

Children of Syria ... Angels with Broken Wings

The Death of no Less Than 21 Thousands Children
in Syria; 19 Thousands Amongst by Government
Forces



SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

SNHR is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims' rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

SNHR issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

SNHR is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.



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I. Introduction and Executive Summary:

Children have been seen as the most vulnerable and affected group in Syria since the beginning of the public protests in March 2011 in light of the non International armed conflict. Children have been the victims of various violations, including murder, torture, and sexual violence among many others. The Syrian regime and its allies (foreign militias, and Russian forces) are considered the main perpetrators as they perpetrated nearly 90% of those violations, while the remaining 10% are distributed among other parties such as Self-Management Forces (Mainly the Democratic Union Party affiliated to Kurdish Workers Party), extremist Islamic organizations, armed opposition factions, and the international coalition forces.

Warplanes that drop barrel bombs or fire missiles didn't distinguish between a child or a woman. Also, children weren't distinguished during torture, siege and starvation; which are practiced as collective punishments against whole population groups.

In addition to the violations, the children in Syria are experiencing the cumulative ramifications of the ongoing and daily bombardment and destruction, which caused damages to about 4,000 schools which left more than two million children out of school. The health sector has been also damaged as the rates of children's vaccination have dropped, with infectious diseases widely spreading such as tuberculosis and typhoid. Additionally, large parts of the infrastructure have been demolished which led to the spread of measles as people are drinking water directly from wells water. Many neighborhoods were completely damaged so the Syrian family sought refuge; which brought to light another type of suffering where 60% of children refugees have been deprived of an education, and exploited as laborers. We have recorded many sexual violence cases against children inside and outside Syria. Early marriage rates have increased, and no less than 148 thousand children were born in refugee camps. Most of them did not get any identity papers which resulted in many of them being deprived of a nationality which is a phenomenon many people are struggling with.

Also, we recorded that no less than 37,000 children who lost their fathers, and approximately 6,000 have lost their mothers, and many others lost their peers in school, which certainly will have deep and complicated psychological toll the manifestation of which are hard to predict in the near or far future. Since 2012, we have spoken to a large number of doctors who told us about the psychological suffering of a large proportion of children which manifested in various psychological disorders, depression, and, in some cases, schizophrenia. All of this affects the child's educational performance and ability to fit in his community which will also lead to other problems such as nightmares and involuntary urination. Most of the children in Syria has no access to any form of mental care so most of these cases aren't treated or diagnosed.

The methodology of this report is based on SNHR archives that are the result of daily and ongoing monitoring and documenting since 2011. All the statistics included are documented by name, picture, place and time of death or detention among other details. It should be noted that what we were able to document is the bare minimum of those violations as the actual number of violations is surely bigger. The following is the most notable cases that took place since 4 June 2015 until 4 June 2016.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR stated:

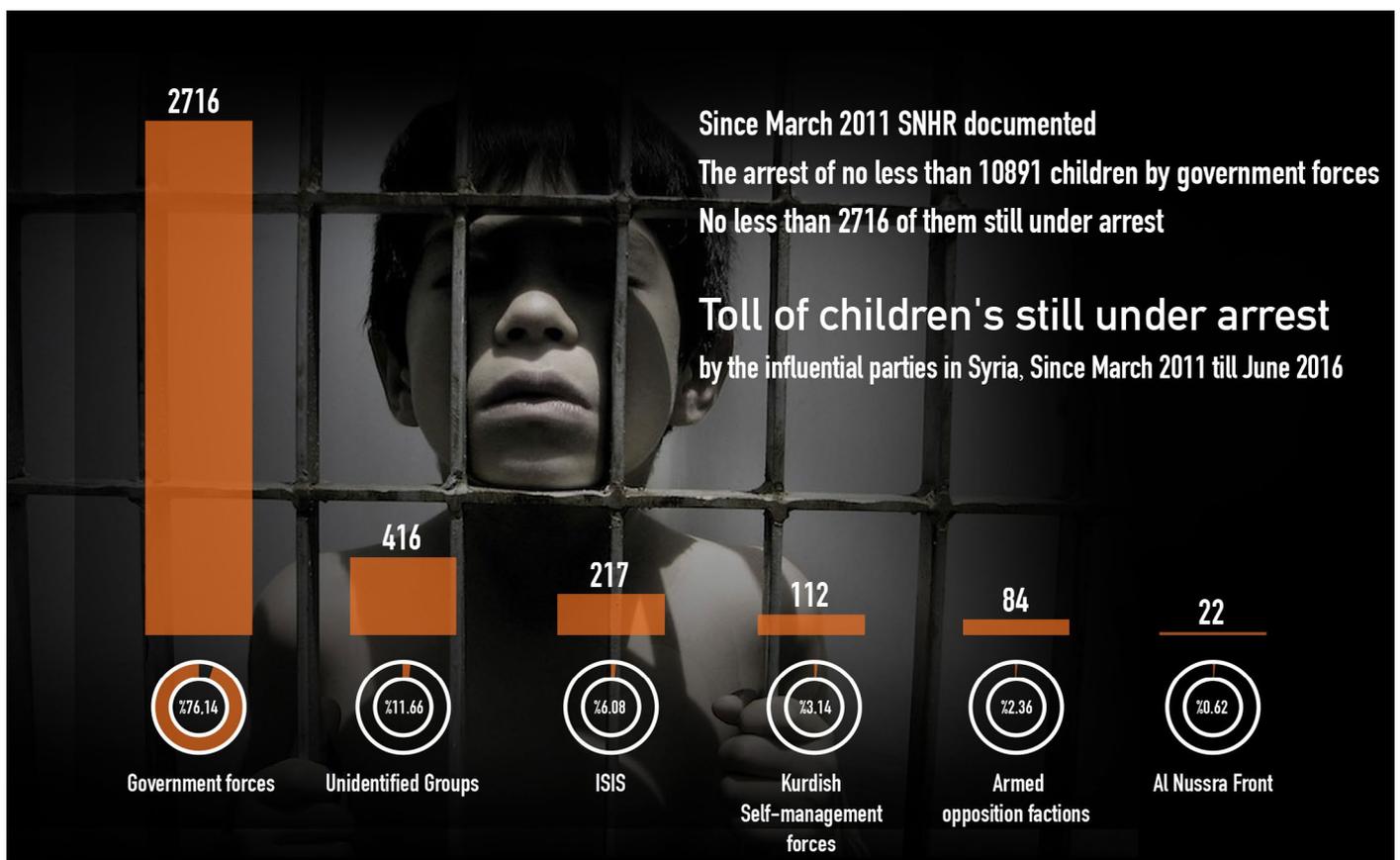
"It is difficult to create an isolated environment for children to isolate them from the atrocities in Syria. However, we must make every effort possible to achieve that, because losing the children of Syria means that Syria will be lost for decades to come which is the ultimate goal of some of the involved parties through prolonging the conflict, failing to protect and civilians, and allowing the Syrian regime to use all kinds of weapons and torture without any restriction or consequences until now."

