



At Least 156 Children Still Conscripted by Syrian Democratic Forces

19 Children Kidnapped and Conscripted Since November in Worst Conscription Campaign Targeting Children Since the Beginning of 2021

Thursday 16 December 2021

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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I. Introduction and Methodology:

Since the first months of the establishment of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has documented the SDF's use of children in forced conscription; this child conscription has gradually expanded in parallel with the SDF strengthening its security and military grip over the areas under its control in northeastern Syria, and routinely either voluntarily or forcibly conscripting children, with of the group's efforts to recruit or coerce children into joining its armed forces involving attempts to persuade and encourage children and offering them inducements, with schools controlled by the Self-Management Authority often participating in and actively supporting child conscription.

In parallel with these various efforts, conscription is also carried out by kidnapping children, from schools, streets or neighborhoods.

Many residents of areas controlled by the SDF (military forces whose main pillar is the forces of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party) told us that the group has established training camps for the children it's conscripted in areas far from their areas of origin, generally preventing children from communicating with their families. Many families of these kidnapped and conscripted children have been subjected to threats and intimidation to prevent them from reporting their children's conscription to international bodies or human rights organizations. The children's families are also prevented from visiting their children in the training camps, and subjected to verbal humiliation and removal if they attempt to visit them. All this aims to isolate the children from their families and the outside world until the end of their training, a method also used by cults, to ensure the children are fully indoctrinated into unquestioning acceptance of the hardline communist philosophy and ideological views of the PKK (a party on terrorist lists in many countries of the world, including the United States of America), the group of which the PYD is an affiliate, with the PKK leader's photographs being prominent and widespread at all SDF headquarters and facilities.

Despite the fact that the Kurdish Autonomous Administration signed [a joint action plan with the United Nations](#) in June 2019 undertaking to stop the conscription of children into its forces and to release those who were conscripted, and the People's Protection Units and Women's Protection Units earlier signed a deed of commitment with Geneva Call in June 2014 to ban the use of children in wars, these conscription operations have not ended; on the contrary, they have increased to levels unprecedented in previous years. While the Syrian Democratic Forces established [the Office of Child Protection from Armed Conflicts](#) on August 30, 2020, to receive complaints about the conscription of children in their areas of control, many families of child soldiers conscripted by the group have received no responses to their enquiries about their children or any information about their children's fate.

The Revolutionary Youth (Joanne Schurchkar¹), the Women's Protection Units and the People's Protection Units are considered to be among the most prominent parties responsible for the conscription of children and for their inclusion in the SDF's training camps and combat units. We have noticed an increase in cases and incidents of kidnapping of both female and male children by these parties since the beginning of 2020. Many of the families of conscripted children have informed us that they have searched and asked about their children at the headquarters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, but have received no response to their inquiries, with a number of the families being threatened with reprisals if they notified any authorities that their children had been conscripted.

Methodology:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights maintains a database on the registration of children conscripted by all parties to the conflict in accordance with strict criteria, based on the provisions of international laws and the principles established on identifying incidents of abduction of children with the aim of conscription or involving them in direct and indirect military operations, and we document incidents through reports obtained from multiple sources, including the families of victims, witnesses and cooperating local activists; we also constantly update the database with a view to tracking and updating conscription cases on an ongoing basis to identify the fate of the children, the conditions of their conscription, and the actions their families were able to take against the conscripting/kidnapping authorities.

