



Not Less than 694 Arbitrary Arrests in August 2015

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I. Introduction:

Since 2011, SNHR is keen to follow the highest documentation standards but faces a number of challenges in documenting arrest cases. Some families are unwilling to provide us with any information since they fear their son's life. Our task becomes even harder when a female prisoner is involved, since families fear that their daughters might be tortured or executed.

Usually, negotiations with security authorities start when they blackmail families and force them to pay, sometimes, tens of millions of Syrian Liras in exchange for their son's or daughter's release. This issue is considered one of the greatest challenges faced by SNHR in documenting arrested and released individuals since 2011.

Even though SNHR documented the arrest of more than 117 thousand individuals, including children and women, we affirm that our estimations indicate that the number of detainees reached more than 215 thousand, 99 % are held captive in government detention centers, even though authorities deny these facts.

Now, Syrians have deep convictions that the international community, with all its establishments, is incapable of pressuring the Syrian authorities to release any detainee. However, most of the release cases were recorded after prisoners swap deals between government authorities and armed opposition groups.

99% of the detainees are prohibited to talk to a lawyer or their family members. Further, none of those government or security personnel who were confirmed to perpetrate crimes was held accountable to it; on the contrary, they are protected by the government itself.

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 117 thousand persons, since the beginning of uprising in March 2011.





This mounting number of arrested individuals is due to several reasons:

A great number of detainees were imprisoned since their relatives, siblings, or family members were involved with armed opposition groups or since they provided humanitarian aid to people in need.

Most of the arrest cases are conducted randomly against people who are not involved in protests, relief aid, or military actions.

The Syrian regime continues to imprison a great number of civilians who did not participate in the uprising despite judicial orders for their release.

Government forces control densely populated areas like the main cities in each governorate and use a systemized policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in these regions.

It is worth mentioning that there are multiple forces, affiliated to government authorities, who are responsible for arbitrary arresting civilians and detaining them in certain prisons that are not subjected to judicial supervision where detainees are not treated according to the Syrian stipulated laws.

A great number of arrest cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges. SNHR records show that more than 95% of the detainees in government and its militias' prisons are of Sunni majority.

The widespread arrests motivated by extortion or sectarian grudges, especially in unstable security areas. These areas experience ongoing conflicts and are either under the control of several groups, or not controlled by conflict parties. As a result, local armed militias, who are not affiliated to any of the conflict parties, emerged and contributed to the current conflict.

Details about detainees can be found through the search engine on SNHR website, you may also add the name and details of any detainee as the concerned team will check the data and upload it if proved accurate.

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Arbitrary arrests during August 2015 were distinguished by an increase of arrests done by Kurd "Self-management" groups, also known as PYD forces, against Kurdish activists in regions that are under their control in Al Hassaka governorate. The Kurd "self-management" groups detained political activists, doctors, students, teachers and media activists and personnel due to their opposing opinions and political activities.