II. Child Victims' toll and arrests' toll

• A chart showing the death toll of children and the distribution rates according to the party that carried out the murder:



• A chart showing the toll of children who are still under arrest - some of them are forcibly-disappeared and the distribution rates according to the party that executed the arrest:



III. Violations Perpetrated by the Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias)

A. Extrajudicial Killing:

Government forces have killed no less than 19,773 children since March 2011. Those victims are documented by SNHR by names, pictures, videos, place and time of death. Those killings were executed through indiscriminate bombing, using rockets, artillery, cluster bombs, toxic gases, grenades, and explosive barrels, as well as slaughtering using white weapons which happened as part of several massacres that carried a sectarian-cleansing nature. The aforementioned massacres took place in Homs, Banyas, Jadedat Al-Fadl in Damascus suburbs, Al-Qalamoun in Damascus suburbs, northern Hama suburbs, and Aleppo governorate suburbs.

Among the 19,773 children who were killed, 297 were killed by snipers who were fully aware that they are targeting a child at the time of the killing as we pointed out in the report: "Hunting Humans"

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 government warplanes launched several missiles on Eastern of Al Ghariyeh town in Dara'a which is under the control of armed opposition factions, the bombing resulted in the killing of 23 civilians, including 20 children under the age of 18 in addition to two women.

Thursday 16 July 2015 government warplanes conducted a missile strike on Al Khwein Village in Idlib, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of eight civilians, including seven children under the age of 18

Saturday, 26 September, 2015, government forces launched short range surface-to-surface missile that targeted a park for children, located in Al Wa'er neighborhood in Homs, where over 300 civilians were gathered. The bombardment caused, according to the documentation of SNHR, the death of 28 people, including 17, children under the age of 18, and four women, as stated by the report issued entitled "[They Died While They Were Playing.](#)"

A picture showing the children victims of Sweis Family



Friday, 23 October 2015 government warplanes launched several missiles on Talbisah City in the governorate of Homs, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 17 people, including five children, under the age of 18, and five women.

SNHR talked with the mother of the Child Fadi Morhaf Sweis, one of the children victims, who told us the details of her son's death:

"I was on the top floor when a missile targeted our house, all what was going through my mind at the time is to make sure that my kid was safe. My son was downstairs. The stairs were destroyed and the ceiling fell on the family members. It took us some time to get them out from rubble due to poor capabilities, all of them came out dead. My oldest was an infant aged 9 months, I was waiting impatiently to be one year old so I can hear him utter his first words and see him crawling but they deprived me of the greatest joy of my life.... Our family lost five children on that day oldest was nearly nine, I can see what happened as if it is happening now."

