

Most Prominent Victims of Torture in July 2014

First: Introduction:

With the end of July, 5047 victims have died under torture, including 94 children and 32 women, since the beginning of the Syrian revolution.

“Torture prohibition has become a critical international criteria. It’s considered one of the most important laws.”
International Criminal Court

“Torture prohibition has become now one of the most important International criteria. Furthermore, it was adopted under the hope of never to be resorted to. Thus, it’s a message directed to the International Community members and everybody in power: torture prohibition is an absolute value that shouldn’t be disregarded by anybody.”

According to a ICTY’s Resolution

Second: Executive Summary:

Government forces have tortured to death, in its formal and informal detention centers, no less than 155 persons in the month of July 2014. This continuous acts since 2011 a clear evidence of the use of excessive power and violent methodology adopted by government forces against prisoners.

Damascus and its countryside has the most victims who died under torture in July with 39 victims, while the other governorates’ victims were distributed as follows:

23 in both of Homs and Deraa, 22 in Hama, 15 in Idlib, 12 in Deir Az-Zoor, eight in Aleppo, five in Arraqa, three in both of Al-Hasaka and Lattakia, and one in both of Tartus and Al-Qunaytra.

SNHR team has documented the most prominent victims, who are:

One doctor - Two medics - One media activist - One engineer - One lawyer - Seven university students - One teacher - One elder
Two Cases that involved victims from the same family (five in total)

Methodology:

Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent non-governmental human rights organization that was established to document human rights violations, victims, and prisoners in Syria. For more information about the methodology we follow in documenting victims, please visit the [following URL](#).

Third: Most Prominent Victims of Torture:

Teachers:

Abd Al-Kareem Al-Ashqar, teacher from Al-Qusair of Homs countryside. He was tortured to death in one of the Syrian regime detention centers on 5 July, 2014.



Abd Al-Kareem Al-Ashqar

University Students:

[Abd Al-Kareem Zeiad](#) Al-Mousa Al-Maksour, 20-year-old, he was a two-year civil engineering student at the civil engineering faculty in Homs. He's from Taybat Al-Emam. He was arrested with six of his mates from his residence in Homs on 6 November 2013. His family received a letter from the security members telling them that their son died in the branch no. 215 in Damascus on 2 July, 2014.

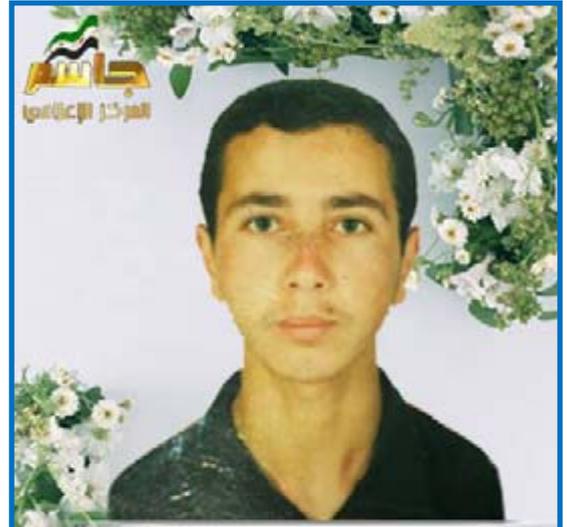
Hmood Mohammad Al-Handeesh, he was an engineering student. He's from As-Sayyad village - Kafarzeeta in Hama countryside. Security forces informed his family of his death in one of the security branches in Damascus on 2 July, 2014 without identifying the branch.

Mohannad Sultan Al-Shebly, 18-year-old student at Damascus University. He's from Jasim in Deraa governorate. He was arrested by security forces on 6 November 2012 and the security forces informed his family of his death on 2 July, 2014.

Mezar Al-Majdami "Al-Khalaf", master student at the commerce faculty in Damascus University. He's from Arraqa and was living in Damascus while working on his master thesis. He was arrested with eight of his mates about two months ago by Military Security branch. He was tortured to death in the branch no. 215 in Damascus. His family were informed of his death on 5 July, 2014 by security forces.

