



## 45 Media Activists Killed, 27 Abducted and Arrested, and 38 Injured in the First Half of 2016 Among them were 12 killed, four arrested and abducted and 15 injured in June

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## I. Introduction

Media activism in Syria is continuously deteriorating as many international organizations are not paying enough attention to what is happening in Syria and the notable decline in media coverage over the last year compared with previous years.

SNHR publishes a monthly report documenting the violations against media activists who play a prominent role in the civil movement and the armed conflict.

It should be noted that a journalist is a civilian according to the international humanitarian law regardless of his nationality. Any attack directed against a journalist is considered a war crime. However, when a media activist gets close to military targets, he is responsible for his own actions where targeting him in such case would be seen as collateral damage. Also, he would lose the right to protection if he was involved in military operations. We believe that media activists must be respected whether they have identification papers as media workers or don't considering the many difficulties they encounter to acquire these papers.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

*“Media activism is especially important because it often sheds light on string of various crimes that are taking place on a daily basis. Therefore, we record the violations perpetrated by conflicting parties in our monthly reports on violations against media activists.”*





After the commencement of the Cessation of Hostilities statement on 27 February 2016, Most of the Syrian governorates have seen a notable and a relatively good decline in killing rates compared to the previous months since 2011. The main focus is the areas controlled by the armed opposition given that other territories such as areas controlled by the Democratic Union Party and the Syrian regime are not targeted with a heavy and daily aerial bombing which is the main cause behind the killing of more than 60% of the victims, the destruction of buildings, and displacement of residents.

One day after the High Negotiation Committee decided to postpone its participation in Geneva talk on 19 April, government forces and Russian forces resumed bombing areas outside the Syrian regime's control and the killing rates increased back to its former levels before the Cessation of Hostilities.

SNHR emphasizes that serious and quick steps must be taken to save media activism in Syria and renews its condemnation of all violations against the freedom of media activism regardless of the perpetrators. The freedom of media must be respected and the workers in the media field must be protected and particularly considered. All individuals involved in violations against journalists and media activists must be held accountable. The international community, represented by the Security Council, must act upon its responsibilities in order to protect civilians and media activists in Syria.

## II. Methodology

According to SNHR's [methodology](#), a civilian journalist is anyone who plays a notable role in reporting and publishing news. He is not necessarily neutral as a journalist should be.

In case a civilian journalist carried a weapon and was directly engaged in offensive military operations, he is no longer deemed a citizen journalist whereas it is possible that he would be referred to as a civilian journalist again provided he retires completely from military action.

This report draws upon SNHR archive and the investigations conducted by the Network (to read more about SNHR methodology in documenting victims:





in addition to accounts by victims' families, information from local activists, and analyzing the pictures and video footages that we have been receiving and archiving in our records since 2011.

In light of the security and logistic difficulties to access all the areas where violations take place, it is worth noting that these statistics and incidents are only the bare minimum of the actual magnitude of crimes and violations that happened.

## II. Executive Summary

### • **Violations against media activists in the first half of 2016:**

Violations against media activists in the first half of 2016 are distributed as follows:

#### **A. Extrajudicial killing: SNHR documented the killing of 45 media activists as follows:**

- Government forces: killed 14 media activists including one woman and three due to torture.
- Russian forces: killed six media activists.
- Extremist Islamic groups:

ISIS: killed 14 media activists including one woman.

- Armed opposition factions: killed six media activists
- Kurdish self-management forces: killed two media activists
- Unidentified groups: killed three media activists.

#### **B. Arrest: We documented 19 arrests; 17 of which were released later, and nine releases as follows:**

- Government forces: we documented two arrests that were released later, and two other releases.
- Extremist Islamic groups:

Al-Nusra Front: we recorded seven arrests that were released later (including a woman), and four other releases.

- Armed opposition factions: we recorded one arrest, five arrests that were released later, and three other releases.
- Self-management forces: we recorded one arrest, and three arrests that were released later.

