



**Violations against Journalists in 2014 – A Black Year**  
journalists were killed, 43 were kidnapped and arrested, and 15 were injured 17



Syrian Network For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



## Violations against Journalists in 2014 – A Black Year

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*This report includes:*

*First: Executive Summary*

*Second: Introduction*

*Third: Most Prominent*

*Violations against*

*Journalists by Government*

*Forces.*

*Fourth: Most Prominent*

*Violations against*

*Journalists by Kurdish*

*Forces.*

*Fifth: Most Prominent*

*Violations against*

*Journalists by Extremist*

*Groups.*

*Sixth: Most Prominent*

*Violations against*

*Journalists by Armed*

*Opposition Factions.*

*Seventh: Most Prominent*

*Violations against*

*Journalists by Unknowns.*

*Eighth: Acknowledgment..*

### First: Executive summary

Violations against journalists were distributed as follows:

- **First:** Killing: SNHR documented the killing of 17 journalists, distributed according to the killing party, as follows:

- Government forces: killed 10 journalists, including 3 were dead under torture inside detention centers.

- Extremist groups: four journalists were killed by Daesh organization particularly.

- Armed opposition factions: killed two journalists.

- Unknowns: killed one journalist.

- **Second:** Arresting or kidnapping: SNHR documented no less than 43 arresting and kidnapping incidents, distributed as follows:

- **Government forces:** eight arresting incidents, including six journalists were released, in addition to two journalists whose fates remain unknown.

- **Kurdish forces:** eight kidnapping and arresting were all released in later times.

- **Extremist groups:**

- Daesh:** 20 kidnapping incidents, including 14 journalists were released, in addition to six journalists whose fates remain unknown.

- Jabhat al-Nusra:** two kidnapping incidents, one of them was released, and one whose fate remain unknown.

- **Armed opposition factions:** three kidnapping incidents.

- **Unknowns:** two kidnapping incidents, one was released.





- **Third:** injuries: 15 journalists were injured:
  - **Government forces:** injured seven journalists.
  - **Armed opposition factions:** injured five journalists.
  - **Unknowns:** injured three journalists.
  - **Four:** violations against properties: 11 incidents were distributed as follows:
    - **Government forces:** violated in five incidents.
    - **Kurdish forces:** violated in three incidents.
    - **Extremist groups:** violated in one incident by Daesh.
    - **Unknowns:** violated in one incident.

This report doesn't cover media activists or civil-journalists whose violations were observed in tens of previous reports published by SNHR. All these facts and figures are the minimum amount of the danger and size of violations that happened and happening in Syria since 2011, due to the huge difficulties in documenting detainees and forcibly-disappeared, which is way harder than documenting victims, because of the journalists' families or their employers' fear of exposing their kidnapping or arresting on a side, and because that many media parties may entered negotiations with the kidnappers, refusing any interference, on the other side.

## Second: Introduction:

Syria is considered today the most dangerous state in the world for the journalists, after journalism became one of the most dangerous jobs that could be performed under an armed multi-partied conflict. Furthermore, the violation against journalists is increasing and escalating continuously, with a full escaping of punishment and accounting of violations perpetrators. It is not limited to tighten against journalists, pursuing them and arresting, kidnapping, or killing; it exceeded it to use the journalist as a pressure card to achieve political or material benefits.

Although many armed groups entered the conflict since the middle of 2012, and extremist groups since the beginning of 2013, the government forces remain the most violating party by size and type of violations against journalists, with a huge difference. Though, Daesh organization entered as a strong competent in the same methodology, and passed it in its propaganda and way in terrorizing and suppression.

We can say that the deteriorating security conditions and the ongoing crimes and violations against media activists at the hands of the armed parties, are the most notable challenges and obstacle that the media field is facing today in Syria. These challenges prevent the media work from keeping up with the complicated and rapid developments on different levels. Furthermore, it resulted in negatively affecting





the performance of the media in order to perform its functional and active role in observing incidents and news and publishing it and caused a state of chaos is overwhelming the media scene today in Syria. This situation manifests itself significantly through the number of contradictory information about prominent events and violations across the country, lack of reliable sources, unhighlighting some of the events or, in some cases, hindering any access to it, and the difficulty to access it in most of the Syrian lands.

As we face this harsh reality that lacks the foundations, whom a free professional media need to function, and the results of hiding the truth, silencing mouths, and obscure facts, SNHR affirms the necessity of taking serious and immediate actions to save what could be saved of media activism in Syria and renews its condemnation of all the violations against media's freedom and truth-covering regardless of the involved parties and its kind or magnitude. SNHR also stresses the importance of respecting media work, insuring the safety of those who are working in that vital field, and paying them special consideration. The perpetrators of violations against journalists, activists, and media activists must be brought to justice and the International Community, represented by the Security Council, should shoulder its responsibilities to protect the civilians in Syria.