[Video](#) shows dead bodies being pulled out government warplanes launched a missile in Talbisah City in Homs on 23 October 2016

Thursday, 31 March, 2016 government warplanes carried out no less than 14 raids in different areas of Deir Al Assa-feir town which led to the killing of 31 civilians, including 12 children under the age of 18, and nine women. SNHR issued a report documenting the incident [“The Most Notable Violations of Cessation of Hostilities: Shelling and Massacres in “Deir Assaifeir” town at the hands of government forces”](#)

B. Arrests, Enforced Disappearances and Torture:

We in SNHR emphasize that no less than 99% of the arrests by government forces are made without a legal memo. Also, they don't tell the child's parents of the charges or where their child will be detained. We have recorded numerous cases in which the child and the son were arrested together to put pressure in the father where they torture his son in front of him. The parents are prohibited from hiring a lawyer, and visits are also forbidden. The child is exposed to a violent torture as if he was an adult. the arbitrary arrest turns to enforced-disappearance in many cases.

Government forces arrest the children because they participated in the popular movement whether it was directly or via social media or even if they worked in the aiding or media field. There are also tens of cases where children were arrested as a way to force their parents to turn themselves in.

Since March 2011, SNHR has documented that no less than 10891 children have been arrested, no less than 2716 of them are still arrested till now. The Syrian government denies that it has any children under detention. Nonetheless. Families' testimonies confirm that it was government forces that raided and arrested their sons as well as survivors who assured that government forces raided and arrested them.

(Y.F) a child, aged 9 years, from Ain Al Lawzeh neighborhood in Hama, was kidnapped by armed members of the security forces from a location near the elementary school in Al Lawzeh neighborhood, on Friday, 12 February 2016, and was released on Thursday, 18 February 2016)

SNHR talked with the father of the Child (Y-F) who told us about the arrest:

“The negotiations with the kidnappers lasted five days, they told me first that I should not tell any of the security forces about the arrest, we knew who abducted him as they live in the same neighborhood and we were aware of the house in which he was being detained but we couldn't do anything and we had to pay what amounts to 3,000 US dollars in exchange for the release of my son”.

Munira Ahmad Al Akar, from Aleppo City, aged 4 years, was arrested by armed members affiliated to government forces Political Security on 1 January 2016 along with her mother Hadil Al Warraq at a government forces checkpoint located in the area of Boştan Al Qaser, Aleppo City. Their fate remains unknown to both SNHR and their families.

Children in Syria are subjected to almost every torture method used on adult men. SNHR documented in an extensive report the use of 46 different torture methods at least at the security branches in Syria. The brutal torture caused the death of no less than 159 children most of them died inside the security branches.



Omar Ahmad Al Choughary, secondary stage student, from Al Bayda Village in the Tartus governorate – Banyas city suburbs, on 16 January 2012, was arrested by government forces after raiding his place of residence in Ibn Khaldoun Neighborhood in Banyas City, he was aged 17 at the time of the arrest, he spent most of his detention period in Sidnaya Military Prison and branch 215 in Damascus, the government forces released him in on 11 June, 2015.

SNHR met with Omar Al Choughary who narrated the details of being tortured during his detention in Sidnaya Prison:

“I experienced different types of torture, the strongest of which was the one involving electricity; they put some kind of liquid on your body and an electrical charge surges through your body causing indescribable pain. They also tighten the penis using a string and force you to drink water and eat salt

alternately several times and the pain caused by that in my kidneys and the pelvic area was really bitter and would last for hours. I also suffered from several fractures in the hand and leg and thorax bones due to beatings with a metal stick, I still have fractures to this moment. I was exposed to starvation and negligent health care, I was about 35 kg when I was released, and I also have tuberculosis. A year after I was released, I still suffer from the disease and fatigue that I suffered from during detention. The images of my friends who died due to torture are still haunting me. No one can imagine the hell that is detention centers. There are still thousands who are being subjected to the same brutality at the hands of security forces.

A picture showing the sever loss of weight after the release of Omar from the detention center on 11 June, 2015



A picture showing the medical tests that confirm that Omar sustained tuberculosis during his detention in the government detention center.



C: Siege:

Government forces have used siege as a weapon of war to submit the opposition-held areas and to press on civilians. Children were affected the most by the policy that caused many cases of malnutrition and drought among the children of Syria not to mention the diseases which spread in light of the environmental pollution as the pile of garbage and the damaged drainage wastes have become alarmingly noticeable in Damascus countryside – Eastern Ghouta.

SNHR has documented since the beginning of the Syrian revolution the death of 259 children who died due to lack of food and medication in different besieged areas.

D: Deprivation of Education and Child labor:

The Syrian government's indiscriminate and deliberate bombing targeted no less than 4083 educational buildings, more than half of which are now out of commission. This forced many of the families to stop sending their children to school out of fear that they might be killed. Furthermore, homelessness rates increased significantly because of displacement and the destruction of many residential buildings and also because of extreme poverty as many shops and workplaces were destroyed or because the absence of the house provider who weither was killed or arrested which forced many children to work to provide for their families. Estimations suggest that there are more than 2.1 million out-of-school children in Syria.

Sunday, 9 August, 2015 government warplanes bombed a school with a missile in Zardana town in Idlib governorate which caused the death of four children, in addition to the partial destruction of the building of the school, and rendered it out of commission.