C. Abduction: We documented eight abductions that were carried out by groups that we haven't been able to identify.





**D. Injuries: We recorded 38 injuries as follows:**

- Government forces: 21 injuries
- Russian forces: six injuries
- Extremist Islamic groups:

ISIS: three injuries

- Armed opposition factions: two injuries
- Self-management forces: one injury
- Unidentified groups: five injuries

**E. Other violations against media activists: We documented 10 violations against media activists as follows:**

- Government forces: four incidents
- Extremist Islamic groups:

Al-Nusra Front: one incident

- Armed opposition factions: three incidents
- Unidentified groups: two incidents

**• Violations against media activists in June 2016:**

Violations against media activists in June 2016 are distributed as follows:

**A. Extrajudicial killing: SNHR documented the killing of 12 media activists as follows:**

- Government forces: killed four media activists, including one due to torture.
- Russian forces: killed three media activists.
- Extremist Islamic groups:  
ISIS: killed four media activists
- Unidentified groups: killed one media activist

**B. Arrest and release: we documented two arrests that were released later, and one another release as follows:**

- Extremist Islamic groups:  
Al-Nusra Front: we documented one arrest that was released later.
- Armed opposition factions: we recorded one release.
- Self-management forces: we recorded one arrest that was released later.





**C. Abduction:** We recorded two abductions by groups that we haven't been able to identify. The two abductees were released later.

**D. Injuries: we recorded 15 injuries as follows:**

- Government forces: seven injuries.
- Russian forces: four injuries.
- Unidentified groups: four injuries.

**E. Other violations against media activists:** We recorded two incidents involving armed opposition factions

### III. Details

**A. Violations by government forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias):**

**Extrajudicial killing:**

Sunday 5 June 2016, media activist [Osama Mohammad Fo'ad Jom'a](#) was killed by an artillery shell fired by government forces artillery stationed in Al-Ramousa neighborhood. The shell, which targeted Al-Mash-had neighborhood, hit an ambulance that Osama was inside where he was heading to cover the bombing on the neighborhood by government forces.



[Osama](#) is a photographer for Images Live Agency, he is from Tqad town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1997, and has a high school diploma.

SNHR contacted Osama Jom'a's brother, Jom'a Jom'a who told us:

*“As my brother was heading with an ambulance to document the bombing on Al-Mash-had neighborhood in Aleppo, he was targeted by Al-Ramousa artillery. A number of shrapnel hit his head in addition to a shrapnel in his back and one in his leg. He was rushed immediately to Al-Zarzour neighborhood where he died at 3:00 PM.”*





Tuesday 7 June 2016, [Hassan Al-Masri](#) died after he was hit by shrapnel from a tank shell as [he](#) was covering clashes between armed opposition factions and government forces on the southwestern front in Darayya city in Damascus suburbs governorate.



[Hassan](#), known as Hassan Al-Dierani, is a photographer for Shuhada' Al-Islam brigade, an armed opposition faction. He is from Darayya city in Damascus suburbs, born in 1992, [he](#) is a first-year university student at Al-Sharia faculty in Damascus University, single.



Friday 17 June 2016, we received information confirming the death of the cameraman [Belal Hussein](#) due to torture inside branch 215, affiliated to the Military Intelligence division in Damascus city. Belal was arrested from his place of residence in Damascus city by government forces in 2012.

[Belal](#) is a cameraman for the Syrian Arab TV channel, from Al-Qunaitera governorate, he was 32-year-old at the time of the arrest.



Tuesday 21 June 2016, media activist [AbdulWahed](#) Mo-hammad Ramadan AbdulGhani was killed by shrapnel from government forces artillery shell while he was covering clashes between government forces and armed opposition factions at Al-Mallah battlefront in Aleppo governorate.

[AbdulWahed](#), a photographer for Anadan Media Center and Failaq Al-Sham, an armed opposition faction, is from Anadan city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1993, has a high school diploma, single.





## Injuries:

Saturday 4 June 2016, media activist [Mohammad Al-Atasi](#) was hit by shrapnel from a shell fired by a government forces tank which resulted in injuries in his head and back. The injury occurred as Mohammad was covering clashes between government forces and armed opposition factions at Khalsa battlefront in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

[Mohammad](#), known as the poet of Aleppo suburbs, is a reporter for Theqa Agency, from Kafr Hamra city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, [he](#) is 22-year-old, he is a law student at Free Aleppo University, single.

SNHR contacted the media activist [Mohammad Al-Atasi](#) who told the Network:

*“While we were documenting the clashes at Khalsa battlefront in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, we were targeted by government forces tanks in an exposed area, a shell fell near me and three shrapnel hit me in the head and one in my back, I was rushed to the nearest medical center.”*

Sunday 5 June 2016, media activist [Baraa Jabali](#) was wounded in his head and abdomen by shrapnel from a barrel bomb that was dropped by government forces helicopters on Al-Qaterji neighborhood in Aleppo city which is under the control of armed opposition factions.

