



## 22,823 Women Killed in Syria since March 2011 Living in Deprivation

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### I. Introduction and Methodology

For five years, SNHR has released its annual report on the most notable violations against the Syrian woman on the International Day for the Violations against Women. The fact that these violations are consistently increasing year after year is most disgraceful. Since the beginning of the popular uprising, no woman in the world has experienced as many violations, in terms of scale and magnitude, as the Syrian woman over the past six years had. The numbers of women who are killed as well as tortured inside detention centers in Syria are worse than any other place in the world which is also the case for other patterns of systematic violations against the Syrian woman.

In all forms of violations, the Syrian regime surpasses vastly the other parties even though the practices of the remaining main parties involved many violations against the Syrian woman.

The Syrian woman was targeted because of her political, relief, or media activism. Also, she was targeted, in many cases, on account of the fact that she is related to a political opposition figure or a fighter. The Syrian woman was arrested and tortured under extremely cruel and brutal circumstances where she was subjected to sexual violence. The death and arrest of tens of thousands of married men had great social and economic tolls that severely amplified the burden on the Syrian woman's shoulder who, in some cases, didn't obtain a death certificate from the Syrian regime for her husband and, thus, wasn't able to get her rightful inheritance from her husband.





Additionally, ISIS members, under fake names, forcibly married a number of Syrian women and, in many cases, the husband is killed which leaves the woman in a horrifying social woe especially if she was impregnated or had kids from that husband whose descents are unknown.

The following is the most notable documentations we recorded in 2016:

- A rise in the rates of abductions that target women by the pro-government local militias who seek ransoms out of these abductions. In many cases, these abductions end with rape and murder.
- There were eight female detainees who were formerly kept at Adra Central Prison in Damascus governorate before they were forcibly-disappeared where they were transferred to an unknown location to SNHR as well as their families. We are seriously concerned that the Syrian regime is conducting secret trials at the military field-courts. More often, the sentence in such trials is death.
- Even though some of the judges from the terrorism court ordered for the release of a number of women detainees, the Syrian authorities refused to set them free. From our standpoint, the Syrian authorities see those women as an additional investment where they use these women in captive exchange deals with factions from the armed oppositions. They are trying to benefit from these detainees as much as possible where judicial rulings are no longer enough as if we are dealing with a mafia.
- ISIS detained a number of females and put them in cages in public places as a form of punishment and a way to insult them after they violated the laws imposed by ISIS on women in its area of control. This kind of incidents was recorded for the first time in 2016 where previously ISIS only detained women at its detention centers and imposed a fine.
- Women are being beaten, assaulted, and arbitrarily arrested in areas under the control of the Kurdish Self-management forces over their partaking in demonstration protesting the policy and laws imposed by the Management on the residents in its area of control. Also, these forces shut down a number of local organization that specialized in woman empowerment.
- A number of women and female children were forcibly-disappeared by armed opposition factions after attacks these factions carried out on areas controlled by government forces in Hama countryside where they used these women and children in captive exchange deals with government forces.





- The ramifications of the siege and starvations that are enforced by the Syrian regime forces are becoming more and more severe especially when the woman is the primary provider for the family in light of the soaring prices of food. Also, pregnant and breast-feeding women have been affected in an immense and catastrophic manner.
- Kurdish Self-management forces conscripted a large number of women.

The [methodology](#) of this report draws upon the daily and ongoing documentation and monitoring processes that SNHR has been doing since 2011 -You can see our methodology here. We also contact victims, eyewitnesses, and survivors and record their accounts. In cases of arrest and enforced-disappearance, we contact their families. In this report, we are going to include eight accounts that we chose from many accounts that we recorded on account of the fact that these accounts were about violations that took place in 2016 and because it didn't bear any similarities in its circumstances with the accounts we recorded before. We met directly with victims inside and outside Syria while we contacted others and recorded their accounts via Skype for security concerns.

This report doesn't assess the psychological ramifications and only reflects a small part of the daily and non-stopping horrors the women in Syria experience.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

*“There is no place in the world where documenting violations is more difficult and complex than Syria. However, this task becomes immensely more difficult when the victims is a woman. It is not easy for a woman to reveal publicly, even under an alias, the violations she suffered in an environment that can turn the victim into the defendant, and look at her unnaturally. She would rather remain silent. We have to overcome that. On the other side, nonetheless, why would she come forward when no actions have been taken against any violation perpetrators in Syria and immunity is still the norm?”*





## II. Executive Summary

The report documents the violations that were committed against the Syrian woman by all parties to the conflict in Syria. This report focuses mainly on the violations that took place in 2016 as violations that occurred before 2016 were covered in past annual reports the most recent of which is [“Syrian Women in the Eye of the Storm”](#). This report confirms that the violations are explicitly still being committed.

However, the main statistics such as extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, enforced-disappearances, and sexual violence cover the entire period of time from March 2011 until November 2016.

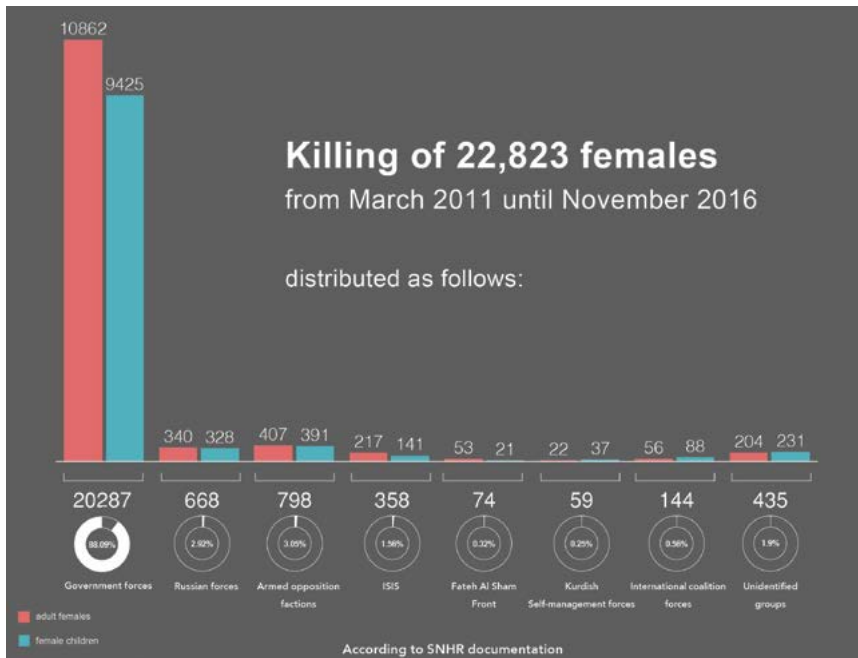
As always, we have to note that the statistics from our documentation of what is happening in Syria only represents the bare minimum of the actual violations due to the challenges we encounter including the increasingly complicated and dangerous security situation throughout Syria, and the oppression and persecution against activists by the parties controlling their areas. In addition, the challenges pertaining to access the victims, such as the victim’s fear of being threatened and pursued, communications being severed, the lack of safe and secure communication means, and the lost trust of the Syrian community in the importance of documenting the violations that are occurring in light of the lack of any form of accountability or compensation, must be taken into consideration. The difficulties become more complicated in the case of monitoring violations specifically against women as the Syrian community is mostly a conservative society where the victims or her family tend to refuse to document the violations especially if it was related to sexual violence or arrest considering that both of these issues are extremely sensitive on account of the fact that they affect the victim’s and her family’s reputation and dignity in the local community.