A [video](#) showing the destruction in one of the schools in the Zardana Town caused by government warplanes that bombed the town with missiles on 9 August 2015

Monday, 19 October 2015, the regime's artillery fired several missiles at a primary school in Al Mokharram Al Tahtani town in the governorate of Homs, which is under the control of government forces resulting in the death of 10 persons during their presence in the yard of the school, including seven children, and two women.

Sunday 22 November 2015 government warplanes shelled missiles at the fourth school in the city of Douma, Damascus suburbs, killing eight individuals, including two children, in addition to damaging the school building.

Hasan al-Ahmad, one of the founders of Child Care Foundation, of Idlib talked to SNHR about children's suffering in Idlib suburbs:

Our center has at the beginning 350 children, then we opened another center that has the capacity to support another 350 children which was followed by several centers in the suburbs. The Psychological aspects of the children are badly affected by war and repeated bombardment. Children lost education after targeting their schools or turned it into a shelter for displaced persons. Even our center was bombed three times.

Many of the children are starting to like to carry weapons because it gives them a sense of power. Their interests are also starting to revolve around violence and war. We are trying, through psychological support, to pull them out of these thoughts. We are trying to develop their talents in playing and drawing and we are implementing a quick literacy educational program after we noticed that many of them are out of school. Children are the most affected group by this war. They were deprived of a childhood and their lives were taken away from them.

E: Conscription:

Government forces adopted a general recruitment policy in the areas it controls in order to compensate for the shortage in number of fighters. Government forces worked on recruiting young age groups starting from 14 years mainly through tempting their families and exploiting their material needs.

In 2016 alone we recorded that government forces have forcibly recruited 69 children who were charged with chores and making trenches on battlefronts. Most of these cases were in areas controlled by government forces that are located near battlefronts in southern Aleppo suburbs and Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs.

From the accounts SNHR got from the families of the children who were recruited in government forces and its militias and then killed, we noticed that the number of killed and wounded children have increased over in the last two years which indicates an increase in their numbers among government forces.

Pictures showing children in training camps for government forces



F: Sexual Violence:

We have recorded no less than 463 case of sexual violence against children by the government forces since March 2011. The forms of sexual violence and sexual harassment have been varying during raids and inspection, forced marriage, verbal sexual extortion (sexual accusation and sexual remarks), physical sexual exploitation (force the child to strip and touch his body) during the times of detention and abduction, reaching to the worst forms of sexual violence: rape.

Nevertheless, the actual magnitude of sexual violence is still unknown because of its sensitive nature and the Syrian society's tendency to abstain from talking about such things.

Fourth: Violations Committed by Russian Forces

On 30 September 2015, Russian forces commenced its airstrikes in Syria and announced that it will target extremist Islamic groups (i.e. ISIS, An-Nusra Front, and Jund Al Aqsa group). SNHR documented the death of 479 children in alleged Russian bombing which is a considerably high death toll that indicates that Russian forces is targeting civilians.

Wednesday 30 September 2015 alleged Russian warplanes fired several missiles on Al Roston City in Homs, controlled by armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of eight people, mostly most of them were from the same family, including four children and a woman whose home was targeted using one of the missiles.

Thursday, 15 October 2015 alleged Russian warplanes fired a missile on a residential building in the town Al Ghonto in Homs, which led to the killing of 48 civilians, including 33 children and 13 women. SNHR issued a report documenting the massacre [“The Documentation of killing 48 civilians in bombardment of Russian forces to a residential building in the village of Al Ghonto”](#)

Monday, 11 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles on Martyr Mustafa Roštom Primary School in Anjara Town located in Aleppo suburbs, controlled by the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 13 people, including 12 students and a teacher. Also eight others were injured.

Friday, 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles on residential buildings in Saif Al Dawla Street in the city of Al Raqqa, which is under the control of ISIS, resulting in the death of 17 people, including eight children, under the age of 18, and five women, and injuring at least 10 others.

Friday, 22 January 2015 alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles on the village of Tabieh Jazira in the eastern suburbs of Der Ezzor governorate, located 15 km to the east of Deir Al-Zour City, which is under the control of ISIS, resulting in the killing of 38 people, including 16 children, and seven women.

Fifth: Violations Committed by Kurdish Self Management Forces (Mainly The Democratic Union Party is the Kurdistan Workers' Party branch in Syria):

These forces have been an active party in Syria since July 2012 when the People's Protection Units, the armed wing of Democratic Union Party, emerged. The party and its forces later joined the Kurdish Self Management forces, which was announced its establishment in January 2014, and seized control of some areas in Eastern and Northern Syria. The Democratic Union Party (The Syrian branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) and its forces are considered to be the core to what became known later as the Self Management

A. Extrajudicial killing

SNHR documented the death of 62 children who were killed by the Kurdish Self Management Forces since its establishment.

Saturday, 1 August 2015, the Self Management forces gathered the people of Srrein town in Aleppo suburbs after it successfully gained control of the city, which was previously ISIS-held. Self Management forces then opened fire to kill eight people including three children and three women.

