



## Report on violations against activists and people of Amouda city by the Kurdish Democratic Union Party

### The documenting of the incident:

In the early hours of Monday, June 17, 2013 at around 03: 30 AM, approximately 125 to 150 gunmen affiliated with the Democratic Union Party stormed Amouda city, cordoning off the city, closing its entrances and exits, and setting up check-points at which they demanded that those passing through produce identity cards and documents.

After that, they launched a campaign of arrests, specifically targeting three political activists, namely:

- 1- Ahmad Najjari, known as Serbest Najjari (a member of the Amouda Coordination), who was arrested at the eastern entrance of the city.
- 2- Dersem Omar, a member of the Kurdish Yekiti Party in Syria, who was arrested at his workplace driving a combine harvester.
- 3- Walat al Omari, a singer at demonstrations, was arrested in his home.

After carrying out the arrests, the forces withdrew from the city, taking the detainees to al Qameshli city prison, which is controlled by the Democratic Union Party.

The town's activists responded to this abusive behavior and these detentions by carrying out a sit-in condemning the Democratic Union Party's abusive practices, as well as holding other demonstrations condemning the arrests and the Democratic Union Party's unjust policies.

On Wednesday, June 19, 2013, a number of activists announced an open-ended hunger strike to condemn the arrest of their colleagues by the Democratic Union Party forces, with the number of hunger strikers increasing to about 20, including three women.





These sit-ins and demonstrations continued for about 10 days, blatantly exposing the Kurdish Democratic Union Party practices against the city's residents, and on Thursday, June 27, 2013, gunmen affiliated with the Kurdish Democratic Union Party stormed a demonstration by the city's activists, and opened fire directly, intentionally, and deliberately at them, killing six of them as a result, including two children, in addition to injuring at least 20 others.

They also burned the tent in which the activists were carrying out their sit-in. The Kurdish Democratic Union Party personnel did not stop at these violations. The following day, Friday, June 28, 2013, they launched a campaign of arrests against a large number of the city's most prominent activists.

One of the eyewitnesses can be contacted via the Skype account:  
samanamoda

### **Annexes and attachments documenting events:**

[Photos](#) of some aspects of the peaceful uprising in Amouda from June 17, 2013 to June 27, 2013

[A meeting](#) of some of the peaceful protestors inside the sit-in tent

One of the banners calling for the release of the kidnapped persons in one of Amouda's peaceful demonstrations on June 23, 2013.

A peaceful sit-in in Amouda Square where protesters raised the flag of the Syrian revolution





[A peaceful sit-in in a street](#) in Amouda by some of the people of Amouda, who raised banners denouncing the continued detention of the kidnapped activists on June 18, 2013

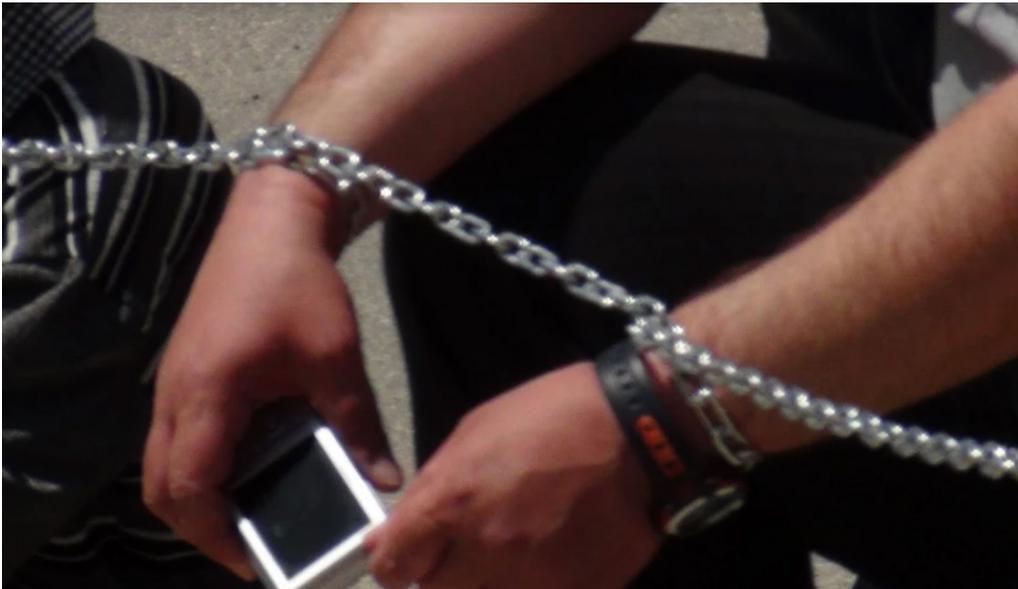
Some of the sit-in [hunger strikers](#) in front of the strike tent in Amouda

