

The Syrian Woman in the Midst of the Syrian Conflict

25/11/2014



The Syrian women in the conflict flames

Syrian government violations

Government forces **killed**
no less than **15347** women



641 by sniper



32 were killed
under torture



No less than **6500**
have been **arrested**
Among of them **450**
Enforced disappearance



6300 were older
than **18** years



200 were younger
than **18** years



Numbers of women whom had been
sexually abused passed **7500** cases

including **850** in
detention centers



No less than **400**
cases were for girls
under **18** years old



ISIS violations

81 women
were killed by ISIS



arrested among
486 women



Armed opposition violations

255 women were
killed by different armed
opposition factions



armed opposition factions
arrested no less than **580**
women, including **220**
under **18** years old.





This report includes:

First: Introduction	1
Second: Executive Summary	2
Third: Violations Perpetrated by the Syrian Government	2
Fourth: Violations Perpetrated by Kurdish Groups	13
Fifth: Violations Perpetrated by ISIS	14
Sixth: Violations by Armed Opposition Factions	18
Seventh: Syrian women in Refugee Camps	20
Eighth: Recommendations	22
Ninth: Acknowledgements	22



Introduction

The Syrian woman has been a part of the popular movement that begun in March 2011 by preparing and coordinating dozens of demonstrations, carrying banners and cameras, organizing special women protests, being involved actively in documenting crimes, providing medical and humanitarian care. Also, she was suppressed, oppressed, sexually abused, and targeted alongside with the man. Nevertheless, she was always the weakest link in the community as when she lost her husband to become, above all her suffering, the provider for her family.

SNHR documented a simple portion of the violations against women in Syria in no less than 20 report the most recent of which was published on the International's Women Day 8 March 2014, entitled "[Episodes and Pains in International Women's Day](#)". Furthermore, it co-published an extensive report in cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders: "[Violence against Women, Bleeding Wound in the Syrian Conflict](#)". As in every year, SNHR published a report on 25 November, 2014, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, entitled: "The Syrian Woman in The Conflict Flames". The report documents the various violations perpetrated by government forces, Kurdish groups, ISIS, and armed opposition factions.

The report methodology is based on SNHR's archive of documented victims, prisoners, and forcibly-disappeared persons who all were documented through the network's ongoing daily documentation and monitoring program since 2011 in addition to interviews and testimonies made via phone or Skype by survivors. The report highlights 15 testimonies, where some women talk about their experiences as activists then as victims, whilst other women decided to continue struggling and fighting even after they were violated.

However, it should be noted that we were able only to document a simple portion of the terrible suffering of the Syrian women. What this report includes is only the minimum amount of crimes and atrocities given the ban imposed against SNHR by the Syrian government and the extremist factions in addition to Syrian community's lack of interest in documenting and motorizing as it lost any trust in the international community who haven't done anything noticeable over the past few years.



Executive Summary

This report records that 15347 women were killed by government forces including 4194 female children whilst ISIS killed no less than 81 girls and all the other armed faction killed 255 women in total.

No less than 6500 women experienced detention by the Syrian government, 2500 among them are still detained or disappeared. 32 women died under torture. ISIS detained about 486 women whilst various armed factions detained no less than 580 women.

The report documented that many female activists were subjected to arrest, torture, and sexual abuse. Also, many women activists' movement were harassed and others' clothing was restricted In ISIS-held areas.

Noor al-Khatib, manager of the woman office at SNHR, says:

“The Syrian woman has been overwhelmed by many sufferings. She’s paying the dearest prices; she lost safety, her children, and her husband. She experienced arrest, sexual abuse, forced marriage, refuging, displacement, and harassment. The Syrian, Arabic, and international communities should take care of the Syrian woman psychologically, socially, and financially as she is the main guardian that is protecting what is left of the Syrian community from collapsing and degenerating.”

Violations Perpetrated by Government Forces (including armed forces, security personnel, and local and foreign militias)

A: Extrajudicial killing:

Syrian government killed, since March 2011, no less than 15347 women whom SNHR documented by name, photo, video footage, place and time of death. They were killed by indiscriminate aerial shelling, artillery, cluster munition, and barrel bombs in addition to edged weapons in many sectarian-cleansing massacres in: Homs, Banyas, Jdaydet al-Fadl in Damascus countryside, Qalaomn in Damascus countryside, Northern countryside of Hama, and Aleppo countryside.



Amal Ali al-Fahmawi

Among the 15347 killed women, there were 641 killed by snipers who were fully aware that they are targeting women when they shot as it was documented by a SNHR report entitled “[Hunting people](#)”. Furthermore, there were no less than 32 women who died under torture inside detention centers.

Usually, the women percentage of total number of victims exceeds 6%, which is very high percentage which indicates that the government forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

On Monday, 15 October 2014, the Syrian government killed Amal Ali al-Fahmawi, teacher and a humanitarian activist from an-Naa’ymen town in Daraa. Her house was raided by a group of military personnel led by an officer who interrogated her and detained her in her house in front of her children. Amal slapped the officer after he excessively insulted and humiliated her. Consequently, the security men took her to the next house, shot her in the head, and burnt the whole house.



Syrian government forces killed no less than 119 women, in the period of: 28 January 2014 - 14 February 2014, by indiscriminate shelling that targeted residential neighborhoods in Aleppo. In that period of time, the Syrian regime used more than 508 barrel bombs that were dropped on Aleppo.

On Sunday, 3 August, Syrian government forces shelled a popular market in Kafarbatna city in Damascus countryside, five women were killed.

On Thursday, 26 June, four women were killed in Jesreen town in Damascus countryside by the Syrian government warplanes' shelling.

On Wednesday, 8 October, Syrian government shelled al-Waar neighborhood in Homs with two surface-to-surface rockets to kill four women.

The government forces' policy of widespread, systematic, daily killing included all the Syrian governorates and it can be classified as crimes against humanity. Furthermore, indiscriminate shelling, which is still ongoing, is considered as a war crime.

B: Extra-judicial detention, enforced-disappearance, and torture

More than 99% of the arrests made by the Syrian government are done without legal memorandums or telling the accused woman or her parents what she is accused of or where to be arrested. The arrested is forbidden of hiring a lawyer or visits and faces brutal torturing. In many cases, extra-judicial arresting becomes forcibly disappearing.

SNHR documented no less than 6500 women whom were arrested, since the beginning of the popular movement, including no less than 200 cases under 18 years old.

SNHR estimates that there are 2500 still detained until now, including 450 forcibly disappearing incidents that the Syrian government denies their detention although all the families' stories that affirm to us that the government forces was which raided and arrested them.

Through interrogation, the arrested woman faces types of humiliating, hitting, and systemized torturing, which in many cases doesn't aim to force her of confessing, but to spread fear among other arrested women and intimidate the community of arresting women consequences, especially that the Syrian community is considered as a conservative community.

