

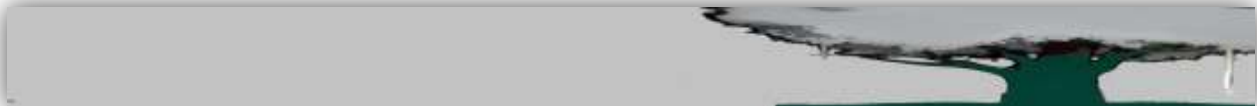
A Third Press Statement on the Kidnapping of Lawyer and Prominent Activist Razan Zeitouneh and Her Colleagues.

More than a month passed into the abduction of the most prominent figure of the Syrian Revolution. On **9-12-2013**, an "unknown" armed group broke into the office of the [Violation Documentation Center \(VDC\)](#) and the local development and small projects support (**LDSPS**) in Douma in the "Liberated" Eastern Gouta and kidnapped the Head of the center activist Razan Zeitouneh , activist and Razan's spouse Wael Hamadeh, activist Samira Khalil and activist and Lawyer Nazim Hamadi.

In light of this complete incompetence on the part of the fighting brigades and battalions in revealing the circumstances of the crime and discovering the identity of the kidnappers, it becomes necessary for **VDC** to state some facts in this regard:

First: two months before the kidnapping, **Razan Zeitouna** received serious threats from a "well-known" fighting battalion in Gouta telling her to leave the area in no more than three days.

Second: during the month that followed the kidnapping, some battalions tried to escape their legal and moral responsibilities in tracking the perpetrators, bringing them to justice and releasing the kidnapped to such an extent that some battalions have not turned a hair.



Third: the Violation documentation Center in Syria considers this delay in discovering the identity of the kidnappers a serious indicator that puts the credibility of all battalions to the test after all "claimed their innocence" from the incident and stressed their willingness and readiness to provide the most possible help and contribution.

Fourth: we re-call on all the fighting brigades and battalions in Eastern Gouta , especially in Douma, on the top of which is Islam Army o shoulder their legal and moral responsibilities of protecting the civilians and activists- including the center's staff- in the areas under their control. We also appeal to them to intensify and unite their efforts to look for the criminals and bring them to justice as soon as possible because safeguarding the civilians is one of the most sublime goals of the revolution of the Syrian people against their tyrannies.

Fifth: VDC and LDSPS stress the continuity of their work in Syria in general and Douma in particular. And reiterates that the kidnappers have failed to mute the human rights and civil voice in Syria which exerts all efforts possible to document human rights violations and provide aid for the civilians in the liberated areas.

Sixth: the center is prosecuting and filing a legal action against the suspect kidnappers in the neighboring countries, and through the provisional legal authorities inside Syria. It also confirms that the kidnappers will be put to trial sooner or later.

Violation Documentation Center in Syria

Local Development and Small Projects Support Office

