



ISIL's Torture and Detention Centers "The Black Bottom"

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I. Introduction and Methodology

ISIL established secret or public detention centers in regions that are under its control to detain thousands of residents. Prisoners are incarcerated due to different accusations. Most of the times, criticizing ISIL's oppressive policies is considered the main reason for arrests or abductions. Hence, the civil society and all popular movements were oppressed. To ISIL members or cadres, as long as people are abiding to their religious terms and not criticizing their ruling, then they can live peacefully under ISIL's terms of living.

We believe that ISIL was emerged due to decades of political conflicts and not just Islamic extremism. ISIL's phenomena remain a complex one that cannot be limited to Jihadists or Salafists. ISIL considers its prisoners as infidels or atheists and recruits new members.

- Methodology:

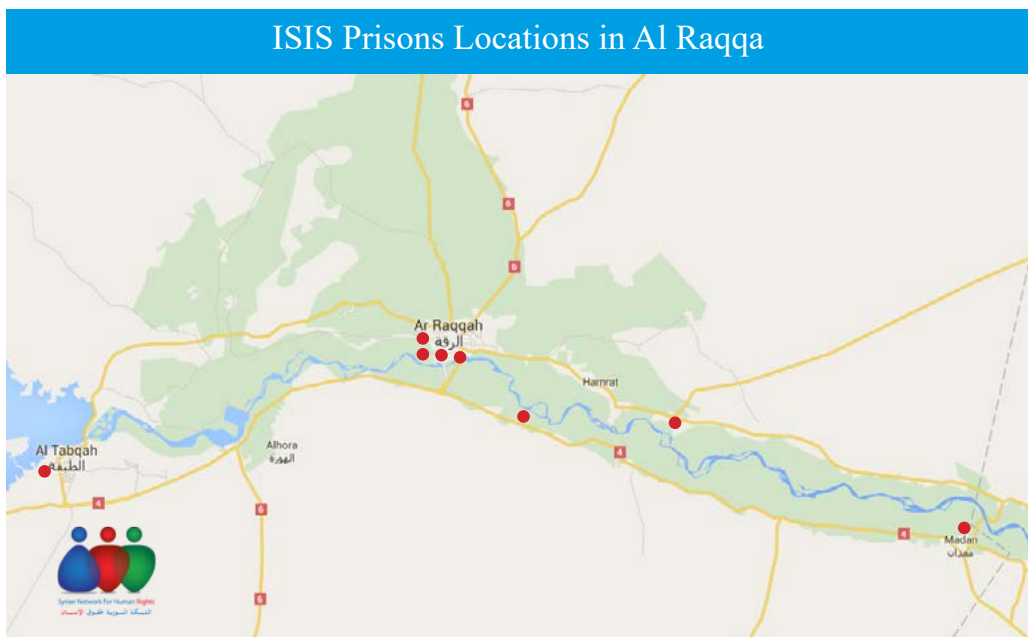
According to SNHR daily documentation since 2011, we communicated with survivors from ISIL's detention centers and with local residents and activists who live nearby those prisons. We either met the eyewitnesses or residents or interviewed them via Skype or the phone. Their real names were changed due to security reasons and we explained the aim behind these interviews and were granted their permission to publish their testimonies. Despite that, we were not able to record all of ISIL's detention centers or prisons, especially their secret ones. ISIL resorted to secret jails after the international coalition commenced its airstrikes on Syria on 23 September 2014.





We recorded the arrest of not less than 6318 individuals including 713 children and 647 women since ISIL was established on 9 April 2013 and up till 31 January 2016. We also estimated the enforced disappearance of more than 1188 individuals including 411 children and 87 women since 9 April 2014 and up till March 2016. We estimate that ISIL has not less than 54 detention centers, which are known to the public. Al Raqqa governorate comes first with the number of detention centers with 26, then Deir Al Zour with 20 prisons and Aleppo with 8 prisons. In this report we were able to monitor 19 detention centers including some prisons, detailed as follows:

- **Al Raqqa Governorate:** 8 detention centers in the following regions: The Governor's Palace, Al Akrayshi Camp, the Municipal Stadium, Mou'wiya School, Al Hisba Prison in Al Ma'adan city, the women's prison, the Hisba prison in Al Karama town, and ISIL police prison in Al Tabaka city.

