



On the International Mother's Day.... What about Mothers in Syria?

The Syrian woman bears a great deal of burdens and she has been exposed to many violations along with man which have been committed against Syrian people. Moreover, she bears additional burdens when she loses her husband in case he was killed, arrested or forcibly disappeared and bears the burden of raising her children on her own, and sometimes she has lost her children. In addition to torture, rape and abduction that she has been exposed to without any distinction at the hand of pro-Syrian government forces.

The report talks about five main facts:

- 1- Martyr mothers.
- 2- Detainee, kidnapped and raped mothers.
- 3- Widow mothers.
- 4- Refugee mothers
- 5- Recommendations

First: martyr mothers:

Pro-Syrian government forces including army, Shabiha and intelligence have killed through bombardment, raids, field-execution and torture, from the beginning of popular uprising until 17/3/2012, no less than 7133 women who are documented with names, the date and place, pictures and way of killing including:

2417 mothers

138 more aged over 50- year- old

8 teachers

And 6 workers in medical field (doctor or pharmacist)

Moreover, there are seven mothers who were arrested and died due to torture.

Some of the mothers who were killed by pro-Syrian government forces

Engineer Nada Al Masri





In the picture, she is beside her son Abdullah Al Tarsha, they were killed by Syrian government forces on 27/1/2012 as a tank affiliated to army forces fired shells at their car.

The mother Fatima Khasraf

Was killed with her fetus Abdul Majeid Khaled Al Qasim, when Syrian government forces shelled Al Bowayda Al Sharqiyeh village in Homs governorate, 4/9/2012.

The mother Razan Al Qessies

Was killed due to indiscriminate bombardment of regime forces on Bludan in Damascus suburbs, she is married and has two children who were injured due to bombardment on 13/8/2012. Due to his injury, one of her children had to had his leg amputated.

The grandmother Rashida Al Yasein

The wife of the martyr Mahmoud Al Bowaydani, the mother of the martyr Abdul Wakeil, the grandmother of the martyr Khaled, the aunt of the martyr Abu Hisham and the mother of the activist Abdul Hameid, she is from Baba Amr, died on 12/1/2011.

Second: the detainees:

The forces that are affiliated to Syrian government have arrested and kidnapped no less than 6405 women out of about 194000 detainees, amongst the female detainees there are 430 mothers including 200 mothers who are forcibly disappeared.

According to enforced disappearance standard, enforced disappearance occurs when : “a person is secretly abducted or imprisoned by a state or political organization or by a third party with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of a state or political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the person’s fate and whereabouts, with the intent of placing the victim outside the protection of the law” which is the case of more than 200 mothers who were kidnapped at the hands of pro-Syrian government militias which are called Al Shabiha”. Most disappeared mothers are from Homs, Latakia and Damascus suburbs.

Their humanitarian and physical nature aren’t being taken into consideration as they were subjected to systematic and brutal torture, and many mothers were raped although rape is concentrated on girls, in particular beautiful ones according to a defected soldier by the officer’s orders.

A Syrian woman, called Salma ,28-year-old, a mother of four children (three girls and one boy) told us about her rape tragedy which was done by Bashar Al Assad forces in “Sahl Al Roj” and “Korein” towns.





Salma said while she was crying deeply:” 36 women were raped when the regime army stormed these two towns”.

The evidence that we were able to document 20 cases of women including seven mothers who died due to systematic and severe torture which violates the sanctity of human and violates all International Laws regarding this case.

[The link](#) contains a file of all the women’s names, pictures, videos, dates and place, who died due to torture:

Women in security branches are subjected to brutal treatment especially on first days and during interrogation which may take from one week to two months then they are taken to a prison and the prisoners continue the intentional policy of insulting them and violating their human dignity, they are also deprived from medical treatment, visits, clothes, books, newspapers, and letters which is her most simple rights.

It is worth to mention that the security branch elements are all males: the investigators, the guards, the nurse and the male detainees.

