



In the World Press Freedom Day:

Killing of 558 media activists; the abduction and detention of 1086 since March 2011

The killing of 5 Media Activists; the abduction and detention of 4 activists in April 2016

Tuesday, May 4 2016

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

SNHR is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims' rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

SNHR issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

SNHR is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.



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I. Introduction:

In Syria, since five years till now, SNHR does not talk about the withholding of sites, licensing requirements for practicing journalism, and the absence of independent or private media. In spite of the importance of this, those violations are barely significant comparing to what the Syrian government is doing:

The monthly killings that did not stop even for one month, arrests and detention, torture, enforced disappearance, in addition to the prevention and prohibition of journalists, media activists, and jurists who might offer an opposite point of view of the governmental mass media and their supporters (Iranian - Lebanese - Iraqi - the last three on the background of inciting sectarian).

Despite of the intervene of other parties on the internal armed conflict background, such as Kurdish Democratic Union Party, the Extremist Islamic groups (ISIL and Al Nusra), and the armed opposition factions, the level and quality of documented violations indicate that the governmental forces causing violations by nearly 90%. However, all parties practices, in a way or another, some kinds of repression on the media. They also deformed facts and exaggerate in showing the brutality of the enemy which lead to the loss of fairness and subjectivity; knowing that all authorities are aware of the danger that can be exposed by the mass media.

While the Syrian government is known for its possession of funds, it held several deals with journalists (Arab writers and foreigners) for the aim of improving the image of the Syrian regime. Often, we note an article that emphasize on the rehabilitation of the dictatorial regime, the de-





nial of his crimes, and distortion of some facts, in addition to questioning the efforts of thousands of journalists and jurists who risked their lives in order to transfer a moment of truth.

The enormous amount of targeting journalists and media activists leads to their migration from the country and a fear of return. This has deprived the Syrian society from those who transported to the world their sufferings in addition to the absence of their indescribable epics.

Finally, the inciting, doctrinal, and ethnic speech caused fuelling of sentiments. We saw a large number of journalists, who are supporters to the Syrian government, taking pictures over the corps of the Syrian citizens and taking selfies with them. These acts highly carry sectarian nature.

According to Customary Humanitarian Law, corps should be treated in respectful manners. The pictures and videos the forces of Kurdish Democratic Union Party are taking are considered as an abuse of the dead bodies, and this is a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law. The truck that was pictured carrying the bodies of the opposition armed factions' fighters and touring on Afrin's streets in the governorate of Aleppo is also considered a kind of revenge with an ethnic nature. Note that the video was published on YouTube on April 28th.

ISIL also showed cruel operations during the execution of some journalists who were kidnapped. It seems that ISIL did that after the failure of the financial transactions to barter those journalists for the sake of extorting money from the government. Through our experience, we realized that the main objective of kidnapping the foreign journalists is the ransom demanded and not the demonstration of murder operations.

The massive violations against journalists and the media activists caused more violence in a way that cannot be imagined in our modern age. Moreover, it leads to the wide spread of hating the speech as it becomes inciting, sectarian, and ethnic. Accordingly, SNHR recommends the need to save what can be saved through showing respect for the basic principles embodied in the international covenants, and the attempt of the obligation of independence and impartiality as far as possible.





II. Methodology

A citizen journalist is anyone who plays an important role in covering and publishing news even if he/she is not impartial as opposed to what a journalist should be. When a citizen journalist carries a weapon and gets involved directly in armed clashes, he/she is no longer a citizen journalist unless he/she completely retires from military action.

This report is based mainly on SNHR's archives and investigations in addition to the testimonies of victims' families and relatives. Information we collected from local activists, and the verified pictures and videos we receive and add to our archives that we have been updating regularly since 2011.

It should be noted that these statistics and facts are the bare minimum of the violations and crimes that happened in light of the security and logistic difficulties and challenges we are facing in order to reach the locations where these violations occurred.

III. Executive Summary:

- The most significant violations committed against media personnel in March 2011 are detailed as follows:

A. Extrajudicial Killing:

SNHR documented the killing of 558 media activists since March 2011 till present, detailed as follows:

i. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias): killed 481 media activists, including 5 foreign journalists, a woman, and 34 journalists due to torture.

ii. Armed Opposition Groups: killed 18 media activists including 3 women.

iii. Russian Forces: killed 6 media activists

iv. Extremist Islamic Groups:

a. ISIL killed 34 media activists including women and 3 foreign journalists.

b. Al Nusra killed 5 media activists

vi. Kurdish Self Management Forces: 2 media activists

iv. Unidentified groups: killed 12 media activists





B. Arrests or Abductions:

We recorded 1086 cases of detained or abductions, detailed as follows:

- i. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias): the detention of 876 cases, including 4 foreign journalists.
- ii. Armed Opposition Groups: detention or abduction of 47 media activists including 5 foreign journalists.
- iii. Extremist Islamic Groups:
 - a. ISIL kidnapped or arrested 65 media activists including a woman and 14 foreign journalists.
 - b. Al Nusra kidnapped or detained 33 media activists including 2 foreign journalists.
 - c. Jund Al Aqsa Organization: kidnapped one journalist and released him later.
- i. Kurdish Self Management Forces: the detention or abduction of 34 media activists
- ii. Unidentified groups: the abduction of 30 media activists including 8 foreigners.