### **Extrajudicial killing:**

We recorded from March 2011 until November 2016 the killing of 22,823 females distributed as follows:

- 12,164 adult females
- 10,659 female children.



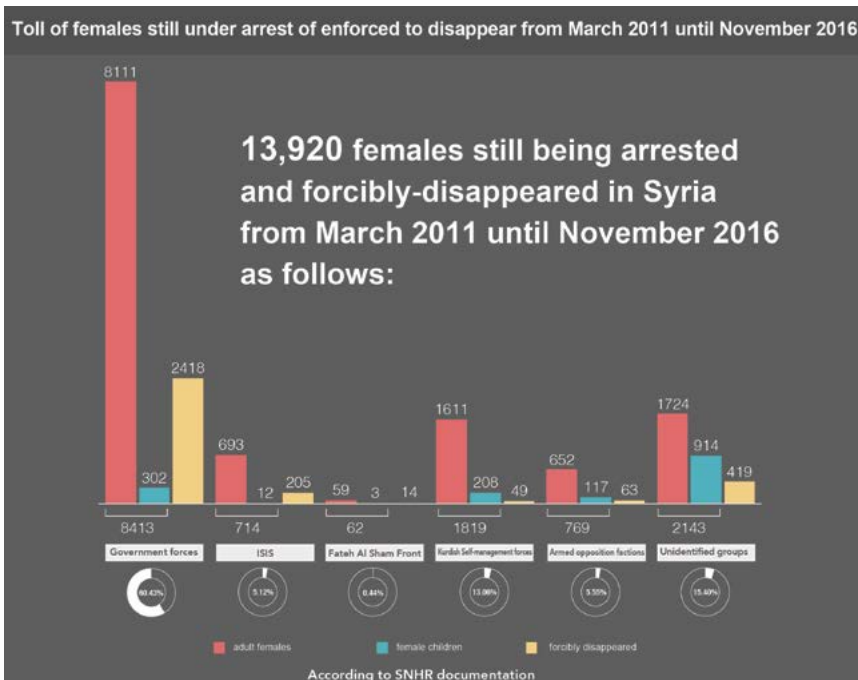


### Arbitrary arrest, enforced-disappearance, and torture:

We recorded that no less than 13,920 females were arrested from March 2011 until November 2016 as follows:

- 12,850 adult females.
- 1070 female children.

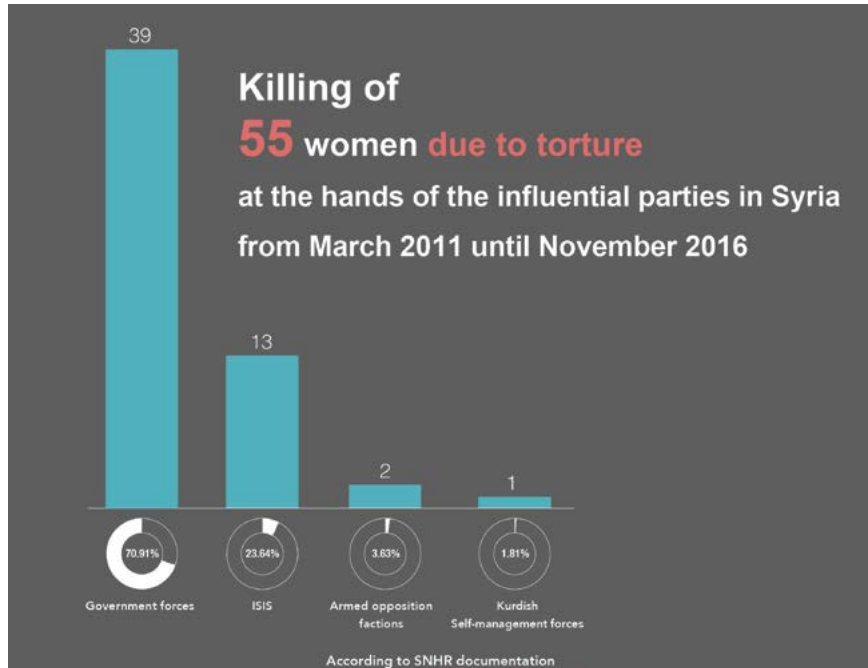
(This toll includes the victims who are still being detained and forcibly-disappeared women as of this moment. It doesn't include who experienced detention.)





## Torture:

We recorded the killing of 55 women due to torture at the hands of the influential parties in Syria from March 2011 and November 2016



## Sexual violence:

Our estimations say that no less than 7686 were subjected to sexual violence





## II. Violations against the Syrian Woman by the Main Parties in the Syrian Conflict

### 1- Violations by government forces

#### A. Extrajudicial killing

Government forces resort to daily and systematic killing throughout Syria through various methods from indiscriminate bombardment operations that involved the use of missiles, artillery, cluster munition, poison gases and barrel bombs to slaughtering with the white weapon and other various kinds of weapons. Usually, civilians are the target and the victim to punish them for rising against the Syrian authorities and to retaliate against them for being in areas that are not under the control of government forces.

From March 2011 until November 2016, the death toll of women has reached 20,287 females divided into 10,862 adult females and 9425 female children who are all recorded by SNHR with names, pictures, videos, place and date of death and other evidences when available. The percentage of women out of the total death toll has exceeded 9% which is a considerably high percentage indicating that government forces are deliberately targeting civilians.

In addition to the direct murder of women, we recorded the death of 39 women inside official and non-official government forces detention centers due to torture, unhealthy detention conditions, negligent health care, and deprivation of food.

Hayat Mahmoud Al Kelles, from Douma city in Damascus suburbs governorate. She was killed along with her fetus, her other son, and her father by a bombardment by fixed-wing government forces warplanes on the city on 10 January 2016.

Female child Borouj Al Zybaq, from Madaya town in Damascus suburbs governorate. She was killed on 12 April 2016 four days after she was born due to food and medication shortage in light of the siege imposed by government forces on the town.

Mariam Mahmoud Al Bakkour, from Kafrzita in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate. She died on 28 August 2016 of wounds sustained in a shelling on the city. by the government forces artillery that was stationed at Der Mharda checkpoint







The policy of killing and killing practices by government forces are conducted in a widespread manner that included all Syrian governorates. These practices were carried out in a systematic and widespread manner which constitutes crimes against humanity. Also, the indiscriminate random bombardment operations are considered war crimes which are still ongoing to this day.

### **B. Arbitrary arrest, enforced-disappearance, and torture**

Government forces have been conducting widespread arbitrary arrests since day one of the eruption of the popular uprising in March 2011. Government forces didn't distinguish between men, children, and women in these arrests that involved activists and civilians. On the contrary, government forces deliberately targeted women whether they were involved in helping IDPs, tending to the wounded, or participated in the peaceful demonstration or even those who are related to armed opposition or for merely being from areas that are not controlled by the Syrian regime which came as a form of punishment for the society that aimed to force it to submit and cease the activities opposing the government given that imprisoning women in the Syrian society is one of the things that negatively affect the reputation, dignity, and esteem of a family within its society.

SNHR records, from March 2011 until November 2016, show that there are no less than 8413 women who are still being detained to this moment including 8111 adult females while the remaining 302 are female children. Also, among the detained females are 2418 cases of enforced-disappearance.

Arrest operations are carried out during raids or by stopping women at government forces checkpoints which are scattered throughout Syria. In many cases, government forces resort to kidnapping women from the streets, workplace, or in ambushes (Which involves luring women to capture them. These practices are used with women who are related to figures from the opposition).