Sunday, 29 November 2015, Self Management forces with the support of Jaish Ath-Thwwar invaded Miriamen town, northern Aleppo suburbs, and detained a number of people, including women and children who were accused of working with Al Nusra and ISIS. They killed 12 people, including five children and a woman was shot dead in the square of ' Kafr Janna, under the control of Self-Management Forces in northern Aleppo suburbs.

Arrests, Enforced Disappearances and Torture:

SNHR recorded the arrest of 112 children at the hands of Kurdish Self-Management forces since its establishment, most cases of arbitrary detention are now enforced-disappearance. Kurdish Self Management forces have resorted, many times, to arrest children through abducting them from schools or streets.

A. Enforced Conscription:

We recorded the enforced conscription of no less than 1919 children in different regions of Aleppo and Al Hasaka suburbs. Children were forced to participate directly in battles, fights and are recruited in checkpoints. Children have been heavily trained to use weapons since 2012.

The girl Yasmin Ibrahim Kurdu, from Kawrak Town in Aleppo governorate suburbs, 12-year-old, she was arrested by armed members affiliated to Kurdish Self Management forces for the purpose of forced recruitment on 2 May 2016 while she was at Kourak primary school. Her fate is still unknown to both her family and SNHR.

Yasmin Ibrahim Kurdu



Zinar Majdal Haj Kassem, from Krinkow town in Al Hasakah governorate suburbs, 16-year-old, he was arrested by armed members affiliated to the Kurdish self management forces for the sake of forced recruitment on 23 May 2016 after raiding his family home in Krinkow town, his destiny is still unknown to his family as well as SNHR.

Zinar Majdal Haj Kassem



VI- Violations Committed by Extremist Islamic Groups

1. ISIS (call himself the Islamic state):

A. Extrajudicial killing:

ISIS have conducted many attacks against many towns and cities in Al-Raqqah governorate, Deir Al Zour, Al-Hasaka, and Aleppo suburbs. It also bombed areas under the control of government forces.

The indiscriminate bombing, clashes and the execution operations have resulted in the killing of no less than 351 children who are all documented by name, picture, place and time of death since the establishment of the ISIS organization in April 2013.

On Monday 1 June 2015, ISIS forces stationed in Al Hasia town, controlled by armed opposition factions in Aleppo suburbs, bombed residential homes in Um Housh town in Aleppo using tanks and heavy artillery. One of the artillery shells fell on a house killing 7 civilians including three children and two women.

Tuesday 22 December 2015 ISIS artillery fired mortar shells on Tishreen school for girls in Hrabish neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Deir Al Zour city which caused the death of 11 secondary stage students and mildly injured no less than 10 others.

B- Arrests and Enforced Disappearances:

Since the establishment of ISIS in April 2013, no less than 217 children were arrested in the areas under its control. Most of children are from families who oppose ISIS policies. We have no information about most of them as well as their families. ISIS also arrested children who do not obey its provisions like being in markets at the time of prayers or having haircuts that are ISIS prohibited its areas.

On 9 February 2016, members of ISIS arrested a child, age 11 years old from Al Bab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate as he was passing along with his father a checkpoint of ISIS in the entrance of Al Bab city. His fate still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

The child Abd AL Kareem Al Mohamad Al Hasan, from southern Al Shamitieah village in the suburbs of Deir Al Zour governorate, age 15 years old, was arrested by armed members of ISIS from his resident in southern Al Shamitieah village on 18 October 2015. His fate still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

C- Conscription:

ISIS forces recruited children and used them in some direct and indirect military operations such as guarding, cooking, cleaning weapons ...etc. This group promoted the culture of carrying weapons among children through conducting courses to train them. ISIS opened a number of camps to train children how to carry weapons and other hostilities. ISIS called these camps "Al-Ashbal camps". Such camps can be found in Al Raqqa governorate and Al-Bab city in Aleppo. Furthermore, many schools were turned into centers and camps for training.

ISIS exploited the poor living conditions where it attracted hundreds of children through paying them low amounts of money; this one of the main reasons why children join the organization. Moreover, it used children in suicide operations which the organization is known for and also as executioner of prisoners.

The child Khaled Al Fahd, from Tal Abyad city in Al Raqqa governorate, age 14 years old, has joined an ISIS camp in Al Raqqa city in the early 2016. First, he took a legitimacy course in 20 days. Then he joined "Ashbal Al Khilafa camp"

in Al Raqqa city where he was trained to carry weapons and he was sent to fighting fronts to fight beside ISIS forces in Aleppo suburbs

A. Sexual Violence:

ISIS established a slave market in which women are sold in Al Raqqa city. ISIS confesses in its magazine "Dabeq" that they have sold women and girl under 18 years old, most of them are Yazidi women who abducted from Iraq and forced them to embrace Islam, they were sold and married to the ISIS's members in the suburbs of the northern and eastern Aleppo, and the suburbs of Al Raqqa and Al Hasaka.

