



## No less than 843 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in May 2016 The Levels of Arrests Goes Back to what it was before the Cessation of Hostilities agreement

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### First: Introduction

The detainees issue hasn't seen any notable progress even though it was included in the "Cessation of Hostilities" statement. Regarding that issue in particular, we recommend the following:

1. First: Arbitrary arrests must be ceased immediately as it is still an ongoing concern according to SNHR monthly report. All detainees' fates must be revealed and their families' right to visit them must be insured immediately as well.
2. Second: All detainees who were detained for merely exercised their political and civil rights must be released unconditionally. The use of women and children as war hostages must be stopped and they all must be released.
3. To grant the Independent international monitors of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic the International Committee of the Red Cross a visit to the official and official government detention centers without setting up any prior arrangements or any restrictions or conditions.
4. A UN committee should be formed to see to the release of the detainees periodically and per to a timetable that must be presented by all the detaining parties and mainly government forces that is detaining 99% of all the detainees.





## Methodology

The ongoing and daily process of documenting detainees come with additional challenges for SNHR that have been documenting detainees since 2011 and one of these most notable challenges is the families' reluctance to cooperate and reveal any information on their family members' arrest even secretly and especially if the arrested individual was a female due to a prevalent notion within the Syrian society that doing so would result in more torture and risks. Instead, the families try to negotiate with security forces that usually blackmail these families and demand a cash payment up to thousands of dollars in some cases. Despite the fact that SNHR possess lists of more than 117,000 detainees, including children and women, it should be noted that we estimate that the actual number of detainees have exceeded 215,000; 99% of them are being detained mainly by government forces.

The international community's and the United Nations', and all of its organs, failure to press on the Syrian authorities to release even one case (including those whose sentences are over), and even prisoners of conscience, was one of the reasons the Syrian society think it is useless to cooperate in the documentation process. Most of the releases were part of exchange deals with the armed opposition.

The Syrian government denies that it made any arrests or executed any abductions when asked by the detainees' families. SNHR obtains its information from former detainees.

All the documented detainees in May were arrested without a warrant, which has become a norm and a methodology in 99.9% of the arrests made by government forces in all of its categories and entities (army, security forces, local militias, foreign militias). In all of the many interviews we conducted with thousands of prisoners since 2011, we have never heard of an arrest warrant or a cause. Most of the arrests are either through breaking doors and arresting people from their bedrooms or at checkpoints in the streets. Seemingly, government forces follow this method in order to wipe off any evidence that might put it responsible for these arrests and the torture, physical violence, and extrajudicial killing that follow.

Also, government forces don't allow 99.9% of the detainees to contact a lawyer, families, or anyone. The people who perpetrate these crimes, any many others, have never been punished by government forces and no case involving that have been recorded, and instead government authorities encourages and protect the people who perpetrate these crimes.





SNHR has recorded that no less than 117,000 individuals have been arrested since March 2011 (99% of are being arrested by government forces) these number don't include prisoners of a criminal background and include arrests cases that are based on the internal armed conflict and mainly due to the opposition activity against the ruling authorities.

The mounting number of arrests is due to a number of reasons:

- Many arrested individuals weren't arrested because of a crime they committed, but because their relatives' involvement with armed opposition factions or providing humanitarian aids.
- Most of the arrest cases are being conducted randomly and involve people who weren't involved in the popular protests, relief, or even military activity.
- The Syrian regime is detaining thousands of detainees even after a judicial order for their release was issued despite the bureaucracy, corruption, slowness, and limpness.
- Government forces control densely populated cities as the main central cities and it continue to practice its systematic policies of arbitrary arrests against the civilians of these areas.
- There are many government-forces-affiliated entities that are authorized to make arrests, many of these entities make arrest without checking with government forces or the judicial authorities with which these entities are affiliated. Also, these entities have its own list of detention centers that judicial supervision. The detainees inside these detention centers are not being treated according to the stated Syrian laws.
- A great number of cases are driven by blackmails or sectarian grudges especially in unstable areas that are not held by specific faction or it is undergoing a power struggle. As a result, many armed militias that have emerged can't be monitored as they are don't answer to any particular group.