All the arrest cases by government forces are carried out without a legal warrant and more than 99% are done by the intelligence apparatuses. Usually, there are no specific charges to be filed during the period of detention inside detention centers that last for months and years. The woman detainee is forbidden to contact her family or hire a lawyer. In many cases, arbitrary arrest becomes enforced-disappearance. Syrian authorities deny that they are detaining women although all families' accounts assured that government forces are the ones who carried out the raid and the arrest.







Furthermore, government forces releasing women as part of the exchange deals with armed opposition or settlements and reconciliation agreements are an explicit evident that prove that government forces arrested these women.

From the moment of the arrest until the detained women arrive at the detention center and during interrogations, women detainees are subjected to insulting, beating, and brutal and systematic torture. In many cases, this practices are not carried out in order to spread fear and terror among the women detainees rather than to obtain confessions. Methods of torture used on women are nearly identical to those used on men. In addition to recording 39 deaths due torture inside women detention centers, Caesar photographs proved explicitly that many women died due to torture where we have identified many of those women in our study [“The Photographed Holocaust”](#)

The brutal physical torture is not the only form of horror women experience inside detention centers as they also suffer psychologically by depriving her of her children and threatening her with killing and raping in addition to torturing detainees in front of her eyes not to mention the paranoias and fears she would have on account of the prevalent notion in the Syrian community about the sexual violence women are subjected to inside government forces detention centers which would certainly put her future at stake. We have recorded many cases of divorce after detentions and we recorded many cases of violence by families against the women who were detainees. Women are trapped in a very harsh corner as she can't get rid or escape this “shame” which drove some of them to commit suicide.

SNHR spoke to the former detainee (M.A) via Skype. Born in 1982, M.A. is from Al Qaboun neighborhood in Damascus city (The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions), a housewife. She was arrested by government forces as she was passing a checkpoint for government forces in Al Mazza neighborhood in Damascus city on 12 January 2016. She was taken to the Air Force branch in Al Mazza airport in Damascus city where she spent three months during which she experienced consistent humiliation and torture.





M.A talking to SNHR: *“I was routinely passing a checkpoint for the Air Force in Al Mazza neighborhood in Damascus city. The security there asked for my papers so I showed them my I.D. and when they found out that I was from Al Qaboun neighborhood and related to an armed opposition leader in the neighborhood as I had the same surname, they immediately told me to get off the pedestrian bus I was in while insulting me and my family and Al Qaboun neighborhood residents. I was placed in a temporary detention room at the same checkpoint before they took my jewelry, the money I had on me, and my mobile phone.”*

*“After I went inside the detention room, the officer in charge of the checkpoint, named lieutenant Abu Ismail, started directing insults and slurs towards me and accused me of sending information and transferring money for the “armed groups” in Al Qaboun neighborhood. Before I even uttered one word, he slapped me several times and kicked me with his military boot and asked me to face the wall.”*

*“An hour and a half later, a car from the Air Force came, they put a rag on my eye and took me along with another male detainee to a place I couldn’t recognize. I found out later that I am at the Air Force.”*

*“When we got there, we went to the study building and as usual I was welcomed with profane insults and I heard the screams of the other detainee who was beaten severely. They took my personal things, which were my papers and phone, while the jewelry and money remained with the checkpoint that captured me.”*

*“After taking my personal information, I was taken to solitary confinement where I stayed for the entirety of my stay. The first day came and went and no one summoned me. On the next day, I was taken to the interrogation office which was close to the solitary confinement. One of the security men dragged me from my head to the interrogation room. I went into the interrogation room and sat on a chair across the interrogator desk. I was again welcomed with profane insults and sectarian slurs. He told me that I had to confess or I will face a horrifying fate and the rest of my family members will have to surrender themselves. I told him that I am ready to confess everything and I begged him to not do what he threatened me with. He said no and he told me that he wants precise information about the “armed groups” in Al Qaboun neighborhood. I told him I left the neighborhood in 2012 and I live with my brother and his family in Damascus city and I don’t know anything about the peo-*





*ple in Al Qaboun neighborhood. I also said that he can check where I live in Damascus. The interrogator rejected my answers and went into a hysterical state of rage and screamed at my face in a very frightening manner. He asked one of the security to come and ordered him to discipline me and beat me until I confess. He took me to the hall between the rooms and started beating me on different parts of my body and stripped me of my (Hijab) and tossed it on the ground. He kept beating me with a wooden stick that had nails on it until I lost consciousness and I found myself tossed in the solitary. The torture party lasted for ten days and every day the same; the interrogator asks me about to give information I know nothing about and then he asks someone to come and beat me. After approximately ten days, the beating stopped. I stayed there until 4 June 2016 when I was released from the security branch immediately. I found out later that my family paid a huge sum of money in exchange for my release.”*

SNHR spoke via the phone with the university student H.A who is from Al Mahata neighborhood in Hama city, she is a university student at the civil engineering faculty of Al Baath University in Homs city. She was arrested by pro-government forces National Defense militias at a checkpoint near Al Salamiya city in the suburbs of Hama governorate while she was heading home from her university in Homs city in a public transportation bus to Hama city. She was released after she was severely tortured and her family paid a large sum of money for the kidnapers. We recorded her account:

*“On 3 April 2016, while I was heading from Homs city to where I live in Hama city in a public transportation bus. We were surprised that they set up a new checkpoint near Al Salamiya city. The bus was stopped by the checkpoint security men who were about 10 people in military uniform. They got everybody off the bus and asked them about their occupation. When I was asked, I said that I am a university student and they asked me about where I live in Hama city and about my father’s occupation, and I told them without knowing why they were asking such unusual questions. Then they took me in one of their cars and let the bus with everyone in it leave. I started screaming because I realized their ill-intentions. They beat, slapped and insulted me. The trip lasted for 35 minutes before we arrived at a complex that contains a number of old houses. I think it was*





*in a village called Tal Snan in the eastern suburbs of Hama as I was able to read a sign before we got into the village. At the village's entrance, there was a military checkpoint surrounded by a number of tents, they had me get off the car at the checkpoint. I was in a state of panic and fear as I didn't know what will happen to me."*

*They took me to a building in which there were three rooms stacked next to each other. They took me to their boss's room who was a fat guy with a beard and had a lot of tattoos on his neck and hands. When he saw how I was crying and scared, he started laughing ridiculing me and he told me that us, Hama's people, deserve to be slaughtered. They ordered his guys to take me to the jail room which had no windows and there was a nasty smell which, I think, was blood. There was also bullet signs on the walls. Those were days of extreme fear."*

*"I stayed alone in my room until the dark without no food or water. I was listening to them talking. They were bragging about how they raped girls from the eastern suburbs of Hama and, while they were drinking, they were talking about a former abductee from Al Raстан city whom they slaughtered to death and tossed his dead body in a deserted water well because his family didn't pay a ransom."*

*"Afterwards, a guy came and asked me to write down my father's phone number. I found out later that they called my father and told him that I was abducted and they asked for 25 million Syrian pounds as a ransom in exchange for my release or, otherwise, they will rape me and kill me. They gave my father 48 hours or he will find my dead body tossed on a sideway. They also told him that it would be pointless to call the authorities because they are aware of what they are doing and they are going to take their share of the ransom money."*

*"I spent three days there during which I was only fed once and they brought me a container with water in it. After three days of negotiation, some men came to my room and covered my head and they told me that they are going to slaughter me. They put me in a car and I was screaming and begging them. An hour later, they opened the car door and uncovered my head and told me to walk until I find a car that will take me to Hama. They told me to not utter one word. After a lot of struggle, I got to my house in Hama city. I learned from my family that they paid half the money they asked after my father was unable to secure the whole sum and the abductors told them to wait for my return."*





Hadil Al Warraq, from Aleppo city, housewife, 37-year-old at the time of the arrest, married and a mother of three. On 1 January 2016, she was arrested by the pro-government forces Political Security forces when she was passing an inspection point in Boṣṭan Al Qaser neighborhood in Aleppo city. She was taken to the Political Security branch in Aleppo city on the same day. She was released in May 2016.