An image depicts the exploitation of children by ISIS in execution members of government forces by shot them to death in the historical theater of Palmyra city in Homs governorate 4 June 2015.



We recorded a case of rape of a child in an ISIS training camp in Araqqa. The perpetrator of the raping was an ISIS leader in Ar-Raqqa

E - Deprivation of Education:

The status of education deteriorated after some areas were taken over by ISIS mainly because the organization turned some of the schools into headquarters and training centers and also because of the deteriorated security situation in light of the ongoing clashes. ISIS imposed restriction on the curriculum where he ruled out some of the subjects and add others in addition to separating boys from girls.

SNHR talked with the child Imad from Deir Al Zour city. He told us about his interruption for the study and joining the legitimate course:

“The Syrian regime bombed my school about two years ago since then I worked in my father’s shop until now. I went to a legitimate course which established by the Islamic state in our mosque and it imposed on all children from 7-15 years old. It was 20 days in which they taught us holy Qur’an and some of the prophet teachings. They showed us many videos about Islamic battels in Syria and Iraq against the so-called apostates. The show was daily after the lesson of Al Shaikh Abu Huthaifa(the organization’ legitimate) I was excited when I saw these shows and I hoped to be a fighter. I signed on my name to enlist in the training camps, but my father refused and threatened me. I know my friend in my shool who are in camps now and they fight with ISIS against the apostates. I hope that my dad let me join them and fight in their ranks”

2- Al Nusra front:

A. Extrajudicial killing:

SNHR documented the death of 49 children who were killed by Al Nusra Front since it was established in January 2012.

Wednesday 10 June 2015 Al Nusra front killed two children in indiscriminate shooting near Qalb Al Lawzah village in Idlib.

B. Arrests ,Enforced Disappearances and torture:

SNHR estimates the number of arrested children by Al Nusra Front by 22 children in regions under its control.

The child Ahmad Mohamad Kelish, from Huraitan town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was born in 1999, was arrested by armed members related to Hamza grandsons brigades one of armed opposition factions on 8 January 2015, then he was taken to the court of the courthouse in Huraitan, a court related to Al Nusra front. He arrested for a year, on 20 September 2015 the courthouse issued a judgment of subjected Ahmad Kelish to death for homosexual and sodomy.

An image of the adjudication against the child Ahmad Kelish.



C. Conscription:

Al Nusra Front launched several and widespread conscription campaigns for children. These onscription campaigns were included in school’s curriculums in regions under its control. They made some students wear the military suit and forced the fathers (who are members in it) to force their children to go to those camps and schools.

VII- Violations Committed by Armed Opposition Factions:

A. Extrajudicial Killing:

SNHR documented the killing of 729 children at the hands of different armed opposition factions. Most of those children were killed by the opposition forces' indiscriminate shelling that targeted some of the government forces areas especially shelling with mortar shells.

Saturday 8 august 2015 a mortar shell dropped on Al Thawra street in the capital Damascus that is under the control of government forces from artillery stationed in an area that is under the control of Al Islam army (an armed opposition factions) which caused the death of 5 individuals (4 children and a woman) and the injury of 20 individuals with medium wounds.

Sunday 20 September 2015, the armed opposition that stationed in Bustan Al Basha neighborhood shelled gas canisters on Al Maidan neighborhood that is under the control of government forces targeting a residential building in Al Maidan Al Fawgani area and many shops in the same area which caused the death of 17 individuals including 9 children and 3 women and the injury of 30 individuals. A residential building in the vicinity of vegetable's shop collapsed as well.

Tuesday 23 February 2016, a local made shell dropped on the vicinity of Al Shami mosque in Jami'eat Al Zahra'a neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo city, from artillery stationed in Al Rashdeen neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions in Aleppo city, which caused the death of 5 children and the injury of 8 individuals.

B. Arrests and Arbitrary detention:

We recoded 84 arrest cases of children at the hand of armed opposition factions most of them were arrested within its attack in the government forces' areas.

The girl Marah Yousef Al Ra'ee, from the suburbs of Hama governorate, age 13 years old. On 12 May 2016 an armed members related to armed opposition factions arrested her from her residence in Al Zara town while they stormed it. Her fate still unknown to SNHR and her family as well.

The child Khaled Al Rahal, from Aleppo city, 13 years old, exposed to enforced disappearance when he was in Jericho area that is under the control of armed opposition factions in Idlib governorate on 22 February 2016 and we have strong indicator of the case.

The child Sa'ed Al Abd Allah, from Al Jeed village in Hama governorate, 16 years old, he exposed to enforced disappearance on 16 January 2016 by unknown members while he was in Al Hawash village in Sahl Al Ghab that is under the control of armed opposition factions in the suburbs of Hama governorate.

C. Conscription:

As tens of thousands of shops and factories were destroyed, poverty overwhelmed many areas of Syria. Also, as many children lost their fathers, providers, and friends, they were suffering from difficult psychological conditions, depression, and what appears to be a grim of educational future. All of these factors drove hundreds of children to join the armed brigades.