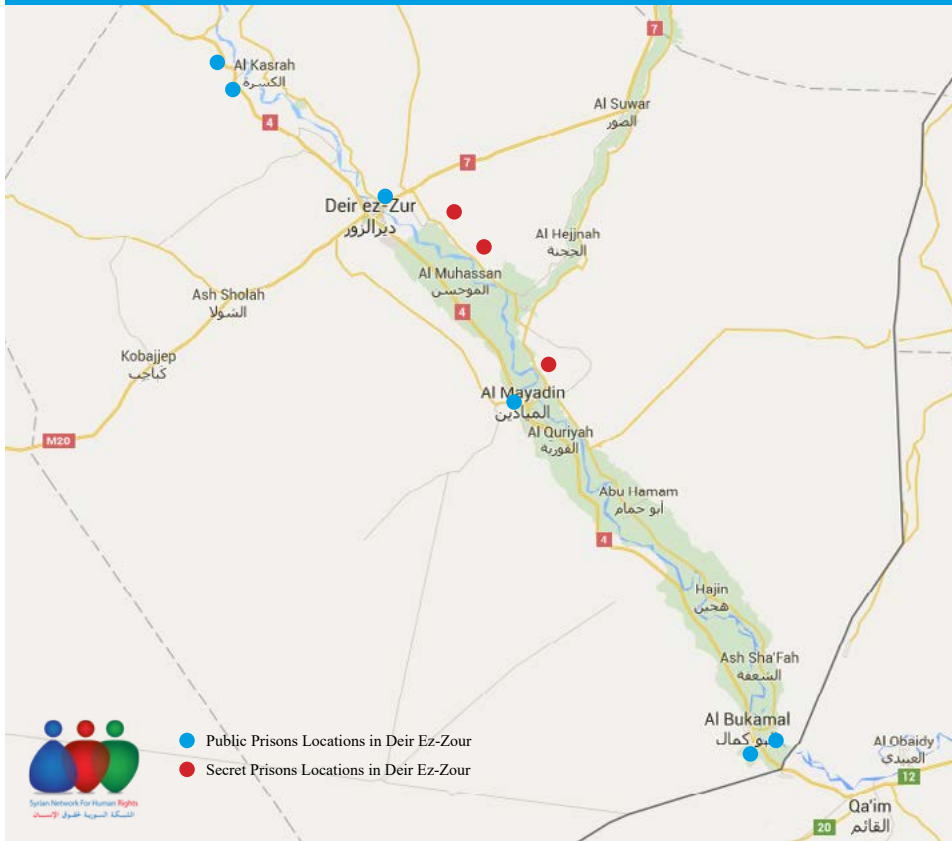


- Deir Al Zour Governorate: 6 detention centers in the following regions: Al Shamteyi, Al Tabani, Al Housayniyi, Al Baseera, Al Mayadeen and Al Bu Kamal.





ISIS Prisons Locations in Deir Ez-Zour



- Aleppo Governorate: 5 detention centers in the following regions: Jarables, Menbej, Deir Hafer, Al Bab city and other detention centers.

This report depicts 6 testimonies for survivors from ISIL detention centers. Most of the testimonies are similar regarding the torture methods but are different regarding the arrest causes.

II. A brief summary about the mechanism of ISIL courts:

ISIL established the “religious courts” in order to make sure that people apply the religious provisions according to their perspective. It established several courts which deal with the residents’ complaints against ISIL’s members, courts that deal with commanders’ of questionable loyalty, and courts that deal with prisoners of greatest importance to ISIL.





Judiciary in ISIL's state is divided into three parts:

1. The “Complaints” Department which deals with complaints against ISIL members, fighters or commanders. This court also deals with disputes among citizens.
2. Islamic Courts which deals issues related to violating ISIL's imposed laws. This court refers to the Supreme Islamic Court in Al Mawsel in Iraq.
3. Al “Hisba” Department is the department which executes the provisions that are issued by the Islamic Court. This department also investigates the individuals who do not abide to the ISIL religious imposed laws.

“Al Wali” supervises the judiciary system in ISIL Religious Courts. Al Wali is a person who acts like a governor who is in charge of governing the administrative land called the regional state. He assigns a deputy who oversees the religious committees. These committees are responsible for supervising the court and judges' work. Each of the above departments is independent from each other in terms of tasks and supervision.

Further, there are mainly two police services:

The first department is called the “Islamic Police”, and it is responsible for applying the provisions that are issued by ISIL and its security forces in regions under its control. This department tasks include conducting inspections at security checkpoints, issue traffic violations, and resolve personal disputes between individuals. Members of this department are religiously trained and they report to specialized individual who acts as a link between them and court judges.

The second department is called “Al Hisba”. This department is responsible for applying and monitoring religious provisions. It makes sure that the residents' actions are in line with ISIL's religious rulings, e.g. avoiding buying and selling during the prayer times, impeding drugs, alcohol, music instruments, cigarettes and statues. This department is also responsible for investigating all violations of the religious rulings i.e. adultery and homosexuality. The most treacherous crimes are referred to the courts.