• The most significant violations committed against media personnel in April 2016 are detailed as follows:

A. Extrajudicial Killing:

SNHR documented the killing of 5 media activists detailed as follows:

- i. Armed Opposition Groups: killed 1 media activist
- ii. Extremist Islamic Groups: ISIL killed 2 media activists
- iii. Kurdish Self Management Forces: 1 media activist
- iv. Unidentified groups: killed 1 media activist

B. Detention:

We recorded 3 cases of arrest and detention that were released, distributed as follows:

- i. The Governmental Forces: one detained case, released later.
- ii. Islamic organizations: Al Nusra: one detained case, released later.
- iii. Kurdish Self Management Forces:

C. Abduction:

We recorded a case of kidnapping and released by unidentified groups





D. Casualties:

We recorded 7 injuries, distributed as follows:

- i. The governmental forces: 5 injuries.
- ii. The Russian forces: one injured.
- iii. Islamic organizations: ISIL: one injured

E. Other Violations Against Journalists:

We recorded 3 cases, distributed as follows:

- i. The governmental forces: we recorded two bombing incidents on media centres.
- ii. Unidentified groups: We have recorded the incident of burning the headquarters of the radio station.

V. Details:

- Violations against journalists since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011:

We will show in this report the most prominent killings of media activists since the World Press Day 2015. We will also discuss some of the most outstanding cases of detention, enforced disappearance, or kidnapping of journalists whose fates are still unknown till now. For further cases please refer to the previous report «The Bottom of the Abyss», which was issued last year in the same occasion.

A- Violations committed by government forces:

1- Extrajudicial Killings:

Saturday, 23 May 2015, the death of the media activists Tim Qabbani, known as Tim Al Halabi, he is «Correspondent of Aleppo Network». He died of his wounds after he was injured 3 days before due to the splinters of the barrels explosive delivered by helicopters on «Al Sha»aar» district near the legitimate medical center of Aleppo.

On Friday, 26 June, 2015, Aljazeera Channel photographer, Mohamed Ahmed Al Asfar died in Daraa», after being shot by a sniper of the Governmental Forces in «Al Mansheya Neighborhood» in the city of Daraa» while covering the events in the city.





Mohammad Alasfar is born in Daraa on 1996 and worked with Daraa group as a photographer since the start of Aljazeera office in Daraa.

Saturday, 31 July 2015, the media activist Mazen Mohammad Badr Addin Al Dirani died because of the torture in one of the governmental detention centers in Damascus. His family informed us that they made sure of his death after the security men requested from them to receive his death documents and his body from Tishreen Military Hospital in Damascus.



Photo of Mazen Mohammad Badr Addin Al Dirani.

Mazen was born in the city of Doma, Damascus countryside in 1987. He is a media activist and a graduate from Arts and Direction College. He was arrested by the governmental forces on 6 November 2013 while passing through a checkpoint barrier in Palmyra Round-Point in the city of Homs. His family told us that he was in a healthy condition when he was arrested.



A medical report due to death



A medical report due to death

SNHR talked to Mohammad Dirani, currently residing in Turkey, the victim's brother:

«My brother was arrested and since then, we haven't heard anything about him. We asked about him repeatedly but in vain. Mazen is a graduate student from Arts and Direction College and he is a media activist in the Revolutionary Movement in addition to that, he launched several campaigns on Facebook.

After several attempts to ask about him, the security men informed my mother about his death in 13/ July 2015. My brother's corps was transferred to Tishreen Military Hospital in Damascus. My mother saw the





body of my brother. He was pale and the effects of beating and torturing are shown in many areas of his body. He was also suffering from malnutrition as he looked very thin, and several areas of his body bore the scars of the wounds of landmines as a result of beating.

No one dared of my family to picture the body and he was buried quickly with a few numbers of relatives, fearing from security surveillance over the family».

Monday, 24 April 2016, the family of Journalist Hamid Issa Al Mosalima assured his death out of the torture in one of the detention centers of «Palestine Branch in Damascus», after the military intelligences detained him right from «Al Matar Neighborhood» in Daraa» city on 12 December 2012, and then transferred to the «Palestine Branch in Damascus». His fate remained unknown till they receive the news of his death.

Hamed, was born in the city of Daraa» in 1985. He is a holder of a master's degree in media from the University of Damascus. He was arrested twice by the Governmental Forces. The first time, during the invasion of the governmental forces into the city of Daraa» in April 2011, and then released after nearly two months.



He used to transfer all the news independently from Daraa» city since the beginning of the popular protests in March 2011, through communicating with Arab and International channels. Also he worked on training his colleagues to cover the events and transfer them.

SNHR talked with Hamid's brother as he says:

«After the arrest of my brother Hamid on 12 December 2012, we learned that he was taken to the «Palestine branch in Damascus». After 15 days of his detention, we haven't heard anything about him.

