



The Death of 67 Individuals under Torture during November 2015 amongst which were perpetrated by Syrian government forces 62

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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 acquires 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 us 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 the death of not less than 67 cases of death under torture inside official and non-official government detention centers and prisons in November 2015. The victims' details are detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) killed 62 individuals under death.

B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

- Al Nusra Front: One individual died under torture

C. Armed Opposition Groups killed 2 individuals under torture

D. PYD Kurdish Forces killed 1 individual under torture

E. Unidentified Groups killed 1 individual under torture

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 19 victims, while the toll of other victims was divided as follows:

13 individuals died under torture in Hama, 11 in Idlib, 5 in Deir Al Zour, 4 in Homs, 4 in Damascus, 3 in Aleppo, 3 in Damascus suburbs, 3 in Lattakia, 1 in Raqqa and 1 in Al Hasaka.

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

Conflict Party	Death under Torture Victims' Distribution According to the Major Conflict Parties in Syria in November 2015				
	Governme nt Forces	Al Nusra Front	Armed Oppositio n Forces	PYD Kurdish Self Manageme nt Forces	Unidentifi ed Groups
Daraa	18		1		
Hama	13				
Idlib	10	1			
Homs	4				
Deir Al Zour	5				
Aleppo	3				
Damascus suburbs	3				
Damascus	2		1		1
Lattakia	3				
Raqqa	1				
Hassaka				1	





The most significant death under torture cases in October 2015 are:
Four university students, a doctor, a teacher, a child and an elderly

III . The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

University Students:

Fathi Houssien Al Jaber, a student in the Nursing Institute, from Marat town in Deir Al Zour. He was arrested by government forces in Damascus four months ago. On 6 November 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture inside one of the government's detention centers.

Ghassan Ahmad Hassoun, a university student, from Al A'eedeen camp in Hama, Palestinian, 19, was arrested by government forces on one of their checkpoints in Hama city in June 2012. However, his family confirmed on 10 November 2015 that they confirmed his death under torture inside one of the government's detention centers.



Mohamad Adel Shebli, a university student in the Faculty of Architecture, from Homs, 22 years old. On 11 November 2015 his family confirmed his death under torture in Saydnaya government prison. They identified his body through the Caesar images which were leaked earlier.

Nidal Ibrahim Al Shemali, a university student from Al A'eedeen camp in Hama, Syrian-Palestinian, 25, was arrested by government forces in October 2013 from his residence in Hama. On 12 November 2015, his family confirmed his death under torture inside one of the government's detention centers in Damascus.



Teachers:

Mohideen Terki Al Nahhas, a teacher from Dael city in Daraa governorate, was arrested by government forces two years ago. His family told us that they confirmed his death under torture inside one of the government's detention centers on 9 November 2015.





Doctors:

Manhal Mohamad Khalifa Al Hourani, from Tafas city in Daraa, was arrested by government forces two years ago. On 24 November 2015 his family confirmed his death under torture inside one of the government's detention centers in Damascus.

Children:

Majed Hassan Atassi, from Homs, 17 years old, was arrested by government forces in Homs two years ago. On 11 November 2015 his family confirmed his death under torture through the Caesar images which were leaked earlier.

Elderly:

Mohamad Daham Al Kayyal, an elderly, from Talbisa city in Homs, 70 years old, was arrested by government forces almost a year ago on Teir Ma'alee checkpoint. He was sent to Adra government prison where his health situation deteriorated due to his arrest conditions. On 14 November 2015 they confirmed his death due to his health situation inside one of the government's detention centers.



Mohamad Daham Al Kayyal

IV. 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.