ISIL ascribes “Sheikhs” (religious men) to perform periodic visits to the central prisons in order to provide religious education for prisoners. These visits increase before prisoners are released.





Without a doubt, not only ISIL deprives its prisoners and individuals who live under its control from their basic human rights, but also categorically violates it.

III. Arrests and Torture:

Through dozens of interviews with survivors from ISIL's prisons, we can confirm that ISIL conducts widespread torture on its detainees, as previously discussed in a previous report that was issued in January 2014.

ISIL has a hierarchal structure to a certain extent and we noticed a consistency regarding the torturing techniques in different regions that are under its control, which amounts to crimes against humanity. We recorded the killing of 22 individuals under torture since ISIL was established and until January 2016. This relatively small number might refer back to ISIL's pattern in executing prisoners and detainees.

It is worth mentioning that, we noticed a discrepancy in the torturing techniques. Individuals who are detained due to wrongdoings are tortured less, and then released after they are asked to repent. However, human rights and media activists who oppose ISIL were tortured brutally. ISIL's torturing techniques resemble those of the Iraqi and Syrian regime's methods, which we discussed in a previous report. Nonetheless, we noticed new patterns and methods of torture, detailed as follows:

1. Waterboarding: the detainee is tied to a stretcher or a seat then a piece of wet fabric is put on the detainee's face where it makes it hard for him to breath then cold water is poured on his face. This technique is usually used against foreign detainees as a simulation for what the CIA does during interrogation sessions with suspects after 9/11.





2. Gas Asphyxiation: during the interrogation sessions, detainees are subjected to inhaling poisons gas or tear gas bombs. Sometimes, smoke from fires is used against the detainees in their cells.



3. Slaughtering Illusion: ISIL members tell the abducted individuals that they will slaughter them. Then, they take the individual to the slaughtering site and let him see the knife clearly. They repeat this process several times.

4. Shooting around the bodies.

5. Forcing detainees to watch videos of burning and decapitating previous abducted individuals.

6. Death under torture: ISIL stoned several of its detainees until death. The detainees were accused of violating ISIL's rules.

IV. Dentition Centers :

- Deir Al Zour Governorate:

A. Central Prisons:

SNHR recorded about 20 central prisons in the regions that are under ISIL's control in Deir Al Zour, which are distributed in western, eastern and northern of Deir Al Zour suburbs governorate and inside Deir Al Zour city. Most of them are monitored by ISIL's members of Syrian nationality who are called «Al Ansar» group. Other dentition centers observed by members of varied nationalities especially Saudi, Tunisian and Iraqi members who are called «Al Mohagreen».





The locations of the central prisons are well-known by the residents of Deir Al Zour because ISIL detains the violators there.

The citizens may be detained according many charges like: Smoking, selling cigarettes and alcohol, delaying the prayers in mosque, opening shops or being in public places at the time of prayers, not paying electricity, water and cleanliness bills, and Zakat. Further, quarreling between people, not wearing gown that are below the ankle, shaving hair or beard, wearing tight clothes, thefts, and illicit relations of singles and many other similar cases constitute reasons for arrests by ISIL.

According to the testimonies of the survivors from ISIL's central prisons, these prisons are better than the secret prisons. Food and drinks are available and the space is sufficient to accommodate the large numbers of detainees, and the detainee's families are allowed to visit them and give them food and clothes.

ISIL's members give the detainees lessons on Islamic law under the supervision of religious man who is called «Al Shaikh ». The lessons vary according to the detainee's charges.

ISIL exploits the detainees in its military operations. In 2015, ISIL took the detainees and enforced them to fight or to dig trenches and tunnels. This punishment may last from 3 to 15 days. They took the detainees daily as groups of 150-250 detainees to digging sites. This happened in September and August 2015.

According to the survivors' narrations, the detainees from the central prison in Al Maiadeen town are exposed to such military operations more than others.

SNHR recorded the killing of 4 detainees including a child at the hand of government forces, while they were digging the trenches for ISIL near the military airport in Deir Al Zour

Ahmad K., 19 years old, from Buqrus village in Western Deir Al Zour suburbs is one of the survivors. He was arrested by ISIL on 13 June 2015. Ahmad told SNHR his testimony:

«I was stopped by 5 masked members of ISIL. I was in my way to visit my relatives in the other village. They demanded me to show my ID then they searched on my clothes and they found cigarettes with me. One of





them hit me and said «Oh violator, do you know that this is forbidden and is not allowed in Islam?» Then they took me in their car to Al Hisba center in Al Maiadeen town. There they took my personal information. They lashed me 40 times inside one of center room, then took me to another room, inside there are two detainees one was accused by shaving his beard and the second was accused by smoking. After hours, ISIL members came and took us to a place that is near military airport in Deir Al Zour. There they told us that we would stay there for 3 days to help the members in digging trenches, and then they would release us. They divided time so we had worked for 6 hours daily, then we took a rest for 6 hours alternately. ISIL's members who were digging with us treated us well. We were shelled by the Syrian regime forces while we were digging the trench. After 3 days they turned us back our homes».

