



The brothers Kutaiba and Ibrahim Mar'e Qashqoush Have been **Forcibly Disappeared** Since 2014

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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, Kutaiba Mar'e Qashqoush, born in 1986, who was a gypsum decorator at the time of his arrest, and his brother Ibrahim, born in 1996, who was a tiler at the time of his arrest. Kutaiba and Ibrahim, both from Daraa city, who were residing in Sehnaya town in the west of Damascus Suburbs governorate, were arrested by Syrian regime forces personnel in November 2014, while they were passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Sehnaya town, and were taken to an undisclosed location. Since that date, both have been forcibly disappeared. Their fate remains unknown to the 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 Kutaiba and Ibrahim's case.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the enforced disappearance of the brothers, Kutaiba and Ibrahim Mar'e Qashqoush. The SNHR has been unable to determine their fate, as have their family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about the two brothers' 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 Kutaiba and Ibrahim 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 killed in regime detention, with the number of citizens forcibly disappeared by the regime continuing to grow.

