

Most Notable Violations against Syrian Athletes

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday , March 29, 2017

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



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I. Introduction and Methodology

The economic situation and social status were two factors that disinterested the majority of Syrian athletes in being a part of the popular uprising toward freedom that broke out in March 2011. A third factor was the wide, brutal violations that Syrian regime forces perpetrated to intimidate and deter all of society's segments. Security apparatuses, who devoured all of the state's institutions and aspects, have used athletes and sporting activities to support and back the authority of oppression and its brutal oppressive practices. Nonetheless, a number of athletes chose to strive for democracy, freedom, and dignity. But the machines of killing, torture, and enforced-disappearance were waiting. Mahmoud Qteish al Jwabra, a player for al Shu'la Football Club, was the first of many athletes who were killed by Syrian security forces. Mahmoud, killed in Daraa city on March 18, 2011, was also the very first victim of the popular uprising.

In this report, we are going to outline the most notable violations by the parties to the conflict against athletes who partook in the different stages and events of the popular uprising, whether it was in relief aspects, media aspects, or even military aspects. Additionally, we will also be shedding light on various examples on that. We have confirmed many cases where Syrian regime forces turned a number of sporting facilities into military bases and detention centers for detainees, while we also included cases where sport clubs, stadiums, and sport halls were targeted. SNHR defines an athlete citizen as any individual who worked or played at a sport club at any stage of his life, where he would still be regarded as an athlete even after he retires from sports action.



We have also included, in this report, a number of incidents that we don't believe were a violation of the international humanitarian law. However, it is classified as incidents in which casualties were recorded including athletes – for example: legitimate combat cases.

This report relies mainly on SNHR's archive and investigations, in addition to accounts from victims' families and relatives, and the information provided by local activists. This report contains six accounts. Additionally, we have analyzed the pictures and videos we received. We have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report in a secret online database, as well as copies on hard disks. For more information, please see our general work methodology.

We have explained the purpose of the interviews for the witnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report without offering or presenting any incentives. Also, SNHR tried to spare them the agony of remembering the violation, and guarantees were assured to conceal the identity of the witnesses who preferred to use an alias.

In light of the security and logistic difficulties and challenges to access all the areas where the violations took place, we always note that these figures and incidents are only the bare minimum of the severity of the crimes and violations that took place.

II. Executive Summary

Violations against sport personnel from March 2011 to March 2017 are distributed as follows:

