

# 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 Tareq al Rahwan

### has been forcibly disappeared since 2015

The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the citizen Tareq al Rahwan, a truck driver from Deir Khabiya town west of Damascus Suburbs governorate, who was aged 30 at the time of his arrest. SNHR urged the UN body to demand that the Syrian authorities release him immediately. Mr. al Rahwan was arrested arbitrarily on May 3, 2015, while passing through a check point run by the Syrian Regime's Military Security forces, namely the Town Center checkpoint on the Damascus-Daraa International Road, and was taken to an undisclosed location. He was last seen in early August 2015 by a former detainee in the Military Security branch, Branch 227 (the Region branch) in Kafrsousa neighborhood in Damascus city. He has not been seen since that date at any security branch or prison. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR as well as to his family.



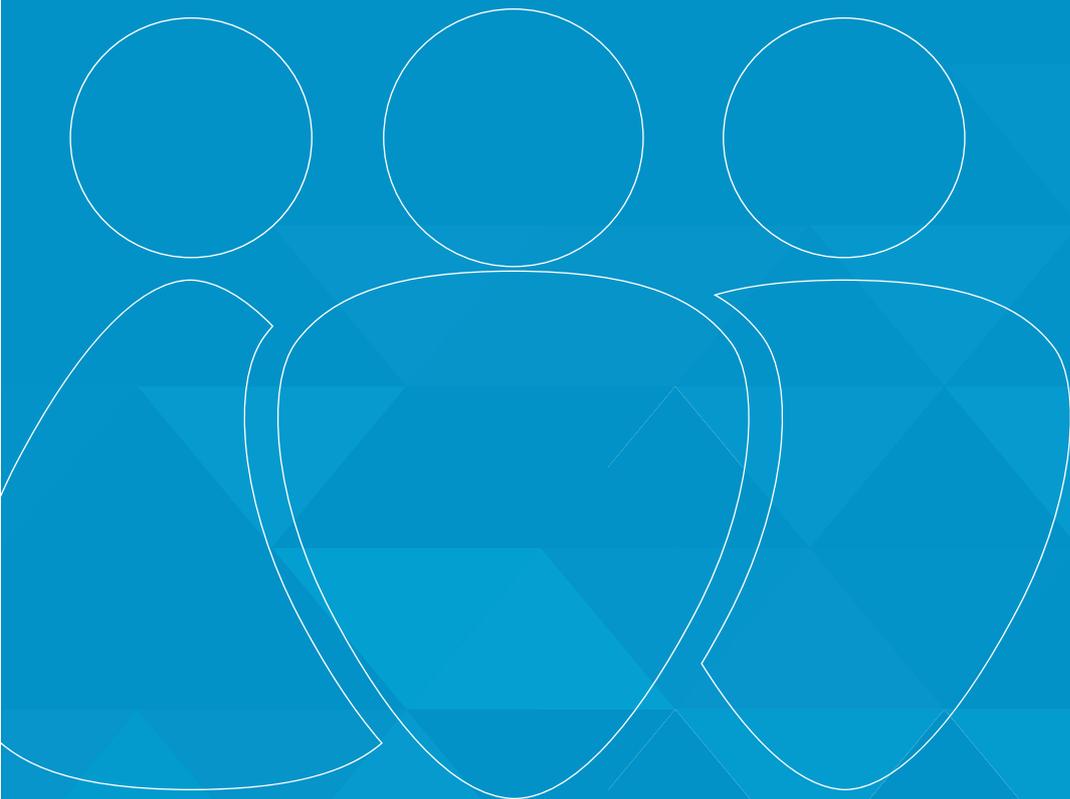
The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of Tareq al Rahwan. The SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts and fate,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

SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Mr. al Rahwan 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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