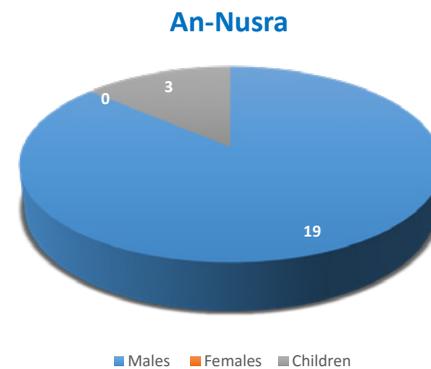
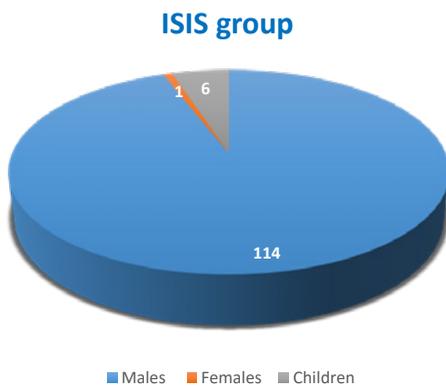
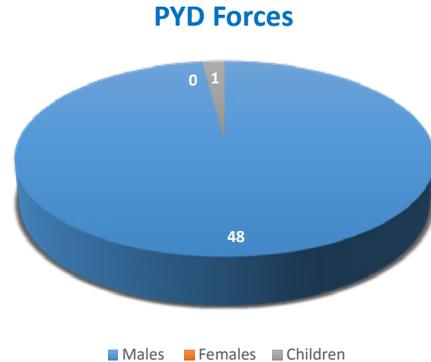
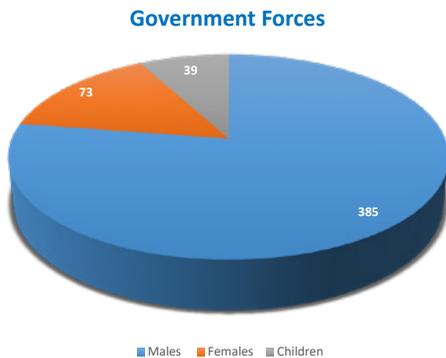
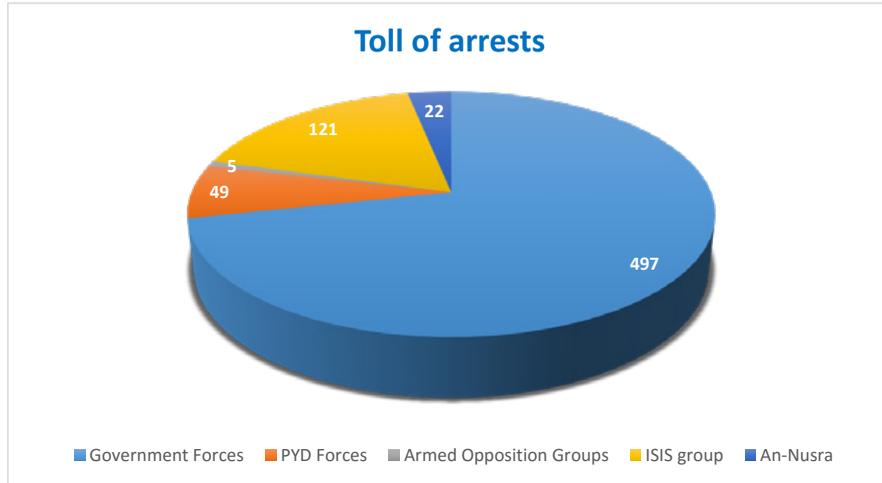
Arbitrary arrests carried by ISIL also increased in Raqqa, and due to different reasons. The most prominent reasons are: not complying with ISIL's regulations that prohibit the use of internet service receivers, not abiding by the prayer times in mosques, and trade of cigarettes. Also, a number of young men were detained after they escaped ISIL recruitment camps. It is worth mentioning that ISIL also imprisoned members and officers in the armed opposition groups who received training outside Syria.





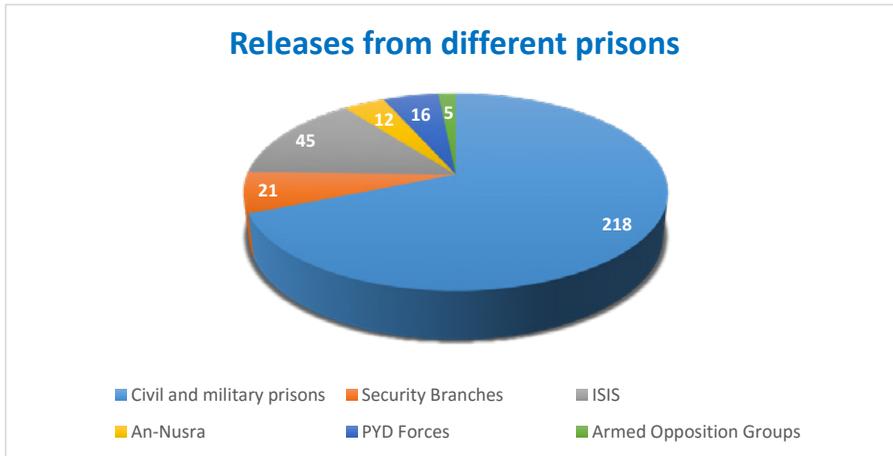
The following table depicts the arbitrary arrests in August 2015. We assure that these numbers are the bare minimum of what we were able to document due to the current security and logistics obstacles.