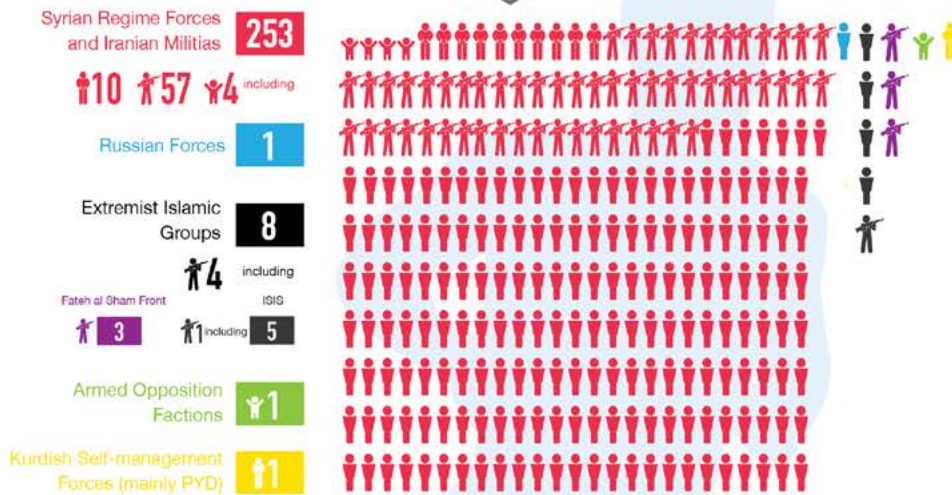


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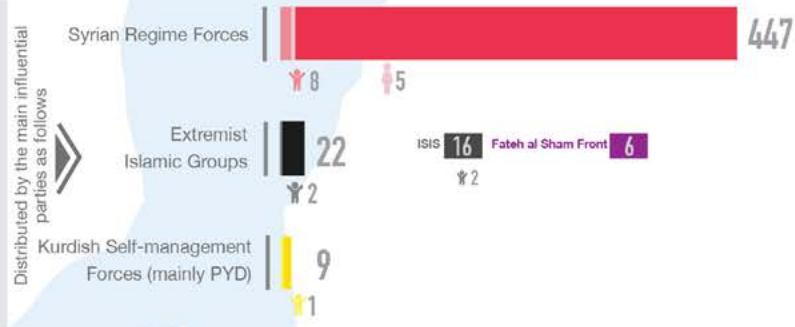
From March 2011 to March 2017

Killing 264 including **5** athletes **61** children **11** armed opposition fighters **11** due to torture

Distributed by the main influential parties as follows



Arbitrary Arrest 478 athletes including **11** children and **5** women (Adult female)



32 violations against Sporting Personnel and Facilities



32 violations against Sporting Personnel and Facilities



A. Acts of killing: SNHR documented the killing of 264 athletes including five children, 61 armed opposition fighters, and 11 due to torture, as follows:

- Syrian regime forces (Army, security forces, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 253 including four children and 57 armed opposition fighters. Additionally, the number of victims who died due to torture stands at 10 athletes.
- Russian forces: 1
- Extremist Islamic groups:
ISIS: five including one armed opposition fighter
Fateh al Sham Front (Formerly al Nussra Front): three armed opposition fighters
- Armed opposition factions: one child
- Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party): one athlete due to torture.

B. Injuries: SNHR estimates that 117 athletes at least were injured at the hands of Syrian regime forces.

C. Arrest and enforced-disappearance: we recorded that 478 sport personnel were arrested including 11 children and five women (Adult female). 186 of those are still forcibly-disappeared. the Violations are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

- Syrian regime forces: 447 including eight children and five women. 183 of those are still forcibly-disappeared.
- Extremist Islamic groups:
 - **ISIS:** 16 including two children. Three of those are still forcibly-disappeared.
 - **Fateh al Sham Front:** six
- Self-management forces: nine were arrested for the purpose of conscription including one child.

D. Other violations: We recorded 32 violations against sport personnel and their facilities, as follows:

- Syrian regime forces: 27
- Russian forces: 1
- Armed opposition factions: 4



III. Details

A. Violations by Syrian regime forces

- Acts of killing

Mahmoud Qtiesh al Jwabra

Friday, March 11, 2011, he was shot dead by Syrian regime forces, as he was participating in an anti-Syrian regime demonstration that started from al Umari Mosque in the middle of Daraa city. Mahmoud was the first victim in the popular uprising towards democracy in Syria.

[Mahmoud, a football player](#) for al Shu'la Club, from Daraa la Balad area in Daraa city, born in 1986, single.



Mahmoud al Jwabra
a football player

Child Yaman Adnan Ibrahim

Friday, April 22, 2011, he was shot dead by Syrian regime forces, as he was participating in an anti-Syrian regime demonstration in al Hajar al Aswad area in southern Damascus city. He was rushed to al Huda hospital in al Sbeina town in Damascus suburbs governorate, but he didn't survive.

[Yaman, a football player](#) for al Shurta Club – the youth division, from al Jolan and a resident of al Hajar al Aswad area, 16-year-old.

Yousef Jamal Ghazzoul

Friday, June 17, 2011, he was shot dead by a Syrian regime sniper in the right side of his chest in al Bayyada neighborhood in Homs city.

[Yousef, a kickboxer at Shabibah Homs Club](#), from Homs city

Abdul Baset Khaled al Khaled

Wednesday, August 10, 2011, he and his brother were killed by Syrian regime forces who shot their car as they were on their way back from training in Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs city.

[Abdul Baset, a football player](#) for al Karama Club – the youth division. From Baba Amr neighborhood.



