

**Period covered: from 1 / 1 / 2014 to 31 / 1 / 2014**



## **Violations Against Media Activists in Syria January 2014**

**documenting major violations against Media Activists in Syria**

**killing 12 media  
activist abduction 6  
and attack 5 media  
centers**

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**Syrian Network  
For Human Rights**  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

## First: Summary

**Violations committed against media activists for this month distributed as follows:**

**I- Kill:** 12 victims of media activists and journalists:

1. Syrian regime killed 4 including *a female media activist and 1 tortured to death.*
2. ISIL killed 8 media activists 4 of them executed in prison.

**II- Detention and Abduction:** Syrian Network for Human Rights documented 6 cases distributed as follows:

1. Detention: 2 media activists by government forces
2. Abduction: 4 media activist have been abducted this month: 1 by ISIL, and 3 by armed groups.
3. Released: 9 media activists were released 6 of them 9 were abducted by ISIL

**III- Injured:** 6 media activist were injured:

1. Government forces injured 4 media activists.
2. Armed groups forces injured 2 media activists

**IV- Shelling and destruction:** 3 media centers have been shelled by government forces, and 2 stormed by armed groups.

## Introduction

Despite the acquisition of the Syrian regime for decades on lion's share of the amount and type of violence and crimes against media activists, clearly since the beginning of the anti-government people's movement in 2011 from killing, arrest, intimidation and continuous systematic exclusion, and many other prohibited violations, but ISIL entered as strong competent to the Syrian regime in the field of media repression and restrictions.

ISIL could in this month overcame Syrian regime in the size and quality of the violations committed against the media, especially in ISIL-controlled Raqqa governorate where most of media activists left out of fear for their lives, the rest preferred to stay in silence without work, or tow work secretly,, as it seems that even just transfer facts of attacks that undertaken by government troops on those areas are prohibited, as what happened in Al-Bab City, which was shelled frequent by Government warplanes by barrel bombs and led to kill dozens of civilians.it was very difficult to communicate with residents or activists apart from the impossibility of any **SNHR** member to attend to area under ISIL- control, this approach applies perfectly with the Syrian regime's approach.

Although armed rebels could release media and civilian activists, but the fate of many of them still unknown ( MoaedSallom, AbdulwahabMulla, Sky news team, Samar Alsaleh, and many others ).

**SNHR** researcher Huda Alali says: " *That when we watch the accumulation of significant violations in different type and extent against field media activists, noted that nowadays the Syrian media's field is experiencing a huge gap resulted of losing much of media activists either by killing or detention, and this will lead to serious consequences, including blur reality and events, gagged and preventing word and truth "*

**SNHR** reaffirmed its condemnation of the continuous violations against media freedom and convey the truth of any party and whatever type or size disparity.

As the network seeks actively from all parties, to respect media freedom and to ensure the safety of media activists, with accounting involved in violations against journalists and media activists.

**SNHR** also emphasis the need to move hard and fast by security council to issue resolutions oblige all the parties to allow free media coverage.

## Report Details

### A. *Major violation against media freedom committed by government forces in Syria during January2014:*

SNHR monitored during January2014 the kill of 4 media activists were killed including a female media activist and 1 tortured to death, 4 were injured, 2 were arrested, and 3 media centers were shelled.

#### Killing:

- 1) Bloody events started when Syrian security forces tortured to death media activist Ahmad Naawra ( a founder of Salahudin revolutions coordinating council )after one year detention, 12/1/2014.
- 2) Female Media activist Bayan Horia Tabaji, first female correspondent of Sky News on satellite channel, after injured by fragments of barrel bomb in Marjah neighborhood of Aleppo, 23/1/2014
- 3) Media activist Ibrahim Saad Aldin Alkhalil, member of Dier Baalba neighborhood's media Bureau, killed during covering events in Homs Northern countryside 23/1/2014.
- 4) Media activist Mohamad Zakaria Moheb Aldin, during media covering in Yabroud of Damascus countryside, 23/1/2014.