(Fatima.F) from Ein Al Louza in Hama city, 19-year-old. On 14 April 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared by members affiliated with the pro-government forces National Defense militias near her place of residence in Ein Al Louza in Hama city. She was released on 21 April 2016 after her family paid a ransom for the abductors.

Rabah Al Zeben, from Jourat Al Shayyah neighborhood in Homs city, aged 47-year-old at the time of the arrest, married and a mother of five, she is an employee at the labor and employment office at the water institution in Homs city. On 21 June 2015, as Rabah was passing an inspection point (The sports hall checkpoint) for government forces in Tareaq Al Sham area in Homs city, she was arbitrarily arrested by the Military Security forces who took her to an undisclosed location. Her family didn't get any information regarding her fate or where she is being kept after that date. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.



Methods of torture that are used against women inside detention centers are hardly any different from those used against men. We have monitored in an extensive report [46 methods of the most notable methods of torture that government forces use inside its detention centers](#). The brutal torture resulted in the death of 39 women most of them were killed inside security branches while civil prisons only saw three deaths due to torture and negligent health care.

Zahra Khalil Al Ali, university student, from Ghabagheb town in Daraa governorate. She was arrested by government forces in December 2014 as she was passing an inspection point in Damascus city. On 6 November 2016, we received information confirming her death due to torture inside a detention center in Damascus city.







### C. Sexual violence

The use of sexual violence as a weapon by government forces became noticeable after the popular uprising started in March 2011 as a way of retaliation and to spread fear and panic throughout the Syrian society. Sexual violence was practiced in a systematic and widespread manner to deter the street and warn him of the consequences of continuing its opposing activists against the Syrian authority. Also, sexual violence was used as a mean of war that aim to destroy the social fabric. Many incidents of sexual violence, especially rape, were committed based on sectarian backgrounds. Government forces resorted to using sexual violence inside their detention centers to acquire information and confessions from women detainees or to retaliate against her or out of spite for the male detainees as a way to humiliate them. Rates of sexual violence was at its highest in the beginning of 2012 until mid-2013. Acts of sexual violence had a horrendous toll on the Syrian society where it left no choice for many families but to migrate, flee their houses, or prevent their daughters and wives from moving between areas in order to avoid the risk of them being arrested or abducted and then rape especially between areas under the control of armed opposition and areas under the control of government forces. This reflected especially on the women who were sexually victimized which resulted in cases of mental and social breakdown especially in the event of pregnancy and giving birth.

SNHR's estimations show that government forces committed no less than 7686 incidents of sexual violence including nearly 856 incidents that occurred inside detention centers. Additionally, out of the 7686 cases, 432 cases of sexual violence involved girls younger than 18-year-old.

We noticed in the many interviews we conducted with women who were raped inside detention centers that each case has specific circumstances and we can't generalize that every woman who was detained has been raped. There are many factors that drive security men to perpetrate rapes without no fear or deterrent such as the geographic and sectarian background of the woman detainee, her role in the popular uprising, and whether she is related to activists or notable figures from the opposition where security men use rape to retaliate against the woman detainee's family and her opposing community. There is a prevalent notion within the Syrian community that every woman who was detained will naturally get raped which is entirely untrue as we have to distinguish between the degrees of sexual violence. Most of the women who are detained are sexually harassed especially during inspection whereas rape was committed systemically against special cases that we documented some of in the report ["A Scar of a Lifetime"](#)





## **Operations of sexual violence were in three main patterns:**

### **A. During raids:**

In the beginning of the popular uprising, government forces used to raid and break into cities that rose against the government. They committed many massacres some of which were of a sectarian nature in addition to looting, thieving, and burning and breaking houses. Furthermore, sexual violence operations, such as stripping, harassment, and verbal sexual violence were practiced a lot in front of the families. Additionally, the raiding forces deliberately rape as a form of collective punishment against the area residents.

Wala, A, from Homs city, 45-year-old, she is a refugee in Irsal camp and a mother of five. SNHR spoke to her in the tent she lives in and she told us how government forces forced her to strip in front of her husband and kids when their house was raided by joint forces of army and security in the neighborhood she lives in 2014 (Per her request, we won't mention the neighborhood's name as the incident was famous in her neighborhood).

*Wala: "A large group of security and army raided the neighborhood we live in without knowing why. I think they still resent this neighborhood because everyone there participated in the demonstration at the beginning of the revolution even though they arrested more than half of the neighborhood youth and the largest part fled to the countryside which is under the control of the rebels. I think when these forces neighborhood, they conceded many losses in their battles against the rebels in the countryside so they came here to retaliate against the neighborhoods that they control but know that they oppose them. They came to the neighborhood and gathered all the males they saw in the neighborhood square as they insulted them and directed offensive slurs towards them. Afterwards, they went into the houses and looted everything they can until it was my house's turn. They broke the door and went in and immediately the officer ordered everyone inside the house to come and stand in front of him. It was me, my husband, and our five kids. He had my husband arrested and took him, and then he asked me what I was hiding under my clothes and ordered me to take it off or he will ask his men to do so. I started screaming and beg him but he hit me and took my (Hijab) off and tore my clothes and ordered me to stand and raise my hand so he can make sure that I am not hiding anything. During all of that, he was telling me that I was a joy for the "armed groups" and I worked as a*







*prostitute for them when they were in the neighborhood years ago, and that all of us have no honor. He told me that next time he will come back to let his men “have some fun” because the “armed groups” are no better than them. They wrecked the furniture and left. My husband remained for a week under detention. When he came back, we decided to leave the neighborhood and flee to Lebanon because we knew that they would never leave us alone.”*

## **B. Inside detention centers**

Many sexual violence acts were practiced inside detention centers. We published many accounts on that subject. Most of the women who survived detention and were interviewed by SNHR have been subjected to sexual violence in the form of harassment during inspection, and sexually blackmail the woman detainee in exchange for some new clothes, allowing her family to visit her, or making a phone call in addition to verbal sexual violence. During interrogation, women are accused of having coitus with members of armed opposition factions which the Syrian authorities refer to as “Sexual Jihad” (Jihad Al Nekah). SNHR recorded that the Syrian government forced 11 females, including girls under the age of 18, to say on the national television channel that they had sex with opposition fighters per their families’ request.

Kamela Al Dassouqi, married, 36-year-old, from Aleppo city. On 22 March 2016, State Security members in Aleppo city arrested her as she was buying a ticket to travel to Damascus city from one of the garages in the city. She was taken to the State Security branch where she was harassed and sexually blackmailed during inspection. She was released 26 days later and no charges were filed against her.

