



The Death of 58 Individuals under Torture in July 2015

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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 Abdulghani, 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 not less than 58 torture-to-death cases at official and non-official detention centers in the month of July 2015, detailed as follows:

Government Forces (military, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shitte militias) killed 57 individuals

ISIL killed 1 individuals

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.

Daraa governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 20 victims, while the other victims were divided as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Hama: 13

Damascus Sububrs: 7

Homs: 5

Deir Al Zour: 5

Aleppo: 4

Raqqqa: 2

Damascus: 1

Lattakia: 1

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

Conflict Party	Government Forces	ISIL
Governorate		
Damascus	1	
Damascus Suburbs	7	
Aleppo	4	
Daraa	20	
Homs	5	
Hama	13	
Deir Al Zour	4	1
Raqqqa	2	
Lattakia	1	





III. The most notable death under torture cases in July 2015:

A university student

Two cases that involve victims from the same family.

a. University Students:

On 24 June 2014, Houssam Abdullah Al Zoue'bi, age 26, a student in Damascus University, from Kafr Shames town in Daraa, was arrested from his university's campus by government forces. He was a healthy young man, nonetheless, we learned from his family that he died under torture in one of the detention centers in Damascus.

b. Cases that involve victims from the same family

Mahmoud Moustafa Ali and his brother Omar, from Hama City, were arrested two years ago. On 20 July, 2015, their parents told us that the military police in Damascus informed them of their sons' death in one of the government detention centers.

Ahmad Tayeh Al Khalil, 51, and his son Ali, 27, from Kafr Nabouda town in Hama, were arrested by government forces on one of the checkpoints in Hama suburbs on 11 May 2012. We learned from their family that on 23 July 2015, they verified their death under torture in one of the government security branches in 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

1. To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to delivered 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.

