



Most Notable Cases of Torture to Death inside Syrian Regime Detention Centers in April 2014

Executive summary:

No less than 164 individuals were tortured to death at the hands of government forces inside the official and non-official detention centers. While this month's toll of victims of torture wasn't considered high, as some past months saw up to 400 cases, this month was particularly notable for the kind of cases, as SNHR's victim documentation team recorded the death of the following among the 164 cases torture to death.

Four lawyers

A media worker

Two engineers

Two doctors

Four university students

Two cases of kin (two siblings – an uncle and his nephew)

SNHR's victim documentation team methodology for documenting victims:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit human rights group. SNHR works on documenting violations of human rights, as well as victims and detainees in Syria.

Please read the [methodology](#) adopted by SNHR for documenting victims

Details

Lawyers

1- [Abdul Hadi Sheikh Awad](#), lawyer, from Damascus governorate, head of the Democratic Institute and a human rights activist who worked on documenting cases of torture of detainees inside Syrian prisons and security detention centers. He was arrested by Syrian security forces at the immigration office on the Syrian-Lebanese borders on December 8, 2013 at Jdeidat Yabous crossing as he was heading for Beirut. He was taken to an undisclosed location. News of his death under torture were received on April 5, 2014.





2- Hamad Tayyan al Thaher, born in al Bsiera in 1958, lawyer, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate, member of the General Commission of the Syrian Revolution. He died under torture at branch 248 in Damascus. Military Security informed his family on April 9, 2014, on his death, as they claimed the cause of death was a brain clot.

It should be noted that he was arrested over a year ago in al Shaddadi town, Hasaka governorate. He was transferred to the Military Security in al Qameshli area and then to branch 248 in Damascus where he was severely tortured during investigations, resulting in his death.

3- Mohammad Walid Smaqiya, lawyer, from Aleppo governorate, 37-year-old. He died under torture at the Air Force Intelligence branch in Aleppo. He was arrested from his house in al Nile Street on March 18, 2014. His dead body was delivered to his family on April 20, 2014.



4- Hasan al Sheikh Nouri al Sheikh Mousa, lawyer, from al Khafsa, Aleppo governorate, 40-year-old. He died under torture at the Air Force Intelligence branch in Aleppo. We received news on April 22, 2014, that he had died.

Media worker:

1- Fadi Abdullah Murad, painter, from Homs governorate, born in 1980, the sole son of the painter Abdullah Murad and his mother Hanaa al Draqi, graduated from the College of Fine Arts, Sculpture and Print department. He worked in Damascus as an advertisement designer. He was involved in many art exhibitions in Syria. He was arrested on January 8, 2013, as he was heading back from his work on al Mazza Highway in Damascus. His family didn't know anything about him the whole time he was arrested, until they were officially informed on April 7, 2014, of his death.



[One of his works](#)





Engineers:

1- Wasim Abu Zaina, [information engineer](#), originally Palestinian, from al Yarmouk camp in Damascus, graduated from the College of Information Engineering at Damascus University, he was seeking his masters in web science, in addition to having an experience in the field of social advertising. He was credited for spreading digital technology in Syria through a number of forums and social media pages that focus on technology topics. He was arrested from inside the campus of the College of Information Engineering as he was certifying his graduation documents. The news of his death of an untreated hepatitis inside Palestine Branch in Damascus was delivered on April 10, 2014.

2- Ibrahim al Hannan, an engineer, from Adla, Hasaka governorate. On April 30, 2014, SNHR documented that he had died under torture inside the Military Security branch in Damascus after being imprisoned for three months.

Doctors:

1- Kamal Najjoun, surgeon, from Tadeef city, Aleppo suburbs, 70-year-old. He was arrested a few days ago over his involvement in treating activists and rebels. He died under torture at the Air Force Intelligence branch. The news of his death was made public on April 24, 2014.

2- Mahmoud Refa'ie, dentist, from Yabroud, Damascus suburbs. He was tortured to death inside Palestine branch. The news of his death was made public on April 24, 2018.

University students:

1- [Ahmad Hussein Taha](#), university student, from al Yarmouk Camp, Palestinian, a volunteer with the National Commission. Died under torture at the Syrian regime prisons on April 12, 2014, as he was arrested along with a number of students who left the camp on February 2, 2014, to complete their studies as per an initiative. The regime however broke the initiative and arrested them.

2- Mohammad Sami al Bayyoush, a second-year [medical student](#) at Aleppo University, from Kafranbel city, Idlib governorate, 20-year-old. The Syrian regime arrested him along with 22 students from the [University's city](#) four months ago. The news of his death under torture at the Air Force intelligence in Aleppo was made public on April 27, 2014.





3- Ahmad Mahmoud al Swayyed al Fajr, a third-year medical student at Aleppo University, from Kafranbel city, Idlib governorate, 20-year-old. The Syrian regime arrested him along with [22 students](#) from the University's city four months ago. The news of his death under torture at the Air Force intelligence in Aleppo was made public on April 28, 2014.

4- [Mohammad Mahmoud al Mansour](#), a third-year student at the College of Mechanical Engineering at Aleppo University. The Syrian regime arrested him along with 22 students from the University's city four months ago. The news of his death under torture at the Air Force intelligence in Aleppo was made public on April 8, 2014.

Cases of kin

1- Amin Shakhshirou, and his nephew Bashar Shakhshirou, from al Shaghour, Damascus. They were arrested about a month ago in an ambush that was set for them in Jermana city to extract some cash from them.

The news of their death under torture at the Air Force Intelligence branch in al Mazza Military Airbase was made public on April 6, 2014.

2- Omar Wadea Ghniemi and his brother Abdul Aziz, from Kourin, Idlib. They were arrested one year ago along with their father (his death was revealed three months ago). The news of their death under torture at Saydnaya Prison, Damascus suburbs, was made public on April 8, 2014.