### Detention and Abduction:

- 1) Syrian Security forces arrested in 10/1/2014 the artist Hazem Waked from his home in Damascus.
- 2) A patrol of Syrian Security forces arrested in 13/1/2014 Bishowa Bahlawi" correspondent of Rawwdadd Kurdish channel TV, while preparing report near Hosain mosque on Cornich street of Qamishli city.

### Injuries:

- 1) A member of Mdira coordinating carders of Damascus countryside killed in shelling mosque town by many bombs after Friday prayer, 17/1 /2014.
- 2) Correspondent of Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV channel Wael Adel, shelling by government forces while covering events in Aziza of Aleppo countryside, 21/1 /2014.
- 3) Photographer of Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV channel Abu Jawad, shelling by government forces while covering events in Aziza of Aleppo countryside, 21/1 /2014.
- 4) Severely beaten on Media activist Ayman Al-Doe, while trying to take pictures for Yarmouk refugee camp, members of The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command ((forces of Ahmed Jibril)) 25/1 /2014.

### Shelling:

- 1) Government forces shelled media bureau in Mzireb town of Daraa countryside 14/1/2014.
- 2) Shelling Shahba Press in Shikh Najjar neighborhood of Aleppo by barrel bomb led to totally destroy the office 21/1/2014, the office before shelling was broken and stolen by undefined armed groups.
- 3) Targeting and destroy Daraya media bureau of Damascus countryside with barrel bombs, the losses were limited to physical damages 25/1/2014.

### ***B- Major violation against media freedom committed by armed opposition Syria during January 2014:***

**SNHR** recorder unprecedented raise in kidnapping workers in the media field by armed groups, 8 media activist all of them killed by ISIL including 4 of them executed in prison.

Other 4 media activists were kidnapped by ISIL, and 3 by others armed groups.

In addition to release 9 media activists, 6 of them were abducted by ISIL.

2 of them were injured by undefined armed groups.

Two media centers were broke by ISIL.

## Details:

### Killed Victims:

ISIL killed each of:

- *Journalist Amer Husain Shon defeat of Jamahir newspaper, shot in Atarib of Aleppo countryside during fighting with FSA3/1/2014.*
- *MohamadQaraniah: media activist of Nusra Front executed in children hospital in QadiAskar of Aleppo, where they was holding him and other prisoners before they withdrew 6/1/2014.*
- *Sultan Al-Shami: media activist inShadaAlhurria TV channel executed in children hospital in QadiAskar of Aleppo, where they was holding him and other prisoners before they withdrew 6/1/2014.*
- *Amin Abu Mohammad : media activist inShadaAlhurria TV channel executed in children hospital in QadiAskar of Aleppo, where they was holding him and other prisoners before they withdrew 6/1/2014.*
- *Maher Al-Hasromi: media activist inShadaAlhurria TV channel executed in children hospital in QadiAskar of Aleppo, where they was holding him and other prisoners before they withdrew 6/1/2014.*
- *Ali Jasim: media activist in Jarabls of Aleppo countryside, during covering clashes 12/1/2014.*
- *Marwan Mansour : media activist, during covering clash-esin Shaala area of Aleppo countryside 17/1/2014.*
- *Husam Saidi: media activist, during covering clashes in Shaala area of Aleppo countryside 17/1/2014.*

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While other violations and crimes diversities among kidnapping, detention, threaten, attack and seizure media centers, including:

### Arresting :

**Mohammad Rasoul: Aleppo News Network reporter, detained by revolutionary military police at Hanano resident neighborhood , from his house in the neighborhood in charge that some people have suit him, the Network denounced their correspondent because the lack of convincing evidence, 18/1/2014.**

### Abduction:

- 1) Kidnapping Media activist AmerHamed by unknown in Durbasia town of Hasaka countryside , he is one of the most prominent activists and top revolutionists in Hasaka governorate 13/1/2014.
- 2) Kidnapping Media activist Husam Al-Halabi: correspondent at Aleppo Media Centre, by undefined armed groups after storming and stealing the centre in Maasarani neighborhood of Aleppo, 10/1/2014.
- 3) Kidnapping Media activist Mohamad Noor: correspondent at Shaam Network, by ISIL after storming Ritan city of Northern Aleppo countryside 10/1/2014, then released after almost two weeks 21/1/2014.

