



Press Release

The Forced Deportation of Syrian Refugees from Lebanon

In response to the recurring violations committed by the Lebanese authorities against Syrian refugees, which have reached as far as arrestment and forced deportation of refugees to Syria, and handing over dissident and oppositionary activists to the Syrian regime, a group of Syrian organizations and groups (Start Point, Still There, Syrian Network for Human Rights, Caesar Files Working Group, Syrian Association for Citizen's Dignity, and Adopt a Revolution) has sent a joint letter to the Special Envoy to Syria Mr. Gier Pederson, and to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of: (The United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand).

The joint letter called for an urgent intervention to stop all forced deportations of Syrian refugees, pressure not to hand-over any defector, opposition figure, or civil society activists—who are naturally wanted to the regime, protect the defectors who have been handed over to the Syrian regime, pressure for protecting Syrian refugees who have returned to Syria forcibly or willingly, form investigation committees on the blatant violations committed by the Syrian regime against returning refugees and other Syrian citizens in the so-called “reconciliation” areas, and ensure adherence of signatory countries to the binding international laws and norms on non-refoulement of refugees in the event of possible risk.