



**Statement**

**The Syrian Regime Recruits Civilians in Regions under its Control  
1217 Arrests Aiming to Recruit Civilians**

In November 2015, Syrian forces distributed lists that contained the names of tens of thousands of individuals for forced recruitment in the army, local militias or even forgiven militias. The lists were generalized to official military offices in Syrian governorates that are under the government control. It included the names of young men who are between 25 and 35 years old, the names of government employees and university students. However, it is worth noting that these young men possessed a government document of postponement of military service. In addition, we were told by a number of doctors and nurses that men who are over the age of 45 were notified to proceed to government military and makeshift hospitals.

Since November 2015 and up till 15 December 2015, SHNR documented the arrest of not less than 1217 young men who are to be forcibly recruited by government forces; amongst which 358 were university students. We recorded the arrests in mainly Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia and Homs.

**According to the residents, the young men were arrested:**

- A- through night raids
- B- on temporarily government checkpoints which were set for this purpose next to vital facilities like markets, malls, universities and government departments.
- C- from public transportation

After the young men were arrested, they were taken to the military police headquarters in their governorate then transported to war zones or areas of clash with armed opposition.

SNHR issued a previous report, entitled "[Youthless Syria](#)", that tackled this phenomenon on 23 October 2014.





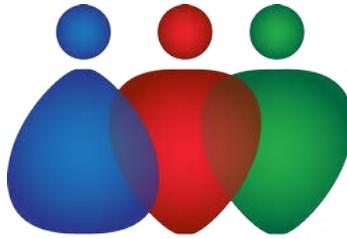
**We believe that these arrest campaigns aim to:**

A- compensate the loss of human lives among government forces especially after great numbers of local militia members sought asylum in different European countries.

B- accomplish on-the-ground progress after having an air cover from Russian forces after their military intervention.

C- gain profits in exchange for releasing the young men who are fighting against armed opposition.

According to what is mentioned in this statement and other reports, the Syrian state has been in a whirlpool since four years and will not be able to progress or succeed if it does not transcend to a democratic level which grants its civilians justice and stability.



Syrian Network For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