[Baraa](#), known as Bahaa’ Al-Halabi, is a reporter for Al-Anadolu Agency and a photographer for Aleppo Media Center, he is from Al-Bab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1997, has a secondary education certificate, single.

Tuesday 14 June 2016, media activist [Mohammad Adnan Amer](#) was wounded by shrapnel that hit him in the head. The shrapnel was from a barrel bomb that was dropped by government forces helicopters on Jesr Al-Haj area in Al-Firdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and under the control of armed opposition factions. Mohammad was injured as he was covering the bombing on the neighborhood by government forces.



[Mohammad Adnan](#), known as [Hadi Al-Abdullah](#), is an independent media activist from Al-Qseir city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, born in 1987, has a nursing certificate from Tishreen University, single.





Tuesday 14 June 2016, media activist [Khaled Zuhair Al-Eissa](#) was wounded by shrapnel that hit him in the head. The shrapnel was from a barrel bomb that was dropped by government forces helicopters on Jesr Al-Haj area in Al-Firdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and under the control of armed opposition factions. Mohammad was injured as he was covering the bombing on the neighborhood by government forces.



[Khaled](#) is an independent photographer and member of the media office of Kafr Nobbol city, from Kafr Nobbol city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, [he](#) is 24-year-old, has a secondary education certificate, single.

Wednesday 15 June 2016, media activist [Ahmad Ismail](#) was targeted by a government forces sniper (two bullets in his ulna and one in his hand) as he was covering clashes between government forces and armed opposition factions at the battlefield of Bustan Al-Basha neighborhood in Aleppo governorate.

[Ahmad](#) is a photographer for Al-Sultan squad, an armed opposition faction, from Jub Al-Qubba neighborhood in Aleppo city, born in 1993, has a high school diploma, married.

Saturday 18 June 2016, media activist [Ma'an Hassan Al-Shnan](#) sustained a number of wounds and bruises after a barrel bomb was dropped by government forces helicopters on Dahrrat Awwad neighborhood, located in Aleppo governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions.

[Ma'an](#) is a photographer for Suna' Al-Basma Al-Suriya Team, from Aleppo governorate, born in 1992, a student at the computer institute in Aleppo University, single.

Sunday 26 June 2016, media activist [Yasser AbdulLatif](#) was hit by shrapnel from a shell fired by government forces artillery in his loin. Yasser was injured as he was covering clashes between armed opposition factions and government forces at Al-Mallah battlefield in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

Yasser is a photographer for Ahrar Al-Sham Movement, an armed opposition faction, from Al-Bab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1981, has a high school diploma in Sharia, married and a father of two.





## B. Russian forces

### Extrajudicial killing:

Sunday 19 June 2016, media activist Mahmoud Mohammad Jawad was killed by shrapnel that hit most of his body. The shrapnel was from a missile fired by allegedly Russian warplanes. The warplanes targeted the car he was in as he was heading for his university in Al-Dana village on Al-Qastillo road in Aleppo governorate.



Mahmoud is an editor for Hebr Jounal, from Aleppo governorate, born in 1994, a third-year university student at the IT engineering faculty in Aleppo University, single.

Monday 27 June 2016, media activist [AbdulKhalig Dibou Hajjou](#) was killed by shrapnel from a missile as he was covering the bombing on Al-Mallah battlefront in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate by allegedly Russian warplanes.



AbdulKhaled is a photographer for Nour Al-Din Zenki Movement, an armed opposition faction, from Qebtan Al-Jabal town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1996, has a secondary education certificate, single.

Monday 27 June 2016, media activist [Aqil Raslan AbdulAziz](#) was killed by shrapnel from a missile as he was covering the bombing on Al-Mallah battlefront in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate by allegedly Russian warplanes.



Aqil is a photographer for Nour Al-Din Zenki Movement, an armed opposition faction, from Qebtan Al-Jabal town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1996, has a secondary education certificate, married.





