



## Written contributions to the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances

- Najla Fadhel, Founder and active member of the Abductees' Mothers Association.....1  
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### ***Najla Fadhel, Founder and active member of the Abductees' Mothers Association (Yemen)***

*English version hereafter*

في العام 2016 تأسست رابطة أمهات المختطفين وهي منظمة نسوية تشكلت من مدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان وأمهات وزوجات المعتقلين، وكان أحد أسباب إنشاء هذه المنظمة هو المساهمة في توفير الحماية لقربيات المعتقلين تعسفاً، والمختطفين قسراً، حيث كن يتعرضن للابتزاز والتحرش من قبل القائمين على أماكن الاحتجاز.

عملنا في رابطة أمهات المختطفين على رصد وتوثيق حالات الاعتقال التعسفي والاختفاء القسري ورفعها للجهات المعنية، وبناء ذاكرة حقوقية تحفظ للضحايا حقهم في المساءلة والإنصاف في مرحلة ما بعد الحرب .

كما قمنا في رابطة أمهات المختطفين بإيصال صوت الضحايا إلى المحافل الوطنية والدولية، والتواصل المستمر مع أصحاب القرار والوساطات المحلية ونتج عن ذلك الإفراج عن مئات المحتجزين، وبعض المحتجزات

كما عملنا في الرابطة على تقديم الدعم النفسي الاجتماعي للناجين والناجيات من الاعتقال ولذوي الضحايا وخاصة من النساء والأطفال وكانت لهم الملاذ الآمن الذي يلجأون إليه.

وفي مجتمع محافظ شديد الانغلاق كالمجتمع اليمني واجهنا نحن المدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان الكثير من التحديات عند إنشائها لهذه الرابطة كان أبرزها القيود الأمنية والمجتمعية المفروضة على النساء في اليمن، إضافة إلى تعرضنا للاستهداف و التهديد بالاعتقال والاختفاء القسري، وبرغم حملات التضليل الإعلامي التي تستهدف المدافعين والمدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان إلا أن الرابطة استطاعت تجاوز ذلك وبناء تحالفات مع شركاء محليين ودوليين ساهموا في إيصال أصوات النساء اليمنيات الى العالم .

لقد استفدنا نحن في رابطة أمهات المختطفين في اليمن من لقاءنا بمجموعة فذة من مدافعات عن حقوق الإنسان من العراق وسوريا ولبنان والجزائر وساعدتنا هذه اللقاءات في اكتساب بعض الخبرات في كيفية التأثير على السياسات، كالتجارب الملهمة للجنة أهالي المفقودين في لبنان لإصدار القانون 105 الخاص بالمفقودين والمختطفين قسراً وأيضاً تجربة روابط الضحايا في سوريا في تأسيس ميثاق الحقيقة والعدالة والذي يدعو إلى إنشاء آلية دولية لكشف مصير المختطفين/ ات قسراً في سوريا.

تعرفنا أيضاً على جهود المنظمات العراقية في توثيق حالات المفقودين والمختطفين قسراً و جهود البحث عن المقابر الجماعية وآلية التعرف على الرفات، وكان لتجربة روابط الضحايا في الجزائر في تقديم الدعم النفسي والتعامل الواعي مع المتعرضين للصدمات النفسية من الناجين أو من ذوي الضحايا فائدة كبيرة في الاطلاع عليها وتطبيقها لدينا في رابطة أمهات المختطفين .

كما مثل استخدام الفن والسرد الأدبي لعرض قضايا الاختفاء القسري تجربة جديدة بالاحتذاء بها.

على الرغم من أن لكل دولة من هذه الدول سياقاتها القانونية والسياسية والاجتماعية، الخاصة بها فإننا أخذنا هذه الفروق بعين الاعتبار لضمان فعالية الجهود وتوحيدها

ويمكن أن يكون للعمل ضمن الأطر الدولية، مثل الأمم المتحدة والمحاكم الدولية، دور محوري في دعم المطالب الحقوقية ومنحها شرعية قانونية أوسع.



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لقد أتاح لنا التواصل مع المنظمات فرص اكتساب الخبرات واقتباس الأفكار الإبداعية في حملات المناصرة، ولقد لمسنا أثر ذلك في تعزيز التضامن وتحسين فرص المناصرة لقضايانا المشتركة التي تدور حول الاختفاء القسري والاعتقال التعسفي والآثار الناتجة عن ذلك على الضحايا.

في الختام أود أن أتقدم بالشكر لكل من ساهم في عقد المؤتمر العالمي الأول للاختفاء القسري آمليين أن تكون هذه هي الخطوة دافعا للتنسيق والتشبيك بين منظمات المجتمع المدني والمنظمات الدولية العاملة في مجال حقوق الإنسان.