SNHR met with Kamela in Aleppo suburbs: *“When I was in the garage, a State Security patrol came and asked for my I.D. and asked me why I was leaving even though it wasn’t the first time I travelled to Damascus or to my hometown in Al Atareb city. Afterwards, they asked me to come with them and they told me that there are a couple of questions they need answered at the branch. I got into the car and we arrived at the branch in a matter of minutes. A few seconds before the car stopped completely, they covered my head and tied my hands behind my back and dragged me until we arrived at a place I couldn’t recognize. They told me to put*





*everything I have on me on the table, and then they took me to a very small cell, and asked me to wait. I stayed there until the morning of next day.”*

*“On the next day, I went to the interrogation room while my head is covered and my hand tied behind my back. Once I got there, the interrogator asked me what I am carrying so I told him that they took everything from me yesterday. He asked me if I was inspected and answered no. He directly came in front of me and started inspecting my body in an insulting manner and didn't stop until I screamed at him because he was harassing me under the pretext of inspection. He beat and insulted me and told me to sit on the ground and started asking me about my family members and my occupation and why I was travelling and some of the phone numbers I had on my phone. Interrogation lasted for two hours before I went back to my cell.”*

*“I spent 25 days in the cell alone. During that time, I was savagely treated. They would only let me use the bathroom once a day and the food was mostly groats or potato with two meals every day. When I would ask the security men that come to open the cell door about my charges or for how long I am going to stay here, their answer would be that I will not get anything from them without something in return while performing sexual moves and saying offensive remarks. The situation remained like this until day 26 when one of the men told me to prepare myself to be released. They made me sign some papers I didn't know what it was about and then they released me.”*

### **C. After abduction in non-official detention centers**

With many forces joined government forces, some of these forces, mainly the National Defense militias and people's committees, set up checkpoints and established non-official detention centers such as private farms that are owned by the leaders of these militias. Usually, they used these locations to keep the abductees while they are negotiation a ransom. These forces targeted women particularly considering that the woman's family will agree to pay a ransom immediately especially if they threatened to rape the abducted woman.

Many women were raped while they were abducted by these forces. Usually, the rape operation end with the victim being killed and her dead body tossed on the sideway or buried in unknown locations.





Government forces used sexual violence as a weapon to deter the society which has become a phenomenon with severe consequences on the victims especially women, girls, and their families and communities. Nonetheless, there are many incidents that are yet to be documented where the victim didn't have enough courage to come forward in most cases out of fear of retaliation against her, stigma, or the way her community would see her.

## **2- Violations by Russian forces**

Since Russian forces commenced their military airstrikes on 30 September 2015, they targeted mostly places where civilians gather and vital facilities. We have published several reports documenting the massacres and violations that resulted from the Russian bombardment the last of which was [“Detailed Account of Most Notable Violations of Human Rights by Russian Forces in One Year”](#). The consistent targeting of civilians' areas by Russian forces in a widespread and systematic manner and the use of weapons with high destructive impact led to a rise in the death toll among children and women.

We documented, at SNHR, the killing of 668 females that are divided into 340 adult females and 328 female children as a result of attacks we believe are Russian. This is a considerably high toll that indicates that civilians were deliberately targeted by Russian forces.

Female child Muna Mohammad Romo, from Al Bab city in Aleppo governorate, 13-year-old, she was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Kourniesh street in the city on 27 January 2016.

Najlaa Khaled Shehada, from Deir Ez-Zour city, she was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Takaya street in the city on 5 February 2016.

Sanaa Ali Jakka, from Deir Ez-Zour city, she was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on an IDPs camp in Al Hammad area near the Jordanian-Syrian borders on 12 July 2016.





### **3- Violations by Self-management forces (Primarily the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)**

Kurdish forces have been a main influential party in Syria since July 2012 when government forces started withdrawing from areas of a Kurdish majority in northern and northeastern Syria while maintaining their presence in some of the vital centers. The Democratic Union Party (Syria), which is affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (Turkey), consequently seized Ifreen, Ain Al Arab (Koubani), and Al Jazira. Asayish forces are the forces who maintain internal order (the police) and People’s Protection Units (Aboujiya) can be considered the army. The Democratic Union Party and its forces established later the Self-management forces, which are of a Kurdish majority, in January 2014.

#### **A. Extrajudicial killing**

Democratic Union Party carried out acts of killing, and targeted women in indiscriminate shelling operations, sniping, or field-executions in areas that they took over recently. Also, they committed many massacres that beard an ethnic-cleansing nature which we monitored some of in the report: [“The Most Significant Human Rights Violations by Kurdish Democratic Union Party and the Kurdish Self-Management Forces”](#)

SNHR documented, from July 2012 until November 2016, the killing of 59 females divided into 22 adult females and 37 female children at the hands of the Self-management forces and the forces that joined them later.

Female child Elham Ahmad Al Hamoud, from Al Tarmieat village in Al Hasakeh governorate, she was killed by the Syrian Democratic Forces who targeted a tractor with machine guns on the road between Al Tarmieat and Al Metyaha villages in the suburbs of Al Hasakeh governorate on 22 February 2016.

Shamsa al Jad’an, from Manbej city in Aleppo governorate, she was killed by a sniper from the Self-management forces at Al Bata circle in the suburbs of Manbej city on 8 July 2016.





Ghaliya Mohammad Al Ismail, from Tal Abyad city in Al Raqqa governorate, 23-year-old, she was killed by a landmine planted by the Self-management forces on the road between Tal Abyad Sharqi and Khaboura on 23 September 2016.

Self-management forces have committed, through indiscriminate shelling operations and murder, acts that constitute war crimes. All these crimes violate the international humanitarian law in a blatant manner. Being an on-the-ground authority, the party has to adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.

### **B. Arbitrary arrest, Enforced-disappearance, and torture**

Self-management forces have imposed conscription in its area of control since the beginning of 2014. These forces carried out raids and arrests in its areas in Al Hasakeh, Al Qamishly, and Aleppo suburbs that involved youths, women, and minor females. Also, they resorted to abductions from the streets and schools in case the woman or the minor female refused conscription and hid those women or minor families in training camps after severing any form of communication with their families or preventing their families from visiting them before thrusting them into combat operations.

Furthermore, Self-management forces carried out arrests that targeted female activists, media activists, and politicians in arrest campaigns that targeted anyone who oppose its policies and the laws imposed in their areas of control.

From the beginning of 2014 until November 2016, SNHR documented that 1819 women were arrested including 208 female children who are younger than 18 years of age. Among the detainees were 49 forcibly-disappeared women. Additionally, we documented the death of one woman due to negligent health care inside a detention center affiliated to Self-management forces.

According to accounts we recorded from women who survived detention at the detention centers of the Self-management forces, methods such as brutal beating with a stick, nails removal, and deprivation of food and health care for periods of time that can last for weeks were used on women detainees inside detention centers in addition to detaining the woman under cruel conditions such as subjecting her to hot or sever cold weathers.





Umama Abdurrahman Al Sayyed, from Deir Ez-Zour city, 63-year-old. In October 2016, she was arrested by Self-management forces as she was passing an inspection point named (Rajm Salibi checkpoint) in Al Hasakeh governorate. She had a heart condition. On 12 November 2016, we received information conforming her death as she wasn't able to endure the hard weather conditions and the lack of medical and humanitarian services.

A number of women in Al Malikiya city in Al Hasakeh governorate went on strike in protest against the arrest policies adopted by the Self-management forces on 18 September 2016.