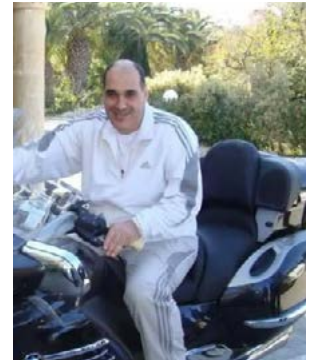
Ghiath Matar

Saturday, September 10, 2011, Syrian regime forces gave Ghiath's corpse to his family, after he died due to torture at a Syrian regime detention center. [Ghiath's dead body](#) showed signs of severe torture, and his throat was removed. It should be noted that Syrian regime forces arrested Ghiath and his friend after they ambushed them on September 6, 2011. [Ghiath](#), a martial artist and a bodybuilder, [from Darayya city](#) in Damascus suburbs governorate, born in 1986, married. His child was born after his death.

Adnan Suliman Qabaji

Sunday, October 30, 2011, he was shot dead in his right flank by al Jaish al Sha'bi, which is affiliated with Syrian regime forces, in front of his house in [al Khider neighborhood](#) in Homs city.

Adnan, a handball coach and a former player, from Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs city, he worked as a [coach for al Karama Club](#) - men's division, and the Syrian national team - youth division.



Adnan Qabaji
a handball coach

Ahmad Hesham Swedan

Friday, February 24, 2012, he was killed in a Syrian regime artillery's mortar shelling in [Jourat al Shayyah neighborhood](#) in Homs city.

[Ahmad, a football player](#) who played for al Karama, al Wehda, and al Jazira Football Clubs in addition to [playing](#) for the Syrian national team, from Homs city, 26-year-old, single.



Ahmad Swedan
a football player

Hamza Arsh

Friday, March 23, 2012, [he was killed by a Syrian regime forces](#) sniper who shot him in al Khaldiya neighborhood in Homs city.

[Hamza, a kickboxer at Shabibat Homs Club](#), he won the [national tournament](#) in kickboxing, from Homs city.

Khaled Ismail Jarjanazi

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, he was killed in a crossfire with Syrian regime forces who raided the area where he was in al Masafi neighborhood in Hama city.

[Khaled, a football player -goalkeeper-](#) in al Nawa'ir Club – youth division. From Janoub al Mal'ab neighborhood in Hama city, born in 1990, he retired and joined the military movement against Syrian regime forces, he was the leader of Sarreyat Shuhada' al Assi in Hama city.



Fayyad Bader al Hamed al Aqel Abazid

Saturday, April 14, 2012, he died at a hospital in Jordan of wounds sustained during an anti-Syrian regime peaceful demonstration which was shot at by the Syrian regime forces in Daraa al Balad area in Daraa city a few days before his death.

Fayyad, an athlete who won the Pétanque national tournament, from Daraa al Balad area, 28-year-old, has a diploma in educational rehabilitation from the faculty of athletic education in Daraa University, married and a father of a girl.



Fayyad Abazid
an athlete

Rakan Zakariya Abu Samra

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, he was killed by Syrian regime forces who shot him in al Bayyada neighborhood in Homs city.

[Zakariya, a martial artist](#) who won the karate national tournament, from Homs city, 24-year-old, single.

Mohammad Khaled al Asmar

Sunday, May 27, 2012, he was killed by Syrian regime forces' bullets and RPG shells, after Syrian regime forces raided his place of residence in al Midan neighborhood in Damascus city. It should be noted that Syrian regime forces kept the dead body and haven't handed it.

[Mohammad, a martial artist](#), a seven-time winner of the karate national tournament, from Homs city, born on January 1, 1992. He joined Kata'eb al Farouq, an armed opposition faction, in Homs city after the popular uprising broke out.

Ahmad Haitham Riba

Friday, June 22, 2012, he was killed by Syrian regime forces who shot him in al Hama village in northwestern Damascus suburbs governorate.

[Ahmad, a basketball player for Hitteen Club](#) - the junior division, from Sheikh Daher neighborhood in Latakia city, born in 1990, he is a military man who defected from the Syrian regime forces and joined armed opposition factions in al Hama village.



