



## Not Less than 11,953 Arbitrary Arrests During 2015 1,418 amongst which were arbitrary arrested in December

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### I. Introduction:

Since 2011, SNHR is keen to follow the highest documentation standards but faces a number of challenges in documenting arrest cases. Some families are unwilling to provide us with any information since they fear their son's life. Our task becomes even harder when a female prisoner is involved, since families fear that their daughters might be tortured or executed.

Usually, negotiations with security authorities start when they blackmail families and force them to pay, sometimes, tens of millions of Syrian Liras in exchange for their son's or daughter's release. This issue is considered one of the greatest challenges faced by SNHR in documenting arrested and released individuals since 2011.

Even though SNHR documented the arrest of more than 117 thousand individuals, including children and women, we affirm that our estimations indicate that the number of detainees reached more than 215 thousand, 99 % are held captive in government detention centers, even though authorities deny these facts.

Now, Syrians have deep convictions that the international community, with all its establishments, is incapable of pressuring the Syrian authorities to release any detainee. However, most of the release cases were recorded after prisoners swap deals between government authorities and armed opposition groups. 99% of the detainees are prohibited to talk to a lawyer or their





family members. Further, none of those government or security personnel who were confirmed to perpetrate crimes was held accountable to it; on the contrary, they are protected by the government itself.

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 117 thousand persons, since the beginning of uprising in March 2011.

This mounting number of arrested individuals is due to several reasons:

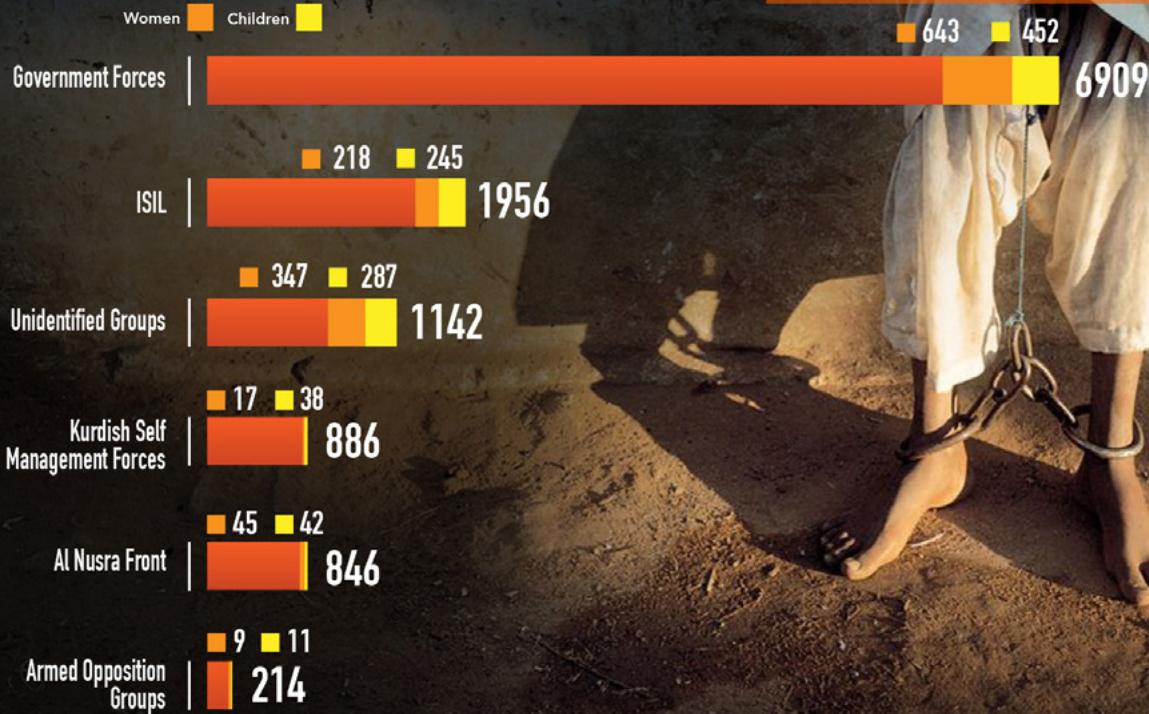
1. A great number of detainees were imprisoned since their relatives, siblings, or family members were involved with armed opposition groups or since they provided humanitarian aid to people in need.
2. Most of the arrest cases are conducted randomly against people who are not involved in protests, relief aid, or military actions.
3. The Syrian regime continues to imprison a great number of civilians who did not participate in the uprising despite judicial orders for their release.
4. Government forces control densely populated areas like the main cities in each governorate and use a systemized policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in these regions.
5. It is worth mentioning that there are multiple forces, affiliated to government authorities, who are responsible for arbitrary arresting civilians and detaining them in certain prisons that are not subjected to judicial supervision where detainees are not treated according to the Syrian stipulated laws.
6. A great number of arrest cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges. SNHR records show that more than 95% of the detainees in government and its militias' prisons are of Sunni majority.
7. The widespread arrests motivated by extortion or sectarian grudges, especially in unstable security areas. These areas experience ongoing conflicts and are either under the control of several groups, or not controlled by conflict parties. As a result, local armed militias, who are not affiliated to any of the conflict parties, emerged and contributed to the current conflict.

