



## Statement

## The Forcibly-disappeared Citizen Saad Balawat

SNHR has filed the case of the forcibly-disappeared Syrian citizen “Saad Mahmoud Balawat”, 29-year-old, to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and asked the team to demand that the Syrian authorities release him. Saad was arrested arbitrarily from his workplace at Rima Water Company in Hama by the Air Force Intelligence branch on 6 June, 2011. The arresting patrol was wearing civil clothes and didn’t show an arrest warrant that authorizes them to carry out the arresting. It should be noted that the same patrol came a day before and interrogated the citizen “Saad Balawat” at his office without charging him with anything.



Saad was last seen on 20 September, 2011 in Al-Muzza Military Airport prison which is affiliated to the Air Force Intelligence branch in Damascus. He has been forcibly-disappeared since then and his fate remains unknown while the case was filed to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on 8 December, 2014.

The Syrian authorities denies that it arrested “Saad Balawat”. SNHR, as well as his family, hasn’t been able to determine his fate. His family fears that they might get arrested and tortured if they asked about him repeatedly which what happened in many cases.

SNHR urges the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to demand that the Syrian authorities release him immediately and the other thousands of enforced-disappearance cases and reveal their fates.

Even though the Syrian government is not a state part to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, it is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Enforced-Disappearance is considered as a violation of both these documents.

SNHR fears that forcibly-disappeared persons are being subjected to torture or have died under torture as the numbers of enforced-disappearance cases are alarmingly increasing since 2011.

