



## Media Activists Killed, 2 Arrested, and 20 others 7 injured In November 2015

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### I. Introduction:

Media's situation is deteriorating in Syria amid the absence of care and attention of a number of international media organizations regarding the Syrian crisis and the sharply decrease of media coverage in the last year compared to previous years. Activists risk their lives to report what is happening in Syria, however, they are met with oppression, killing, arrests and threats. Since the beginning of the uprising in March 2011 and up to this moment, the Syrian media arena has been losing its prominent media activists each month, who risk their lives to document crimes being committed against Syrian citizens. They were killed, arrested, kidnapped, harassed, seriously injured, suffered from permanent injuries, or forced to disappear amidst international silence that ignored their suffering, basic rights to be protected and safe and without holding the perpetrators accountable for their violations against them. All these violations did not change the international community's efforts towards the Syrian cause; therefore the Syrian Network for Human Rights is keen on revealing the important role of the media activists' in the uprising by issuing monthly reports which document the violations being committed against them by all conflict parties.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, SNHR chairman, says:

“Since the presence of foreign media outlets is prevented by the Syrian government, local media activists and personnel play a key role in covering the news about the most important violations, arrests, killings and destruction. Thus, in our monthly reports, we record and document the most important violations committed by different conflict parties against media personnel.”





SNHR affirms the importance of protecting mass media in Syria, renews its condemnation of all violations committed against media activists, and assures the importance of respecting the freedom of working in media. The International community, characterized by the Security Council has to hold liability for not protecting journalists and media activists in Syria.

## II. Executive Summary:

The most significant violations committed against media personnel in November 2015 are detailed as follows:

### A. Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 7 media personnel, detailed as follows:

1. Government forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias) killed 4 media personnel.
2. Russian Forces killed one media activist.
3. Armed Opposition Groups: killed two media activists

### B. Arrests or Kidnappings:

SNHR recorded the arrest of two media activist and the release of another in November 2015, detailed as follows:

- PYD Kurdish Self Management Forces arrested two media activists.
- Unidentified Groups released one media activist.

### C. Injuries:

We recorded the injury of 20 injuries detailed as follows:

- Government Forces injured 14 media activists
- Russian Forces injured one media activist
- Armed Opposition Groups injured 4 media activists
- Unidentified Groups injured 1 media activist

### D. Violations against Properties:

We recorded three violations against media activists' properties detailed as follows:

- Government Forces committed two violations against media activists' properties.
- PYD Kurdish Self Management Forces committed one violation against the properties of media activists.





### III. Report Methodology:

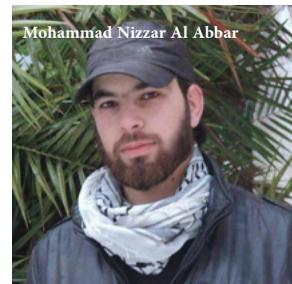
A citizen journalist is anyone who plays an important role in covering and publishing news even if he is not impartial as opposed to what a journalist should be. When a citizen journalist carries a weapon and gets involved directly in armed clashes, he is no longer a citizen journalist unless he completely retires from military action. This report is based mainly on SNHR's archives and investigations in addition to the testimonies of victims' families and relatives. Information we collected from local activists, and the verified pictures and videos we receive and add to our archives that we have been updating regularly since 2011. It should be noted that these statistics and facts are the bare minimum of the violations and crimes that happened in light of the security and logistic difficulties and challenges we are facing in order to reach the locations where these violations occurred.

#### IV. Report Details:

##### **A. Violations Committed by Government Forces:**

###### **i. Extrajudicial Killing:**

On 4 November 2015, media activist Mohamad Nizar Al Abbar died due to a tank missile launched by government forces on Daraya while he was covering the clashes between armed opposition and government forces.



Mohamad was a media activist in the Islamic Union of Ajnad Al Sham Brigade, an armed opposition group. He was from Daraya city in Damascus suburbs, 24, single and was a student in the Faculty of Informatics Engineering.

On 6 November 2015, media activist [Ahmad Khaled Yasouf](#) died due to a government artillery Gvozdika missile that was fired from Ma'an Town in Hama suburbs. [He](#) died while covering the clashes between armed opposition and government forces in Tal Skeek town in the north-east of Hama suburbs. [Ahmad](#) was known as Ahmad Abu Hamza and Software was a reporter for Smart Agency and Hama media center. He was from Al Enkawi town in western Hama suburbs, 21, single and had a high school diploma.

