



## 84 Victims Tortured to Death in May 2015

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### First: Executive Summary

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





## Second: Executive Summary

SNHR documented 84 torture-to-death cases at the official and unofficial detention centers in the month of May 2015 as follows:

- A. Government forces: 82
- B. An-Nusra Front: one
- C. Armed opposition factions: one

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.

Hama had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 22 victims while the other victims were divided as follows:

- Daraa: 20
- Idlib: nine
- Der Ezzor: eight
- Damascus: seven
- Damascus suburbs: seven
- Homs: four
- Aleppo: two
- Ar-Raqqa: two
- Al-Hassaka: one
- As-Suwyida: one
- Qunietra: one

### **Most notable cases were as follows:**

Four university students, two media activists, one teacher, one lawyer, one child, one woman, two elders, and two cases that involved victims from the same family (four victims in total).

## Third: Most notable cases

### **University students**

1- Abdullah Taher Jabbas, university student, from Idlib city, 26-year-old, on Sunday 17 March 2015, he was arrested by government forces from his home in Idlib city. On Friday 1 May, 2015 his family told us that they were informed that he died under torture at a security branch in Damascus.



Abdullah Taher Jabbas





2- [Mohammad Khair Badr](#), university student, from Idlib – Ma’rat An-Nu’man city, 20-year-old, on Sunday 11 January 2015, he was arrested by government forces at his university campus in Hama city. His family told us that he was in healthy condition before his arrest. His family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at the Military Security branch in Hama city.

3- Abdunasser Abdulhakim Hassan Al-Basha, university student, from Homs – Talbiesa city, 23-year-old, he was arrested by government forces about a year ago. His family told us on Monday 11 May 2015 that they were informed that he was tortured to death at a detention center.



Abdunasser Abdulhakim  
Hassan Al-Basha

4- [Bahaa’ Ad-Din Abu-Shafra](#), university student, from As-Suwyida city, 27-year-old. On Saturday 2 May 2015, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at a security branch in Damascus.

### Media activists

Abdullah Al-Meqdad, from Daraa – Ghasm town, he was a member of the Syrian Journalists Union’s executive office in Damascus, 62-year-old. He was arrested by an armed opposition faction in 2013 during the raiding of Adra Al-Ummaliya city. It should be noted that he was in poor health when he was arrested. On Friday 1 May, 2015, his family learned through credible leaks from people who work with the kidnapers that he died shortly after he was arrested.



Abdullah Al-Meqdad

[Mohammad Ahmad Al-Falah](#), media activist, from Daraa – As-Sanmien city, he has been imprisoned by government forces for about three years. On Wednesday 27 May 2015, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at a detention center in Damascus and the military police asked them to come to get his I.D. and belongings.

### Teachers

Rafea’ Al-Hassan, from Qunietra city, 36-year-old, he was arrested by government forces in November 2014. On Thursday 7 May 2015, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at a detention center.





## Lawyers

[Moufaq Abdurrahman](#), lawyer, from Homs – Al-Qusayr city, 40-year-old, he was arrested in May 2013 in Homs city. His family told us that he was in good health before he was arrested. On Friday 8 May 2015, we learned that his family recognized his picture which was one of the pictures that was leaked recently.

## Children

G.B (His name is not revealed for security reasons), child, from Hama city, 16-year-old, on Friday 9 August, 2013 he was arrested from his home by government forces. On Monday 4 May 2015, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at branch 215 in Damascus.

## Women

Raghd Khaled, from Damascus suburbs – Douma city, 22-year-old, she was arrested by government forces on Monday 11 March 2013 and she was in good health at that time. On Friday 1 May 2015, her family told us that they were informed that she was tortured to death at a detention center.

## Elders

1. G. Al-Masri (his name hasn't been identified), elder, from Homs – Al-Qusayr neighborhood, 72-year-old, he was arrested by government forces on Wednesday 21 January 2015 in Homs city. On Thursday 7 May 2015, his family told us that they were informed that he was tortured to death at Adra prison in Damascus.

2. [Jack Al-Abdullah](#), elder, from Der Ezzor city, 70-year-old, Christian, he was arrested from his home on Sunday 14 April 2013 by government forces. His family told us on Monday 11 May 2015 that they were informed that he was tortured to death at the Military Security branch in Der Ezzor.

## Cases that involved victims from the same family

1. Mustafa Mohammad As-Saleh and his brother Mahmoud, from Hama – Kazou neighborhood, they were arrested by government forces about three years ago. On Tuesday 12 May 2015 we learned that their family learned about five months ago that Mustafa and Mohammad were tortured to death at a detention center.

2. Malek Mohammad Al-Hroub and his brother Ma'moun from Daraa – Izra' town, they were arrested by government forces. On Sunday 24 May 2015, we learned that their family recognized their photo which was one of the photos that were leaked recently.





## Fourth: 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 parts 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

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