



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

Executive Summary:

Government forces killed at least 137 individuals as a result of torture in regular and irregular detention centers in January 2014. The rate of deaths due to torture was not as high this month as in previous 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 137 victims:

- A doctor
- A lawyer
- An athletic
- A human rights activist
- A woman

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

[Adnan al Zein](#), an anesthetist, from Aleppo, was arrested by government forces in November 2013, and died due to torture in a detention center in Damascus city on January 12, 2014.





A lawyer:

Abdul Salam Hussein al Atrash, a lawyer from Aleppo, was arrested by Syrian Regime forces in September 2011, and died due to torture on January 27, 2014.

An athletic:

Husam Ahmad Raad from al Qsair in Homs, a football player with al Qsair Sports Club's team, died due to torture in the Military Security branch in Homs on Monday, January 27, 2014.

A human rights activist:

Shadi Mustafa Kurdiya, from Salamiya in Hama, a human rights activist, died on Friday, January 24, 2014, as a result of being tortured during his detention at the government forces' Air Force Intelligence branch.

A woman:

Layla Abdul Rahman Halloum, an Arabic language teacher from al Nabk in Damascus Suburbs, died as a result of torture on Monday, January 27, 2014.

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; this indicates 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. The places of detention, methods of detention and torture itself 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 enable the inspection of 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 Syrian government's main 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.

