

Brief Report

Al Hasaka: Arbitrary Arrests Involving Entire Families by the Self-management

Arrests for Conscription or on Ethnic Basis

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



A Self-management consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and its pro-forces, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK)'s branch in Syria, was established in January 2014. We have recorded, in many past reports, the violations committed by the PYD from 2012 until the establishment of what is called the Self-management, and from the time it reemerged until now.

In a [past statement](#), we stressed that there is a systematic notable rise in the numbers of arbitrary arrests, enforced-disappearances, and oppression of freedoms in the areas in which the Self-management forces expanded and managed take over. This alarmingly reflected on the various aspects of life in these areas, and the freedom of journalism and political activism has primarily deteriorated.

We noticed that some of the arrests and raids that were carried out in early 2017 - were on ethnic basis under the pretext of seeking out ISIS cells in the Arab-majority villages of al Qamishly city's suburbs, specifically the villages of (Tal al Tahin, Tal Habash, Abu Kabra, al Tayma', Salima, Khuza'a) which are currently under the control of Self-management forces. The detainees team at SNHR recorded no less than 31 arbitrary arrests on January 20 and January 23, 2017, including 11 individuals from the same family, where a sick child and woman were arrested among the family members in Tal al Tahin village. The detainees' family we contacted have confirmed that the arrest campaign was led by Alwan Khanik, a leader at the Self-management forces, where he used heavy weapons to terrorize the residents, which led to one civilian being injured by a gunshot after he protested the manner in which the arrests were being carried out. Most of the raids took place at approximately 04:00 AM.

Self-management forces kept the detainees in their prisons in Tal Hamis and al Qahtaniya villages in the suburbs of al Qamishly city. Also, silos were turned into detention centers, and the families of the detainees were prohibited from visiting and ask about their beloved ones. The same families are fearing that Self-management forces will arrest them, and beat and torture them in case they kept asking about their detained beloved ones as we recorded in a number of similar cases. The Self-management hasn't determined the charges for the detainees, or put them on trial.



Additionally, we recorded no less than 56 arbitrary arrest cases that are very akin to abductions that were carried out during raids by the Self-management forces for the purpose of conscription or even on mere suspicions of the detainees being related or in contact with Syrian armed opposition factions in addition to many other reasons that we couldn't identify. Some of the most notable incidents:

Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Self-management forces arrested seven individuals from the same family in Al Shaddadi city in al Hasaka governorate on accusations of contacting their relatives who are with armed opposition factions. The detainees were taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as their family.

Sunday, January 29, 2017, Self-management forces carried out a raid and arrest campaign in a number of neighborhoods in Al Shaddadi city in al Hasaka governorate for the purpose of conscription. We documented the arrest of 18 civilians who were taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as their families.

Monday, February 6, 2017, Self-management forces carried out a raid and arrest campaign in al Kharnoubi, Tal Ahmad, and al Kdemeiyat villages in the eastern suburbs of al Hasaka governorate. We documented the arrest of 11 civilians who were taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as their families.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, Self-management forces arrested seven women from al Ajour and al Jadda' families who are from Al Mjibera village in the suburbs of Al Hasaka suburbs. The arrests were because these women went back to their houses without a permission from the Self-management after they were displaced in November 2013 following the withdrawal of Lewa' Tahrir Suria, an armed opposition faction, from the village which was taken over by the Self-management forces.

The acts mentioned in this statement, which the Self-management forces perpetrated, are considered a violation of the international human rights law. Some of these practices were driven by ethnic considerations. Therefore, the American Administration, the supporter of the Self-management, has to apply pressure on the Self-management in order to compel them to allow independent monitors enter detention centers including members of international human rights organization and unconditionally release all arbitrarily arrested detainees and detainees who were arrested on ethnic or political basis.



The Security Council has to insure the implementation of Resolution 2139, adopted on February 22, 2014, which states that all acts of torture or ill-treatment practices must be halted.

Furthermore, the Self-management must respect the most basic principles of a fair trial, such as informing all of the detainees of the reasons behind the arrest, which should be through the public prosecutor or anyone representing them, and allow them to hire a lawyer.

The European states and the United States of America have to review their policies with regard to their relations and support for the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, and insure that the party is not using the very same weapons they gave to the party to further authoritarianism, suppression, and oppression of freedoms.





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