

Center for the Victims of Torture

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.cvt.org/what-we-do/survivor-stories/qassem-story>

Campaign and Advocacy

After attending a demonstration in Syria, Qassem was imprisoned and tortured.

Qassem* was tortured for 13 days straight. He confessed to the torturers that he had attended a demonstration in the early days of the revolution in Syria, thinking that would end the torture. It did not. He was put in a tire and beaten and electrocuted. Qassem told CVT he considered himself fortunate because only one of his fingernails was removed; many of his fellow prisoners had all of their nails removed.

Transferred to a local prison in Homs, Qassem spent six months suffering sexual and psychological humiliation, being stripped naked and forced eat on his knees with his hands behind his back. After languishing for months, Qassem was finally released when a prison official recognized him and alerted his family. The judge who finally released him told him to leave Syria immediately. Qassem and his family fled, seeking refuge in Jordan.

Qassem came to CVT seeking rehabilitative care for the problems he was having as a result of his torture. He went through the healing cycle and then decided he wanted to share his story. Qassem did not want others to have to suffer what he had survived.

**Name and some details have been changed for safety and to protect confidentiality.*

Photo credit: Dreamstime.

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