

The Most Significant Violations against Media Activists in July 2014

In July: 13 media activists were killed, five kidnapped and arrested, and six injured. 357 media activists have been killed from the beginning of the Syrian revolution until the end of July

This Report includes:

- Summary
- Introduction
- Details
- Appendixes and Attachments
- Acknowledgements

Summary:

Violations against media activists in July are divided as follows:

1- Killing: SNHR documented the killing of 13 media activists as follows:

Government forces killed eight media activists including two media activists who died under torture.

Extremist groups: three media activists have been killed by the Islamic State (IS).

Unidentified groups: Two media activists have been killed by unidentified groups.

2- Kidnapping and Arresting: we recorded] five kidnapping and arresting cases as follows:

The Syrian regime didn't arrest any media activists in July according to our documentation team while five media activists were kidnapped; four by Asayiş forces affiliated to PYD, and one by National Defense Forces affiliated to the government forces.

The Syrian regime has released two media activists while IS released one.

3- Injuries: Six media activist were injured in July by government forces.

Introduction:

Violations against media activists continues for the fourth year in a row by the various players in the ongoing Syrian conflict. These violations are increasingly grossing amid a complete lack of accountability.

The violence against working media activists hasn't stopped as the Syrian regime and IS are the ones who are mainly responsible for these violations. Nevertheless, YPG's Asayis forces have emerged as a third partner participating in perpetrating these crimes where it committed many crimes such as kidnapping, harassing, and pursuing in addition to expelling and even torturing-to-death cases have been recorded inside its detention centers which forced many media activist to flee from the areas controlled by YPG. These areas have entered a state of silence and oppression where mouths are being shut down, truth is being covered and distorted, and news are being politicized similar to what happening in the areas under IS control mainly Der Ezzor countryside, Ar-Raqqa and its countryside and some towns in Aleppo countryside and Homs.

The media scene in Syria has been increasingly getting worse as a result of grossing violations, the increasing void in the media scene, and the weapon's dominance over the word and pen. Media activist in Syria are facing great risks and paying heavy prices where new media activists are getting killed, kidnapped, forcibly-disappeared, expelled, whether it was voluntarily or involuntarily, or escaping out of fear for his own life or to provide for himself.

Huda Al-Ali, a media researcher at SNHR, says:” the most notable characteristics of the media reality in Syria today includes: an undermining credibility, accuracy, and impartiality in covering the events, hiding and distorting the truth, a difficulty in monitoring the news, regression of the free independent media work in favor of the military media, and lack of commitment to the ideals and ethics of journalism.”

SNHR affirms the necessity of taking serious and immediate actions to save what could be saved of media activism in Syria and renews its condemnation of all the violations against media's freedom and truth-covering regardless of the involved parties and its kind or magnitude. SNHR also stresses the importance of respecting media work, insuring the safety of those who are working in that vital field, and paying them special consideration. The perpetrators of violations against journalists, activists, and media activists must be brought to justice and the International Community, represented by the Security Council, should shoulder its responsibilities to protect the civilians in Syria.

Details:

A: Violations by government forces and militias affiliated to it:

Killing:

We start with the bloodiest incident, the torturing of the media activist Ahmad Abd-Al-Qader Hosrom to death in one of the detention centers affiliated to the government forces in Damascus two years after he was arrested from his house in Tadamon neighborhood in Damascus. His parents confirmed his death on 10 July after they were told by security men that he died on 10 August 2013 and he was buried in Al-Qutayfa in Damascus countryside.