In addition to the physical torturing, the arrested women suffers hugely psychologically, due to what is spread among the community about the sexual abuse against arrested women by government forces, which threatens her future. We recorded many divorce incidents that happened after detention and many of families' violence against their arrested woman. Thus, she is between two jaws of a plier and can't escape or free of that "shame", which lead many of them to suicide.

SNHR met Samar an-Najjar, a 22-year-old university student survived of arresting. She contributed in the humanitarian activity in her city and she was a witness on the violations other arrested women faced of torturing, humiliating, and daily abusing.



“On Saturday, 22 December 2012, personnel of the headquarters leadership checkpoint surrounded me and took me by an ugly way inside it. They took my bag and mobile phone immediately and put me in a small room and closed the door without saying anything. After half an hour, a huge long-bearded “Shabih” (Syrian regime armed militia personnel) opened the door and gripped me from my neck and took me to the officer. There, the officer began to insult and humiliate me and accused me of helping the armed gangs and financing them. The “Shabih” hit me and inspected me in front of the officer and took my Hijab off arguing that I hide something in it, and then he chained my hands and took me back to the small room. After three hours he took me out of the room and blindfolded me and put me in a car going to the military security branch located on Homs road”.

About what Samar faced in the military security branch during the interrogation, she says: “I entered the interrogation room blindfolded and handcuffed so I couldn’t see the interrogator face of the room. He said to me immediately if I didn’t confess he will torture me, me and put me in the Doolab (torturing apparatus), and he threatened me that he will kill my parents in front of my eyes so I told him that I will answer any question he asks. He told me that I was helping the terrorists as he named them and he needs to know their names. I said that I don’t help terrorists, I only helped some displaced people so he hit me immediately on my face, pulled my hear, and spitted in my face saying I was lying. He repeated the question and I don’t have the answer so he hit me again. He said he’s taking me back to the solitary confinement and he wants to hear another answers”.

After ten days of Samar existence in the military security branch, she was taken to the branch 215 in Kafar-soosa in Damascus.

“We were being treated badly by the jailers who were sitting in front of our room door, as they were insulting us, threating of hitting us. Once, a jailer named Abo Abdo came in and hit us all because we asked him to get a doctor to the patient inmate Fatima Masalmeh which fainted suddenly. But he refused, and after he hit us he brought a water bucket with a pill claiming that it’s for diabetes while saying to us that we’d rather all die that they rest of us. I and the inmates tried to help the old inmate and gave her that pill. She woke up later, but she was still in a bad healthy condition. That happened two days before I was transferred to Adra prison by two days”.

SNHR met in Amman the prison-survived Mrs. Ibtisam ad-Dirani (52 years), which escaped with her family from the siege impose on Darya to Moadamyeat as-Sham city and told us about her husband death by a sniper shot, which put her as a paterfamilias of the family.

She tried to escape again with her kids to safer area, and during her attempt she was arrested by military checkpoint personnel on the borders of al-Moadameya city.

“On Thursday, 20 June 2014, I was stopped by military checkpoint personnel, and he asked me what was I carrying? So I answered that I don’t have anything. He frustrated by my answer and hit me on the face broke me two teeth. Of my fear, I gave him all I have which was 100 thousand Syrian pounds, my golden bracelets, and the family book document.

He accused me that I was taking this money to the terrorists and I was going to help them before he called one of the personnel, known as Abu Assad, to take 50 thousand pounds of them.

They stopped us at the checkpoint for five hours, until a military vehicle carrying civilian-clothed armed men came. They put me with my children in the car and went with us. When we reached al-Ahmad checkpoint in Jdaydet Artooz town they opened the door and dropped my kids off and the car continued it way. I heard my kids crying calling for me. I begged the personnel of calling one of my relatives to come and take the kids and he said they will do it. After a few days of being in the Air-intelligence, I knew that they used my mobile phone to call one of my relatives to take the children to her home”.



Ibtisam stayed in the Air-intelligence branch (the special operations building) for 20 days, where she suffered tough torturing and solitary confinement, and she witnessed the torturing of other inmates. Ibtisam said: “Interrogation continued for three days, where it was outside the building but inside the airport, where they were taking me by a car. In the first day I saw a man hanged from his hands and his legs were in a water bucket, where they were connecting electricity to. When I reached the interrogation room I heard an interrogator asking and beating the arrested hardly, saying: He is not confessing. Put him on the pole. In moments I could hear the inmate screaming toughly. Then the interrogator said: take him to 80, which I didn’t know what it means. Two personnel took the inmate out, who was bleeding profusely. When they took me to the room, I saw a 1.5 m stick.

The interrogator started hitting me with a green hose without asking me any questions and then he asked the personnel to hang me, where I stayed for two and a half hours, then they took me back to the Special Operations Building. On the next day, they did that again accusing me of helping terrorists, as they said. This happened three times on three days, before I was took to the mass cell which was with 6*3 area and including 25 inmates. I stayed there for 17 days before I was transferred to the terrorism court with a bus containing 60 inmates”.

Ibtisam was set free, after being prisoned in Adra Central prison, on 15 January 2014.

Thilal Ibrahim as-Salhany, is peaceful and humanitarian activist in Aleppo, and Chemistry student in the Science College in Aleppo University. She was arrested by Air-intelligence force with two other guys in al-Forqan neighborhood in Aleppo, on Saturday 28 July 2012, accused by helping injured and displaced and supporting them with food and medicine and finding them shelters. She is still detained until now.

Walaa’ Adnan al-Aqel was born on 1992, and she’s a junior in a trading council. She is the daughter of Mr. Adnan Abdar-rahman al-Aqel whom was killed in al-Maleeha in October 2012 by government forces. She was judged by terrorism court by 15 years accused by organizing protests. She was arrested on popular committees’ checkpoint on the entrance of al-Maleeha city on Jarmana side on 4 June 2014 where she was taken to the military intelligence 215 branch in Damascus. She spent there a month before she was transferred to Adra prison by terrorism court.

Amal as-Saleh was arrested by the Air-Intelligence branch in Damascus on Monday 1 October 2012 before she was transferred to Adra prison where she was jailed there for four months. On Thursday 16 Monday 2012 she was transferred to unknown side and some survivors told us that she was tortured severely which caused her health to deteriorate badly.

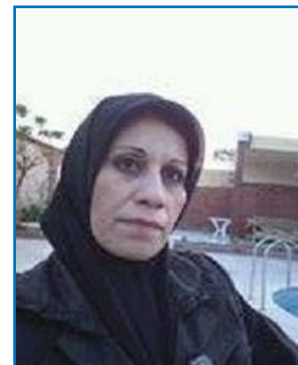
Salma Abd Al-Kareem Al-Abdallah, was born on 1954, from Kafarsajnah in Idlib. She was arrested on Mashafri checkpoint in Hama with everybody else in the car while she was coming back from Lebanon on Wednesday 11 January 2012.

Baraa Mletot is a 24-year-old from Lattakia. Although she belongs to the Alawite sect, she was arrested with her husband on Thursday 29 November 2012 before she was transferred to branch 215. She was pregnant and gave her first girl in Adra prison who died after 12 days because of the in-charge officer refusal of giving any medical care to the girl, in middle of the mother begging and pleasing.

