

Ghazi Aad

Name: **Ghazi Robert Aad**

Date of Birth: **October 1, 1957**

Place of Birth: **Beirut, Lebanon**

Nationality: **Lebanese**

Gender: **Male**

Occupation: **Director and co-founder of SOLIDE** (Support of Lebanese in Detention and Exile), Established in 1990, S.O.L.I.D.E. is a Lebanese organization that works with Lebanese communities in Lebanon and around the world on the cases of Lebanese victims of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and exile.

Education

- MA Studies in Geological Oceanography, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences - College of William and Mary, (1982-83) USA.
- B. Sc. Biology – Chemistry, (1981) American University of Beirut.
- Secondary education, General Secondary Certificate, (1969-1974) Kuwait.

Languages

- Native in Arabic
- Fluent in English
- Good comprehension and reading knowledge of French

Expertise

In my capacity as the director of SOLIDE I have been responsible for:

- The establishment of contacts with prominent local figures, foreign ambassadors in Lebanon, international bodies (U.N., ICRC, EU), and international human rights organizations (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIDH, FEMED, ICTJ, Freedom House).
 - Conduct meetings with international government officials. Some of these meetings include:
 - 1) Meetings in Rome with the Italian Parliament Human Rights Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in March 2007.
 - 2) Meetings in Montreal with members of the Canadian House of Commons in March 2007.
 - 3) Meetings in New York with U.N. officials (el-Akhdar Ibrahim, Terji Rod Larson) in October 2005.
 - 4) Meetings in Washington D.C. with U.S. officials at the State Department in 2005.
 - 5) Meetings in Rome with the Vatican officials in April 2001.
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- 6) Meetings in Brussels with European members of the European Parliament in February 1998 (one of these members is James Moorehouse who wrote the resolution asking Syria to release the Lebanese detainees from Syria).
 - 7) Meetings in Paris with French members of the National Assembly in 1998.
- Presenting papers at academic and other international conferences and events such as:
 - 1) June 2010, Sarajevo, BiH, work visit to ICMP (International Commission on Missing Persons) sponsored by ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice).
 - 2) 12-14 June 2008, Rabat, Morocco, 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Enforced Disappearance.
 - 3) March 2007, Rome, the event “The Lost Children of Lebanon” that was organized by The Geopolitical Middle-East Observatory (OGMO) of Rome in cooperation with SOLIDE.
 - 4) October 2003, Washington D.C., The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies’ conference on Lebanese-Syrian relations at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies SAIS.
 - 5) March 2003, Geneva, the ICRC international conference on ‘The Missing.’
 - 6) March 13-30 2001, New York, the 71st session of the UN Human Rights Committee.
 - 7) February 2000, Paris, the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Enforced Disappearances.
 - 8) January 25 - February 1, 1998, Paris, week of solidarity with the Lebanese detainees in Syrian prisons.
 - Further responsibilities include:
 - 1) Supervise the work strategy and write reports and follow up communiqués on political developments related to our work.
 - 2) Maintain a close working relationship with the UN Human Rights Commission and the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance and both locally and internationally recognized organizations.
 - 3) Provide legal assistance to the victims and their families to press charges against the perpetrators of these violations.
 - 4) Provide psycho-social assistance to the victims of these violations.
 - 5) Civil sit-ins, manifestations and demonstrations. Running the longest open-ended sit-in in the Middle-East. The sit-in that started on the 11th of April 2005 in front of the U.N. House in down-town Beirut has been ongoing for six and a half years and will continue until a national mechanism for the victims of enforced disappearance is established.
 - 6) Give interviews to local and international press such as: al-Nahar, The Daily Star, L’orient le jour, al-Balad (chosen man of the month July 2008), Now Lebanon locally, and The New York Times, Der Spiegel, El Pais, Christian Science Monitor, Middle East Intelligence Bulletin, The National and Corriere Della Sera internationally.
 - 7) Radio and Television appearances include: RLL, Voice of Lebanon, Sawt Al-Mada, Radio Charity, LBC, NTV, OTV and Future locally, CNN, Sky News, CBC, CBN, TF1, RAI, ARTE, Aljazeera, Al-Arabiya, Abu Dhabi, BBC English and Arabic, Bahrain TV, VOA and National Public Radio NPR internationally.
 - 8) Lectures held at the following universities: The Lebanese University, The American University of Beirut, Saint Joseph University, Notre Dame University, AUT, and Lebanese American University.
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