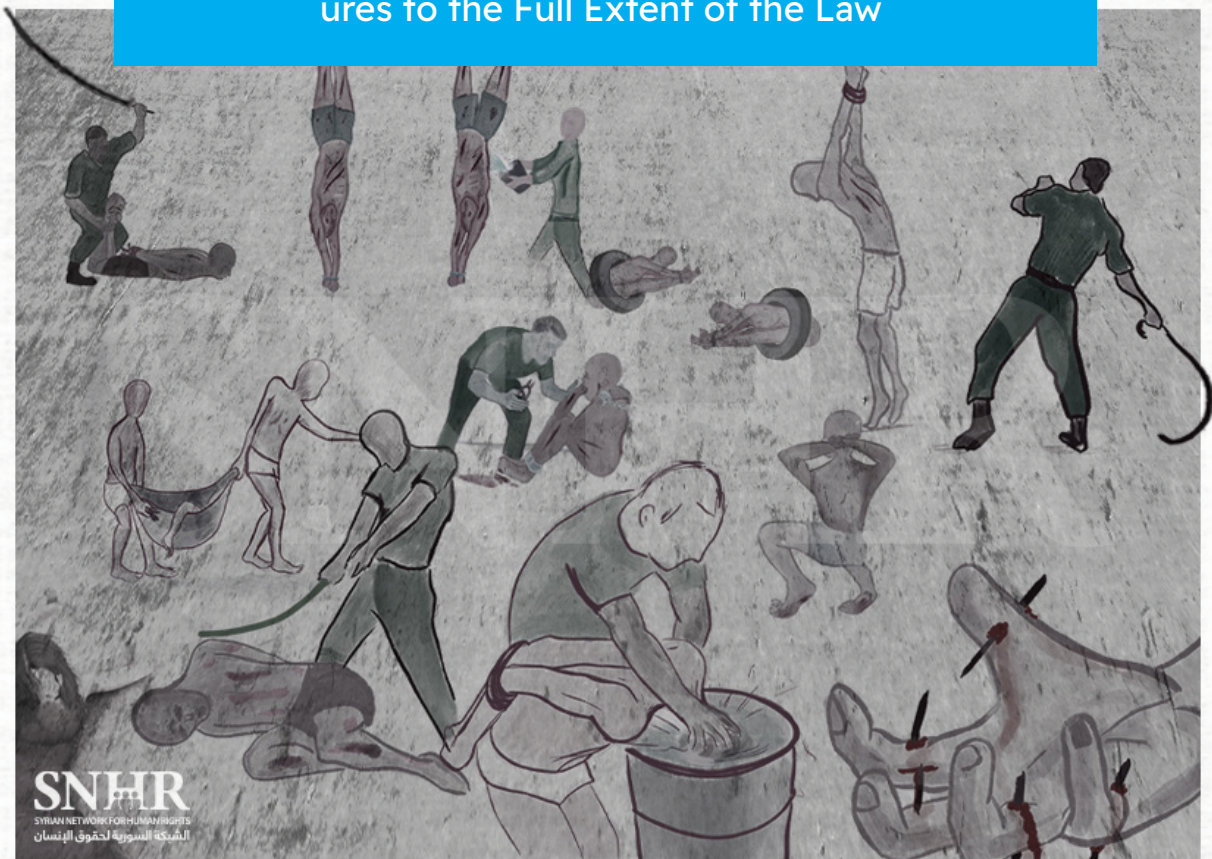


The Syrian Regime is Accused of Killing 15,051 Individuals, Including 190 Children and 94 Women, Under Torture in Its Detention Centers Since March 2011, While Nearly 136,000 Remain Forcibly Disappeared

The Case Brought by Canada and The Netherlands Against the Syrian Regime Before the ICJ is a Serious Step on the Path of Accountability, We Hope the Court Will Impose the Harshest Possible Provisional Measures to the Full Extent of the Law