Hamid Was suffering before his detention from health problems in the liver and lungs, and therefore, we are too afraid of not receiving the proper treatment. We had nothing to do but to pray to god. After several attempts to know anything about him, we were informed of his death without knowing the cause of death.»





Monday 7 December 2015 the media activist [Zakaria Yahya Ibrahim](#) died, after being shot by a sniper related to Governmental Forces on December 2nd 2015, while covering clashes in Teldo City on the front of the National Hospital between opposition armed factions and the governmental forces.

[Zakaria](#) is a photographer at Aljazeera channel and from the city of Teldo in the countryside of Homs. He is 19 years old, unmarried, and a student in the secondary level.

Friday 19 February 2016 the media activist [Majd Shafik Meadamani](#) died after being injured by the splinters of a tank shell during his coverage of the fighting between the factions of the armed opposition and government forces on the southern front of the city of Darya in the countryside of Damascus province which is under the control of the armed opposition factions.



[Majd](#) is known as Majd Dirani. He is a cameraman and a reporter of the Anatolia News Agency and he is the director of the media Center of Darya. [Majd](#) is from the city of Darya, countryside of Damascus province. He is born in 1995, he earned his high school degree and he is unmarried.

On 30 March 2016 media activist Manal Abdul Baki died due to government war-plane shelling on Al Kanamat neighborhood in Deir Al Zour. Manal is an independent media activist and worked as a field correspondent in Deir Al Zour Channel. Also, she worked as a volunteer in the relief aid field. Manal, 21, was from Al Kanamat neighborhood in Deir Al Zour.

A. Arbitrary arrests and Illegal Detention:

Monday, 20 August 2012, the journalist [Bashar al-Qaddumi](#), the Turkish photographer Junaid Onal, the Japanese journalist «Yamamoto», and another Japanese photographer were all exposed to a trap after entering Syria through the Syrian- Turkish border by the governmental forces in the district of Salah al-Din in Aleppo City. While they were covering the events, Yamamoto was killed, however, Bashar and the Turkish photographer disappeared. The Turkish photographer, Junaid Onal was





released later by the Syrian regime but no one heard anything about Bashar and his fate is still unknown till now. Bashar, correspondent at Al Hurra Channel in Aleppo, was born in Jerusalem and carries the Jordanian nationality, in addition to the Israeli identity. He is married and has two children.

Sunday 26 February 2012 the governmental forces arrested the writer [Adnan Al Ziraey](#) in Damascus, authorities kept him detained for 15 days long in one of the security branches in «Al Jisr Al Abyad», Damascus and then was transferred to the branch of al- Khatib, where he spent 15 more days. Later, he was transferred to the security of the State - Kafr Sousse. It is worth mentioning that Adnan completed the legal period of detention on 26 April 2012, but he was not released or brought to trial, and he is in the custody of enforced disappearance.

[Adnan](#) is screenwriter, from Baba Amro district in the city of Homs.

Friday, 2 October 2015, the media activist L.S. was arrested (can't mention name for security reasons) by the General Administration of military intelligence in Damascus related to the governmental forces and subsequently taken to section 215. L. S. a press photographer, from Yarmouk camp in the city of Damascus, he is Syrian Palestinian.

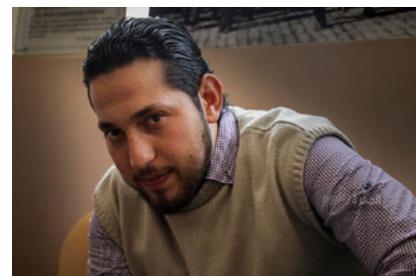
Saturday, 12 December 2015, governmental forces arrested the media activist N. A. from his home.

N. A. (can't mention his name for security reasons, according to the desire of his relatives), correspondent at the Youth Radio, from Hama Province.

Violations committed by Russian Forces:

1- Extrajudicial Killings:

Friday, 23 October 2015, the media activist Wasim Al Adel died as a result of the bombardment of warplanes allegedly Russian shelled a number of missiles at the town of Benin in Jabal Al Zaweya in countryside of Idlib.



Wasim is a media activist in Al Maarra Media Center and he used to prepare reports for several media contacts. He is from Maarat Al Naaman in the countryside of Idlib Governorate. He is 28-year-old, a university student in the Faculty of Arts - French Language Section.





Mohamed Al-Faisal, a close friend of [Wassim](#) talked to SNHR:

«[Wassim](#) was in a visit to one of his relatives in the village of Benin in the when Russian Federation Warplanes launched a raid on the village. Wassim headed immediately to the scene to picture it. At that moment Russian Federation warplanes shelled a second raid on the same place. Wasim was injured by several rubbles in his back and another in his left arm. He was transferred Al Maarra National Hospital. Due to his bad codition, he was transferred to the Turkish hospitals but he died in Bab Al Hawa hospital.

Tuesday, 27 October 2015 the media activist [Jou-maa Al Ahmad](#) died as he was covering the events, the allegedly Russian forced bombed warplanes at Hayyan town in the countryside of Aleppo.