Mohammad Zakariya Haj Ali

Wednesday, June 27, 2012, he was killed in a shelling by Syrian regime artillery, as a shell fell over his parents' house in Saraqeb city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate.

[Mohammad, a football player for Saraqeb Club](#) – men's division, [from Saraqeb city](#).

Muath Hussein al Khallouf

Wednesday, June 27, 2012, he was killed by shrapnel in his neck after Syrian regime tanks fired shells at the battlefield of al Muthafin neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, as Syrian regime forces were trying to raid the neighborhood.

[Muath, a football player for al Futowa Club](#) in Deir Ez-Zour, from Deir Ez-Zour city, born in 1992, a student at the athletic institute in Aleppo city, a defected military man, he joined Katibat Khaled ben al Walid, an armed opposition faction, after the popular uprising broke out.

Zakariya al Yousef

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, he was killed in a shelling by Syrian regime artillery that fired mortar shells at Salah al Din neighborhood in Aleppo city, as he was trying to tend to a wounded from a previous shelling,

Zakariya, a football player for al Etihad and Ummaya Football Clubs, from Aleppo city, 24-year-old.

Eyad Qwydir

Monday, October 28, 2013, Syrian regime forces informed his family that he was killed inside branch 215 in Damascus. It should be noted that Syrian regime forces arrested him on December 16, 2013, and on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, his family identified his picture among Caesar photographs (a defected officer who was charged with taking pictures of the victims' dead bodies), where a portion of these photographs were randomly leaked. Eyad, a football player for al Wehda Club, from Kafrsousa neighborhood in Damascus city, born in 1991.

Mohammad Saleh al Ta'ani

Friday, June 27, 2014, he died at a hospital in Jordan of wounds sustained as a result of Syrian regime helicopters dropping a barrel bomb, where he was taking picture of the bombing in al Abbasiya neighborhood in Daraa city on Saturday, June 21, 2014.

Mohammad, a player for al Shu'la Handball Club, from Sahn al Julan town in the suburbs of Daraa governorate. After the popular uprising broke out, he worked as a reporter for Smart News Agency under the alias Nasr al Hourani.



Mohammad Saleh al Ta'ani
a handball player



Mohammad Adnan Alyan al Ta'an al Hariri

Friday, August 1, 2014, he was killed by Syrian regime forces during clashes between Syrian regime forces and armed opposition factions at al Khider hill in the suburbs of Daraa governorate.

Mohammad Adnan, a kickboxing coach, from Bosr al Harir city in Daraa governorate, graduated from the faculty of law.



Mohammad Adnan al
Ta'an al Hariri
a kickboxing coach

Aziz Jamal Abazid

Thursday, March 26, 2015, he was killed in a shelling by Syrian regime forces artillery that fired two mortar shells at Daraa al Balad area in the middle of Daraa city.

[Aziz, an athlete](#) and Syria's champion in sprinting, from Daraa governorate, he joined an armed opposition faction.



Aziz Jamal Abazid
an athlete

Mohammad Fakhri

Tuesday, October 20, 2015, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside Sydnaya military prison in Damascus suburbs governorate. It should be noted that Syrian regime forces arrested him at a checkpoint on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 in al Mahata neighborhood in Hama. Mohammad, a football player for al Nawa'ir Club, from al Jalaa neighborhood in Hama city, born in 1990.

Mohammad Fakhri, a football player



Mohammad Fakhri
a football player

Mukhlis Khraiban

Tuesday, April 5, 2016, he was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired a missile at al Mu'limein neighborhood in Idlib city.

[Mukhlis, a table tennis coach and official](#), from Kafr Takharim city in Idlib governorate, born in 1953.



Rezq Jamal Qtifan

Saturday, September 10, 2016, he was killed by Syrian regime forces in a battle between armed opposition factions and Syrian regime forces on the battlefronts of the northern suburbs of Qunietra governorate.

Rezq, a third-division official and a volleyball player, he played for al Shu'la Club in Daraa and al Wehda in Damascus, and also played for the volleyball Syrian national team, from Daraa city, he worked on establishing a Free sport federation in Daraa governorate, he joined Jama'et Ansar al Huda, an armed opposition faction, in Daraa city.