Baraa Mletot is now being judge by the Field Court known of its tough unchallengeable resolutions.



Walaa al-Aqel



Amal al-Saleh



Samar Kokash was born in Damascus on 27 August 1966. She graduated of the Higher Council of Theatre Arts on 1995 and she is the daughter of the director Alaa ad-Deen Kokash and the artist Malak Sokkar. She is married with two daughters: Leen and Malak. She was taken to the branch 215 where she faced terrible torturing and she was transferred to Adra Central Prison. Now she is being subjected to the Terrorism Court.

The arrested women suffer the same torturing suffered by the men .SNHR observed by a widened report **no less than 46 way of torturing used by the security branches in Syria**. These brutal torturing ways killed no less than 32 women inside the security branches, while the civilian prisons faced only two incidents of death under torture.

Sameera Ahmad as-Sahli, a 53-year-old nurse from al-Yarmook camp, married with four children, was arrested by regime forces on 11 June 2014 because of her medical and humanitarian activity. Her parents told us that they knew about her death inside one of the detention centers on 8 November 2014.

Majda Mimo, a 50-year-old displaced in Atma Camp in Idlib, from Jisr as-Shughoor in Idlib, was arrested by the Syrian government on 15 July 2014 while going to see her grandchildren inside Jisr as-Shughoor, and her body was delivered to her parents on 19 July 2014.



The most prominent civilian jails, that the arrested are being transferred to, are: Adra Central Prison and Homs Prison.

Adra Central Prison

Adra prison is one of the biggest prisons in Syria by area which is estimated by ten hectares. It can take about 6000 inmate. It's made of many buildings, are: administration building, entrance building, the judicial building, in addition to the prisoners building which is made of 13 parts including 128 detention hall with 30 prison for each hall. There is a special part for the political prisoners whom being transferred by the different security apparatuses. With the increasing of the political prisoners and the inability of their part to include them, they were put in the criminal parts. The halls are full of prisoners who don't have a place to sleep, which causes shifting in sleeping sometimes.

SNHR estimates the numbers of the prisoners in Adra prison with no less than 9500, including 3200 political prisoners.

Women prisoners in Adra prison:

SNHR documented 282 political prisons in Adra Prison until September 2014, and for sure the real number could reach the double of that because of the huge difficulty in documenting all the information about the detained. The presidential pardon didn't include until 9 June more than 28 prisoners since the publishing of it until now.



The 282 prisoners are distributed by their governorates as follows:

Damascus countryside: 74, Hama: 42, Damascus: 32, Daraa: 31, Homs: 24, Aleppo, 22, Deir az-Zor: 19, ar-Raqqa: 15, Lattakia: 12, Hasakah: 8, Tartus: 3

SNHR was able, by tens of interviews with prison survivors, to determine the humanitarian conditions inside Adra prison. We were able to document the following incidents:

Prisoners older than 50 years: 64

Prisoners gave birth inside the prison: 8

Pregnant prisoners: 14

Displaced prisoners by torture: 28

Prisoners with permanent diseases: 82

Prisoners who their families can visit and support psychologically and financially: 105

Prisoners whom were beaten and tortured in Adra: 58

Prisoners whom were being jailed in the solitary confinement for more than three days: 43

Prisoners whom were judged by Terrorism Court: 7

Prisoners who disappeared from inside the prison: 2 (Faten Rajab and Amal as-Saleh) as they were taken to unknown place and we don't know anything about them until now.

Prisoners included by the last pardon: 24

Prisoners whom were arrested with their husbands or one of their children: 16

Prisoners who died because of detention conditions: 2

Because of healthy and medical caring disregarding, a woman and a girl died inside Adra Prison are: Turki Eesa from Lattakia, a 50-year-old with heart disease, who stayed paining and torturing because of the prison principles refusal of helping her, and then she died by that.

The girl of Baraa Mleetot who the principle officer refused to give any medical care, in middle of the mother begging and pleasing, so she died after 12 days of her birth in Adra.

Between May and September 2014, SNHR contacted with eleven witnesses left Adra Central Prison, and according to all the witnesses, which were all semi-identical, the torturing and bad treating is systematic, especially that the political part of the prison is supervised by the political security with officers and personnel who don't belong to the prison officer. All the requests applied by the prisoners to treat their displaced fellows by torture were refused. Most of the prisoners suffer skin and breathing diseases, and the one hall includes about 60 inmates.

“When I reached Adra prison, a girl officer inspected me and made me take all my clothes off, in fear of having any forbidden thing, and she insulted me before taking me to the terrorism part and entered me to a dormitory there which was the first one on the left. It included about 35 women inmates from all the ages from 20 to 60 years old. When I entered I didn't find a place to sleep, and stayed there for about 40 days without going to a court. The life inside the dormitory was hard and disgusting because there were many in a narrow area doesn't exceed six meters and we were sleeping on the ground and the breathing diseases spread among us. We were allowed to go to the yard once, which was small too with seven meters only. I wasn't allowed to call my parents except after a month of being there. After hiring a lawyer and paying huge amounts of money, I was summoned to the judge on the 40th day of being in jail. The fourth judge set me free with warranty on 23 March 2013.



I want to concentrate on an important point. The security personnel are the ones who inspect the prisoner when they arrest her and they harass her in argue of inspection. The other thing: the terrorism court doesn't work on justice, but on corruption. There was no evidence against me of working with terrorist as claimed but the judge didn't set me free except after paying a huge amount he extorted us to pay. The last thing: the civilian Adra Central Prison has no difference of the other security branches as the officers treat the political prisoners brutally different of other crimes such as killing and drugs, and they were always threatening us of taking back to branches and were depriving us of food, medicine, meeting the lawyer and our families' visits".

Samar an-Najar was set free from Adra Central Prison on 28 March 2014.

Hanadi (25 years) is a graduate from Math College in Damascus city. She was arrested by terrorism on 20 November 2014. She spent in Adra about 5 months and was set free by the last presidential pardon in June 2014. SNHR talked to Hanadi after she went out

"When I entered Adra, I thought this place would be better than the security branch, but the officers treating of the prisoners, especially the opposition, was very bad. They were always insulting us and threatening us by solitary, beating, visits' depriving, and taking us back to the security branch. Asthma disease was spread among the prisoners because of the crowding, and the children whom were birth in the prison were forbidden of medical care and vaccination".

Female prisoners of conscience in Homs Central Prison:

Meters away from Homs Central Prison, the Air-Intelligence branch is located. This branch intervenes in the different concerns of the prison and the prison administration can't take decisions without the agreeing of the intelligence branch. The prison is divided into two parts: the old and the new.

