



Not Less than 719 Arbitrary Arrest Cases in July 2015

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I. Introduction

Since 2011, SNHR is keen to follow the highest documentation standards but faces a number of challenges in documenting arrest cases. Some families are unwilling to provide us with any information since they fear their son's life. Our task becomes even harder when a female prisoner is involved, since families fear that their daughters might be tortured or executed.

Usually, negotiations with security authorities start when they blackmail families and force them to pay, sometimes, tens of millions of Syrian Liras in exchange for their son's or daughter's release. This issue is considered one of the greatest challenges faced by SNHR in documenting arrested and released individuals since 2011.

Even though SNHR documented the arrest of more than 117 thousand individuals, including children and women, we affirm that our estimations indicate that the number of detainees reached more than 215 thousand, 99 % are held captive in government detention centers, even though authorities deny these facts.

Now, Syrians have deep convictions that the international community, with all its establishments, is incapable of pressuring the Syrian authorities to release any detainee. However, most of the release cases were recorded after prisoners swap deals between government authorities and armed opposition groups.





99% of the detainees are prohibited to talk to a lawyer or their family members. Further, none of those government or security personnel who were confirmed to perpetrate crimes was held accountable to it; on the contrary, they are protected by the government itself.

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 117 thousand persons, since the beginning of uprising in March 2011.

This mounting number of arrested individuals is due to several reasons:

A great number of detainees were imprisoned since their relatives, siblings, or family members were involved with armed opposition groups or since they provided humanitarian aid to people in need.

Most of the arrest cases are conducted randomly against people who are not involved in protests, relief aid, or military actions.

The Syrian regime continues to imprison a great number of civilians who did not participate in the uprising despite judicial orders for their release.

Government forces control densely populated areas like the main cities in each governorate and use a systemized policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in these regions.

It is worth mentioning that there are multiple forces, affiliated to government authorities, who are responsible for arbitrary arresting civilians and detaining them in certain prisons that are not subjected to judicial supervision where detainees are not treated according to the Syrian stipulated laws.

A great number of arrest cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges. SNHR records show that more than 95% of the detainees in government and its militias' prisons are of Sunni majority.

Details about detainees can be found through the search engine on SNHR website, you may also add the name and details of any detainee as the concerned team will check the data and upload it if proved accurate.





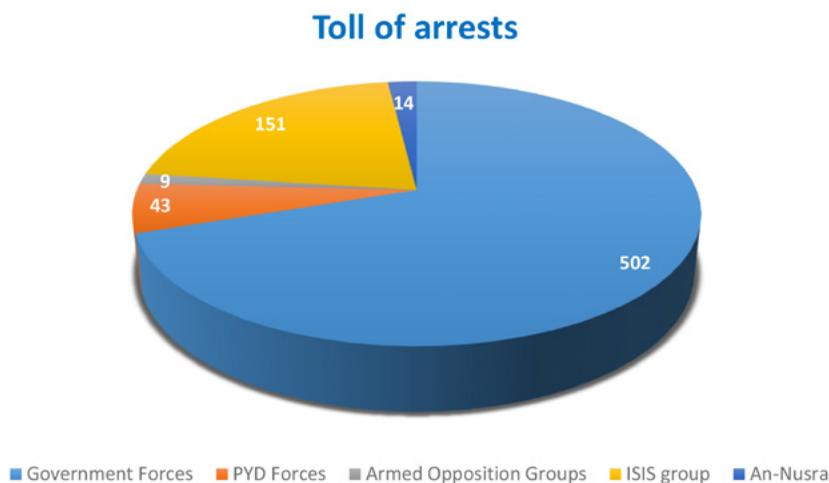
II. Report Details

Arbitrary arrests during July 2015 were distinguished by an increase of arrests done by Kurd “Self-management” groups, also known as PYD forces, against Kurdish activists in regions that are under their control in Al Hassaka governorate. The Kurd “self-management” groups detained political activists, doctors, students, teachers and media activists and personnel due to their opposing opinions and political activities.

Arbitrary arrests carried by ISIL also increased in Raqqa, and due to different reasons. The most prominent reasons are: not complying with ISIL’s regulations that prohibit the use of internet service receivers, not abiding by the prayer times in mosques, and trade of cigarettes. Also, a number of young men were detained after they escaped ISIL recruitment camps. It is worth mentioning that ISIL also imprisoned members and officers in the armed opposition groups who received training outside Syria.

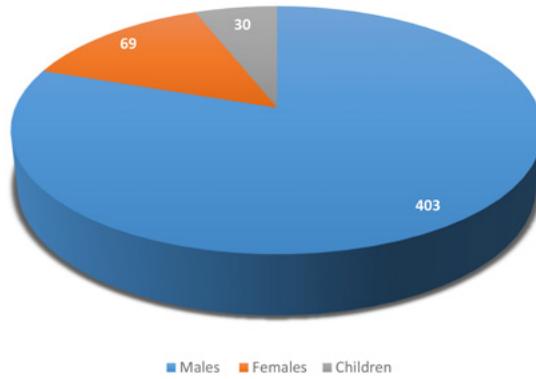
The following table depicts the arbitrary arrests in July 2015. We assure that these numbers are the bare minimum of what we were able to document due to the current security and logistics obstacles.

