

المركز السوري للإعلام و حرية التعبير (1) Mazen Darwish: Released...

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Mazen Darwish: Released from prison

After the arbitrary arrest that lasted three years, five months, and twenty-three days, Mazen Darwish has released from prison today, August 10, 2015. However, he is to attend a court hearing scheduled on the 30th of August.

The Syrian authorities released the journalist and human rights defender, "Mazen Darwish" 23 days late due to the application of the special presidential amnesty issued on July 19, 2015, which was supposed to be inclusive of Darwish. It is important to note that the authorities still refrain from including Darwish's case in the presidential decree issued in June 2014 in accordance to Article No. () of the Terrorism Act promulgated in April 2012 that would provide amnesty from full punishment. The article includes and highlights "the promotion of terrorist acts," which is a charge against Mazen Darwish, winner of the UNESCO Prize (2015), and the "Reporters Without Borders" award (2013).

The "Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression" welcomes the colleague Darwish, and congratulates him for his freedom. We also thank all human rights organizations, lawyers and the defense body, specific individuals and all those who supported the issue of detainees in the center and Mazen Darwish specifically, founder of the Center ever since the raid by the Air Force Intelligence on the headquarters of the center in Damascus on February 16, 2012 until today. We renew our call for the Syrian authorities to immediately release all prisoners of conscience in Syria.

