

## Syrian Government release one correspondent in front of the Media , and on the other hand kill 168 , four of them was tortured to death

Since the outbreak of Syrian revolution, Syrian government not just prevented all media –except pro-Alassad regime media outlets – to work freely and transmit news and the facts happening on the ground, but they also expelled, arrested tens of them , and restrict others in their work .

Syrian government’s crackdown towards media is one of the worst in the world comparing with other countries, restricting freedom of press and media in this way is a clear violation of all norms and international conventions in this regard .

This cause additional responsibility on Syrian revolutionaries, hundreds of citizens takes this task upon themselves to become citizen journalist exposing their lives to the danger of detention and death

SNHR documented since the outbreak of the Syrian Revolution up till now killing 168 media professionals and citizen journalists including 3 women , which is a clear indication of women participation in Media work in Syrian Revolution

The following [link](#) contains all the names of the killed media professionals and their death date as well as their photos and videos.

Homs topped the list of Media victims with 73, followed by Damascus countryside with 21, Aleppo 16, Daraa 12, Damascus 9 , and the rest all around the other Syrian governorates

For the Non Syrian Media victims they were 12 all around the world

SNHR refuse to document pro-Alassad regime or pro-oppositions media outlet –where they don’t deserve the media capacity any more, cause by their actions they turned into intelligence agents depicting the faces of activists to arrest them – and forced residents by arms to admit that Alassad troops didn’t kill or shell , but on the contrary they were sophisticated in dealing and in humanity

The same for armed rebel , Media capacity falls from any correspondent carry weapon and turned into a soldier.

### Detainees and torture of correspondents

There are at least 3500 media activists and citizen journalists work as photographer, or have an administrative role on social networks, and reporters to transmit news and information to agencies and stations all around the world.

According to the statements of eyewitnesses and survivors from Alassad prisons that the media activists of revolutions suffering from distinct type of torture more worse than the other detainee , 4 media activists killed under torture and 600 forcibly disappeared.

The following you can see the reporters names how has been tortured to kill in prisons then the security branches hand over the bodies to their families and the signs of tortures appears on:

**Abdullah Hasan Kakeh** – Aleppo – male – killed under torture in Military Intelligence branch in 17-11-2012

**Baraa Yousef Alboshi** – Sabonia / Hama – male – dissident sergeant – was speaking media and journalist on the ground in Damascus countryside – killed in the random shelling on Altal in 11-8-2012

**Mahmod Sudki Sakhita** – Ariha / Idlib – male – media activist – Alassad army arrested him on a checkpoint and killed under torture in 22-7-2012

**Rami Suliman Ekbal** – Dael / Daraa – male – married and have a girl child – killed under torture by Alassad troops in 21-6-2012

**Hasan Mohamad Azhari** – Damascus – male – killed under torture in prison in 17-5-2012

**Juan Mohamad Katana** – Derbasia / Hasaka – male – photographer , his body found and the sign of torture appears on it after three hours of his abduction from his house in Derbasia by masked people

**Farzat Yahia Aljarban** – Kosayr / Homs – male – killed under torture in 20-11-2011– after he was arrested in 19-11-2011 , his body was dumped

## **SOME OF THE PROMINENT MARTYRS OF MEDIA PROFESSIONALS**

### **Basil Shehadeh**

A well known movie director, he was studying at Syracuse University in the United States, he returned to Syria in order to participate in the peaceful movement against the government. He was arrested when he was in one of the demonstrations in Damascus by the Intelligence forces in Damascus, and then released. He used his camera to document the attacks of the Syrian army on neighborhoods of the city of Homs. He was killed on 29/5/2012 in Safsafa neighborhood in the city of Homs after being bombarded by the Syrian government's army.

### **Rami Al-Sayed**

A revolutionary prominent media professional in Homs, where he was filming the live broadcast of the demonstrations, he was documenting the victims of the regime forces bombing; those killed and wounded along with abuses against civilians. He was martyred in besieged Baba Amr after heavy shelling by the Syrian government forces on 21/2/2012.