Tuesday 10 October 2023

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

Contents

I. SNHR Has Built a Database on Deaths due to Torture in Regime Detention Centers that Proves that Such Occurrences Are the Result of a Systematic Policy	1
II. No Fewer than 136,000 Detainees and/or Forcibly Disappeared Persons in Regime Detention Centers Are Still Suffering Various Forms of Torture.....	3
III. No Fewer than 1,250 Forcibly Disappeared Persons Have Died Under Torture Without Their Families Being Officially Notified by the Syrian Regime, Even though We Have Obtained Their Death Certificates	5
IV. No Fewer than 1,017 Victims Who Died due to Torture Were Identified in the Caesar Pictures Between the Beginning of 2015 and June 2023	6
V. The Syrian Regime Has Systematically Used No Fewer than 83 Methods of Torture in Its Detention Centers.....	7
VI. No Fewer than 7,872 Death Sentences Carried Out by the Military Field Court Between March 2011 and August 2023 in addition to 24,047 Enforced Disappearance Cases.....	8
VII. The Case by The Netherlands and Canada Against the Syrian Regime Before the ICJ Under the Convention Against Torture is a Serious Step on the Path of Accountability.....	9
VIII. Conclusions & Recommendations.....	11
Solidarity	13

I. SNHR Has Built a Database on Deaths due to Torture in Regime Detention Centers that Proves that Such Occurrences Are the Result of a Systematic Policy

Through continued and daily monitoring and verification, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has built a regularly updated database containing the details of arbitrarily arrested detainees and forcibly disappeared persons, who are subjected to various patterns of torture, which in many cases have led to death. Through this, the documentation of deaths due to torture in regime detention centers and the other parties to the conflict has become part of our core documentation efforts. To that end, we have shed lights on cases of torture and death due to torture in [dozens of reports and statements](#), as well as releasing special reports on the methods of torture practiced by the Syrian regime since 2011.

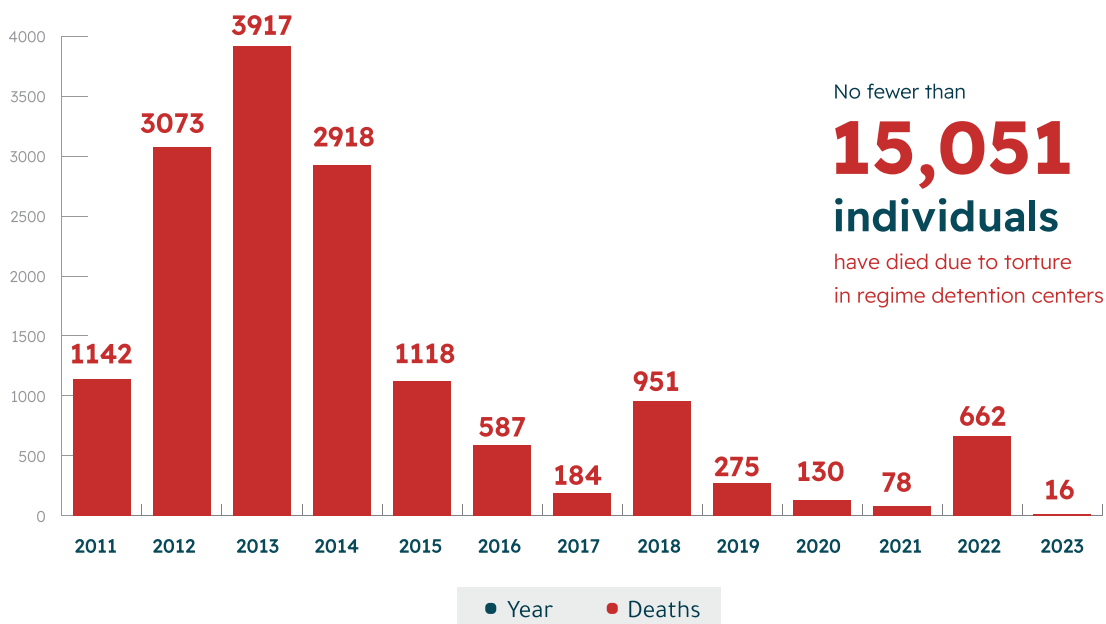
Through multiple partnerships, SNHR works closely with the UN and various international bodies which aim to combat the devastating phenomenon of torture in Syria. Those include the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI) and the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM). Moreover, SNHR makes sure to regularly brief the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the UN Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism- Specific work on victims of terrorism, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, on all the cases and issues related to torture that we record. By collecting and analyzing evidence and information on torture cases and related violations, and providing accurate reports and information to these bodies, the SNHR has cemented its status as a crucial source of information for various institutions. We have also played a role in the ongoing trials being conducted under universal jurisdiction. Ultimately, it is our goal, through these collaborative efforts, to support international efforts to investigate these violations and hold their perpetrators accountable, while at the same time providing an honest picture of the magnitude of the devastation of torture, raising awareness of the importance of combating torture and of exposing those responsible, and defending human rights in Syria.