### **Third: Most prominent violations against journalists by government forces:**

#### **A. Extrajudicial killing:**

The following journalists were extra-judicial killed by government forces:

1- **Moath Mohyee ad-Deen al-Khaled**, 23-year-old third-year student in Media Faculty in Damascus, from al-Qunaytrah. Political security patrol arrested him by raiding his house in Masaken Barza – Damascus on 4 June 2012, accused him by participating and media-covering the demonstrations in the neighborhood, in addition to his peaceful activity. We were reported by one of the released that Moath told him that he was transported to the Political Security first, then to the Police Leadership, Saydnaya Prison of the politicians, and Political Isolation in Adra. Moath faced severe torture, causing deterioration of his health situation and an injury in his neural system, in addition to his severe loss of weight. His family told us that they were officially informed by security personnel of Moath death on 20 February 2014.





2- The **Canadian: Ali Mustafa**, by barrel bombs shelling by regime forces on al-Haydara neighborhood in Aleppo, while he was covering event, on 8 March 2014. It's mentioned that Ali is an independent photographer-journalist from Canada, from an Egyptian father and a Canadian mother. He arrived to Aleppo a week ago of his death to make a report about schools and education in Aleppo under the Syrian war.

3- **Bilal Ahmad Bilal**, 30-year-old TV director in “Palestine Today” TV channel, from al-Moaddamyeya town – Damascus countryside. He graduated from Media Faculty in Damascus in 2007 and worked in many Syrian and Arabic TV channels, its last was “Palestine Today”. He was arrested by Air-Intelligence Security on 13 September 2012, on one of their checkpoints,



**Bilal Ahmad Bilal**

while he was going to his work from al-Moaddamyeya to al-Mazzeah in Damascus, where the TV channel affiliated to al-Jihad al-Islami Movement, the close of the regime, is located. Later, the Field Military Court judged him by 15 years prison. He was killed by torturing to death in Saydnaya Prison in Damascus countryside, in January 2013, which was unexposed for four months, until Security personnel told his parent of his death on 29 April 2014, when they delivered them his ID without his body.

4- **Mohammad al-Khateeb**, 34-year-old graduate from Media Faculty in Damascus, from Moaddamyeya ash-Sham. He worked in many Syrian newspapers before he was arrested by security apparatuses on 8 January 2012, because he stood in front of the Arabic Convoy led by the Sudanese General Mohammad ad-Dabi, explaining the regime violations represented by raiding and arresting campaigns against al-Moaddamyeya residents and the brutal shelling the city faced by rocket launchers and heavy artillery. He gave his life as a price for this testimony.

Al-Khateeb moved between many Security branches of the Syrian regime before he was transported to Saydnaya Prison accused by Terrorism. Security forces officially told his family about his death and delivered them his documentation papers, such as his ID card, on 27 June 2014. His family told us about his death.





5- The Egyptian: [Ahmad Hassan as-Sayed](#), Xinhua news agency correspondent. He died by his injuries on 21 June 2014. He was injured in front of the Higher Constitutional Court in Damascus by the bullets of the celebrating gunmen of the Syrian president Bashar Assad victory in the presidential elections, on 5 June 2014.

6- Asaa'd Bajrook, 26-year-old head and founder of Shamona Magazine and founder of Hreetan News to cover Aleppo Northern countryside news, from Hreetan. He had many activities in the media field. He worked under the anonymity "Asaad Zeidan" and documented many violations.



**Asaa'd Bajrook**

He was injured by clusters caused by government forces warplanes shelling on the Martyrs Yard in Hreetan – Northern countryside of Aleppo, while he was trying to video the shelling on 18 July 2014. He died by his injuries on 22 July 2014.

- On 8 December 2014, government forces targeted, with an oriented-rocket mortar, Orient TV channel team of the following correspondents: Rami Adel al-Asmi, Yusuf Mahmood ad-Doos, and the cameraman Salem Abd ar-Rahman al-Khaleel, on the sides of Sheik Maskeen town – Daraa, killing them all. Indeed, their car was not labeled by "Press", but it was carrying satellite devices which could be clearly seen.

7- Yusuf Mahmmod ad-Doos, 29-year-old Literature Faculty, English Section Graduate in 2011, from Busra as-Sham city – Daraa. He was a member of the Syrian Journalists Association, co-founder of the media office in Daraa, and had many featured media activities. He was an active journalist since the beginning of the Syrian revolution, covering field



**Yusuf Mahmmod ad-Doos**

events in Daraa, until he became a field-correspondent with Orient TV channel in Daraa, and prepared many field and humanitarian reports from the countryside of Daraa and al-Qunaytrah.







8- [Rami Adel al-Asmi](#), 26-year-old information engineering graduate from Damascus University, from Dael – Daraa countryside. He was of the first live broadcasting from his mobile phone and a co-founder of the media office in Dael. He worked as a journalist with Orient News, and wrote in many newspapers appeared during the revolution.

