



No less than 619 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest Recorded in July 2016

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I. Introduction

The detainees issue hasn't seen any notable progress even though it was included in the "Cessation of Hostiles" statement. Regarding that issue in particular, we recommend the following:

1- Arbitrary arrests must be ceased immediately as it is still an ongoing concern according to SNHR monthly report. All detainees' fates must be revealed and their families' right to visit them must be insured immediately as well.

2- All detainees who were detained for merely exercising their political and civil rights must be released unconditionally. The use of women and children as war hostages must be stopped and they all must be released.

3- To grant the Independent international monitors of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which was established by the UN, and the International Committee of the Red Cross access to all official and non-official detention centers without setting up any prior arrangements or any restrictions or conditions.

4- A UN committee should be formed to see to the release of the detainees periodically and per a timetable that must be presented by all the detaining parties and mainly government forces that is detaining 99% of all the detainees.

Methodology:

The ongoing and daily process of documenting detainees comes with additional challenges for SNHR that have been documenting detainees since 2011. One of these most no-





table challenges is the families' reluctance to cooperate and reveal any information on their family members' arrest even secretly and especially if the arrested individual was a female due to a prevalent notion among the Syrian society that doing so would result in more torture and risks. Instead, the families try to negotiate with security forces that usually blackmail these families and demand a cash payment up to thousands of dollars in some cases. Despite the fact that SNHR possesses lists of more than 117,000 detainees, including children and women, it should be noted that we estimate that the actual number of detainees have exceeded 215,000; 99% of them are being detained mainly by government forces.

The international community's and the United Nations', in all of its organs, failure to press on the Syrian authorities to release even one case (including those whose sentences are over), and even prisoners of conscience, was one of the reasons why the Syrian society believe it is useless to cooperate in the documentation process. Most of the releases were part of exchange deals with the armed opposition. The Syrian government denies that it made any arrests or executed any abductions when asked by the detainees' families. SNHR obtains its information from former detainees.

All the documented detainees in July were arrested without a warrant, which has become a norm and a methodology in 99.9% of the arrests made by government forces in all of its organs and entities (army, security forces, local militias, foreign militias). In all of the many interviews we conducted with thousands of prisoners since 2011, we have never heard of an arrest warrant or a cause. Most of the arrests are either through breaking doors and arresting people from their homes or at checkpoints in the streets. Apparently, government forces follow this method in order to wipe off any evidence that might hold it responsible for these arrests and the torture, physical violence, extrajudicial killing, and the other crimes and violations that follow.

Also, government forces don't allow 99.9% of the detainees to contact a lawyer, their families, or anyone. The people who perpetrate these crimes, or other crimes, have never been punished by government forces and no case involving that have been recorded. Instead, government authorities, itself, encourage and protect the people who perpetrate these crimes.





SNHR has recorded that no less than 117,000 individuals have been arrested since March 2011 (99% have been arrested by government forces) these number don't include prisoners of a criminal background and include arrests cases that are based on the internal armed conflict and mainly due to the opposition activity against the ruling authorities.

The mounting number of arrests is due to a number of reasons:

- Many arrested individuals weren't arrested because of a crime they committed, but because their relatives' involvement with armed opposition factions or because they provided humanitarian aids.
- Most of the arrests are being conducted randomly and involve people who weren't involved in the popular protests, relief, or even military activity.
- Thousands of detainees are still being detained by the Syrian regime even though a judicial order for their release was issued despite the bureaucracy, corruption, slowness, and limpness that the Syrian judiciary suffers from.
- Government forces control densely populated cities such as the main central cities and it continue to practice its systematic policies of arbitrary arrests against the civilians of these areas.
- There are many government-forces-affiliated entities that are authorized to make arrests, many of these entities make arrests without checking with government forces or the judicial authorities to which these entities are affiliated. Also, these entities have its own list of detention centers that are not subject to any judicial supervision. The detainees inside these detention centers are not being treated in accordance with the stated Syrian laws.
- A great number of cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges especially in unstable areas that are not held by specific faction or it is undergoing a power struggle. As a result, many armed militias that have emerged can't be monitored as they are don't answer to any particular group.

Details about detainees can be found through the search engine on SNHR website, you may also add the name and details of any detainee and the concerned team will check the data and upload it if proved accurate.





