

Permanent Representative to the UN
Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor,
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency,

I am concerned that Anas al-Shogre is being held incommunicado in conditions that amount to enforced disappearance, and urge the Syrian authorities to immediately inform his family as to his whereabouts, the reason for his arrest and his legal status.

Please ensure that Anas al-Shogre is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, given immediate access to his family and lawyer of his choice, and provided with all necessary medical attention.

He should be released immediately, if he is not to be charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and tried according to international fair trial standards.

Yours sincerely,

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Your Excellency,

I am concerned that Khalil Ma'touq appears to have been subjected to an enforced disappearance. I urge the authorities to let his family know immediately what has happened to him, where he is, why he was arrested and his legal status.

Khalil Ma'touq's fate, whereabouts and legal status must be made known to his family. Please ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, given immediate access to his family and lawyer of his choice, and any medical attention he may require.

Khalil Ma'touq is being held solely for his activities as a human rights activist. He is therefore a prisoner of conscience and should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,

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Your Excellency,

I am concerned that Ali Mahmoud Othman appears to have been subjected to an enforced disappearance. I urge the authorities to let his family know immediately what has happened to him, where he is, why he was arrested and his legal status.

Please ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, given immediate access to his family and lawyer of his choice, and any medical attention he may require.

If he is being held solely for his activities as a citizen journalist, he is a prisoner of conscience and should be released immediately. If he is not a prisoner of conscience, Ali Mahmoud Othman must be charged immediately with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and try him according to international fair trial standards.

Any relevant information you can provide on Ali Mahmoud Othman would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

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Your Excellency,

I am concerned about the safety of human rights defender Nizar Ristnawi, a prisoner of conscience, who was serving a four-year sentence in Saydnaya Military Prison, when prison disturbances broke out in July 2008. His family have had no contact with him since then. His prison term should have been completed on 18 April 2009, but he was not released.

Nizar Ristnawi's fate, whereabouts and legal status must be made known to his family immediately. If he is still alive, Nizar Ristnawi must be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for expressing his views.

Yours sincerely,