9- The cameraman: [Salem al-Khaleel](#), 27-year-old computer engineering institute graduate, from Busra as-Sham – Daraa. He took with his lens many battles in events in Deraa and became a cameraman with Orient TV with his fellow Yusuf ad-Dows. It should be noted that Salem was a fighter with the armed opposition after he defected of the government army early, but he left fighting and became a cameraman.

10- Al-Jazeera.net correspondent: Mahran Basheer ad-Deiri, was killed on Wednesday 10 December 2014, while covering battles between armed opposition factions and regime forces in Sheikh Meskeen city – Daraa countryside. His lights-off car, avoiding targeting by government forces, crashed an armed opposition car, near the place where the government forces targeted three days earlier three journalists with Orient Network.



Mahran Basheer ad-Deiri

Mahrad ad-Deiri, 31-year-old Media Faculty graduate in 2008 from Damascus University, from Sheikh Maskeen city – Daraa. He worked earlier with the official Syrian news agency (SANA), before he defected in a time earlier after the revolution. He wrote in many Arabic and Global newspapers.

### **B. Injuries:**

Seven injuries caused by government forces were documented:

1- Al-Ghad al-Arabi (the Arabic Tomorrow) TV channel correspondent: [Wael Adel](#), and the cameraman: Abo al-Joud, [by the aerial shelling](#) by government forces while covering the events in Aziza – Aleppo countryside, on 28 January 2014.

2- Al-Arabiya TV correspondent: [Ahmad Loay](#), by aerial shelling by government forces while covering the entering of the humanitarian aids to besieged Homs on 8 February 2014.





3- BBC TV channel correspondent: [Biar Philip](#) Goodwin, by mortar shelling against Mohsen Tarkway shelter in ad-Doblan neighborhood – Homs, on 16 April 2014. The mortar was launched from a regime-controlled area.

4- Al-Aan News TV channel correspondent: **Mustafa Jomaa** had suffocation by government forces warplanes dropping of barrel bombs carrying poison gases on residential neighborhoods in Kafarzita – Hama countryside, on 22 May 2014.

5- [Ali Hafez](#) was shot by a sniper affiliated to the government forces and located in Aleppo Citadel, while Ali was shooting the Citadel, on 25 May 2014. It should be noted that Ali has PhD in Media, and works as a writer and a political analyst.



6- [Shada al-Horeya](#) TV channel correspondent: Beshr Ahmad, by government forces bullets while he was covering events near Dael – Daraa countryside, on 23 August 2014.

7- [Al-Jazeera TV channel](#) correspondent in Daraa: [Mohammad Noor](#) was injured in his foot by government forces shooting, after finishing his report in Sheikh Maskeen city – Daraa, on 7 November 2014.

### **C. Arrest:**

The following journalists were arrested by government forces:

1- [Moheeb Salman an-Nowati](#), Palestinian journalist, travelled on 28 December 2010 from Norway to the Middle east to continue his work and arrange translation to a book he authored, and he was supposed to come back to Norway on 9 January 2012, but he disappeared in Damascus on 5 January 2012. He was seen later in one of the military security branches in Damascus by one of the arresting survivors.

His family applied an inquiry to the Norwegian about their son disappearance. Though the Norwegian embassy made many investigations in the Syrian hospitals and police stations, there was no information about Moheem until now. His fate is still unknown until the end of 2014.







2- **Jadeea' Abdallah Nofal**, 63-year-old writer and human rights activist, from as-Sweida and resident of Sahnaya - Damascus countryside. Jadee' is the founder and head of the Democracy and Civil Rights Center, affiliated to the Human Rights Bureau in the United Nations, which he founded in 2012 with an authorization of the Syrian authorities. He was arrested in the eighties, and was arrested for five years in Saydnaya Military Prison (1993 – 1997), accused by joining human rights and freedom defense committees.

On the evening of 31 October 2014, Nofal was arrested with two of his fellows (the Journalist: Omar ash-Sha'ar and the Journalist: Marya Sha'abo), while they were going to Damascus after attending a work shop about human rights in Beirut, on the Syrian border port of Jdaydet Yabos, before they were delivered to the Political Security in Damascus countryside. Reports affirm that he was deprived of calling his lawyer and family, and reportedly he has heart and pressure diseases with a health condition can't take arresting. On Wednesday 17 December 2014, the Referral Judge in Damascus approved the release of the journalist: Omar as-Shaar and the author: Jadee' Nofal (aka Abu Salam), as they were released on the next day.

Jadee' Nofal

3- **Omar ash-Sha'ar**: worked formerly as an editor-in-chief of the English section in the private and authorized by the Syrian government website: DPress. He was arrested formerly on 11 November 2013, when a patrol raided his house in Jarmana city and seized his laptop, before he was released eight months later, on 15 June 2014. Formerly, his wife: the lawyer Majdoleen Hasan was arrested based on her civil activity for months, in a former time of 2013.

