

## 2014 World Cup and Syrian Athletes

More than 217 Syrian athletes were killed and 34 are under arrest.

### Introduction :

The Syrian regime's torturing machine doesn't distinguish between athletes, journalists, workers, artists as it threatens anyone who stands up against the Syrian regime. In light of the 2014 World Cup we are highlighting the suffering of the Syrian athletes. There are 34 athletes under arrest suffering from various methods of torture used inside the Syrian regime detention centers which caused disabilities for many of them and destroyed their athletic careers. Additionally, since the beginning of the Syrian revolution, six athletes have died under torture inside the detention centers while the rest were arbitrarily trialed as some of them were sentenced to 15 years in prison like what happened to weightlifting champion Ayham Jomaa, 114 Syrian athletes were extrajudicially killed, and 345 athletes at least had their limbs amputated because of the indiscriminate shelling according to SNHR archive.

### Athlete victims :

For Syrian athletes, 2012 was the most brutal year as new Syrian athlete victims were documented almost every month. The first Syrian athlete victim was "Yaman Ibrahim" who was playing for Ash-Shurta SC and the Syrian youth national team, Yaman was killed on 22 April, 2012 in Damascus. SNHR documented the killing of 217 Syrian athletes using various ways ranging from live bullets to Scuda missiles, barrel bombs, and torture. As an example we will list some of the most prominent Syrian athletes killed by the Syrian government Ahmad Atef Ar-Raja Al-Msalma, he was a handball who played for Ash-Shu'la youth club, he was killed on 21 February, 2011 by a MiG shelling on Tareaq As-Sad neighborhood in Daraa.

### Uqba Ashour :

from Der Ezzor, he was a footballer who played for Al-Fetwa club. He was shot while participating in a demonstration on 2 March, 2012.

### Abdulahakim Qarqouz :

he was a para table tennis champion from Al-Qusayr – Homs countryside. He died under torture inside the Air Intelligence branch in Damascus. His family received his body on 6 March, 2013 after he had been imprisoned for about three months.

### Subhi Sa'dou Al-Abed :

he was a world wrestling champion who won multiple international championships. He was killed by a sniper at Ad-Dablan Street in Homs on 29 March, 2013.



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**Ahmad Malandi :**

a 24-year-old chess champion who participated in international chess games, he was studying law at Aleppo University. He was killed by the indiscriminate shelling on Idlib on 16 April, 2012.

**Marwan Arafat As-Salhiya :**

from Damascus, he is a former head of the football federation and a former director of the physical education institute in Damascus. He was killed by the indiscriminate shelling of the Syrian regime warplanes specifically in front of Al-Kuwyat hotel on the highway that connects Sayda Bridge and Um Al-Maydaien-At-Tayba intersection on 13 June, 2012.

**Rani Khriet :**

a three-time karate champion, he was a holder of the black belt. He was executed by the Syrian regime in Al-Qosour neighborhood – Der Ezzor on 28 September, 2012 after his brother Soumar and his father Ibrahim Khriet, a prominent writer and novelist, were executed on the same day, Rani was a member of the Arab Federation of Kickboxing and was working as a teacher at As-Samurai fighting club which he owned.



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**Tamam Abdulhaq Za'rour :**

from Al-Khaldiya neighborhood – Homs, he was a footballer who played for Al-Karma. He was killed along with his wife and son by the indiscriminate shelling on 20 April, 2012.

**Hayyan Rami Al-Mnient Ash-Shami :**

from Al-Bayyad neighborhood in Hama, he was an international football referee and had three sons and three daughters. He was field-executed at a military checkpoint on Ma'rat An-Nu'man road on 18 December, 2012.



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**Mohammad Tamam Al-Qaq:**

born in 1975 from Al-Insha'at neighborhood in Homs, he was a footballer who played for Al-Wathba and had three kids. He was killed by Syrian regime militias (Shabiha) after he was kidnapped in front of his house on 20 January, 2013.

**Abdulmajid At-Trifi :**

he was a prominent athletic player and holder of the local record in long jump for 17 years. He was shot by a sniper in Daraa on 27 February, 2014. At-Trifi chaired Ash-Shu'la club and the general sports federation branch in Daraa on multiple occasions.

The former Syrian wrestling champion Mohammad As-Sakket. He was killed along with all of his family members by a barrel bomb that fell on his house in Bab Al-Hadid neighborhood in Aleppo on 17 April, 2014.

**Nawras Rahab Abdulwahed :**

a prominent badminton player who played for Ash-Shurta club and the national team, he also was Syria’s champion in the game in addition to winning the Arab Championship. He was kidnapped by militias in Damascus and on 22 April, 2014 he was found dead in one of Damascus neighborhoods.

Ali Nasser, he was a footballer who played for Al-Qerdaha club in Latakia. He was killed by the indiscriminate shooting of security forces during the celebrations that were held when Al-Assad won the presidential elections.

**Most prominent athlete prisoners :**

Government forces have arrested no less than 185 Syrian athletes who all contributed to the Syrian revolution through its various fields such as the aiding, media, and even military fields. Many of those athletes were arrested from their homes, or from their clubs in front of their associates for their opposed political positions or even just for refusing to show their support for Bashar Al-Assad.

To this moment, no less than 47 Syrian athletes, who were active in various sporting fields, are being imprisoned and suffering, like any other prisoners, from the different methods of torture. We, in SNHR, are trying to seize 2014 World Cup to demand their release or at least press on the Syrian regime to reveal their fate.



