

**Subject: Call to free Syrian journalist held by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**

Brussels, 9 December, 2021

**To: Ms. Amina Omar, Co-chair, Syrian Democratic Council (SDC)  
Mr. Riad Drar, Co-chair, Syrian Democratic Council (SDC)**

**Dear Madam and Sir,**

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is the global organisation representing 190 journalists' unions and associations and more than 600 000 journalists around the world.

I am writing to you on behalf of the IFJ seeking your support to free our colleague Syrian journalist 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 then until August this year.

The IFJ is shocked to hear the news about the very serious mental and physical state of our colleague caused by his imprisonment and the ill-treatment he has faced since his arrest. He has suffered from multiple strokes while in jail which have severely affected his physical and mental ability to take care of himself.

We understand that he has been tried in a military court without access to a lawyer or legal support, where he was convicted of undermining the security of North and East Autonomous Region of Syria, and was sentenced to 25 years in jail.

The IFJ finds these accusations against Alsagheer implausible. He is a well-known journalist and frequently appeared on screen on Al-Ikhbariya reporting on the daily life of people living in the region and the economic and security hardships facing the people. His trial in a military court lacked the basic requirements of a fair trial, which is a fundamental human right.

Our colleague is facing immense suffering in jail, and without adequate health and family support we fear for his life. We call on you as the joint chairs of the SDC to use the power of your office for the SDF to release our colleague, so he can receive the medication he needs and the care of his family.

Respectfully yours,