



The Death of 104 Individuals under Torture in October 2015 99 amongst which were killed by government forces

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I. Report Methodology:

Since 2011, the Syrian regime has refused to recognize any arrests it had made as it accused Al-Qaeda and the terrorist groups of committing these crimes. Also, the Syrian regime doesn't recognize any torture cases or torturing to death. SNHR acquire its information from former prisoners and prisoners' families where most of the families get information about their beloved ones who are in prison by bribing the officials in charge.

At SNHR, we rely on the families' testimonies we get. However, it should be noted that there are many cases where the Syrian authorities don't give the families the dead bodies. Also, many families abstain from going to the military hospitals to bring the dead bodies of their beloved ones or even their belongings out of fear that they might themselves get arrested.

Also, most of the families assure use that their relatives were in good health when the arrest was made and it is highly unlikely that they died of an illness.

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says:

"The principle of "Responsibility to Protect" must be implemented as the state has failed to protect its people and all the diplomatic and peaceful efforts have failed as well. Crimes against humanity are still being perpetrated on a daily basis in Syria mainly at the hands of the state authorities."





Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and pursued. In light of such circumstances, it is difficult to completely verify the number of victims as the process remains mainly based on ongoing documentation and investigation even with taking into consideration families' testimonies

Please visit the following [URL](#) for more information on our methodology in documenting victims

II. Executive Summary:

SNHR documented the death of not less than 104 cases of death under torture inside official and non-official government detention centers and prisons in October 2015. The victims' details are detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) killed 99 individuals under death.

B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

- ISIL: 2 individuals died under torture

C. Armed Opposition Groups killed 3 individuals under torture.

Cases of victims being tortured to death have been recorded ceaselessly since 2011 which clearly reflects the excessive and systematic force that is being used against detainees.

Daraa governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 29 victims, while the other victims were divided as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

20 individuals died under torture in Damascus suburbs, 14 in Hama, 12 in Deir Al Zour, 11 in Homs, 6 in Idlib, 4 in Tartous, 3 in Lattakia, 2 in Damascus, and 2 in Raqqa.

Torture victims' distribution according to the Syrian governorates and the major conflict parties in Syria:

Conflict Party Governorates	Death under Torture Victims' Distribution According to the Major Conflict Parties in Syria in October 2015		
	Government Forces	ISIL	Armed Opposition Forces
D a m a s c u s Suburbs	18		2
Idlib	6		
Daraa	29		
Homs	10	1	
Hama	14		
Deir Al Zour	11	1	
Raqqa	2		
Damascus	2		1
Lattakia	3		
Tartous	4		





The most significant death under torture cases in October 2015 are:
3 university students, a doctor, a lawyer, an athlete, and three related individuals

III. The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

University Students:

1. Ahmad Darrar Al Se'ran, a university student in the faculty of Mechanical Engineering, from Al Mayadeen city in Deir Al Zour eastern suburbs, was arrested by government forces two years ago. His family confirmed that he was in good health before he was arrested. On 13 October 2015 his family informed us of his death under torture inside one of the government detention centers in Damascus.



Mohamad Al Ali

2. Mohamad Al Ali, a university student, from Al Bou Omar town in Deir Al Zour suburbs, 26, was arrested by government forces almost two years ago. His family confirmed that he was in good health before he was arrested. On 21 October 2015 his family informed us of his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

3. Mohamad Yehya Al Samouri, a university student, from Jamla town in Daraa governorate, was arrested by government forces almost a year and a half ago. On 24 October 2015, his family informed us of his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

Doctors:

Suhiab Abdul Kareem Othman, a general physician from Al Ghadfa town in Idlib suburbs, 29, was arrested a year ago by government forces when he was passing by one of its checkpoints in Aleppo city. He was healthy back then but on 27 October 2015, his family informed us of his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.



Suhiab Abdul Kareem Othman.

Lawyers:

Bassam Al Othmanly, a lawyer from Kamhana town in Hama suburbs, 38, was arrested by government forces on 1 February 2012. On 21 October 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

Athletes:

Mohamad Fakhri, a football player in Al Na'aweer Club, from Al Jalaa neighborhood in Hama, 25, was arrested by government forces on 6 November 2013 on the Labor Union checkpoint in Hama. He was in good health before his arrest but his family informed us of his death under torture in Saydnaya Military Prison in Damascus suburbs.





Related Individuals:

1. Jassem Al Maslat Al Azzawi and his children Amer, Ahmad and Mohamad, from Al Joura neighborhood in Deir Al Zour, were arrested earlier by government forces. On 1 October 2015 their displaced families in Marat town in Deir Al Zour suburbs were informed of their death under torture on 30 September 2015 in one of the government detention centers in Damascus.
2. Mohamad Issa Abazeed and his son Mouaath from Daraa Al Balad town in Daraa city were arrested by government forces earlier. Their family confirmed their death under torture in one of the government detention centers.
3. Fayez Abdul Lateef Al Eid and his brother Waleed, from Inkhil city in Daraa were arrested by government forces a year and a half ago. On 23 October 2015, their family confirmed their death under torture government detention centers in Damascus.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR notes that this huge number of torture victims who are falling on a monthly basis, with taking into consideration that this number is the minimum we were able to get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parties and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime. Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.

Recommendations

Security Council

- To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.
- To impose sanctions on all the commanders that were involved in torture practices which violate the international criminal law and security council resolutions on Syria especially resolutions 2042 and 2139.
- To bind the Syrian government and the various influential parties to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council investigation committee in order to conduct a thorough investigation on torture inside detention centers.
- To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to deliver data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