A group of young [hunger strikers](#) protest the continued detention of activists from Amouda

[A peaceful demonstration by some of the people of Amouda](#) on June 20, 2013, with some hunger strikers raising a banner, confirming that the strike would continue until the kidnapped activists were released.

[Some participants](#) of the sit-in sit in a row on a street in Amouda, with their hands in chains as a symbol of the continued detention of peaceful activists

One of the participants of the sit-in in Amouda with their hands in chains in protest against the activists' continued detention.





Some hunger strikers inside the sit-in tent in Amouda

Planting trees around the sit-in tent as a symbol for the peaceful strike and sit-in

One of the doctors examines some of the hunger strikers inside the sit-in tent in Amouda

The continuation of the sit-in, with some of the peaceful activists inside the sit-in tent one evening

The continuation of the sit-in, with some activists sleeping in front of the sit-in tent

Massive peaceful demonstration by the people of Amouda on June 17, 2013, raising banners condemning the arrests in Damascus and Amouda

A group of participants in the sit-in from Amouda, including children and women, gather in front of the strike tent

Massive peaceful demonstration in Amouda, calling for the release of the detainees, on June 19, 2013

Peaceful demonstration in Amouda calling for the release of the detainees on June 24, 2013





[Peaceful demonstration](#) on June 17, 2013, raising banners with the names of the detainees

[Massive peaceful demonstration](#) in Amouda calling for the release of the detainees on June 23, 2013

[Massive peaceful demonstration](#) by the people of Amouda, demanding the release of the detainees

[Massive peaceful demonstration](#) by the people of Amouda, demanding the release of the detainees, on June 22, 2013

[Some peaceful activists](#) on hunger strike inside the tent set up in the square in Amouda where the strike and sit-in took place, on June 24, 2013

[The peaceful uprising continues](#) for the tenth consecutive day, a banner of the demonstration on June 26, 2013

[A mass popular demonstration](#) in a street in Amouda to demand the detainees' release on June 26, 2013

[The sit-in and the strike continues](#) in al Shuhada (Martyrs) Square in Amouda on June 26, 2013

[Some of the young people](#) on hunger strike inside the sit-in tent before the massacre on June 27, 2013

[Some of the young people](#) who participated in the hunger strike inside the sit-in tent raising the flag of the Syrian revolution and the Kurdish flag, hours before the massacre on June 27, 2013.

## **The martyrs and the injured:**

### **The martyrs:**

The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented six martyrs, all civilians, including two children, as a preliminary death toll of the Amouda massacre on June 27, 2013.

[Nader al Khello](#) / Hasaka / Amouda / [Died as a result of gunfire](#) by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on 27/6/2013





[Aras Bengo](#) / Hasaka / Amouda / Died as a result of gunfire by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on June 27, 2013.

[Barzan Abdul Razzaq Qerno](#) / Hasaka / Amouda / Died as a result of gunfire by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on June 27, 2013

[The child, Saed Abdul Baqi Sida](#) / 15 years old / Hasaka / Amouda / died as a result of gunfire by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on June 27, 2013

The female child, Sheikha Aleka / Hasaka / Amouda / Died as a result of gunfire by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on June 27, 2013

Sheikhmous Mohammad Ali / elderly man / Hasaka / Amouda / Died as a result of gunfire by the YPG after the attack on the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti party on 27/6/2013

**The injured:**

The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented more than 20 injured people, who were wounded by the gunfire in the Amouda massacre on 27 June 2013.