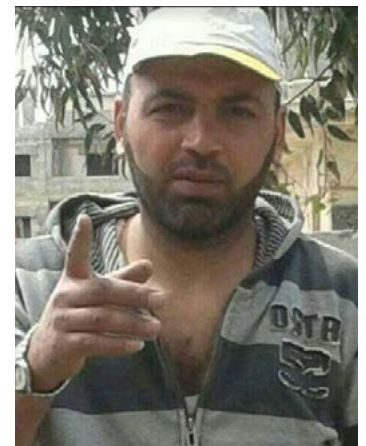


Rezq Jamal Qtifan
a volleyball player

Jehad Qassab

Thursday, September 29, 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside Sydnaya military prison, which is affiliated to Syrian regime forces in Damascus suburbs governorate. It is worth noting that Jehad was arrested by Political Security forces, affiliated to Syrian regime forces, at an inspection point in Homs city on August 19, 2014.

Jehad, a football player for al Karama Club and Syria national team, from Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs city, born in 1975, married and a father of three.



Jehad Qassab
a football player

- Injuries

Emad Khankan

Monday, January 30, 2012 he was wounded in his hand and chest after he was shot by a Syrian regime sniper, where he was riding his car along with his father in al Midan neighborhood in Homs city. It should be noted that his father was injured as well and died immediately.

Emad Khankan, a football player, from Homs city, born in 1966, coached a number of Syrian and Jordanian clubs including, and most notably, al Karama Football Club in Syria and al Wehdat Football Club in Jordan

Emad Khankan, a football coach



Emad Khankan
a football coach



Abdul Baset Mamdouh al Sarout

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, he was injured by shrapnel from an artillery shell fired by Syrian regime forces in al Khaldiya neighborhood in Homs city, as he was tending to wounded from a previous shelling. The shrapnel caused various wounds all over his body.

[Abdul Baset](#), a football player -goalkeeper- for al Karama Club, and plays for the Syrian national team – youth division. From al Bayyada neighborhood in Homs city, born in 1992. Abdul Baset joined armed opposition factions later, and was injured multiple times in clashes.



Abdul Baset Mamdouh al Sarout
a goalkeeper

Zakariya al Umari

Friday, January 18, 2013, he was moderately injured in various parts of his body after fixed-wing Syrian regime forces fired a missile at a residential building in al Muhafatha neighborhood in Aleppo city.

Zakariya, a football player for al Etihad Football Club, he was part of the Olympic Syrian team in the Asian qualifiers for 2012's London Olympics. He is from al Muhaftha neighborhood in Aleppo city.



Zakariya al Umari
a football player

- Arrest and enforced-disappearance

Eyad Bouta

Monday, August 15, 2011, Syrian regime security forces arbitrarily arrested him along with a number of his colleagues after raiding their houses in al Khaldiya neighborhood in the middle of Homs city. He was released nearly 27 days after his arrest, during which he was subjected to different methods of torture.

Eyad, a football player for al Wehda and al Nawa'ir Football Clubs, from al Khaldiya neighborhood in Homs city, born in 1989.



Eyad Bouta
a football player



SNHR contacted, via phone, Eyad who told us about his experience in prison, and the torture he experienced:

“Around 7:00 AM, I was sleeping at home when I was surprised by security forces raiding my house after they completely enclosed the neighborhood. They took me along with a number of my colleagues, Mohammad Qwyed’s sons and the player Jehad al Hussein’s brother, to the Air Force Intelligence branch in Homs city. Although I told the interrogation officer at the branch that my team got an invitation to participate in the football league in Damascus city, I was insulted. We stayed there for nearly seven days, during which we were electrically shocked, beaten in the “Doulab” (A method of torture), ghosted “al Shabih”, and whipped. After seven days, they transferred us to al Balouna Prison in Homs city. I stayed there for nearly 20 days. Then I was released after some people intervened. I fled Syria as I was afraid I might get arrested again.”

Sameh Srour

Saturday, April 14, 2012, Syrian regime forces arrested him from Damascus International Airport. He was released on May 23, 2012 for a few hours before he was arrested again, and then taken to an undisclosed location. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.

