

Joint statement

To stop the trial Mazen Darwish

And his fellow members of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression

:Members of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression are scheduled to appear before the anti-terrorism court in Damascus on May 19, 2013, the members are

Mr. Mazen Darwish, head of the center. •

Activist blogger Hussein Greer - Hani Zettati. •

." "under parole since February 6, 2013Mansur Hamid - Abdul Rahman Hamada •

They may face charges of terrorism due to their peaceful activities, the indictment, released on February 27, of those five members of the Center charged them with "promoting terrorist acts", under Article 8 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2012. It was also mentioned in the indictment that these accusations are attributed to Mr. Darwish as head of the Syrian Center, and the other four activists as workers at the center, which included the follow-up and monitoring of the news broadcast by the Syrian opposition on the Internet, publishing studies on the human rights and media situation in Syria, and documenting the names of detainees, disappeared, wanted, and dead, in addition to the charge of receiving money from a western governments. As stated in the indictment, the investigating judge in Damascus considered this work as part of an attempt to "destabilize the internal situation in Syria and provoke international organizations to condemn Syria in international forums

in Seven Bahrat - 29 May Street - Damascus, and Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression It is noted that on 16 2 2012 Syrian security raided the Office of the  
, head of the center and all Mr. Mazen Darwish arrested  
the workers of the center and its visitors

Mr. Mazen Darwish has been subjected to arbitrary arrest in 16 3 2011 for of his participation in a sit-in carried out by families of detainees in front of the Ministry of Interior to  
submit a letter to the Interior Minister, as a plea to release their sons, and he was released on the same day. On 23 3 2011 Darwish was arrested after being summoned for  
investigation for media releases about the arrests in Syria and the events of Daraa.

Mr. Mazen Darwish, born in 1974, is a journalist, member of the International Federation of Journalists, and the founder and president of the Syrian Center for Media and  
Freedom of Expression. He is also vice president of the International Institute for Cooperation and Support in Brussels and a member of the International Bureau of the  
Organization of Reporters Without Borders, in addition to the center which is headed by Darwish, which is the only organization in Syria specialized in the follow-up of the media  
and the Internet. He is also an advisory member in United Nations Economic and Social Council

We, the organizations, bodies, and centers for the defense of human rights in Syria, express our strong condemnation and deep concern about the continuity of unfair trials of  
:peaceful activists for peaceful democratic change in Syria and we call on the Syrian government to work for

1. Drop the charges against the activists mentioned above, and to all who participated in peaceful demonstrations in Syria, and to stop the ongoing trials against peaceful political  
.activists and human rights defenders
2. If the charges are not dropped, they should guarantee the right of defendants to a fair trial before an independent and impartial court consistent with ratified Syrian obligations  
in particular Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948, and Article (1, 14 and 5 , 14) of the International Covenant on Civil  
and Political Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1966, as well as ensure that the proceedings are in line with the standards and principles accredited to the United Nations  
bodies, including the basic principles on the Independence of the Judiciary issued in 1985, and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors General issued in 1990.
3. That the defendants enjoy their right to trial that meets the conditions of fair trials. Because the provisions of the articles of the Penal Code are vague and largely loose to allow  
the authorities to use it to crack down on peaceful dissidents and human rights activists. Moreover, there are serious concerns that the defendants have been and will be subjected  
.to ill-treatment during their detention
4. Close the file of political detention and release of all political prisoners, prisoners of opinion and conscience, and all detained because of their participation in peaceful gatherings

.conducted in various Syrian cities, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offense and brought promptly to trial where there is fair trial standards

5. The Syrian government should respect all its obligations with regard to human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations, as set out in international instruments ratified by Syria in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and as guaranteed by the Syrian Constitution; based on that they should respect the rights of citizens and protect them fully particularly with regard to the enjoyment of freedom of expression, freedom of association, and the right to .peaceful assembly

19 5 2013 Damascus

The name of human rights organizations signed

Rights in Syria National Organization for Human 1.

/ Syria (observer)in Syria for Human Rights Kurdish Committee 2.

Rights in Syria National Organization for Human 3.

Rwankh – Syria in conscience of prisoners for Defend 4.

( DAD) Syria and Public Freedoms in Defense of Human Rights Kurdish Organization for the 5.

Human Rights Organization in Syria – MAF / Syria 6.

Documentation / Syria for Centre Syrian Kurdish 7.

(SCODP) / Syria Against the Death Penalty Syrian Coalition 8.

/ Syria (SPNGO ) for NGOs platform Syrian 9.

law/ Syria of rule the and justice transitional for Association Jurists Syrian 10.

democracy / Syria enabled and for Transitional Justice CenterSyrian 11.

of Violence and Torture / Syria for Rehabilitation of Victims CenterSyrian 12.

for the Study of Tolerance and Anti-Violence in Syria CenterNational 13.

Center for the Study of transitional justice and democracy in SyriaEbla 14.

for Civil Society and Human Rights Studies CenterSyrian 15.

/ Syria rights's children and's women forNational Rally 16.

Syrian Association for the freedom and fairness 17.

Human Rights Education for CenterSyrian 18.

for Human Rights CenterSyrian 19.

Development for Democracy and Human CenterSyrian 20.

and Human Rights Studies for Center Republic 21.

Human Rights in Syria of Democratic Liberties and Committees for the Defense 22.

missing in Syria for the Defense of National Coordination 23.