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**The following are some of the most prominent athlete prisoners:**

**Dr. Raniya Mohammad Al-Abbasi :**

a Syrian and Arabic chess champion. She was arrested along with his husband Abdurrahman Yassin and her six kids (Dima 14-year-old, Intisar 11-year-old, Najah nine-year-old, Alaa eight-year-old, Ahmad eight-year-old and Lyan one and a half-year-old.) after the Syrian security broken into her house in Damma neighborhood – Damascus on 11 March, 2013.

Raniya is 44-year-old woman from Damascus. She won the Syrian chess tournament several times and also participated in the Arab tournament for women and the Mediterranean games.

**Shadi Al-Ali :**

an international karate champion, he participated in the Arab tournament in

2006 and won the bronze medal. He was arrested by the Syrian regime in Damascus on 26 June, 2012.

**Wael Kani :**

a basketball player who played for Al-Jaish. He was arrested on September, 2012 in Damascus.

**Abdullah Ash-Shebli :**

a basketball player who played for Al-Wathba, he was arrested by a political security patrol after they broke into his house in Al-Insha'at neighborhood in Homs on 12 December, 2012.

**Ayham Jomaa :**

Syria's weightlifting champion, he is from Ar-Rastan – Homs. He was arrested at the end of 2012 and was transferred to Sydnaya prison and then Homs Central Prison. We received news that he has been torture brutally. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

**Tareq Abdulhaq :**

a footballer who played for Tishreen and the Syrian national team. He was arrested by the Syrian regime on 25 December, 2012. His fate is completely unknown to this moment.

**Abdulqader Mjarmash :**

a 24-year-old footballer who played for the Syrian national team. He was participating in a training camp in Egypt as the team was preparing for the West Asian Football Federation Championship, when he traveled back to Syria through the Jordanian borders along with his teammates, Security forces arrested him on 28 November, 2012 without any charges. We don't know anything about him, he is now one of many forced-disappeared cases.

**Ma'moun Kharbout :**

the winner of the 2009 Kickboxing championship in Romania and head of the Red Crescent branch in Idlib. He was arrested on 18 February, 2013 as he was heading to his home in Idlib after attending a meeting for the



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Syrian Red Crescent in Damascus. Ma'moun has been volunteering for the Red Crescent since 1997.

**Hazem Adas :**

Syria's karate champion. He was arbitrary arrested at a security checkpoint in Damascus on 3 March, 2013. He is a 22-year-old 1 Dan black belt-holder from Doma. Hazem has dominated the Syrian karate tournament under 30 Kg since 2008. He also participated in many foreign tournaments with the national team the most notable of which were Istanbul open karate tournament and the 2010 Istanbul karate tournament.

**Mohammad Abulqo'oud :**

a footballer who played for Al-Karama. Security forces broke into his home in Al-Insha'at neighborhood – Homs on 5 September, 2012 and arrested him. His fate is unknown to this moment.

**Disability and Destroying athletic careers :**

Scud missiles, barrel bombs, cluster munitions, and poison gases all these weapons are indiscriminate and don't distinguish between athletes, civilians, or rebels. Due to the indiscriminate shelling that hasn't stopped in three years, Syria has lost tens of great athletes who all sustained permanent disabilities.

**As an example we will list some of them :**

Amjad Ayan, a footballer who played for At-Taly'a club, he was shot in his foot during his compulsory military service in Daraa on 14 May, 2011. He was diagnosed with gangrene and was forced to have his leg amputated.

Mahmoud Khamis, an international swimming champion. He was hit with an explosive bullet by a sniper in Der Ezzor on 29 January, 2014. The bullet wounded his right shoulder severely, shattered his shoulder joint, and fractured his collarbone and humerus. He was transferred to a Turkish hospital to receive treatment.

Mahmoud, who is 66-year-old, has won multiple Arab and international long-distance swimming championships between 1965 and 1978.

Nasser Ash-Shami, an international boxing champion who won the bronze medal in 2004 Summer Olympics that was held in Athena. He sustained wounds that forced him to end his career after he was injured by government forces while it was raiding Hama on 4 June, 2011. He was then transferred to Germany to receive treatment. Ash-Shami, who is 30-year-old, won the gold medal in the 2007 Arab games, the bronze medal in an Asian tournament that was held in South Korea, the gold medal at 2004 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships which qualified him to participate in 2004 Summer Olympics where he won the bronze medal in addition to winning the bronze medal at the 15th Asian games which he competed at while he was injured.

Rezq Nasser Al-alouji, a handball player who played for Ash-Su'la. He was injured by a Syrian regime's shell in Daraa during March 2013. The injury forced him to have his leg amputated.

**Recommendations :**

**The Security Council :**

To uphold his responsibilities in regard to the Syrian athlete prisoners and forced-disappeared by issuing a binding resolution that would force the Syrian regime to release all the peaceful activist prisoners among them.

**The Arab League and the International sports organizations :**

To pay greater attention to the case of Syrian injured athletes and compensate them and follow-up with the victims' and prisoners' families materially and symbiotically.

**Human Rights Council and the International Investigation Committee :**

To highlight the suffering of the Syrian athletes through Human Rights reports and statements.

**Acknowledgments :**

Our thanks and appreciation goes for the families of the victim and prisoner athletes for their cooperation. And also for all the Syrian athletic associations that are working to highlight the suffering of the athletes and document the violations against them.