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





## Second: Report Details

Arbitrary arrests made in May were notable for the widespread arrests made by government forces that involved civilians in Damascus suburbs generally and specifically Az-Zabadani and Madaya cities. We documented that government forces have arrested whole families in these areas when they were fleeing to Lebanon or at government-forces-affiliated checkpoints in Damascus. Government forces also continued its conscription policies against university students and government employees in its areas and especially in Hama, Aleppo, and Damascus cities. Also, government forces arrested governed employees from areas that are under the control of other groups as they were passing government forces checkpoints at the main entries of the cities it controls; Hama and Aleppo in particular.

Additionally, government forces carried out raids and arrests in many neighborhoods in Jabla city, located in Latakia governorate. We also noticed that the numbers of civilian being arrested at the Lebanese-Syrian borders have increased during the month of May which took place as civilians were heading from Syria to Lebanon. ISIS continues to enforce its policy of arbitrary arrests against civilians in its areas. The arrests included those who violated the organization's forcibly-imposed regulations, owners of phones shops and internet cafes, and civilians who are trying to flee ISIS-held areas to the armed opposition areas.

Additionally, we documented arbitrary arrests of doctors and engineers who work as government employees that were made by ISIS in the recently-seized areas of Der Ezzor city.

In contrast, Kurdish Self Management forces also continues its policy of arbitrary arrests and enforced-disappearance against civilians and political activists who oppose its views. Kurdish Self Management forces carried out widespread arrests that targeted political and human rights activists in Amouda city, located in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, and specifically activists who are working with the Kurdish party Yekiti. Also, Kurdish Self Management forces is still conscripting children in its areas and mainly in Afreen city and the near villages in Aleppo suburbs.

We also documented that Al-Nusra have made a number of arbitrary arrests against lawyers and civil activists in Kafr nubul and Ma'rat An-Numan cities in Idlib governorate suburbs.

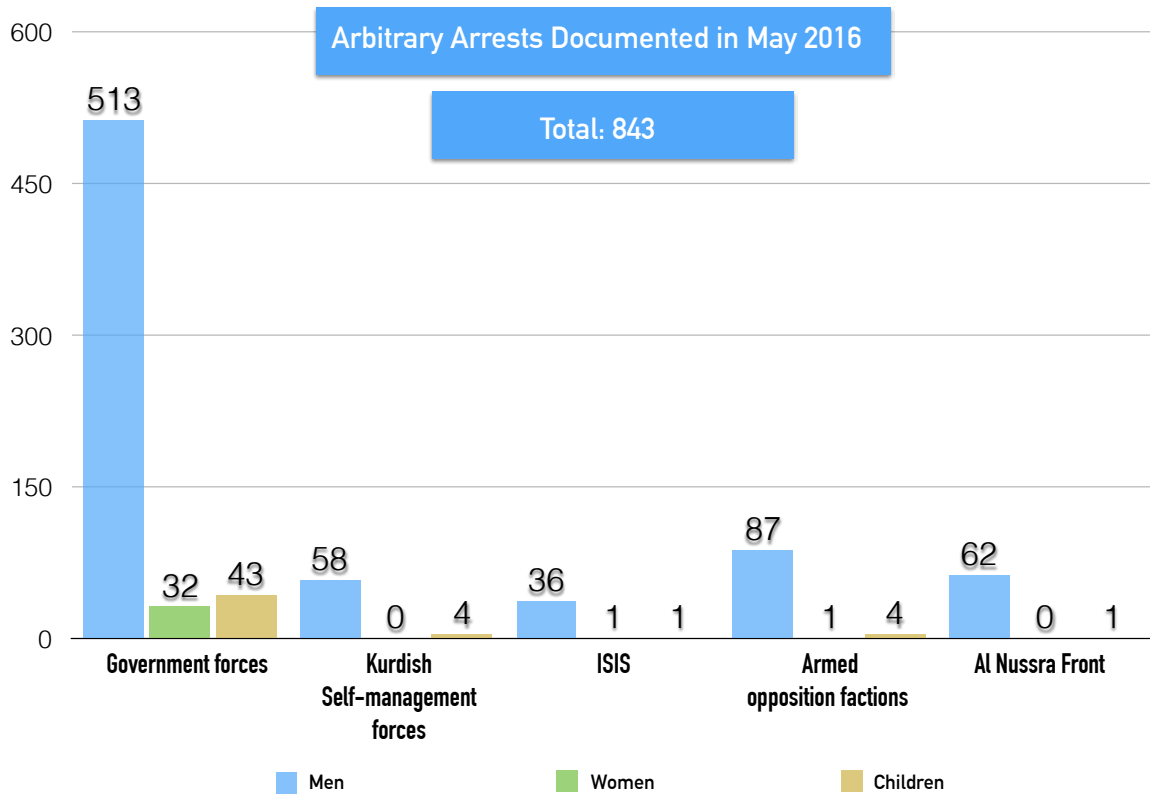
Moreover, armed opposition factions have made arbitrary arrests against media activists and a number of medical and aid workers. These arrests took place mainly in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate.