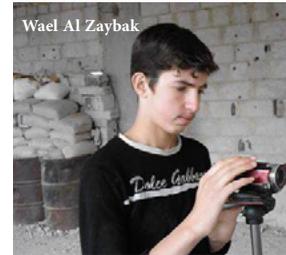




On 9 November 2015, media activist [Ahmad Houssien Al Sheikh](#) died due to government shelling on Tal Sakher checkpoint while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and government forces. He was known as Ahmad Al Warda, 18, and worked for one of the armed opposition groups in northern Hama suburbs. He was born in Kerknaz city in Hama suburbs.



On 14 November 2015, media activist Wael Al Zaybak was gun shot by government forces while he was covering the clashes between armed opposition and government forces on Douma highway. Wael, 17, was a media activist and photographer for Al Islam Army, an armed opposition group. He was from Zamalka.



## ii. Injuries:

On 4 November 2015, three media activists from Ajnad Al Sham Brigade, an armed opposition group, were injured after a land mine exploded in Al Tamanea' town in Idlib suburbs while they were on their way to Tal Skeek to cover the news about the clashes in Hama suburbs. The three media activists are from Hama and their media office kept their names confidential due to security reasons.

On 6 November 2015, media activist [Moustafa Mohamad Al Elaywi](#) was injured due to government artillery shelling while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and government forces. [He](#) is also known as Abu Arab and he is the spokesman of Hama Media Center. Moustafa, 24, was married and father of one child, from Shahernaz town in Jabal Shahbo in northern Hama suburbs.

On 6 November 2015, media activist [Ali Al Ali](#) was injured due to government shelling with a Gvozdika missile while he was covering the news about the clashes in Tal Sakeek between armed opposition and government forces. Ali, who is nicknamed by Abu Al Farouk, is from Al Awayniya town in Hama suburbs, 21 and single.

On 6 November 2015, media activist [Mohamad Khaled Al Saleh](#) was injured to government artillery shelling with a Gvozdika missile while he was covering the news about the Battle of Tal Sakeek between armed opposition and government forces, in the north-east of Hama suburbs. Mohamad is an activist from Khan Shaykoun city in Idlib, 19, and single.





On 13 November 2015, media activist [Shareef Mohamad Dalmakhi](#) was injured due to government warplane shelling on Tal Hadya town in Aleppo suburbs. He is known as Shreef Al Halabi from Aleppo, 20 and single.

SNHR interviewed [Shareef](#) and he gave us his testimony:

“While I was with some of my coworkers in one of the buildings in Tal Hadya town in Aleppo suburbs, the Syrian regime shelled our location with two rockets which destroyed the building. I was pulled out from under the rubble and I had minor injuries.”

On 22 November 2015, media activist [Moustafa Mansour](#) was injured with a rocket fragment from government shelling while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and government forces in southern Aleppo suburbs. [Moustafa](#), 20, is media activist in an armed opposition group, from Al Abzemo town in Aleppo western suburbs.

On 22 November 2015, media activist [Mahmoud Moustafa Adam](#) was seriously injured with rocket-fragments that were shelled by government forces. He was covering the news about the Civil Defense efforts in aiding residents after shelling. Mahmoud is the spokesman of the Civil Defense team in Damascus suburbs, born in 1987, married and a father of one child.

On 23 November 2015, media activist [Mouaz Awad Al Abbas](#) was injured in his leg and back due to government shelling while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and government forces in Tal Mmamo town in southern Aleppo suburbs. Mouaz is also known as Murad Ayhad, a military photographer for Faylak Al Sham, an armed opposition group. He was born in 1988, married, has a child and a student in the faculty of Arts in Al Swaida University.

On 23 November 2015, media activist [Taher Al Omar](#) was injured with a missile fragment from government artillery that is stationed in Talat Al Ee’as in Aleppo. He was injured while he was covering the news about armed opposition and government forces. He is a reporter for The Free Syrian TV channel, from Deir Al Zour, married and a student in the Faculty of Law.

On 24 November 2015, media activist [Hadi Yasser Al Munjed](#) was injured after Orient Media Office in Deir Assafeir town was shelled by government warplanes. Hadi is a reporter for Orient News Channel from Deir Assafeir town in Damascus suburbs, 28, married and father of one child.

