



MISSING



TESTIMONIES OF SYRIAN WOMEN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

After an eight-year revolt against the Syrian Regime of Bashar Assad, a secret system of arbitrary arrests and abuse has been developed, sending hundreds of thousands into prisons. Nearly 128,000 Syrians have disappeared and are presumed to be either dead or still in custody.

As a result, millions of relatives of the missing detainees remain living in social and psychological limbo. Amongst those detainees are political and civil rights women activists, the majority of whom were used as a tool of war to subjugate them. Often raped, they suffered physical, sexual and psychological violence and abuse. They were ostracized by their own families and deprived of their children.

This side event aims to draw attention to the dire situation of detainees, missing persons and their families and relatives in Syria, and in particular to the women amongst them, who suffer the most grievous violations and abuse.

Friday, 28 June 2019

11:30 - 13:00

Palais des Nations, Room VIII

Opening Remarks:

Ambassador **Walter Stevens**

Head of the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva

Introduction:

Roger D. Carstens

United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for
Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Moderator:

Meskerem Geset Techane

Chair of the Working Group for Discrimination against Women

Speakers:

Yasmeen Benshi is an activist and a human rights defender from Latakia and currently the Executive Director of Yasmeen Al Horyia Human Rights and Development, established 2016 in Turkey by a group of jurists and activists who survived prison. She spent a year in prison where she was subjected to torture.

Sema Nassar is a human rights defender, working on documenting violence against women, arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance in Syria. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of "Ummamu for Justice and Human Rights", and co-founder of the "WE" network, a framework to create a safe environment for WHRD in the MENA region.

Yasmeen Mohammed is a Syrian Kurdish activist from Afrin. She was detained in 2013 after a peaceful demonstration. She is currently a political refugee in Germany.

Dania Yacoub is a PhD candidate and a former political detainee. She is currently a refugee in Hamburg and Director of the Women and Children Association "Nastatiaa".

English/Arabic interpretation will be provided. // Light refreshments will be served prior to the event.