[Joumaa](#) is well known as Abu Nour al-Halabi, occupator Shahba Press Agency Office in Hayyan district. He has been working with the agency since it was found in 2013. He is from Hayyan town in the governorate of Aleppo. He is 34-year-old, married and has four children.

Tuesday, 12 January 2016 the media activist, [Li-waa Abd Al Nasser](#) Mandil died after being injured by the splinters of a missile stabilized in his head and feet. While his media coverage, allegedly Russian forces shelled missiles on Maarat Al Naaman, countryside of Idlib governorate that is under the control of the armed opposition factions.



[Liwaa](#) is a photographer and director of the page of Maarat Al Naaman and its suburb. He is from Maarat Al Naaman countryside of Idlib governorate, a 28-year-old, the elementary certificate, married and has two children.





On 8 Feb 2016 media activist Zakareya Orfally died after he was injured with shrapnel from the shelling while he was covering the news about the alleged Russian shelling on Hraytan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition.



Zakreya was also known as the Syrian Eagle or Free Mazen. He worked previously as a media activist for Aleppo News Agency and before his death he worked as a media activist for an armed opposition group. He was from Aleppo city, born in 1991, and a sophomore student in the Institute of Political Sciences in Damascus.

Violations committed by Russian Forces:

ISIL Organization:

1- Extrajudicial Killings:

On 20 June 2015, reporter [Abdulghani Abdulkafi Al Hajji](#), 18 years old, was killed in Mare' city in northern Aleppo Suburbs from his wounds in one of the Turkish hospitals, after being injured with a fragment of a tank missile shelled from ISIS on his house in Mare' city on 13 June, 2015

On 5 July 2015, ISIL broadcasted a video entitled “ Be careful, They Are the Enemy” the depicted shooting to death two media activists from Raqqa Being Slaughtered in Silence campaign. The victims were tied to a tree and shot from a long distance.

The victims are: Bisher Abdulazeem Al Salem, born on 1995, from Al Thakana neighborhood in Raqqa and Faisal Al Habeeb, born on 1994 from Al Raqqa city. Before their execution, Bisher and Faisal were forced to appear in a video where they acknowledged that they received money in exchange of broadcasting news, according to the ISIL video.

ISIL arrested [Bisher](#) on 23 March 2015 in Tal Abyad in Raqqa, while Faisal was arrested on 4 April 2015 from Al Wadi Street in Al Raqqa while he was uploading videos and pictures on the internet in one of the internet cafés in Raqqa City.

[Bisher Abdulazim Al Salem](#)

[Faisal Hussein, Habib.](#)





On 26 August 2015, ISIL informed the media activists' parents, [Turky Hameed Al Houssein](#), nicknamed as Abo Houssien Al Kara'ani that he was killed in their prisons when he was detained months ago in Al Tayana town in Deir Al Zour. ISIL accused the victim of communicating with foreign and infidel bodies, according to ISIL, however, we could not verify these allegations and we could not verify the way he was killed or when.

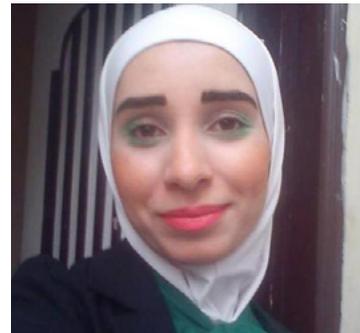
Turky is from Al Tayyana town and worked as a media activist, using “Abu Houssien Al Kara'ani” as a pseudonym, since the beginning of the uprising in his region and after ISIL took over Deir Al Zour, he worked as a reporter for them.

On 4 December 2015, ISIL killed media activist [Mousta-fa Hassa](#) after they put him in a cage and bombed it with an explosive device in Al Houwiada neighborhood in Deir Al Zour. Moustafa was accused of spying and communicating with third parties. He was nicknamed as Steve, a photographer and a member in Deir Al Zour Centre, and several other local media outlets. He was from Deir Al Zour, 29.



On 2 January 2016, one of ISIL's commanders informed the family of [Roukaya Hassan Mohamad](#), a media activist, that they have executed her after she was charged with treason. It is worth noting that ISIL arrested Roukaya on 11 August 2015.

Roukaya is known as Nisan Ibrahim, an independent media activist from Ein Arab city in Aleppo suburbs, 31, and had a BA in Philosophy.



B: Arbitrary Arrests and Illegal Detention:

Friday, 8 November 2013 the media activist [Abdel Wahab Mullah](#) was kidnapped of his place in Hanano housing in Aleppo City by ISIL members. He is still subjected to enforced disappearance until now.





Abdul Wahab presents program 3-star Revolution Program on Aleppo Today channel and he is a member of Aleppo News Network. He is from Aleppo; he was a 29-year-old when he was kidnapped, married and has a child.

Thursday 18/ September 2014 ISIL Broadcasted a videotape entitled «Listen to messages of British hostage John Kantley» who was kidnapped in northern Syria since November 2012.

ISIL forced the journalist John to prepare several promotional videos that show the control of ISIL on city of «Kubani» Ain Arab, countryside of Aleppo. The video was broadcasted on Saturday 27 November 2014.



