

## Statement

## The International Community is responsible for Steven Sotloff's blood

On 2 September, IS published another video entitled: "A second message to America"...

On 19 August, 2014 Human Rights and media activists in Syria and around the world were devastated by the video that was published by the Islamic State entitled: "A message to America". The video shows the brave American journalist James Folly giving a very touching speech before he was slaughtered by an IS fighter using a sharp tool. In the same video, IS threatened to execute the American journalist Steven Sofloff.

On 2 September, IS published another video entitled: "A second message to America" which shows the American journalist Steven Sotloff being slaughtered by a IS fighter. Also, IS threatened to execute the British David Heinz.

These videos, if authenticated, are just another barbarian actions to be added to a long string of crimes perpetrated by IS. These crimes can be classified as war crimes.

SNHR salutes this noble journalist who was one of the truth soldiers in Syria. Syria has become a dangerous environment for media activists because of the Syrian regime's violations and attempts to stop anyone trying to reveal the truth and now IS's violations against media activists and journalists including kidnapping tens of them and its continuous executions of Syrian and foreign media activists.

It should be noted that we have documented the killing of 369 media activists including 13 foreign media activist since the beginning of the Syrian revolution as follows:

- The Syrian regime killed 338.
- The Islamic State killed 18.
- Different armed groups, including Kurdish groups, killed 13.

Steven Sotloff and James Folly were both kidnapped in Syria. What happened to them was a result of the lack of any serious actions to put an end to IS's expansion in Syria and letting it take over wide areas and seize large oil, water, and agricultural resources. Fighting the faction only in Iraq is a green light for IS to multiply its violations in Syria. Abstaining from supporting the local efforts aiming to fight it and dealing with the Syrian regime and its sectarian militias using a double-standard policy are the first steps to strengthen the expansion of IS in Syria which gives IS more credibility in the eyes of its supporters given than it is based on a sectarian understanding of the conflict.