We documented a marked increase in child conscription levels in the past month of November 2021, when we recorded the largest child conscription campaign by the SDF since the beginning of 2021. For the purpose of preparing this report, the Syrian Network for Human Rights reached out to a number of families of children conscripted in Hasaka and Aleppo governorates in particular, as well as speaking with eyewitnesses to the kidnappings included in this report, with whom we communicated through several channels and means, including using telephone or smartphone applications, or via social media platforms. We also contacted a number of relatives of the victims, whose reports regarding the details of kidnappings for governorate were similar. In this report, we provide five accounts, all of which we obtained through direct conversation with witnesses, rather than from open sources. In some cases, we have used aliases at the request of witnesses, to prevent them from being harassed or persecuted by Syrian Democratic Forces. Many family members of conscripted children informed us that they have searched for and enquired about their children at the headquarters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, but received no response to their inquiries. The preference of some witnesses to speak Kurdish was taken into account, with translation provided. The interviewees received no financial compensation or any promises in exchange for participating in interviews. We explained the purpose of the report beforehand to all the interviewees we spoke with, and obtained their consent to use the information they provided to serve the purposes of the report and the documentation processes. All of this is in accordance with our internal protocols, with which we have ensured compliance since our establishment, and we always strive to develop these to keep pace with the best levels of psychological care for victims.

² The United Nations, the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, page 29, paragraph 173. <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/652>.

The record and all information contained in this report only represents the bare minimum of incidents which we have been able to document, and of the severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

II. The SDF Is the Worst Party to the Conflict in Terms of Child Conscription, According to the UN Secretary-General's reports on Children and Armed Conflict:

The United Nations Secretary-General submits an annual report [on 'Children and Armed Conflict' worldwide](#) to the UN Security Council, and we have noted that in the last two reports, Syria has been respectively the third and second worst country globally in terms of child recruitment and use:

June 2020: The United Nations Secretary-General submitted his annual report on 'Children and Armed Conflict' for the year 2019 to the UN Security Council, stating that Syria is the second worst country in the world in terms of the recruitment of children, after Somalia, with 820 children being recruited in Syria in 2019, with the Syrian Democratic Forces (People's Protection Units / Women's Protection Units) being the worst offenders amongst all the parties to the conflict in terms of child recruitment with 306 cases, followed by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham with 245 cases .

In July 2020, we at the Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a [report in which we presented the Secretary-General's report](#); Amjad Othman, the spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Council, responded by [attacking the Syrian Network for Human Rights and falsely accusing it of deception and misinformation](#), rather than reading the Secretary-General's report, acknowledging what it had documented, taking practical steps to end the serious violations cited there, or attempting to comply with its recommendations.

June 2021: The United Nations Secretary-General submitted his annual report on 'Children and Armed Conflict' for 2020, stating that Syria is the third worst country in the world in terms of recruitment and use of children after the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, with 837 children being recruited in Syria in 2020³ . Hay'at Tahrir al Sham led all parties to the conflict in terms of the recruitment and use of children, while the SDF (People's Protection Units / Women's Protection) ranked second.

In April 2021: The United Nations Secretary-General submitted his annual report on 'Children and Armed Conflict' in Syria, the third of its kind to cover the period from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020, stating that the SDF is the second among the parties to the conflict in terms of recruiting and using children, after Hay'at Tahrir al Sham. The report said that the recruitment and use of children is systematic and widespread, with 1,423 cases⁴ having been verified, adding that some 1,388 children have played a combat role. Among these cases, 488 were at the hands of the SDF (People's Protection Units / Women's Protection/ Internal Security Forces under the authority of the Self-Management Authority in north and east Syria), which came second after Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, which led all the parties to the conflict with 507 cases.

³ The United Nations, the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, paragraph 179. <https://undocs.org/en/S/2021/437>.

⁴ The United Nations, the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, paragraph 7, paragraph 8. <https://undocs.org/en/S/2021/398>