### **Mohammed Al-Khal (Abu Bilal al-Dairi)**

A media activist volunteered to document the events of the revolution in his hometown Deir Ezzor since the breakout of the revolution. He worked on monitoring most military checkpoints on the axes of the city through filming them from a long distance. He was also able to document much of the “theft and looting” by the soldiers of the regime during raids. He martyred after missile bombardment by the Syrian government forces on 25/11/2012.

### **Omar Abdul Razak Altawf (Omar Homs)**

A prominent media activist in the Syrian revolution, he is from the city of Talbisa in Homs, he contributed effectively in the dissemination of news about the Syrian Revolution on the news agencies around the world. He also filmed a large number of documentaries by his personal camera. He martyred in a field execution process with two of his brothers and a number of activists when he was returning from Turkey to Talbisa at Aicardaa military checkpoint on 20/10/2012.

### **Tamer Al-Awaam**

A film director and a political activist from Al-Suwayda. He made many documentations about the Syrian Revolution activities, the most prominent was “Memories at the Checkpoint” (Zekrayat ala Al-Hagez). He was died by shrapnel of a random bomb shell as a result of shelling Al-Ezaa district in Aleppo city by the Syria Army Forces in 9/9/2012.

### **Mary Koven**

An American journalist, works for the British Sunday Times Newspaper. She was killed in 22/02/2012 as a result of targeting the Media Center for Baba Amr district by the Syrian government forces. Thus, Mary was killed along with her French photographer colleague Remi Ochlik.

### **Remi Ochlik**

A French photographer. He worked in all the Arab Spring countries in 2011. He witnessed the Tunisian and the Egyptian Revolutions, then the war in Libya. His staling photos that is full of humanity were published in Paris Match and Time Magazines and in The Wall Street Journal. He was awarded the first prize for the young photographers in the “Visa Pour L’Image” photojournalism festival. He was killed along with his the journalist Mary Koven in Homs, Baba Amr district in 22/2/2012.

### **Mika Yamamoto**

A Japanese journalist. A pioneer in the field of video journalism and she was awarded many prizes. She was working for the Independent Media Group (Japan Press). She was killed as a result of shelling Aleppo city by the Syrian Army Forces while fulfilling her media responsibility in covering the current events there in 21/08/2012.

## **Media Professionals in Prison:**

### **Mazen Darwish**

A journalist, a member in the International Federation of Journalists, the founder and the head of “The Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression”. He was interned in 16/2/2012 after breaking into the center by the Air Force Intelligence Forces. Since he was interned, he was not accused of any crime, and he is still interned and suffering from several health problems.

### **Activist, Ali Othman**

One of the most famous media activists in Homs. He participated in documenting tens of crimes and violations against the Syrian citizens. One of his most famous and important works was the first video for shelling when he commented: “Baba Amr is being shelled, where are you Arabs?”

He was interned in 28/3/2012 by military security detachment in Al-Bab city in Aleppo. He was then sent to the military security branch to end his journey in Palestine branch after only days from the being interned, and he is still interned.

## Condemnation and blame

SNHR as human rights organization condemn blatantly targeting the journalist and attacks against them which is classified as crimes against humanity and holds Bashar Al-Assad as the Syrian president and the commander of the Army forces, the sole responsibility of all acts of murders, torture and massacres that have occurred in Syria.

Assad is primarily responsible for ordering these acts, and we consider all officials of the Syrian government, which leads the security and army operations as a direct partner of these crimes, and the same for the Iranian government and Hezbollah participate actively in killings and holds them legal judiciary and responsibility, as well as all financiers and supporters of the system and who are committing massacres on an almost unbroken daily basis, systematic in day or night, and we hold them all reactions and consequences, and that may be issued from the Syrian people, especially relatives of the martyrs and their families.

We demand the Security Council and the United Nations and Member States to work at a maximum speed to take all steps to protect civilians in Syria, and they are in droop for supporting the Syrian people and the protection of civilians bears with the Syrian regime a great deal of responsibility where they have to comply with the responsibility of ethical, legal and accelerate steps toward reference all those involved in these massacres to the international Criminal Court.

Also appeals all the media around the world to stand by their colleague in Syria who are risking their lives to give the voice of truth, even to transmit a small part from the Syrian people suffering, thus all the media organization around the world have to launch an extensive campaign to press the Syrian government and demand them to allow all media around the world unconditionally to carry out their mission and media role.

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