

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT



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## Syria: Launch of the website [free-syrian-voices.org](http://www.free-syrian-voices.org)

A new website, [www.free-syrian-voices.org](http://www.free-syrian-voices.org), being launched today by a group of international human rights groups including Amnesty International, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, FIDH, Front Line Defenders, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, hopes to shed light on the plight of Syrian civil society activists including human rights defenders, media and humanitarian workers who have been targeted for their work or peaceful activism.

Since the Syrian crisis began three years ago they have continually been arrested or abducted by government forces and pro-government militias or by non-state armed groups. The website will showcase 37 emblematic cases, a mere fraction of those targeted, and others will be documented in the coming weeks.

“Thousands of civilians have been arrested, abducted, subjected to enforced disappearance, tortured or otherwise ill-treated and sometimes killed merely for exercising their fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association; or for providing basic medical care to the sick and wounded and humanitarian assistance to civilians. Their dedication should not be in vain. We must continue to amplify their voices and act for their release” declared the NGOs at the launch of this project.

The fate of many of them remains unknown. Through [free-syrian-voices.org](http://www.free-syrian-voices.org), the organizations will campaign on behalf of these activists and call for their release.

Where is the [lawyer Razan Zaitouneh](#) held? How many more times will the [journalist Mazen Darwish](#)'s court session be postponed? Where is the [human rights lawyer Khalil Ma'touq](#)? Why was the [doctor Mohamed Bachir Arab](#) arrested? Where has the [Kurdish writer Hussein 'Essou](#) been detained for the past 2.5 years? Why was the [activist Samira Khalil](#) abducted? “These activists have done courageous work. Let's not allow them to be silenced and let's not forget them” declared the organizations supporting the campaign.

Free-syrian-voices.org is available in English and will be regularly updated... An Arabic and Russian version of the website will be available soon.

A message calling for the release of all persons arbitrarily detained or abducted in Syria will be sent via [Thunderclap on 17 April](#), the anniversary date of Syrian independence.

Public Document

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