The media activist Roody Haj Khaleel was tortured to death in one of YPG Asayiş's detention centers affiliated to PYD after he was arrested a year ago. The Asayiş armed rebels, on 19 July, gave his parents the body with burn signs caused by acid. They told his family to bury him secretly under threat. (17 September)

Government forces have killed the following media activists:

Anwar Mohammad Ali by a barrel bomb that was dropped on A'azaz in Aleppo countryside (7 July) where he was hit he was hit in the targeting of Ramadan kitchen which was specialized in making Iftar meals during Ramadan. The kitchen was offered by (Renaissance Youths and Scholars group) "Tajamou' Shabab Wa Ulma' An-Nahda", Mohammad Adel Aksh (a member of Masarrat Foundation) by barrel bomb shelling on Aleppo while he was disturbing aids (15 July), Mohammad Baha'a Ad-deen Lababidey "Abu Habeeb" by barrel bomb shelling on Assukari neighborhood in Aleppo (20 July), Ala'a Khaled Yusuf Al-Hajji "Abu Zaid" (20 July) while he was covering events between Atman and Daa'el towns in Deraa countryside, As'ad Bajrook (manager and founder of Shamona magazine) from wounds (22 July) sustained by aerial shelling on The Martyrs Yard in Hreetan in the northern countryside of Aleppo on 18 July 2014, and Haytham Fadel Ajaj from wounds sustained by heavy machineguns shelling in Anadan in Aleppo countryside (27 July).

Arresting and Kidnapping:

Sadr Ad-deen Kanno (Bas News agency REPORTER) was kidnapped by YPG Asayiş during covering the sit-in of the parents of the arrested students' with (IS) in front of a PYD foundations in Kopani in Aleppo countryside (15 July) and he was released after two days.

The following media activists were also kidnappedb:

Sakfan Ameen (cameraman who works for Zagros TV channel) by PYD's YPG Asayiş (18 July) after they've raided his house in Al-Malkeya in Al-Hasakah countryside and he was released on 22 July 2014, Malfa Ali by YPG Asayiş at Khana Sarri checkpoint in Al-Hasakah countryside while he was coming back from Qamishli and he was released on the same day after they interrogated him in the accuse of insulting them and PYD forces (21 July), and Sa'adon Al-Seno (Orient News TV channel reporter) by Asayiş YPG while shooting a report in Ad-Darbaseya in Al-Hasakah countryside (25 July) and he was released after few hours.

PYD personnel had followed the media activists: Salah Allo and Waheed Mustafa in Afrin city and threatened to kill them using knives (27 June) but they were able to escape to Turkey after the promises of killing by the party personnel. It should be noted that before two days of this incident, those personnel forced the activists who were wearing blouses with the word: Azadi (Freedom) to take it off.

Omar Al-Abdullah (Masyaf News Network manager) was kidnapped by a National Defense Center patrol they've raided his house in Deel Shomail in Hama countryside (3 July) and he was released on the next day.

While the Syrian authorities had released:

Haytham Hasso from Adra prison (13 July) after the Military Security Forces arrested in Arraqa on his way back from Turkey on 16 December, 2013 and the Journalist Ahmad Hasan from one of the detention centers affiliated to the government forces in Damascus (5 July) after he was arrested six months ago.

Injuries:

The following media activists had been injured:

Ismaeel Awwad (20 July) while he was covering events between Atman And Dael towns in Deraa countryside, Nebras (the member of the media office of An-Noay'amah) (21 July) while he was covering events near Kharbet Gazaleh in Deraa countryside, Malek Az-Zobani (23 July) while he was covering events between Atman and Dael in Deraa countryside, Qusai As-Sayasneh (24 July) while he was covering events near Kharbet Gazaleh in Deraa countryside, Yamen As-saleh (24 July) while he was covering events in eastern Deraa countryside, and Khaled Al-Khateeb (Aleppo Media Center reporter) while covering events in As-Sha'ar neighborhood in Aleppo (27 July) by a barrel bomb that was dropped on the neighborhood.

While Anadolu Agency team was targeted with mortars and rockets from the government forces while they were going to cover events in Al-Maysar neighborhood in Aleppo (16 July) which caused the death of the guide Ahmad Abo Rashad while the two cameramen Saleh Mohammad Layla and Ahmad Mohammad Ali survived.