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4- Doctor Marya Sha'abo: 26-year-old independent journalist and human rights activist. She was born in jail and didn't go out until she was a year and half, as she belongs to a well-known family of opposing the Syrian regime. Her mother Rana Mahfooz was arrested formerly while she was pregnant of her, and spent four years in the prison (1988-1991), accused of joining the Communist Labor Party as well as Her father Bahjat Shaabo spent ten years in Saydanaya Military Prison.



Marya Sha'abo

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5- Al-Hurra TV channel correspondent: [Bashar al-Qaddomi](#) disappeared in Aleppo city on 20 August 2012, after entering the Syrian-Turkish borders with the Turkish cameraman Jonayd Oonal, and the Japanese journalist: Yamamoto, and a Japanese cameraman, where they faced a trap of the government forces in Salah ad-Dein neighborhood in Aleppo while they were covering events. Yamamoto was killed; Bashar was injured and disappeared with the Turkish cameramn Jonayd Oonal, who was released later by the Syrian regime, while al-Qaddomi fate remained unknown. The regime or any other party hasn't announced al-Qaddomi existence with it, where his fate remained unknown until today.

It should be noted that al-Qaddomi was born in Jerusalem, carried two nationalities: Jordanian and Israeli, and he's married and has two children.

6- [Osama Shamashan](#), from Darayya – Damascus countryside, intellectual and author and Philosophy licensed, and known as Abu Hosayn. He was arrested on 17 May 2013 by Security men, before he was transported to Adra Central Prison on 12 November 2013. He was released later on 31 October 2014.

7- Sawa Youth Coalition correspondent: [Haytham Farhan Hasso](#), was arrested on 16 January 2014 by the military intelligence branch in ar-Raqqa. Haytham was born in Qamishli, and he's 34 years old. He was transported later to Damascus until he was released on 12 July 2014.





8- [Akram al-Bonni](#), journalist author and former political prisoner was arrested 22 February 2014 by the personnel of the State Security affiliated to the government forces before he was released after two days.

#### **D. Violation against properties:**

1- Shahba press office was shelled with barrel bombs in Aleppo on 21 January 2014, what destroyed the office totally.

2- Regime forces shelled [Sham News Network office](#) in the Old City of Aleppo on 14 April 2014, which damaged the office contents severely.

3- Anadolu News Agency was attacked by mortar and rockets by regime forces while it was going to cover the news in al-Maysar neighborhood in Aleppo on 16 July 2014, what caused the death of the team guide Ahmad Abu Rashad when the cameramen: Saleh Mohammad Layla and Ahmad Mohammad Ali survived.

4- Government forces warplanes shelled Watan FM broadcasting centers in Idlib countryside on 17 August 2014, what destroyed broadcasting devices, without injuring any media activist.

The station headquarter located in Damascus countryside was severely shelled what caused its totally broadcasting stopping.

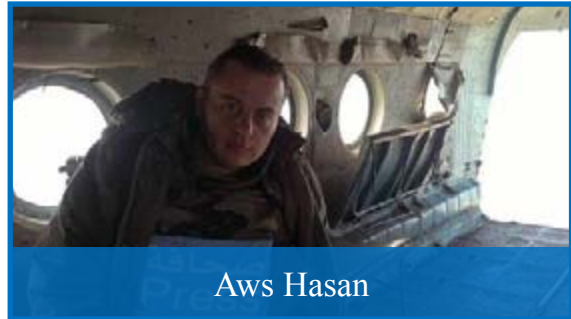
5- [Suhair Sarmini](#), director with the Syrian General Organization of TV and Radio, whose car was shot by a security checkpoint in Umayyad Square – Damascus, on 20 November 2014. She mentioned on her Facebook profile page that there was “no justification of shooting, especially that she showed her media card to the security personnel on the checkpoint”, adding that “this checkpoint harmed many civilians and many public and well-known figures”.





### **E. Other violations:**

In 2014, the idea of the rebel/media activist together spread among the official media ranks, which was highlighted by publishing photos of some media activists carrying weapons and showing it off, or by publishing photos of their participation in the armed operations.



Aws Hasan

The official TV correspondent, Aws Hasan, showed raising the victory sign beside a barrel bomb in one of the government forces warplanes on 4 April 2014. Photos indicate that he was preparing to drop the barrel bomb.

Also, [Tony Ooryan](#), correspondent of OTV pro-regime TV channel, showed carrying AK-47 gun in Kasab – Latakia countryside, then he took videos of himself with the camera.

In a report, Tony showed on an advanced position on the military frontline with forces of the government army.

[A video footage of Tony in Yabrud Battle](#)

## Fourth: Most Prominent Violations against Journalists by Kurdish Forces:

### **A. Arrest and kidnapping**

1- On Sunday 20 April, 2014, [Bishwa Bahlwi](#) (Rudaw TV channel reporter) and [Rudi Ibrahim](#) (Orient TV channel reporter) were arrested by an armed group that calls itself (Association of the families of YPG martyrs) in Al-Qameshli. The group is affiliated to PYD. The group had them transferred from one prison to another according to the two reporters. Eventually, after nine hours, they were exiled to Iraqi Kurdistan and accused of treachery because they were working against Syrian Kurdistan. They threatened to kill them if they came back to Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan). They were arrested previously by government forces and detained by PYD.