On 25 August 2016, Self-management forces raided Dardara and Mjebra villages in the suburbs of Ras Al Ein city in Al Hasakeh governorate after midnight. Self-management forces raided a number of houses and arrested three women, one of whom was arrested along with her son, over accusations that their husbands are affiliated to armed opposition factions. They were taken to an undisclosed location after their houses were searched and wrecked.

Female child Handareen Mahmoud Wali, from Ras Al Ein city in the suburbs of Al Hasakeh governorate, 16-year-old. She was arrested by Self-management forces in Ras Al Ein city and then taken to the Management's conscription camps on 26 August 2016.







University student Afin Mohammad Hasan, from Al Qamishli in Al Hasakeh governorate, 23-year-old, a university student at the faculty of archeology and a member of the Kurdistan Democratic party. On 16 August 2016, she was arrested by the Self-management forces in Al Qamishli city. She was released on 17 March 2016. Female child Afin Ahmad Sharif, from Amouda city in the suburbs of Al Hasakeh governorate, born in 2000.



She was arrested by Self-management forces in Amouda city in the suburbs of Al Hasakeh governorate on 2 August 2016 and then was taken to an undisclosed location. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

SNHR spoke to the former woman detainee A.G from Tal Brak town in the suburbs of Al Hasakeh governorate, born in 1976, a housewife, lives with her family in Ghweran neighborhood in Al Hasakeh city. On 9 August 2016, she was arrested by along with her 17-year-old daughter Fatima near the city market. She was released on 10 August 2016. She provided us with her account:

*“On 9 August 2016, as I was going to the city market with my daughter Fatima, a PKK patrol approached us. The patrol comprised of three people including a woman and all of them were armed. They asked for our papers and we showed them the necessary papers. After they found out that we were from Tal Brak, they asked us about members affiliated to ISIS from the town. I told them that I don't know them and I had nothing to do with them or anyone from ISIS. They started insulting me and one of them tried to take us by force to a car that was parked nearby. I resisted and started screaming. Another member of the patrol told me that I should go to the interrogation office and everything will go normally so I actually agreed. They covered my eyes and my daughter's eye with a rag. 30 minutes later, we arrived at the interrogation building. I don't know exactly the location but everyone there were PKK and they rarely spoke in Arabic. We were taken to the basement where they put us in a mass prison along with three other girls who will be taken to battle. One of the girls was about 15-year-old and she was very scared. After two hours, I was summoned to the interrogation office. The interrogators were two persons one of them was a woman who speaks very broken Arabic. The woman started asking me about ISIS who had the same surname as me but I didn't know them at all. I told her that, and she*







*threatened me that if I didn't reveal all the names of the people who are affiliated to ISIS from Tal Brak town, she would transfer me to another prison outside Al Hasakeh where no one will know of my fate. I told her again that I don't know anything about them. One of the security guys standing behind me kicked the chair I was sitting and I fell strongly on the ground where my forehead hit the ground and I lost consciousness for a few minutes. I woke up on my daughter's screams in the mass cell who was very concerned about me. My nose bled and my daughter told me that they interrogated her as well and asked about our current place of residence and when we fled. We were released on the evening of the next day after meditators from Al Hasakeh intervened."*

On 4 June 2016, Khadija Al Daghli and her daughter Abir Al Hasan were beaten and assaulted by Self-management forces in Slouk town in the suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate after they participated in demonstrations protesting the policies of the Self-management forces.

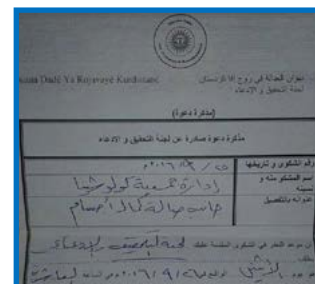
Picture showing Khadija Al Daghli received treatment at a hospital



In addition, and as part of a policy to hurdle local community organizations, Self-management forces shut down a number of organizations, which are specialized in women empowerment and women's care, under several protests such as not complying with licensing requirements or providing services for armed opposition factions families, or being involved in activists against the Self-management forces.

On 2 October 2016, Self-management forces shut down Kolişîna center for women empowerment in Amouda in Al Hasaka governorate after their license request was rejected by the Self-management without revealing the reasons even though the center was providing psychological services and vocational training for women in the area. Out of fear of being detained, threatened, and pursued by the Self-management forces, the women working at the center evacuated the center and closed it.

Picture of a memorandum issued by the Self-management against Kolişîna center for women empowerment.





## 4- Violations by extremist Islamic groups

### ISIS

#### A. Extrajudicial killing

Since it was founded on 9 April 2013, ISIS has been carrying out killings in a widespread and systematic manner in its area of control. ISIS is still expanding and spreading carrying out many attacks on areas under the control of the opposition factions mainly and government forces' and Self-management forces' area of control.

ISIS carried out killing through indiscriminate shelling, direct killing, field-execution, stoning to death, or denotating bombs in civilians' areas.

We recorded the killing of no less than 358 females divided into 217 adult females and 141 female children from the declaration of the foundation of ISIS until November 2016.

Lina Al Qasem, from Jabla city in Latakia governorate, employee at the postal corporation in Al Raqqa city. ISIS executed her by shooting her to death in Al Raqqa city after she was accused of communicating with outer entities on 6 January 2016.

Female child Rim Maher, from Al Sayda Zenab in Damascus suburbs governorate, she was killed in a car bomb that ISIS detonated in Al Tin Street in Al Sayda Zenab area in Damascus suburbs on 25 February 2016.



Marina Jomaa, from Al Makhram Al Fouqani village in Homs governorate, she was killed in a bombing where an ISIS element blew a motorbike near the recruitment division in Homs city in the middle of a civilian gathering on 5 May 2016.



Fatima Khadr Al Alwan, from Al Joura neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city. She died due to food and medication shortage in light of the siege imposed on the neighborhood by ISIS on 19 July 2016.

ISIS and Fateh Al Sham Front carried out the crime of killing in a widespread attack against civilian residents which constitute crimes against humanity. Also, indiscriminate random shelling operations are classified as war crimes and a violation of the international humanitarian law.





## **B. Arbitrary arrest, Enforced-disappearance, and torture**

ISIS imposed in its area of control mandatory laws on women and restricted their living aspects where ISIS imposed certain clothes on women when they leave her house, at work, when travelling, or when getting married.

ISIS established special prisons for women that are supervised by female workers affiliated to ISIS who are called “Al Hesba Al Nesa’iya” or “Nesaa’ Al Hesba” and also built cages to detain women in public places for punishing them when they violate the regulations imposed by ISIS.

Al Hesba Al Nesa’iya pursues women in streets, markets, and their workplaces and arrest any women violators such as not wearing a Neqab or leaving the house without a Mohram (A woman’s husband, son, father, brother, or nephew), and files charges against them such as having profane appearances, sedition, finery, or not wearing proper clothes (called Lebas Shar’i). Punishments for these offenses vary by the charge from arresting for days or months to placing women in cages at a public place, biting, whipping, and stoning and execution. A woman can’t leave detention until her guardian come and sign a pledge to abstain from repeating the offense.

From the beginning of 2013 until November 2016, SNHR documented the arrest of no less than 714 females including 693 adult females while the remaining 21 were female children. Among the arrest cases were a large number of activists in different fields.

No less than 205 women detainees are now forcibly-disappeared. We recorded the death of 13 women due to torture inside ISIS detention centers most of them were killed after they were sentenced to death by stoning, whipping, or dragging.

