

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



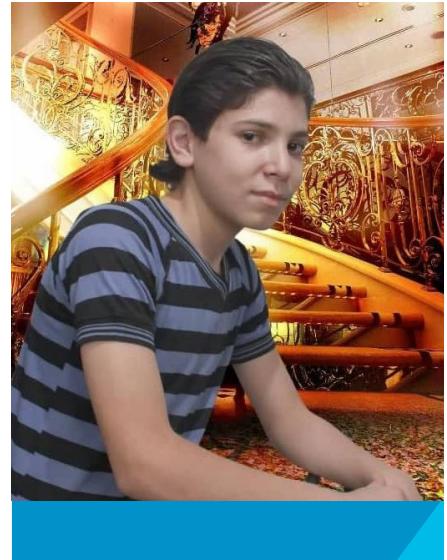
Tuesday, October 8, 2019

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 Nour al Din Mahmoud

has been forcibly disappeared since 2013

The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the child Noor al Din Mahmoud, from Saqba town in the Eastern Ghouta in Damascus Suburbs governorate, a secondary school student, who was aged 15 at the time of his arrest. SNHR urged the UN body to demand that the Syrian authorities release him immediately. Nour al Din was arrested arbitrarily on July 20, 2013, in a raid on his place of residence in al Wafdin Camp area in Damascus Suburbs governorate by the Syrian Regime's Air Security forces, who shot at his legs before arresting him. He was later seen in the Air Security branch in al Mazza neighborhood in Damascus city, then in Sydnaya Military Prison in Damascus Suburbs governorate at early September of the same year. 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 the child Nour al Din Mahmoud. 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.

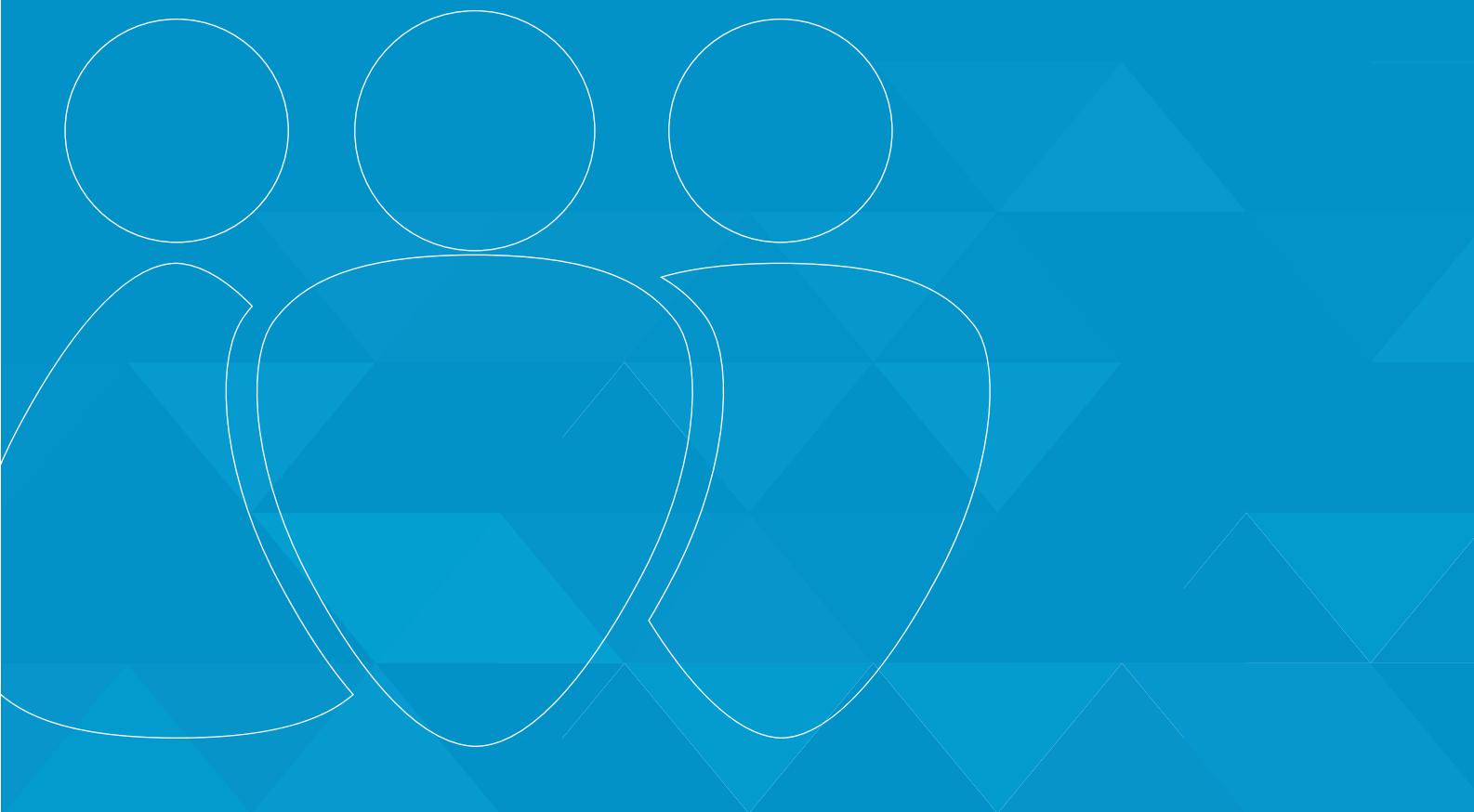


SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Nour al Din immediately, as well as to expedite investigations into the fate of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions 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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