

## Statement

# Kurdish Self-Management Continues its Policies of Arbitrary Arrest and Torture

Media Activist Barazan  
Hussein Has to be Released  
and Enforced-Disappearance  
Policies Have to End

# 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



Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) have committed various types of violations to the international human rights law in their areas of control in a widespread manner which manifested, particularly, in arbitrary arrests operations, abduction, enforced-disappearance, and torture. These violations targeted activists, dissidents, and political critics. We have recorded no less than 169 incidents of arbitrary arrest and enforced-disappearance that involved activists and politicians. Of those, 72 were released, while the remaining 97 are still under arbitrary arrest or enforced-disappearance. Self-Management forces didn't submit a charge statement. Also, most of the detainees' families weren't informed of their beloved ones' whereabouts following the arrest, or whether they are still alive or not. In most cases, the arrest comes with degradation and torture. Moreover, those who were released haven't been subjected to fair trials, but only technical procedures, whereas some of them told us that the detention centers lack the most basic life necessities, such as medical care, personal hygiene, water, food, and ventilation, which led to diseases running rampant among detainees. The detainees are not allowed to hire an attorney, and their families are barred from visiting them on regular basis.

On May 13, 2017, we recorded that Barazan Hussein Liyani, media activist and reporter for ARK program, which is aired on Zagros TV channel, was arrested, as he was headed for al Rmilan city, from his hometown Ma'bada, eastern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, to call his family. Barazan is 43-year-old, he is married and has kids. Barazan was arrested and was taken along with his car by armed fighters who were affiliated with the Self-Management forces according to some of Barazan's close associates who were able to confirm this information a week after his disappearance.

A number of friends of Barazan's family told SNHR that upon contacting Self-Management



forces in al Rmilan city, they denied his arrest and refused to reveal any information about him or his place of detention. Barazan remained forcibly-disappeared until July 17, 2017, when Self-Management forces only allowed his wife to visit him for the first time and for mere minutes at his place of detention in BeNafkri Prison, which is located near al Qamishli city, northern suburbs of Hasaka governorate.

The information we collected suggest that Barazan was kept in solitary confinement for about 45 days, and was subjected to ill-treatment and was denied health care, even though his health situation was deteriorating on account of a chronic disease he sustained in the past.

Even though nearly three months have passed since Barazan's arrest, Self-Management forces have yet to file any charges or put him on trial, or allow him to hire an attorney or let his family visit him. We collected a number of accounts from some of the released detainees from BeNafkri Prison who told us about the poor detention conditions at the prison, and primarily the lack of ventilation and sufficient space to accompany the increasing numbers of detainees, in addition to an almost complete lack of health care, and decrease in the food shares allotted for the detainees. Additionally, the prison administration deliberately treats the detainees poorly, without putting them on trial, in addition to the torture that includes beating and solitary confinement.

### **Self-Management forces have to**

First: immediately release the media activist Barazan Hussein Liyani, and every arbitrarily arrested detainee from their detention centers. They are also to be allowed to hire an attorney and see their families. Additionally, fair trials have to be conducted for them.

Second: abide by the standards of the international human rights law, and cease enforced-disappearance and torture against political and military opponents. An immediate investigation should be launched and all those who were involved should be held accountable in public trials.

In addition, the states supporting Self-Management forces have to apply pressure in order to compel them to end all offenses in their areas of control. Moreover, local councils should be established from the local community to civilly govern these areas.





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