SNHR estimates the number of the female prisoner of conscience in Homs prison by 230 prisoners. There is on special part for the political prisoners so they were put with the criminal in one part, including three cells, with 20 prisoners for each cell. But with the increasing of the arresting operations, Syrian government puts about 40 prisoners in each cell, so dozens of them, estimated by 90 prisoners, sleep in the corridors without beds or even blankets. The cells lack the minimum degrees of clean, which caused diseases spread and the principles forbid entering the medicine, while the meals lack only on one, polluted often.

The government forces launched a systemized attack against the residents, represented by arresting, torturing, and disappearing, which rises to be a crime against humanity for each. The Syrian government didn't account any principle of the security centers or prisons, whether low ranked or high ranked, which indicates of a huge support or orders being executed since March 2011.

SNHR met Mrs. Sameera in Antakya, which was jailed in many prisons. She told us about her experience in Homs Prison:

"When I entered Homs prison, there were about 230 female prisoners. After I asked them about the conditions, it seemed to me that most among them wasn't subjected to court more than once since being arrested, and then they were totally neglected. There are some prisoners whom have been arrested for more than nine months without being judged. The prominent too is the existence of children aged between two and four years with their mothers. Lice and scabies was spread among prisoners and all the beds were full so I didn't find a place to sleep until one prisoner (Fatima Tawashi, 55 years, from Hama – al-Arba'een neighborhood, detained in Homs since a year and a half, and has a martyr son) allowed me to sit on her bed. There were many women and girls from al-Hisin Castle, Banyas, ar-Rastan, and from Homas and Hama. Accuses were whether working in field hospitals, Marriage Jihad, or cooking to the FSA. I can't remember their names because of their huge numbers and their last names were awkward to me. I stayed in Homs prison for three days, before being transferred to Palestine branch in Damascus with another 61 prisoners by a huge truck affiliated to the prison".



C: Sexual Abuse

Since the beginning of the popular movement, the Syrian government used the sexual abuse weapon in many areas and governorates and committed many raping crimes on a sectarian background to stop the street rising, shaming it, and forcing it to leave its house. Maybe, the sexual abuse is one of the most prominent reasons of refuge and displacing.

Sexual abuse weapon reflected terribly on the Syrian society, especially on the abused themselves what caused very wide psychologically and socially breakdowns, especially if there is a pregnancy and birth cases.

What made things worse, is seeing the criminals not only free, but priding by their crimes and spreading the photos. In addition, many of those criminals are still committing sexual abuse crimes until now, and this is one of the main potential reasons of pushing the society toward extremism, congestion, and unimagined reactions.

Fadel Abdulghany, head of SNHR, says: “The government forces committing of raping the daughters of the Syrian community is a very terrorist and cruel crime without any doubt, but the silence of the international community is more brutal than the crime itself for sure”.

In the first year of the uprising, the sexual abuse crimes were happening with the breaking into the towns and cities, committing massacres, and looting, as what happened in Jisr ash-Shugoor in Idlib, the neighborhoods of ar-Rifaai, Karm az-Zaytoon, and Babamro in Homs, and in Lattakia city. Then, it expanded to all other governorates. Some of those crimes were committed in front of the families and there were many cases of stripping the women in the streets to break the will of the whole community.

Then, sexual abusing operations were committed inside detention centers against some detained, especially those who are relatives of the rebels. There were sexual abuse crimes against women after kidnapping them.

SNHR met no less than 50 cases of sexually abused women, whether in Amman, the border towns with Turkey, or inside Syria itself. Though, all the documented doesn't represent but a simple part with the estimated numbers, indications, and witnesses that affirm the committing of many sexual abusing cases, where the sexually abused refuse to talk about their experience because of the psychological and social dimensions.

SNHR estimates the government forces committing of no less than 7500 sexual abuse cases, including 850 inside detention centers and 400 cases against girls younger than 18 years old.

SNHR estimated 11 cases of the government forces forcing girls younger than 18 years old of talking through the official television channels that they had sex with rebels upon their families' request.

On 11 August 2013, the official Syrian channel showed what it named: Shariaa against the Sharr'a. It showed in it girls said that they committed Marriage Jihad, including a meeting with a girl, as mentioned in the movie, aged 15 years old and her name is Sara Khalid al-Alo and she said that she is the Emir of Jabhat al-Nusra in al-Bokamal.

After investigations, it seemed that the girl Sara Khalid Al-Alo is from al-Bokamal, she was born in 1994, and was accepted in Sharia College in Damascus University where she moved from her city to her relatives' house to study. She doesn't have any opposition revolutionary activity. She was arrested by political security forces with two fellows of her from the same university, two months before showing on television.

The three main cases where sexual abuse operations are committed:

A: during breaking and raiding

B: inside detention centers

C: after kidnapping



A: During breaking and raiding:

Al-Hoola massacre:

The government forces broke into Taldo village in Al-Hoola city in Homs on Friday 25 May 2014 and executed no less than 107 people, including 32 women. They did many sexual abuse crimes against women there.

Mrs. Fatima. M. (45 years) from al-Hoola, and a mother of three daughters (Aisah: 15 years, Maryam 17 years, and Samar: 20 years) were all victim of raping.

Only Fatima and her son (Omar) survived, while government forces killed all her family (her husband, daughters, her brother-in-law, and his wife). SNHR interviewed Fatima on Sunday 31 August 2013, and she gave us her testimony:

“On Friday, Assad forces surrounded the city and began shelling us with tanks mortars. At 6 am, I and my wife decided to leave the city with our kids so we left the house with our clothes only and we didn’t take anything except our clothes and 100 thousand Syrian pounds. We moved to the city yard to find a car to take us or family want to leave so we could leave with, but fear and horrifying were controlling everybody and there were no one able to leave as Assad army surrounded the village from all the sides and didn’t leave any side to go out and didn’t differentiate between residents and FSA. Everybody was considered terrorist in its eyes, even the children.

My husband took us to his brother’s house as it’s a ground floor. We were 14 people in the house: me, my husband, my three daughters, my 5-year-old son Omar, my husband’s brother, his wife, and their six sons. When it became 11 am, Assad army broke into the village and its tanks and forces spread among it. We were able to hear the tanks walking in the streets and the soldiers breaking the houses’ doors and shooting in it. The screaming of women and children reached our house. At 1 pm Assad soldiers reached our building and broke the door. About 14 armed soldiers entered the house and were carrying bloody knives and cleavers. They took my husband and his brother out and we couldn’t see them after, then broke our house furniture and took us out while insulting us and accusing us of sheltering the armed and hit Omar with the back of the Ak-47 on his back and said that he is a terrorist and threw him on the ground.