II. Report Details

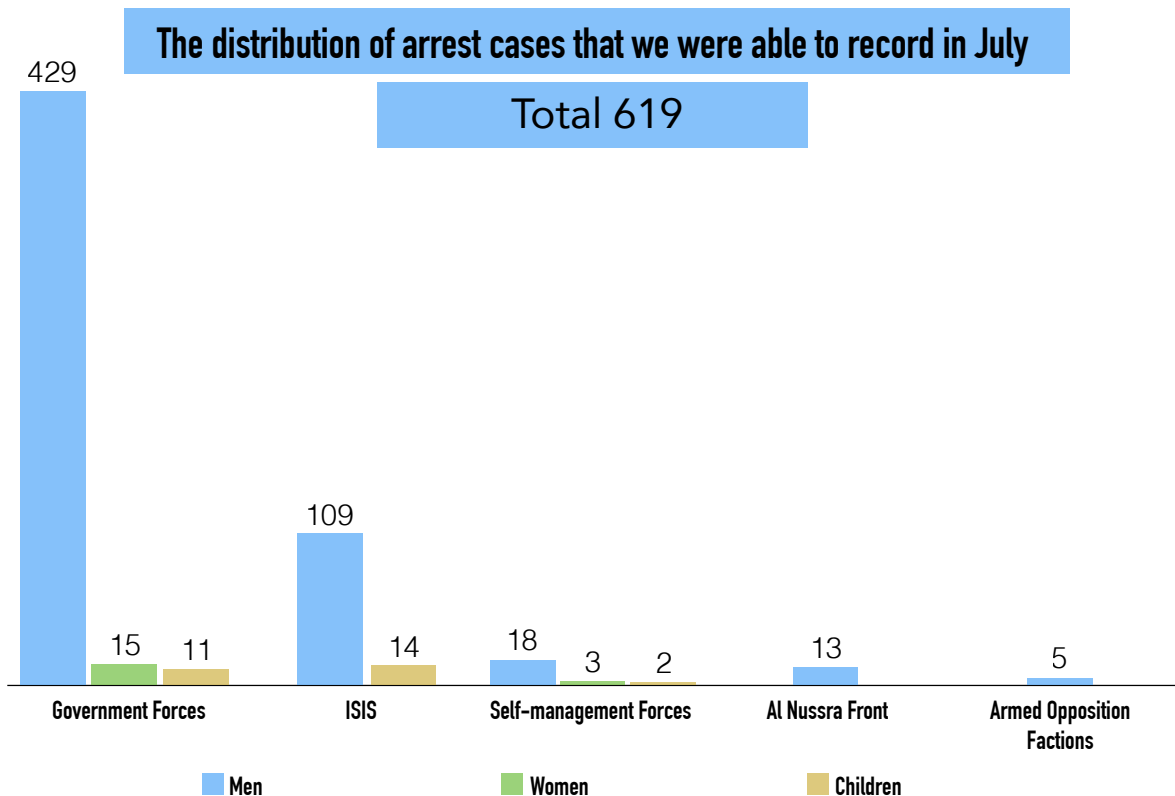
Arbitrary arrest made in July included many widespread arrests of government employees by government forces. Also, government forces arrested students from areas out of its control. These arrests take place as the detainees are passing government-forces-affiliated checkpoints at entry points to areas under government forces where employees are going to collect their salary or to take exams.

Additionally, government forces carried out widespread arrests of civilians who are heading to Lebanon as they are passing from the Lebanese-Syrian borders. These arrests included particularly civilians residing in the cities of Damascus suburbs, which are not under the control of government forces, such as cities of Al Zabadani, Douma, and Madaya.

Furthermore, ISIS continues to enforce its policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in its areas. The arrests included those who violated the organization's forcibly-imposed regulations, owners of phone shops, internet cafes, exchange shops and civilians who are trying to flee ISIS-held areas to areas under the control of armed opposition.