Sameh, a basketball player for the Syrian National Team and al Jaish Club. From Ma’raba town in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, born in 1981.

SNHR contacted Ahmad Srour, the player Sameh Srour’s brother. He told us the following: “Since my brother disappeared in the regime’s prisons, we have been receiving information about his poor health conditions through people who were released, most recently in early-2016, when we heard that he is suffering from liver inflammation, and that he is inside the red building of Sydnaya Prison in Damascus suburbs governorate, and that he was transferred after that to an undisclosed location. We are fearing that he might get the death sentence, and we are fearing for his poor health condition and that he is left there with no medical care. We haven’t received any news on him in roughly a year.”

Sameh Srour, a basketball player



Raniya Mohammad al Abbasi

Monday, March 11, 2013, she was arbitrarily arrested by Syrian regime security forces along with her husband Abdul Rahman Yassin and her six children (Dima – 14-year-old, Intisar – 11-year-old, Najah – nine-year-old, Walaa – eight-year-old, Lyan – a year-and-a-half old) after their house was raided in Dummar neighborhood in western Damascus city. She has been forcibly disappeared since then.

Raniya, a dentist and a Syrian and Arabic chess champion. She won the national chess tournament multiple times. Additionally, she participated in the Women's Arab Tournament, and the Mediterranean Games. She was 43-year-old at the time of her arrest.

SNHR contacted the doctor Nayla al Abbasi, Raniya's sister, via Facebook, who told us: "Since we learned of the arrest of my sister along with her children, we have been looking for her and have asked tens of former prisoners in the hopes that they saw or heard of her while they were under arrest, but all of our efforts have been fruitless. We also sought the help of a number of meditators and individuals who have connections to the Syrian regime, but we couldn't get any answers. We didn't know the reason behind her arrest, and why they also arrested her children."



Raniya al Abbasi
a chess player

Nedal Jamal

Wednesday, September 18, 2013, he was arrested at an inspection point called al Jamarek checkpoint at the entrance of Hama city after he returned from Lebanon. He was released nearly after two months of his arrest. During his time in prison, he was beaten in al Doulab multiple times, which caused fractures in his left knee.

Nedal "His real name was concealed for security concerns", Hama champion in "taikonijistu" from Hama city, he participated in the first national tournament in 2009.

Nedal told SNHR about his arresting conditions in a personal interview:

"After they stopped me at al Jamarek checkpoint, security forces transferred me to the Military Security branch in Hama city, where I was beaten in al Doulab more than 10 times, which caused fractures in my knee. I also was beaten all over my body, without knowing my charges. My torture lasted for 12 days. After one month, the interrogator told me that I was accused of contacting revolution activists. I stayed under arrest for two month at the Military Security branch, before I was transferred to Hama Central Prison, where I stayed for three days. Then, I was released. I fled Syria one week after my release, as I was afraid I might get arrested and tortured again."



Jamal al Refa'ie

Sunday, May 3, 2015, he was arbitrarily arrested at an inspection point in al Masna' area on the Lebanese-Syrian borders. He was taken to an undisclosed location, and is still forcibly-disappeared.

[Jamal, a football player](#) for Jabla Club, from Jabla city in the suburbs of Latakia governorate, born in 1984.

Jamal al Refa'ie, a football player



Jamal al Refa'ie
a football player

- Other violations

The municipal stadium in Daraa city

Located in Daraa al Mahata area in Daraa city. With the beginning of the popular uprising towards freedom in March 2011, Syrian regime forces has used it for months as a temporary detention center, before the detainees there were transferred to security branches, and then the stadium was used as a military base where these forces and their vehicles stationed. [The stadium](#) is used to shell areas outside of the Syrian regime's control. As of this writing, the stadium is still used as a military base.

The municipal stadium in Hama city

Located between al Sabouniya and Janoub al Mal'ab neighborhoods [in Hama](#) city. Syrian regime forces turned it in August 2011 into a detention center, as it was dedicated for keeping detainees who were arrested during the raids on the villages in the suburbs of the city. Since the end of 2012 (as of this writing), the stadium has become a military base for Syrian regime forces, and a part of it has been made into an ammunition warehouse.