### Released :

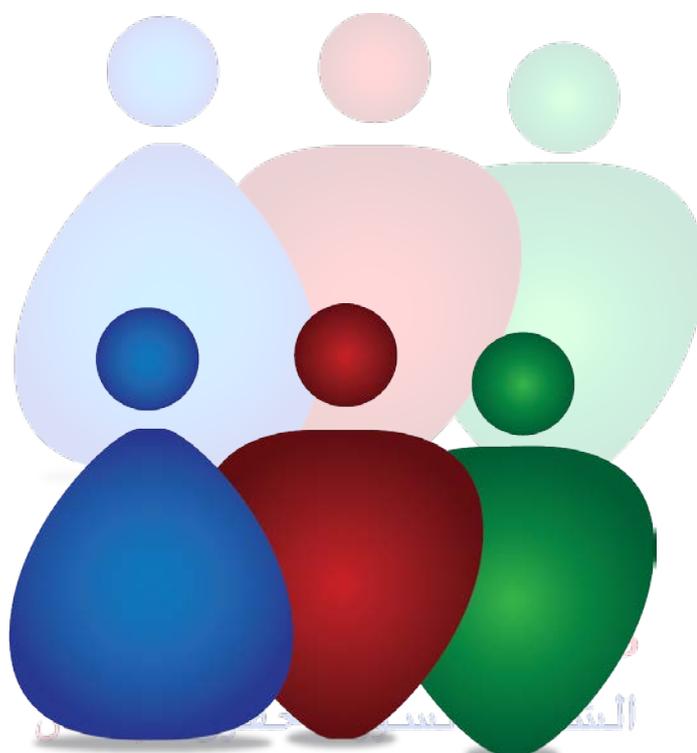
- *Released the writer and opposed political activist Khalaf Al-Jarbouaa, shown that he was kidnapped by Freedom Sham Movement in Raqqa 17/1 /2014, not by ISIL as it was suspected.*
- *Released director and photographer Omar Khani from Culture Centre of Tadeif city in Aleppo countryside, he was arrested for the second time by ISIL for demanding to release his American wife that he was arrested for the first time with her in 5/8/2013 and she still abducted since.*
- *Released the Sweden journalist Magnus Falkehed and Niklas Hamarstrom, they left to Beirut airport 8/1/2014, after being kid-napped near Lebanese border in 23/11/2013.*
- *Released media and relief activist Ahmad Brimo from eyes hospital in Qadi Askar neighborhood of Aleppo in 8/1/2014, after he was kidnapped by ISIL in 16/11/2013.*
- *Released Milad Shihabi correspondent and photographer of Shahba Press from eyes hospital in Qadi Askar neighborhood of Aleppo in 8/1/2014, after he was kidnapped by ISIL in 27/12/2013.*
- *Released Mohamad Sallom, media activist and editor-in-chief in Ghorbal magazine in Kafar Nobl of Idlib countryside in 4/1/2014, after he was kidnapped by ISIL few days earlier in 30/12/2013.*
- *Released Bunyamin Aygun: correspondent at Milliyet Turkish newspaper in 5/1/2014, was kidnapped last month in Syria armed group suspected to be ISIL in 17/12 /2013.*
- *Released Saif Idlbi: Media activist was released from ISIL prisons in 5/1/2014 near Dana village after detention lasted for 38 days since 28/11/2012, he was judged by execution .*

### Injured:

- 1) Shafer Abu Salah: media activist shot in his foot, when masked men tried to kidnap him in front of Shifaa hospital in Shaar neighborhood of Aleppo in 13/1/2014.
- 2) Raed Alfares: media activist and manager of Kafar Nobl Media Bureau, shot in his back when masked men tried to assassinate him on his way back from his office to his home, 29/1/2014.

### Raiding:

- 1) ISIL stormed and raided Fajr Shahba foundation for art production, broke furniture and stole contents 15/1/2014.
- 2) Armed group suspected to be ISIL stormed Anatoly Agency office in Shiekh Najjar area of Aleppo, while the carders was making news coverage in another area of Aleppo, broke furniture and stole contents, equipments, transmission devices and two cars of correspondents in 21/1/2014.