Arbitrary Arrests Documented in August 2015:

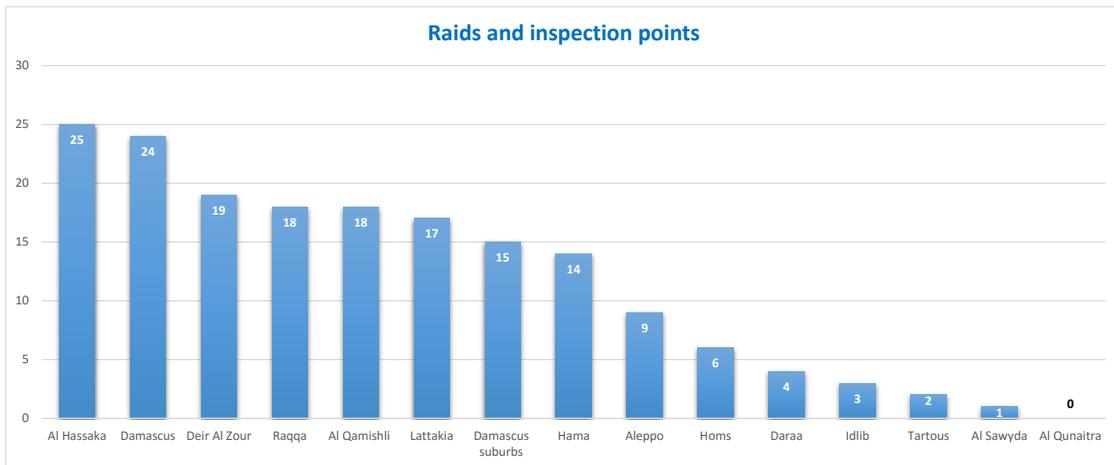




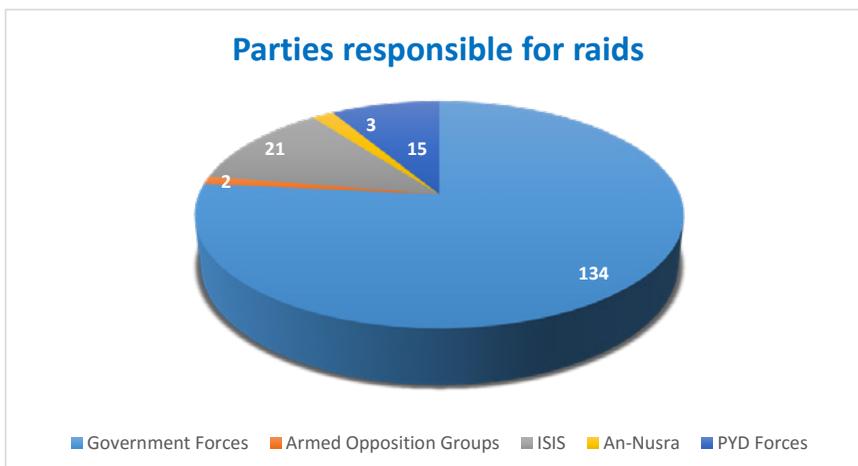
Documented Releases in Different Detention Centers in August 2015:



Locations of raids and inspection points that resulted in detention:

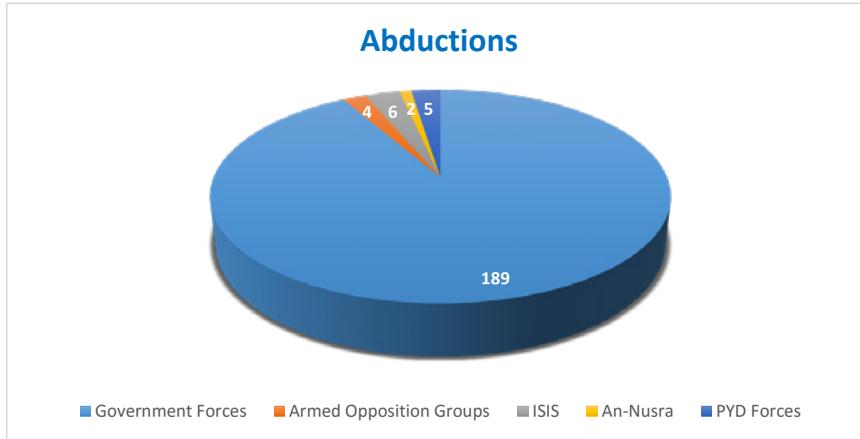


Parties responsible for raids:





