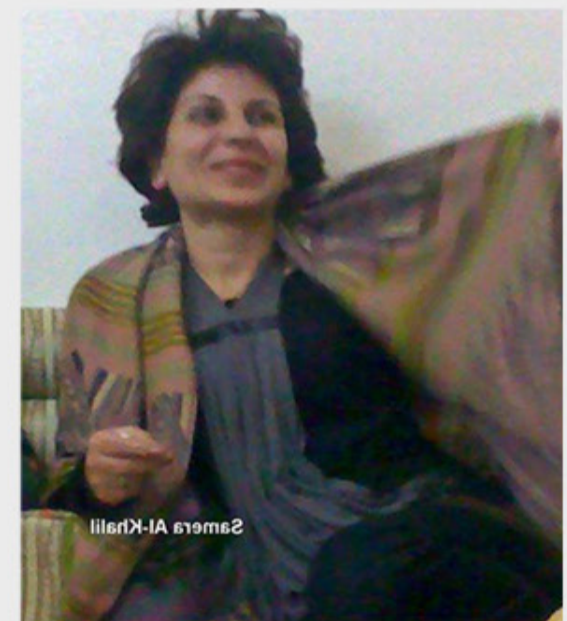


A Statement from the Family
of Lawyer and Human Rights Activist
Razan Zaitouneh



In The Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Most Merciful

In a very nice quote of her [People Want to Overthrow Prisons](#), Razan said:

“Arbitrary arrest is a crime committed every day in Syria, which it became absolutely unacceptable to remain silent about, or suffice ourselves by just condemning it and appealing to stop it because losing our youths and destroying their families cannot be restrained to calls and appeals. Enough is enough. It is over. We would better join those detainees than grieving over them!”

- More than three months have passed since the kidnapping of Razan. It is a bitter sad feeling; a feeling of impotence, which prevents us from doing anything to free her. This long period passed without taking any real actions or carrying out any organized search by the active battalions and forces in control of the region, and without presenting any periodical results on the outcome of “investigations”. Moreover, all appeals and claims to free our four sons: Razan Zaitouneh, Wael Hamada, Nazim Hamad and Samira Khalil were in vain for no actual solution leading to their release has been reached so far.

In a discussion between Razan and a fighter - in one of her articles - he said to her: “He who is not supported by a military force won’t be able to go on. Razan responded confidently, “I have never had a military support since the beginning of the revolution, still I am going on!” The fighter insisted: “YOU won’t go on!”

Actually, he was right. Razan thought that the civilian people would be her support and thus there would be no need for any military force to protect her in a liberated area, which raised a question to the fighting battalions in Douma, “Did you let her down?”

We, the family of Razan Zaitouneh, the human rights activist, the lawyer, the writer and, above all, the human being, issue this statement more than three months after the deliberate kidnapping which no party declared responsible for, or issued any statement or request about, in a clear attempt to buy time and suppress the free voice of our daughter along with her colleagues to force them to stop writing and prevent them their right of freedom of expression.

“Razan was honored on 11th March 2014 by the [World Economic Forum](#) in Switzerland when she was selected as [one of the young global leaders](#) who have committed themselves to make the globe a

better place. [She was one of 199 women from 99 countries](#) around the world who have been awarded for achieving -before they are forty- a success in their countries that inspired those working with them and left an everlasting impact on their societies. We -Razan's family- pay tribute to the donor's for honoring our daughter, which has an important implication of the symbolic role of Razan in the revolution and the freedom of the country.

Recently, many demonstrations around the world came out in more than one occasion raising pictures of Razan with words expressing solidarity with her, as well as with Wael, Nazim and Samira. Moreover, many international humanitarian and human rights organizations and important political figures issued statements denouncing the kidnapping. We are thankful for all their sympathy, yet, despite all that, we have not got any results to help us until now although some formal international bodies confirmed their safety. We do appreciate the effort made by everyone but we are surprised that these bodies offering us with these assurances are neither taking actions to release them nor providing information on the place of the kidnappers!!

So we Razan Zaitouneh's family appeal to everyone in all areas of Gouta, particularly in Douma, to help us solve this puzzle and find an immediate solution for the release of the kidnapped. We, as well, call on all parents in Gouta to provide us with any information that might help. We call on every father and mother who can feel what we feel. There is no justification for kidnapping our sons and or for the continued suffering of their parents. It is enough that the father of activist Wael Hamada – Razan's spouse- died with the bitterness of not being able to see his son or know his fate.

We also call on Zahran Aloush, the Supreme Commander of the Army of Islam, the largest faction in Eastern Gouta, to issue a statement by which he clarifies his "point of view" about not searching for our daughter till now and not providing any help for us doing so. We hold him fully responsible in case any thing distasteful happens to her or to any of her companions because the kidnapping took place in the area under his authority. Furthermore, we appeal to the whole world to put pressure on the various factions of all affiliations to help us find our daughter and her colleagues.

Best regards,

Razan Zaitouneh's Famil

April 2014

Contact us: Freerazanz@gmail.com



Violations Documentation
Center in Syria