

Statement

Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham Arrests Armed Opposition Fighters and Raids Vital Civilian Facilities

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



On Saturday, January 2017 ,28, a new alliance emerged under the name “Hay’at Tahrir Al Sham”. The group is composed of Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nusra Front) and Ansar Al Din faction, an extremist Islamist group, in addition to a number of armed opposition factions (Kata’eb Nour Al Din Al Zinki, Jaish Al Sunna, and Lewa’ Al Haq). The declaration of Hay’at Tahrir Al Sham comes after attacks carried out by Fateh Al Sham on a number of areas under the control of armed opposition factions. These factions are: “Jaish Al Mujahdin, Soqour Al Sham, Failaq Al Sham, Tajamou’ Fastaqem Kama Umert, and some groups that are affiliated to Ahrar Al Sham Movement in some of northern Idlib suburbs’ and western Aleppo suburbs’ areas.” The purpose of these attacks was to gain further popular support and seize the resources of these factions and their respective areas. Fateh Al Sham relied, in these attacks, on its extreme religious fundamentalism and on accusing the factions that agreed to participate in Astana summit of treason, even though these factions expressed their disapproval of targeting “Fateh Al Sham Front”. The attacks took place between Monday, January 23, and Saturday, January 28. We are working on an extensive report that documents the violations by Fateh Al Sham Front during that particular period of time, whereas this statement will focus on the continued violations that occurred following the emergence of this new body.

One day after Hay’at Tahrir Al Sham was formed, we recorded wide arrests and abductions that targeted armed opposition leaders and fighters from the groups that refused to join Hay’at Tahrir Al Sham, in addition to seizing their properties. The situation got even more complicated, as Hay’at Tahrir Al Sham enhanced its military authority in the areas that are partially under its control in Idlib suburbs and western Aleppo suburbs, where new checkpoints and heavy weapons were heavily spread in the streets, and military demonstration were carried out, which partially impeded relief efforts and ambulances’ movement, as medical personnel were afraid that security incidents or clashes might occur in case they passed through the newly established checkpoints.



Between December 2017 ,28 and February 2017 ,1, SNHR documented that Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham arrested no less than 12 armed opposition fighters from the groups that refused to join them. Additionally, Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham assaulted two vital civilian centers.

Sunday January 2017 ,29, armed members from Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham arrested Yaser Al Abd, the military leader of Al Fauj Al Awwal, an armed opposition faction, in Sarmada town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate.

Sunday January 2017 ,29, armed members from Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham, raided a relief office that works on aiding widows in Hazra village, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, and opened fire randomly during the raid. The group left the office after confiscating all the office's contents.

Monday, January 2017 ,30, armed members from Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham attacked the Sharia Court in Darat Ezza, which is affiliated to the judicial authority of Ahrar Al Sham Movement, an armed opposition factions. The group managed to take over the inspection points that surround the Court building which were in charge of protecting the Court, and then the Court building and vehicles, before pursuing the people working for the Court.

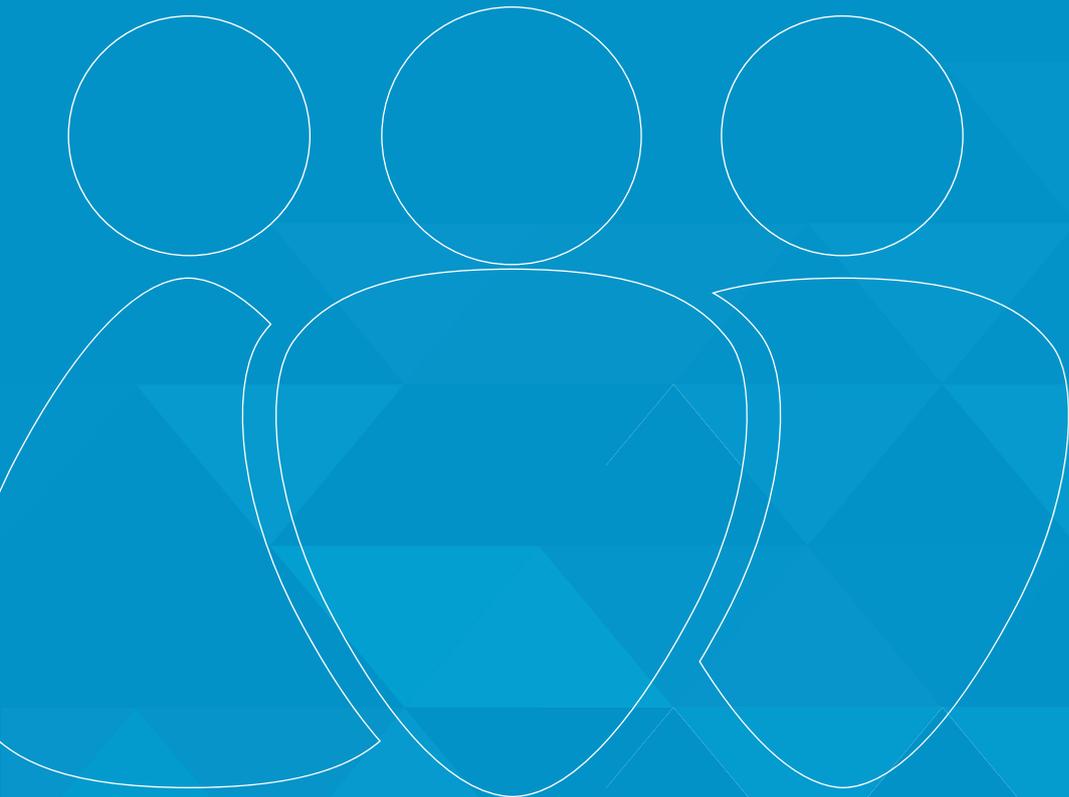


We urge the armed opposition factions who joined Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham to immediately detach them from the group so they don't be categorized as affiliates of Al Qaeda, which will be a justification for targeting these groups and their members, considering that most of these groups' members are Syrians.

Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham must end its violations, set all detainees free, and give back what they took by forces of arms.

The prolonged length of the internal armed conflict in Syria amid the complete and full impunity that protects the Syrian regime and the Iranian militias, the regime's allies, and the lack of sufficient support for moderate factions have given extremist groups a huge legitimacy, and encouraged some of the armed opposition factions to join them.





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