Further, SNHR noticed that the detention period ranged between 3 days to 3 months. In some cases the detainees were detained for hours, then ISIL's members lashed them in front of civilians in public places then they released them.

ISIL established Al Hisba center or Islamic police centers in every regions that are under its control like, Al Quria, Al Ashara , Al Salihia, Al Shahil, Al Sheatat, Thiban, In western Deir Al Zour suburbs, and Alsour , al Huraija, in northern Deir Al Zour suburbs, Al Kasra, Hawaiej Thieab in Eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs. The numbers of detainees in each center are about 10- 40 detainees.

Each center consists of two rooms. Individuals are detained for many hours then they are taken to central prisons in cities and residential areas like Al Maiadeen, AlHussainia, Al Bukamal and Halta.

The Most Significant Prisons in Deir Al Zour:

1. Al Shamyateya Prison:

It is located in the town of «Al Shmaytiya» in the western countryside of Deir Al-Zour «. It is run by the Islamic police belonging to ISIL, supervised by a person called «Abu Abdul Karim Al Moghraby». It was established by ISIL in February 2015. It is a house of one of the civilians who had fled from ISIL's injustice. It consists of four rooms, where nearly 50 prisoners, between 7-10 detainees are placed in each room. The accusations vary between violating the ISIL's provisions and personal complaints. This prison is a temporary detention center, where the detainees are held for hours or a few days and then transferred to central prisons in the cities





of «Al-Mayadin» and «Bokmal», «Al-Hussainia», and «Hatla», and that in case they were sentenced to certain issues in the Islamic court of the regulation.

2. The prison of «Al-Tabanni»:

It is located in the village of «Al- Tabanni» in the Western countryside of «Deir Al-Zour », supervised by «Al Hisbeh Office» and the Islamic police together. ISIL detains those who belong to the opposition armed groups, in addition to the charges dealing with foreign parties, finally persons who attack on elements of ISIL or insults or assault their properties.

ISIL has taken over the Salt Mine in the village of «Al- Tabanni» as a headquarters of the prison. Then the prison was transferred to one of the civilian's houses in the village after being exposed to the the international coalition shelling on 23 September 2014.

Currently, about 60 detainees are detained in the prison; each room holds about 5 people. «Abu Al-battar Al- Tabanni» and «Abu Mohammad Al Gazrawi» are responsible for the prison now. ISIL converted several houses in the village to detention centers after the looting and displacing its people, so it is difficult to determine their positions by the international coalition forces.

The prisons in a «Al- Tabanni» village are also provisionally, where the detainees held there for hours or a few days and then transferred to the central prisons of «Al Mayadin», «Al-hussainia», «Bokmal», and «Hatla» in case they were sentenced by the Islamic Court related to ISIL .

3. Al-Hussainia Prison:

Located in Al-Hussainia village in the western countryside of Deir Al-Zour « and is considered as one of the biggest prisons in «Deir Al-Zour», sponsored by the Islamic court, where nearly 100 people are detained and face charges of murder and exercising magic (Muslims who disowned the religion of Islam), in addition to the members of the opposition armed factions who were captivated by ISIL during battles.

Most of the detainees in the prison of «Al-Hussainia neighborhood», were sentenced by the Islamic court. ISIL appointed «Abu Musab Al Gazrawi» to be responsible for the prison till the time of the issuance of the report.





4. Al Basira Prison:

Located in the «Al Basira» in the eastern countryside of Deir Al-Zour», and supervised by the Hisbah Department and the Islamic police. Inside it ISIL detained nearly 40 people who face charges of violating the teachings imposed by the Organization, unhealthy behaviors and other irregularities. Al Basira prison is considered as temporary one as well.

5. «Al Mayadin Prison»:

Located in the city of «Al Mayadin» in the eastern countryside of «Deir Al-Zour»; it is one of the largest regulated prisons of «Deir Al-Zour», supervised by Al Hisbah and Islamic police together. ISIL holds inside approximately 150 persons who are charged with disowning the teachings of the Organization, personal disagreements, homicide, and robbery.

Al Mayadin Prison is considered one of the most important centers of detention in which detainees who are sentenced to regulations. The prison includes about 8 detention rooms each room holds between 8 - 15 detainees.

