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MOHAMED BACHIR ARAB

MEDICAL DOCTOR

FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED BY AGENTS OF THE SYRIAN STATE SINCE 2 NOVEMBER 2011

Mohamed Bachir Arab is a medical doctor from Aleppo, northern Syria. He told friends on 2 November 2011 that he was going out to meet up with a friend – the last time his friends and family heard from him.

His family found out about his arrest through rumours on social media and his name being mentioned in an Al Jazeera report on arrests of Syrian activists but until now, the government has not provided them with any information about his fate or whereabouts, despite requests.

Released detainees claiming to have seen him in various detention facilities across Aleppo and Damascus have provided the family with snippets of information about him - the last time in December 2013, when he may have been brought before a Military Field Court. These courts are presided over by military judges, are not independent and have grossly unfair proceedings, as defendants have no right to legal representation nor to request the disqualification of a judge, and proceedings are conducted in secret.

It is not clear why Mohamed Bachir Arab was arrested or what charges he may be facing. His enforced disappearance could be connected to his involvement with the organization of peaceful protests in Aleppo when the crisis in Syria began in 2011. He had been sentenced and imprisoned for organizing peaceful student protests in 2004.

ACTION

Please write to the Syrian President through the Syria Permanent Representative to the UN to call on the Syrian authorities to:

- Release Mohamed Bachir Arab immediately and unconditionally if he is held solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Urgently inform his family of his fate and whereabouts;
- Ensure that he is protected from secret detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and allowed immediate contact with his family and a lawyer of his choice.

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