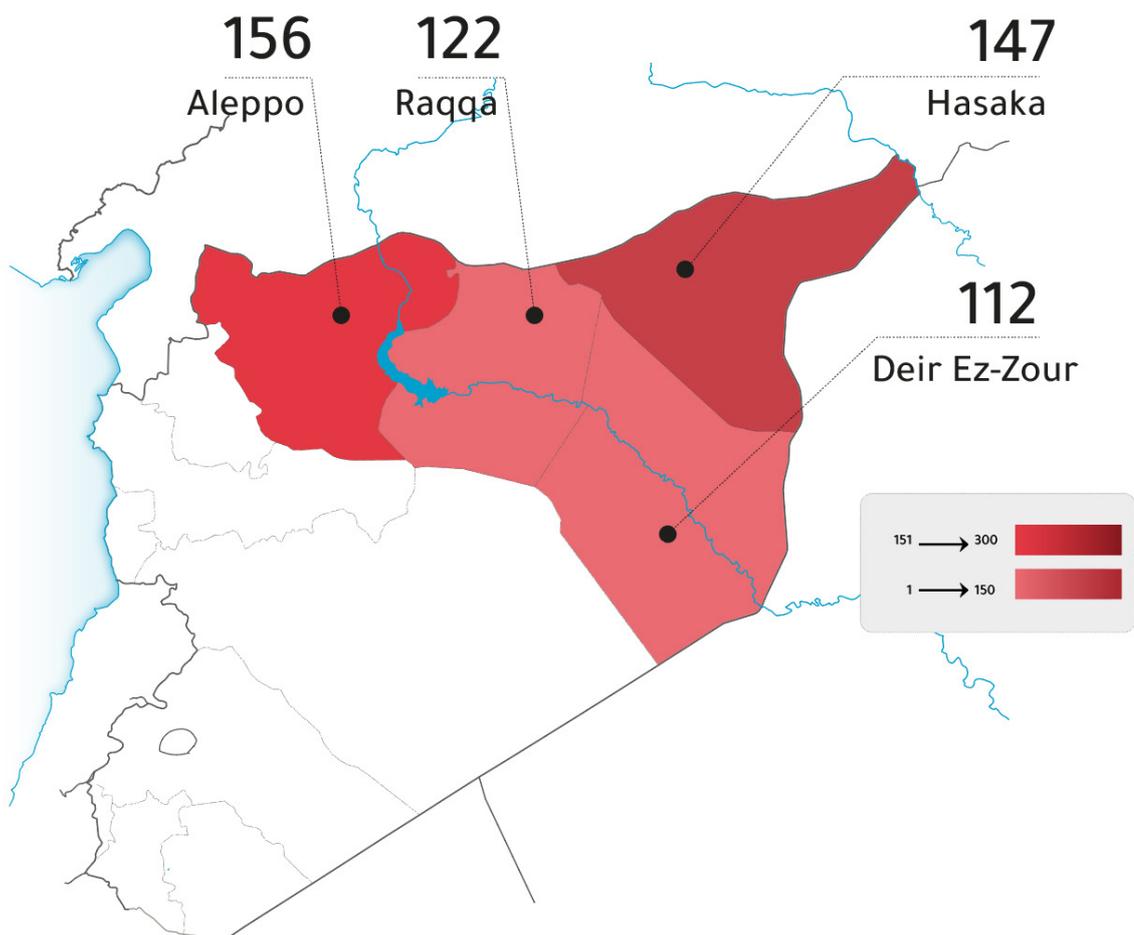
The Syrian Network for Human Rights reviews and comments on these reports, with the SNHR being a key source of information on many types of violations against children in Syria, through providing data in cooperation and partnership with UNICEF's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

III. The Record of Children Conscripted by Syrian Democratic Forces:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights team has documented at least 537 cases of child recruitment carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria since the SDF's establishment - since the establishment of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party's Self-Management forces - in January 2014 up to December 15, 2021; some of these children have subsequently been released, others re-recruited and so on; to date, at least 156 children are still conscripted by the SDF, divided between 102 males and 54 females.

