

Statement

The Presidential Decree is Meaningless

109 cases of arrest including seven women were documented within a week of the decree...

After a general amnesty decree was issued by Bashar Al-Assad upon winning the presidential elections, government forces have arbitrarily arrested many residents mainly in Aleppo, then Hama, then Homs and Damascus. Most of the arrests were indiscriminate and included people who were granted amnesty by the decree. The arrests also targeted many youngsters to, seemingly, forcibly recruit them in order to cover the acute shortage of personnel in light of the escaping and defections acts despite the fact that the arrests included horribly seven women.

SNHR documented 109 arresting case including seven women in more than 22 different areas within a week of the decree as follows:

Aleppo: 36 men and two women

Hama: 24 men and four women

Homs: 22 men

Damascus: 20 men and one woman

These cases are what we managed to document in light of being pursued and banned. There are certainly more cases even if there were kidnappings which is very difficult to identify its perpetrators. We, in SNHR, emphasize that the Syrian regime is not sincere or serious about releasing these prisoners which are using them as a leverage in negotiations. The numbers of prisoners have exceeded 215,000 thousand prisoner including 85,000 forced-disappearance cases.

These widespread arrests bring back to the memory what the Syrian regime has done, according to what some of the survivors have told us after being released of the state security's internal branch (Al-Khatib branch), as it indiscriminately and arbitrary arrested large numbers of people during the negotiations about the Iranian prisoners. Consequently, the Syrian regime, in accordance with the deal, released a large number of people who it had arrested before.

It is the deception and lying the Syrian regime has been using since Mr. Kofi Annan's agreement then Resolution 2118 and Resolution 2139. The Syrian regime is still manipulating the International Community as it wants. It's the unconditional Iranian-Russian support and the International futility.