## Injuries:

Friday 3 June 2016, media activist [Sami Mustafa Al-Raj](#) was hit by shrapnel from a missile. The shrapnel hit his head, right leg, and right hand as he was covering the missile bombing by allegedly Russian warplanes on Hraitan city, located in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions. [Sami](#) is the manager of the media center of Anadan city and a member of the Syrian Revolution Forces media office in Aleppo city, he is from Anadan city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, 25-year-old, a first-year university student at the Arabic Language department in the faculty of literature, married.

SNHR contacted the media office Sami Al-Raj who told the Network:

*“I went out to document the thermobaric missiles bombing by Russian warplanes on Hraitan city in the suburbs of Aleppo, when I arrived at the site, the warplanes targeted the same area again which led to injuries in my right leg and a fracture in my left hand in addition to bruises in my head. This is the four time I was injured, I was injured three months ago while I was covering clashes between armed opposition factions and government forces in Jam 'yat Al-Zahraa' neighborhood in Aleppo governorate by a shrapnel from government forces artillery. The shrapnel is still inside my head.”*

Sunday 5 June 2016, media activist [Ahmad Mohammad Subhi Rashid](#) sustained bruises in most of his body after a missile fell near him while he was covering the bombing by allegedly Russian forces on Darat Eizzeh city in Aleppo suburbs governorate.

[Ahmad](#) is the manager of the media office of Darat Eizzeh city and a photographer for Theqqa Agency, from Darat Eizzeh city, born in 1986, has a sociology certificate from the faculty of literature, married.

SNHR contacted Ahmad Rashid who told the Network:

*“Russian warplanes carried out a missile airstrike on Darat Eizzeh on 5 June 2016, I went with two media activists, Reda Al-Haj Bakri and Ali Al-D'ief, to cover the incident. When we arrived at the site, warplanes targeted the site again with a second airstrike, we laid on the ground next to a wall to protect ourselves, the missile, which fell approximately 25 meters away from me, resulted in bruises and pains in my ear due to the sound of the explosions.”*





Sunday 5 June 2016, media activist [Reda Haj Bakri](#) was injured in his two legs and sustained bruises in his hand after shrapnel from a missile hit him as he was covering the bombing by allegedly Russian warplanes on Darat Eizzeh city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

Reda is a media activist who works with the media office of Darat Eizzeh city, from Darat Eizzeh city in Aleppo, born in 1991, a second-year law student.

Sunday 5 June 2016, [Ali Al-D'ief](#) sustained minor bruises in his back after a missile fell near him as he was covering the bombing by allegedly Russian warplanes on Darat Eizzeh city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

Ali is a media activist from Darat Eizzeh city in Aleppo, born in 1994.

### **C. Extremist Islamic groups**

#### **- ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State)**

##### **Extrajudicial killing:**

Saturday 25 June 2016, the media office of ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate published a [video](#) entitled: “Inspirations of Satan” in which the media activist Samer Mohammad Al-Aboud is being slaughtered using a knife on accusation of infidelity. He was arrested seven months ago.



Samer is the head of Taf'ul Development Network and a founder of “coordination of the Free Radio of Deir Ez-Zour” webpage, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate, 33-year-old, university student, single.

Saturday 25 June 2016, the media office of ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate published a [video](#) entitled: “Inspirations of Satan” which shows the killing of the media activist Sami Jawdat Al-Rabah through attaching an explosive device to his laptop. Sami was killed over accusations of photographing and revealing sites and centers of ISIS for the international coalition forces. Sami was arrested seven months ago.



Sami is an independent media activist, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate, 28-year-old, single.





Saturday 25 June 2016, the media office of ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate published a [video](#) entitled: “Inspirations of Satan” which shows the media activist Mahmoud Sha’ban Al Haj Kheder being choked to death with a metal chain over accusations of infidelity. Mahmoud was arrested by ISIS eight months ago.



Mahmoud is the head of Al-Aan Radio in Deir Ez-Zour, married.

Saturday 25 June 2016, the media office of ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate published a [video](#) entitled: “Inspirations of Satan” which shows the beheading of the media activist Mohammad Marwan Al-Eissa using a knife over accusations of infidelity. ISIS arrested Mohammad on 2 October 2015.



Mohammad Marwan, known as Mohammad Al-Hemsi, is a reporter for Al-Jazeera.net website and a member of the coordination of Al-Nateq Media Network, from Deir Ez-Zour governorate, born in 1975, has a certificate from Al-Masaha institute, married.