Details about detainees can be found through the search engine on SNHR website, you may also add the name and details of any detainee as the concerned team will check the data and upload it if proved accurate.



# Toll of arbitrary arrests in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015

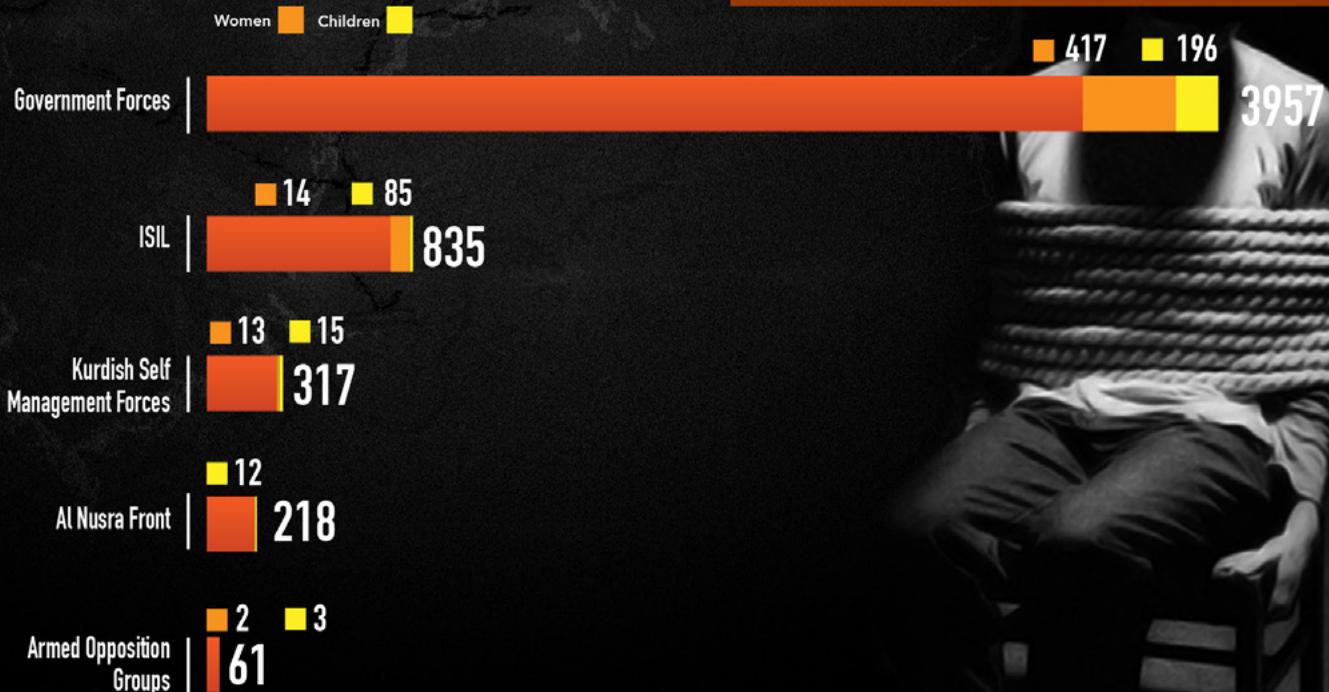


According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights

# Toll of enforced disappearances in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015



According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights



## II. Report Details:

In November 2015, government forces launched widespread arrests and raids campaigns to force military recruitment on young men. These campaigns targeted high school and university students, and government employees, even though they possessed military recruitment postponement documents.

