

Subject: Call to free Syrian journalist held by Syria Democratic Forces (SDF)
Brussels, August 10, 2021

To: Ilham Ahmed, President of the Executive Committee of the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC)

Dear madam president,

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is the global organisation representing 170 journalists' unions and over 600 000 journalists around the world.

I am writing to you on behalf of the IFJ seeking your support to free our colleague Mohammed Alsagheer, currently held by SDF at Ghwairan military prison, in Hasakah. He was arrested in June 2019 while working on a media report, his family and colleagues were unable to contact him since.

The IFJ leadership are all shocked to hear the news about the very serious mental and physical state of our colleague caused by his imprisonment and his suffering from multiple strokes while in jail. We understand that he has been tried in a military court without access to a lawyer or legal support. That he was found guilty of threatening the security of North and East Autonomous Region of Syria, he was found guilty and sentenced to 25 years in jail.

The IFJ find the accusation against Alsagheer implausible. He is a well know journalist and frequently appeared on Al-Ikhbariya screen reporting on the daily life of people living in the region and the economic and security hardships facing the people.

Our colleague is facing an immense suffering in his jail, and without adequate health and family support his days are numbered. We call on you as the president of the SDC's Executive Committee and on the SDF to to release our colleague so he can spend his remaining days with his wife, daughter, and son.

Respectfully yours,



Anthony Bellanger
General Secretary
International Federation of Journalists

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