Documented Arbitrary Arrests in July 2015:

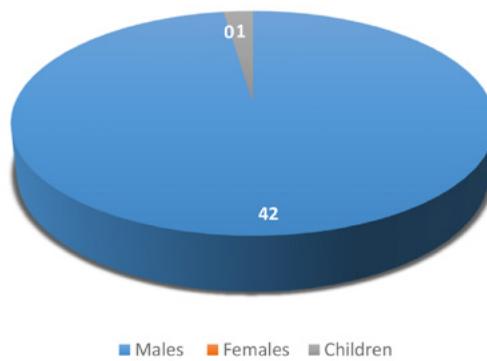




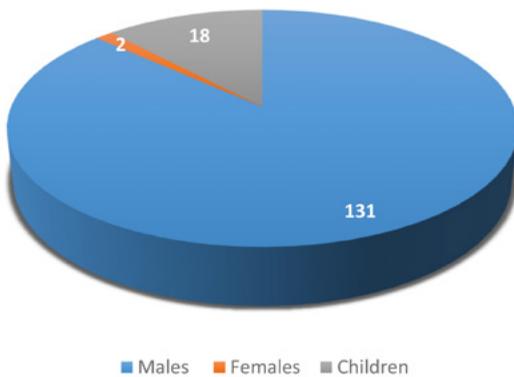
Government Forces



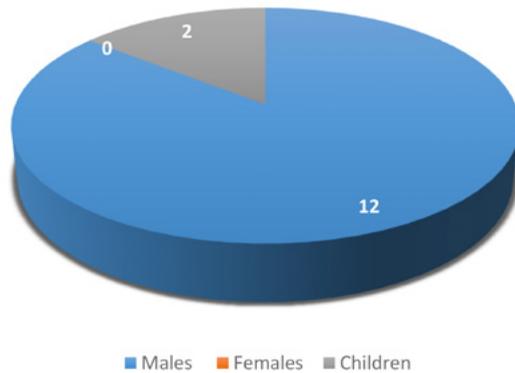
PYD Forces



ISIS group



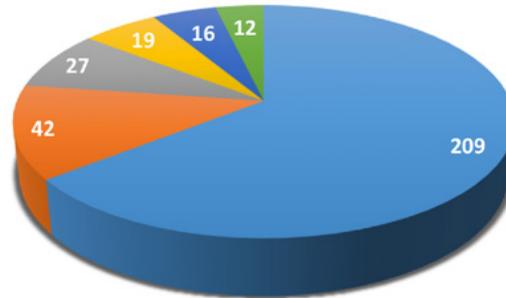
An-Nusra





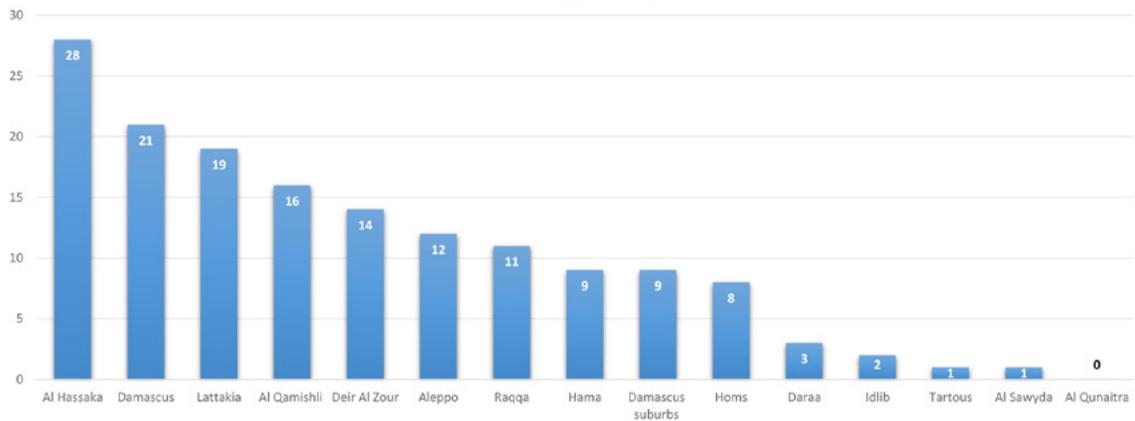
Documented Releases in Different Detention Centers in July 2015:

Releases from different prisons



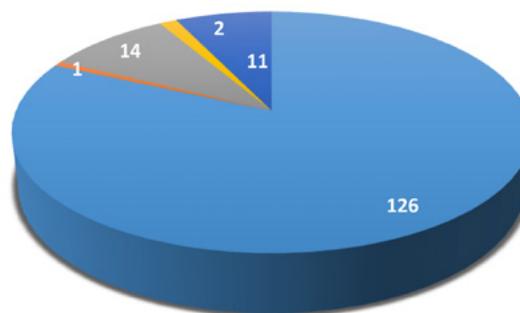
Locations of raids and inspection points resulted in detention:

Raids and inspection points



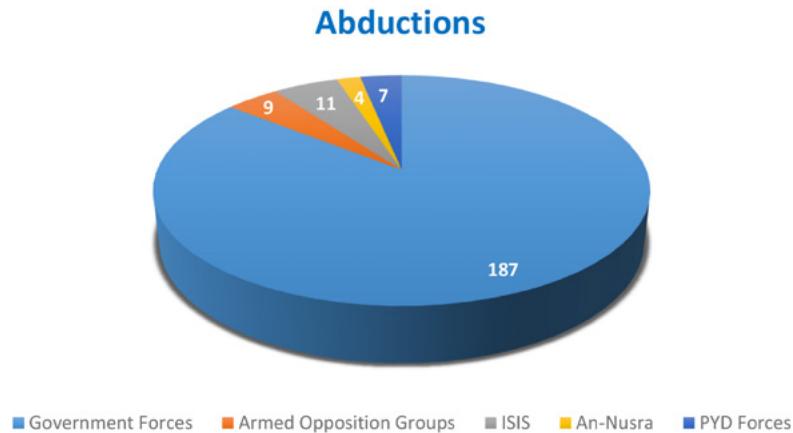
Parties responsible for raids:

Parties responsible for raids





Abductions by unidentified Groups:



III. The Most Notable Arrests in July 2015:

Government Forces:

K.D, (the name is kept secretive due to security reasons), a female from Kafr Sousa neighborhood in Damascus, age 24, a relief-aid activist, was arrested by government forces after they raided her house and took her to the General Intelligence Branch. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR and her family as well.

Amal Asfour, a Syrian-Palestinian female from Al Yarmouk Camp, and a member in the Palestinian National Commission, was arrested on 5 July 2015 by government forces. She was taken to an unknown location then released on 15 July 2015.



Extremist Islamic Groups:

Nadeem Al Hassan from Minbij City in Aleppo suburbs, age 48, a defected Colonel and a prominent leader in the Armed Opposition Groups, was arrested on 29 July 2015 by ISIL when he was in Azzaz region in Aleppo Suburbs. His fate is still unknown for his family and SNHR.





Kurd “Self-management” Forces:

-Child [Mahmoud Shaikhou](#), 13 years old from Al Derbasiyi town in Al Hassaka governorate, was arrested on 23 July 2015 by the Kurd “self-management” forces from the football field in Al Berbasiyi town. SNHR was not able to determine his fate or his place of arrest up to the moment of making this report.

[Essa Al Hajj Taha](#), from Raes Al Eim City in Al Hassaka governorate, age 47, a prominent leader in the Kurdish Democratic Unity Party, was arrested on 25 July 2015, by the Kurd “Self management” forces in Raes Al Ein City. We were not able to determine his arrest location or his fate up to the moment of making this report.

On 22 July 2015, writer [Abdulkarim Basheer Khodor](#), known as “Hakim Rafi”, a Kurdish Language instructor and a member of the administrative Hassaka Branch for the Writers Union, was arrested from his work place in Al Mufti neighborhood in Al Hassaka. He was taken to an unknown location. This arrest case was one among an arrest campaign against prominent Kurdish citizens. The Kurd “self-management” forces justified their arrest campaign with a statement issued on 27 July 2015 by accusing the arrested individuals of supporting armed groups and facilitating its movements.

Armed Opposition Groups:

[Maher Shaker](#), from Damascus governorate, a PhD degree holder in Islamic Law, age 46, a Muslim clerk and president of the Sharia Commission in Damascus and its suburbs (Islamic Commission), was arrested on 3 July 2015 when armed groups affiliated to Al Tawba Army in Zamalka in Damascus suburbs. He was released on 4 July 2015.

Unidentified Groups:

On 24 July 2015, [Media personnel Anas Khatab](#), known as Nakked Al Byanouni, a reporter for SMART news agency and a member of Byanoun media office was kidnapped by an unidentified group while he was coming back to his city Byanoun in Aleppo. He was abducted by the power of guns and then taken to a detention place where he was interrogated for hours, threatened to be killed then released the other day on 25 July 2015.

IV. Recommendations:

Security Council must observe the implementation of the resolutions: 2042 issued on April 14, 2012, resolution 2043 issued on April 21, 2012 and 2139 issued on February 22, 2014 that put an end to the arbitrary arrests.

,United Nations and the International Community must shoulder their responsibilities towards hundreds of thousands of detained and missing individuals in Syria.

