

URGENT ACTION

SYRIAN FATHER OF THREE MISSING FOR 1403 DAYS

Today is Ali Mohammed Mostafa's 55th birthday. He is a father of three who has been forcibly disappeared for nearly four years, and his family still has no information about his fate or whereabouts. On 2 July 2013, Ali went missing after being taken from his family home in Damascus.

On 2 July 2013, **Ali Mohammed Mostafa**, a businessman originally from Masyaf in Hama countryside, was at his family home in Damascus when he was arrested by Syrian government forces. On that morning, the neighbors informed his wife upon her arrival home that Syrian government forces raided the house, wrecked the furniture, tore clothes and papers, and arrested Ali at around 10:00 am. Since then, and despite various and continuous requests, Ali's family has not received any confirmed information about his fate or whereabouts, which remain unknown.

Ali Mohammed Mostafa was detained twice before. In 2006, he was arrested by Syrian government forces after attempting to resolve a local dispute in his town. Then, when the protests started in Syria in 2011, Ali participated in peaceful demonstrations and in a local committee created to provide aid to internally displaced people who had fled the violence in Hama. For this, he was detained in August 2011 for a month and a half.

A close family member told Amnesty: "We do not know whether he is dead or alive. It torments us every day. Our only wish is that Ali celebrates his 56th birthday among us".

Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the Syrian authorities to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Ali Mohammed Mostafa;
- Calling on them to release him immediately, unless he is to be charged with a recognizable offence, in line with international law and standards;
- Urging them to ensure that pending his release, he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, granted access to his family and lawyers, and any medical treatment he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 JUNE 2017 TO:

Permanent Representative to the UN

Bashar Ja'afari, Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: +1 212 983 4439
E-mail:
syria.pr@outlook.com
Salutation: Your Excellency

President

Bashar al-Assad
Fax: +963 11 332 3410 (keep trying)
(If fax does not go through, please
include your message to the president in
an email to the Ambassador, asking for it
to be forwarded)
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Defence

General Fahd Jassem al-Frej
Fax: +963 11 223 7842 (keep trying)
+963 11 666 2460 (keep trying)
(If fax does not go through, please
include your message to the Minister of
Defence in an email to the Ambassador,
asking for it to be forwarded)
Salutation: Your Excellency

Please send your appeals to the Syrian embassy in your country. The Syrian Embassy in the UK has been temporarily closed.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tens of thousands of people in Syria have vanished without a trace. They could be victims of enforced disappearance, which means a person is arrested, detained or abducted by government officials or agents acting for the state. Governmental officials then deny the person is being held or conceal their fate or whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law. In Syria, detainees are cut off from the outside world, packed into overcrowded, secret cells where torture is routine, disease is rampant and death is commonplace. Their families are forced to live in desperation with few, if any, safe ways of finding their loved ones. Amnesty International's research shows that the enforced disappearances carried out by the Syrian government since 2011 were perpetrated as part of an organized attack against the civilian population that has been widespread, as well as systematic, and therefore amount to crimes against humanity.

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