[Mohammad Moaffaq Zurayq](#), 23-year-old student at the commerce faculty in Damascus University. He is from Mosyaf of Hama governorate. He had been arrested many times by the Syrian regime for participating in the peaceful protests in Damascus neighborhoods and its countryside, the last time was on 26 December 2013 by Air Force Intelligence Directorate in Damascus. His family received a phone call from Teshreen Military Hospital telling them of the death of Mohammad in the area branch in Kafarsoosa on 9 July, 2014 and asked them to come to take his body.

Abd Al-Hakam Al-Mohammad, university student from Bab Amro neighborhood of Homs. He was arrested seven months ago while coming back from the university. He died under torture in one of the detention centers on 22 July, 2014



Mohannad Sultan Al-Shebly, 18-year-old student at Damascus University.



Mezar Al-Majdami "Al-Khalaf", master student at the commerce faculty in Damascus University



Abd Al-Hakam Al-Mohammad



Mohammad Ramadan Al-Hmayed “Al-Jarad”, he was a medical student at Damascus University



Mohammad Atfa, 21-year-old volunteer for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization

Mohammad Ramadan Al-Hmayed “Al-Jarad”, he was a medical student at Damascus University. He’s from Arraqa. He was arrested about five months ago. His family told us that they’ve learned about his death inside Palestine branch in Damascus on 23 July, 2014.

Engineers:

Abd Al-Samad [Abd Al-Fattah Darbi](#), engineer from Deir Az-Zoor. One of the security personnel called his family on 23 July, 2014 and told them that he died in the prison.

Yaseen Al-Hamadah, agricultural engineer from Arraqa. He was arrested about a month ago in Aleppo by security forces. He was tortured to death inside one of the security branches in Aleppo. Security men delivered the body to his family on 24 July, 2014.

Lawyers:

Anwar Mustafa Swayd, lawyer from Efra village of Damascus countryside. He was tortured to death inside one of the security branches in Damascus. His family told us that they learned about his death inside the prison on 9 July, 2014.

Medics:

Mohammad Atfa, 21-year-old volunteer for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Organization – Homs branch in the “Social and Psychological Support Program” offered by SARC to the children who are in-need in Homs. He is from Al-Ghanto of Homs. He was arrested by the Military Security on 3 February 2013 at a checkpoint in Al-Ensha’at neighborhood in Homs. Then, his family received news during the first months of detention via one of the released prisoners that their son Mohammad has been tortured physically and mentally and lost the ability to recognize people and interact with them. His family told us that they learned about the death of their son on 4 July, 2014.

Nurse (his name was conserved upon his family request for security reasons) from As-Sayidah Zeinab in Damascus countryside. He was arrested about two and a half years ago. Security men called his family and told them about his death inside the prison and asked them to come to receive his ID on 24 July, 2014.

Elder:

Solaiman Fajr Al-Omar, 85-year-old married from Al-Boleel village of Deir Az-Zoor. He was arrested eight months ago and died under torture in Military Security branch in Deir Az-Zoor on 22 July, 2014. His body wasn't delivered to his family.

Cases that involved victims from the same family:

Amer Akram Al-Qaraq'a and his brother Faraj, rebels from Kafarnasej of Deraa governorate. They were killed under torture in one of the security branches. Their family told us that they were informed of their death on 26 July, 2014.

Talal Eefan Al-Dokhan, his brother Radi, and his son Eefan, three prisoners from Al-Mosameya of Deraa governorate. They were arrested together by Military Security in Al-Mosameya. Security forces delivered their bodies to their family on 27 July, 2014.

Fourth: Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR affirms that this huge number of torture victims monthly, which is the minimum we can get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parts and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner making it a crime against humanity and a war crime.

To the International Community:

It seems that the UN Security Council is completely unable to take any action or stop the ruling regime in Syria, even after four years of the continuous wide killing, despite the sound and deceive evidences found by the International Investigation Commission. Using the facts that we have proven over the course of our work in documenting hundreds of massacres and ongoing violations, we urge anyone to help us to file a lawsuit to the I.C.C. prosecutor directly.

Acknowledgments:

Our thanks go to everyone helped and contributed to deliver information to SNHR, especially the cooperating activists. Our most profound condolences to the family and relatives of the victims and our huge appreciation of their cooperation despite their great sufferings.