When we were in the building entrance, I, my three daughters, and my brother-in-law’s wife, they took us our Hijabs, tear our clothes, insulted us, and accused us of prostituting with the armed and that we are without honor. Then they pulled us mighty from our heads and beat us and took me inside the house and took my daughters and my brother-in-law’s wife to the opposite one. They threw me on the ground before two soldiers advanced and said: this is the fate of those who shelter the armed and fight the state. During that I was hearing my girls screaming from the other flat. I started screaming and begging: do whatever to me, but leave my daughters. They didn’t respond. It’s impossible that they are human beings belong to the same country. They were laughing and enjoying our screaming. One of the soldiers took out a plastic rubber and tied my hands with. The last thing I can remember is him telling his fellow: It’s my turn now. Go and find the money and take it. Then I heard fireshots from the house including my girls so I screamed as high as I can and tried to stand up but he hit me on the head so I was knocked out and felt nothing. My whole body was paralyzed and I felt that I’m in another world. Then I heard a voice saying: shoot her. Indeed, they shot me with two bullets; one in my stomach and the other in my right thigh and broke it. I was knocked out. After three days I found myself in a field hospital in ar-Rastan with my sister. I didn’t know what happened to me and my family until I went out after six days. Every time I was asking they were telling me that they are injured too but they are fine.

In ar-Rastan I lived with one of the families with my sister to continue my treating, where I knew from her that my daughters were killed with my brother-in-law’s wife and they were buried in al-Hoola graveyard with many village civilian victims. I knew that my husband and his brother disappeared after Assad forces took them with many of the village men and we don’t know anything about them till today. Omar is the only one left from my family as my sister brought him with her to ar-Rastan with those who survived of the death that



day. I knew that I was raped too but I doubt it because I don't remember what happened that day of its terrible details but the doctor told me that too. I stayed in ar-Rastan for a month until I got better. Then I moved toward the Turkish borders with my son and some of my relatives and we were warned of going back to our houses in al-Hoola because the regime will come back to revenge if it knew that we're still alive. We stayed in Atma camp for a year, before some brothers helped us to rent a house in Reyhanli village in Turkey. Until today, I try to forget what happened, but I can't. All I want accounting these criminals because they'll do it again and again if they still free".

B: inside detention centers

SNHR documented many [sexual violence cases inside detention centers](#), and we've published many testimonies about that. In this report we'd report case of mass raping of seven girls inside State Security branch in Hama, with varying reasons and conditions of their arresting.

Mrs. Marya. Kh., born in Hama on 1986, mother of three kids, her husband is arrested local activist. On Friday 3 August 2012, at about 9 am, Mrs. Marya and her children were in her mother's hosue in al-Qusoor neighborhood in Hama. A force, of 7 cars and about 30 personnel, of State Security raided the house and took her in the middle of her mother and kids screaming. Then the personnel took other women from the same neighborhood to the state security branch.

Marya says to SNHR:

"I was summoned after four hours of being arrested to the interrogation room. A security personnel called "Abu Ali", who we knew later that he is from Tartus, took me the interrogation room in the upper floor. Through that he was insulting me, then he beat me on my mouth breaking me two teeth. I reached the room. There were a lieutenant colonel called Solyman Jomaa and a warrant officer named Molham. The interrogator asked me some questions about my revolutionary activity but most of the questions were about the leaders and the soldiers of FSA in the neighborhood. I was tortured for three days, while the interrogation starts at 2 pm until 8 pm. Then and every day, two female prisoners were being taken to the lieutenant office, which had a bedroom with two beds and a bathroom and a full refrigerator with alcohols. My suffering began on the fourth day of arresting, after the end of the interrogating at about 9 pm I was taken with one of the girls to the office. Once I entered the office full with the crazy men of the friends of lieutenant Solyman. A girl was coming to strip us totally, then the laughing and drinking begins, and the mass raping and rotation of Solyman friends begins too. I remember how the room was including people handcuffed and opened-eyes weeping to a level made one of them trying to suicide by food strike. Those people were relatives of the raped arrested girls, and occasionally the lieutenant Solyman was insulting those youths and mocking them: this is the freedom you want, dogs! Then he comes back to his mean action. This rude criminal action continued for 24 days, which is my arresting period until I was released through a swapping bargain between the branch officers and one of the FSA battalions in Hama. I can't forget what happened for my life and there is nothing could return my right back".

SNHR owns seven testimonies of seven ladies were with Mrs. Marya at the same time and in the same branch and their testimonies was semi-identical.



C: raping after kidnapping

SNHR documented many raping cases committed mainly by militias affiliated to the Syrian regime. This is done usually in the unofficial detention centers, and often the raping crime is done by killing, whether by militias or by the family.

Salma A. (22 years) from Hama, a wife of a well-known media activist in the city, was kidnapped by a militia affiliated to the government in Qamhana town on Monday 10 September 2012. She was taken to Tartus where she was tortured and raped. Those militias refused to release her until her husband turns himself in. After two months, her husband was killed during shelling and clashes in al-Arba'een neighborhood in Hama, so the militias turned her to the military security branch in Tartus, which indicates to a fully coordinating and contribution between all the governmental forces in committing crimes. Tartus branch turned her to Homs Central Prison, where she spent about 40 days and told one of her fellows – who told us in turn what happened with Salma – , then she was released without a judge. When Salma was released to her family, with a breakdown and torturing marks on her body, his brother killed her to get rid of the “shame” who followed them after they knew what happened with her.

Government forces committed sexual violence and sexual torturing, which is considered a terrible violating against human dignity, all in the wide attack against civilians in their areas, in addition to attacking the prisoners systematically. Those actions rise to be crimes against humanity and war crimes according to the customary international law and to the treaty of Rome, the established to the International Criminal Court.



Fourth: violations by Kurdish

On 2012, government forces began to retreat from the Kurdish majority areas in North and Northern East Syria, with some vital facilities only. PYD faction, affiliated to PKK, took control of Afrin, Ain al-Arab (Kobani), and al-Jazeera. Asayish forces are considered the internal security forces (Police) and the (YPG) are as the army.

A: Extra-judicial killing

SNHR documented killing of no less than 25 women by PYD forces since March 2011 until the publishing of this report, more of them were killed by indiscriminate shelling.

On Wednesday 30 July 2014, Mrs. Muna Rasheed ad-Daa'ar al-Fadel was killed by PYD forces shelling against the houses of the residents in Ghoyeran in al-Hasakah city.

On Sunday 31 August 2014, Mrs. Fatima as-Sareeh was killed by mortar shelling by PYD forces on Ghoyeran neighborhood in al-Hasakah. Also, the wife of Mr. Awwad Abd al-Ajaj was killed with her husband during their attempt of leaving the neighborhood, by shelling too.

On Saturday, 13 September 2013, PYD forces executed two women in Hajyaa village in al-Hasakah countryside, after raiding the village and committing a massacre against families of the village residents.

And the two women are:

Wadha al-Yaseen (44 years), wife of Ahmad al-Yaseen, was killed with six of her children and **Tarfa Khaleel al-Hasood** (58 years), was killed with her husband Hamza al-Alawy in their house when he was found killed in his bed and she was found in the barn as what seem of an escaping attempt.



Group photo of Mrs. Wadha al-Yaseen and her children

PYD forces committed by indiscriminate shelling and killing actions rise to be war crimes, and all those crimes violate the international humanitarian law clearly, as the party is considered an authority should commit the international humanitarian law.



