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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.6.2026)

The EU is closely following developments in north-east Syria, including reports of the disappearance of two journalists in Raqqa. Consular assistance to EU citizens remains an exclusive national competence.

The EU consistently recalls that all parties must respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including the protection of journalists and the prohibition of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance.

The reported disappearance of these two journalists underscores the broader issue of missing persons across Syria, and the need for efficient investigations. The EU calls on the Syrian transitional authorities to conduct prompt, transparent and impartial investigations into all such cases, in cooperation with the National Commission for Missing Persons as well as relevant international mechanisms, such as the International Commission on Missing Persons and the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The EU will continue to advocate for a safe and enabling environment for independent reporting and media in Syria, in line with international standards, and to support efforts that uphold freedom of expression.