Ahmed. A. from the city of «Al Mayadin» He is 23-year-old and he is one of the survivors of the detention centers of ISIL. He was arrested by some members of the «Hisbeh» from the town of «Mayadin» on 23 April 2015, because of his presence in the market at the praying time. He spent four days in the Central Prison of Al Mayadin» and then was released after he wrote a pledge of obligation to pray in the mosque.»Ahmed» narrated his story to SNHR:

«I was in the market when it is time for the noon prayer, and went to a shop far from the mosque, approximately 500 meters away. While I am on my way to the store, three members of the «Al Hisbah» stopped me and asked me where I was going; I told them that I want to buy some stuff and then go back to the mosque as there is still plenty of time before the start of the prayer. They responded to me indignantly and insulted me. After discussion with them, they arrested me and drove me to the headquarters of the «Al Hisbah Office» and then to the prison «Al Mayadin» the Central of Islamic court. I was detained in the prison with approximately 10 other detainees, most of whom were accused of violating ISIL's teachings. The room was spacious, carpeted and beside the room, there was a bath, and the food was acceptable and they provide us with





three meals a day.

Each day we used to pray as a group and receive from the religious lessons from Qur'an the Prophet's teachings."

6. Al Bukamal Prison:

Located in the city of Al Bukamal» in the eastern countryside of Deir Al-Zour» on the Syrian Iraqi borders; supervised by the «Al Hesbah Office» and Islamic police together. Nearly 90 people are detained in the prison of «Bukmal» whose are charged of violating ISIL's provisions. The duration of detention was between one to three months. The prison is a house of a number of rooms and in each room there was between 4 to 8 detainees and, in some cases, the overseers on the prison transfer of detainees to fields in the case of overcrowding in the prison.

B- Secret Prisons:

ISIL established the secret prisons; it was also secret for the most of the members belonging to the organization itself. There, most of the members and supervisors of the organization are from non-Syrian leaders and they were called «migrants» and in particular of Iraqi nationality. These prisons are spread in areas where the oil fields such as «Mayadin»,»Al Tanak», «Kuniko» and «Al Jafrah».

ISIL holds in the secret prisons certain categories of those who were kidnapped or their families such as local activists and foreign journalists, leaders of the opposition armed factions, leaders and members of ISIL who try be against the organization in addition to the women who deal with magic, sorcery, and charged of spying with the international coalition forces or external parties. Also, the women who were kidnapped when the organization controlled their Non-Islamic areas and called them «Captives».

Most of the victims, who have been executed cruelly by ISIL and photographed the method of execution, were detainees of the prisons.

Emad.L, from the town of Al Shmaytiya countryside in «Deir Al Zour», 28 years, is one of the survivors of the detention of a secret detention center by ISIL. He was arrested on 11 December 2014. He was charged of dealing with opposition armed factions called «Al Sahwat Organization». Emad gave his testimony to SNHR:





«Approximately 7 masked members of ISIL raided my house. I knew that they are ISIL due to their clothes and the Logo labeled on the vehicle. I asked them to allow me to change my clothes but they refused and dragged me toward the vehicle in a barbaric way. They ascended to my sides two of the militants who covered my eyes and tied my hands, and then they started to hit me by their Kalashnikovs, insulted me and confronted me with phrases such as «an apostate, Al Sahawat agent». After about an hour we arrived. They put me in a room sized approximately 2-4M. They uncovered my eyes, and remained nearly five hours handcuffed in the same room. After that, one of the members entered, released my handcuffs, and took me to the adjacent room which they call «the investigation room». Two masked men spoke the Tunisian dialect; one of them is called «Abu Imama.» They blindfolded me on a chair and started questioning about the free army in the city of Aleppo. They told me that I am accused of communicating with them and planning to target the members of the headquarters of the Organization. But I refuted all these charges and informed them that I was a civilian and some relatives of me belong to ISIL, but they did not believe me. They hit and insulted me. The investigation continued with torture for 7 days at the rate of two hours daily. I could hear the sounds of other torture of detainees in the same place, they provided me with few amount of food and were not enough for me, and they also did not allow me to pray because I am considered as an apostate. All dialects heard from the members of the Organization in the place in which we were detained, were not Syrian dialect, after 7 days they took me to a prison in the town of «Hatlah» in the eastern countryside of Deir Al-Zour».

Emad remained in the Hatla prison for 40 days, during which he underwent the cycle of the religious rehabilitation on a daily rate of three lessons about doctrine and jurisprudence and reading the Holy Quraan. Emad could not identify the place of the secret detention where he was arrested at by ISIL.