2- Mohammad Mahmoud Bashar, Rudaw TV reporter in Al-Hassaka – Ad-Derba-siya, he was arrested on 23 April, 2014 by PYD's Al-Asayeh forces before he was released the following day.





3- [Mustafa Abdi](#) (manager of the news website Kobani Kurd), he was kidnapped by PYD's Asayish forces in Ain Al-Arab as he was on his way back from Turkey on 5 March, 2014 and was released two days after.

4- [Daldar Hamou](#), reporter for the TV channel ARK, he was kidnapped by PYD's Asayish forces in Al-Hassaka countryside – Al-Qahtaniya on 11 May, 2014 after they raided his home and confiscated his Laptop and camera, he was released on 16 May, 2014. He was arrested previously by PYD in last February under the pretext of working without having a permit to work as a journalist.

5- [Sakfan Amin](#) (worked as a cameraman for Zagros TV channel) by PYD's Asayish forces on 18 July, 2014 after they raided his home in Al-Hassaka countryside – Al-Malikiya town, he was released on 22 July, 2014.

6- [Malfa Ali](#), he was arrested by PYD's Asayish forces at Khana Sarri checkpoint in Al-Hassaka countryside while he was coming back from Al-Qamishly on 21 July, 2014, he was released on the same day after an eight-hour interrogation as he was accused of offending them and the PYD forces.

7- [Sa'doun As-Sinou](#) (worked as a reporter for Orient News TV channel) was detained and arrested several times by PYD's Asayish forces, he was detained while he was making a report in Al-Hassana countryside – Ad-Derbasiya on 25 July, 2014, he was released after a few hours, he was arrested again on 8 August, 2014 and his camera was confiscated before he was released on 10 August, 2014.

## **B. Violations against public and private properties**

1- YPG threatened to arrest and exile the journalist [Joumrad Hamdous](#), (worked as a reporter for Rudaw TV channel in Ifreen) if he continued to cover the news, YPG forces raided his home on 24 April, 2014 which forced Hmdoush to disappear because he learned that his house is being surveilled. In a previous incident, Asayish forces prohibited him from working as a journalist in Ifreen.





2- On Tuesday 18 February, 2014, PYD's Asayesh forces raided the headquarters of Arta Radio in Al-Hassaka countryside – Amouda and stopped him from working for three days because there were unpermitted broadcast devices other than Arta Radio in the building. Arta radio moved to Ain Al-Arab “Kubani” in Aleppo countryside on 21 June, 2014 and broadcasted for one day before Asayesh forces raided their new headquarters and shut it down under the pretext that “the media law hasn't been issued yet in the region” despite the fact that PYD radio channel has been broadcasting for two years.

3- On Saturday 9 May, 2014, the journalist Lunad Hussein's home, located in Al-Qamishli – Al-Qahtaniya town “Tirbespye” was bombed under mysterious circumstances, it was suspected that two PYD members were involved in the bombing where one of them planted the IED which killed him and injured the other suspected member. PYD forces confiscated the journalists' book and belongings later. Lunad Hussein is a member of YRK and he lives in Germany.

#### Fifth: Most Prominent Violations against Journalists by Kurdish Forces:

##### Daesh

##### A. Extrajudicial killing

1- Amer Hasin Ash-Shoun, defected from “Al-Jamahier” newspaper, he was shot by Daesh forces after they raided his town Al-Atareb in Aleppo countryside and clashed with the armed opposition on 3 January, 2014.

2- On Friday, 1 November, 2013, Daesh forces kidnapped the media activist [Moaed Saloum](#) “reporter for Orient News TV channel” along with his brother at Al-Kastilou road checkpoint in Aleppo countryside – Hrietan town, Daesh released his brother a few months ago but Moaed's fate is still unknown, one of the fighters who defected from Daesh assured in June 2014 to his family that Moaed was executed in the Eye Hospital in Aleppo when Daesh forces managed to take over that area.