### **Al-Nusra Front:**

#### **Arrest:**

Friday 3 June 2016, Al-Nusra Front arrested the media activist [Hazza’ Adnan Al-Hazza’](#) from his home in Kafr Nobbol city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions and Al-Nusra Front, after he submitted a Facebook post in which he criticized the practices of Al-Nusra Front, he was released on Saturday 11 June 2016.

Hazza’ is an editor for Al-Mantra newspaper and a trainer of staffers at the Revolutionary Offices Union, from Kafr Nobbol city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1975, has a certificate in law, married and a father of four kids.

SNHR contacted Ahmad Al-Bayoush, executive manager of Fresh Radio, who told the Network:

*“On Friday morning a group affiliated to Al-Nusra Front arrested the media activist Hazza’ Al-Adnan Al-Hazza’ from his home in Kafr Nobbol, they took him in his pajamas to an undisclosed place after he posted a number of posts on his Facebook page where he criticized the practices of the Front and its elements.”*





“[Hazza](#)’ was warned before by Al-Nusra Front after he submitted a number of similar posts before which made him post an apology for the Front. However, he continued criticizing the Front and its elements after he saw that they are making the same mistakes which led to him being arrested.”

#### **D. Armed opposition factions**

##### **Release:**

Sunday 12 June, Ahrar Al-Sham Movement released [Fa’ez Al-Dghiem](#) after he had been arrested for 80 days over criticizing the Movement’s practices according to people close to him. Fa’ez submitted a number of posts on his Facebook page about the Movement.

Fa’ez is a media activist, from Jarjanaz town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, he is 29-year-old.

##### **Other violations:**

Sunday 12 June 2016, media activist [AbdulMun’em Faleh Al-Khalil](#) was severely beaten by Shabab Al-Sunna, an armed opposition faction, after they stormed into his home in Ma’rba town, located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and under armed opposition faction control. This happened after [AbdulMun’em](#) submitted a post on his Facebook page criticizing the irresponsible practices of some of the group elements. AbdulMun’em was bruised in his face and all over his body.

[AbdulMun’em](#), known as the attorney of Ma’rba, is the head of the media office of Daraa governorate council, he is from Ma’rba town in the suburbs of Daraa governorate, has a certificate in law from Damascus University, married.

Saturday 18 June 2016, elements from the Islamic Union of Ajnad Al-Sham, an armed opposition faction, raided the media office of Al-Kiswa town in Damascus suburbs governorate, under the control of armed opposition factions, and wrecked its contents and assaulted who were there.





## **E. Self-management forces (Consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party - Kurdistan Workers' Party)**

### **Arrest and release:**

Monday 13 June 2016, Syrian Democratic Forces (mainly the Democratic Union Party – The Kurdistan Workers' Party) arrested the writer [Dalkash Mer'ie](#) from his place of residence in Alat Qaws town and released him on the same day.

Dalkash is a writer from Alat Qaws village in the suburbs of Al-Hasaka governorate, 55-year-old.

## **F. Unidentified groups**

### **Extrajudicial killing:**

Friday 24 June 2016, media activist [Khaled Zuhair Al-Eissa](#) died of injuries sustained due to shrapnel that hit his head and most of his body after an explosive device explosion. [The explosive](#) device was implanted in front of his house in Al-Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions as of 16 June 2016. We haven't been able to identify the party who implanted the device as of this writing.



[Khaled](#) is an independent photographer and member of the media office of Kafr Nobbol city, from Kafr Nobbol city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, [he](#) is 24-year-old, has a secondary education certificate, single.

### **Injuries:**

Friday 3 June 2016, media activist [Bassam Ahmad Al-Mustafa](#) was hit with a number of shrapnel in his body after a landmine exploded at Kafr Ghan battlefront in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate as he was covering clashes between armed opposition factions and ISIS. We haven't been able to identify the party that installed the landmine.

[Bassam](#) is a photographer for Soqour Al-Jabal brigade, an armed opposition faction, and head of the media office of northern parts of Aleppo governorate, he is from Kansafra village in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, 25-year-old, has a certificate in physiotherapy from the medical institute, married.