The most Significant prisons in Al Raqqa Governorate:

ISIL established, in all villages and cities of Al Raqqa Governorate, central prisons supervised by «Hisba» and «Islamic Police». There is also a private prison for women, in addition to secret prisons. The kidnapped individuals who are of high importance for regulation are detained in military sites or secured headquarters after the international coalition forces shelled the headquarters of the Organization on 23 September 2014. ISIL transferred the detainees between separate homes periodically to make it really hard to determine their positions.

A. The most Significant Central Prisons:

1. Prison of «School Mouaouya»:

ISIL turned the Mouaouya School in the city of Al Raqqa to a detention center, and established a headquarter for Al Hisba, where civilians violators instructions imposed by the Organization. The school prison was supervised by «Abu Hanifa Al Baljiki» who is the leader and the organization calls him «Amir Al Hisba». The school is overcrowded with detainees but the punishment mostly doesn't exceed fifteen days, during which they oblige them to attend the session of legitimates.

2. Hisba Prison in Al Ma'dan:

The prison is located within the Headquarters of Hisbah in Ma'dan city in the countryside of Al Raqqa. It is supervised by the so-called «Abu Mu'awiyah Al Gazrawi», was devoted to the detention of violators of ISIL's provisions in April 2015. ISIL started to detain civilians who leave of the areas of the control of the governmental forces in the city of Deir Al-Zour for conducting investigations with them to ensure that they do not communicate with the governmental forces during their presence in Deir Al-Zour City, and then released after being given religious lessons.

According to the survivors' stories; many of the detainees, who went out from Deir Al-Zour city, were exposed to torture during the investigation. The organization accused them for dealing with the governmental forces. The operations of torture and investigation in the prison were supervised by «Abu Alghuraba Al Yamani» and he is known among the local population in the city of Al Raqqa as one of the most prominent investigators of ISIL in the city.





3. The Females Prison:

Located in the building of the Women's Union in the city of Al Raqqa, supervised by «Al-Khansaa» (special battalion for women) of ISIL, detain women for violating ISIL's provisions, such as the obligation of women to wear service legitimacy, and leaving the home without a man, in addition to the detention of underage captives who were detained in Iraq. The prison is supervised by "Um Al Baraa Al Tunisiya" and «Umm Muhammad Ansariyeh», from the city of Aleppo.

Many of the detainees in the women's prison were subjected to torture in particular by members of ISIL who are Tunisian and they force the detainees to marry of the members of the Organization if case they fail in succeeding the religious course.

4. Hisba prison in Al Karama Town:

Located in Al Karama town in the eastern countryside of Al Raqqa, supervised by a Tunisian immigrant (we have not been able to get his name or even his title) where members of the Free Syrian Army are detained there in particular due to the reason of failing to attend the Repentance course.

5. The Islamic Police Prison in Al Tabaqa city:

Located in the city of Al-Tabaqa the western countryside of Al Raqqah, followed the Islamic police, supervised by the so-called «Abu Mohamed Al Masry. It is one of the largest prisons in Al Raqqa and consists of about 15 cells.

B. The most Significant Secret Prisons:

1. The Governor's Palace:

Located within the city of «Al Raqqa», and was allocated for the Raqqa governor earlier, before the control of opposition armed factions on the city on 4 March 2013, then controlled by ISIL organization on 13 February 2014.

ISIL took from the basement of the governor's palace (the underground floor) a detention center, perhaps due to it is being safe from aerial bombardment. It is one of the most notorious detention centers of Al Raqqa Governorate, currently managed by Abu Lukman, supervisor of Al- Raqqa where the operations of torture took place. These operations are led by Saudi Arabian man; remains veiled permanently even in front of the organization elements (we have not been able to get his name or title).





According to the survivors who narrated their stories to SNHR that the detainees are subjected to methods of brutal torture showed various tortures via electricity, Ghost (suspension of the detainee of his hands or feet and lift it from the ground and left pending the weight of his body), flogging and even death.

2. Al- Akirchi Camp:

Located in the village of «Al- Akirchi» in the eastern countryside of «Al Raqqa» and that is specialized for the detention of ISIL's members who tried to dissent, religious and remarkable figures, who object to ISIL's provisions.

ISIL forces the children who belonging to them to torture the detainees and humiliate them. Most of the detainees in the prison were exposed to extrajudicial executions without the issuing of any verdict by ISIL's Islamic Court.

ISIL executed the religious administrator in the Islamic Court, in the city of Al Raqqa «Turki al-Ani,» on 4 May 2015 in Al- Akirchi camp, because he issued a pardon for four Al Nusra front members who left to Idlib after their release.