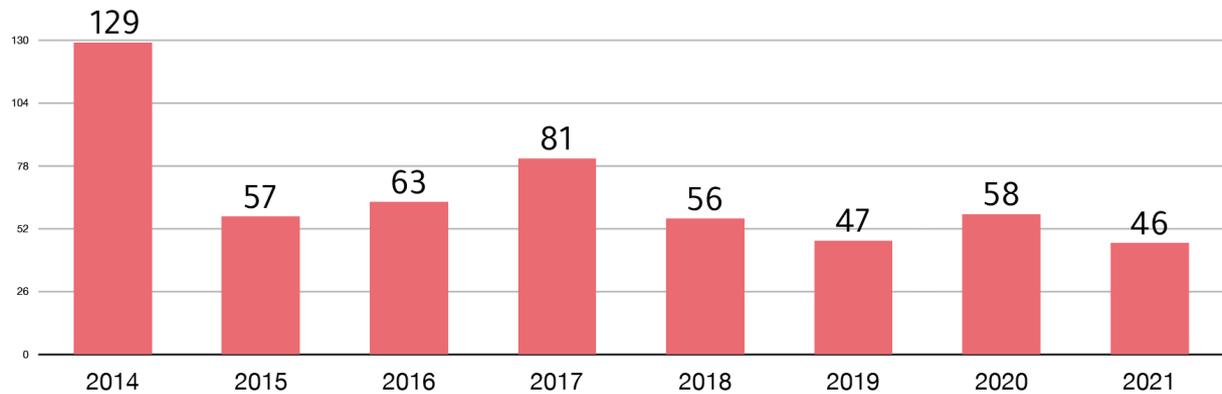
Among the conscription cases of children, we have documented the deaths of at least 29 children conscripted by the SDF in combat operations.

The 537 children conscripted were distributed according to the governorates where the conscription incident occurred as follows:



The previous map shows that the highest number of conscriptions targeting children by the SDF was in Aleppo governorate, then Hasaka.

The record was distributed by year as follows:



The chart above shows that the highest number of child conscriptions occurred in 2014, 2017, then 2016, with child kidnappings and conscriptions having expanded in a widespread manner in conjunction with SDF military operations.

IV. At Least 19 Children Have Been Conscripted Since November 2021 in the Worst Child Kidnapping Campaign Since the beginning of 2021:

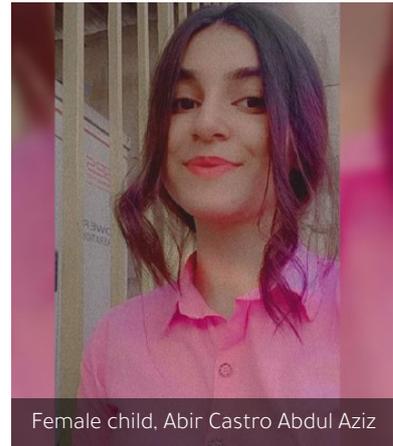
Since the beginning of November 2021 up until December 15, 2021, we recorded the kidnapping for conscription of at least 19 children, distributed between nine male and 10 female children; 11 of these kidnappings took place in Hasaka governorate and eight in Aleppo governorate. We have recorded the demobilization of only three of these conscripted children, while 16 are still conscripted.

The Syrian Democratic Forces have not yet taken any genuine concrete measures to demobilize and compensate child conscripts, to return them to their families, or to hold the perpetrators of kidnappings and conscription accountable and launch investigations into them.

Details of the most notable incidents of kidnapping and conscription targeting children:

Syrian Democratic Forces have carried out kidnappings through practices similar to those used by armed gangs, abducting children from streets or schools. Meanwhile the public security authority in Hasaka, the party authorized to maintain the city's security, has opened no investigations, and made no effort to monitor or follow up on any cases or on the wider issue of abducting children, nor did it show any cooperation with the families of the children or provide answers to their inquiries about the reasons for their children's abduction, their fate or their places of detention.

Female child, Abir Castro Abdul Aziz, born in 2006, from Blessiyeh village, which is administratively a part of al Malekiya city in the north-eastern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in al Qameshli city in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Female child, Abir Castro Abdul Aziz

The Syrian Network for Human Rights spoke with Ms. Hanan⁵, a relative of Abir's family, via FB Messenger. She told us: **"Abir came out of her house at around 12:00 on Tuesday in order to go to a strengthening course at the Hanza Institute in al Qameshli city. On the same day, around 6 p.m., Abir called her mother and told her that she had been forcibly abducted in front of the Hanza Institute by the personnel of Joanne Schurchkar, and that she [Abir] had pressured and forced them to contact her mother. Abir's mother then searched for her daughter everywhere, but to no avail, and was insulted during the search for her. Eyewitnesses saw the kidnapping that took place near the Hanza Institute."** Ms. Hanan added that Abir's health is not stable, as she suffers from hypocalcemia, and may need open heart surgery in the future.

