

## How to Get Involved in SJAC's Missing Persons Program

SJAC's missing person program seeks to discover the fates of and pursue justice for those kidnapped by ISIS in Northeast Syria through documentation of missing persons and ISIS crimes, investigations of mass graves, and support of family members in their advocacy efforts.

If you have a loved one who was forcibly disappeared by ISIS, SJAC can collect and preserve your loved ones' information for investigations, provide trainings in advocacy and media engagement, provide psychosocial support, and connect you with fellow families of the missing who are working in this area.

Because of the complexity of missing persons' investigations, SJAC anticipates that the search for the missing will take many years. For this reason, SJAC *cannot* provide immediate information regarding the location of missing persons, and does not anticipate being able to do so in the near future. However, SJAC retains contact information for all families providing documentation, and will reach out to families to provide updates promptly when and if investigations yield results. In the meantime, SJAC seeks to continually provide updates on investigations in general, as well as opportunities for involvement.

### Providing Documentation on a Missing Person

SJAC is actively seeking information about those who were kidnapped by ISIS in Northeast Syria. All relevant documentation will be stored in SJAC's secure database and utilized to support investigations into the fates of those missing as well as other relevant justice and accountability efforts. If you choose to participate, SJAC will set up an interview in order to collect basic information on your loved one and the nature of their disappearance. An SJAC documenter will also collect information that could be utilized to identify your loved ones remains in the case that they are deceased. SJAC recognizes that providing such documentation can be particularly upsetting, and family members are welcome to provide interviews that exclude information intended to assist in the identification of remains.

### Advocating for a Missing Person

Many families of those missing in Northeast Syria are working to raise the profile of this issue through participating in media interviews, meetings with policymakers, and public advocacy events. SJAC and its partner the Syria Campaign works with families to provide trainings in media engagement, identify appropriate advocacy opportunities at international platforms, and when possible, provide resources to allow them to travel to advocacy events.

SJAC works with all families who are available and interested in joining advocacy and media trainings. Trainings for families are provided face to face for those who can travel and also available online for families who are unable to travel. Trainings are done in Arabic or with simultaneous translation.

SJAC staff is available to speak to families of the missing to answer any questions, and explain how families can become involved. You can contact SJAC's advocacy adviser at [amers@syriaaccountability.org](mailto:amers@syriaaccountability.org) to learn more.

## Frequently Asked Questions

---

### **What should I expect from SJAC after I talk to you?**

It is important to note that SJAC doesn't have concrete information about the whereabouts of missing persons, however we work on collecting information and place pressure on decision makers to access further information they may have on the missing. In the short-term, SJAC will be able to conduct an interview about your missing loved one, and discuss options for advocacy.

### **I'm Iraqi, but I think my loved one was kidnapped by ISIS and brought to Syria. Should I contact SJAC?**

Yes. SJAC is actively working to document and seek justice for all victims of ISIS in Northeast Syria, no matter their citizenship. An SJAC documenter can interview you to learn about your missing loved one and the nature of their disappearance.

### **I'm Syrian, but I think my kidnapped loved one was brought to Iraq. Should I contact SJAC?**

Yes. While SJAC's current investigation is focused on Northeast Syria, SJAC is ultimately seeking justice for all Syrians, and will share missing persons data relevant to Iraq with UNITAD to support missing persons investigations there.

### **I have already provided a full interview to another organization regarding my missing loved one. Should I contact SJAC?**

SJAC works with a wide variety of partners to ensure that documentation is effectively shared for missing persons investigations. Because completing a missing persons interview can be stressful, SJAC does not conduct interviews with those who have already provided similar documentation. However, you and your family are still welcome to participate in SJAC's efforts to support family advocacy, and can contact us to learn more. If you would like to ensure that SJAC has access to your previous interview, you can contact us and let us know what organization you previously provided information to.