

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

The military conscript Ayham al Ahmad has been forcibly disappeared since 2012



The SNHR has briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the case of the military conscript, Ayham Kassar al Ahmad, from al Dana village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, who was born in 1992. He was arrested in July 2012 by gunmen affiliated with the Syrian regime's Military Police, while he was in his military barrack in Izra city, east of Daraa governorate, where he was performing his mandatory military service for the regime, and taken by them to an undisclosed location. His family learned of his arrest through his colleagues at the military barrack, and he has been forcibly disappeared since that date. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family.

The SNHR has also briefed the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, specifically in regard to Ayham's case.

The Syrian authorities have denied any connection with the enforced disappearance of the military conscript, Ayham Kassar al Ahmad. 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.

The SNHR has called on the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearance to intervene and to demand that the Syrian authorities release Mr. Al Ahmad 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.