Our database has consistently shown that torture is organically and symbiotically connected to the machinery of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance, but not limited to them; however. Since March 2011, the Syrian regime's security apparatus has dramatically expanded the scope of its practices, thanks to its absolutely unrestricted powers, so much so that holding even one official accountable is an impossibility, with regime personnel free to detain, degrade, torture, kill or, less often, release any Syrian citizen according to their whims. Still, torture is significantly far more frequent and severe in the case of arbitrary arrests, with such detentions often continuing for years, and with death under torture being always a strong possibility, along with death from medical negligence, which is in and of itself another form of torture.

The torture practiced by the Syrian regime's security authorities takes place in every governorate of Syria. This is because it is based on a central authority that uses calculated and almost uniform methods of torture. It is well-established that the hundreds of thousands of people detained in regime detention centers are subjected to torture, with thousands dying as a result, further confirming that this is a deliberate, calculated regime policy. Therefore, it constitutes one of the regime's crimes against humanity perpetrated against the Syrian people.

As SNHR's database attests, between March 2011 and October 2023, we documented the deaths of 15,051 individuals, including 190 children and 94 women, due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces. Most of these victims' bodies have never been returned to their families, nor have the families been formally notified of their loved ones' deaths. Moreover, we believe this is a minimal estimate, with the actual number of deaths under torture in regime detention centers being far higher.

Deaths due to torture are distributed by year as follows:



Despite these harrowing figures, which, again, represent solely those cases which we have been able to document and thus reflect only the bare minimum number of victims in light of the difficulties facing us in the documentation process, the Syrian regime has yet to launch even one investigation, or hold even one officer accountable for these egregious violations. On the contrary, the Syrian regime has promoted officials and officers as a reward for implicating themselves with the regime in these criminal, abhorrent practices. We have pointed out in our 12th annual report on torture, released on June 26 this year, as every year, to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, that Law No. 16 of 2022 criminalizing torture,¹ is meaningless, as we have documented more deaths due to torture since its promulgation. Furthermore, we previously released [a report](#) explaining in detail the legal loopholes that the Syrian regime deliberately inserted in its legal texts, as well as analyzing the regime's dysfunction in regard to torture and related legislation. In that report, we stressed that this law would remain merely ink on paper, and will not help in deterring the regime's security authorities from practicing torture, as long as the oppressive laws that provide those authorities with complete impunity remain in place.² These laws shield the regime's various security agencies from any prosecution, while at the same time blatantly contradicting many articles in the country's Public Penal Code and the current constitution. In addition, the Syrian legal system, such as it is, has no clear and genuine mechanism by which torture survivors and victims' families can report torture practices, or effectively file lawsuits, due to the pervasive grip of the regime's security apparatus, and the lack of any guarantee of protection for any would-be complainant or anyone reporting such crimes, with no anonymity or protection for witnesses and experts and their families. Since the beginning of January 2023, up until October 2023, we have documented the deaths of 16 individuals, including one child, due to torture in regime detention centers.

1. Syrian Arab News Agency ([SANA](#)). (2022, March 30). President al-Assad issues law that incriminates torture.
2. For more details on these laws, see [our monthly reports on arrest and detention in Syria](#).

These are distributed by month:

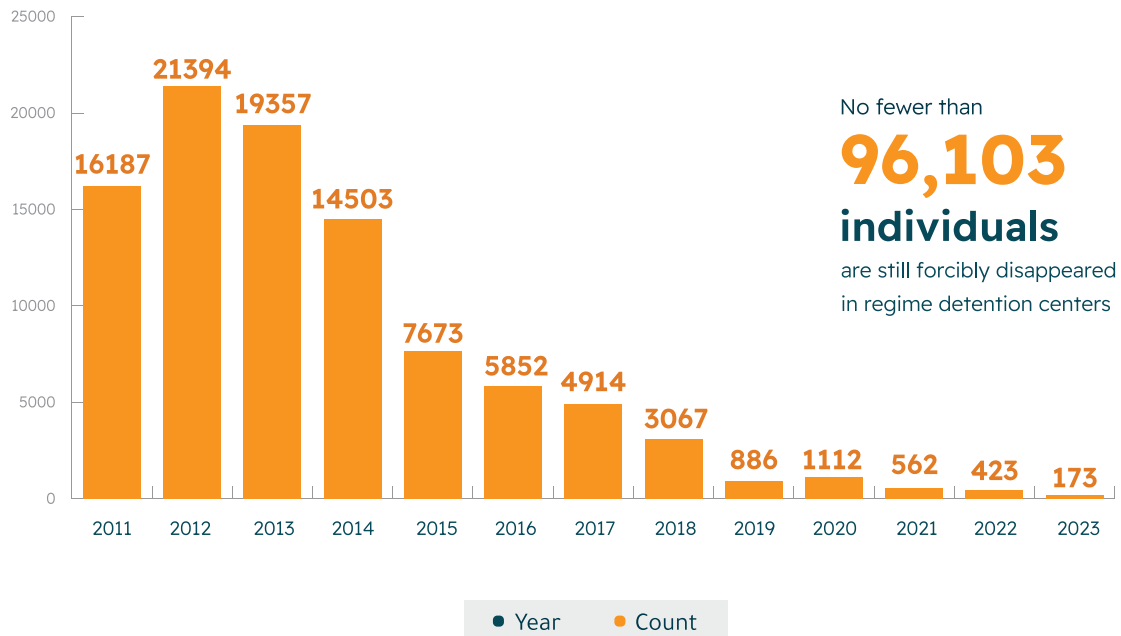


II. No Fewer than 136,000 Detainees and/or Forcibly Disappeared Persons in Regime Detention Centers Are Still Suffering Various Forms of Torture

The entire process of unlawful detention/arbitrary arrest is an interconnected series of actions which constitute multiple forms of torture, starting with the Syrian regime's failure to comply with the arrest conditions specified in the Syrian constitution and Syrian laws.³ These 'arrests' are more akin to abductions and involve an excessive use of violence, verbal and physical abuse, and vicious beatings, which usually start from the very first moment of arrest, with the level of violence peaking during interrogations that usually take place inside the detention centers operated by the regime's four main security apparatuses. Moreover, this torture continues as long as the detainee remains in detention, being exacerbated through subjecting detainees to cruel and inhumane conditions of imprisonment, in addition to referring them to [exceptional security courts](#), whose quasi-legal procedures are similar to the interrogations seen in security branches.

As SNHR's database shows, no fewer than 135,638 individuals, including 3,693 children and 8,478 women (adult female), of those arrested since March 2011 up until August 2023 are still under arrest. Of these, 96,103 individuals, including 2,327 children and 5,739 women (adult female) are classified as forcibly disappeared persons, with all of them being subjected to one or multiple forms of torture.

3. For a review of those conditions, see [our monthly reports on arrest and detention in Syria](#).



Torture is practiced inside regime detention centers in accordance with a well-planned, centrally organized, comprehensive, and calculated policy in which the overwhelming majority of detention centers are implicated, and which involves all the different echelons of power among the regime’s security authorities, from the lowest to the highest-ranking officers. Torture is used for different goals and motives, such as:

- To extract confessions which are later used to bring various charges against the detainees, given a lack of any tangible evidence to convict them except for such ‘confessions’ coerced through torture.
- To take collective retaliation and revenge against all dissidents who dare to oppose the ruling authority (with detainees automatically classified in this category simply by virtue of being arrested), or because of their dissident activism.
- To exact revenge based on geographical, sectarian, or ethnic grudges against people from certain areas known for their involvement in the popular uprising against the Syrian regime.

Part of the torture process, including the different methods and atrocious imprisonment conditions, is the total absence of sanitary conditions, basic hygiene and ventilation, with large numbers of detainees packed into small, filthy, unventilated cells without the capacity to accommodate the numbers crammed into them, to the extent where all the prisoners cannot simultaneously sit or lie down. Furthermore, detainees are deprived of proper clothing, and are deliberately starved, receiving only miniscule portions of food, in addition to being denied any medical care or transfer to medical facilities for treatment of injuries or serious illness if required. Even in rare cases when detainees who’ve suffered critical injuries or chronic medical conditions are transferred, they are subjected to further torture in the regime’s military hospitals. We previously shed light on the torture practices against prisoners taken to military hospitals

in a study [on the photographs of torture victims that were leaked from military Syrian hospitals](#). In fact, the medical personnel at these military hospitals are themselves involved in inflicting torture, [which, needless to say, goes against the Hippocratic oath and the hallowed fundamental ethical principles of the discipline of medicine that healthcare workers, more especially doctors, should uphold, more especially since they are also compelled to protect prisoners and detainees from torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment by a UN resolution](#) approved by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and adopted on December 18, 1982.

