

From My Story

I am part of mothers' stories

I am Mariam Halaq. I have worked as a teacher and principal for 25 years in several schools. I have three sons, the youngest is Ayham who was arrested and killed under torture during the Syrian revolution, and since then I have been working on the detainees' file, first in Syria, then in Lebanon and now in Germany. As families of detainees, we gathered ourselves and created the Truth and Justice Charter to search for the detainees as this is our greatest concern. In fact, it was a successful experience of mutual efforts, for example, The Ceaser Families Association focuses on the martyrs who were known after Ceaser's photos went viral, and Families for Freedom cares about the detainees held by ISIS and their families. In addition to Ta'afi which works with the survivors of detention, and the Association of Detainees and the Missing in Sednaya Prison which deals with the missing persons and detainees in Sednaya.

We worked hard, reached the United Nations and established an association that deals with enforced disappearance and reassures the families of the detainees, searches for mass graves and is concerned about the Syrian victims.



Organized by: Syrian Detainees and Missing in Sednaya Prison (SDM) association

I am personally with the truth, when my son was detained, I knew that he died, but my friend Fadwa doesn't know anything about her husband and son who have forcibly disappeared since 2012. Oh, which one do you think is harder? My situation, me who lost hope knowing my son is dead and I'll never see him again, or Fadwa who still has hope and waits daily for any news about them, there are thousands of families with situations similar to ours, and each one is harder than the other. Losing hope is so hard, waiting is even harder, it's kind of walking on fire.

Despite all of that, let's keep working, keep our voices up, let's let everyone know what's happening, we cannot know what's happening we live in a bitter reality where the world insists on keeping the Assad regime, and Bashar al Assad in power, because the powerful countries have interests with the Assad that are not done yet. We are living in this state of waiting and continuous change because there is nothing we can do. We have to tell the world about our issues and as families of the victims we have agreed to speak up and continue our mission persistently.



Organized by the Syrian Observatory
Network for Human Rights

As families of the victims, we were able to help in the establishment of the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism - Syria (IIIM) which is an international institution, in fact, this act was a formidable and historic act for the families of the victims, and in this way, we as part of the association contribute in helping the families get informed about the fate of their missing children.

I believe that there will be accountability even if it took 20 years to happen, I always say "Maybe I won't make it, but you're there, my children and my grandchildren, I have hope in you, especially the girls. I have two grandchildren in New Zealand who always tell stories about their martyr uncle. In fact, my hope is in these children and grandchildren that they can achieve what we couldn't towards our missing loved ones." we'll always remind the world that these young people did not fault at all but chanted loudly in public for their freedom, disagreed with the regime, did not carry weapons, didn't fight, all they wanted was freedom and dignity, so they faced a destiny of torture and death.

Maryam



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