



The Death of 51 Individuals under Torture, 46 amongst which were killed by Government Forces in May 2016 Death under Torture hadn't stopped, despite the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

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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 as ISIL 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 Abdul Ghani, 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 killing of not less than 51 deaths under torture in government official and non-official detention centers in May 2016, detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign Shiite militias) killed 46

B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

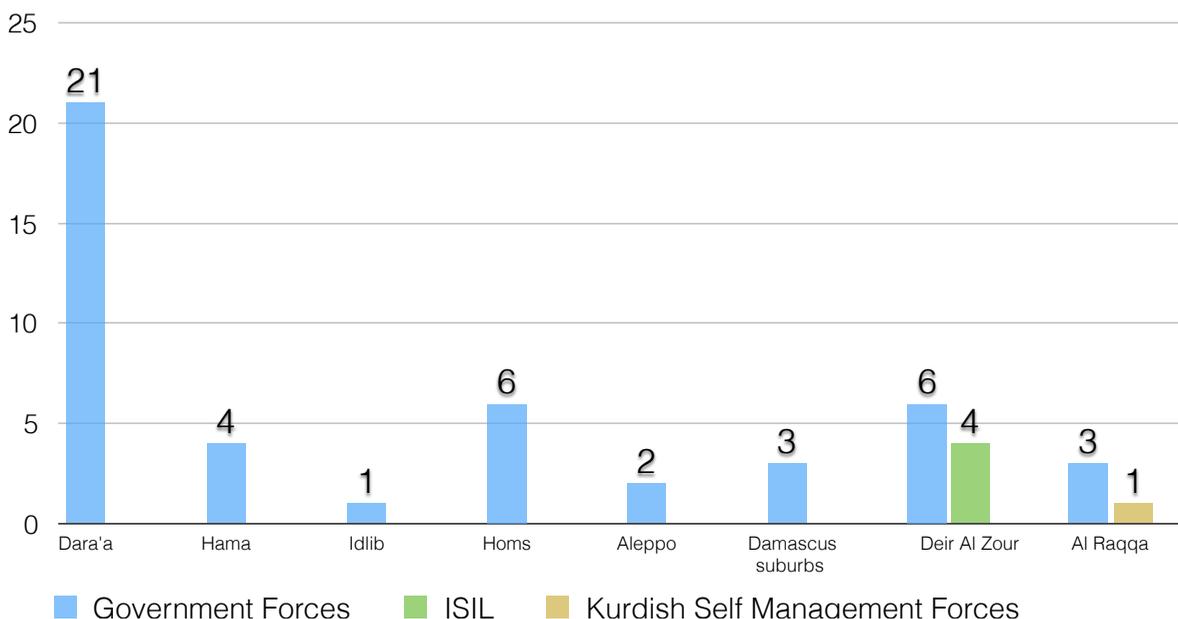
i. ISIL (called themselves as Islamic State): killed 4

C. Kurdish Self Management Forces: killed 1

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.

Dara'a governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 21 individuals. The death toll is distributed according to the governorate as follows: 10 in Deir Al Zour, 6 in Homs, 4 in Hama, 4 in Al Raqqa, 3 in Damascus suburbs 2 in Aleppo, and 1 in Idlib.

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





The most significant death under torture cases in May 2016 are:
3 University students, a child

II. The Most Significant Cases of Death Under Torture:

University students:

Assem Ahmad Al-Zoʻbi; a university student in the Faculty of civil engineering at the University of Damascus, from Eastern Al Gharieh in the suburb of Daraya governorate. He is 25-year-old; he was arrested by the government forces about 6 months ago. On Thursday, 5 May 2016 we received information that confirms his death because of the torture inside one of the government detention centers in Damascus.



Moʻaz Ismail Al Maylam, student in the University of Euphrates, from Deir Al-Zour City, a 20-year-old; he was arrested by the government forces on 1 February 2015 at a checkpoint that is related to it in the area of Hassan Taha Street in Deir Al-Zour City; on Thursday, 19 May 2016, his family informed us that they were confirmed about his death because of the torture inside one of the government detention centers in Damascus.



Muhannad Salah Khalifah, a student in the industrial Institute, from Al-hamidiyeh district in Deir Al-Zour city, he is 23-year-old, was arrested by the government forces about two years ago, Saturday 21 May 2016 we got information confirming his death because of the torture inside one of the government detention centers in Damascus.

Children:

Saleh Karamani, child, from Al-hamidiyeh district in Deir Al-Zour city, he was 16 years old when arrested, was arrested by government forces at the beginning of 2014, on Saturday, 7 May 2016, we received information confirms his death because of the torture inside one of the government detention centers 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.

ISIL and Kurdish Self Management Forces have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes.

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 No. 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 independent human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank families, witnesses and activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives.