Moreover, torture is not limited to detention centers, as we've frequently documented torture taking place at checkpoints densely scattered across regime areas, as well as during raids on cities and towns, which saw regime offensives for the purpose of recapturing them, or during raids and inspections of homes. Our archives contain hundreds of verified videos with relevant data logged, including the dates and locations where the videos were filmed, and the names of the perpetrators and victims shown when known. Those shocking and horrific videos, which show civilians being barbarically brutalized and degraded, almost always end with the victims being killed. Most of these videos were actually filmed by regime personnel to show off to friends and gloat at their own cruelty, take revenge against, and mock their victims, and spread fear and terror in Syrian society.

III. No Fewer than 1,250 Forcibly Disappeared Persons Have Died Under Torture Without Their Families Being Officially Notified by the Syrian Regime, Even though We Have Obtained Their Death Certificates

In most cases, the Syrian regime does not notify victims' families of their deaths in regime detention centers on the date of their death. Usually, families find out about their loved ones' deaths either through former prisoners, following multiple visits to the Military Police's headquarters in Damascus, or through the records in civil registry offices. Families usually learn of their loved ones' death years after they happened.

In 2018, many families of forcibly disappeared persons were shocked to learn from civil registry offices that their relatives, who were forcibly disappeared in regime detention centers, had been dead for years. This has been a regular occurrence that we've observed, monitored and documented while collecting death statements. We have released four reports⁴ on this issue regarding the Syrian regime notifying families of their relatives' death through civil registry office records. This phenomenon has continued since 2018, albeit less frequently than over the previous few years.

4. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR). (2018). [The Syrian Regime Records Forcibly Disappeared Persons as Dead in Civil Registration Offices](#).
Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR). (2018). By Acknowledging the Death of 836 Forcibly-Disappeared Syrians at its hands, [the Syrian Regime Convicts Itself, yet the Security Council Does Nothing](#).
Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR). (2022). [The Syrian Regime Acknowledges the Death of 1,056 Syrian Citizens Forcibly Disappeared by the Regime Through the Civil Registry Departments, Including 54 from Deir al Asafeer, Whose Fate the Regime Revealed in February and March 2022](#).
Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR). (2022). [SNHR Obtains Hundreds of Death Certificates for People Forcibly Disappeared by the Syrian Regime, Whose Families Have Not been Notified of Their Deaths, Which Have Not Been Announced by Civil Register Offices](#).

At the beginning of 2022, however, we began receiving death certificates recording deaths that took place up to a decade earlier, which had not been publicly revealed previously, and which the families of the victims in question had not been made aware of. Some of these death certificates were for prominent activists in the popular uprising against the Syrian regime, as well as for women and children. This prompted us to focus on this issue as we received 547 new death certificates for deaths that took place throughout 2022. A crucial new factor about those death certificates is that we received them from confidential sources within the Syrian regime, and they had not been made public by the civil registry offices, nor had the families of the victims in question have been notified of their loved ones' deaths. We provided details on some of those death certificate in [an extensive report](#) we released on December 20, 2022, in which we revealed that we had received hundreds of death certificates for victims who have died in regime detention centers. To this day, we are still receiving details of new cases through our network of trusted and credible sources which we have built up over the years. As such, our team, at this point, has gained a great deal of experience in examining and verifying the authenticity of such documents. As of this writing, we have received 1,250 death certificates signed by Syrian government officials.

IV. No Fewer than 1,017 Victims Who Died due to Torture Were Identified in the Caesar Pictures Between the Beginning of 2015 and June 2023

SNHR retains copies of the photographs leaked from the Syrian regime's military hospitals, commonly known as the 'Caesar Pictures'. Since acquiring those pictures, we have set our sights on two goals:

1. Analyze, study and report on any information that can be deduced from the pictures, such as location, time, circumstances. We are proud to say that we achieved this goal in a short time, releasing an extensive study on the photos in September 2015 entitled, '[The Photographed Holocaust](#)'. However, our work did not stop there, as we have also been able to obtain new intelligence, either related to the pictures themselves or regarding the general torture strategy used in the regime's detention centers, through information gathered from survivors and eyewitnesses, incorporating our new findings in many reports.
2. Identify the victims that appeared in those pictures. SNHR has given great care to this matter due to its delicate and complex nature, as well as the difficulties found in such tasks. Fully achieving this goal might require years of work and the use of many tools, such as data tools, technical tools, and analytical tools, as well as involving forensic experts and utilizing any information provided by victims' families. To reliably identify any victim, we need to utilize our expertise and knowledge to their fullest extent, as we have learned from experience while working on this issue that we cannot rely solely on use of only one tool, except in a very few cases where the victim appears with minimal disfigurement or changes to their face and body, and can be conclusively identified by their loved ones. This is also the case if a victim has distinctive or unusual features on their bodies. Again, however, such cases remain rarities.

As such, our progress in identifying victims from these photos has slowed down since we first began this work. We have been able to add only a limited number of victim identifications annually, in addition to incorporating new identifying tools and standards that we have also utilized in identifying older cases. Currently, we are in the process of verifying around 611 more cases that we are still working to identify.

Since the beginning of 2015, we have been able to identify 1,017 of the 6,786 victims who appeared in the Caesar Pictures. On cross-checking the 1,017 identified victims against our database on the victims who died due to torture, we have found out that 836 of these deaths had already been registered in our records, while the remaining 181 were not found on our database.

V. The Syrian Regime Has Systematically Used No Fewer than 83 Methods of Torture in Its Detention Centers

The methods of torture seen in regime detention centers vary in severity and cruelty. Whichever methods are used, however, torture has been practiced so extensively in regime detention centers that almost every detainee who survived the regime's detention centers has experienced one or multiple torture methods. As we have constantly reiterated, a detainee can be subjected to multiple and varied torture methods in one torture session. SNHR previously released [a detailed report on the torture methods systemically practiced in regime detention centers](#), along with a guidebook. This report drew upon studying and analyzing hundreds of accounts by former prisoners. We have also interviewed hundreds of former prisoners and documented their accounts of the torture they experienced over the years in regime detention centers - mainly the four regime security authorities: the Military Intelligence Directorate, Air Force Intelligence Directorate, General Intelligence Directorate, and Political Security Directorate, as well as the military prisons, secret and informal detention centers, and military hospitals. We have categorized those torture methods into eight main types, with every type including several torture methods, reaching a total of 83. Those types are:

- Physical torture: 41 methods.
- Medical negligence and imprisonment conditions: Six methods.
- Sexual violence: Eight methods.
- Psychological torture and degradation: 11 methods.
- Labor.
- Torture at military hospitals: 11 methods.
- Dissociation
- Stages of execution: Four methods.

Paintings depicting the most notable methods of torture used by the Syrian regime that we have identified and documented.⁵



VI. No Fewer than 7,872 Death Sentences Carried Out by the Military Field Court Between March 2011 and August 2023 in addition to 24,047 Enforced Disappearance Cases

Issuing a death sentence through an unfair trial is an automatic violation⁶ of Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the case of the Syrian regime, death sentences have been carried out in a widespread manner in regime detention centers, including against children. SNHR previously released a detailed report on one of the courts handling such cases, namely the [Military Field Court](#), which is one of the worst exceptional criminal courts in Syria's history.⁷ The mechanisms by which death

5. We have drawn these paintings after SNHR's team has, through long years of work since 2011, interviewed and spoken to thousands of former detainees who survived torture and detention in regime detention centers, mainly the mainly the four regime security authorities: the Military Intelligence Directorate, Air Force Intelligence Directorate, General Intelligence Directorate, and Political Security Directorate, as well as the military prisons, secret and informal detention centers, and military hospitals. Many of those eyewitnesses provided us with photos showing the signs of torture on their bodies, as well as documented released by the Syrian regime concerning their cases.

6. See: Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

7. Ever since the Baath Party came to power in 1963 and announced a permanent state of emergency, the establishment of exceptional criminal courts has been a way used by it to consolidate power. First came the National Security Courts and the Military Martial Council in 1963, then exceptional military courts in 1965, followed by the High State Court of 1968. At present, there are three exceptional criminal courts - the Military Field Courts, the war crimes that the regime sanctions ad hoc in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 87 on October 1, 1972, and the Counterterrorism Court founded in accordance with Law No. 19 on July 19, 2012.

sentences are issued and the conditions under which death sentences are carried out are both forms of physical and psychological torture, as are the abusive procedures practiced against detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in regime detention centers. For instance, detainees have been taken abruptly without being notified beforehand that they are walking to their deaths, detainees have been denied any opportunity to be visited by their families or write a will prior to their execution. Families, meanwhile, cannot know the death sentence against their loved ones or when the executions will be carried out, and victims have been taken en masse for execution, being placed in special antechambers in detention centers before taken to the execution chambers in groups. Those horrific scenes usually lead to detainees collapsing as they see their cellmates' execution as their own turn grows nearer and nearer. Another form of torture is the gleeful and sadistic beating of detainees as they are being escorted to their execution.