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## Conclusions and Recommendations

### Legal Conclusions:

- *Rule 34 of Customary IHL the applicable law in the armed conflicts.*  
*Rule 34. Civilian journalists engaged in professional missions in areas of armed conflict must be respected and protected as long as they are not taking a direct part in hostilities.*
- Widespread unlawful killing operations committed by government forces, not only don't respect media nature, but also deliberately target media activists and workers since the beginning of Syrian revolution to this date, the ongoing fact that we lose as a monthly average nearly 20 victims between media activists and reporters.
- It proves that the violations committed by government forces are systematic state policy, it evidenced by the large number of media victims in all of the Syrian governorates, so it is crime against humanity according to the article 7 of Rome Statute.
- Syrian Government's Forces deliberately committed those crimes under non-international armed conflicts which is considered as a war crime according to Article 8 of the Rome Statute.
- Armed groups in Syria, especially ISIL committed multiple violations against Syrian medias, which amount to war crimes.
- Syrian National Coalition Of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces should follow-up and account those responsible of such violations and should ensure that no one of them escape punishment.
- SNHR reaffirmed its condemnation of the continuous violations against media freedom and convey the truth of any party and whatever type or size disparity.
- As the network seeks actively from all parties, to respect media freedom and to ensure the safety of media activists, with accounting involved in violations against journalists and media activists.
- SNHR also emphasis the need to move hard and fast by security council to issue resolutions oblige all the parties to allow free media coverage.

### Recommendations:

- Intensification of press and media coverage about the tragedies and violations committed against the Syrian people.
- Supporting the struggle of the Syrian people and their revolution to get freedom and democracy.
- Train Syrian media activists in order to upgrade their media and press level.

