

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

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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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.

## The citizen Suleiman al Zaid has been forcibly disappeared

with three of his daughters, including two children, since 2013

The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the Syrian citizen Suleiman Ali al Zaid, from al Bseira village in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and a resident of al Bardeh village in Damascus Suburbs governorate who moved there for work. Suleiman, who was born in 1965, was arrested on March 5, 2013, with his three daughters, Marwa, Suzan and Ula, born in 1994, 1998, and 2000 respectively, by Syrian regime personnel at the regime's al Van checkpoint near al Bardeh village, who first forced them to disembark from the bus on which they were travelling to their jobs in a detergent factory, on the pretext that Suleiman did not have personal ID cards for his daughters. He was taken, along with his three daughters, to an undisclosed location and all four have been forcibly disappeared since then. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to their family.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the disappearance of the citizen Suleiman al Zaid and his three daughters. The SNHR has been unable to determine their fate, as have their family members, who fear that they may be arrested and tortured by regime personnel themselves if they continue to ask about their loved ones' whereabouts and fate, as has happened in numerous previous cases.



Suleiman al Zaid



Marwa al Zaid

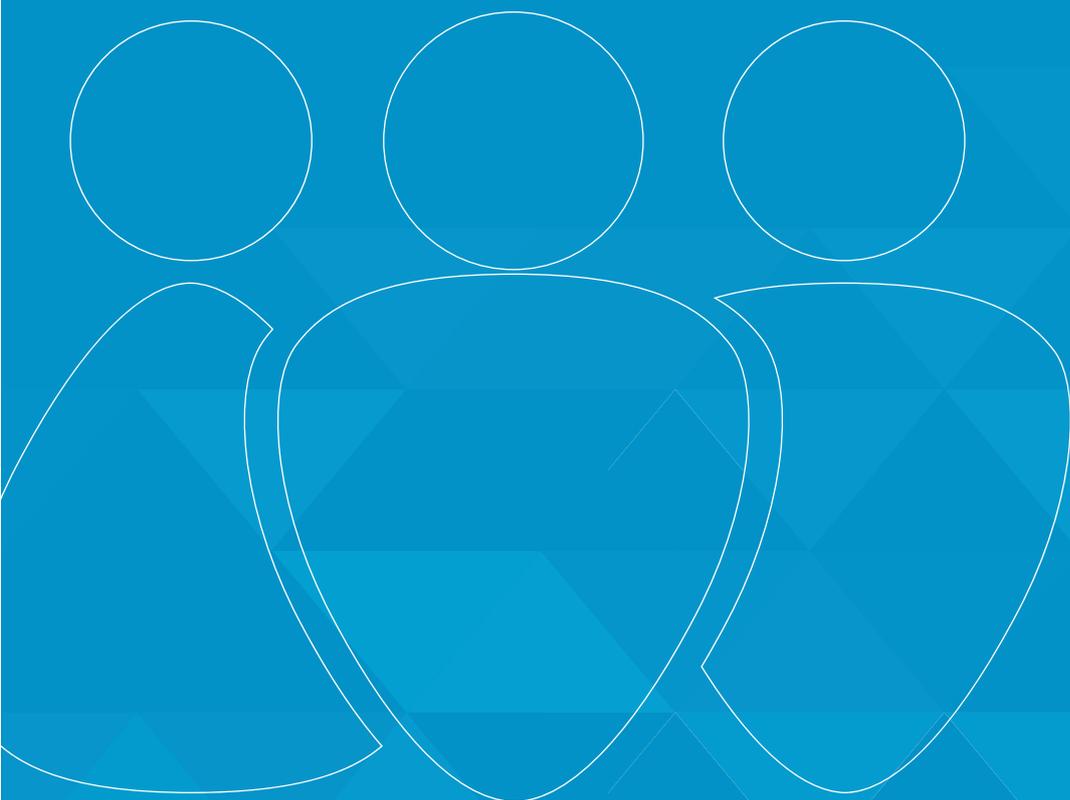


The SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release them immediately, as well as to expedite investigations into the fate of thousands of other forcibly disappeared citizens whose whereabouts and current conditions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