B: Violations by armed opposition factions

(IS) has killed:

Mohammad Al-Mohmmad after pursuing and kidnapping him by (IS) personnel in Arraqa countryside before they've executed him (17 July), the engineer media activist Hana Jarjis Ata Allah (a leader of the party branch in Al-Hasakah) by a bullet that him his head during IS's raiding of the party building and clashing with the national defense personnel in Al-Masaken neighborhood in Al-Hasakah (24 July), and Abu Ali Al-Bokamali when (IS)

personnel have executed him and crucified him in Al-Bokamal city yard in Dier Az-Zoor countryside after pursuing and arresting him at one of the checkpoints in the city while he was leaving with his parents to Iraq (25 July). The artist Emad Ladkani, who holds a Ph.D. in art philosophy and critic, by unidentified armed group and his house was burnt (25 July).

Omar Mohammad Basaleh (Halab News reporter) was killed by unidentified armed group while he was going to distribute martyrs' families salaries in Aleppo (13 July) and his body was found in a black bag on the Airport Road after seizing the money he was carrying.

An assassination trial of the media activist Sarya Meshal by unidentified group was documented (30 June) when an IED was planted under his car and was discovered by an Islamic Front checkpoint near Atma refugees' camp at the Turkish borders.

Kidnapping:

(IS) has released Al-Jazeera TV channel reporter Omar Hazza'a, as known as Ammar Al-Haj, (10 July) after he was arrested on 10 April 2014.

Fourth: Appendixes and Attachments:

Pictures and video footages of the media activists mentioned in the report:

A: killed, injured, and kidnapped on the hands of government forces:



As'ad Bajrook



Nebras



Ahmad Abd-AlQader Hosrom



Ala'a Khaled Yusuf Al-Hajji



Mohammad Adel Aksh



Haytham Fadel Ajaj



Ismaeel Awwad



Malek Az-Zobani



Qusai As-Sayasneh



Yamen As-saleh



Sadr Ad-deen Kanno (Bas News agency correspondent)



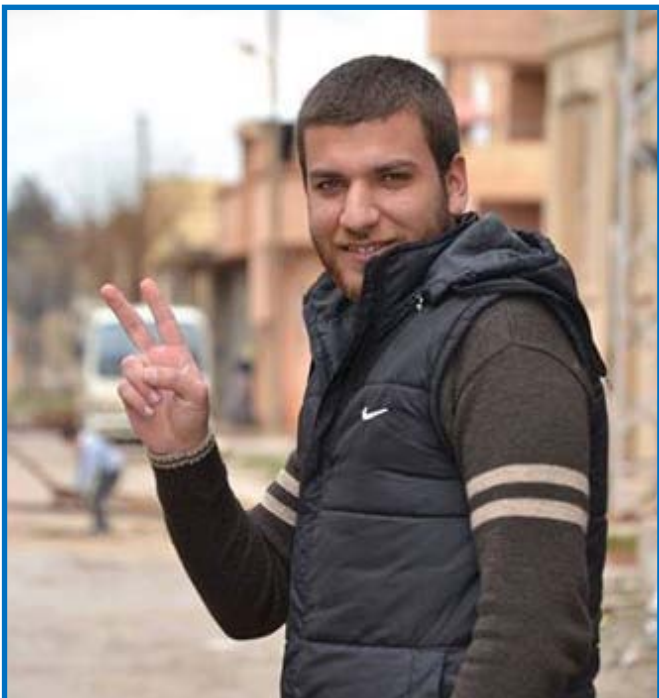
Sakfan Ameen



Haytham Hasso



The journalist Malfa Ali



Sa'adon Al-Seno (Orient News
TV channel correspondent)



Salah Allo and Waheed Mustafa



Sa'adon Al-Seno (Orient News
TV channel correspondent)



Omar Al-Abdullah

B: killed, injured, and kidnapped by the hands of armed opposition factions:



The engineer media activist Hana Jarjis Ata Allah



Some of the artist Emad Ladkani drawings



The artist Emad Ladkani



Omar Mohammad Basaleh

[Abu Ali](#) Al-Bokamali

Al-Jazeera TV channel correspondent [Omar Hazza'a](#), as known as Ammar Al-Haj

[A picture](#) of the IED planted in the car of the media activist Sarya Meshal

Acknowledgment:

Our thanks and appreciations go for the victims' families and relatives and for all media activists in all fields. We wouldn't have been able to finish this report on this level without their help.