In 2016, the Abductees' Mothers Association was established, a feminist organization formed by women human rights defenders and mothers and wives of detainees. One of the reasons for establishing this organization was to contribute to providing protection for the relatives of arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared persons, as they were subjected to extortion and harassment by those in charge of places of detention.

We work in the Abductees' Mothers Association to monitor and document cases of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance and submit them to the concerned authorities, and to build a human rights memory that preserves the victims' rights to accountability and justice in the post-war period.

The Abductees' Mothers Association also carries the voices of the victims to national and international forums, and communicates with decision-makers and local mediators, which has resulted in the release of hundreds of detainees, including some female detainees.

We also work to provide psychosocial support to survivors of detention and families of victims, especially women and children – and a safe haven for them to turn to.

In a very closed and conservative society like Yemeni society, we, as women human rights defenders, faced many challenges when we established this association, most notably the security and societal restrictions imposed on women in Yemen. We were also targeted and threatened with arrest and enforced disappearance. Despite the media disinformation campaigns targeting human rights defenders, the association was able to overcome this and build alliances with local and international partners who contributed to bringing the voices of Yemeni women to the world .

We in the Abductees' Mothers Association in Yemen benefited from meeting with women human rights defenders from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Algeria. These meetings helped us gain some experience in how to influence policies, such as the inspiring experiences of the Committee of Families of the Missing in Lebanon to pass Law 105 on the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared and the experience of victims' associations in Syria in establishing the Truth and Justice Charter, which calls for the establishment of an international mechanism to reveal the fate of the forcibly disappeared in Syria. We also learned about the efforts of Iraqi organizations in documenting the cases of missing and forcibly disappeared persons, the efforts in the search for mass graves and the establishment of a mechanism for identifying remains. The experience of victims' associations in Algeria in providing psychological support and dealing with traumatized survivors or victims' families was of great benefit to us in the Abductees' Mothers Association, especially on how to apply it to our work and context.

The use of art and literary narratives to present cases of enforced disappearance is also an experience worthy of emulation.



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Although each of these countries has its own legal, political, and social contexts, we have taken these differences into account to ensure that efforts are effective and unified.

Working within international frameworks, such as the United Nations and international courts, can play a pivotal role in supporting human rights claims and giving them broader legal legitimacy.

Communicating with organizations has allowed us to gain experience and creative ideas in advocacy campaigns, and we have seen the impact of this in strengthening solidarity and improving advocacy opportunities for our common issues revolving around enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention, as well as the resulting effects on victims.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the first World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, hoping that this step will be a catalyst for coordination and networking between civil society organizations and international organizations working in the field of human rights.



## ***Association Barathi – Centre culturel franco-tamoul***

We, ASSOCIATION BHARATHI CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-TAMOUL, with the relatives of those forcibly disappeared in the North and East of Sri Lanka request you to stand in solidarity with those who have been subjected to the anguish of separation from their families and friends.

According to Bishop Rayappu Joseph of the Mannar Diocese, during the final phases of Sri Lanka's genocidal war, which culminated in Mullivaikkal, 146,679 Tamils went unaccounted for. The number of forcibly disappeared individuals is estimated at 50,000, including over 21,000 who were handed over to Sri Lankan security forces by their relatives but remain missing. Enforced disappearances were employed by Sri Lanka as a deliberate tactic in its genocidal campaign against the Tamil people, contributing significantly to their systematic destruction.

We call for an end to the repression, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation against protestors advocating for education rights and peacefully expressing their dissent to government policy.

We urge the Sri Lankan authorities to:

- Release all human rights defenders and activists currently in jail; Respect the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, including to participate in public protests;
- Prevent further intimidation and arbitrary arrest of activists and protesters, who are at particular risk of arrest;
- Secure the right to protest of all Tamils in North and East of Sri Lanka and cease reprisals against those expressing peaceful dissent against the government and promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

We call upon United Nations member States and other affiliated UN agencies to adopt, as a matter of utmost urgency, the following measures:

- (a) Recognize the genocide resolution passed unanimously in the Northern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka on 10th February, 2015.
- (b) Direct appropriate measures at the International Criminal Court outlining that the affected Tamil people have no faith in any domestic commission or inquiry.

We call upon United Nations Human Rights Council Members to have a new Resolution under Agenda 4 to appoint a special Rapporteur to monitor and investigate ongoing human rights violations and repression against the Tamil.

- (a) Monitor and investigate human rights violations, transmits urgent appeals and letters to Sri Lanka on alleged violations of human rights;
- (b) Undertake country visit to Sri Lanka and to the region and engage with relevant stakeholders;



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- (c) Submit reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the North and East of Sri Lanka; and
- (d) Engage publicly on issues of concern, including through press releases.