

SOLIDA / European Parliament / NYTimes article

Date: Wed, 6 Apr 2005 07:08:42 +0100

(le communiqué en français suit, ainsi qu'un article du New York Times)(see also New York Times article below)

SOLIDA Testimony at the European Parliament The Practice of Enforced Disappearance by Syria: A Crime Against HumanityThe SOLIDA movement (Support **SOLIDA / European Parliament / NYTimes article**

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SOLIDA Testimony at the European Parliament The Practice of Enforced Disappearance by Syria: A Crime Against HumanityThe SOLIDA forLebaneseDetainedArbitrarily) participated on March 31, 2005 at a hearing held by the sub-Committee on human rights of the European Parliament under the chairmanship of European MP Mrs. Hélène Flautre.

SOLIDA Vice-President Wadih Al-Asmar was a joint witness alongside Mr. Niel Sammonds, representative of Amnesty International, Mr. Aktham Naissé, of CDF (Syrian human rights defense organization), and Professor Rudolph El-Kareh.

Several MPs from various political tendencies attended the hearing in the presence of Mrs. Véronique de Keyser, parliamentary rapporteur on the Association Agreement between the EU and Syria, and representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and the missions of Lebanon and Syria at the European Union.

Wadih Al-Asmar emphasized the systematic nature of the Syrian regime's practice of enforced disappearance, either in Lebanon or inside Syria, which shows that it is not merely a simple breach of human rights but truly constitutes a crime against humanity as defined by the Statute of Rome creating the International Criminal Court. Indeed, Article 7 of the Statute specifies that "Enforced Disappearances " constitute a crime against humanity when they are committed " as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack. " Moreover, the same Article states that "by 'enforced disappearance of persons' is meant the arrest, detention or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing them from the protection of the law for a prolonged period of time. "" These two definitions apply to the letter to the case of the enforced disappearances as practiced by Syria, " concluded Wadih Al-Asmar before urging the European Parliament to take the following measures :

1. Demand the implementation of the March 1998 resolution of the European Parliament on the Lebanese detainees in Syria
2. Urge member States to demand a Security Council resolution referring the matter to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court
3. Demand that member States place the issue of the Lebanese detainees secretly held in Syria on the agenda of all their meetings with Syrian officials

4. Request that the European Commission demands a concrete and humanitarian gesture by the Syrian government on this issue as a precondition

And here therefore we have a life testimony who was lately released from detention of the Syrian prisons Mr. Ali Abou dehn who can reveal and talk about his ordeal experiment in the Syrian prisons, he was detained for full 13years in the most and worst prison in the world (Tadmur) .moreover he left many Lebanese detainees after him in that dammed prison.