Fifth: violations by ISIS faction

A: extra-judicial killing

Since the establishment of ISIS on 9 April 2013 and it continues expanding, spreading, and the will of control, beginning of the areas that went out of the regime control and became rebel-controlled, so it launched many attacks since the beginning of 2014 against cities and towns in ar-Raqqa, Deir az-Zor, al-Hasakah, and Aleppo countryside and controlled big areas and shelled areas under the regime control.

Indiscriminate shelling, clashes, or executions killed no less than 81 women, including four women killed under torture by stoning.

On Thursday 20 February 2014, two women were killed in Kafarnaya in Aleppo by indiscriminate shelling by ISIS on the village.

On Wednesday 2 April, ISIS personnel called (Abu Hamad al-Tunisi) exploded a car bomb in the alawite majority Jadreen village in Hama, killing three women.

On Tuesday 11 March 2014, ISIS killed three women, including a pregnant, by a suicidal bomb in Hadaya hotel in Qamishli city

Photo of [Halabja Khaleel](#), one of the hotel bombing victims in Qamishli

On Sunday 5 June 2014, ISIS killed Mrs. Ilham Mohamad al-Hijazi from Douma in Damascus countryside by a car bomb in the middle of the city

Photo of the [bomb victim](#), which is unidentified woman

On Tuesday 1 July 2014, two women in az-Zir village in Deir az-Zor were killed by indiscriminate shelling by ISIS against the village.

Stoning to death

SNHR documented five women stoned by ISIS to death in Deir az-Zor, ar-Raqqa, and the eastern countryside of Hama.

A group of armed men affiliated to ISIS in the eastern countryside of Hama killed a woman by stoning accusing her by adultery, according to a video footage published online on 20 October 2014.



The video, titled (ISIS personnel are stoning a woman in the eastern countryside of Hama accused by adultery), shows a group of armed men talking to the victim woman and advising her between a group of people including her father, before he pulls her by a rope to a hole and the gathering people start stoning her to death.

On Thursday 17 July 2014, ISIS killed Shamsa Mohamad al-Abdallah (26 years) in at-Tabaqa city in ar-Raqqa governorate by stoning her to death accusing her by adultery.

On Friday 8 July, ISIS killed Fedda Ahmad in ar-Raqqa, stoning to death accusing her by adultery.

ISIS committed killing among wide killing, what rises to be crimes against humanity, as indiscriminate shelling operations are considered war crimes and violating of the international humanitarian law.



B: extra-judicial arresting, forcibly disappearing, and torturing

The woman in ISIS-controlled areas is obligated by the rules it imposes, and it made a special jail to the women supervised by female workers affiliated to the faction, most of them are married of the organization fighters. The feminine organization in ar-Raqqa is known by “al-Khanasa’a battalion” that pursues women and inspect them. The violations begin with not putting veil or face cover, obscenity looking accuse, posing, or not wearing legitimate clothes. The arresting period lengthens or shortens according to accusation, and could end with stoning, whipping, or execution.

SNHR documented, during the period of the beginning of 2013 to the moment of publishing this report, no less than 486 arrested women by ISIS, including a dozen of activists in the different fields.

[Samar as-Saleh](#), media activist, was kidnapped on Thursday 15 August 2013 by ISIS personnel in al-Atareb in Aleppo countryside with her fellow the media activist Mohammad al-Omar.

C: Tightening women rights

The organization imposed unfair rules break the rights of the woman in the religious thinking, privacy, clothes, transportation, working, and learning and differentiates distinctly between women and men. SNHR talked with many women who escaped from ar-Raqqa and talked about a forcibly identity change of the Syrian community, done by ISIS systematically.

ISIS published a truce named ([The Civilization Document](#)), which we got a copy of, including 16 points that are conditions the woman should commit or she will be punished to death penalty. Some of them are:

- The woman should stay home and not going without Mahram (Mahram is the husband, father, brother, or the son), and when going out they have to wear the wide cloak and veil (in some areas there were stricter rules, where the woman is asked to wear above the robe a black long leather jacket called ad-Der’ (the Shield)).
- Closing Saloons
- Stop using figures to sell woman clothes, the seller should be a woman, it’s not allowed to sell lingerie by men, and it’s not allowed to sell garnished, narrow, or see-through clothes.
- Women can’t sit on chairs in public, while it’s not allowed to visit clinics with male doctors.

It’s sure that ISIS violations are much bigger, but the pursuing and forbidding operations of SNHR from a side, and the strict censorship from another side form huge challenges as it is in the regime-areas.

A: tightening clothes

Mr A. A. was whipped because in az-Zayadeya area was whipped because his wife looked from the window without covering her face.

SNHR contacted Mr. Ibrahim who gave us the details of whipping Mr. A. A..

“While the “watching” car (affiliated to the court established by ISIS in al-Bab in the eastern countryside of Aleppo) in az-Zayadeya town on Tuesday 22 July 2014. Watching car personnel watched the wife of Mr. A. A. looking from her house window located to the south of the Big Mosque, so one of them knocked the house and asked her to meet the husband and gave him a Memorandum paper to revise the court located in Al-Bab. He went there so he was surprised of the resolution of whipping him forty whips in the yard after al-Joma’a (Friday) prayer. Indeed, the 65-year-old man was whipped and he knocked out before the end”.



On Saturday 19 July 2014 ISIS personnel beat an old woman in at-Tabaqa market in ar-Raqqa, because she is not wearing the black robe.

SNHR contacted Mr. Saleh M. who gave us his testimony about the violating incident:

‘While I was in at-Tabaqa city market, I watched the named “Abu Tayf Al-Jazrawi”, a Saudi foreigner known among the city of his brutality, beating an old woman aged more than fifty years because she was not wearing the black robe. Abu Tayf was beating her with a thick stick he was carrying, until she fell on the ground and the residents saved her from his hands.

I heard the shops owners after days saying that the woman went to the court, located in the old Municipality building, to complaint against Abu Tayf. The complaint was shown to Abu al-Hareth al-Arny, a judge in the court who judged of unaccepting because she was “overdressing and spreading obscenity among Muslim women”.

On Sunday 17 August 2014, personnel of ISIS violated many women in a popular market in al-Mansoorah in ar-Raqqa because of not wearing “the Shield”.

Mr Abd al-Atheem H. was a witness on the incident, and gave SNHR his testimony:

“I was in the Sunday Bazaar, a popular market made every Sunday in the town, when the watching car was marching. I saw two personnel going down from the car and attacking a small truck with more than 30 women from the workers in planting vegetables, who were gathering in the market to find a job like workshops, every 20 – 30 worker together.

ISIS personnel began hitting women who started to run, and ISIS personnel started pursuing them and insulting with words such as: O infidels, O apostates, O licentious, O dissipated! Most of them were wearing the black robe imposed on the residents, but they were not wearing the shield, which is the long black thick leather jacket imposed above the robe.

After the begging of the car owner the two personnel, they stopped beating the women after they were promised by the owner of going to a market to buy them shields”.