Sidra Khalil Ibrahim, a 14-year-old female child from Abboudan village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Saturday, November 6, 2021, from al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood in Aleppo city, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Female child Sidra Khalil Ibrahim

The Syrian Network for Human Rights spoke with Mr. Abdul Rahim Osso⁶, a witness and friend of Sidra's family, who told us: **"Sidra was abducted at around 8:00 a.m. while on her way to a shop in al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, by personnel of Joanne Schurchkar. The residents of the neighborhood told her family so. After suffering and intense search by her family, the Asayish (YPG) informed her family on December 7, 2021, that their daughter was in Hasaka governorate."** Abdul Rahim added that when Sidra's family visited the Revolutionary Youth center, members of the group confessed that she was with them and threatened and warned her family not to ask about her again.

⁵ We contacted her via phone on December 2, 2021

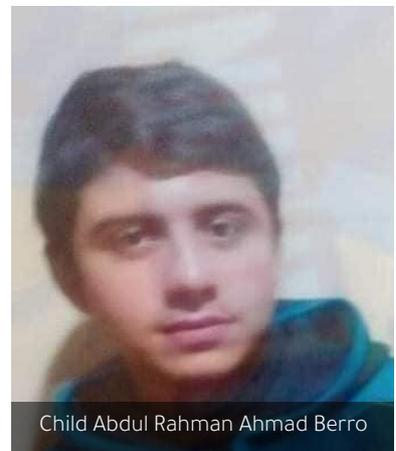
⁶ We contacted him via phone on December 11, 2021

Child Muhammad Abdou Bozou, from Kafr Dalla village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Monday, November 15, 2021, from al Shah-baa area, north of Aleppo governorate, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Child Muhammad Abdou Bozou

Child Abdul Rahman Ahmad Berro, from Routanli village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, from al Ashrafiya neighborhood of Aleppo city, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Child Abdul Rahman Ahmad Berro

Female child, Maryam Farid, born in 2009 from Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, from Ein al Arab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.

Female children Hadeya Abdul Rahman Antar, Avin Jalal Khalil, and Ayana Ibrahim Idris, all born in 2006 from Amouda city in the northern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, were kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Sunday, November 21, 2021, from Amouda city, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers. On November 26, Ayana Ibrahim Idris was returned to her family.



Female child Ayana Ibrahim Idris



Photo of the personal ID of female child Ayana Idris

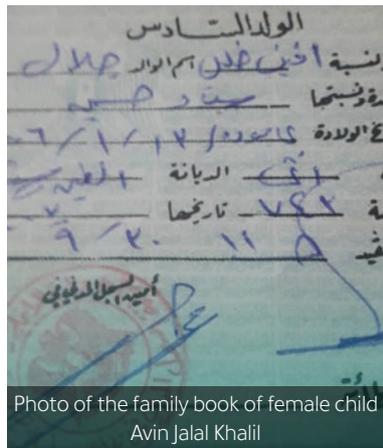


Photo of the family book of female child Avin Jalal Khalil



Female child Avin Jalal Khalil

The Syrian Network for Human Rights spoke with Ms. Balqis⁷ the mother of the child Avin, who said: "On Tuesday, I received a voice message via WhatsApp in the voice of my daughter's friend, Hadeya Antar, from my daughter's phone, calling for our help and saying that they were kidnapped by Joanne Schurchkar personnel while they were on their way to their training session for educational lessons in Amouda city, and then the communication was disconnected. Then we searched for them to find out where they were and tried to communicate with several parties in order to release them but to no avail." Ms. Balqis adds that the female child Ayana was returned to her family on November 26, 2021, and to date she has no information about the children Avin and Hadeya.