The following table shows the distribution of arrest cases in May. While this what we were able to record, we emphasize that the actual number is higher due to the security and logistic restrictions.

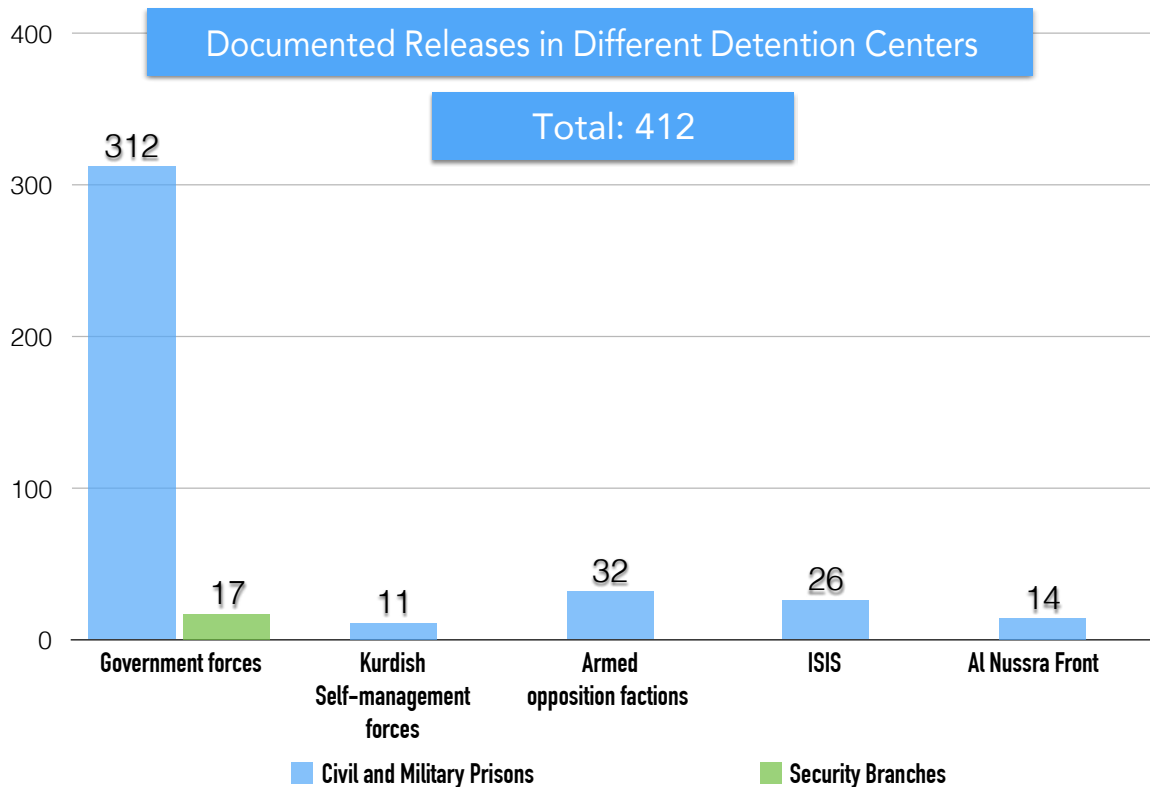




## Arbitrary Arrests Documented in May 2016:

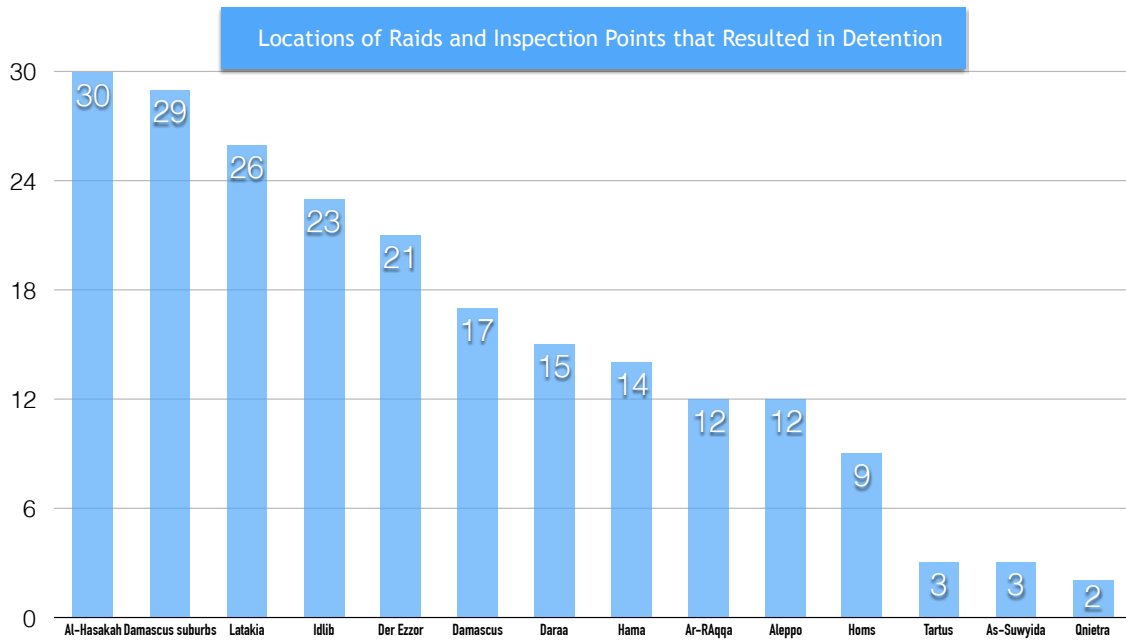


