

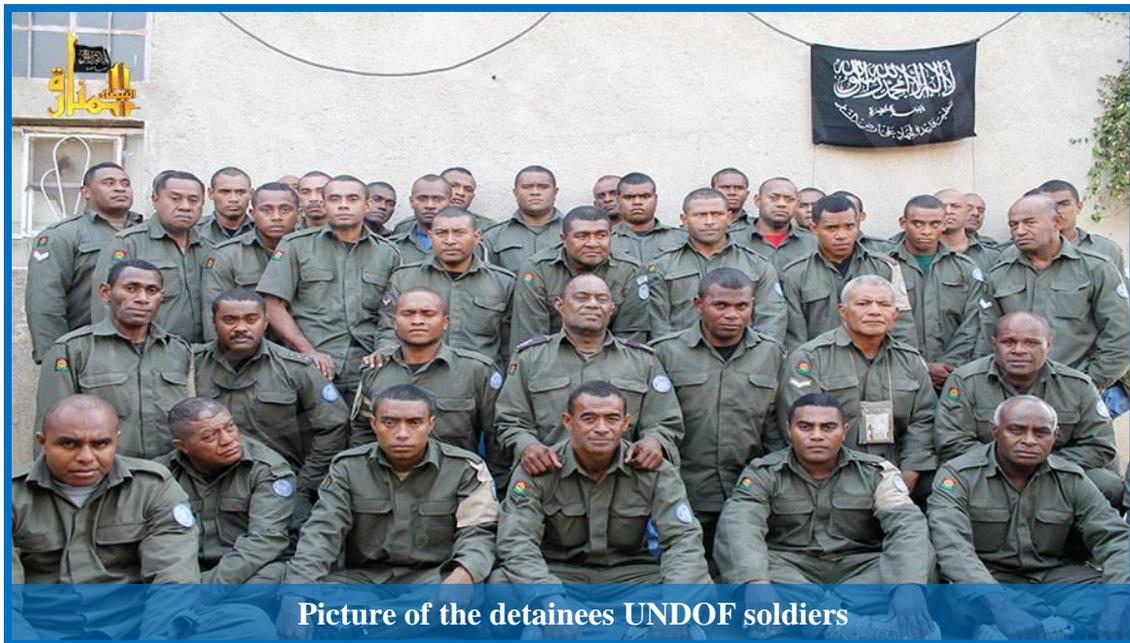
Statement**Condemning the kidnapping of UNDOF personnel**

On Wednesday 27 August, 2014 in the morning several armed factions (Bait Al-Maqdes Islamic group, Faloujat Houran brigade, An-Nusra front, Thour Syria front, Al-Jihad battilions, and Ahrar Ash-Sham movement) attacked sites for the Syrian regime in Al-Qunietra countryside near the border crossing with the occupied Golan Heights. The armed faction managed to take over the border crossing as well as the old Qunietra which is located near the crossing.

On the next day 28 August, 2014, An-Nusra Front solely besieged one of UNDOF headquarters which is located near the ancient parts of Qunietra. Then, An-Nussrea raided the site, and detained the 43 soldiers who were in it. Also, An-Nusra took all the contents of the headquarters including the cars and equipment.

Simultaneously, another Nusra-affiliated troop besieged two other UNDOF headquarters in Ar-Ruwyjinya and Brieqa towns. According to UN sources, there were 83 soldiers in the sieged areas.

On Saturday 30 August, 2014, clashes erupted between An-Nusra front and the UNDOF forces that were stationed near Ar-Ruwyihna while the UNDOF soldiers who were in Al-Brieqa managed to withdraw to Israel. Afterwards, An-Nusra raided the headquarter and seized all the equipment in it.



Picture of the detainees UNDOF soldiers



In the night, An-Nusra front issued a statement to announce that it kidnapped 43 UNDOF soldiers. An-Nusra explained why it kidnapped the soldiers and assured that the soldiers were safe. However, the statement didn't include anything about releasing the soldiers. A picture of the 45 soldiers with a flag of An-Nusra front behind them in an unknown place was attached with the statement. Also, several pictures of the soldiers' cards were published.

Furthermore, the armed opposition's Faloujat Houran brigade, which participated in the attack against the Syrian regime sites at first, issued a statement on Friday 29 August, 2014 to declare that the brigade had nothing to do with the detaining of the UNDOF soldiers. Also, the statement condemned these actions and demanded An-Nusra front to release the soldiers immediately noting that the attack was an individual act by An-Nusra front and it didn't inform any of the other involved factions of its true intentions.

Additionally, The Islamic Front's, Ahrar Ash-Sham movement issued a similar statement to deny that it has any relation to arresting the UNDOF soldiers and assure that it is only fighting against the Syrian regime only in Daraa.

[SNHR](http://www.sn4hr.org) condemns the kidnapping of the UNDOF personnel by An-Nusra front and holds its leadership and all the fighters involved responsible for their safety and any other consequences. Also, the Syrian opposition should act upon its responsibilities in pressing and negotiating with An-Nusra in order to release the UNDOF soldiers.

Furthermore, the International Community shouldn't address this issue separately from the general Syrian issue and it should review the international methods adopted to address the Syrian issue. Also, the International Community should pay greater attention to the consequences of the lengthy reluctance to find a way that would put an end to the crimes of the Syrian regime and the terrorist militias (Daesh "IS" and especially the Shiite militias) and achieve the desired political solution.

Attachments and Evidences

