

**Syrian Democratic forces**  
**General Staff**  
**Office of public relations**



قوات سوريا الديمقراطية  
هيئة الأركان  
مكتب العلاقات العامة

Mail: [REDACTED]

[www.sdf-press.com](http://www.sdf-press.com)

Tel: [REDACTED]

20 September 2018  
Mr. Nadim Houry  
Director of Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program  
Human Rights Watch

**Subject: Transfer of Mahmoud Ibrahim Ali Al Nawajha from Northern Syria to Iraq**

Dear Mr. Nadim Houry,

Many Thanks for your message and concern. The Syrian Democratic Forces remain committed to the laws of armed conflict and applicable international legal standards. All those detained by the Syrian Democratic Forces receive humane treatment in accordance with article three of the Geneva Conventions. On that basis, the Syrian Democratic Forces receive sufficient guarantees for ensuring humane treatment for any detainee before his repatriation.

Regarding your specific questions on who repatriated Mr. al-Nuwajha to Iraq, we don't provide information regarding any transfers of specific detainees for operational reasons. As you know, we work with many countries to transfer ISIS foreign fighter who are arrested in Syria and send them back to their countries of origin to be prosecuted.

As for your questions on legal justifications for deporting the detainees to Iraq, the Syrian Democratic Forces suggest that you discuss such concerns and inquiries with Iraqi officials and their government.

We hope that we have provided answers to all your concerns. The potential impact of revealing more information might harm our continued operations to defeat ISIS.

With utmost regards,

Redur Xelil  
Relations Office at the Syrian Democratic Forces

Copied: Dr. Abdel Karim Omar  
Chair of the Foreign Relations Commission in Al-Jazeera Canton