

Even athletes are killed in Syria if they demanded freedom and democracy

The Syrian network of human rights coordinated with the association of liberal Syrian athletes to carry the full documentation of athletes who were killed by the Syrian security forces and the Syrian army.

The Syrian network of human rights has documented the deaths of 55 activist athletes, 4 of them were trainee children athletes

The following is a list of names of the highly achieving athletes who have gained renowned positions internationally and in the Arab world (the number adjacent to the name corresponds to the attachment which contains a video and a picture in an excel file):

1. Ahmad Swedan, a football player in Al Karama, Al Wehda and Al Jazeera clubs, he was martyred after a shell which was fired by the security forces dropped on his home in Jorat Al Shayah in Homs (9).
2. Sobhi AlNheli, a Syrian athletics team player (13).
3. Sobhi Sa'do Al A'bed, a world champion in wrestling (15).
4. Fayad Aba Zaid, a Syria champion in shot put (18).
5. Ahmad Mlandi, Syria champion in Chess (20).
6. Marwan Arafat, the former president of the football association (25).
7. Zakaria AlYousef, a football player in AlItihad and Ummiyah Clubs (39).
8. Mos'ab AlOdah Allah, a sports journalist (49).

The Syrian regime did not differentiate between one athlete or another, as a number of the martyred athletes played in individual games and others stood out in their teams in group games, in addition to the diverse age group to which the martyred athletes belonged to, as they constituted of coaches and young players as well as retired athletes. Subhi AlNheli, for example, was an athletics player for the Syrian team, Ahmad Al Swedan was a football player in Al Karama, Al Wehda and Al Jazeera clubs, Adnan Kabji was a hand ball coach in Al Karama club and Subhi Sa'do Al A'bed was a world champion wrestler in the 40's
Due to their supportive stance towards the Syrian revolution, many of the Syrian athletes were detained, tortured and in some cases killed even inside their homes.

The first athlete martyr Yaman Ibrahim, a football player for Al Shorta club and in the junior Syrian team, who was martyred on 22/04/2011 in Damascus on a day which was named the 'Great Friday'. There has not been any documentation of the martyrdom of a female Syrian athlete to date.

We, in the Syrian network for human rights confirm that the main targets of this barbaric campaign which are carried out by the Syrian regime are the civilians. This regime does not differentiate between a child, or a mother, or an athlete, or a doctor, or an engineer, this criminal regime detains, tortures and kills everybody with no partiality and no mercy.

The Syrian network for human rights demands the international community and the United Nations to take legal responsibility according to the international legislation to protect the Syrian civilians, including athletes, and we question the sports bodies around the world who did not condemn the demagogic attack on athletes in Syria.