

Syrian Women..

**In the International Day For
the Elimination of **Violence**
Against Women**

**Almost 11.000 women have been killed,
7500 sexual Violence cases,
2.1million internally displaced women,
and 1.1million refugee women**

Prepared by Syrian Network for Human Rights



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Introduction:

Despite the large number of laws and regulations pertaining to women by giving them special consideration, and severely criminalized violence against them, but still up this minute so far of being obliged to implement in reality.

Figures and Facts in Syria reveal about terrifying scale of deliberated widespread and methodological violations committed by Government forces against Syrian women as rape, arrest, torture, field execution where in many cases women slaughtered by knives.

Not to mention the suffering of Syrian women caused by losing son, husband, or brother by being killed, detained, or disappeared, which led to compound the physical and moral burden on her, and threaten the structure of Syrian society by collapse and disintegration.

Syrian Network for Human Rights estimates that the number of internally displaced women have exceeded 2 million, where sexual violence and loose of the breadwinner were the main reasons behind it.

Syrian Network for Human Rights' director and founder Fadel Abdulghani said: " The violence exerted against Syrian women was the most brutal and atrocity in modern area, and consider as crimes against humanity and war crimes, that will have catastrophic repercussions on the Syrian family structure"

[One of the many examples of Syrian female activists Suzan Al-Saqqa \(29 years old\):](#)

"Suzan worked in relief, then she joined nursing course to help wounded and injured, she kept working in great efforts and silently in field hospitals for one and half year, until Syrian intelligence uncovered her true identity and prosecuted her and her family, where she had to flee to Egypt, and left her husband and her two children, her husband rushed to divorce her to eliminate the expected damage on him and his children by Syrian intelligence services.

Suzan talked to Syrian Network for Human Rights about her experience, she bitterly said " the real place for me is not her, I hope to return soon and help our distressed people anywhere in the homeland "

" I can't stand helpless watching silently what's going on from tragedies and crimes against my people "

Huge number of Syrian women lost their children and husbands, almost 97.000 civilian victims have been killed, including 12.000 children and 11.000 women, and almost 74.000 men including more than 25.000 married man, that's mean in Syria we have at least 25.000 widows, except of missing persons and forcibly disappeared , and 12.000 mother lost her child.

There are very many examples, one of them a [Syrian mother lost her 7 sons](#) in Saada village of Dier ez Zoor, the residents started to call her "Al- Khansa", her three sons Basem, Faiz and Bassam, killed once together cause of shelling by government forces on the town, her elder son Abdulrahman tortured to death in Sydnaya military prison in Damascus, then she lost the rest of them in a battle between government forces and revolutions.

Government forces burned her house, and now she is living in extreme harsh physical and psychological difficulty.

This is an interview with the martyrs' mother telling how she lost her seven sons:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFf4_SNoVic

Picture of the mother and her seven children

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tYYKBb3R2OFJoZEVIMGM/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tYYKBcEUwZ3FwVEZXcjQ/edit?usp=sharing>



Syrian Network for Human Rights methodology of documentation and investigation:

SNHR basically depends on its members deployed inside Syrian territory, We have almost 70 activists most of them underwent to training courses in documenting violations, in addition to other collaborators.

Violation committed by government forces:

- 1- Killings, slaughtering, and field executions
 - 2- Sexual violence
 - 3- Detention and arrest inside detention centers
 - 4- Kidnapping
 - 5- Taking women as human shields:
 - 6- Violations against Syrian women in neighboring country:
- 

Report's details:

1- Killings, slaughtering, and field executions:

Government forces didn't distinguish in executions and killings between man, women or children, where the proportion of killed women is very high and up to approximately 11% of the civilians victims toll , Most of the killings occurred during indiscriminate or deliberate shelling against civilians with TNT by warplane , Scud missiles , or artillery , but there are hundreds of women were killed deliberately during raids and massacres.

Since the beginning of the Syrian Revolution SNHR documented the kill of 10853 women including 3614 female children, more than 461 women snipes , that's mean the sniper are fully convinced that he killed a women.

and 29 of the victims have been arrested and tortured to death.

The following link contains details for each case : name, picture, place, date and way of killing until 21/8/2013 , which indicate to the methodology of high accuracy followed by SNHR:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tlYYKBNVpsZzd0WD15ZmM/edit>

2- Sexual violence:

Government forces committed extensive sexual violence in many Syrian governorates, which indicates that this is central policy, where hundreds of rape cases committed in Homs, Damascus countryside, Lattakia, Banyas, Hama, Idlib and Jisr Alshagour, Dier ez Zoor, Daraa, the biggest evidence that rape committed in custody or detention centers of Government forces.

There were three main in rape commitment:

- 1- rape during raid and storming
- 2- rape after kidnapping
- 3- rape inside detentions

Syrian Network for Human Rights methodology in documenting sexual violence cases depends on Approximate estimation because of extreme difficulties in documenting and recording all cases, where we adopted different samples, enquiry, and collecting eyewitnesses and victims accounts from the different Syrian governorate.

SNHR's estimation number of women get raped with more than 7500 cases including 400 girl child under the age of 18, it took place in Karm Alzaiton, Alrifai ,Baba Amr neighborhoods in Homs. and in Jisr Alshagour in Idlib.