As SNHR's database confirms, no fewer than 14,843 death sentences have been issued by Military Field Courts in Syria since March 2011, up until August 2023.⁸ Of these, no fewer than 6,971 sentences were reduced to timed/life imprisonment with hard labor, with most of these detainees still being held in detention centers. Meanwhile, death sentences were carried out against 7,872 individuals; including 114 children, 26 women, and 2,021 military servicemen.⁹

VII. The Case by The Netherlands and Canada Against the Syrian Regime Before the ICJ Under the Convention Against Torture is a Serious Step on the Path of Accountability

The COI has documented the Syrian regime's practices of torture, describing them as crimes against humanity and genocide. Those practices have also been documented by human rights organizations including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. As we have reiterated previously, there is extensive and irrefutable evidence that the Syrian regime's torture practices are part of a calculated and central policy that has led to the death of at least approximately 15,000 Syrians, which as such constitutes a crime against humanity.

Drawing upon the abundance of reports and evidence proving the Syrian regime's violations of the UN Convention Against Torture, the Netherlands and Canada, upholding their obligations as members of the Convention, have filed a case with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against the Syrian regime for failing to uphold its obligation under the Convention. The two governments have also requested temporary measures to be quickly adopted to protect the victims. On September 28, 2023, the ICJ announced that the first public hearing session for the case filed by the Netherlands and Canada against the Syrian regime, based on the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984, will be held on October 10, 2023. We hope the court will impose the harshest possible provisional measures to the full extent of the law.

8. It should be noted that the Syrian regime promulgated Law No. 15 of 2022 that includes amendments to a number of the articles of the Syrian Penal Code promulgated in Legislative Decree 148/1949. The amendments included repealing the 'times/life imprisonment with hard labor sentence' in all current laws, which was replaced with timed/life imprisonment.

9. What we mean by the term 'military servicemen' is all military servicemen who defected from, or deserted Syrian regime forces and individuals who joined armed opposition factions.

The first attempt to prosecute the Syrian regime for its torture practices date back to September 18, 2020, when the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs released [a statement](#) holding Syria responsible under international law for gross violations of human rights, and torture in particular. The statement also revealed that the Netherlands officially notified Syria of its decision through a diplomatic note. Similarly, on March 4, 2021, [Marc Garneau, then-Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs](#), revealed that the Canadian government had notified Syria of its intention to hold it accountable for gross human rights violations, especially torture, under the Convention Against Torture.

On March 21, 2021, the two government of the Netherlands and Canada released [a joint statement](#) in which they announced that they will be collaborating with regard to holding the Syrian regime accountable for gross violations of international law, including torture, under the Convention Against Torture.

The ICJ's Jurisdiction

The International Court of Justice is the UN body that handles state-level disputes, including over international texts. As such, it is an instrument of accountability for all states, with states meaning in this context the regime or government representing said states. In the case of Syria, the current Syrian regime is the one controlling the Syrian state and its representative in the UN. Being a representative in the UN is not simply a show for the media where one merely has to make speeches at the General Assembly's sessions. Rather, it is a serious legal, human rights, and judicial responsibility.

Even though issuing a ruling against the Syrian regime might take multiple years, under Article 41, the ICJ can take urgent provisional measures until the final ruling is delivered. This has actually happened in many previous cases. Those provisional measures can include calling on the Syrian regime to end torture and killing under torture, and repealing all sentences issued against arbitrarily arrested detainees since they are based on confession extracted under the duress of torture (which we detailed in our reports on the Counterterrorism court and the Military Field Court). Under the same Article, the court's orders are submitted to the UN Security Council. As such, this kind of pressure might lead to a resolution by the UN Security Council that binds the Syrian regime to comply with those provisional measures. Otherwise, the Syrian regime will not comply with any provisional measures without serious pressure.