⁷ We contacted her via phone on December 1, 2021

Child Ahmad Sheikh Zidan Mustafa, born in 2007 from Zougher village, which is administratively a part of Ein Arab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Monday, November 22, 2021, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.

Child Isam Muhammad Eisa, born in 2008, from Qatama village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, near the Martyr Qahraman School in al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood in Aleppo city, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription. On November 30, he was returned to his family.



Child Isam Muhammad Eisa

Khattab Abeid Hasan, a 15-year-old child from al Hilaliya neighborhood of al Qameshli city in the northern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Friday, November 24, 2021, from al Hilaliya neighborhood, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Child Khattab Abeid Hasan

We spoke with Mr. Abu Abeid⁸, a member of the child Khattab's family, who told us: **"Khattab used to go daily to work in al Hilaliya neighborhood from morning to evening. On Friday, he went out to work but did not return home at his usual time. We contacted his workplace to find out why he was late, and the employer replied that Khattab did not come to work today. Then, we started searching for him in the neighborhood; his friends in the neighborhood told us that he was kidnapped by personnel of Joanne Schurchkar while he was passing through the neighborhood in the morning,"** Mr. Abu Abeid added, "Until this moment, we have not found out anything about him, despite all our attempts to search for him."

Female child, Dulafa Abdou Hasan, born in 2008 from Shiran village, which is administratively a part of Ein Arab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Friday, November 26, 2021, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.

⁸ We contacted him via phone on December 1, 2021

Muhammad Fa'eq Hanan, a 15-year-old child from al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood in Aleppo city, was kidnapped for forced conscription by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Friday, November 26, 2021, from al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, and taken to one of the SDF's conscription centers.



Child Muhammad Fa'eq Hanan

V. Syrian Democratic Forces Suppresses Protests by the People and Families of Conscripted Children:

Between November 27 and November 29, 2021, many families of children conscripted in Syrian Democratic Forces camps have protested, holding demonstrations and anti-Syrian Democratic Forces sit-ins in the cities of Amouda and al Qameshli in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, calling for their children to be returned from the SDF's military centers.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented that a number of families of conscripted children who participated in the demonstrations received threats and were attacked by groups affiliated with Syrian Democratic Forces, which also warned them not to participate in such demonstrations again.



Photos of children's mothers participating in the demonstration in Amouda city on November 27



Photos of children's mothers participating in the demonstration in al Qameshli city on November 29

The Syrian Network for Human Rights contacted Mr. Ali al Sheikh⁹, from Amouda city in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, the father of one of the children who were kidnapped and conscripted by the Joanne Schurchkar group at the beginning of 2021, who was one of the participants in the protests that took place in Amouda city. He said:

“We resorted to various means to discover the whereabouts of our children and return them to us, and we were left with nothing but the media and the demonstrations, although during our preparation for this sit-in, we received many threats from members of the Youth; after we finished and I returned to my house, three personnel stopped me with their motorcycle and tried to run over me with it, with one of them saying ‘You will never see your son again’. Some mothers of other children told me that they were also threatened, but we will continue to demand our children.”

On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, Syrian Democratic Forces arrested two journalists and a woman in front of Farman Hospital in al Qameshli city in the suburbs of Hasaka while participating in the coverage of an anti-SDF demonstration demanding the return of children conscripted in SDF’s camps to their families, releasing them several hours later.

⁹ We contacted him via phone on December 1, 2021



Photos of mothers of children participating in the demonstration

The Syrian Network for Human Rights contacted Mr. Saeed Hesso¹⁰, an activist and witness to the arrest and participants in this demonstration, who told us:

“We are coordinating with the families of the children abducted for some time in order to go out in protests despite all the difficulties we face to demand abducted children and stop this attack on children, which has increased in frequency in recent times. We went out in several demonstrations, most recently in front of Farman Hospital in al Qameshli city, with a number of mothers of abducted children attending, as well as a number of prominent figures such as writer Shams Antar, a member of the Kurdistan Writers’ Union and a number of journalists, attended to cover this demonstration and convey the suffering of mothers, so members of the Revolutionary Youths stormed the demonstration and arrested journalists and writer Shams Antar, and they were taken to the Revolutionary Youth center in al Qameshli city for questioning, interrogation and warned not to participate in such demonstrations, and were released after several hours.” Saeed added that many families and mothers wanted to participate in demonstrations and demand their children’s return, but feel unable to do so because of the threats they’ve received and their fear for their children’s lives.