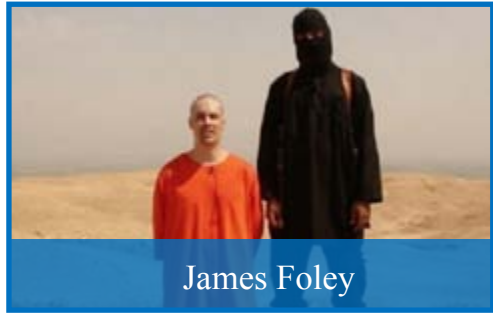
Amer Hasin Ash-Shoun







3- The American journalist [James Foley](#), he was slaughtered at the hands of Daesh fighters on 19 Augustm 2014. James was kidnapped on 22 November, 2012 in Northern Syrian near Taftnaz city, it is likely that he was kidnapped by Al-Mujahdien Shura Council which pledged allegiance to Daesh later. On 19 August, 2014, Daesh published a video



entitled: “A Message to America” which shows the slaughter of the journalist at the hands of a Daesh fighter, the video shows also Daesh fighters saying that this was their respond to the American airstrikes that targeted the faction in Iraq. In the same video, Daesh threatened to kill the other American Steven Sotloff who was also kidnapped by Daesh on 4 August, 2013 in Aleppo near the Turkish borders. His kidnapping remained a secret and he was presumed missing until Daesh revealed that they were who kidnapped him.

4- The [American](#) journalist [Steven Sotoloff](#) was killed by Daesh. Daesh published another video entitled: “[A Second Message to America](#)” on 2 September, 2014 which shows Steven on his knees wearing an orange shirt, next to him there was a masked armed man with a knife, the armed man condemned the American military intervention in Iraq and Syria before he slaughtered Steve. In the same video, Daesh threatened to kill a British hostage named David Haines. Sutloff’s kidnapping remained a secret after he was kidnapped in Aleppo in northern Syria on 4 August, 2014 near the Turkish borders until Daesh revealed that they took him.

### **B. Arrests and kidnapping**

1- [Obayad Batal](#), media activist, reporter for Orient News TV channel, he was kidnapped by Daesh forces in Aleppo countryside – Tal Ref’t on 25 July, 2013, his fate is still unknown.

2- [Ahmad Fayyad](#), reporter for Al-Ikhbariya As-Suriyya TV channel in Ar-Raqqa, he was kidnapped by Daesh forces on 11 August, 2013, his fate is still unknown.

3- Rami Az-Zarrouk “media activists and manager of Ana Radio”, he was kidnapped in Ar-Raqqa by Daesh forces on 1 November, 2013, after he was kidnapped, Daesh forces raided the office of Ana institution and confiscated the broadcast devices and equipment, his fate is still unknown.





4- The reporter [Ishaq Mukhtar](#), Mauritanian, reporter for Sky News Arabia, he was kidnapped by Daesh forces while he was covering the field-events in northern Aleppo on 15 November, 2013, his fate is still unknown.

5- The cameraman [Samir Kassab](#), member of Sky News team, he was kidnapped by Daesh force while he was covering field-events in northern Aleppo on 15 November, 2013, his fate is still unknown.

6- The British journalist [John Kantli](#), Daesh forces revealed that they kidnapped him in a video message that was published on the internet on 18 September, 2014 under the name: “Listen to The British Hostage John Kantli’s Messages” in what looked like a forced statement made by the journalist who warned anyone of going to war against the faction. He was forced to appear in another promotional video from Ain Al-Arab “Koubani” in Aleppo countryside, which Daesh controls some parts of, to promote his testimony about the situation in the city. The video was published on 27 November, 2014 in another violation of Kantli’s human rights. Kantli was kidnapped in November 2012 and has already appeared in several videos published by Daesh.

7- The Turkish photojournalist [Bunyamin Aygun](#), reporter for Milliyet newspaper, he was kidnapped by Daesh forces at the Turkish-Syrian borders in December 2013 and was released later on 5 January, 2014.

8- The two Spanish journalists [Javier Espinosa and Ricardo Garcia Vilanova](#) were kidnapped by Daesh forces in Ar-Raqqa – Tal Abyad on 16 September, 2013 while they were preparing to leave after they spent two weeks working in Syria. The kidnapping remained a secret until El Mundo newspaper and their families revealed that the two journalists were kidnapped in a press conference that was held on 10 December, 2013. The two journalists were released after six months on 29 March, 2014.

9- [Mohammad As-Saloum](#) (chief editor of Al-Gherbal journal) he was released in Idlib on 4 January, 2014 after he was arrested for a few days.





10- The director and cameraman [Omar Al-Khani](#) was arrested for a second time by Daesh forces on 20 December, 2013 at the cultural center in Aleppo countryside – Tadeef city after he was demanding that Daesh release his wife, who has an American nationality. The two were arrested together on 5 August, 2013, he was released on 23 January, 2014 while she is still detained by Daesh.

11- [Marc Marginedas](#), a Spanish journalist, reporter for the Spanish newspaper El Periodico, he was kidnapped by ISIS as he was passing one of their checkpoints in Hama countryside on 4 May, 2013. He was released after six months where he was delivered to the Turkish forces at the Syrian-Turkish borders on 2 March, 2014.

12- [Didier François](#), 53-year-old, and Edouard Elias, 23-year-old (work for Europe 1 radio) were kidnapped by Daesh forces on 6 June, 2013 in northern Aleppo after they passed the Syrian-Turkish borders. They were release after 10 months in captivity along with two other journalists on 18 April, 2014.

