



Medical Personnel Killed in March 2014

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I. Report summary:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights' team documented the killing of nine medical personnel in March 2014, including three doctors and a pharmacist, all at the hands of government forces.

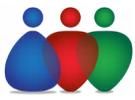
II. Introduction:

As the Syrian revolution entered its fourth year, medical personnel have continued to be in the crossfire and subjected to violence by all the parties to the armed conflict in Syria, with government forces far exceeding other parties, singly or collectively, in the number and magnitude of the violations perpetrated. To this day, the government's forces have not stopped targeting hospitals, health centers, pharmacies and ambulances in areas controlled by the opposition, in addition to targeting medical personnel for direct killing or death by torture in prisons, as well as for arrest, abduction and all kinds of persecution, on charges of providing medical services to persons or entities opposing the Syrian government.

III. Details:

Ahmad Kamal Farhat, a Syrian-Palestinian ambulance driver from al Yarmouk Camp in the south of Damascus city, was killed on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in a shelling by Syrian Regime forces that targeted the ambulance he was driving in al Yarmouk Camp.





Mustafa Abu Mer'i, a nurse and staff member of the Medical Office in al Marj area in the Eastern Ghouta region in the east of the Damascus Suburbs governorate, was originally from Idlib governorate. He was killed on Monday, March 10, 2014, by gunfire from a government “Shilka” vehicle that opened fire in al Bhariya village in the Eastern Ghouta.

Thiab Hussein Mhanna, a Palestinian national working as a pharmacist and staff member of the Syrian Red Crescent, from al Yarmouk Camp south of Damascus city, was shot dead on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 by government forces in al Yarmouk Camp.

Ammar Asfari, born in 1964, was a married dentist and the head of the humanitarian field authority of the Orient Humanitarian Foundation. On Saturday, March 15, 2014, he was killed by a missile launched by government warplanes at Ma'aret Misreen town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate.



Mustafa Mohammad Ali Fa'our, a doctor from the Jobar neighborhood in the east of Damascus city, was killed on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in an airstrike by government warplanes on a field hospital in Ein Tarma town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate.

Mohammad Ahmad Idris, a paramedic from the Jober neighborhood in the east of Damascus city, was killed on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in an airstrike by government warplanes on a field hospital in Ein Tarma town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate.





Haitham Jamal Sonbol, a doctor from the Jobar neighborhood in the east of Damascus city, was killed on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in an airstrike by government warplanes on a field hospital in Ein Tarma town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate.



Hayat Maher al Asali, a female paramedic from the Jobar neighborhood in the east of Damascus city, was killed on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in an airstrike by government warplanes on a field hospital in Ein Tarma town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate.

Mohammad Manhal al Ghazali, a nurse from Qerfa village in the suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested by government forces in late 2012. It was subsequently confirmed that he died as a result of torture in the Air Security branch in Damascus city on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

IV. Legal Conclusions:

The Syrian government has blatantly violated both international humanitarian law and customary humanitarian law, committing crimes amounting to war crimes by targeting medical personnel, as well as committing crimes amounting to crimes against humanity represented by mass murder.

Some armed groups have also committed crimes amounting to war crimes.

Condemnation and attribution of responsibility:

We, at the Syrian Network for Human Rights, as an independent Syrian national human rights organization working to defend human rights, attribute responsibility for the direct targeting, torture and detention of medical personnel to the President of the Syrian regime and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Bashar al Assad, as the individual primarily responsible for ordering such acts. We also consider all organs of the Syrian government to be directly responsible, in addition to the governments supporting the Syrian regime, such as the Russian, Chinese and Iranian governments and all the militias loyal to them.





The Syrian opposition also bears responsibility for prosecuting and following up perpetrators of violations in areas under its control, and for actively deterring its forces from repeating such practices rather than merely issuing statements of condemnation.

Recommendations:

UN Security Council:

The UN Security Council must assume its legal and moral responsibilities vis-à-vis the crimes being perpetrated in Syria, rather than remaining a silent spectator amidst the daily bloodbath.