Abductions by unidentified Groups:



III. The Most Notable Arrests in August 2015:

Government Forces:

Dr. Abdul Khalek Nasser Zaydane, from Damascus, a medical examiner, was arrested by the government military security branch on 6 August 2015 while he was passing by one of the government checkpoints. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment. Zahra Ahmad Abdul Nabi, a female from Aleppo city, 32 years old, was arrested by government forces on 30 August 2015 while she was passing by one of the government checkpoints in Aleppo. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify her whereabouts up to this moment.

Shaymaa Nasser Kawani, from Lattakia city, 26, was arrested by government forces on 20 August 2015 while she was passing by one of the government checkpoints in Lattakia city. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify her whereabouts up to this moment.

Samah Shafeek Al Nashwani, a female from Homs suburbs, 21, was arrested by the National Defense militia when she was passing by one of the government checkpoints on Tartous-Homs road on 5 August 2015. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify her whereabouts up to this moment.

(The detainee's name shall be kept secretive due to security issues), 36, an Electronic Engineer and an activist in the relief-aid work. He was arrested by government military security forces after his house was raided on 16 August 2015. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.





Extremist Islamic Groups:

On 20 August 2015, religious Muslim cleric, Abdul Mo'uti Kharboutli from Iskat town in Idlib suburbs, was arrested by An-Nusra front armed members next to Karyat Asbat mosque. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment. It should be noted that Mr. Kharboutli is a member in Idlib Scholar's Association.

Sami Al Rahmoun, from Hama suburbs, 34, a commander in an armed opposition group, was arrested by An-Nusra front on 4 August 2015 when he was passing by their checkpoint in Idlib suburbs. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Khodor Al Bokji, from Deir Al Zour, 31, was arrested on 4 August 2015 when armed ISIL groups arrested him from his place in Al Housan town in Deir Al Zour suburbs. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Bilal Ibrahim Layla, from Al Bab city in Aleppo suburbs, 38, was arrested on 27 August 2015 by ISIL armed groups from his house in Al Bab city. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

PYD Kurd Self Management Forces:

Child Maher Ali Al Kasoum, from Raqqa suburbs, 17 years old, was arrested by PYD forces on 29 August 2015 when he was passing by Al Mitkalta checkpoint. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Electrical Engineer Khaleel Al Ali, from Tal Abyad city in Raqqa suburbs, 32, was arrested by PYD forces on 16 August 2015 from his house in Ein Al Arouss in Tal Abyad. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Hassan Al Ali Al Nayef, from Tal Abyad city in Raqqa suburbs, 58, was arrested by PYD forces on 10 August 2015 after his house was raided in Sahrijiya town in Tal Abyad suburbs. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Armed Opposition Groups:

Child Ameen Ma'youf Al Jasem, from Dghaylib town in Raqqa suburbs, 16 years old, was arrested on 27 August 2015 by "Raqqa Rebels Brigade", an armed opposition group, from his residence in Dghaylib town. Neither SNHR nor his family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Unidentified Groups:

Taghreed Hassan Al Safadi, a female from Homs, was arrested 27 August 2015 by unidentified armed groups in front of her house in Baba Amro neighborhood in Homs. Neither SNHR nor her family was able to identify his whereabouts up to this moment.

Recommendations:

1- The Security Council must monitor the implementation of the resolutions: 2042 issued on April 14, 2012, resolution 2043 issued on April 21, 2012 and 2139 issued on February 22, 2014 that put an end to the arbitrary arrests.

2- The United Nations and the International Community must shoulder their responsibilities towards hundreds of thousands of detained and missing individuals in Syria.

