

Nawwal Khaled Khalil and Her Three Children Have been Forcibly Disappeared Since 2013

Wednesday 26 July 2023

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

The Hague - The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the citizen, Nawwal Khaled Khalil, who was a housewife at the time of her arrest. Wakil, born in 1977 and originally from Jisr al-Shoghour city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, was arrested along with her three children on Sunday, April 7, 2013, by Syrian regime forces personnel at a checkpoint in Homs city on their way back from Lebanon. The mother and children were all taken to an undisclosed location and have been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with their fate remaining unknown to SNHR as well as to their family.

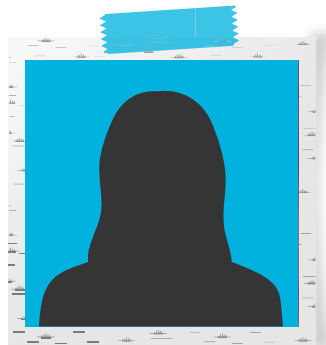
The SNHR has also briefed the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on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

Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the enforced disappearance of citizen 'Nawwal Khaled Khalil' and her children. SNHR has been unable to determine their fate, as have their remaining family members, who are justifiably fearful that they themselves may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel if they continue to ask about their loved ones' whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases.

SNHR has called on the UN 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 Syrian authorities release Nawwal and her children 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.

SNHR also confirms that there are well-founded fears that many of those forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime since 2011 may have been subjected to torture and possibly died due to torture, with the number of citizens forcibly disappeared by the regime continuing to grow.



Nawwal Khaled Khalil

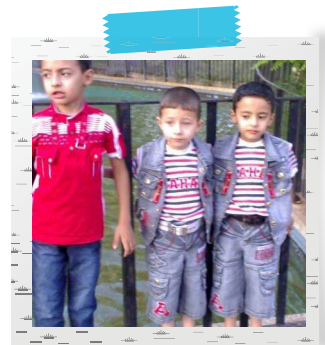


Photo of Ahmad, Abdullah, and Ibrahim Mohammad Kenjou