¹⁰ We contacted him via phone on December 10, 2021

VI. Legal Conclusions and Recommendations:

Legal conclusions:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child¹¹ defines what the rights of the child are and aims to protect children's rights at all times. International humanitarian law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities¹², and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable and unarmed individuals¹³. Rule 135¹⁴ of International Humanitarian Law states that "Children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection" in both international and non-international armed conflicts.

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 also recognize that "Children must be the object of special respect and must be protected against any form of indecent assault. The parties to the conflict must provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason".¹⁵ Common Article 3¹⁶ states that children, as persons taking no active part in the hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction. The provisions of the agreements focus on protecting children from hostilities, and ensuring that they are provided with the necessary care, relief and protection, especially for children in areas of armed conflict.

The prohibition on the recruitment of children under the age of 15 has attained the status of customary international law, and this prohibition, which was initially stipulated in regard to international armed conflicts, has been expanded to include non-international armed conflicts. The statute of the International Criminal Court clarifies that both in cases of international armed conflict and of non-international armed conflict, forcibly conscripting or recruiting children under the age of 15 and enlisting them in armed forces or armed groups or using them in conflicts is a war crime¹⁷.

On May 25, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, raising the age at which participation in the armed forces is permitted from 15 to 18 and placing a ban on compulsory recruitment under the age of 18¹⁸, but criminal trials in connection with this are still limited to those recruiting children under the age of 15.

¹¹ The United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>>

¹² ICRC, Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War 1949, Article 3, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>>

¹³ ICRC, Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War 1949, Article 14, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>>

¹⁴ ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 135, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule135>

¹⁵ ICRC, Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions (Protocol I) 1977, Article 77(1), <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/470>>

¹⁶ ICRC, Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field 1949, Article 3, <<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/365>>

¹⁷ International Criminal Court, Rome Statute, Article 8-2-b(XXVI) and Article 8-2-e(VII), <<https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf>>

¹⁸ The United Nations, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/opaccrc.aspx>>

Non-state armed groups must abide by the rules of international human rights law, including Article 4-1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which states that “**Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.**”¹⁹

Syrian Democratic Forces have violated all international laws related to the issue of child recruitment, with this report and others proving that the kidnapers gangs of the Syrian Democratic Forces have gained extensive experience in this field, and that these kidnappings are carried out in a planned and deliberate manner, and are based on intelligence information, because the kidnapers are part of the controlling force, and have background data and information about the victims, their habits, and their families, which facilitates the victims’ entrapment by the kidnapping gangs.

Recommendations:

States supporting Syrian Democratic Forces:

- States supporting the SDF should put pressure on them to stop forced conscriptions, and to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and principles of international human rights law in the areas they control.
- Support the process of establishing a genuine local administration in the northeastern region of Syria, in which all the inhabitants of the region may participate without discrimination on the basis of race and nationality and without the intervention of the de facto authorities in order to achieve stability and justice.
- Support the building and establishment of an independent judiciary that prohibits military parties from carrying out forced conscriptions with impunity.

Syrian Democratic Forces:

- Stop all forms of child conscriptions, disclose the fate of all forcibly disappeared children, allow their families to visit and communicate with them, in preparation for releasing them.
- Stop the policy of harassment and oppression of victims’ families, and ensure protection for them.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI) and OHCHR:

- Investigate the incidents included in this report. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is always ready to cooperate in any such endeavors.

Thanks and solidarity

We extend our heartfelt solidarity to the victims and their families and our warmest thanks and appreciation to the local people and activists, without whose efforts this report could not have been so effectively completed.

¹⁹ The United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child, <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>>



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