



## The Death of 54 Individuals under Torture in January 2016 amongst which were killed by Syrian government forces 53

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### I- Report Methodology:

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

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

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

#### **Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:**

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

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





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

## II- Executive Summary:

SNHR documented the death of not less than 54 cases of death under torture inside official and non-official government detention centers and prisons in January 2016. The victims' details are detailed as follows:

A- Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) killed 53 individuals under death.

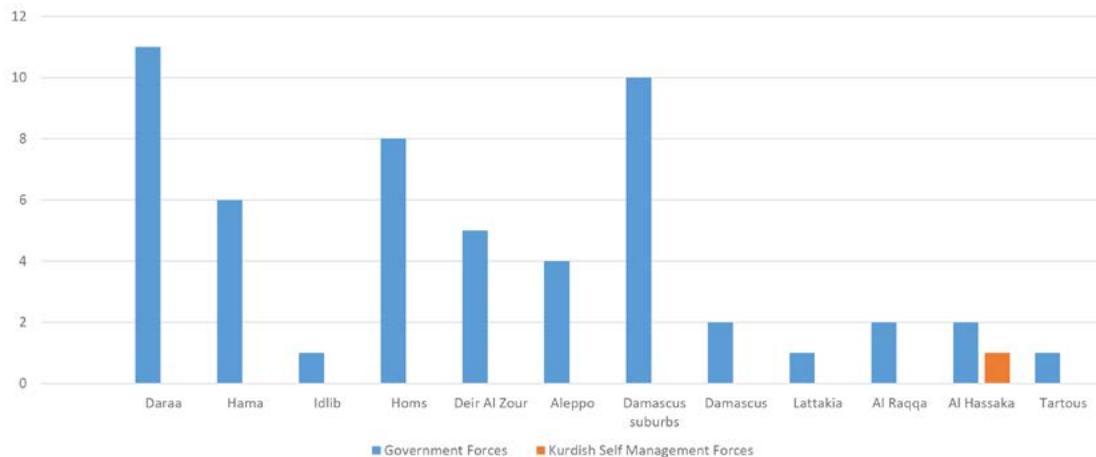
B- Kurdish Self Management Forces killed 1 individual under torture

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

Daraa governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 11 victims, while the toll of other victims was divided as follows:

10 victims were killed under torture in Damascus suburbs, 8 in Homs, 6 in Hama, 5 in Deir Al Zour, 4 in Aleppo, 3 in Al Hassaka, 2 in Damascus, 2 in Al Raqqa, 1 in Idlib, 1 in Lattakia and 1 in Tartous.

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



### The most significant death under torture cases in January 2016 are:

Three engineers, 3 university students, a paramedic, a woman, one case of related family members





### III- The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

#### Engineers:

1- Abdul Kareem Ahmad Khdero, a mechanical engineer from Al Share'ya town in Hama suburbs, was arrested by government forces two years ago. On 18 January 2016, his family informed us with his death under torture in one of the government detention centers. However, his body was not delivered to his family.

2- Ibrahim Attieh Al Obaydi, an engineer, from Inkhil city in Daraa, was arrested by government forces eight months ago. On 24 January 2016, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government prisons.

3- [Amer Issa Al Fadel](#), a civil engineer, from Al Shadadi city in Al Hassaka governorate, was arrested by government forces on 28 September 2015. His family confirmed his death under torture on 6 January 2016 in Saydnaya Military Prison in Damascus. They confirmed that he was in a good health state before his arrest.

#### Paramedics:

1- Amer Mamdouh Al Safaf, a paramedic from Janoub Al Thakana neighborhood in Hama city, 31, was arrested on 19 April 2012 by government forces at a checkpoint in Ein Al Lawza neighborhood in Hama. His parents confirmed that he was in a good health prior to his arrest. They informed us of his death under torture on 30 January 2016 in Saydanya Military Prison.



#### University Students:

1- [Mohamad Haytham Al Meha'al](#), a university student, from Deir Al Zour, 22, was arrested by government forces two years ago. On 3 January 2016, his family informed us with his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

2- Omran Issa Al Fadel, a university student in the faculty of Petrochemical Engineering, from Al Shadadi city in Al Has-saka governorate, was arrested by government forces on 15 June 2015, from Al Ba'ath University in Homs. His family informed us that he was in good health prior to his arrest. Also, his family confirmed his death under torture in Saydany Military Prison in Damascus.





3- Abdul Azeez Ibrahim Al Hmaydi, a university student in the faculty of Literature in Teshreen University, from Khinzer town in northern Raqqa suburbs, 23, was arrested by government forces at one of the checkpoints while he was going to Damascus a year and a half ago. On 22 January 2016, his family confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention centers.



### **Women:**

1- Ghadeer Ismaeil Hmaydo, from Menegh town in Aleppo suburbs, born in 1996, from Damascus, married and a mother of one child, was arrested on 25 December 2015 by government forces on one of the checkpoints in Kafr Sousa neighborhood in Damascus. She was in a good health state back then. On 16 January 2016, her family confirmed her death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

### **Cases of Related Family Members:**

1- Mohamad Riyad Ghazal and his brother Housam, from Al Dumair city in Damascus suburbs, were arrested a year ago by government forces. On 6 January 2016, their family confirmed their death under torture in one of the government detention centers.

## **IV- Conclusions and Recommendations:**

SNHR notes that this huge number of torture victims who are falling on a monthly basis, with taking into consideration that this number is the minimum we were able to get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parties and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime.

Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.

## **Recommendations**

### **Security Council**

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

## **Acknowledgment**

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