On Tuesday, 26 August 2014, ISIS personnel violated two women of hitting in al-Karnak yar in Manbij in Aleppo because they were not wearing the clothes imposed by the faction.

SNHR contacted Mr. Hasan H. who witnessed the incident details:

“While I was in al-Karnak Yard in Manbij city, I saw two personnel of ISIS standing in front of two women in their twenties and asking them to go to the court. The girls were begging of not going but he insisted to. His accent seemed to be Algerian or Tunisian. The girls were saying that they don’t have enough money to buy the shield, although they were covering their face. After the arguing between them, ISIS personnel hit the girls with the back of his gun. The people begged the personnel to stop hitting them; even one of the neighbors asked the personnel that he’ll buy it for them because they don’t have money.

ISIS personnel took the two girls and the guy who asked to buy the shield to the court, and I don’t know what happened then”.



B: tightening work right:

ISIS forbid the women of working in the areas it controls, and the violations by ISIS repeated against doctors, pharmacists, engineers, and workers in the public sector, until they were all forced to stop working or leaving its areas. The organization excluded the work of the woman in teaching girls in Sharia councils and in the women clothes and cosmetics shops, as it conditioned the working of the administration of these areas should be women.

C: tightening moving and transportation right:

ISIS forbid women in its area of riding public transport without “Mahram”, and forbid women of travelling and moving between cities without “Mahram”, which stopped hundreds of university students of learning because they can't go to universities.

D: Shotgun marriage

SNHR documented no less than 18 shotgun marriages to girls with ISIS personnel, and many of the residents areas told us that some parents agree to marry their girls because of fear, forcing, looking for money, or because they are pro-ISIS.

Fatima al-Abdullah (22 years) suicide by poison when her father asked her to marry a Tunisian foreigner belongs to ISIS. Fatima studies English in Literature Faculty from as-Sahlabiya village which is located west of ar-Raqqa and belongs to al-Ajeel tribe. SNHR documented Fatima death on 5 February 2014.

E: women selling

ISIS created a slavery market to sell women in ar-Raqqa and it admitted it through its magazine “Dabeq” of selling women, mostly from the abducted Yazidis from Iraq after forcing them to convert to Islam, and they were “sold and married” to ISIS personnel in the eastern countryside of Aleppo and the countryside of ar-Raqqa and al-Hasakah.

Those actions committed by ISIS in its controlled areas make a violation of the 3rd article of all Geneva conventions and considered war crimes.



Sixth: violations by armed opposition factions

A: extra-judicial killings

SNHR documented the killing of no less than 255 women by armed factions affiliated to the armed opposition, most of them by indiscriminate shelling on the regime-controlled areas, especially mortar shelling. We didn't document any among them using sniper.

On Saturday 22 May, five women were killed by shelling on election tent in as-Sanamayn city in Daraa by three mortars from the Sijeel artillery battalion headquarters affiliated to the armed opposition.

On Tuesday 3 June, two women were killed by shelling al-Khaldya neighborhood by mortar shelling. Mostly, the shelling was from armed opposition.

On 15 June, Syrian Revolutionaries Front, which is one of the armed opposition factions, shelled Karm Rahhal neighborhood in Jisr ash-Shughoor in Idlib with shells called (Jahannam = Hell), killing three women.

On Thursday 24 July, three women were killed by indiscriminate shelling targeted St. Demetrios Church in as-Solyamnia neighborhood in Aleppo. Mostly the shelling was done by armed opposition factions.

On Saturday 20 September, Mrs. Solaf Sameer Jabbor, pregnant with a twin, was killed by shelling targeted as-Saqqa' neighborhood in Damascus. Mostly, the shelling was done by armed opposition factions.

On Saturday 1 November, engineer [Heba Rostom from al-Ashrafiya](#) neighborhood in Aleppo, was killed by a mortar shell mostly by armed opposition factions.

B: kidnapping and arresting

Armed opposition factions kidnapped no less than 850 women, whether in regime areas or opposition areas, including 220 women under 18 years old.

Some armed opposition factions committed mass arresting of families in regime areas, to make swapping deals with women arrested by government forces.

On Monday 4 August 2013, armed opposition factions arrested no less than 150 women, aged between 20 and 70 years old, after the attack against villages in Lattakia countryside during "Liberating the Coast" operation and they are still under arrest until the publishing of this report.

[Mrs. Faten Waheeb Maryam](#), from al-Hanboosheya village in Lattakia countryside, aged 30 years old, was kidnapped with her niece Doa'a Wael Maryam (5 years) which appears with her in the photo, during the attack made by armed opposition factions against Lattakia countryside villages on 4 August 2013.

[Mrs. Rodayna Nasr Shhada](#), from Inbata village in Lattakia countryside, aged 35 years old, was kidnapped with her husband Kamal Mohammad Shehada, and her kids: Mohammad, Rand, and Nasr Allah Shehada, during the attack made by armed opposition factions against Lattakia countryside villages on 4 August 2013, and her kids were released on 8 May 2014.

[Mrs. Hasana AbdAlKareem Ali](#) from al-Hanboosheya village (40 years) was kidnapped with her children: Ali, Abeer, and Abd AlKareem Darwish, during the attack made by armed opposition factions against Lattakia countryside villages on 4 August 2013, and her husband Barakat Ali Darwish was killed on the day of the attack against the village.



[Yasmeen Saa'd ad-Deen Binnishi](#) from Hai as-Sheikh Daher in Lattakia governorate, born on 1983, is a graduate from Law School and a media activist. She was arrested on 3 July 2013 by military security branch and she was transferred to the terrorist court on 12 October 2013. She was jailed in Adra prison and went out on 9 March 2014 in the Mar Taqla Monastery sisters swapping deal between the Syrian government and Jabhat al-Nusra, and because of the security tightening by government forces Yasmeen Binnishi decided to leave Syria through the Turkish borders.

When Yasmeen reached Bab Al-Hawa border point on 10 April 2014, she was stopped by the border point security personnel affiliated to the Islamic Movement of Syria Free Men (Ahrar as-Sham al-Islamyia). Yasmeen told SNHR the story of her arresting:

“when I reached Bab al-Hawa border point they asked me to see my passport. I was putting the terrorism court arresting document so they thought it is a document of working with the regime, then the personnel jailed me in the room of the military leader of the border point located in a close building of the border point. The treating was good but the interrogator insulted me and he was interrogating with me in late hours to increase the psychological pressure. He wanted to transfer me to the general prison in ad-Dana village in Idlib countryside but he refused and he kept in his room until the Sharia court resolution is published”.

After 14 days, the legitimate court, affiliated to Ahrar ash-Sham, published a resolution of Yasmeen innocence of all the charges against her.