3. The Municipal Stadium:

This prison is located in Al Raqqa city where it holds the detainees (activists, clerics, and FSA commanders) who oppose ISIL.

- Aleppo Governorate:

ISIL mainly depends, in the detention campaigns within the areas under its control in the governorate of Aleppo, on the reports that reach its members who work with them secretly and spread among the population. They are Called «Sleeping Agents», who regularly send intelligence reports to the Office of Al Hisba. On this basis, Al Hisba System calls the person or detent them directly if they represent a direct threat, such as: dealing with the west, cooperation with the opposition armed factions, insulting the Divine Entity, which is a charge of cutting the head. Sometimes persons are arrested simply because they traveled outside the control areas of ISIL, particularly when returning from Turkey as they meet foreign organizations, called by the Organization (atheists and infidels).

ISIL, in areas under its control in Aleppo, put the detainees in prisons that are outside their hometowns, especially the prisoners who were sentenced to imprisonment for periods longer than three months to prevent any possible attack by the detainee»





family and relatives on the prison and fearing the sympathy of some ISIL's members since ISIL's members are often from the same city which the detainees belong to. In addition to that ISIL prevents relatives of detainees to visit them in most of the central prisons in Aleppo; it allows only the visit for detainees of minor charges as those who are accused for selling smoke and cigarettes.

1. Prisons in Jarablos city :

Located in Jarablos city; in the north-east countryside of Aleppo near the Syrian-Turkish borders; dominated by ISIL. In 17 January 2014, after the besiegement for nearly a week, we were informed that there is no central prison. They have justified that by the lack of the stability of the city and of insecurity and proximity to the fighting fronts. Also bombardment of the central prison by the coalition forces, which was established by ISIL on 28 December 2014 is considered as another reason.

ISIL confiscated a number of civilian houses, especially authentic ones as detention centers, where they hold the detainees for hours or a few days and then transport them to central prisons in the cities of «Manbij» and « Al Bab» in the countryside of Aleppo.

Mohammad.G. civilian of Jarablos city, gave SNHR his testimony about ISIL's detention centers:

«ISIL converted some houses that belonged to wanted people and runaways outside the city to stations, since they fear the international coalition shelling to its known prisons, as they did in the house of a person called F. GH.

Most of the residents in the city know what kind of torture the detainee in this prison receives such as, various tortures using electricity and the ghost process. All ISIL's members in this prison are masked. The most prominent members of torture: Abu Omar Al Shami, Abu Maarof, and Abu Hadid who are responsible of the police station. There are also members of security officials such as Najib Al-ali (Abu Cham), Ahmed Al Jader (Abu Aisha)».





2 . Prisons of Menbej City:

The city of Manbij is considered as the center of the state of Aleppo with respect to ISIL, because of its control over it and its suburb. ISIL established two central prisons in the cultural center in the city and the hotel. Both are considered one of the main prisons in Menbej city.

M. Q., a civilian from Menej city, was arrested by ISIL because of the altercation occurred between him and one of the members of the organization in March 2015. The period of his detention ranged between the two prisons in the cultural center and the hotel, SNHR reported the torture he was exposed to and the torture methods he saw up on other detainees:

«Interrogations are done under torture (ghost process, beatings with a stick and some of the iron instruments), and some of the detainees suffered fractures and pains in the stomach and back during the interrogation with them. ISIL's members aid the injured detainees and take them to hospitals and after the improvement of their health condition they return them to complete the interrogation and torture».

M.Q. said that the number of detainees in the prisons of the Cultural Center and the hotel is incalculable, because of the distribution of the cells sporadically within each prison.

ISIL's security members implement the provisions of the death penalty and flogging of detainees within the public squares in the city of Manbij. In some cases, the members of the organization talk to some of the detainees' families about the execution of their relatives, and do not hand over their dead bodies after the execution.

3. The prisons in Deir Hafer Town:

The town of Deir Hafer in the countryside of Aleppo city is located near the places of the control of the governmental forces in the area close to Kwairos airport and Al Safira Town, controlled by ISIL on 5 January 2014.

Deir Hafer town has two detention centers; the first is located in the police headquarters of the Islamic Organization in the center of Deir Hafer. It is specialized in interrogating detainees where ISIL detained approximately 95 detainees on charges of violating the teachings imposed by the organization or security charges or ac-





cused of belonging to the factions of the armed opposition or the governmental forces.

The detainees, during the investigation, are exposed to electrocution, in addition to the threat of putting a large knife on the detainees' neck to force them to confess. ISIL installed a big screen in the prison to force the detainees to watch the decapitating scenes. Also, the organization allows the detainees to meet their families after two weeks of detention for a term not exceeding 15 minutes.

