

Criminals must be Prosecuted and not Welcomed

Ali Mamlouk's and Mohammad Dib Zaitoun's Visit is a Disgrace

A message for the Leaders of the European Union

A number of Italian newspapers and news websites have published in early July several news about a secret visit by the Italian chief of intelligence Alberto Manenti to Damascus at the end of last week where he held a secret meeting with the current president Bashar Al Assad. SNHR received allegation about the Italian authorities meeting with Major General Mohammad Dib Zaitoun and the German authorities meeting with Major General Ali Mamlouk.

Major General Ali Mamlouk is:

One of the founding officers of the Air Force Intelligence and its chief in 2003-2005. After the 10th Baath Party Regional Conference, which was held in the period 6-9 June 2005, he was appointed by president Bashar Al Assad as head of the General Security Directorate. Following the attack on the Central Crisis Management Cell in 2012, he was named as director of National Security Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party which is an office that supervises all security agencies and reports directly to the President of the Republic.

As head of the General Security Directorate, Ali Mamkoug directs the operations of the four security agencies: Air Force Intelligence Directorate, Military Intelligence Directorate, General Intelligence Directorate, and Political Security Directorate.

Major General Mohammad Dib Zaitoun is:

A close advisor to Bashar Al Assad. He is currently the director of the General Intelligence Directorate. He was a member of the negotiation team that negotiated opposition factions in the truce agreements in Homs governorate. He is also a member of the National Security Bureau.



Zaitoun was director of the Political Security Directorate until March 2011. Also, he was charged by the president of the Republic to direct the operations of the minister of interior on 29 March 2010.

SNHR has [documented](#) between March 2011 and July 2016 the killing of no less than 11826 individuals due to torture inside security agencies branches distributed as follows:

Air Force Intelligence: 3078 individuals killed due to torture.

Military Intelligence: 5987 individuals killed due to torture.

General Intelligence (State Security): 1819 individuals killed due to torture.

Political Security Intelligence: 942 individuals killed due to torture.

Therefore, Ali Mamlouk and Mohammad Dib Zaitoun are blatantly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against citizens of the Syrian people through committing acts of torture, or being aware of it without taking sufficient action to prohibit it in addition to the crimes of enforced-disappearance, sexual violence, and extrajudicial killing. These crimes are not subject to the statute of limitation.

Both of the German and Italian authorities have violated the laws of the ^{1*}European Union which states that individuals that are involved in violation of human rights in Syria are to be banned.

We were hoping that the Italian and German authorities arrest the criminals and help the Syrian people to hold them accountable, in accordance with the international jurisdiction laws at their courts given that they were on their soils, instead of welcoming and letting them go. By doing so, the German and Italian authorities send a wrong message to the Syrian people and all dictatorships around the world, support the culture of impunity, and enhance the legitimacy of extremist groups.



^{1*} [EU law enforcing this ban; COUNCIL DECISION 2011/782/CFSP](#)

[This was repealed and replaced by COUNCIL DECISION 2012/739/CFSP](#)