ISIL also launched widespread arbitrary arrests in regions that are under its control. These arrests targeted a great number of armed opposition members or residents who are related to them or against civilians who were trying to leave the regions controlled by it, especially in Homs suburbs.

Kurdish Self Management Forces carried on with its arbitrary and systematic arrests against Arab civilians, activists and politicians in Tal Abyad and its suburbs and Raqqa. Also, we recorded the arrest of some of armed opposition members in Efreein in Aleppo.

### **During 2015, we recorded not less than 11,953 arrests detailed as follows according to the major conflict parties in Syria:**

#### A. Government Forces:

SNHR recorded the arrest of 6,909 arbitrary arrests which were made by government forces, including 643 women and not less 452 children.

According to SNHR methodology, detainees become enforced disappeared individuals after they spend more than a month in custody without knowing their whereabouts or locations.

More than 3,957 detainees are now considered as enforced disappeared individuals, to be added to the total number of enforced disappeared detainees in the past four years. Amongst which, there are 417 women, and 196 children.

#### B. Kurdish Self Management Forces:

SNHR recorded the arrest of 846 individuals, including 42 children and 45 women at the hands of KSM forces. Also, 4 individuals were killed under torture.

Further, KSM forces released 359 individuals. The number of enforced disappeared individuals in 2015 at the hands of KSM forces reached 317 individuals including 13 women and 15 children.





### C. Extremist Islamic Groups:

Extremist Islamic Groups arrested 2,842 individuals, including 235 women and 283 children. The number of enforced disappeared individuals at the hands of extremist Islamic groups reached not less than 1035 individuals including 14 women and 97 women.

1. ISIL arrested 1,956 individuals, including 245 children and 218 women. The number of enforced disappeared individuals at the hands of ISIL reached not less than 835 individuals including 14 women and 85 women.

2. Al Nusra Front arrested 886 individuals, including 38 children and 17 women. The number of enforced disappeared individuals at the hands of Al Nusra front reached not less than 218 individuals including 12 children.

### D. Armed Opposition Groups:

Armed Opposition Groups arrested 214 individuals, including 11 children and 9 women. The number of enforced disappeared individuals at the hands of the armed opposition groups reached not less than 61 individuals including 3 children and two women.

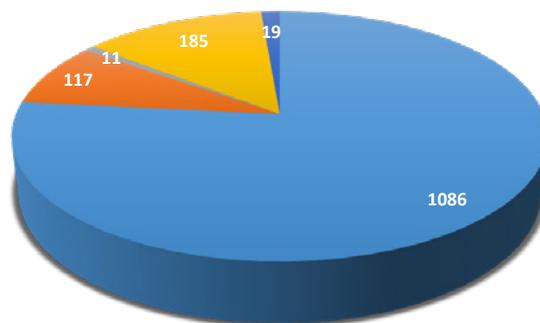
### E. Unidentified Groups:

Unidentified Groups arbitrary arrested more than 1,142 individuals including 287 children and 347 women.

## Not Less than 1418 Arbitrary Arrests in December 2015

The following tables depict the arbitrary arrests in December 2015. We assure that these numbers are the bare minimum of what we were able to document due to the current security and logistics obstacles.

### Arbitrary Arrests Documented in December 2015:

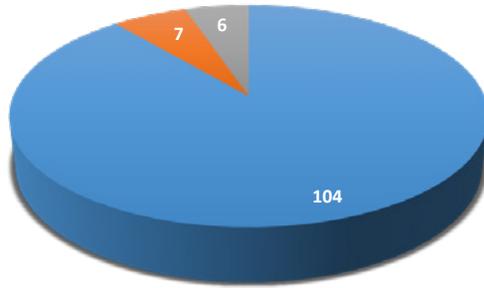


■ Government Forces ■ PYD Forces ■ Armed Opposition Groups ■ ISIS group ■ An-Nusra



