



INVITATION

Accountability for Torture in Syria – Norway’s Role in the Struggle against Impunity

12 November 2019, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
at **Red Cross Conference Center, Hausmannsgate 7, Oslo** (Norway)

Torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions of political opponents, journalists, and other civilians are only some of the grave human rights violations committed by all parties throughout the Syrian war. These grave crimes widely go unpunished in Syria. Therefore, survivors and witnesses, their family members as well as Syrian and international human rights organizations have been documenting the crimes in order to bring those responsible to justice outside Syria – for example by using legal means in Europe.

Several European states opened criminal investigations to hold those accountable who have committed international crimes. As a result, perpetrators from different parties to the conflict were convicted. In Norway, this could be made possible through the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows Norwegian authorities to investigate and conduct judicial proceedings in relation to international crimes. In other European countries such as Germany and France, [criminal complaints have contributed to arrest warrants](#) against key figures within Assad’s torture system.

We would like to discuss which role Norway can play in the international efforts to hold to account those responsible for the crimes committed in Syria, and hear perspectives of our distinguished speakers:

Syrian torture survivors and human rights activists, and **Michelle Jarvis**, Deputy Head of the [International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism](#) (IIIM) for Syria; **Anwar al-Bunni**, Executive Director of the [Syrian Center for Legal Research and Studies](#) (SCLRS), **Ibrahim al-Kasem**, Director of the [Caesar Files Group](#), **Almoutassim al-Kilani**, Litigation Manager at the [Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression](#) (SCM); **Une Bastholm**, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, [The Green Party](#); **Gunnar Ekeløve-Slydal**, Deputy Secretary General, [Norwegian Helsinki Committee](#) (NHC); **Sofie A. E. Høgestøl**, Associate Professor (*tbc*), [University of Oslo](#) (UiO) and **Patrick Kroker**, Head of Syria-Project, [European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights](#) (ECCHR). **Lotte Leicht**, EU-Director, [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) will moderate the event.

The event will take place in English and Arabic with simultaneous translation.

We kindly ask you to register [here](#)



PROGRAM

- 6:00pm – 6:15pm: Reception with drinks and snacks
- 6:15pm – 6:35pm: *Legal action in the Norwegian and European context*
Gunnar Ekeløve-Slydal, NHC
Une Bastholm, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, The Green Party
Anwar al-Bunni, SCLRS
- 6:35pm – 7:00pm: *Experiences from Syria:*
Syrian torture survivors and human rights activists in conversation with **Ibrahim al-Kasem**, CFG
- 7:00pm – 7:45pm: *The struggle against impunity in Syria, the role of Norway and other jurisdictions*
Michelle Jarvis, IHIM
Almoutassim al-Kilani, SCM
Sofie A. E. Høgestøl, UiO (*tbc*)
Patrick Kroker, ECCHR
Moderator: **Lotte Leicht**, HRW

This event is organized by [Norwegian Helsinki Committeeé \(NHC\)](#) and the [European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights \(ECCHR\)](#).

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