## Attachments

### A- Victims ,wounded and detainees by Government's forces:



**Female Media activist  
Bayan Horia**



**Media activist Ibrahim Saad Aldin Alkhalil** الشها



**Bishowa Bahlawi**



**Media activist  
Ahmad Naawra**



**Media activist Mohamad  
Zakaria Moheb Aldin**



Media Bureau in Mzireb town of Daraa



Media Bureau in Mzireb town of Daraa



Media Bureau in Mzireb town of Daraa



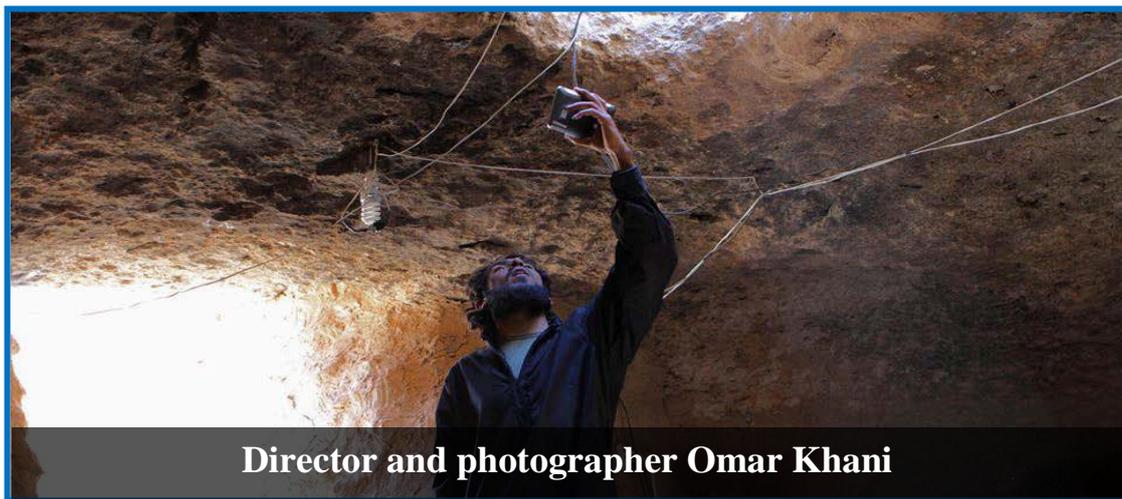
The artist Hazem Waked

Syrian Network

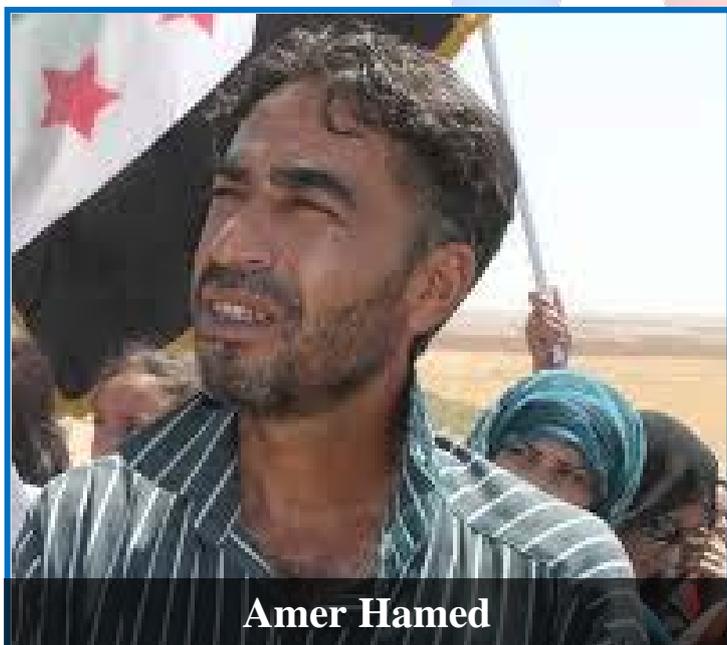


Correspondent Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV channel Wael Adel

**B- Victims and Abduction by Armed groups:**



**Director and photographer Omar Khani**



**Amer Hamed**



**HusamSaidi**



**Marwan Mansour**



**Ali Jasim**



**Husam Al-Halabi**



**Milad Shihabi**



**Ahmad Brimo**

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**Sweden journalist Magnus Falkehed and Niklas Hamarstrom**



**Turkish journalist Bunyamin Aygun**



**Amer Husain Shon**



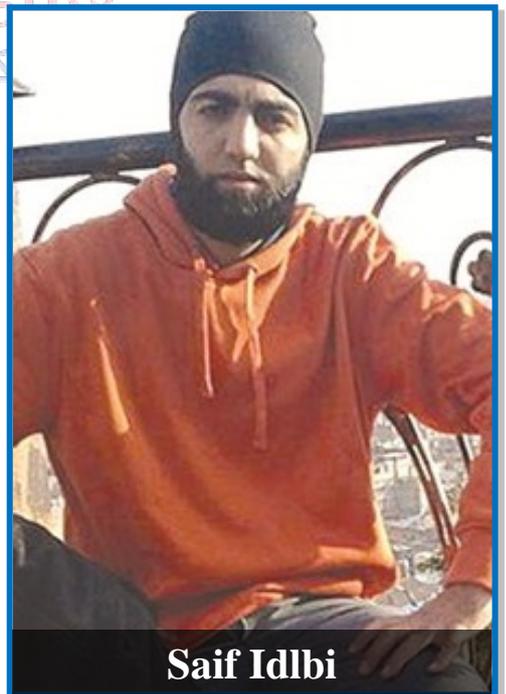
**Khalaf Al-Jarbouaa**



**Sultan Al-Shami**



**Mohamad Sallom**



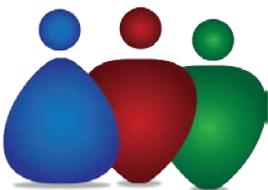
**Saif Idlbi**



## Syrian Network For Human Rights

شكر و تقدير

كل الشكر والتقدير لأهالي الضحايا وأقربائهم ولجميع النشطاء الإعلاميين من كافة المجالات الذين لولا مساهماتهم وتعاونهم معنا لما تمكنا من إنجاز هذا التقرير على هذا المستوى.



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