

Statement

**The killing of James Foley
and the Syrian media hell**

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On 19 August, Human Rights and media activists in Syria and across the world were devastated after IS published a video entitled: “A message to America” which showed the courageous American journalist James Foley giving a very touching speech before he was beheaded by an IS fighter.

We, as a Syrian Human Rights network, mourn James Foley who came to Syria in 2012 to cover the Syrian regime’s crimes and the Syrian humanitarian tragedy in northern Syria, which was being shelled and besieged by the Syrian regime at that time, before he was kidnapped in November of the same year by an unknown group at that time. We consider this crime a part of an ongoing and bloody policy against truth and media activists in Syria by the Syrian regime and IS and any other authority that restricts freedom of speech and arrests anyone working on revealing the truth. Furthermore, we mourn James Foley as a Syrian truth hero in this brutal war.

In this truth Holocaust, we remember how the Syrian regime pursued anyone suspected in recording a demonstration or a protest at the beginning of the Syrian revolution even if it was via his mobile phone to put them in one of the most horrible detention centers given the lack of any humanitarian living condition, brutal torture, and the ratio of victims who died under torture. The same policy has been adopted by IS since the faction started expanding in Syria in April 2013 as it arrested tens of media activists and killed many of them while the fate of many others remain unknown.

As we honoring the noble spirit of this journalist, we note that 369 media activists have been killed in Syria since the beginning of the Syrian revolution at least including 13 foreign media activists as follows:

First: The Syrian regime has killed 338.

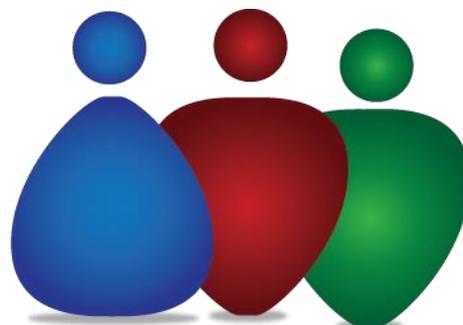
Second: IS has killed 18.

Third: Various armed groups, including Kurdish groups, have killed 13.

Furthermore, to this moment, the Syrian regime is still detaining no less than 492 activists while IS is detaining tens of media activists. SNHR has not been able to obtain any information about the living conditions or the fates of the detained media activists due to the fact that our teams can't operate in the Syrian regime's and IS's territories as they have been threatened openly to be killed or arrested multiple times.

We salute the efforts of tens of Human Rights and media activist who are working in silence to cover the truth and document the Syrian tragedy while living under the constant risk of being killed by the Syrian regime warplanes and artillery, or being assassinated or arrested by the Islamic State and suffering from continuous harassments and the probability of being kidnapped.

Dealing with this issue by relying on momentary and partial reactions without trying to solve the Syrian issue, which revolves mainly around the violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity that were perpetrated by the Syrian regime, undermining the prospects of a political solution, and disregarding the transitional justice process in addition to inciting IS to expand even more through adopting double standards policies and not supporting the local and moderate communities to stand in its way, will only deepen the crisis and result in more violations against media activists and civilians in general and cause more and more humanitarian losses.



Syrian Network
For Human Rights

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