



## Mazin Darwish transferred from Damascus central prison to an undisclosed place

The Syrian authorities have transferred the journalist and human rights activist Mazin Darwish from Damascus central prison -Adra prison-, where he was previously being detained, to an undisclosed place on the morning of 31 January, 2015. We haven't been able to verify if the peaceful activist Hani Az-Zitani and the blogger Hussein Ghrier were also transferred from Adra central prison.

On 16 February, 2012, the Air Intelligence forces raided the headquarter of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression in Damascus and arrested everyone there. For nine months, Mazin, founder of the center, and four of his colleagues were forcibly-disappeared as no information regarding their fates were revealed. On 30 November the authorities transferred Mazin and his colleagues to Damascus central prison - Adra prison where they were charged under the eighth article of the terrorism law (promoting terrorist acts), which was adopted after they were arrested and was implemented in their case retroactively. The court agreed to continue the prosecution process of Mansour Al-Omari and Abdurrahman Hamada without detaining them while Mazin, Hussein Ghrier, and Hani Az-Zitani were kept detained during the prosecution process after the court rejected the defense's appeal.

Furthermore, the presidential decree, issued in June 2014, which granted complete amnesty for this charges wasn't implemented in addition to the authorities' refusal to respond to the humanitarian and international callings and even the U.N. which urged for the prisoners of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression to be released. Recently, the terrorism court in Damascus postponed on 20 January, 2015, the trial for the sixth time in a row without specifying a new date for the trial or reveal the reasons behind this decision.

### **A statement by the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression was published on 28 November:**

The rejection of any legal justice, which is based on the fact that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty, the rejection of all the humanitarian, human rights, and legal callings, and the rejection of giving the detainees their most basic rights, which is guaranteed by the Syrian constitution, including refusing to approve the request for release or including the defendants in the presidential amnesty are indicating that the authorities are treating Mazin Darwish and the prisoners of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression in the most terrible manner possible. Also, all of this dramatically deepens our concerns for their safety and the fate that is awaiting them as every indication is pointing out that the authorities are treating civil peaceful human right activists in the most brutal and horrible manner .

Today, we demand that the Syrian authorities immediately reveal the fate of Mazin Darwish and hold it fully responsible for his life and safety. We also renew our callings for the Syrian authorities to execute the decisions concerning the case of the prisoners of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression and immediately and unconditionally release Mazin Darwish and his colleagues.