Later, ISIL televised several videos showing that the journalist John providing a model of living in the areas that are under the control of ISIL. The last video was on March 19th, 2016 where John was speaking to the camera in a roundup. It was not clear exactly where the pictures of the video. His fate is still unknown for SNHR until present.

On 15 October 2015, media activist Othman Al Sultan was arrested from his residence in Al Kouriya city in Deir Al Zour suburbs by ISIL and he was taken to an unknown location in Deir Al Zour governorate.

Violations Committed by Al Nusra:

A: Arbitrary Arrests and Illegal Detention:

Tuesday 23 June 2015, the kidnapping of freelance Japanese journalist Jumpei Yasuda; an independent journalist was born in 1974, in the countryside of Idlib near the Turkish border. He was killed by Al Nusra.



Some activists of the same region informed us that Yasuda had obtained prior permission from Al Sham Free Movement to enter the Syrian lands for some reports; then he entered through Salhab village located in countryside of Jisir Shoughor which is under the control of Al Nusra. No information about Yasuda and his fate is still unknown until now.





On 14 September 2015, media activist [Abdul Karim Al Saleh](#) was arrested by An-Nusra front in Ma'arat Mahrema in Idlib suburbs and he was taken to an unknown destination.

Abdul Karim is from Ma'art Mahrema town in Idlib suburbs and he is 33 years old.

D- Armed Opposition Groups:

- Extrajudicial Killing:

On Friday 1 May 2015, we documented the killing of the journalist [Abd Allah Al Miqdad](#) «Abu Yaerub» by one of armed opposition groups in Duma city in the eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs. His family informed his death by leaked news from members worked with the kidnappers. They told them that Abd Allah died after a few days of his arrest, as he was suffered from many diseases.

Abd Allah's family told us that he had suffered from many diseases when the armed opposition groups kidnaped him, when they stormed Adra Al Umaliah city in 2013. They swindled his family through calling them from Abd Allah private phone, deceiving them that his health was good without allowed them to communicate with him, and asking them to recharge his mobile in order to call him.

It is worth mentioning that Al Miqdad from Ghasam town in Daraa governorate, 62 years old, a journalist and a member of the Syrian Journalists' Union in Damascus.

On 27 July 2015, journalist Thaer Al Ajlani was killed with a mortar missile shrapnel in Jobar neighborhood in Damascus suburbs that came from an armed opposition group region. Thaer was covering the news in a military region accompanied by government forces.

[Thaer Al Ajlani](#) was born on 1982 and worked as military correspondent for a number of media platforms, including Sham F.M Radio and LBCI TV station. He was the head of the media department in The National Defense Center in Damascus.

On 3 November 2015, media activist [Batoul Moukhless Al Warar](#) died due to an injury from a mortar missile on her town while she was going to her work. The missile came from a region controlled by armed opposition. She was from Hama and an anchorwoman in Al Nour and Damascus Radio stations.





E- Kurdish Self-Management Forces:

- Extrajudicial Killing:

On 14 Feb 2016 media activist [Anas Ahmad Al Kha-teeb](#) was killed due to shrapnel from a missile that fell next to him while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and KSM forces in Tal Ref'at city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. Anas is a media activist and photographer for one of the armed opposition groups, 22 and married.



- Arbitrary Arrests and Illegal Detention:

On 26 July 2015, journalist [Jandra Shrankhi](#), Kurdistan TV correspondent, and a member of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Party was arrested by the PYD forces from Al Swees neighborhood stadium in Al Qamishli City in Al Hassaka governorate without a statement or a clear reason.

On Monday 27 July 2015 [Mazkin Mohammad Ramadan](#) the representative of Al Shaikh Ma'ashook coordinate in the Kurdish national council coordinate he was arrested by Kurdish self-management. Then they took him to unknown destination. Mazkin considered as a pioneer who shared the demonstrations and established Al Shaikh Ma'ashook coordinate. He had been kidnapped and enforced to disappearance many times with his colleagues by PYD. Then they released them after 6 months.

On Monday 9 November 2015, [Azad Jamkari](#) was arrested by Kurdish self-management forces in Al Malikiah city in Al Hassaka governorate.

Azad is a correspondent of Rodaw channel, from Al Hassaka city.

F- Unidentified Groups:

- Extrajudicial killing:

On 8 October 2015, media activist [Saleh Layla](#) died in a car was bombed in the Square of Hraytan city in northern Aleppo suburbs. We are unable to identify the perpetrators who committed his crime up to the moment of making this report.

[Saleh](#), 27 years old, from Adnan city in Aleppo suburbs, was a correspondent for Anadulo Agency and a member of the media office in Al Jabha Al Shameya.





On 30 October 2015, media activist Ibrahim [Abdul Kader](#) and Fares Hamadi were found slaughtered and stabbed in their house in Orfa, a city in Turkey. We are not unable to identify the perpetrators who committed his crime up to the moment of making this report. A lot of indicators point to ISIL but the incident is still under investigation since it happened in Turkey not Syria.

Ibrahim, aged 20 years old, from Al Raqqa, was a media activist and a member in Raqqa Being Slaughtered Silently campaign and the executive manager of Ein Ala Watan Media Agency.

