

**To the Attentions:
Mrs Maria Andrea Echazu
Human Rights Officer
United Nations
High Commissioner For Human Rights**

Complaint form

I would like to indicate that I am invoking all the three procedures:

- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention Against Torture, and
- International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Date: 15/8/2005

I- Information on the complainant:

Name: Mella First Name: Jawad

Nationality: British Date and place of birth: 9/7/1946, Damascus, Syria

Address of correspondence on this complaint: Dr. Jawad Mella,
President of Western Kurdistan Government in Exile: WKA, Palingswick
House, 241 King Street, London W6 9LP, UK
Tel: 0044208748 7874, Fax: 0208741 6436, Mobile:00447768 266005
E.mail: wka@knc.org.uk

I submit the communication on behalf of the family of Sheikh Muhammad

Ma'ashuq Khaznawi

Nationality: Syrian (Kurd) Date and place of birth: 25/01/1958 Village
of Tal Maarouf

Kidnapped on 10 May 2005 and tortured to death by the Syrian regime's
Security forces.

I am authorized by the Kurdish people and including the family of Sheikh
Khaznawi as a elected president of the Western Kurdistan Government in
Exile (for the Syrian Kurds) to bring the complaint.

II- Name of the state concerned: Syria

Articles violated:

Articles 6 to 27 of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Articles 1 to 16 of the Convention Against Torture. Articles 1 to 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

III- Any steps to obtain redress within the state of Syria would not be effective because this crime has been committed by the state authorities themselves and there is no chance for any independent enquiry into the matter.

IV- Facts of the complaint:

Sheikh Muhammad Ma'shuq Khaznawi was an outspoken member of the Kurdish community who practised as an imam in the city of Qamishli in north-eastern Syria. He was a critic of violence and terrorism and recently called for reforms in Syria and for more dialogue between religious groups. In February and March 2005 he travelled to Norway, Brussels, and Germany, apparently in connection with his work on building relations between the EU and Kurdish community.

Sheikh Muhammad Ma'ashuq Khaznawi "disappeared" after leaving the Centre for Islamic Studies in Damascus on 10 May 2005. The Syrian authorities denied that they were holding him but then handed over his body to his family on 30 May 2005. It has been taken back to Qamishli to be buried. The family and body were accompanied by ten Military Intelligence cars on the journey between Damascus and Qamishli. There were clear signs of systematic torture on his body including pulling out the hair from his beard and his face skin and other parts of his body.

Since the Kurdish uprising 12 March 2004 in Syria; about 100 persons have been shoot and killed in the streets by the Syrian regime and more than 9000 persons have been arrested and dozens of them have been killed inside the prisons as what happened to Mr Khaznawi by the Syrian authorities.

Please contact me if you have any question.
I am looking forward to hear from you soon.

Dr. Jawad Mella
President
Western Kurdistan Government in Exile



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Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE:
YOUR COMMUNICATION

16 June 2005

Dear Mr. Mella,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated on 09 June 2005.

I should like to inform you about the 1503 procedure which is a complaints (communications) procedure dealing with alleged gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms committed by any Member State of the United Nations. The basic resolution governing the procedure is Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/3 (see enclosed). Please find also attached a booklet about the complaint procedures serviced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In brief, when the 1503 procedure is followed, a copy of the communication is sent to the authorities of the country concerned, and a summary of its contents is submitted in confidence to the Working Group on Communications. Because of the confidentiality of the procedure, the outcome of the examination of the communications by the Commission and the Working Groups established under the procedure will not be communicated to the authors.

There are no rules as to the form and contents of a communication. The communications received are screened by the Secretariat and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications. For the sake of clarity, it is advisable to present a clear statement of the claims and to substantiate each claim with relevant facts/examples. Authors should inform us whether or not their names may be divulged.

Communications for the 1503 procedure should be addressed to:

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1503 procedure, Treaties and Commission Branch, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Communications may also be sent by e-mail. The postal address of the organization or the individual submitting the complaint should, nonetheless, be given.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AA', written over a horizontal line.

Maria Andrea Echazú
Human Rights Officer

Mr. Jawad Mella
Western Kurdistan Government In Exile
WKA, Palingswick House,
241 King Street,
London W6 9LP
UK