At least 850 rape case took place inside security forces headquarters and detention, but the most common was during raids and storm, resulted many forced pregnancies cases, **many cases of forced pregnancy resulted from rape.**

3-Detention and arrest inside detention centers:

Syrian women effectively participated in Democratic movements, stood by man hand in hand in various fields , government forces have tried to extinguish her voice by arresting the most prominent female media, paramedic, human rights and relief activists, in addition to arrest hundreds of women cause of their husband's activities.

SNHR's methodology depends on (in addition to names, photos, date of detention) estimated questioner of detention survivals, in order to have approximately number of arrested women in prisons, under extreme secrecy of Syrian regime, and ban all human rights organization around the world, including the independent inquiry committee of United Nation.

SNHR's estimation of arresting more than 4500 female detainees, more than 1600 of them are documented in the network record, where authorities did not take into account the human nature of them, even they subjected to conditions

of torture like the systematic torture that men subjected to, an led to killed 29 female detainee under tortured as mentioned above.

4- Kidnapping:

Women kidnapping widespread by government forces in order to exert pressure on her relatives to handle over themselves under threat of being raped and tortured, this led to sever reaction of the Syrian people, where they carried out kidnapping operations to conduct swap deals with government forces.

There is no precise statistics of arrested women cause of the severe secrecy, and difficulties of access to the most cases.

5- Taking women as human shields:

Women were used as human shields in several places in Syria during the raiding of certain neighborhoods or to escape from the fighting's fire.

- In Aashira neighborhood in Homs, government forces forced women to walk in front of soldiers during the military forces moved into the neighborhood (according to a members of armed groups)

-In Midan neighborhood in Aleppo, woman used as a human shield to cover from sniper, and shoot on 12/1/2013

-In the middle mountain of Idlib countryside It was monitoring the use of a group of civilians, including women and children, to break the siege on Aldaher barrier: 6/10/2012.

- Colleagues in the Human Rights Watch have documented in report issued in 2013, and said that the "Syrian Government forces exposed the residents to dangerous, as forced them to walk in front of soldiers during the arrest operations and during troop movements and attacks on towns and villages. Witnesses from the towns of Janodia, Kafar Nabal, Kafar Roma, and Ain Larose in Idleb, that they saw army and Shabiha forced people to walk in front of them during an operation in March to restore areas fell by opposition. "

6-Violations against Syrian women in neighboring country:

SNHR estimates the number of refugees women and children with almost 1.100.000, the main risks lies in being forced to work or marriage under harsh living conditions experienced by refugee family.

Legal conclusions concerning the violations committed by the Syrian Government:

- 1- Syrian Government Armed Forces committed extensive systematic widespread crimes against Syrian women by unlawful killings, rape, arrest, torture, displacing, so it is considered crimes against humanity.
- 2- Syrian Government Armed Forces committed these extensive systematic crimes in non international armed conflicts , so it is considered as a war crimes
- 3- Syrian government by killing and targeting civilians violated both International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law

Violation committed by armed opposition:

SNHR documented the kill of 11 women during clashes and fighting between armed rebel and government forces in all of the Syrian Governorate, the following link show all details:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBTG1pbmF4QVFMSFE/edit?usp=sharing>

We have no reports of rape or other forms of sexual abuse committed by members of the anti-Government armed groups.

Most violations committed by the armed opposition groups is kidnapping and who was often aimed at the exchange of abduction and mutual kidnapping , SNHR did not documented any case of torture for kidnapped women by armed opposition.

Legal conclusions concerning the violations committed by Armed Opposition:

The abductions have remained limited and individual, but on the other hand the Syrian opposition must track and prosecute those involved in kidnappings that are contrary to international humanitarian law , the applicable law in Syrian conflict.

Recommendations :

Human right council

- 1- Call upon security council and relevant organizations to take upon their responsibility towards what's happening Syrian people especially sexual violence which considered the worst crimes at all.
- 2- Exert pressure on the Syrian government to stop torturing , demanding the release of all detainees
- 3- Hold the allies and supporter of the Syrian government : Russia , Iran , China , moral and physical responsibility towards what's happening Syrian children
- 4- Serious attention of this case and give it high priority and , and try to take care of torture victims families
- 5- Forming specialized committees to follow up the situation of rape victims, and relieve them and care for them physically and mentally.
- 6- Forming protection committees to provide moral and psychological support to rehabilitate victims.

Security Council :

- 1-Decision to refer all the criminals and the involved to ICC
- 2- Warn Syrian Government 's Armed Forces of their percussions of using brutal methods and systematic killing and send clear messages about

Arab League :

- 1- Demand Human Right Council and United Nations to give this serious issue the right attention and follow up
- 2- Serious attention of this case and give it high priority, and try to take care of victims' families mentally , physically , educationally
- 3- Political and diplomatic pressure on Syrian Government 's Armed Forces main allies-Russia, Iran and China -to prevent them from continuous providing cover and international and political protection for all the crimes committed against the Syrian people and hold them moral and physical responsibility for all the excesses of the Syrian Government's Armed Forces
- 4- Forming specialized committees to follow up the situation of rape victims, and relieve them and care for them physically and mentally.
- 5- Forming protection committees to provide moral and psychological support to rehabilitate victims.