



## 105 were Tortured to Death in December 2014

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### First: Introduction

Since 2011, the Syrian regime has refused to recognize any arrests as it accused Al-Qaeda and the terrorist groups of committing these crimes. Also, the Syrian regime don'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.

Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and its members are 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 the families and its testimonies.

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





## Second: Executive Summary

SNHR documented 105 victims who were tortured to death inside the official and unofficial detention centers in December 2014 as follows:

Government forces: 104

Kurdish Forces: one

The ceaseless cases of victims who are being torturing to death reflect the systematic excessive force that is being used against detainees.

Hama had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death in December with 18 victims whilst the other victims were divided as follows:

Damascus: 14

Idlib: 14

Daraa: 13

Aleppo: 11

Damascus countryside: eight

Latakia: seven

Homs: five

Der Ezzor: three

Ar-Raqqa: three

Qunietra: three

Al-Hassaka: two

Tartus: two

As-Suwyida: one

## Third: Most notable cases were as follows:

Three doctors

One child

One elder

Two cases that involved victims from the same family (five victims in total)





## Doctors

**Abdulhamid Abdulmu'ien At-Tallawi**, from Idlib – Khan Shaikhoun city, he was arrested by government forces nine months ago, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death inside a detention center on Wednesday 10 December, 2014.



Abdulhamid Abdulmu'ien At-Tallawi

**Emad Ali Mahna**, physician, from Qunietra – Majdal Shams, 45-year-old, he was arrested by government forces in Damascus – Jermana on Saturday 29 June, 2013, his family told us that they were informed that he was torture to death inside Palestine branch on Thursday 18 December, 2014. His family hasn't received the body yet.



Emad Ali Mahna

**Hesham Subhi Abdurrahman**, doctor, from Tartus – Banyas, 37-year-old, founder of the Free Syrian Doctors organization, he was arrested while he was heading to Damascus on Thursday 19 April, 2012, his family learned that he was executed inside Sydnaya prison on Friday 19 December, 2014.

## Elders

**Hassan Shlash As-Samara**, from Daraa – Mahja city, 74-year-old, he was arrested by government forces on Tuesday 9 December, 2014, his family told us that he was tortured to death inside a detention center on Sunday 21 December, 2014.

## Children

**Afan Jomaa Al-Aboush**, child, from Al-Hassaka – Sharmoukh village, 16-year-old, he was kidnapped by YPK forces on Friday 12 December, 2014, after he was missing for two days, his mother found his body near Al-Hajjiya village (which is a military point affiliated with YPK) with signs of torture on it.





### **Cases that involved victims from the same family**

Ahmad Eidou Al-Yousuf and his brother Nasr, from Idlib – Der Ash-Sharqi village, they were arrested in Damascus countryside about a year ago, their family told us on Wednesday 3 December, 2014 that their mother went and got their IDs from a security branch.

Khaled Qassas and his two brothers Rajab and Ahmad, from Aleppo city – Sahat Al-Melh area, they were arrested by government forces in Latakia – Ras Al-Basit about 16 months ago, on Friday 12 December, 2014, their families told us that they were informed that they were tortured to death inside a detention center.

### **Fourth: Recommendations and conclusions**

SNHR affirms 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 parts and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime.

### **To the International Community**

It seems that that the UN Security Council is completely unable to take any action or stop the ruling regime in Syria, even after four years of the continuous widespread killing, despite the sound and firm evidences found by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Using the facts that we have proven over the course of our work in documenting hundreds of massacres and ongoing violations, we urge anyone to help us to file a lawsuit to the I.C.C. prosecutor directly.

### **Fifth: Acknowledgments**

Our thanks go to everyone who helped and contributed to deliver information to SNHR, especially the cooperating activists. We extend our most profound condolences to the family and relatives of the victims and also our huge appreciation of their cooperation despite their great sufferings.