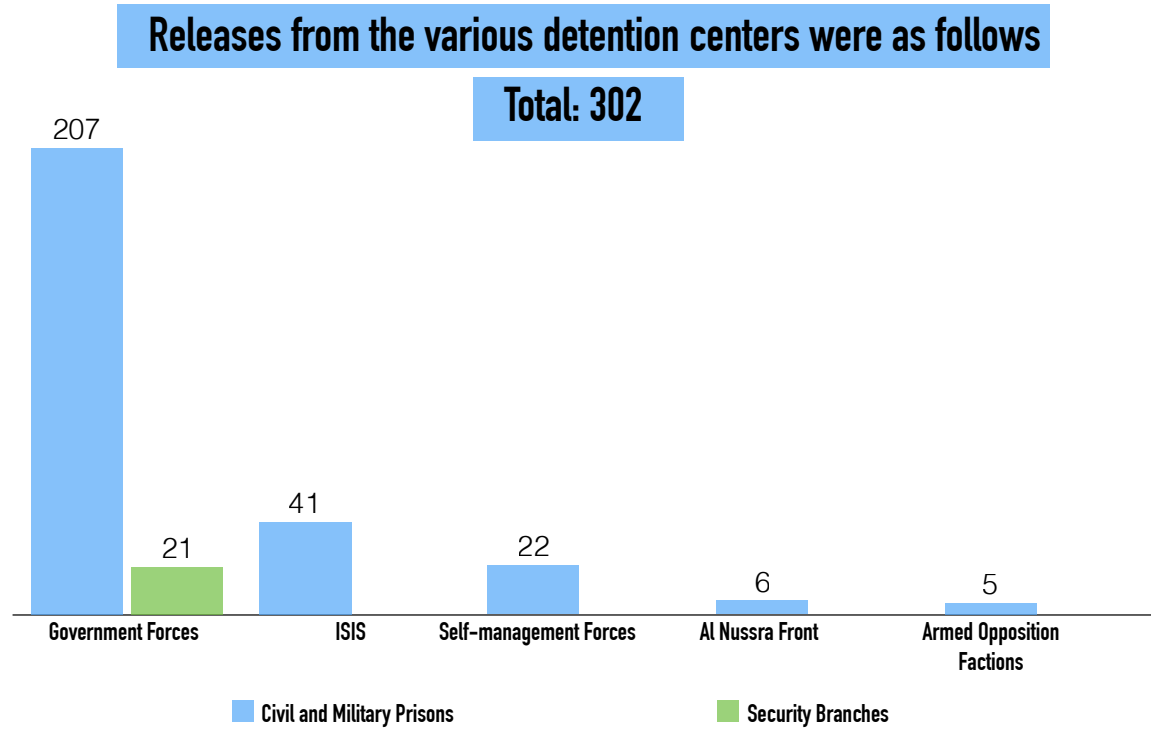
In contrast, Self-management forces also continues its policy of arbitrary arrests and enforced-disappearance against civilians and political and media activists who oppose its views in its areas. The arrests were concentrated in Al-Hasaka city and Ifreen city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate in addition to expanded arrest campaigns for the purpose of conscription that centered in Al Qamishli, in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate, and Ifreen.

The following table illustrates the distribution of arrest cases that we were able to record in July. While this what we were able to record which is the minimum, due to security and logistic restriction.

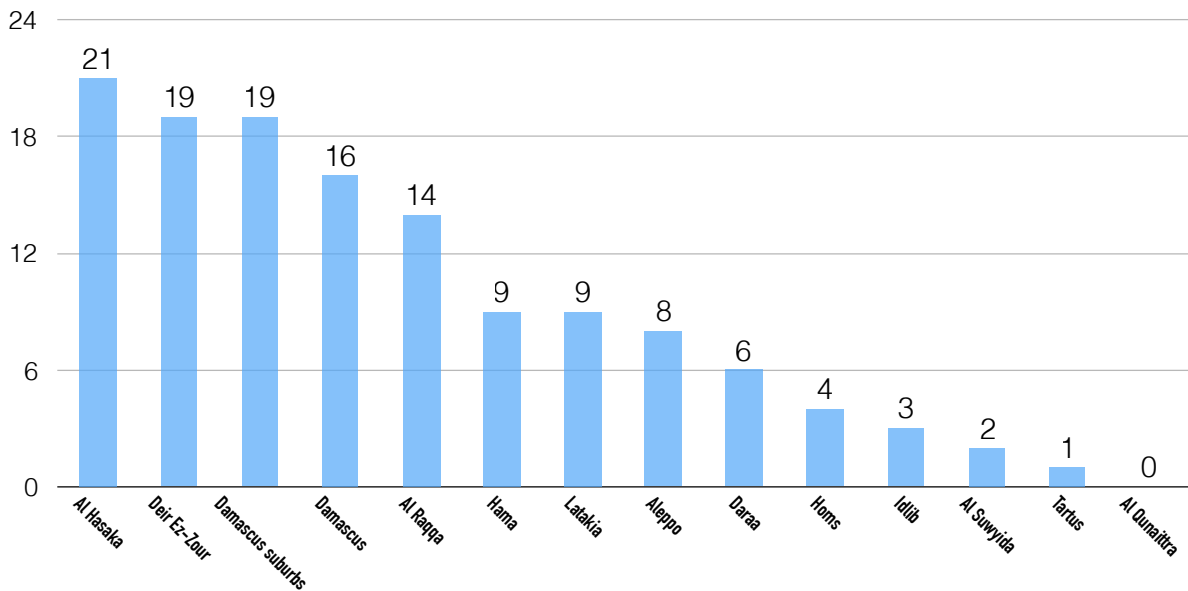




Releases from the various detention centers were as follows:

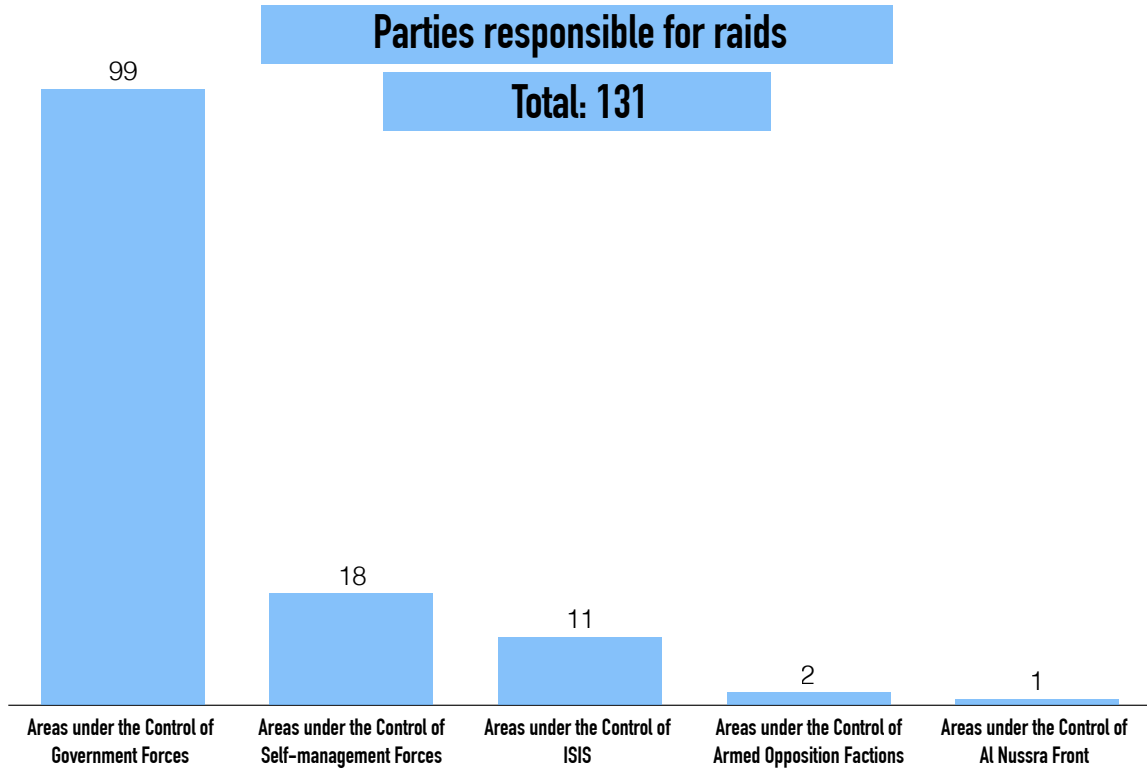


Raids and inspection points that resulted in detention:

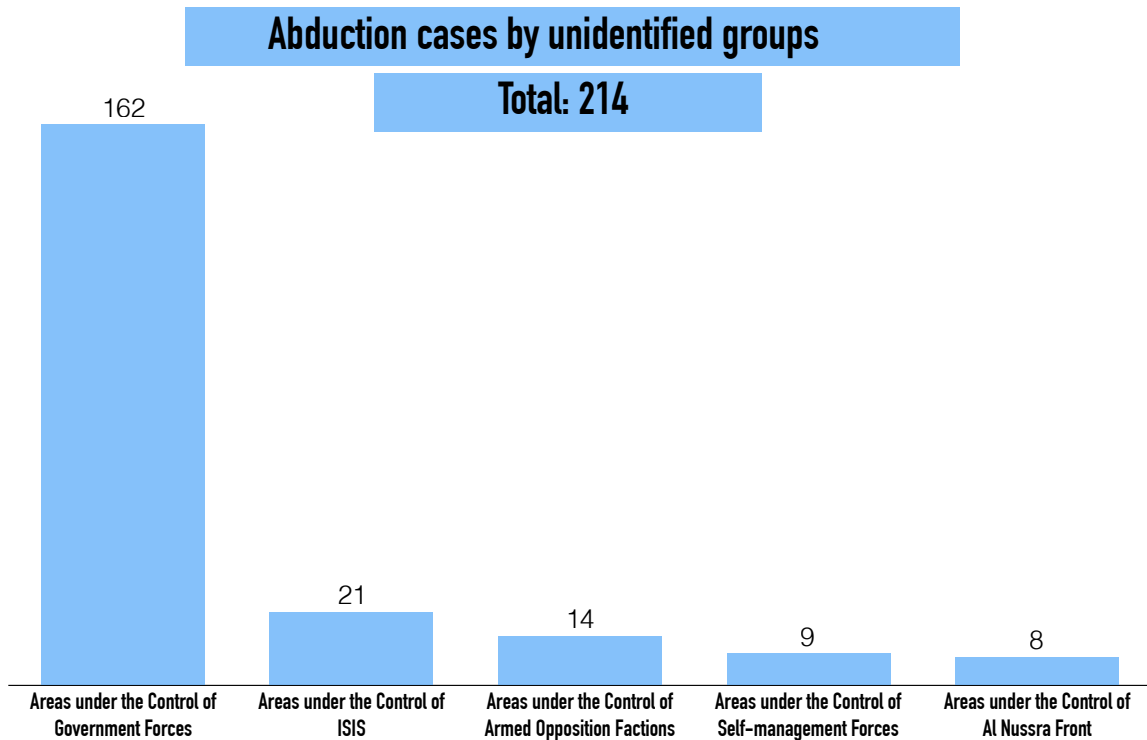




Parties responsible for raids



Abduction cases by unidentified groups:





II. Most Notable Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in July

Government forces

Mrs. (K.N) from Hama city, nurse, 41-year-old. She was arrested by government forces' Military Security forces on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at an inspection point in Al Sawa'eq neighborhood in Hama city and was transferred to the Military Security branch in Hama. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Mrs. Khetam Al Zou'bi, from Tadmor city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, a nurse at Tadmor National Hospital. On Wednesday 20 July 2016, she was arrested by government forces in Homs city and then was transferred to the Military Security branch in Homs city. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Mrs. Muntaha Ramadan, from Tadmor city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, a nurse at Tadmor National Hospital. On Wednesday 20 July 2016, she was arrested by government forces in Homs city and then was transferred to the Military Security branch in Homs city. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

University student Muhsen Al Abdullah, from Al Raqqa city, 21-year-old, a second-year student at the faculty of literature in Hama University. On Monday 4 July 2016, he was arrested by government forces at an inspection point on Hama Ethrya road. No information has been revealed about his fate or where he is being detained.

Extremist Islamic groups

Hesham Al Omar, from Al Nqaeir town in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, a former leader at Alweyat Al Ansar faction, an armed opposition faction. He was arrested on Saturday 30 July 2016 by Al Nusra Front elements who raided his place of residence in Al Nqaeir. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.

Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

Child Moaed Mousa Al Kallah, 11-year-old, from Al Bhiera village in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. On Friday 29 July 2016, he was arrested by elements of the Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party –





a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) after they raided his place of residence in Al Bhiera village. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.

Mrs. Zakeya Al Hasan, from Al Bhiera village in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. On Friday 29 July 2016, she was arrested by elements of the Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) after they raided her place of residence in Al Bhiera village. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Unidentified groups

Mrs. Eman Fares Al Freij, from Deir Ez-Zour, 34-year-old. On Tuesday 5 July 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared by unidentified armed men where she was in Deir Ez-Zour suburbs. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Mrs. Fawziya Wafiq Farhat, from Hayyan town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate. On Friday 22 July 2016, she was abducted and forcibly-disappeared by armed men where she was in Al Salhein area in Aleppo city. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

II. Recommendations

1- Security Council must monitor the implementation of the following resolution: Resolution 2042, adopted on 14 April 2012, Resolution 2043, adopted on 21 April 2012, and Resolution 2139, adopted on 22 February 2014 which states that the crime of enforced-disappearance must be ceased.

2- The United Nations and the international community must uphold their responsibilities with respect to hundreds of thousands of detainees and forcibly-disappeared individuals in Syria.