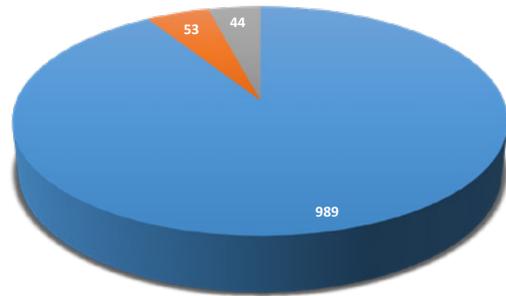


### PYD Forces



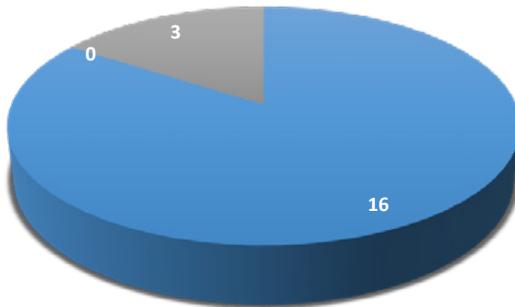
■ Males ■ Females ■ Children

### Government Forces



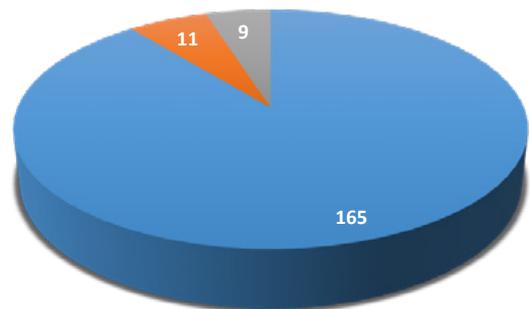
■ Males ■ Females ■ Children

### An-Nusra



■ Males ■ Females ■ Children

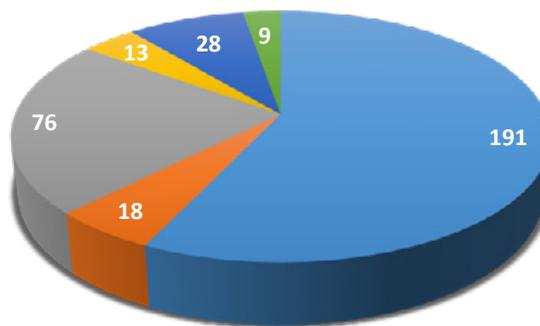
### ISIS group



■ Males ■ Females ■ Children

## Documented Releases in Different Detention Centers in December 2015:

### Releases from different prisons

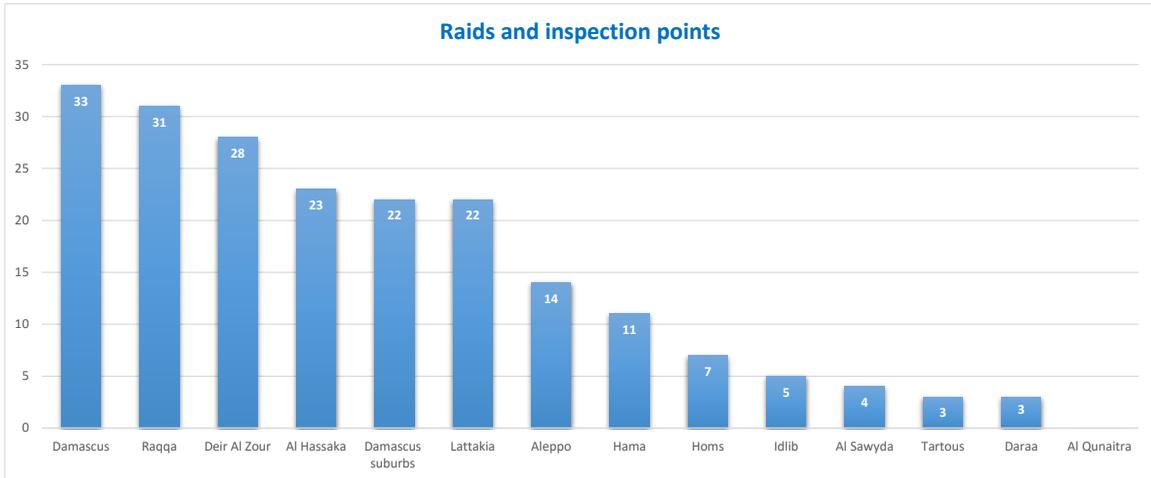


■ Civil and military prisons ■ Security Branches ■ ISIS  
■ An-Nusra ■ PYD Forces ■ Armed Opposition Groups