SNHR contacted the media activist Bassam Ahmad Al-Mustafa who told us:





*“as I was working on covering clashes between armed opposition factions and ISIS at Kafr Ghan battlefield in the suburbs of Aleppo, a landmine exploded and two shrapnel hit my hand, this resulted in a fracture and the nerve was cut. Also, two shrapnel hit my thigh and caused my nerve to cut in addition to a shrapnel in my back and another in my pelvis.”*

Thursday 16 June 2016, media activist Mohammad Adnan Amer was wounded by shrapnel that hit his head, abdomen, and legs after an explosive device detonated in front of his house in Al-Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions. We haven't been able to identify the group that implanted the device as of this writing.



[Mohammad Adnan](#), known as [Hadi Al-Abdullah](#), is an independent media activist from Al-Qseir city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, born in 1987, has a nursing certificate from Tishreen University, single.

Thursday 23 June 2016, media activist [Omar Yousuf Jijou](#) sustained burns in his right hand after a bombed car detonated near Ar-Ra'ie town battlefield in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate as [he](#) was covering clashes between armed opposition factions and ISIS. We haven't been able to identify the group that bombed the car as of this writing.

Omar, known as Omar Al-Shamali, is a photographer for Baladi Media Network, from Aleppo city, 43-year-old, has a high school diploma, married.

Thursday 30 June 2016, media activist [Ahmad Abdou AbdulWahhab](#), was shot beneath his spine by unknowns in Madaya town in Damascus suburbs governorate within the parts controlled by armed opposition factions. We haven't been able to identify the party responsible for the shooting as of this writing.

[Ahmad](#) is an independent media activist, from Madaya town in Damascus suburbs governorate, 24-year-old, has a certificate in English Language from the faculty of literature, single.





### **Abduction:**

Wednesday 1 June 2016, media activist [Wasim Al-Khatib](#) was abducted in Al-Qaboun neighborhood, located in Damascus city and under the control of armed opposition factions. The abductors put Wasim in a car, beat him and insulted him, and stole the money he had on him. They released him on Saturday 4 June 2016. We haven't been able to identify the group who executed the abduction as of this writing.

Wasim is the head of the Syrian Institution for Documentation and Publishing in Damascus and Damascus suburbs governorate, he is from Irbeen city in Damascus suburbs, born in 1990, has a certificate in economy and trading, single.

SNHR contacted Wasim who told the Network:

*"I was abducted by unknowns in front of the main mosque in Al-Qaboun neighborhood in Damascus city between 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM when two guys covered my face and put me in a car where they severely beat me and insulted me under the threat of weapon. They took me to an unknown place I couldn't recognize because I was blindfolded and handcuffed."*

*"I was abducted for three days during which I was interrogated and had my personal items stolen. They didn't feed me in the last two days. After three days, I was released in a rough and dark area."*

Friday 17 June 2016, media activist [Saif Allah Al-Ahmad](#) was abducted by unknowns near Al-Farhaniya Al-Sharqiya village, located in the suburbs of Homs governorate and under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the abductors drugged him using a tissue that he put on his nose. The abductors destroyed his media equipment and stole his money and motorbike. They released him after a period of time. We haven't been able to identify the group who executed the abduction as of this writing.

[Saif Allah](#) is a reporter for Orient News TV channel, from Talbisa city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, 23-year-old, has a certificate from a health institute, married. SNHR contacted Saif Allah who told the Network:

*"near Al-Ghajar village intersection, which is located near Al-Rastan city, a guy who was carrying a laptop stopped me at the time of Maghrib prayer to ask me if I can give him a ride to Talbisa city. He rode behind me on my motorbike, when we got close to Al-Farhaniya Al-Sharqiya he put a tissue on my nose and I fainted. When I regain my consciousness,*





*I found myself in a room with eight guys. One of the guys called someone and he was told to just “just intimidate him” one of the abductors destroyed my equipment (a laptop, phone, and a microphone) and took my money. I fainted again and found myself at Al-Ghajar village intersection.”*

## V. Recommendations:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

To condemn the targeting of media activists in Syria and sheds light on their sacrifice and suffering.

**Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic:**

To conduct investigations that focuses on the targeting of media activists given their vital role in recording incidents in Syria.

**The Security Council:**

To work on fighting the policy of impunity by referring the cases in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

**International and Arabic media institutions:**

To advocate their colleagues in the field of media by publishing periodic reports that shed light on their daily suffering and memorialize their sacrifice. Also, they must contact their families to console them.

Finally, all parties have to respect the international humanitarian law with respect to the protection of civilians and especially media activists and their equipment.

## Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims’ families and our thank for the families and friends of media activists who contributed effectively to this report.