[Fares](#), aged 21 years old, from Al Raqqa, a media activist:

On 27 December 2015, media activist [Naji Jaref](#), a journalist, editor of Hentah newspaper and the head of the Syrian Basmah Foundation was assassinated in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep.



The persons who committed this crime remain unknown up to the moment of making this report. [He](#) is from Al Selmeya city in Hama suburbs, had a BA in Philosophy, born in 1977, married and a father of two children. He produced several documentaries about his city before he left it. Recently he directed a movie “ISIL in Aleppo” and it depicted ISIL’s violations in Aleppo. [He](#) also conducted several workshops in collaboration with SMART agency under the title “A Citizen Journalist”.

- Arbitrary Arrest and Illegal Detention:

On Tuesday 14 August 2012 [the journalist Austin Tais](#) was kidnapped by armed members near Damascus city. We are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.



Austin, American journalist for many newspapers as Makalatshi news, Washington post and CBS networks, beside his cooperation with France press, the British broadcasting Corporation BBC and Associated press. He was at the age of 33 at the time of his kidnapping. His family lunched campaign to reveal his fate on Friday 6 February 2015.





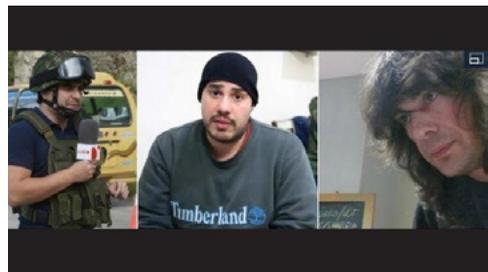
On 1 November 2013, the artist and photographer [Mohammad Wa'el Sa'eed](#) was kidnapped while he was in his way from his work place in Tishreen newspaper to his house in Adra Al Umaliah by unidentified groups. We are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.

Mohammad is an artist and photographer, from Lattikia. He was born in 1974, and has graduated from faculty of Art. He works as a director in Tishreen newspaper.

On 13 July 2015, three Spanish journalists were abducted. They are: Antonio Pamilga, Ankhel Lopez Sasteri, and Jose Manuel. They were kidnapped by an unidentified group while they were in Al Ma'adi neighborhood in Aleppo. The neighborhood is under the control of An-Nusra front and armed opposition groups. The Spanish journalists were conducting a report and covering the news in that region. Their relatives stated in a press statement that the journalists were kidnapped and they lost contact with them.

The Syrian translator Osama Ajan, from Aleppo, who was with the journalists, was also kidnapped.

The Spanish journalists entered the Syrian lands on 10 July 2015 with a permit from Ahrar Al Sham brigade and were protected by them as well. However, they entered Al Ma'adi neighborhood without the brigade members at the journalists' perusal.



The journalists are considered experienced military correspondents and members of Reports without Borders in Spain. They covered a number of conflicts in different parts of the world including Syria.

SNHR spoke to the translator's brother, Ahmad Ajan, born in 1979 and works as a lecturer of English Language in Intab University in Turkey:

“My brother Osama is an English teacher and a freelance translator and unfortunately there is no enough information about them other than what was stated in different international media agencies”

The three correspondents were kidnapped after two days of entering Al Ma'adi neighborhood by armed men whose identity remains unknown up to the moment of making this report. It is worth mentioning that that no party adopted this kidnapping case. The Prime Minister's Office is contacting me daily and we are working to find my brother and the three journalists as long as it takes.”





• The violations against media activities in April 2016:

i. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias):

- Arrests and Releases:

On Friday 8 April 2016 the American authorities revealed the release of the photographer [Kavin Patric Daws](#) who was asserted by the government forces in October 2012 as he was entering Syrian from Turkey to cover the incidents in Syria. Kavin is an independent journalist photographer. He was born in 1982.



On Wednesday 13 April 2016 the Syrian regime forces arrested [Ahmad Shwaish](#) while he was filming a report of People's Assembly elections in Al Qamishli city that is under government forces and Kurdish self-management forces' control in Al Hassaka governorate. He was released after one hour of his arrest. After he was vowing not to come near elections centers or film it.

Ahmad correspondent in Ara news agency. [He](#) is from Al Qamishli city in Al Hasaka suburbs governorate.

- Injuries:

On Saturday 16 April 2016 the media activist Karam Jabli injured due to the missiles shrapnel of government artillery shelling while he was covering the clashes between the government forces and armed opposition groups in Salah Al Dein front in Aleppo governorate.

[Karam](#) is a correspondent of Aleppo news network, from Aleppo city, he was born in 1996, a college student in faculty of physics in Aleppo university, single.

On Tuesday 21 April 2016 the media activist [Hamberfan Mohammad Salim Kosa](#) injured due to mortar missile shrapnel fired from artillery that stationed on Al Tay neighborhood that is under government forces' control in Al Qamishli city in Al Hassaka governorate, while he was covering the clashes between Kurdish self-management and the national defense militias related to government forces in Al Wsta neighborhood that is under Kurdish self-management' control which caused injuries in his shoulder.