Al Abbasin stadium in Damascus city

Located [in the middle of Damascus](#) city. He is one of the [major stadiums in Syria](#), and the fourth largest stadium in the country. On Monday, June 6, 2011, Syrian regime forces -mainly al Ferqa al Rabe'a (The Fourth Squad)- stationed, with their heavy weapons, in the stadium, using it as a center to shell Erbeen, Joubar, and Zamalka in Damascus city with artillery, and an off-point to oppress demonstrations in Damascus city and block demonstrators from reaching al Abbasin square which is near the stadium.

Al Fayhaa sport city in Damascus city

Located near al Mazra'a neighborhood in Damascus city. From March 2011 to the end of 2014, it was used by Syrian regime forces to temporarily keep detainees especially those



who were arbitrarily arrested in large numbers from streets and markets. Those detainees would be transferred later to security branches, especially the Political Security branch in Damascus city.

Aleppo International Stadium

Located in the sport city in Aleppo city. It is one of the largest stadiums in Syria. At the beginning of 2012, Syrian regime forces used the stadium as a base to shell rockets at Salah al Din neighborhood until armed opposition factions withdrew from the neighborhood in December 2016, where it has become under the control of Syrian regime forces.

The municipal stadium in Tadmour city

Tuesday, December 29, 2015, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired two missiles at the municipal stadium in al Sena'a area in Tadmour city in the suburbs of Homs. One of the missile fell on the stadium ground, which created a large hole in it. The other missile fell on the stadium's west section of seats, which collapsed partially. Also, the roof of the west section was destroyed completely.

Sport hall in Idlib city

Wednesday, August 17, 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime [forces warplanes](#) carried out a missile airstrike on the hall, which was heavily destroyed, and its equipment and contents were heavily damaged. As a result, the hall was rendered out of commission

B. Violations by Russian forces

- Acts of killing

Samir Swyed

Sunday, December 20, 2015, he was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired a number of missiles in Idlib city.

Samir, an international table tennis official, from Idlib city, born in 1960, has a degree in civil engineering.

Samir Swyed, an international table tennis official



Samir Swyed
an international table
tennis official



- Other violations

Sport hall building in Kafr Takharim city

Sunday, October 23, 2016, around 23:30, [fixed-wing warplanes](#) we believe were Russian carried out two missile airstrikes on the sport hall building (the sport club) in [Kafr Takharim](#) city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hall building and its furniture were heavily destroyed. As a result, the hall was rendered out of commission.

C. Violations by extremist Islamic groups

• ISIS

- Acts of killing

Abdul Salam Fayez al Hamad

Friday, June 24, 2016, he was shot dead by an ISIS sniper during clashes between armed opposition and ISIS on the outskirts of al Ra'ie village in the northern suburbs of Aleppo. [Abdul Salam](#), a swimming and water polo champion, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate, born in 1990, single, retired from sport action and joined armed opposition factions.

- Arrest and enforced-disappearance

Mohammad al Mahmoud

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, ISIS arrested him at a checkpoint on Salamiya-Atharya road in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, before they took him to an undisclosed location. As of this writing, he is still forcibly-disappeared.

Mohammad, a karate champion and has a black belt in the same spirt, from al Raqqa city, born in 1995.

Ahmad Shammour

Thursday, December 25, 2014, he was arrested by ISIS in al Hawayej village, which follows Thayban county in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. He was taken to al Ekershi prison in eastern al Raqqa. He was released by ISIS on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. During his time in prison, he was beaten and whipped. It should be noted that Ahmad was arrested three times before by ISIS.