A number of armed faction leaders told us that they accept children and let them participate in a variety of tasks within the brigade. They said that it was better than letting them fall to homelessness, the underworld, and exploitation at work.

The Joining of children to armed opposition factions become clear throughout the presence of armed children at the checkpoint of the armed oppositions factions in its controlled areas.

Although the armed factions are not an international party and, thus, it is not bound by the optional protocol which establish that the minimum age for direct recruitment is 18-year-old, it is bound by the international humanitarian law which sees that the minimum age is 15-year-old. Certainly, there are hundreds of children younger than 15-year-old working with armed groups which is a war crime.



An image depicts children victims due to international coalition aviation shelling in Atama village in the suburbs of Idlib governorate on 11 august 2015



VIII- Violations Committed by International Coalition Forces:

Since 23 September 2014, International Coalition forces started its campaign against ISIS. Its raids were carried on Al Raqqa, Deir Al Zour and Idlib governorates, and caused the death of no less than 112 children according to SNHR' records up to the moment of making this report.

Tuesday 11 August 2015, international coalition aviation fired several missiles on a residential house near a headquarter of Al Sunaa Army (an armed opposition factions) in Atama village that under the control of armed opposition factions in the suburbs of Idlib governorate which caused the death of 9 civilians including 7 children and a woman.

Monday 7 December 2015 international coalition aviation fired missiles on Ain Al Khan village that located about 17km south of Al Hawl town that is under the control of ISIS in the eastern suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate which caused the death of 40 individuals including 20 children and 9 women and the injury of about 30 others.

IX- Violation committed by unidentified groups:

SNHR documentation included many categories of victims as the victims of drowning in the immigration bouts and the victims of explosion operations in which we cannot identify the influential party. As well as victims by an unknown armed members for SNHR.

According to this classification, SNHR recorded the death of no less than 424 children.

Saturday 21 October 2015, we recorded the death of 5 individuals of the same family including 2 children and a woman. Near Harjaleh village that is under the control of armed opposition factions in northern suburbs of Aleppo, while they were passing the borders from the Turkish side to the Syrian side due to landmine explosion. We are unable to identify who plant the landmine until the moment of making this report.

Wednesday 23 March 2016, several artillery shells dropped on Masakin Jileen town that is under the control of ISIS in Dara'a governorate due to clashes between ISIS and armed opposition factions which caused the death of 15 individuals most of them are of two families including 5 children and a woman. We are unable to identify which party caused the deaths until the moment of making this report.

X- Syrian Children in Refugee Camps

There are about 3, 3 million Syrian children refugees. We met many of them in different countries of asylum. The most notable difficulties from which the Syrian child suffers in refugee camps are:

- 1- Many children refugees are without their fathers who were either killed or choose to have their families leave the country out of fear for their lives.
- 2- Even though many children at refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey can go out every day, the situation is different in Lebanon where the child can't even leave his tent for a whole month. Also, more than one family lives in one house.
- 3- Most of the children refugees are deprived of education, the percentage of out-of-school children differ according to neighboring country. However, the average is that 60% of children refugees are out-of-school children.
- 4- The Syrian child in refugee camps is denied of a citizenship. More than 184 thousand children were born in refugee camps. Many of them were denied their rightful nationality because the child get the nationality from his father only and even if the father is present, he must have a marriage license according to the Syrian law. It should be taken into consideration that many fathers are either missing or forcibly-disappeared and a large portion of them don't have any documents.
- 5- Severe mental disorders as a result of the broken families, lack of security, displacement, the pictures of blood and destruction that those children witnessed for about four years, loss of families, loss of hope, and social difficulties where many of them were forced to work.
- 6- Blackmailing and trafficking.
- 7- Many of the Syrian children in refugee camps are injured and wounded.

Sama Al Husni a member of SNHR met in Jordan with the child Abd Allah from Dara'a governorate, age 14 years old, in Al Za'atri camp in Jordan, he talked about his life's details in the camp:

"About 3 years and half ago the security forces came and hit my father and my uncle with their weapons then they dragged them to the car and left. We were informed that my uncle died in the detention center but we couldn't know what happen with my father. We refuged to Al Za'atari camp. I became the provider for my mother and three brothers. I worked after school in sifting sand to people in camp as we took the gravels and the impurities and buying it. It is a hard work because the temperature is very high and the salary is not enough. I hope I can be a child again so I can play without being concerned about food".



An image depicts the child labor in sifting sand in Al Za'atri camp 12 July 2015.

Sama Al Husni also met (M)' mother, a disabled child. She told us about the health of his son in camp:

“My son is 6 years old and his sickness makes him unable to control his urinary system. We need large numbers of clothes but the relief organizations stopped providing us with it. There is no health center in the camp concerning such cases and I cannot bear the treatment cost outside. Also I cannot get the needed medicine”



An image of the child (m), disabled child with special needs in Al Za'atri camp 12 June 2015.

We co-published an expanded report recently with Euro-Mediterranean Observatory for Human Rights talked about the labor of Syrian children in Jordan.

