



The Most Notable Cases of Torture to Death in Government Detention Centers in February 2014

Executive Summary:

Government forces killed at least 134 individuals as a result of torture in regular and irregular detention centers in February 2014. The rate of deaths due to torture was not as high this month as in earlier months, with some months seeing almost 400 cases of fatal torture. The characteristic that set this month's death toll from torture apart was the variety of victims, with the Syrian Network for Human Rights' Victim Documentation Team documenting among the 134 victims:

- A doctor.
- Three university students.
- A child.

Documentation methodology of the Victim Documentation Team at the Syrian Network for Human Rights:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan or political human rights organization. The network documents human rights violations, victims and detainees in Syria.

The methodology used by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen [at this link](#):

Details of Incidents:

A doctor

Rafea Brik, a dentist from al Qrayya town in Suwayda governorate, was arrested by Syrian Regime forces in 2013, and died due to torture on Sunday, February 9, 2014.

University students

Abdulrahman Mohammad Ahmad al Eisa al Miqdad, from Bosra al Sham in Daraa governorate, a third-year student at the Baath University's Faculty of Medicine, was arrested at the university and died under torture on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.





Haitham Hesham al Froukh from al Qayta village in Daraa governorate, a resident of al Assali neighborhood in Damascus city, died due to torture on Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Yousef Muneeb Yousef al Owda, from Bosra al Sham in Daraa governorate, a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Petrochemical Engineering, at the Euphrates University in Deir Ez-Zour, a resident of al Joura neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, was arrested by government forces a month ago. His body was found in the Euphrates River on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

Child

Sixteen-year-old Isam Awwad al Naser from al Sehiliya in Daraa governorate died due to torture on Monday, February 17, 2014, four months after he was detained.

Conclusions:

Article 7 of Part II, Regulation (1-o): Torture is a crime against humanity when committed in the framework of a plan, general policy or in the context of a large-scale commission of this crime, in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and this is what we have clearly documented in the practices of security forces in detention centers, which indicate that it is a state policy, meaning that the Syrian government stands accused of committing crimes against humanity in relation to the crime of torture.

International human rights law clearly prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in article 7 of the International Compact mentioned above. In addition, torture during armed conflicts is a violation of international humanitarian law, as well as violating international criminal law, and is considered a war crime. Places of detention, methods of detention and torture are inhumane.

Recommendations:

1. Security Council: Adopt a resolution to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court rather than establishing a policy of impunity.
2. Warn the Syrian government of the repercussions of the use of brutal methods of torture on the stability of civil peace and co-existence among members of the same society





Human Rights Council:

1. Give greater attention and seriousness to dealing with the issue of fatal torture, which is considered one of the most heinous types of crimes.
2. Request that the Security Council and the relevant international institutions assume their responsibilities in this very serious matter.
3. Pressure the Syrian government to end the torture and to open prisons and detention centers in order to inspect the conditions of thousands of detainees and the conditions of their detention.
4. Hold the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China – materially and morally responsible for the excesses of the Syrian regime in this regard.

Arab League:

1. Request that the Security Council give this serious issue the appropriate attention and follow-up.
2. Put political and diplomatic pressure on the main Syrian government's allies - Russia, Iran and China - to prevent them from continuing to provide cover and international and political protection for all crimes committed against the Syrian people and hold them morally and materially responsible for all the excesses of the Syrian government.