On 27 November 2015 [Safwan Ahmad Al Abdo](#) was injured due to government shelling with rockets on Ma’art Harmeh town in Idlib suburbs. Safwan is a media activist in Youth towards Future, 35, and a graduate from the Faculty of Law.





On 29 November 2015, media activist [Sami Moustafa Al Rajj](#) was injured due to government shelling while he was covering the news between armed opposition and government forces in the neighborhood of Jame'yat Al Zahraa where government forces are stationed. Sami is the manager of the media office in Adnan City and a media activist from Syria's Free Men Brigade, an armed opposition group, from Adnan city, 27 and married.

#### **ii. Violations against media activists' properties:**

On 24 November 2015, two media offices for Orient Channel and Deir Assafeir town were shelled by government shelling which destroyed the two offices.

### **B. Violations Committed by Russian Forces:**

#### **i. Extrajudicial Killing:**

On 9 November 2015 media activist Hani Al Sheikh died due to alleged Russian shelling on Khan Touman town in southern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. Hani is also nicknamed as Abu Al Ahed, an independent media activist from Burj Al Azawi town in southern Aleppo suburb, born in 1988, married, a father of a child and he owned a mobile and telecommunications shop.



#### **ii. Injuries:**

On 5 November 2015, [media activist Suheil Nadeem Al Kassem](#) was injured due to alleged Russian shelling on Khalsa town in Aleppo suburbs while he was covering the news about the clashes between armed opposition and government forces. a Suheil, 24, is from Ihsim town in Jabal Al Zaweya in Idlib.

### **C. Violations Committed by Armed Opposition:**

#### **i. Extrajudicial Killing:**

On 3 November 2015, media activist [Batoul Moukhless Al Warar](#) died due to an injury from a mortar missile on her town while she was going to her work. The missile came from a region controlled by armed opposition. [She](#) was from Hama and an anchorwoman in Al Nour and Damascus Radio stations.



On 20 November 2015, photographer [Mohamad Ali Abdul Reda Nour Al Deen](#) was killed by armed opposition groups in southern Aleppo suburbs while he was covering the clashes between government forces and Hizbollah and armed opposition. [Mohamad](#) Ali is military photographer in Al Manar TV Channel that is affiliated to Hizbollah. The victim was from Joba town in Tyre city in Lebanon.





## ii. Injuries:

On 23 November 2015, a Tao rocket from [Salma region](#) under the control of armed opposition shelled a car that transported Russian personnel was on its way to Al Daghmaleshya town that is under the control of government forces which injured three media personnel, [Sarjoun Hadaya](#), Roumanko Sariave and Alexander Eliasterof. All the reporters were taken to Hameem Military Base in Lattakia suburbs.

On 26 November 2015, media activist [Mohamad Zaydan](#) was injured while he was taking photos of Al Sha'ar neighborhood in Aleppo. An armed opposition group attacked, hit him and confiscated his camera. They accused him of working for government forces and took him to their headquarters. Later, he was released and the armed opposition group apologized to him by issuing a statement.

## **B. Violations Committed by PYD Kurdish Self Management Forces:**

### **i. Arrests:**

1. On 9 November 2015, journalist [Azad Jamkari](#) was arrested by PYD forces in Al Malekya city in Al Hassaka governorate.

Azad is from Al Hassaka and Rawado TV channel reporter

On 29 November 2015, media activist [Kulal Liani](#) was arbitrary arrested from his residence in Al Rmaylan city in Hassaka governorate.

### **ii. Violations Against Properties:**

On 23 November 2015, PYD monitoring group in Efreeen city in Aleppo suburbs prohibited the distribution of Ein Al Madina newspaper under the pretext of promoting terrorism. The newspaper is an independent newspaper that is issued two times per month. The PYD statement of prohibition:

## **C. Violations Committed by Unidentified Groups:**

### **i. Releases:**

On 12 November 2015, Haranboush police station in Idlib announced that they found media activist Tamer Al Akar handcuffed. It is worth noting that unidentified groups abducted him on 26 October 2015. Tamer is a member of the Union of the Coast Media Personnel and worked for several media outlets, 23, from Lattakia.



Tamer Al Akar

### **ii. Injuries:**

On 28 November 2015, media activist [Anas Abu Adnan](#) (we were not able to identify his family name) was stabbed several times by unknown individuals. [Anas](#), from Homs, is Al Jisr news channel reporter.

## **Acknowledgment**

Our heartfelt thanks go to victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report. Also, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families.

