

# URGENT ACTION

## MAN MISSING DURING EAST ALEPPO EVACUATION

**The fate and whereabouts of Abdulhadi Kamel remain unknown. He was last seen being driven away in an ambulance on 16 December 2016 after being injured by Syrian government forces who intercepted the evacuation convoy in which he was leaving east Aleppo.**

**Abdulhadi Kamel**, 26, went missing in western Aleppo on 16 December 2016, during the evacuation of civilians from eastern Aleppo. A close relative was in the convoy with Abdulhadi Kamel when Syrian government forces stopped the car and asked the men to step out. Their belongings were taken and they were forced to lie on the ground with their face down. Government forces then began to fire shots into the air, resulting in Abdulhadi Kamel and others being injured by stray bullets. According to the relative, an ambulance took the injured, including Abdulhadi Kamel, to a hospital at an unknown location. Abdulhadi Kamel's family were assured by an intermediary monitoring the evacuation that Abdulhadi Kamel would be reunited with them. He was not. Abdulhadi Kamel remains missing.

On 5 January, Abdulhadi Kamel appeared in a video filmed in an unknown location and posted on YouTube (available [here](#)) by ANNA news, an Abkhazian news agency. In the video Abdulhadi Kamel is seen confessing to working as a volunteer with The White Helmets (also known as the Syria Civil Defence), which he claimed is a fake rescue organization. Abdulhadi Kamel's family believe his confession to be forced as there was no evidence to link him to The White Helmets; he was not wearing, nor in possession of, their uniform nor anything else that would tie him to them.

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

- Urging the Syrian authorities to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Abdulhadi Kamel;
- 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 any other ill-treatment, granted access to his families and lawyers, and any medical treatment he may require.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 MARCH 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-Freij  
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 check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Syrian government besieged eastern Aleppo in July 2016, preventing humanitarian aid from entering the city and subjecting civilians to air strikes and ground attacks. In December 2016, government forces made rapid advances into eastern Aleppo, forcing thousands of civilians to evacuate. Amnesty International called on the Syrian government on 28 November 2016 to refrain from conducting revenge attacks on civilians in eastern Aleppo, given the government's long history of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. The UN on 13 December 2016 reported that scores of civilians had been extrajudicially executed in their homes or at gunpoint in the streets by government forces. By mid- December 2016, a deal had been reached between the Syrian government and non-state armed groups that allowed convoys of buses and cars to evacuate the city. On 19 December 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2328 that calls on the UN to deploy monitors on the ground in eastern Aleppo in order to monitor the evacuation.

The White Helmets (also known as the Syria Civil Defence) are a group of volunteers based in opposition held areas in Syria who work to rescue victims of air and ground attacks.

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