



Death under Torture Is More than It was before the Ceasefire Agreement The Killing of 29 Individuals under Torture, 26 amongst which were killed by Government Forces on April 2016

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I. Report Methodology:

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

Also, most of the families assure use that their relatives were in good health when the arrest was made and it is highly unlikely that they died of an illness.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:

“The principle of “Responsibility to Protect” must be implemented as the state has failed to protect its people and all the diplomatic and peaceful efforts have failed as well. Crimes against humanity are still being perpetrated on a daily basis in Syria mainly at the hands of the state authorities.”





Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and 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 families' testimonies

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

II. Executive Summary:

SNHR documented the killing of not less than 29 deaths under torture in government official and non-official detention centers in April 2016, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) :26
- B. Extremist Islamic Groups:
 - i. ISIL: killed 1
 - ii. Al Nusra: 1
- C. Armed Opposition Groups: killed 1

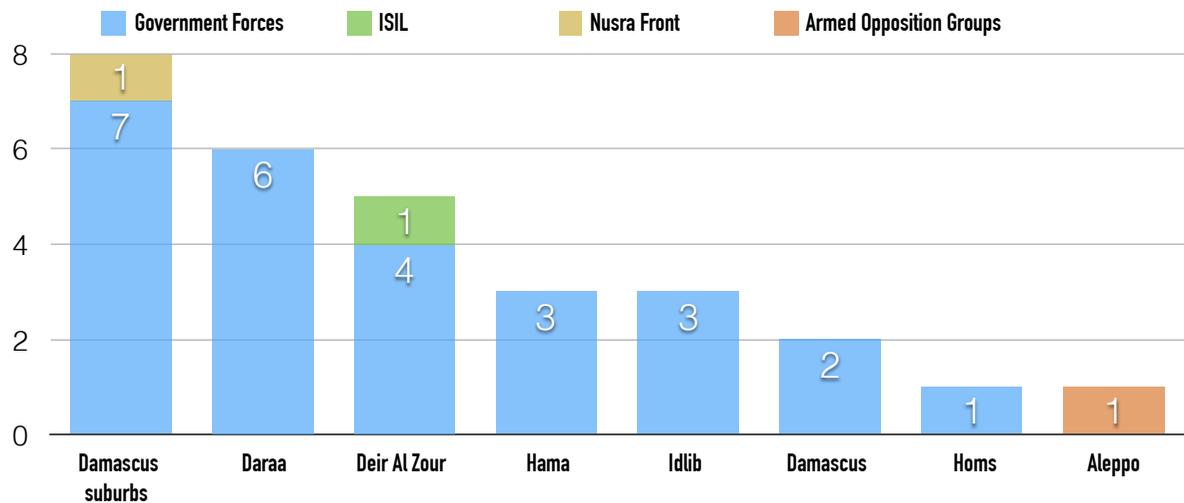
Cases of victims being tortured to death have been recorded ceaselessly since 2011 which clearly reflects the excessive and systematic force that is being used against detainees.

Damascus Suburb governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 8 individuals. Moreover, individuals were killed under torture in various areas classified as follows: 6 in Daraa, 5 in Deir Al Zour, 1 in Homs, 2 in Damascus, 3 in Idlib, 1 in Aleppo, and 3 in Hama.





Torture victims' distribution according to the Syrian governorates and the major conflict parties in Syria:



The most significant death under torture cases in April 2016 are:
An athlete, a medical cadre, and one old man.

II. The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

Athletes:

Soud Taha, former coach of Al-fotowa youth club in the governorate of Deir Al-Zour. He is from Al-hamidiyeh district in the city of Deir Al-Zour. He was arrested by the governmental forces before nearly 3 years, Wednesday, 27 April 2016. We've received information that his family was alerted of his death in Sidnaya Prison, without delivering his corps.

Medical cadres:

[Khaled Eskif](#), one of medical cadres, from the city of Aleppo, born in 1995. He works in al-Daqaq hospital, earns the High School degree. On Tuesday, 13 April 2016, the Turkmen Front related to opposition armed faction groups in Aleppo kidnapped Khaled in front of Al Hakim hospital on the charge of dealing with the Kurdish Self Management Forces. They reaffirmed his body after several hours and [he](#) was subjected to severe torture.





The Adult:

[Rashad Lutfi Asfari](#), an elderly, from Idlib , 67 year old, was detained by government forces from his place in Idlib in March 2012. on Tuesday, 5 April 2016 we got information confirming his death due to torture in one of the detention centers related to governmental forces in the city of Damascus.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

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

Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.

Recommendations

Security Council

- To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.
- To impose sanctions on all the commanders that were involved in torture practices which violate the international criminal law and security council resolutions on Syria especially resolutions 2042 and 2139.
- To bind the Syrian government and the various influential parties to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council investigation committee in order to conduct a thorough investigation on torture inside detention centers.
- To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to deliver data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

