

Commission on Syria

Health in Conflict



Yassin Al-Haj Saleh

Born in Raqqa, Syria, 1961. A political prisoner between 1980 and 1996 for being a member in a communist party opposing the regime of Hafez Assad.

A journalist writing in newspapers and magazines in the Arab World (never in Syria).

The author of 5 books: *From Syria Under Shades: Insights from Within the Black Box* (2009); *The Myths of the Successors: a Critique of Contemporary Islam and a Critique of the Critique* (2011); *Salvation, o Guys: 16 Years in the Syrian Prisons* (2012); and *Walking on One Leg* (2012). It is about Syrian politics, political economy, and Identity; *Culture as Politics: Intellectuals and their Social Responsibility in the time of Monsters* (2016).

The book on Prison was translated into French in 2015: *Recits d'une Syrie Oublie'e*. A compilation of articles in Syria was also translated into French under the Title: *La Question Syrienne* (Acte Sud, 2016). Almost the same articles will appear in English in July 2017.

A translator or co-translator of four books from English into Arabic. Participated in 5 books about Syria or Middle Eastern affairs, issued in Lebanon and Egypt. A founding member of al Jumhuriya group that thinks and writes about Syrian affairs since March 2012: <http://aljumhuriya.net/>

Lived in hiding for two years in Damascus between the end of March 2011 to the beginning of April 2013. And other 6 month between Eastern Ghouta and Raqqa. Won Prince Claus Prize in 2012. Left Syria in October 2013, and lives now in Istanbul. A founding member of Hamish (fringe), the Syrian cultural house in Istanbul:

<http://hamisch.org/>

Appeared in two documentaries: *Journey into memory*, by Hala Mohammad, <http://vimeo.com/46467716>, and *Our terrible country*, by Ali Atassi and Ziad Homsy. The husband of Samira al Khalil, a former political prisoner between 1987 and 1991, who has been abducted and 'disappeared' since December 2013, along with Razan Zeitouna, Wael Hamada, and Nazem Hammadi. The editor of Samira's book: *Diaries of Siege in Douma 2013* (2016).