



Press Release

SNHR Provides Online Training to Yemeni Human Rights Activists on Documenting Violations, Database-Building and Advocacy Processes

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), in coordination and cooperation with the Yemeni SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties, held a training session for a number of human rights activists working on the Yemeni issue, with the training delivered by Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, via the Zoom platform on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

The training included a theoretical section followed by a brief review of examples from the SNHR's experience spanning the ten years to date of the Syrian conflict. The conclusion was devoted to a number of questions, answers and addresses from the activists present.

Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany started the training by talking about the SNHR's strategy and objectives in the documentation process, then moved on to focus on the importance of continuing monitoring operations in volatile areas and locations where breaches or violations are expected to occur, building on these points the in fact-finding processes, and beginning the documentation process that includes gathering information and documents, and analyzing, cross-checking and archiving these.

Mr. Abdul Ghany emphasized the need to define the legal framework on which this process relies from the outset, explaining that this is done according to the prevalent conditions which the state is experiencing, whether in peacetime or during international or internal armed conflict, with each of these situations being subject to its own legal status, which shapes how an organization may approach the documentation of violations in accordance with all these laws together.

Mr. Abdul Ghany also talked about the most important principles that organizations and individuals working in the field of documentation must comply with, then proceeded to present detailed points on the various stages of the documentation process, addressing in some detail the types of evidence, various categories of information sources, and the instructions regarding storage and archiving processes, and reviewed the most important challenges facing those working in the field of documenting human rights violations, as well as presenting suggestions of the best ways to overcome these.

In conclusion, Mr. Abdul Ghany stressed the necessity of preparing reports based on data that have been properly documented, and to focus not only on monitoring and documenting violations, but also on relying on these documented reports in advocacy processes, as well as in media coverage, gaining public trust and influencing public opinion, and in trying to influence and pressure politicians and decision-makers.

Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany previously provided a similar training session on February 5, 2021 to human rights activists from the State of Iraq, with these training sessions taking place within the framework of the Syrian Network for Human Rights' endeavors to share the extensive experience it has gained over the past ten years with fellow human rights activists in Syria and other countries. The Syrian Network for Human Rights has also provided similar training to large numbers of Syrian media activists, as well as providing training on international humanitarian law for personnel from the political offices of Armed Opposition factions.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights supports all efforts to document violations and to issue reports based on this data with the aim of exposing those involved in ordering and perpetrating these violations, in a way that supports the transitional justice process in moving towards democracy and respect for the principles of human rights.