Hamberfan is an independent correspondent and media activist, from Al Qamishli city in Al Hassaka governorate, aged 22 years old, college student in faculty of agriculture, single.

On Tuesday 26 April 2016 the media activist Mustafa Mohammad Juma»a injured due to regime warplanes missiles shelling on the office of Al An news in Kfer Zita that is under armed opposition groups» control in Hama governorate.



Mustafa correspondent of Al An news channel, from Kafer Zita. He was born in 1990. He graduated from music institute and college student in Al Zahra»a University in Gaziantep in Turkey, married.

SNHR communicated with the activist [Mostafa Mohammad](#). [He](#) told us his testimony:

«while I was working with my colleagues in the office of Al An news channel in Kafer Zita in Hama suburbs governorate, the regime warplanes shelled four vacuum missiles targeting the office directly, three missiles dropped near the office while the fourth one dropped on the office wounded my colleagues and me, the office was completely damaged with all broadcast equipment, computers, and cameras. Two cars were destroyed as well».

On Tuesday 26 April 2016, [Abd Allah Zakor](#) injured due to the regime warplanes missiles fired on Al An news channel office in Kafer Zita city that is under armed opposition groups» control in Hama governorate. Abd Allah»s injured by missiles shrapnel.

[Abd Allah](#) is a photographer of Al An news channel. [He](#) is from Kafer Zita city in Hama suburbs governorate. He was born in 1990, teacher preparation certification, married and has a child.





On Tuesday 26 April 2016 the media activist Ahmad Mahmoud Ulaian injured due to the regime warplanes missiles fired on Al An news channel office in Kafer Zita city that is under armed opposition groups' control in Hama suburbs governorate. He was injured in his head by the missiles shrapnel.

[Ahmad](#), an editor in Al An news channel from Kafer Zita city in Hama suburbs governorate. He was born in 1990, has diploma from faculty of arts in Al Ba'eth University in Homs governorate, single.

- Other Violations against media activists:

On Tuesday 26 April 2016, the regime warplanes shelled four missiles on the office of Al An news channel in Kafer Zita city that is under the armed opposition groups' control in Hama suburbs governorate. The missile dropped on the building directly, destroyed it greatly with its equipment

(Broadcast equipment, computers) three media activists were injured as well.

On Friday 29 April 2016 the regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Bustan Al Kaser neighborhood that is under the armed opposition groups' control in Aleppo governorate, the broadcasting was stopped and the building [was partly damaged](#).

- The Abuses of the Media Profession

On Friday 27 April 2016 the broadcaster [Kina Aloush](#), a correspondent of Al Dunia and Sama channels pro-government in Syria, posted a photo near the corpses of the armed opposition groups.



B-Russian forces:

- Injuries :

On Thursday 14 April 2016, the media activist [Ibrahim Al Khatib](#) was injured by missiles shrapnel which fired by alleged Russian warplanes while he was covering the clashes between the armed opposition groups and government forces in Al Malah front that under the armed opposition groups' control in Aleppo suburbs governorate, it injured him seriously.

[Ibrahim](#) is a correspondent of Orient news channel, from Msqan town in Aleppo suburbs governorate. [He](#) was born in 1992, a college student in faculty of rights in Aleppo university, married.





C-Violations by Extremist Islamic Groups:

i. ISIL:

- Extrajudicial Killing:

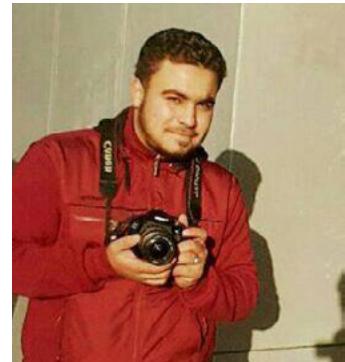
On Tuesday 12 April 2016, the media activist Mohammad Zaher Abd Al Jawad Shrqat died due to shooting him by ISIL's member in front of Aleppo Al Yaum channel's building in Mukhtar Basha region in Gaziantep in Turkey on 10 April 2016.

[Mohammad Zaher](#) is a presenter in Aleppo Al Yaum channel, from Al Bab city in Aleppo suburbs governorate. [He](#) was born in 1980, graduated from faculty of Sharia, married.



on Thursday 21 April 2016, the media activist Abd Allah Al Saleh died by ISIL shooting when he was covering the clashes between the armed opposition groups and ISIL on Braghida front in Aleppo suburbs governorate. His friend couldn't pull his corpses and it detained by ISIL.

[Abd Allah](#) is a photographer and media activist of Al Fatih faction, from Tal Ref'at city in Aleppo suburbs governorate. [He](#) was born in 1995, college student in teacher preparation institute, single.



- Injuries

On Tuesday 5 April 2016 the media activist [Ahmad Abd Allah Al Khalf](#) was shot by ISIL, while [he](#) covering the battles between the armed opposition groups and ISIL in Tal Ahmar that is under the armed opposition's control in Aleppo suburbs governorate.

