Al Maidan neighborhood in the capital Damascus. She was arrested on that day with 28 others then they were transferred to criminal court in Damascus in the next day with charge of breaching the demonstrations law and stirring up riots. She was released on Saturday 16 July 2012.

SNHR condemns the arrest of Majdoleen Hasan and demands her release. We also call on the United Nations to uphold its responsibility in regard to its employees and cease all harassments against human rights defenders. SNHR hold the Syrian authorities fully responsible for her safety and the safety of all human rights defenders, and remind Syrian authorities to abide by all international and regional instruments, particularly the Declaration of the United Nations regarding human rights defenders, article 6 (c) in particular which state that every one- alone or by sharing others- has the right to "study, discuss, form, or profess opinion concerning all human rights and basic freedoms in the law and implement