XII- Conclusions and Recommendations:

Government forces:

Government forces and its pro-militias committed violations against the children of Syria that can be classified as crimes against humanity through widespread systematic killing, torturing and sexual violence which violated article VI of Rome statute. Moreover, it conducted actions that amount to war crimes through enforced recruitment and sieged families including children and women that considered as a stark violation of international humanitarian law and the related resolutions of the Security Council.

Russian forces:

Most of Russian forces bombardment targeted residential areas and centers and caused the death of Syrian children. All these indiscriminate attacks amount to war crimes.

Kurdish self-management (particularly the forces of Democratic Union Party, Kurdish Worker Party branch) carried out actions that amount to war crimes through indiscriminate bombardment which caused the death of many children beside the enforced recruitment.

Extremist Islamic groups:

These groups recruited hundreds of children under 15 years old, and practiced torture against children in its related detention centers. Furthermore, they killed many children through indiscriminate bombardment which amounts to war crimes.

Armed opposition factions:

Varied factions recruited dozens of children, and some of these factions killed many children through indiscriminate bombardment which amounts to war crimes.

International Coalition Forces:

Some deliberate indiscriminate bombardment of International Coalition forces caused the death of many Syrian children which qualifies as war crimes.

Recommendations:**To international community and Security Council:**

- To find all possible solutions to end the conflict in Syria and stop the daily bloodbath against the Syrian people as this is a moral and historical responsibility.
- To convey aids to the besieged children, and forced the Syrian regime basically to break the siege instead of drop aids from the air.
- To support neighboring states and present help to promote the quality of education and health in these states which includes the largest number of the children refugees.

To neighboring countries:

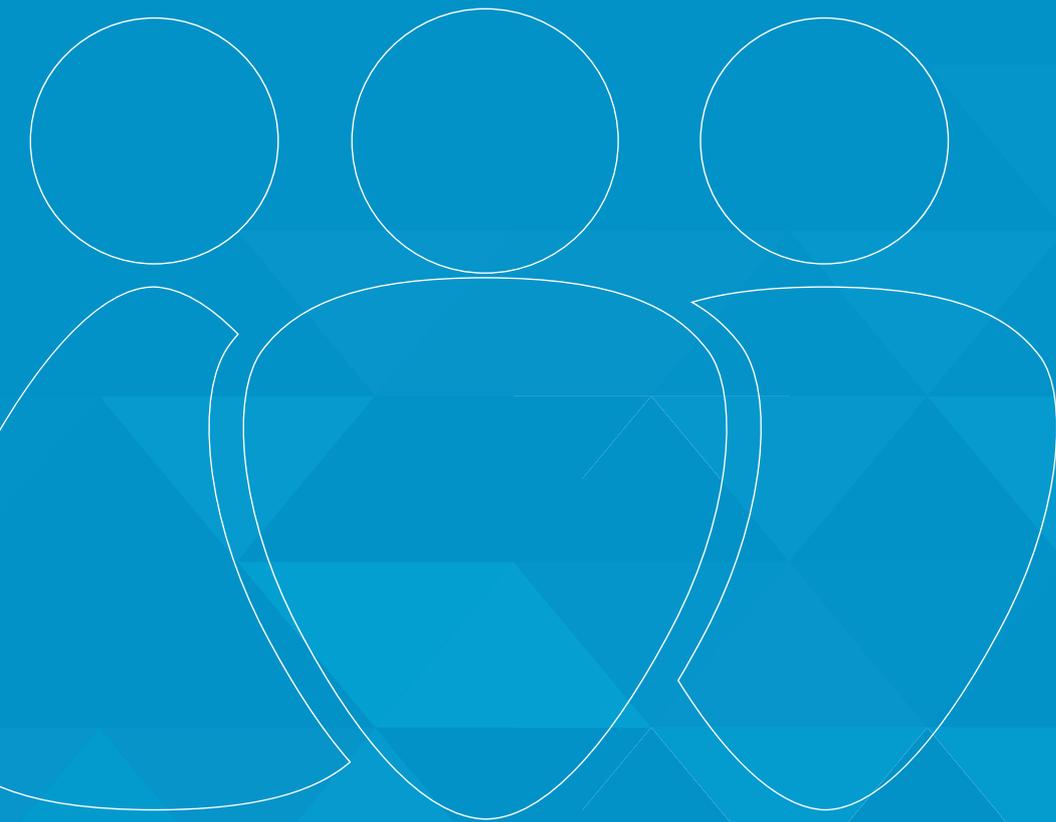
To insure the right of the Syrian refugees to a safe shelter and respect their rights including prohibiting forcible return. Furthermore, the EU countries should help the neighboring countries by housing more Syrian refugees. Additionally, the donor countries must increase its aids to the UNHCR and the local civil-society organizations in the states that have Syrian refugees.

High commissioner for refugees:

- To create safe stable environment to Syrian refugees children and intensify steps to reintegration them with community through long term psychotherapy.
- To promote investment in education and health.

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