

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

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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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.

Citizen Mohammad Akroush

has been forcibly disappeared since 2013

SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the citizen, Mohammad Akroush, from Baniyas city in Tartous governorate, an auto body repair worker, who was aged 46 at the time of his arrest. SNHR urged the UN body to demand that the Syrian authorities release him immediately. Mr. Akroush was arrested arbitrarily on October 15, 2013, while passing through a checkpoint of the Syrian Regime forces in the Jisr Arzouna neighborhood in Tartous city by Military Security forces affiliated with Syrian Regime forces. His fate remains unknown to SNHR as well as his family.



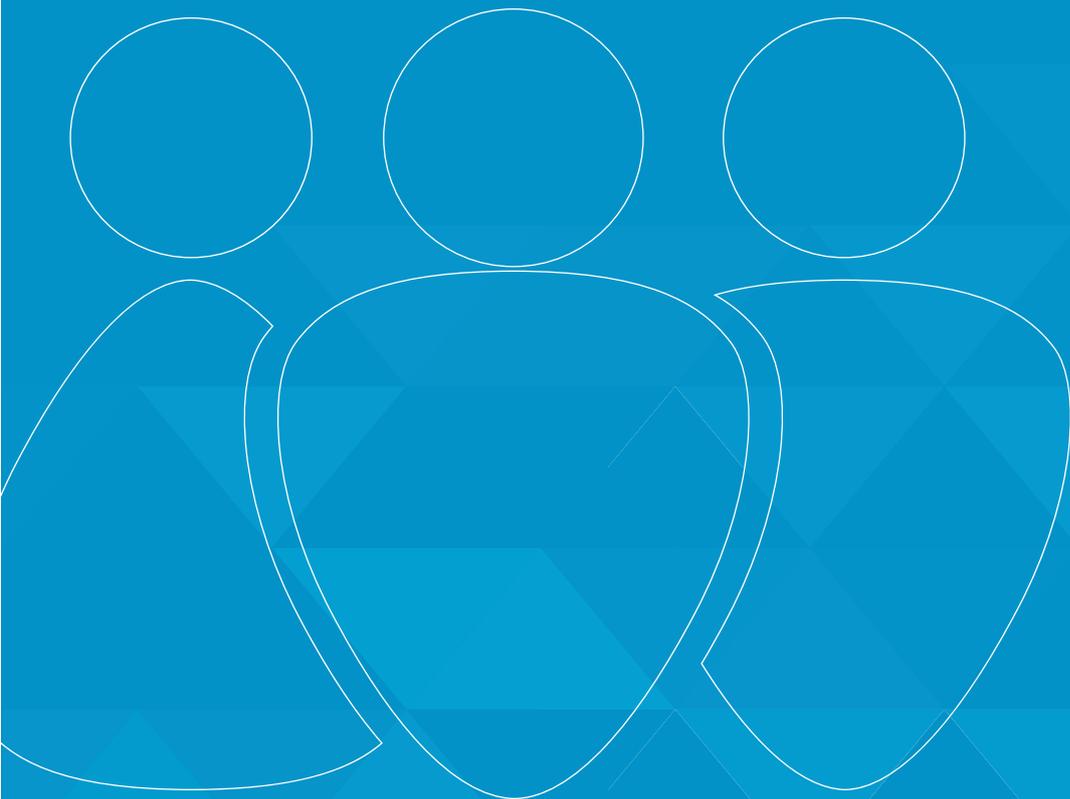
The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of Mohammad Akroush. SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous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

SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Mr. Akroush immediately, as well as to expedite investigations into the fate 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 confirmed 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.





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