13- Nicolas Hénin, 37-year-old and Pierre Torres were kidnapped on 22 June, 2013 by Daesh forces in Ar-Raqqa. Their kidnappings remained a secret as per their families' request until the French ministry of foreign affairs revealed the news on 9 October, 2013. Hénin was preparing a report for Le Point magazine and Arte TV channel when he was kidnapped while Torres was planning on covering a local elections in Ar-Raqqa. The two journalists were released along with two other French journalists on 18 April, 2014.

14- Omar Al-Hazza, known as Ammar Al-Haj, Al-Jazeera TV channel reporter, he was kidnapped in Der Ezzor on 10 April, 2014 by Daesh forces at Sad Tishreen checkpoint as he was heading to Turkey, and he was released on 10 July, 2014.



15- The Danish photographer Daniel Ray Ottosen was released by Daesh on 19 June, 2014 after he was arrested in northern Syrian on 17 April, 2013. His family kept his kidnapping a secret out of fear for his life.





16- The Kurdish TV channel Rudaw news team: Ferhad Hammou, and the cameraman Mas'oud Aqiel disappeared in Al-Qamishli countryside on Monday 15 December, 2014 when they were coming back from Tal Koujar. The two journalist were kidnapped by a temporary checkpoint for Daesh on Al-Ya'roubiya highway. A credible source told their family and Rudaw TV channel that the two journalists were taken to Tal Hamies in Al-Qamishli countryside, which is under Daesh's control, after they were kidnapped and then Ash-Shdadi city in Al-Hassaka countryside in order to interrogate them more.



Rudaw news team

### **B. Violations against properties**

1- An armed group affiliated to Daesh raided Anadolu news agency office in Aleppo – Ash-Shaikh Najjar on 21 December, 2014 and robbed all the devices and equipment including the broadcast devices. During the raid, the agency staff was covering news in another area of Aleppo. Also, Daesh forces seized two cars that were for local reporters.

2- Der Ezzor TV channel office was closed in Der Ezzor by Daesh forces under the threat of weapon on 31 July, 2013. Daesh forces also confiscated its equipment which forced the channel team to resign. Also, Daesh imposed a number of restriction on media work in the city including:

- 1- To recognize “The Caliphate” for anyone who wants to keep working.
- 2- To use the term “The Islamic State” and stop using other terms such as “The State”, “The proclaimed state”, or “Daesh”.
- 3- To stop working with any other TV channels in any way.
- 4- Breaking pictures and news can be provided to news agency immediately while the video or written reports must be reviewed by the faction media office.

### **C. Other violations**

On 19 November, 2014, Daesh published a statement that included general rules for the local journalists who work in its areas. The statement strictly prohibits any journalist from contacting the following TV channels: Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, and Orient.





On the other hand, the faction allowed its journalists to contact international news agencies (Reuters, France Press, and Associated Press) under the exclusive supervision of ISIS media offices. The statement stated also that these rules are not final and are subject to change in accordance with the situation on the ground and the journalists' level of cooperation and commitment.

[Daesh statement](#) which included general rules for the local active journalists

## **An-Nusra Front**

### **A. Arrest and kidnapping**

1- [Zakariya Haj Jammou](#), Yekîti Media website reporter, he was kidnapped by An-Nusra Front fighters between Al-Yabesa and Tal Akhdar near Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqa on 21 August, 2013 while he was covering the clashes between Kurd fighters and An-Nusra Front Fighters.

2- An-Nusra Front released the American journalist Peter Theo Curtis on 24 August, 2014 after he was kidnapped about two years ago near the Turkish borders. The American Security of State announced the news in an official statement. He was delivered to the international Peacekeeping forces in the Israel-held Golan Heights.

### **B. Other violations**

On Saturday 19 December, 2014, An-Nusra Front's Courthouse ([Dar Al-Qadaa](#)) in Idlib officially requested the media activists who criticized An-Nusra Front during its recent battle in Idlib countryside against Syria Revolutionary Front and Hazm Movement to appear before the court. 21 media and civil activists from southern Idlib countryside – Jabal Az-Zawiya were directly notified to appear before the court in their homes as they were threatened to be arrested if they didn't show up in the court. On the next day, the activists who were notified went to An-Nusra Front courthouse in Al-Bara and Der Sniel villages. They were detained for 22 days before they were released.

This is the judicial memorandum that was issued by Der Sunbul court in Idlib countryside which was used to request the appearance of one of the activists: Mohammad Adib Al-Hamoud.





## Sixth: Most Prominent Violations against Journalists by Armed Opposition Factions:

1- On 14 April, 2014, three members of [Al-Manar news team](#) were killed: Hamza Al-Haj, a reporter, Mohammad Mantesh, cameraman, and Halim Alwa, a technician. According to the Syrian government, an armed opposition group shot at a number of cars while they were Damascus countryside – Ma'loula including one of the car channels.

