

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



Wednesday, July 24, 2019

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.

Child Abdul Hadi Mohammad Doust

has been forcibly disappeared since 2012

The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the child Abdul Hadi Mohammad Doust, from Deir Ez-Zour city, a student at the secondary commercial school who was aged 17 at the time of his arrest. He was arrested arbitrarily on November 20, 2012, while passing through a checkpoint run by the Syrian Regime's Military Security forces, near the skybridge area in Deir Ez-Zour city. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR as well as to his family.



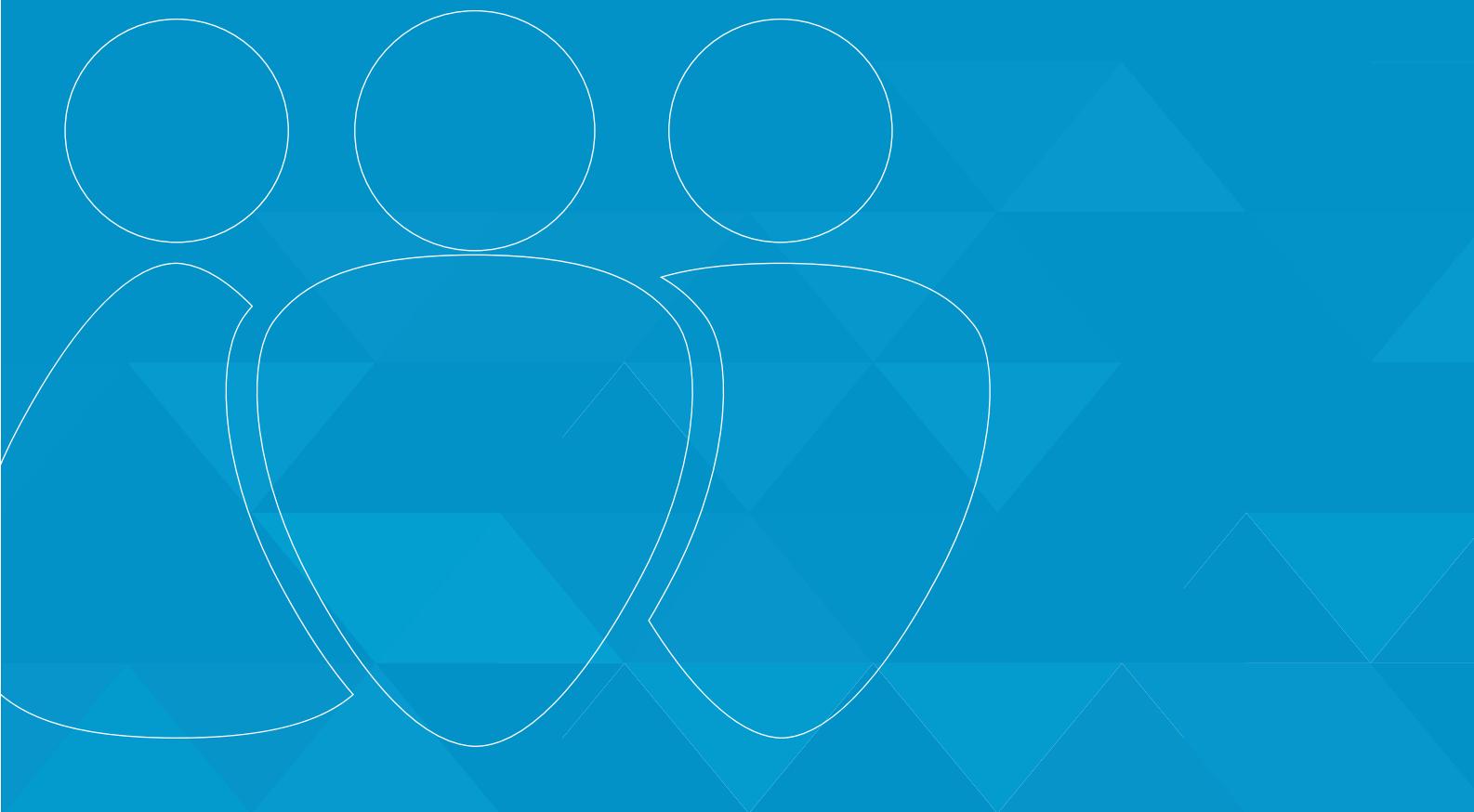
The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of child Abdul Hadi Mohammad Doust. The SNHR has been unable to determine his fate, as have his family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about his whereabouts 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 Abdul Hadi 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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