



80 Individuals Died Under Torture in August 2015 77 of which died under torture by government forces

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I. Report Methodology:

Since 2011, the Syrian regime has refused to recognize any arrests it had made as it accused Al-Qaeda and the terrorist groups of committing these crimes. Also, the Syrian regime doesn't recognize any torture cases or torturing to death. SNHR acquire its information from former prisoners and prisoners' families where most of the families get information about their beloved ones who are in prison by bribing the officials in charge.

At SNHR, we rely on the families' testimonies we get. However, it should be noted that there are many cases where the Syrian authorities don't give the families the dead bodies. Also, many families abstain from going to the military hospitals to bring the dead bodies of their beloved ones or even their belongings out of fear that they might themselves get arrested.

Also, most of the families assure use that their relatives were in good health when the arrest was made and it is highly unlikely that they died of an illness.

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says:

“The principle of “Responsibility to Protect” must be implemented as the state has failed to protect its people and all the diplomatic and peaceful efforts have failed as well. Crimes against humanity are still being perpetrated on a daily basis in Syria mainly at the hands of the state authorities.”





Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and pursued. In light of such circumstances, it is difficult to completely verify the number of victims as the process remains mainly based on ongoing documentation and investigation even with taking into consideration families' testimonies. Please visit the following [URL](#) for more information on our methodology in documenting victims.

II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less than 80 torture-to-death cases at official and non-official detention centers in the month of August 2015, detailed as follows:

- Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias) killed 77 individuals under torture.
- Extremist Islamic Groups:
 - **ISIL** killed one individual under torture.
 - **An-Nusra Front** killed one individual under torture.
- Armed Opposition Forces killed one individual under torture.

Cases of victims being tortured to death have been recorded ceaselessly since 2011 which clearly reflects the excessive and systematic force that is being used against detainees.

Daraa governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 24 victims, while the other victims were divided as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Hama: 19

Damascus Suburbs: 9

Homs: 8

Deir Al Zour: 8

Aleppo: 1

Raqqqa: 3

Damascus: 5

Lattakia: 2

Idlib: 1

Torture victims' distribution according to the Syrian governorates and the major conflict parties in Syria:

The most notable death under torture cases in August are: 3 university students, 2 medical cadres, a lawyer, a child and an elderly.

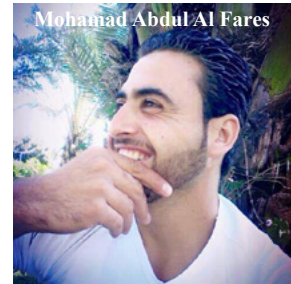




III. The Most Significant Death Under Torture Cases:

University Students:

Mohamad Abdul Karim Al Fares, 22, a university student in the Faculty of Tourism in Teshreen University, from Ma'arba town in Daraa suburbs. On 28 May 2014, he was arrested by government forces and his parents confirmed that he was in a good health state before his arrest. On 4 August 2015, his family informed us of his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.



Mohamad Issa Al Rifaei, a university student, from Tal Shehab town in Daraa was killed under torture in one of the government detention centers. On 24 August 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture.

Abdullah Al Nabhani, a freshman student in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, from Hama city, 18 years old, was arrested by government forces in June 2014. On 26 August 2015, his family informed us of his death under torture in the 215th Security Branch in Damascus.

Medical Personnel:

Ameen Khaled Al Adaei, a pharmacist, from Al Rashdiyyi neighborhood in Deir Al Zour, 33 years old, was arrested by government forces in June 2013 when he was passing by one of the government checkpoints in Al Mazzi neighborhood in Damascus and was in a good health state when he was arrested. On 9 August 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of government detention centers.



[Ahmad Ayman Al Kadeemi](#), a paramedic from Al Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, one of the medical cadres in Palestine Hospital and a sophomore in the Faculty of Law, was arrested by the General Command of Al Jabha Al Sha'beyi party, affiliated to government forces, on 1 February 2014.

On 18 August 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.





Lawyers:

Mohamad Fadel Hijazi, a lawyer from Harem city in Idlib suburbs, 34 years old, was arrested by government forces in March 2012. He was in a good health state when he was arrested, however, on 8 August 2015; his family informed us of his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.



Children:

Mohammad Manhal Abu Hassan, 17, a young man from Al Yarmouk Camp, a Syrian-Palestinian, was arrested by government forces in July 2013 when he was passing by one of the government checkpoints at the entrance of Al Yarmouk Camp. He was in a good health state when he was arrested, however, on 18 August 2015; his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers in Damascus.



Elderly:

Abdulrahmad Ali Hajj Ali, an elderly, from Maree' city in Aleppo, 70 years old, was arrested on 25 March 2014 by government forces. On 23 August 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

SNHR notes that this huge number of torture victims who are falling on a monthly basis, with taking into consideration that this number is the minimum we were able to get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parties and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime.

Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.





Recommendations

Security Council

- To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.
- To impose sanctions on all the commanders that were involved in torture practices which violate the international criminal law and security council resolutions on Syria especially resolutions 2042 and 2139.
- To bind the Syrian government and the various influential parties to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council investigation committee in order to conduct a thorough investigation on torture inside detention centers.
- To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to delivered data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

