



Syria without Youth

Conscription campaigns target about half a million youth

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First: Introduction

Areas that are not under the regime control are targets of an aerial and artillery shelling that hasn't stopped since 2011. This ceaseless shelling is killing daily 50 victims approximately not to mention the huge destruction it causes. All of this forced about 5.9 million Syria to become refugees and more than 7.1 million Syrian to become IDPs.

Regime-controlled areas are considered more stable, as it doesn't face the daily indiscriminate shelling and what it causes of destruction and displacement although we record a number of shelling incidents using mortar shells which killed victims. However, these incidents were limited and not on a daily basis.

Regime-controlled areas' conditions have changed and youth exhaustion began on 15 October 2014, when government authorities made lists of names for conscription and "reserve forces" who fulfilled their mandatory military service. These lists focused on the people who specialized in tanks, artillery, and air-defense. Those lists have been sent to all the recruitment centers and division across the regime-controlled areas. Also, these names were sent to the all military checkpoints.

The main reasons behind this were:

First: To fight the huge shortage of manpower in the governmental forces on one hand, and in the foreign Shiite militias on the other, especially after a significant portion of the Iraqi militias retreated to fight Daesh.

Second: To solicit bribes and blackmail the youth who want to have their names deleted from these lists by the officers in the recruitment centers, ministry of defense, military police....





The Syrian youth are now between two choices: either join the government forces or flee to another country which empties hundreds of thousands of areas of their youth in the regime-controlled areas. Thousands of youth have already fled to Turkey from various regime-controlled areas especially from Aleppo neighborhoods.

If someone decided to join the government forces, he would also have two choices:

Either joins the local militias (The National Defense Army) to stay in his hometown or goes to fight on the battlefronts.

Second: Recruiting youth to fight with the government forces

These lists include large numbers of Syrians' names whose ages vary from 28 year old to 35 year old according to many youth who visited the recruitment centers and checked if these lists included their names in various Syrian governorates. In total, SNHR estimates the number of names on these lists to be 500,000 youngsters mostly from Hama and then Damascus, Latakia, and Tartus.

The Syrian authorities haven't issued any official resolution but it distributed these lists and carried out raids and arrests in many Syrian governorates which indicates that it is adopting a methodology and a central policy.

In order to detain as many youth as possible, government forces, mainly security forces, carried out raids, kidnappings, and arrests in Hama, Damascus, Jabla, and Latakia. Furthermore, the military checkpoints arrested tens of youth who don't have a document that prove that they were discharged. Approximately, 3700 people have been arrested for the purpose of recruitment to this moment, we were able to record the names and details of about one thousands of them. You can search our database for any name using [the search engine](#) on our website. In a [previous report](#), we documented 47 arrests in Jabla in one day.

Third: Torturing detainees who refuse to join government forces

Many detainees, who were arrested for the purpose of forced recruitment refused to join the government forces. The security forces responded by subjected those, who refused, to brutal torture which has been a systematic policy since 2011. Three of those detainees died under torture or that what we were able to document. We believe there are more detainees died under torture. But considering [SNHR's documentation standards](#), this what we have been able to document.

The most notable name was Muath Jalloul, 34-year-old, he was arrested from his home in Latakia on Tuesday 30 September, 2014, we documented the killing of his brother before at the hands of government forces in Latakia countryside. Muath refused to join the government forces and after 11 days, Muath's dead body was sent to the national hospital in Latakia with signs of torture on it. Furthermore, many extrajudicial killings occurred during these raids when youth tried to escape the arrest. Government forces responded by shooting them which what happened to Mohammad





Ad-Dada on Friday 5 December, 2014 when government forces came to his home in Hama to arrest and take him for forced recruitment.

Fourth: Torturing detainees who refuse to join government forces

In order to promote this new direction, which apparently is being taken to fight the huge shortage of fighters in government forces and its Shiite militias, the General Administration of Immigration and Passports issued a resolution on 1 December, 2014 that strictly prohibits anyone under 40-year-old from traveling, even if they completed their military service, without an approval from the local recruitment division.

The administrations of border crossings started operating according to this resolution. A Syrian family told us that they refused to let three youth travel to flee to Lebanon and only let women and children which was the case for hundreds of families according to this family.

[Picture of the resolution document](#) which was sent to the immigration and passports centers in the various Syrian governorates.

Government branches asked its employees to show a so-called “Bayan Wada” (disclaimer statement) which can be obtained from a recruitment division. This document certifies that they are wanted for the reserve forces. If the employee wasn’t able to obtain this document, he would get dismissed from his work.

Fifth: Referring detainees to the military police

The various branches of government forces (security forces, intelligence, local militias (National Defense Guard)...) refer all the youth who were arrested from their homes or workplaces to the military police to classify and distribute them among the different battlefront across Syria to fight the armed opposition forces. Government forces ordered many doctors to join the reserve forces at the military hospitals; among whom were three doctors from Damascus and two doctors from Hama including the neurosurgery Ronie Najjar who was arrested and taken to Aleppo military hospital from his home in Mahrda.

Sixth: Recommendations

The Syrian government is forcing the Syrian to fight against each other to be a part of an ongoing holocaust since 2011 to maintain its power. Furthermore, the Syrian government has perpetrated crimes against humanity and war crimes and is now working on alarmingly emptying Syria of its youth. The international community stood idly by adopting one resolution after another such as resolution 2042, adopted on 14 May, 2012, resolution 2043, adopted on 21 May, 2012, Geneva One final statement, on 30 June, 2012, resolution 2118, adopted on 27 September, 2013, and resolution 2139, adopted on 22 February, 2014. Although these resolutions were beautifully formulated, they haven’t been carried out in the slightest. We only wish that the Security Council carry out the resolution it adopted.

