

Statement on filing a complaint on an enforced disappearance case for the United Nations' Working Team

The child Mahmoud Salah al Malla has been forcibly disappeared since 2012



The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the child, Mahmoud Salah al Malla from al Qouriya city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, born in 1995. On May 10, 2012, personnel from Syrian regime forces arrested him while he was receiving treatment in a hospital in al Mayadeen city in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, after he was hospitalized due to a gunshot wound sustained in al Qouriya city which was inflicted by Syrian regime forces, with the arresting personnel taking him to an undisclosed location. Since that date, he has been forcibly disappeared. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family. He was seen by subsequently released survivors of detention on November 10, 2012, in Adra Central Prison in Damascus Suburbs governorate, but his family was unable to visit him or appoint a lawyer, and he thus continues to be classified as being among those forcibly disappeared.

The SNHR has also briefed the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, specifically in regard to Mahmoud's case.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the enforced disappearance of the child, Mahmoud Salah al Malla. The SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases.

The SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Mahmoud immediately, as well as to secure the release of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions must also be revealed.

Although the Syrian government is not a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, it is indisputably a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Enforced disappearance constitutes a violation of both instruments.

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