[Ahmad](#) is a correspondent in Ain Al Watan media organization, from Aleppo suburbs governorate, 22 years old, college student in faculty of Sharia, and single.





ii - Al Nusra Front:

- Arrests and Releases:

On Saturday 9 April 2016, Al Nusra front released the media activist [Ammar Aref Alabdo](#), he had arrested on Wednesday 6 January 2016 at the checkpoint of the front in Jabal Al Zawia region in Idlib suburbs governorate. Ammar is an independent media activist and photographer, from Balshon village in Idlib suburbs governorate. He was born in 1998 and single.



On Tuesday 12 April 2016 Al Nusra front arrested the media activist T.R. in Idlib city while she was filming the neighborhood in the city and released her after one day.

T.R.(her name is kept secret for security reason) a photographer and editor in Al Asi agency. She is 40 years old

D-violations by Armed Opposition Groups:

- Extrajudicial killing

On Friday 29 April 2016 the media activist [Loai Bashir Hawa](#) killed by a sniper of Al Fustat army related to armed opposition groups on the public road between Misraba and Doma city that is under the armed opposition control in Damascus suburbs governorate, while he was covering the clashes between the armed opposition groups. Al Fustat army and Al Rahman legion on one hand and Al Islam army on the other hand.

[Loai](#) was an independent media activist and photographer, from Doma city in Damascus suburbs governorate, single.

E- Violations by Kurdish self-management

- Extrajudicial Killing:

On Tuesday 19 April 2016 the media activist [Mohammad Abd Al Rahmam Ismail](#) died on a hospital in turkey due to wounds of shrapnel of artillery shelling fired by Kurdish self-management, while he was covering the clashes between the armed opposition groups and Kurdish self-management on Minngh front in Aleppo suburbs governorate.





[Mohammad](#) is a member of the media office in Minngh town and correspondent in Al Sham legion one of armed opposition groups. He was born in 1993, from Minngh city in Aleppo suburbs governorate, single.

- Arrests and Releases:

On Monday 11 April 2016, Kurdish self-management arrested the media activist [Roni Mohammad Bakaji](#) after he left the church in Al Malikiah city that is under Kurdish self-management control in Al Hassaka suburbs governorate, as he was covering a seminar of civil peace in it. He was released after hours. He was beaten. And he treated in Al Malikiah hospital in Al Hasaka governorate.

Roni is a correspondent of Yakti media site, from Al Hassaka governorate.

F- Violations by unidentified groups:

- Extrajudicial Killing:

On Sunday 10 April 2016 the media activist [Oqba Hattab](#) died due to wounds of the landmine explosion on 7 April 2016, in the vicinity of Al Ra'ee town that is under the armed opposition groups control in Aleppo suburbs governorate, while he was covering the clashes between ISIL and the armed opposition groups. We are unable to identify who planted the mine by the time of making this report.

[Oqba «Abu Huthaifa»](#) was an independent photographer and member on Izaz media office, from Deir Al Zour governorate. He was born in 1983, married.

- Kidnapping:

On Saturday 9 April 2016 the media activist [Saif Allah Al Ahmad](#) was kidnaped at the linked road between Al Rastan and Talbisah that is under the armed opposition control in Homs governorate. The kidnapper beaten him and stole his equipment. They released him after a while. We are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.

[Saif Allah](#) is a correspondent of Oreint news channel from Talbisah city in Homs governorate, he is 23 years old, has certification form health institute, and married. SNHR approachwd with Saif Allah, as he told us his testimony:





«On Saturday 9 April 2016, while I was at the linked road between Talbisah and Al Rastan cities in Homs suburbs governorate. I was stopped by 5 armed and masked members in a white Kia car. They put me inside the car and started beat and curse me and the media that I worked in, they cursed the Supreme Court. The kidnaping was lasting 40 minutes. Then they dropped me on a free district that called Al Balan located between Al Zayefarana village and Deir Foul village in northern Homs suburbs governorate. They stole my equipment (camera, laptop, and mike) I headed to the central hospital in Talbisah city. There were contusions in my chest and back»

- Other Violations against the Media Activist:

On Tuesday 26 April 2016, unidentified groups [fired the building](#) of [Arta FM broadcast](#) in Amuda city that is under Kurdish self-management forces' control in Al Hassaka governorate after they had [stolen its equipment](#), it went out of service. We are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.



[Arta FM broadcast](#) is one of the most prominent local broadcast that interested in Kurdish case. It is centered in Amuda city in Al Hassaka governorate. It was established in July 2013.

IV. Recommendations:

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:

To condemn the targeting of the media activists in Syria and highlight their suffering and sacrifices.





International Commission Inquiry:

To investigate the targeting of the media activists for their prominent role in recording the incidents in Syria.

Security Council:

To Control the escaping from punishment policy by referring the Syria case to International Criminal Court.

The International and Arab media institutions:

To support their colleagues by highlighting the daily media activists suffering and immortalize their sacrifices. , approach with their families and condolence them.

Finally, the all parties in their controlled regions have to adhere the verdicts of International Humanitarian Law concerning the production of civilians and the activists in particular.

Acknowledgment

Our heartfelt thanks go to victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report. Also, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families.