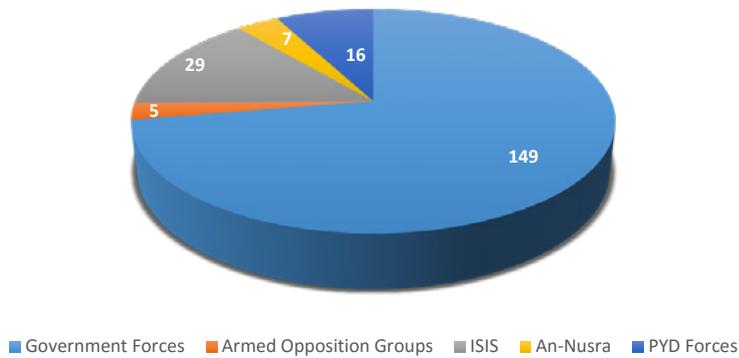




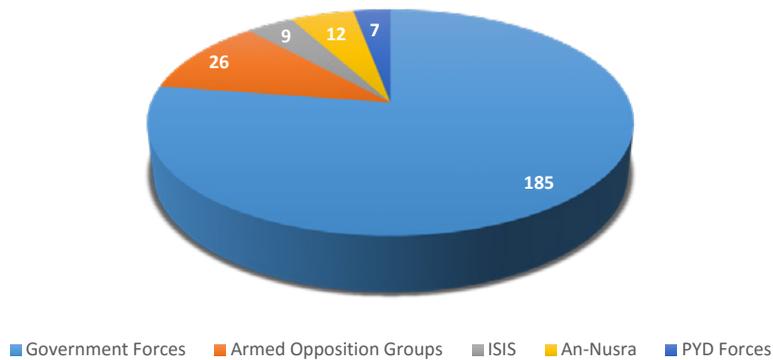
### Locations of raids and inspection points that resulted in detention:



### Parties responsible for raids:



### Abductions by unidentified Groups:





### III. The Most Significant Arbitrary Arrest Cases in December 2015:

#### A. Government Forces:

1. Abeer Al Kouwaifi, from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs, 39, a teacher, was arrested on 19 December 2015 by government forces when she passed by one of its checkpoints at the Syrian-Lebanese borders. Her fate is still unknown for SNHR and her family.
2. (The detainee's name shall be kept confidential due to security reasons). The detainee is from Hama, 19, a media activist and a reporter for Radio Shabab, was arrested on 12 December 2015 by government forces after they raided his house in Al Ba'ath neighborhood in Hama. His fate is still unknown for SNHR and her family.
3. (The detainee's name shall be kept confidential due to security reasons). The detainee is from Hama, 18, a media activist, was arrested by government forces on 6 December 2015 after they raided his house in Al Andalus neighborhood in Hama. His fate is still unknown for SNHR and her family.

#### B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

1. Yasmeen Sami Bakri, from Bustan Al Qasser neighborhood in Aleppo, a female, 38, was arrested on 15 December 2015 by armed members from Al Nusra front from her residence. Her fate is still unknown for SNHR and her family.

#### C. Kurdish Self Management:

1. [Amer Mourad](#), from Al Qameshli city in Al Hassaka governorate, 41, a journalist and manager of Hifi FM radio station, was arrested on 22 December 2016 by KSM forces from his residence in Al Qameshli. He was taken to a KSM military prison. His fate is still unknown for SNHR and her family.
2. Hayat Wazero, a female from Efreeen city in Aleppo suburbs is a relief aid activist and the head of the accounting office in Bahar Relief Aid Organization. She was arrested on 10 December 2015 by KSM forces with her child, Hisham Mohamad, 5 years old, after they raided their residence in Efreeen city and took them to unknown locations.  
[Hayat's son, Hisham Mohamad](#).

#### D. Armed Opposition Groups:

1. Activist Mou'az Abo Omar, from Kafar Batna city in Damascus suburbs, a media activist and reporter for Khtowa news agency, was arrested on 6 December 2015 by an armed opposition group after his house was raided. He was released later on.





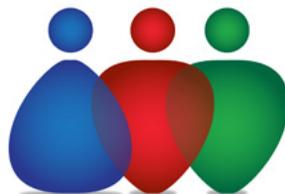
### **E. Unidentified Groups:**

1. Bana Abdullah Zarzeer, from Homs, was kidnapped on 5 December 2015 by unidentified armed groups in Homs. Her fate is still unknown for her family and SNHR.

### **Recommendations:**

1. The Security Council must monitor the implementation of the resolutions: 2042 issued on April 14, 2012, resolution 2043 issued on April 21, 2012 and 2139 issued on February 22, 2014 that put an end to the arbitrary arrests.

2- The United Nations and the International Community must shoulder their responsibilities towards hundreds of thousands of detained and missing individuals in Syria.



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