On 17 May 2016, Al Hesba Al Nesa’iya arrested a female citizen from Boqros town in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour town and locked her in a cage in al Jadida cemetery across from the sheep market in Al Mayadeen city in Deir Ez-Zour for not wearing proper clothes (Lebas Shar’i) outside the house. The lady was making bread in front of her house. Al Hesba Al Nesa’iya walked with the cage around Al Mayadeen city and she was released a few hours later.





(W.B) from Manbej city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, a housewife. On 14 January 2016, she was arrested by members of ISIS from her place of residence in Al Bannawi neighborhood in Manbej city over accusation of communicating with armed opposition factions. They took her for a detention center dedicated for women in Manbej city. She was released on 22 March 2016.

SNHR spoke with her, via Skype, and she provided us with her testimony:

*“On 14 January 2016, when I was at a shop in Al Bannawi neighborhood in Manbej city, an ISIS armed patrol raided the shop and arrested me and my little brother. The arresting was very vicious and involved many insults such as: “You infidel, you are an agent for infidels” I begged them at stop to tell me what is happening and we talked for about 10 minutes. Afterwards, they took me in one of their cars and released my little brother after they found out that he is mentally disabled. They didn’t beat me during the arrest. We arrived at the prison which is a two-floor building with about eight rooms. It is more of an old government building. They took me to the basement and left me in a big room by myself. In the room, there were old blankets and pillows and a large plastic container with dirt in it. The room didn’t have any windows, ventilation, or lighting. After three hours, the prison administrator, named Abu Al Dardaa and he is Syrian, summoned me. The interrogator started asking me questions calmly and asked me about guys whom I related to and who fight with the Free Syrian Army. I told him that I don’t know any one of them so he had me go back to my room where they gave me food. In the room, I heard the about five women detainees begging as they were being tortured and beaten. Most of them were wives or sisters to fighters from the Free Syrian Army from Manbej city. On the next day, the interrogation was more intense where the interrogator started screaming viciously in my face and hit me with a wooden stick on my shoulders and my back as I was on the chair in his room. Every day, the torture would go for an hour and a half and ends up with me confessing to everything they want me to but I couldn’t give any information. After ten days of interrogation and torture, no one called me up for interrogation anymore and they would only disturb me by knocking hard on my door at night and deprive me of food and water and threaten to slaughter me. These practices were done by the new guards who come to start their shifts. I was released on 22 March 2016 and they asked me to give them any information I would*





*know about the Free Syrian Army in the future. As for the other girls, they remained there and I couldn't meet any of them."*

University student [Lubna Mohammad Ghatfa](#), from Al Mab'ouja village in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, born in 1991, a university student at the faculty of literature – the history department. On 1 April 2016, she was arrested by ISIS from her place of residence in Al Mab'ouja village after ISIS took over the village. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Teacher [Sahar Rashid Atfa](#), from Al Mab'ouja village in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, born in 1959, an elementary teacher. On 1 April 2016, she was arrested by ISIS from her place of residence in Al Mab'ouja village after ISIS took over the village. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

### **Restrictive practices against women**

ISIS imposed a number of laws that made the woman isolated completely from the society. These restrictions made many women prefer to stay at home and not leave except when it is extremely necessary and within their capabilities of complying with ISIS rules on proper clothes, having a Mohram, and walking in places where there isn't a lot of men and women in the same place. In addition, ISIS forced women to marry its elements especially the ones who are foreign.

The blatant discrimination between men and women led to the woman not getting full health care and deprived her of education and work. One of the laws imposed by ISIS is that male doctors can't treat or touch female patients. Also, women weren't allowed to travel and use public transportation without a Mohram and the woman has to give a justification for travel in order to let her pass at their checkpoints. SNHR met with many women who managed to get out of ISIS's areas of control and they talked about the unjust laws against them.

Ahlam Al Mohammad used to work at a women's salon and was one of the women who managed to flee with their families from Al Raqqa city. She arrived in Hama city and she told SNHR via Skype:

*"ISIS forced me to shut down the salon where I used to work under the pretext that I enticed women to have an improper appearance even though I wouldn't let any woman get out from my saloon without wearing*





*a black cloak covering all of her body to avoid any troubles. Also, I paid 300,000 Syrian pounds as a fine, and ISIS members warned me against reopening the saloon.”*

The practices adopted by ISIS and Al Nusra Front in their areas of control are a violation of common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. These practices constitute war crimes.

## **Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nusra Front)**

### **A. Extrajudicial killing**

From it was founded on 24 January 2014 until November 2016, SNHR documented the killing of no less than 74 females, including 53 adult females while the remaining 21 are female children, in indiscriminate shelling operations, field-executions, and opening fire indiscriminately during the raids of members of armed opposition who are wanted by the Front in addition to bombings in public places and between civilians.

Anwar Ahmad Qarfan, from Tsiel town in Daraa governorate, she was killed along with her husband and two kids by an artillery shell that fell on her house in the town. The shells were fired from an artillery for Fateh Al Sham Front that was stationed at Tal Jmoua' on 25 March 2016.

### **B. Arrest and enforced-disappearance**

From the day it was founded until November 2016, SNHR documented that Fateh Al Sham Front arrested no less than 62 women divided into 59 adult females and three female children who are all still being detained including 14 forcibly-disappeared women. Most of the arrests were over accusation related to violating Sharia regulations. Also, we recorded the arrest of a number of women activists, who work in various fields, over accusation of lacking a permit to work.

(We refrain from revealing the name for security reasons), female, from Hama city, 40-year-old, media activist. On 12 April 2016, she was arrested by armed members of Fateh Al Sham Front while she was in Idlib city. She was released on 17 April 2016.







Zainab Al Hamoud, from Armanaz town in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, a math teacher. On 5 June 2016, she was arrested by armed members of Fateh Al Sham Front from her place of residence in Armanaz town. She was released on 12 June 2016. Zainab provided us with her account:

*“On 5 June 2016, as I was heading to my house in Armanaz from Hama city, where I was to receive my monthly paycheck from the directorate of education as a government employee, I was surprised by a vicious knocking on my door and someone was shouting. My husband opened the door to find armed people who had their face covered. They showed an arrest warrant against me which was issued by Harem District Security and not Armanaz court. We argued with the masked men which ended up with both me and my husband arrested and taken to the police station in Armanaz. They put me and my husband in an interrogation room. About half an hour later, the interrogator called us and he was from the same town and was known to everybody. He started accusing me of moving to the regime areas and there were reports written against me and he accused me of providing the regime with information in Al Nusra Front in Armanaz, Salqin, and Harem. The arguing intensified between the interrogator and my husband, and the interrogator started to get angry. Some people came and took my husband from the interrogation room to an unnown place, and I found out later that they released him after a two-day suspension. As for me, I was called for interrogation every day. They didn't beat me but they threatened to kill me if I didn't confess. The treatment was very poor from the people in charge of the center. They would always threaten me and accuse me of treason and prohibit me from contacting my family or let them visit me. I was released on 12 June 2016 after prominent figures from Armanaz intervened.”*

## **5- Violations by armed opposition factions**

### **A. Extrajudicial killing**

SNHR documented the killing of no less than 798 females divided into 407 adult females and 391 female children at the hands of various factions affiliated with armed opposition. Most of the victims fell in the indiscriminate shelling that opposition forces carry out targeting areas under the control of government forces and especially mortar shelling or during raids of government forces' areas.