VIII. Conclusions & Recommendations

Conclusions:

- Despite having ratified the [Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) in 2004, the Syrian regime has failed to uphold its obligations under the Convention. On the contrary, the regime has practiced torture in the most monstrous and worst possible ways, as shown by the data included in this report, both on the level of execution and through passing local laws that only nominally criminalize torture in a limited, wholly superficial way, while affording impunity to those involved in torture.
- The Syrian regime practices torture in a systematic and widespread manner, violating the right to life, which constitutes a blatant breach of international human rights law. It has been repeatedly proven that the Syrian regime has full knowledge of these practices, and is fully aware that these inhumane detention conditions lead inevitably to detainees' deaths. The Syrian regime has deliberately allowed for, and carried out such practices through a decision made by a hierarchy that begins from the President of the Republic; related to him directly are the ministers of defense and interior and the National Security Bureau, and their affiliated security apparatuses.
- We, at SNHR, believe in the importance of this trial as a serious step on the path of long overdue accountability, after the Syrian regime has been given absolute impunity for 13 years. We hope the court will impose the harshest possible provisional measures against the Syrian regime, which is known for destroying evidence and for its refusal to cooperate with UN bodies, or international and local human rights organizations.

Recommendations:

The governments of The Netherlands and Canada

- The Call on the ICJ to adopt the harshest possible provisional measures against the Syrian regime, including calling on the Syrian regime to end torture and killing under torture, to repeal all sentences issued against arbitrarily arrested detainees since they are based on confession extracted under the duress of torture, and to improve imprisonment conditions since most deaths occur due to poor health conditions.
- Urge the ICJ to accelerate the adoption of provisional measures because the Syrian regime is known for destroying evidence and for its refusal to cooperate with UN bodies, or international and local human rights organizations.

UN Security Council and the United Nations Under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations

- Protect tens of thousands of persons forcibly disappeared at the hands of the Syrian regime from lethal torture, and save those who are still alive.
- Devise a mechanism to oblige all parties to the conflict, especially the Syrian regime, to put an end to torture practices, and to disclose the locations of the victims' bodies, and return these to their families.
- Russia must stop obstructing the referral of the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Impose UN sanctions on the individuals and entities implicated in torture practices and deaths due to torture.

International community

- UN member states which are signatories to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment must take the necessary measures to establish their universal jurisdiction over the perpetrator of the crimes of torture, and should spare no material and security effort to achieve this.
- All of the world's states must ensure that the Syrian regime respects the Geneva Convention, particularly Common Article 3, as well as upholding the rules of customary humanitarian law.
- Enact new punitive measures against the Syrian regime to deter it from killing Syrian citizens under torture, and put pressure on the other parties to the conflict, through all means possible, to put a real end to the use of torture.
- Allocate more funds, support, and adequate grants to local organizations working on rehabilitating and caring for the victims of torture and their families.
- Support individual activists and local organizations that document violations, without paternalism, enforcement of external agendas, or dictating their political views.
- Impose sanctions on the individuals and entities implicated in torture practices and deaths due to torture.

Arab League

- End the normalization of relations with the Syrian regime. In case Arab states feel they need to readmit the Syrian regime to the Arab League, this should only be approved on the condition that the regime immediately releases roughly 136,000 political prisoners, including 96,000 forcibly disappeared persons, discloses the names of the victims who died due to torture and those who were executed inside the regime detention center, as well as disclosing the location of their burials, and launches an independent accountability process for all implicated in the killings and torture practices against the Syrian people regardless of their rank or position in the military or the different security directorates.

Syrian regime

- Immediately cease all forms of torture and end the coercion of confessions under the duress of torture, comply with the principles of international human rights law, and stop using the resources of the Syrian state to torture and terrorize Syrian society.
- Launch investigations into all torture practices and deaths due to torture, and compensate the families of those killed under torture and surviving victims.
- Repeal all sentences issued on the basis of confessions extracted under torture, and dissolve extraordinary courts that are in reality another instrument of torture and oppression used against the regime's political opponents, especially those who have been detained.
- Immediately allow access to the COI, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and all objective human rights groups.
- Grant the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily arrested detainees, especially children and women, and disclose the fate of tens of thousands of forcibly disappeared persons.

Solidarity

SNHR stands in solidarity with all victims and survivors of torture and their families. We will never stop our endeavors or our support to achieve justice for all of them.



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No justice without accountability

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