However, SNHR found out after examining pictures and video footages that Al-Manar news team was along with armed men affiliated to the Syrian government. Also, the two cars that they were inside didn't have the channel logo or anything related to journalism on it. Furthermore, it is likely that Al-Manar news team was armed at that time as Hamza Al-Haj Hassan, one of Al-Manar reporters, appeared previously in a picture holding a missile and wearing military clothes.

[Picture of Hamza Al-Haj Hassan](#), A reporter for Al-Manar TV channel, holding a missile

### **B. Injuries**

1- Sana News agency cameraman George Orflyan and Al-Ikhbariya As-Suriyya TV channel reporter Benjamin Darwish, the cameraman George Dilabou, and the Syrian government official TV channel reporter Shadi Halwa and cameraman Ahmad Suliman were all shot by the armed opposition while they covering the armed clashes in Aleppo – Al-Ma'sarniya neighborhood on 9 Februarym 2014.

[Picture of Shadi Helwa](#)

2- [Abdulghani Al-Jaroukh](#), reporter for Sama TV channel, which supports the Syrian government, was injured on 25 May, 2014 while he was covering a battle in Idlib countryside – Jabal Al-Arba'ien where he was getting into a building to take photos of government forces, when he entered the building, he found armed men so he jumped off it.

### **C. Arrests and kidnapping**

1- The British newspaper reporter Anthoy Loyd and the photographer Jack Hill and their fixer Mahmoud Al-Bassha were beaten and blackmailed by fighters from the Hakim Anza'a battilon, which is affiliated to the Islamic Front, on 15 May, 2014 when the three were passing through Tal Ref't city on their way to Turkey.

Anthony was shot in the leg while he was trying to run away. Eventually, other battalions from The Islamic Front intervened and the three were released after a few hours.

[Anthony Loyd and Jack Hill](#)







2- The journalist **Khaled Khalaf**, who works as a reporter for Seraj Press newspaper, was kidnapped by an armed opposition faction in Idlib countryside – Saraqeb – At-Tarnba village on 12 October, 2014. After he was released on 22 November, 2014 Khaled posted on his Facebook page that the kidnapping was to interrogate him regarding a matter that is not related to his work.

## Seventh: Most Prominent Violations against Journalists by Unknowns

### A. Extrajudicial killing

1- Mohammad Abduljalil Al-Qasem, Al-Jazeera.net reporter, was killed in an ambush that was set in Idlib countryside by an unidentified group while he heading to his home after he covered the events in northern Idlib countryside on 10 September, 2014 at afternoon.

2- Al-Qasem was with Abu-Ali, leader of Ash-Sham Copses’ “Ashab Al-Yamin” brigade as they were coming back from Idlib countryside – Al-Ghadfa town where Abu-Ali was coordinating for his brigade to join the Fifth Brigade and Al-Qasem was with him to cover the event. When the two reached the road connecting Al-Ghadfa and Abu-Dafna roads, unidentified groups shot and kill both of them.

3- Mohammad Al-Qasem, 24-year-old, joined Al-Jazeera net reporting team at the beginning of 2014 and prepared many reports from the heated Idlib countryside. Also, he provided a number of news websites and agencies with news and reports from Idlib including Rozana Radio.

### B. Kidnapping

1- The visual artist and photographer Mohammad Wael Saeed, 40-year-old, graduated from the Fine Arts College where he majored in photography in 1996, Mohammad is a photographer who is interested in taking photographic pictures of Syrian places, he was working as an art director for Tishreen newspaper, he was kidnapped on 1 January, 2013 about 6:30 PM while he was going from his workplace to his home in Adra Al-Ammayya by unidentified group. Mohammad’s fate is still unknown.





2- Alaa Ad-Din Al-Yousuf, a reporter for Al-Jazeera, he was kidnapped in Idlib by unidentified armed group near Darkoush Bridge on 5 April, 2014 while he was heading to Kassab to cover what was happening there. He was released in 12 April, 2014 after he was threatened, beaten, and tortured. The identity of his kidnappers remained a secret out of fear for his own well-being.

### **C. Injuries**

1- Mohammad Abdullah, he worked as a photographer for Reuters agency, was shot by an unidentified group in Damascus countryside – Eastern Ghouta – Al-Marj when he was heading home from the relief office on 21 April, 2014.

2- Zaki Al-Idelbi, reporter for Orient TV channel, an unidentified group tried to assassinate him by planting an IED in his car on 29 September, 2014 in Idlib countryside – Binnish. Zaki was wounded and his spine was injured, he was transferred to a field-hospital after the incident.

### **D. Violations against properties**

Unknown armed group burned the office of Shahba Press news agency in As-Suk-kari neighborhood on 2 April, 2014. The group sneaked into the empty office at that time and burned everything in it.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and appreciation go to the detained journalists' families and friends whose testimonies contributed majorly to this report which, hopefully, will highlight the issue of detained journalists and be a step on the way to release them, insure their safety during conflicts, and hold all the violations perpetrators accountable.