Ahmad, a former football player -a goalkeeper- for al Fotoua Football Club and the Syrian National Team. He was also an employee at the Public Sports Federation, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

SNHR spoke to Ahmad, via Facebook, who told us

“I was arrested three times before by ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour before over different charges such as fighting them and being an armed opposition sleeper cell. Each time, I would stay in prison for 20-60 days before they release me. The fourth time was the longest and



the hardest, where I stayed for 72 days in al Ekershi prison. The prison is like the Syrian regime prisons in terms of treatment, where I was subjected to ill-treatment by ISIS members. During my time in al Ekershi prison, I was beaten and whipped on three different occasions, where each time I would take 30 whips. They once deprived me of food for five days as a punishment. Over the course of my stay in prison, they I was forced into labor (Distributing food and cleaning prison). I was released along with a number of detainees on a pardon by their leader Abu Baker al Baghdadi.”

• Fateh al Sham Front

- Arrest and enforced-disappearance

Mohammad Aoun

Tuesday, April 7, 2015, he was arrested by members from Fateh al Sham Front in Bostan al Qaser neighborhood in eastern Aleppo city. He was released on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, after Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert, an armed opposition faction, intervened. During his arrest, he was beaten and tortured.

[Mohammad Aoun](#), known as Rayan Rayan, a judo trainer, from Aleppo city, born in 1977 SNHR spoke, via the phone, with Mohammad, who told us:

“I was arrested twice by al Nussra Front. The first time was in 2014, and the second time on April 7, 2015 as I was on my way back from the Sharia court [in Bostan al Qaser neighborhood](#). After I passed a military checkpoint for Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umret, which is located in “Jesr al Haj area circle” area, a Jeep car stopped me. In the car, there were one masked man and two unmasked men. I was able to get off the car and I ran towards the military checkpoint, but they caught me before I got there and hit me severely on the head and all over my body. Some residents gathered to get them off me, but the abductors told them that I “insulted the Divine Self” so people backed off. The abductors then tackled me by spraying a burning substance on my eyes.”

“After they put me in the car, I heard a call on a military device giving a public order for the armed opposition factions’ to look for me, so the driver kept going around Aleppo neighborhoods for a half hour in an attempt to hide. After that, we reached a military



checkpoint for al Nussra Front. The checkpoint cleared them to leave the city. After 15 minutes, we reached an unknown place. They took me off the car and out me in a van. 30 minutes later and we are at a military base that is used by al Nussra as a detention center that I didn't know where it was in Aleppo suburbs. I was kept at a ground floor inside the base. They took my phone and laptop and opened all my personal accounts on social media and looked into them. At night, I was called for interrogation. After they covered my eyes, they took me to another room. They interrogated me and threaten to torture and forcibly disappear me.”

D. Violations by armed opposition factions

- Acts of killing

Child Yamin Hejazi

Wednesday, August 6, 2014, he was killed by a mortar shell that was fired from an armed opposition artillery and fell in al Fayhaa sport city in Damascus city, as he was watching a match.

Yamin, a football player for al Jaish Football Club – Junior division, from al Adawi neighborhood in Damascus, 17-year-old.



Yamin Hejazi
a football player

- Other violations

The football stadium in al Fayhaa sport city in Damascus city

Located near al Mazra'a neighborhood. On Monday, 19 January, 2015, two mortar shells fell inside the stadium, after they were fired by an armed opposition artillery, which resulted in casualties in addition to some damages in the area.

Bocci stadium in al Fayhaa sport city in Damascus city

Located near al Mazra'a neighborhood. On Thursday, November 19, 2015, a mortar shell fell in the stadium, after it was fired by an artillery stationing in an armed opposition-held area. The shell damaged slightly [the stadium](#) ground where it fell.

E. Violations by Self-management forces

- Acts of killing

Amer Ali Shikhi

Saturday, February 25, 2017, we received information confirming his death due to lack of medical care inside the detention center of the ancient city of Tal Bidar in the suburbs of al Hasaka governorate on Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Amer, a football player for Amouda Club, from Amouda city in the suburbs of al Hasaka governorate, born in 1993.



Amer Ali Shikhi
a football player



- Arrest and enforced disappearance

M.A. (Name was concealed for security concerns)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015, he was arrested by Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) who raided his place of residence in Ifreen city in the northwestern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. He was taken to an undisclosed location. As of this writing, he is still forcibly-disappeared.

M.A., a body builder, from Ifreen city, born in 1987.

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