On Monday 9 December 2013, an armed unknown faction kidnapped our fellow the activist Razan Zaitouna, and the activist the previously political arrested [Sameera al-Khalil](#) from their headquarters located in Douma in Damascus countryside, which is an opposition-controlled area. The mystery still covers their fate until now.



activist Razan Zaitouna

Some armed opposition factions through indiscriminate shelling, killing, and arresting committed actions rise to be war crimes, and all those crimes violate the international humanitarian law clearly.





Seventh: Syrian women in refuge

It's estimated that no less than 1.2 million women have been refugees, which is about 35% of the whole percentage. Most of them suffer severe difficulties. We met many of them in the different countries of refuge inside and outside camps, and the sexual violence is the main reason behind the escape of most of them.

Through field visits and refugees meetings, we observed that the most prominent difficulties against the Syrian woman in refuge are:

- Taking care of the whole family, after losing the husband, the brother, the son, or the brother, or because of staying one of them in Syria, which makes more pressure of finding money and care, and those women are estimated about 25% of the refugee women.
- Deprivation many of them of learning, and the poverty is considered one of the most prominent reason behind leaving learning.
- 85000 women gave birth in the refugee camps, which doubled the responsibilities, in addition to the suffering of having those kids on nationalities.
- Variant attempts of extorting refugee women to work in the prostitution market, using their need of money.
- High psychological disorders, because of breaking the family or dissolution, the trip suffering, and the violations and suffering before the refuge.
- Some bad camps conditions which do not rise to the international standards level (look at [our report about Zaatari Camp](#)) pushed many girls to leave them. Here another sufferin began of finding shelter and other needs.
- Shotgun marriages that could include minors too. Many parents were forced on, in order to improve the material conditions and protect the girls as told by some parents. The shotgun marriages became a popular trade in many areas, and there were many brokers of women and men. In Zaatari Camp alone, we've observed no less than 320 shotgun marriages of minors, beside most of the marriages in it are not legally documented in the court.



Mrs. Maysoun Fadl (40 years) from Ihsim village in Jabal az-Zawye in Idlib countryside was displaced with her seven children, the older did not reach 18 years old after her house was totally destroyed by government forces shelling. Now, she lives in a tent in Atmeh camp in Idlib countryside since a year. Her husband is a fighter with FSA, who comes every few months to visit her. Maysoun relies in finding her primary needs on the humanitarian reliefs that reach the camp. At the beginning of our talk with Maysoun about the miserable and non-humanitarian conditions in the camp, especially with the beginning of Winter, as suffering increase with the tough weather conditions and increase mostly with the absence of her husband. Maysoun said:

“Winter has no mercy, as I’m talking to you many camps were sank by water and more than half of the camp does not have a heater and I collect myself the firewood and get the water to the tent. My older son left school and he is working and I have three daughters I don’t allow them to get water and to the place of the food baskets fearing of getting harassed, so I do everything myself. The life loads had increased and I don’t feel safe. My wife doesn’t come always to visit us and help us, and usually I feel desperate and hopeless”.

We met Mrs. Om Rami (25 years) in Amman. She is a refugee from one of the southern neighborhoods of Damascus and a mother of five children, the oldest among them is 12 years old. Her husband was arrested by security branches in Syria for three months and he died after he was released by two months because of the torture he had. Om Rami Said:

“After the death of my husband at the beginnings of 2013, I stayed for a while in my hose. Then, I decided to run fearing on my children of indiscriminate shelling or arresting. I suffered very much during the refuge trip which took many days and levels. First I went out the western Ghouta where I stayed there for ten months, and then I went with my children to ar-Rwayshed on the Jordanian borders before we were entered to Zaatari Camp. My husband’s relatives came and took me out of the camp. I live with them in a small room with my five children. I applied for a request to the UNRWA in Jordan but they refused it because I don’t have a warranty of leaving the camp so I can’t benefit of the International Food Program for refugees. On the other hand, I can’t register my kids in school because I don’t have a warranty too. Thus, they will be forbidden of teaching. We don’t have options except going back to the camp or to the hell in Syria”.

SNHR met Om Natheer in Amman. She is from Assali neighborhood in Damascus and a mother of three children. Her husband is still arrested with the government forces until the moment. She told us about the tough stations on the way of refugee, and the severe lack with UNRWA.

Om Natheer said:

“I decided to leave my house fearing my children of getting arrested, as I have a son in the age of the mandatory military service. We spent about six months moving from a place to place inside Syria until we reached the Jordanian borders. We suffered during that of finding shelter and food and the danger of the military checkpoints and shelling. We entered Zaatari camp in May 2014 for two months, but because of the hard conditions of it we were not able to stay. I decided to leave after one of my relatives applied a warranty for me. Now we live in basement under the ground because we don’t have a salary. I registered after I left with UNRWA, but since May 2014 until today I didn’t receive any help. I went to them many times, and applied many times so I can have the International Food Program receipts but I got nothing until now.

I have my three children. I was able to register the youngest (12 years) among them but I couldn’t register the others because of the crowding of the schools. My oldest son (17 years) left the school and works every day to get us a simple amount of money”.



Eighth: recommendations

To the International Community and the UN

SNHR published many reports and studies repeatedly of the different types of violations in Syria, and we consider the woman crisis is part of the main crisis, and can't be solved without solving it. Thus, every delay in solving the Syrian crisis will radically double the woman crisis, which in turn will expand for years.

The crisis in Syria is a humanitarian crisis and a human rights violations crisis in the first part. Portraying it as a geo-political crisis is way of escaping the fact of it.

The International community can ease the crisis by, at least, applying the UN Security Council Resolutions, which were very late, and that's the minimum level. Nobody is talking anymore about Resolution 2139 and stopping the indiscriminate attacks that is still going since 22 February till now and killed no less than 1854 women by government forces, documented by name, photo, and video, including four by poison gases, because of the Security Council failure in applying Resolution 2118.

UNRWA should expand its reports about violations against women inside Syria, and the specialized of human rights in Syria should focus more on the forcibly disappearing, torturing, kidnapping, and killing of women, and else of what is mentioned in this report. We are fully ready to contribute about all the cases mentioned in the report. All the countries helping and giving the Syrian government money, arms, and militias are considered totally involved in the crimes mentioned in the report, as well as the countries supporting armed factions were proved to be committing war crimes.

The International Community should reactivate reaching of the political solution, that stops the daily fall of blood and guarantees the accountability of criminals.

Many of the mentioned crimes in this report rise to be war crimes and crimes against humanity. SNHR calls to account all the involved and the suspected. The conditions in Syria file should be subjected to the Attorney General of the ICC. It seems that Russia and China insist to let the criminals escape punishment so UN should hurry in making a special court for Syria.

To the neighboring countries

The neighboring countries should warranty the ability of the coming from Syria to asylum and respect their rights, including the forbidding of the forcibly return. UN and United States should take a shoulder of the neighboring countries by receiving more Syrian refugees, and the donors should rise their help to UNRWA and the local communities organizations in the refuge countries.

Ninth: acknowledgements

All the acknowledgement to the victims' families, relatives, and families and to the local and media activists who without their efforts we wouldn't be able to publish this report on this level.

