



## The Syrian regime Releases Three Women and Five Men for a Colonel

The Syrian regime has always denied that it is holding women and children inside its detention centers. However, the exchange deals expose its falsities

After nearly two months of negotiations between the Syrian regime, represented by the minister of justice, governor of Damascus, and “Al-Bustan Association” (An association that was founded by Rami Makhlouf, Bashar Al-Assad’s cousin, and it supervises the training and funding of the Syrian militias that fights with the Syrian regime which is called “The National Defense Army”) and “Fursan As-Sunna battalion”, an armed opposition faction, a deal was agreed upon as follows:

The Syrian regime release three women and five men. SNHR found out that the women and men, who has been released, were ordinary citizens who weren’t activists in any field which is something that has been noticed in most of the exchange and truce deals where the Syrian regime releases civilians, who, in some cases, were arrested a few days ago without any charges, just to do the exchange deal.

In return, FSA released the colonel Mohammad Melhem who, as we were informed by FSA, is close to the Syrian regime. The Syrian regime would rather chose someone who is important to him rather than negotiate for tens of arrested officers.

A source, who is close to “Fursan As-Sunna Battalion”, told SNHR that the battalion didn’t send any lists of women’s specific names out of fear for their fate in case of failure to reach a deal which happened several time before.

The Security Council should find a solution to release the Syrian women who are kept prisoners inside the Syrian regime’s detention centers. SNHR estimates the number of woman prisoners to be 4500 prisoners who are being tortured brutally every day. Furthermore, the concerned parties should spare no effort to reveal the fate of the missing and enforcedly-disappeared persons and immediately release all the detainees who were arrested arbitrarily.