The second detention center is called the central prison in Deir Hafer. It is located in the north of the town within a governmental two storey building. The detainees are transferred there from the center of investigation to stay the period of their sentence and the subjection of legitimacy. Nearly 50 detainees are there.

According to the survivors' stories, there are 5 or 6 members of ISIL in the prison, and sometimes there are only two members. They have instructions from the Islamic police in ISIL to kill any detainee trying to escape; and because of the limited number of guards inside this prison we were able to record 12 escaping detainees who were sentenced to death during 2015.

ISIL's location for implementing the death sentences against the detainees in Deir Hafer is in the company of the reclamation of land located east of the town.

According to the statements of a number of the local population to SNHR that the number of sentences carried out the death penalty since the control of ISIL on the town on 5 January 2014 until September 2015 is approximately 298 people, where members of the Organization bury them in mass graves in the company headquarters.

4. The prisons in Al Bab town:

ISIL established one prison in the municipality building in the city of Al Bab and it belongs to the Islamic court. That's why it is called the Prison Court, supervised by the Islamic Police. ISIL detained large numbers of prisoners which are beyond the capacity of the prison; therefore the bad health conditions, humidity, and the spread of diseases are considered as the worst methods of torture suffered by detainees, diverse charges such as murder, robbery, hair shaving and smoking and others.





Salman Mohammad, one of the survivors, managed to escape from the municipal jail «or the court» in the city of Al Bab with a group of detainees on 15 March 2015, he told SNHR about the bad conditions of detention in a prison in the central municipal city:

«When I was detained in the municipal prison in the city of Al Bab, the organization members put nearly 50 prisoners in collective room size of 30m². There was another room with an area of 150 m² where the Organization puts approximately 210 persons. However, the individual rooms were in a very poor condition due to their small size. The detainees were sleeping on their legs and some of them make shifts in the sleep time.»

5. Different Prisons:

Many separate prisons are deployed in villages of the countryside of Aleppo controlled by ISIL (such as the villages of Maskana, Al Mahdoom, and Al Khafsa), supervised by Hisba. It is small in size, and those who are charged with minor conviction like quarrels or simple violations are imprisoned in it from 1 till 3 months.

V- The most prominent persons who are still under detention with ISIL:

- Activist, Basel Abdul Razzaq from the city of Al Raqqa Governorate, born in 1993, on 4 April 2014. He was detained by armed members belonging to ISIL who arrested him from his place of residence in the city of Al Raqqa, still with unknown destiny for the SNHR and his family.



- Abir Tarek Jarwan, female, from the city of Palmyra, Countryside Homs, born in 1986, was arrested on 1 September 2015, ISIL's members arrested her directly from her place of residence in the city, of Palmyra. Her destiny is still unknown for SNHR and her family.





- Activist Hassan Al Hamdo, from the city of Manbij, Countryside of Aleppo, a member of the Information Office of the city of Manbij city. On 24 March 2014 ISIL's members arrested him from the countryside of Aleppo. His destiny is still unknown for SNHR and his family.



VI- Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions:

ISIL committed, beyond reasonable doubt, widespread violations against the international human rights law and the right of the people in the areas under its control, through arbitrary arrests, torture, and the application of the unjust provisions.

Also, similar acts were made against the armed opposition groups, prisoners from the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, and governmental forces and all those acts constitute war crimes under international humanitarian law.

It has been shown through these studies and previous reports prepared by the SNHR that ISIL exercised, within the detention centers of systematic torture, in the context of the large-scale in various areas controlled by them. The amount of crimes against humanity, and that some of the torture operations have ethnic and sectarian dimensions. Sometimes ISIL resorted to deforming the detainees bodies after execution orders.

Recommendations:

To the forces of the international coalition led by the United States and the Russian forces:

Pay special attention to the detainees in ISIL prisons and all other different prisons and avoid committing the same mistakes that were made before. Acquire information from this study to protect the civilians who live under ISIL's control

To the international community:

To provide all methods of support to Human Rights group in documenting the violations that being committed by the extremist organization, and reveal their false allegations before the public opinion in Syria.

The organization of ISIL was founded on 9 April 2013, two years and one month after the eruption of the popular protests that demanded political and economic reform. If the international community supported popular protests, there would be no





existence to ISIL or Al Nusra Front and we cannot eliminate extremism and terrorism as long as political tyranny of the Assad regime exists.

From our point of view, we believe that it is pointless to forward any recommendation to ISIL because it does not recognize but only in his nihilistic regime.

Acknowledgment

Thanks and appreciation to the people of the local activists who have in many cases put their lives at risk in order to shed light on the sufferings of ISIL.