[The injury of Serbest Najjari's wife:](#)

An injured child in a hospital in Amouda on June 27, 2013





[Sewar Hetto](#) (singer), one of the injured, in Amouda

[Aziz Qerno](#), one of the injured, in a hospital in Mardin on June 28, 2013

[Some of the injured were shot by the PYD](#) forces in Amouda on June 27, 2013

[One of the injured people in a serious condition](#) in the hospital on June 28, 2013

Two of those wounded sustained their injuries when they were shot by PYD snipers at al Kabir Mosque. Those injured there on June 28, 2013, were identified as:

Ali Randi

Dara Hasan Dari

Both were taken to Turkish hospitals for treatment.

### **The names of some of the detainees arrested after the Amouda massacre on June 28, 2013**

- YPG gunmen kidnapped the father of the martyr Nader Mahmoud Khello due to his insistence on burying his martyred son
- At around 0:500 AM, Ali Sharif Abu Yousef was arrested in his home by an armed group affiliated with the Democratic Union Party (PYD)
- The arrest of Osama Dari, a member of the Amouda Charity, by the PKK militants, during their raid on his house at 5 AM.
- The arrest of activist Mahmoud Ibrahim Haj Nouri, too.

The People's Protection Units of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) raided the headquarters of the Kurdish Yekiti Party, smashed up the furniture there, and arrested several members of the Kurdish Council, who were meeting in the office prior to the issuance of a withdrawal statement by the Kurdish Supreme Committee. Up to the time of writing, it is not known where they were taken, with the Kurdish Council in Amouda reportedly calling for a meeting after issuing the statement, in order to decide how to calm down the situation, deciding that this meeting would be held in the office of the Yekiti party; it was attended by the majority of members of the Council except for some who apologized that they were unable to attend. The office was quickly raided and those present were arrested, including:

- Saed Hesso, a leader of the Progressive Socialist Party
- Hussein Shehadeh, a member of the Kurdish National Council
- Mohammad Khair Benkwa, with three of his children, all of whom were present at the headquarters.





## **Some videos showing the gunfire against unarmed civilians by pro-regime Kurdish forces in Amouda on June 27, 2013**

Amouda: [Heavy gunfire by the PYD, injuring Aziz Qerno](#)

[YPG forces use a Doshka to fire live bullets](#) at demonstrators in Amouda

### **Condemnation and assignation of responsibility:**

Every internationally wrongful act of a State entails the international responsibility of that State. Likewise, customary international law states that the state is responsible for all acts committed by members of its military and security forces. Consequently, the state is responsible for wrongful acts, including crimes against humanity, committed by members of its military and security forces.

The prohibition of crimes against humanity is among the jus cogens or peremptory norms, and the punishment of such crimes is obligatory according to the general principles of international law. Moreover, crimes against humanity are the most heinous of major human rights violations, violating fundamental principles such as the right to life and the prohibition of torture or other cruel and degrading treatment. According to the principles of state responsibility in international law, the Syrian Arab Republic bears responsibility for such crimes and violations, and bears the duties to ensure that perpetrators are punished individually and to provide compensation to victims.

We in the Syrian Network for Human Rights, as a human rights organization concerned with the defense of human rights, strongly condemn this shocking massacre which is clearly a crime against humanity, and assign full responsibility to the Syrian government and the Asayish forces of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party and its affiliated YPG forces for the killing of six people of Amouda city.

The right to peaceful demonstrations, including sit-ins, is a guaranteed and legitimate right under international human rights law and the general international covenant, and those who committed these heinous crimes against peaceful protesters must be referred urgently for full trial and prevent a policy of impunity from becoming normalized.