- On 9/2/2013, the mother Wafaa Al Akleh, 35-year-old, were arrested at the army checkpoint in Ya’four along with her three sons, the oldest one is 14-year-old while the youngest one was about one-year-old inside the detention center, and their driver was arrested with them. It is worth mentioning that, her husband had been arrested for a month and a half then he was released as he didn’t participate in any activity, then he disappeared since awhile and there is no information about him or Mrs. Wafaa and her children’s whereabouts. Her family doesn’t know what to do regarding her case.

Government forces arrested many society ladies and virtuous nannies, elderly and young girl as a punishment of protesting against government. The lady and the simple woman are equal in the ill-treatment of the government in such a case.

On 16/3/2012, the mother Hanadi Faysal Al Rifa’I, from Daraa, was arrested and stayed for seven months in which she was subjected to torture and psychological pressure, while she was helping one soldier to get to his mother. Then, she got out and told stories about the suffering of girls that she met inside the prisons.

The mother Adaweyeh Hamad was arrested along with six friends and detained several months on a security branch with the charge of establishing the cooperation in Raqqa University although her father is the cousin of Jasem Hamad the chief of military security branch in Deir Ez-Zour. No one have been able to find out about her fate or the fates of other girls.





The doctor mother Mai Al Jandali, 50-year-old, detainee in Adra prison since 7/11/2012, her first protest was on 25/3/2011, which was launched from Al Omawi mosque in the capital Damascus, and shared the women sit-in with the intellectuals and many Syrian women in AlMaydan neighborhood. She was arrested at the checkpoint as she went home in the western Damascus which were stolen in a raid by regime forces in Jdaydet Artoz.

All of that reflected negatively on the refuge waves outside the country as the statistic of SNHR indicates that more than 70% of refugees are women and children.

Third: the widows:

There are no less than 45 thousands widows in Syria including 40 thousands mothers.

1. The married martyrs: more than 35 martyrs were documented. As a result, their wives became widows.
2. Forcibly disappeared husbands: there are about 19 thousands married individuals who are forcibly disappeared among them are more than 60 thousand individuals. As a result, there are 19 thousand wives who don't know whether their husbands are alive or were killed by the security forces which is the most dangerous case that takes us back to the social crisis in 1982 in Hama city where no less than 12 thousand men had disappeared and the city suffered from this social state for decades.

Fourth: the refugees: there are a half million refugees women in the neighboring countries including 350 thousands mothers.

SNHR estimates that more than 70% of the refugees are women and children. The main reason for this is the fear of exposing to rape. The SNHR's statistic about refugees in the neighboring countries passed 1.4 million refugees in January 2013, which means that there are about one million women and children refugees, and half million refugees' women in the neighboring countries.

Fifth: recommendations:

SNHR affirms that the Syrian government committed varied violation against Syrian women

First: crimes against humanity according to 7 article of Rome statute:

(All elements were fulfilled in a stark manner)

The torture which is considered a crime against humanity

The rape which is considered a crime against humanity

Enforced disappearance which is considered a crime against humanity





The persecution which is considered a crime against humanity

Second: crimes according to article 8 of Rome statute where it participated deliberate killing and torture and ill-treatment according to the following article of the same article where the all elements were fulfilled starkly in the Syrian case.

8-2-A-1 War crime, manifested in Willful killing 13

8-2-A- 2-1 War crime, manifested in Torture, including biological experiments 13

8-2-A- 2-2 War crime, manifested in inhuman treatment 14

8-2-A-3 War crime, manifested in Willfully causing great suffering 14

8-2-A-4 War crime, manifested in Extensive destruction and appropriation of property 15

8-2-A- 6 War crime, manifested in Willfully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial 16

8-2-A-7-1 War crime, manifested in Unlawful deportation 16

8-2-A-7-2 War crime, manifested in unlawful confinement 16

8-2-E-6-1 War crime, manifested in committing rape 37

Recommendations:

To intervene immediately to guarantee the civil security and peace and cease the instantaneous violations against Syrian woman.

The United Nations and the Security Council have to shoulder their responsibilities toward the Syrian mother and to press on Syrian government to release detainee mothers and all detainees and to reveal the fates of disappeared husbands. They also have to refer all perpetrators of crimes to the International Criminal Court.