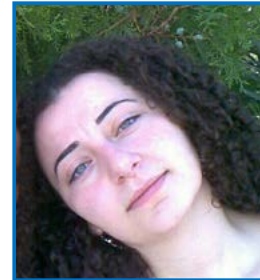




Female child Ghazal Mohammad Hanas, from Al Ashrafiya neighborhood in Aleppo city, four-year-old, she was killed along with three brothers of her by a locally-made shell that fell on her house. The shell was fired by an artillery for division 16, an armed opposition faction, which was stationed in Bani Zaid neighborhood on 11 January 2016.

Aisha Fetal, from Boṣṭan Al Zahra neighborhood in Aleppo city, she was killed by a sniper from armed opposition factions who was stationed in Boṣṭan Al Qaser neighborhood on 20 April 2016.

Female child Yana Salloum, from Nahr Al Bared town in Hama governorate, she was killed by grad missiles fired by Jaish Al Naser, an armed opposition faction, on the town on 20 April 2016.



Falak Al Aghwani, from Bait Sawa town in Damascus suburbs, 75-year-old She was killed by Jaish Al Islam tanks during clashes between Jaish Al Islam and Failaq Al Rahman and Jaish Al Fesṭat, the three groups are armed opposition factions, in Eastern Ghouta on 2 May 2016.

Female child Fatima Nour Al Din, from Al Fou'a town in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, she died due to a medication shortage in light of the siege imposed by armed opposition factions on the town on 13 January 2016.

## **B. Arrest and enforced-disappearance**

Armed opposition factions arrested no less than 769 females including 652 adult females whereas the remaining 117 were female children in areas under the control of government forces or armed opposition. The highest recorded rate of arrests of women by armed opposition was in 2014 during attacks carried out on the towns of Latakia suburbs.

No less than 63 women detainees are now forcibly-disappeared. Also, we recorded the death of two women due to torture and negligent health care inside detention centers for armed opposition factions.





Some armed opposition factions arrest entire families after raiding government forces-controlled areas in order to use those families to free women in exchange deals with government forces and use them as hostages.

Female child Maya Yousef Al Ra'ie, from Al Zara town in the suburbs of Homs governorate, 13-year-old. On 12 May 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared after armed opposition factions that work jointly at northern Homs suburbs operation room took over the village. SNHR hasn't been able to determine her fate or locate where she is being detained to this moment.

Thamya' Dib Suliman, from Al Zara town in the suburbs of Homs governorate, 40-year-old. On 12 May 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared after armed opposition factions that work jointly at northern Homs suburbs operation room took over the village. SNHR hasn't been able to determine her fate or locate where she is being detained to this moment.

Ammar Al Khomini's wife, from Kafr Batna town in Damascus suburbs governorate, she had a miscarriage after panicking when members of Failaq Al Rahman, an armed opposition faction, raided her place of residence in Kafr Batna town and started to scream and utter insults against the women who were in the house which led to a severe bleeding that resulted in the miscarriage of her six-month fetus. Afterwards, she didn't get the proper health care as they couldn't transfer her to the hospitals in Damascus, which is under the control of government forces, or to Barza area due to the disputes among factions on the tunnels connecting Eastern and Western Ghoutas.

A [picture](#) of a medical report on the death of that woman's fetus

## **6- Violations by international coalition forces**

The international coalition forces commenced their military campaign against ISIS on Tuesday 23 September 2014 and carried out many airstrikes in Aleppo, Deir Ez-Zour, Al Raqqa, and Idlib governorates. These airstrikes resulted in massacres and killing of civilians including women and children. According to what was recorded by SNHR, the international coalition killed no less than 114 females divided into 56 adult females and 88 female children from the beginning of the military campaign until November 2016.





Rim Fa'our Al Abou, from Ain Al Arous village in Al Raqqa governorate. She was killed in a missile bombardment by international coalition warplanes that targeted the village 26 February 2016.

Fatima Al Zouri, from Manbej city in Aleppo governorate. She was killed in a missile bombardment by international coalition warplanes that targeted the city on 9 July 2016.

Female child Samar Abdullah Saqqar, from Keljibreen town in Aleppo governorate. She was killed in a missile bombardment by the international coalition warplanes that targeted the eastern parts of the town, which are under the control of ISIS, on 27 May 2016.

### **7- Violations by unidentified groups**

This category refers to two patterns of incidents that we encounter in our daily monitoring of violation of human rights in Syria:

A. Groups that are affiliates of one of the main six parties to the conflict but we couldn't confirm to what party the group who is responsible for the act or the crime is affiliated. These difficulties stem from the overlapped and intersecting areas of control of a number of parties in many cases, or due to extreme security complications.

B. Groups who work as gangs and not affiliated to any party. These groups operate in some areas of control taking advantage of the prevalent chaos to carry out killings and abductions for ransoms or sometimes based on sectarian backgrounds.

These groups can be found across the Syrian regions and especially in the areas controlled by government forces and ISIS. Usually, these groups execute abductions in public streets and in areas that suffer from an extremely poor security situation or areas that are the battleground of clashes between government forces and the other parties.





### **A. Extrajudicial killing**

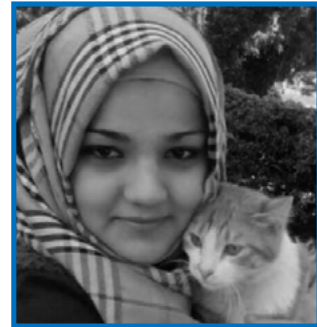
From March 2011 until November 2016, SNHR documented the killing of 435 females, divided into 204 adult females and 231 female children, at the hands of unidentified groups.

Madiha Al Ajlani, from Damascus city and lives in Aleppo, a doctor who works for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. She was killed by unknowns who shot her in the chest when she was at her house in Al Martini neighborhood in Aleppo city during clashes between government forces and armed opposition factions on 24 June 2016.



Female child Feryal Yamin Dablouni, from Al Forqan neighborhood in Aleppo city. She was killed in a missile bombardment by an unidentified group in Al Forqan neighborhood, under the control of government forces, on 8 July 2016.

Yaman Sabrin, from Al Forqan neighborhood in Aleppo city. She was killed in a missile bombardment by an unidentified group in Al Forqan neighborhood, under the control of government forces, on 8 July 2016.



### **B. Abduction and enforced-disappearance**

From March 2011 to November 2016, SNHR documented that no less than 2143 females who are abducted and forcibly-disappeared by unidentified groups including 419 female children.

Nawwar AbdulKarim Idrees, from Homs city, a nurse, 31-year-old, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared in Homs countryside on 30 October 2016. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Nisreen Abdullah Kanjou, from Aleppo governorate, 32-year-old, a housewife. On 19 October 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared in her place of residence in Maskana city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.





## **IV. Recommendations**

### **The European States and the European Union**

The rate of economic sanctions imposed on the two main supporters of the Syrian regime, Iran and Russia, must be increased which is something the European Union can implement efficiently. While the protection of civilians and safe zones are still primary goals, economic sanctions are effective.

Provide every possible assist for the civil society organizations that are involved in the rehabilitation and reintegration of women victims.

### **The Security Council**

Protecting women in Syria has been severed of the Syrian regime's responsibilities as the Regime is the party that is perpetrating the greatest violations against the Syrian woman. The Security Council is responsible. Any possible steps have to be taken in order to protect the Syrian woman and the Syrian society.

At minimum, The Security Council must apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to let international observers, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, visit women detention centers without any restrictions.

### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Issue a special report on the violations against the Syrian woman in particular.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our most profound thanks and apperception go out to the victims' families, relatives, and friends, and for the local and media activists who contributed majorly to this report.

