

URGENT ACTION

KURD SUBJECTED TO ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Siveen Juma Kindi, a Kurdish postal worker in Syria, was subjected to enforced disappearance in the northern city of Qamishly, on 13 March 2012. He has not been heard from since then.

Siveen Juma Kindi, who is 28 years old, was on his way to present his documents for a transfer to a post office in Qamishly, where his wife is based, from his previous post in al-Malikiyah, also in northern Syria, near the border with Iraq. According to a local contact, Siveen Juma Kindi spent the morning with his wife and around noon parted from her to go to the post office. Shortly after he had left, relatives tried to contact him on his mobile phone but did not receive a response. They asked at the post office, but were told that he had never arrived there.

According to unofficial sources, Siveen Juma Kindi had been arrested by Military Intelligence agents because he had been seen the previous day at a local protest marking the anniversary of the March 2004 unrests in Qamishly. According to the same sources, he apparently remained in detention in Qamishly for one week and was then moved to al-Hasakah, another town in northern Syria, and from there to Saydnaya Military Prison near Damascus. However, when relatives went to inquire about Siveen Juma Kindi at the prison, they were told that he was not detained there. The same source claimed that Siveen Juma Kindi's ongoing detention may be due to pictures of other protests he attended being found on his mobile phone. The last time the family heard of him unofficially was around September 2013.

The authorities have not revealed any information of Siveen Juma Kindi's arrest and detention and his family have no confirmed information about his fate or whereabouts.

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

- Calling on the Syrian authorities to immediately disclose Siveen Juma Kindi's fate and whereabouts;
- Urging them to ensure that he is allowed immediate contact with his family and lawyers of his choice;
- Urging them to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and has access to any medical attention he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 APRIL 2014 TO:

President

Bashar al-Assad

Fax: +963 11 332 3410 (keep trying)

(If voice answers, say "Fax". Fax is the only reliable communication method; please do not send letters)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Major General Mohamad Ibrahim al-Shaar

Fax: +963 11 311 0554

(If voice answers, say "Fax". Fax is the only reliable communication method; please do not send letters)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Permanent Representative to the UN

Bashar Ja'afari

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Fax: +1 212 983 4439

E-mail: exesec.syria@gmail.com

syrianmission@verizonmail.com

Salutation: Your Excellency

Where appropriate, please also send copies to the Syrian and Russian diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kurds comprise up to 10 per cent of the population of Syria and reside mostly around the city of Aleppo in the north of the country and the al-Jazeera region in the north-east. Amnesty International has documented other cases of Kurdish activists subjected to enforced disappearance, such as activists Shibal Ibrahim and Juwan Abd Rahman Khaled and writer Hussein 'Essou. See *Syria: Torture fears for Kurdish rights activist: Juwan Abd Rahman Khaled*, issued on 4 October 2013 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/055/2013/en>), *Syria: Health Concerns for detained Syrian activist: Shibal Ibrahim*, issued on 24 January 2012 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/007/2012/en>) and *Syria: Detained Kurdish Writer at Risk of torture*, issued on 15 September 2011 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/055/2011/en>).

Shibal Ibrahim was released under a special amnesty issued by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on 29 May 2013. He said that only after his release did he find out that a hearing he had had in September 2012 with a judge from the Anti-Terrorism Court, which according to him only lasted for only a few minutes and was conducted without a lawyer present, was in fact a trial following which he was sentenced without his knowledge to 15 years in prison. Hussein 'Essou and Juwan Abd Rahman Khaled are still detained, in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance.

For an insight into the widespread torture and other ill-treatment in Syria's detention centres, please see *I wanted to die: Syria's torture survivors speak out*, issued in March 2012 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/016/2012/en>). Hundreds have died in the custody of the Syrian security forces since the beginning of the unrest. Amnesty International documented this practice in the report *Deadly detention: Deaths in custody amid popular protest in Syria*, issued in August 2011 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/035/2011/en>).

While the majority of the abuses have been committed by government forces, serious human rights abuses, including war crimes, have been committed by armed opposition groups, including some affiliated to al-Qa'ida and some affiliated to the Free Syria Army, and recent months have seen an escalation in these. Armed opposition groups have increasingly resorted to summary killings of members of the various government armed and security forces, pro-government militias, suspected informers or collaborators, members of rival armed opposition groups and members of minority communities perceived by members of armed opposition groups as loyal to President Bashar al-Assad such as Shi'a or Alawite Muslims. Armed opposition groups have also carried out indiscriminate attacks leading to civilian casualties, used children in hostilities, tortured or otherwise ill-treated captives, issued sectarian threats and carried out attacks against minority communities perceived as pro-government, and abducted and held hostages. See *Syria: Summary killings and other abuses by armed opposition groups*, issued on 14 March 2013 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE24/008/2013/en>) and *Syria: Rule of fear: ISIS abuses in detention in Northern Syria*, issued on 19 December 2013 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE24/063/2013/en>).

Name: Siveen Juma Kindi
Gender m/f: m

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