



Medical Personnel Victims in April 2014

The report consists of four main paragraphs:

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I. Report summary:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights' team documented the killing of six medical personnel in April 2014, including a doctor and a pharmacist, all at the hands of government forces.

II. Introduction:

As the Syrian revolution entered its fourth year, medical personnel have continued to be in the crossfire and subjected to violence by all the parties to the armed conflict in Syria, with government forces far exceeding all other parties, singly or collectively, in the number and magnitude of the violations perpetrated. To this day, the government's forces have not stopped targeting hospitals, health centers, pharmacies and ambulances in areas controlled by the opposition, in addition to targeting medical personnel for direct killing or death by torture in prisons, as well as for arrest, abduction and all kinds of persecution, on charges of providing medical services to persons or entities opposing the Syrian government.

III. Details:

[Badr al Din Khaled al Hajja](#), a nurse, from Douma city in the [Eastern Ghouta](#) east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, [was killed](#) on Friday, April 4, 2014, in an air-strike by government warplanes on Douma city.





Hassan Waleed Fustuq, a 38-year-old pharmacist, from al A'zamiya neighborhood in west of Aleppo city, was killed in an airstrike on Friday, April 4, 2014, when government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on al Sha'ar neighborhood in east of Aleppo city.

[Mohammad al Shfouni](#), an unmarried paramedic from al al Mleiha town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, died on Thursday, April 10, 2014, in shelling by government forces on the outskirts of al Mleiha town, while he was aiding injured people.

[Bashar Sabri al Khairat](#), [a nurse](#) at Kahil Medical dispensary, from al Hrak city in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was a married father-of-one. He was killed on Monday, April 14, 2014, when government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on the medical dispensary in Kahil village in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate

Abu Mahmoud Hajjar (we didn't receive his full name), one of the administrative staff of the Medical Council of Aleppo city, was killed on Sunday, April 20, 2014, when government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Aleppo city.



Kamal Najoum, a surgeon, from Tadef town in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was earlier arrested by government forces; it was subsequently confirmed that he died due to torture in the Air Security branch in Aleppo city on Thursday, April 24, 2014.

IV. Legal Conclusions:

The Syrian government has blatantly violated both international humanitarian law and customary humanitarian law, committing crimes amounting to war crimes by targeting medical personnel, as well as committing crimes amounting to crimes against humanity represented by mass murder.

Some armed groups have also committed crimes amounting to war crimes.





Conclusions and attribution of responsibility:

We, at the Syrian Network for Human Rights, as an independent Syrian national human rights organization working to defend human rights, attribute responsibility for the direct targeting, torture and detention of medical personnel to the President of the Syrian regime and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Bashar al Assad, as the individual primarily responsible for ordering such acts. We also consider all organs of the Syrian government to be directly responsible, in addition to the governments supporting the Syrian regime, such as the Russian, Chinese and Iranian governments and all the militias loyal to them.

The Syrian opposition also bears responsibility for prosecuting and following up perpetrators of violations in areas under its control, and for actively deterring them from repeating such practices rather than merely issuing statements of condemnation.

Recommendations:

UN Security Council:

The UN Security Council must assume its legal and moral responsibilities vis-à-vis the crimes being perpetrated in Syria, rather than remaining a silent spectator amidst the daily bloodbath.

