



Six Media Activist Killed, Eight Kidnapped and Arrested, and Three Injured in November

379 media activist have been killed from the beginning of the Syrian revolution until the end of November 2014.

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Executive Summary

Violations against media activist in this month are distributed as follows:

- **Killing:** SNHR documented the killing of six media activists, all of whom were killed by government forces, including a media activist who died under torture.
- **Arresting and kidnapping:** eight cases of kidnapping and arresting were recorded:
 - four kidnappings by regime forces
 - two by armed opposition factions
 - one by Jabhat al-Nusra
 - one by unidentified armed group
- **Injuries:** three injuries were documented, all by regime forces.

Introduction

Obstacles and difficulties facing human rights and media activism increase, in synchronization with lack of reliability which reached a critical and dangerous level. This situation manifests itself significantly through a media chaos, contradictory and misleading information. Politicization and militarization of media and the continuous bleeding of most of the media experts on the grounds – hundreds of media activists were lost, whether they were killed, arrested, kidnapped, fled out of fear or seeking livelihood were among the main reasons behind this huge deterioration of media reality.

Huda Al-Ali, a researcher at SNHR, says: “Dozens of media activists, who decided to stay in their cities, joined armed groups which





are themselves fractured and divided that. With the ascendancy of weapon and power, the possibilities of getting accurate information are increasingly undermined, and thus, media is used as a legitimate war weapon through propaganda and twisting the words and information to attain advantages.”

The media reality suffers mainly in Syria from the absence of protection, the lack of a real efforts to protect journalists and a suitable environment in the midst of the dangerous security situation, crimes, and ongoing violations. Furthermore, there are no independently-financed professional media institutions that can provide legal and professional training and jobs which is one of the most serious challenges that media faces today in Syria. This reality obscure media and journalists from keeping up with the rapid and complicated developments on the various levels and undermined its vital and functional role of monitoring and publishing the most recent news.

As we face this harsh reality that lacks the foundations of the free professional media and the results of hiding the truth, silencing mouths, and obscuring facts, SNHR affirms the necessity of taking serious and immediate actions to save what could be saved in Syria and renews its condemnation of all the violations against media’s freedom and truth-covering regardless of the involved parties and its kind or magnitude. SNHR also stresses the importance of respecting media work, insuring the safety of those who are working in that vital field, and paying them special consideration. The perpetrators of violations against journalists, activists, and media activists must be brought to justice and the International Community, represented by the Security Council, should shoulder its responsibilities to protect the civilians in Syria.

Details

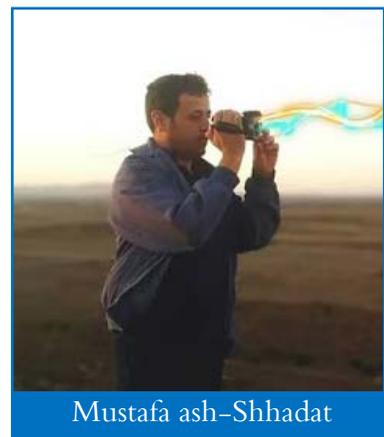
• Violations by Syrian regime and its allied militias:

Victims

Starting with the most notable violation:

• **Media activist A. M**, from Maidan neighborhood in Damascus, died under torture in one of the Syrian regime detention centers (SNHR conserves his name and some information as per his family request). He was arrested in the middle of 2012 and his family knew about his death on 18 November and they were told that he was buried about two years ago in Najha graveyard in Damascus countryside.

• Member of the United Media Center in Khan Sheekhon: **Mohammad Noor Idrees**, on 29 October, killed by a barrel bomb in Khan Sheekhon city in Idlib countryside. He was injured previously and his leg was amputated.



Mustafā ash-Shhadat





- **Mohammad Yusuf Muslim**, aka Abu al-Majd, on 9 November, killed by a land mine of the Syrian regime's remnants in Daraa – Nawa.
- Shahid Media Foundation reporter: **Mustafa ash-Shhadat**, on 12 November, killed by a barrel bomb in Jasim city in Daraa countryside.
- Member of the Syrian Revolution General Commission: photographer **Ammar Eesa al-Kana'an**, on 20 November, he was killed while he was covering the news in Batl Er-eed and Ayn Afa in Daraa countryside.



Ammar Eesa al-Kana'an

- **Abdallah Yonus an-Namr**, on 21 November, died from his injuries that he sustained while covering news in Deir al-Adas in Daraa countryside.

Injuries

The following media activists were injured by the Syrian regime:

- Halab News reporter: **Rada al-Hor**, on 5 November, his motorbike was targeted by an explosive bullet after midnight causing it to fall, in Handarat in Aleppo countryside.
- Al-Jazeera news channel correspondent: **Mohammad Noor**, on 7 November, he was shot in the leg after finishing his report in ash-Sheikh Meskeen in Daraa countryside.
- Shahid Media Foundation reporter and member of the United Media Office in Inkhil: **Abu Abd ar-Rahman al-Ansari**, on 15 November, while covering news in Daraa countryside.



Mohammad Noor

Arresting and Kidnapping:

- Founder and the head of the Center of Democracy and Civil Rights, affiliated to U.N.'s Human Rights Council: **Jadee'a Abdallah Noofal** with two of his fellows: the Journalists: **Omar ash-Shaa'ar** and **Marya Sha'abo**, on 31 October. They were arrested on Jdaydet Yaboos border port, where they were returning to Damascus after attending a workshop about human rights in Beirut. They were taken to the Political Security in Damascus countryside. Reports suggested that Noofal was prohibited from calling his lawyer and family. Jadee'a suffers from heart and pressure diseases. Marya was released lately on 11 November 2014.



Marya Sha'abo





It should be noted that Omar ash-Shaa'ar, a journalist and human rights activist, worked previously as an editor-in-chief at the English edition of the news website, DPress, which the Syrian government approved and listened. He was arrested formerly on 11 November 2013 after a security patrol raided his house and seized his pc, before he was released on 15 June 2014, after eight months of arrest.

- B. H. was arrested by security forces in Damascus in the middle of month. His information was conserved for the safety of his family.

Properties violations

Director of the Syrian Television and Radio Organization: [Suhair Sarmini](#), his car was shot by a security checkpoint in Omayyad Square in Damascus on 20 November, as she mentioned on her Facebook profile that there was no known reason for this behavior especially that she showed her id to the security personnel. “This checkpoint has harmed many civilians and many popular and known people”, she said.



Suhair Sarmini

Violations by armed opposition groups

Kidnapping

The following media activists were kidnapped by armed opposition groups:

- [Amin Kamil Saryool](#) was kidnapped with his father, on 28 October, in Eastern Ghouta by Islam Army fighters for three days, before they were released on 31 October.

- [Marwan ar-Rawwaj](#), aka Abu Hothayfa, on 13 November, in ar-Rami town in Idlib countryside by Ahrar ash-Sham Islamic movement fighters for five days, before he was released because of his bad health. It worth noting that his leg was amputated formerly while he was covering news in a nearby area.

- The author [Aref al-Khatib](#) (68 years), on 13 November, after his house was raided by Jabhat al-Nusra fighters. It should be noted that he's one of the most known children literature authors in the Arabic world and a member of the Arab Writers Union.

- [Laith Fares](#), on 20 August. We've learned recently that he was kidnapped and tortured by unknown masked group in his city, Saraqeb, and was released on the same day after looting all his devices and papers.



Laith Fares





Other violations

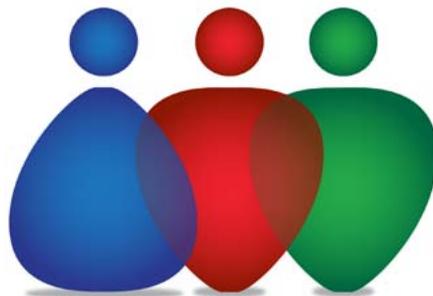
The British Journalist John Cantlie, who is captured by ISIS, was forced again to appear in a propaganda video from Kobani in Aleppo countryside, which the organization controls a part of. He was shown to promote his story about the situations in the city. The video was published on 27 October, in another violation of Cantlie rights who was kidnapped in Syria since November 2012 and was featured before in previous ISIS videos.

In addition, ISIS published a [statement](#) that included general rules for the local journalists who work in its areas. The statement strictly prohibit any journalist from contacting the following TV channels: Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, and Orient.

On the other hand, the faction allowed its journalists to contact international news agencies (Reuters, France Press, and Associated Press) under the exclusive supervision of ISIS media offices. The [statement](#) stated also that these rules are not final and are subject to change in accordance with the situation on the ground and the journalists' level of cooperation and commitment.

Acknowledgment

Thanks and appreciations to the victims' families and relatives and to all the media activists in all fields. Without their contribution and help we wouldn't have been able to publish the report on this level. Our sincere consolation to the victims' families.



Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