## Documented Releases in Different Detention Centers:

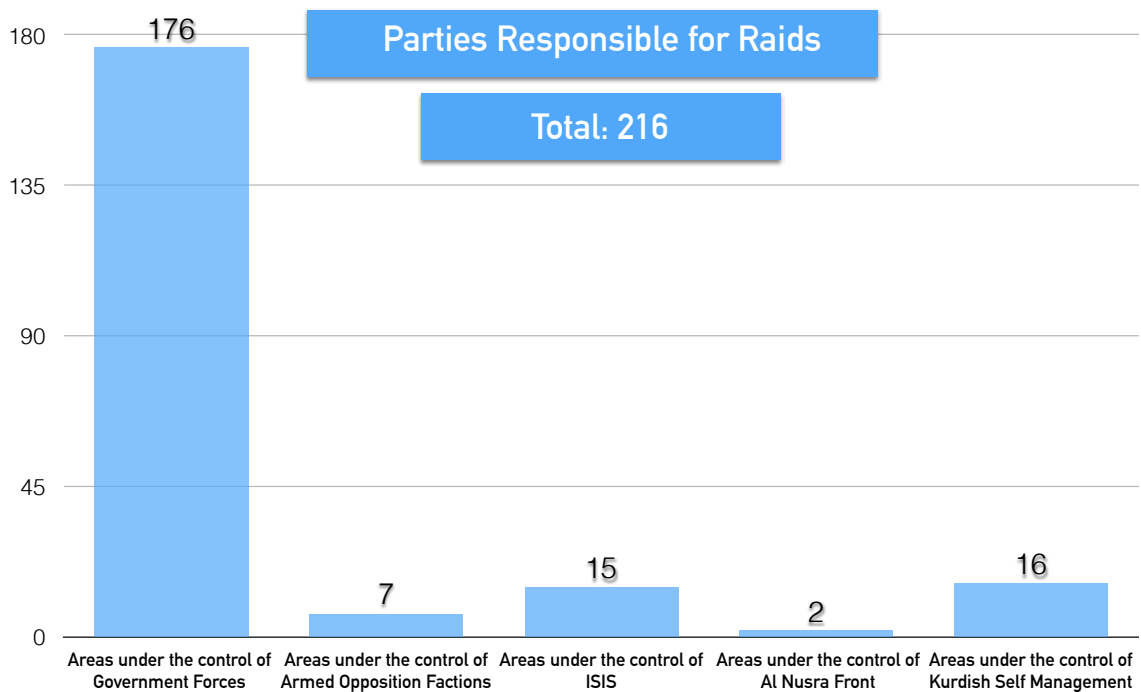




## Locations of Raids and Inspection Points that Resulted in Detention:

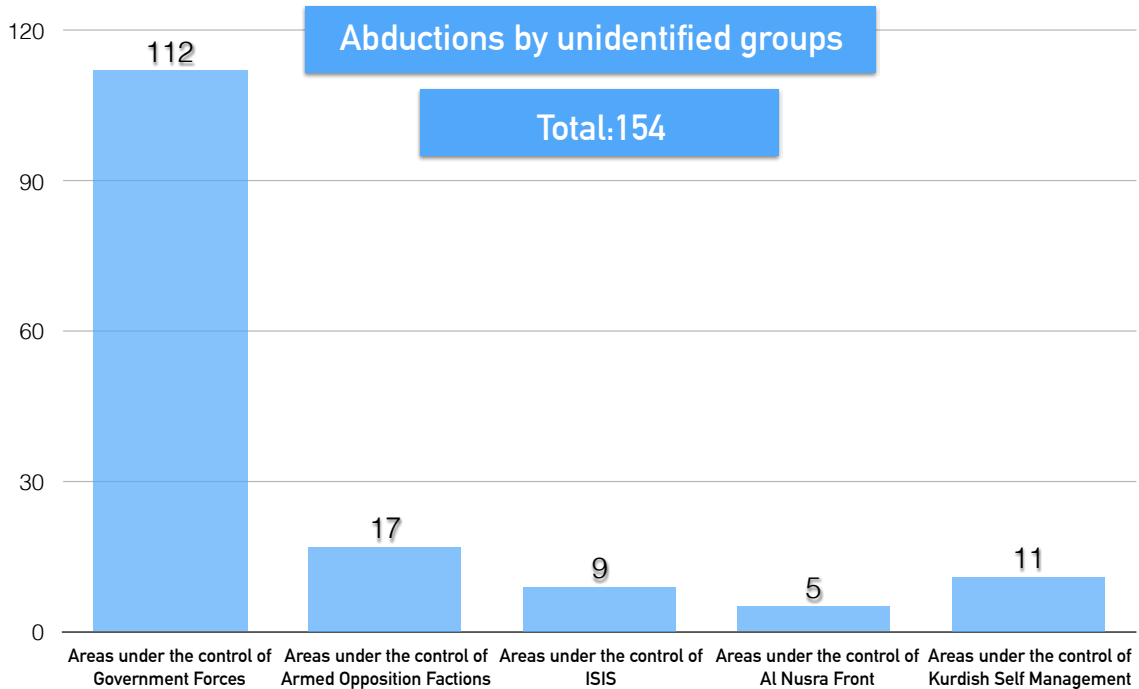


## Parties Responsible for Raids:





Abductions by unidentified groups:



## Third: Most Notable Arbitrary Arrest Cases in May

### Government forces

Razan Jawish, from Az-Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs governorate, 35-year-old, on 18 May 2016, she was arrested at a checkpoint in Sahl Madaya area near An-Nahr restaurant. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR and her family as well.

Nada Al-Kweifi, from Az-Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs governorate, 36-year-old, on 29 May 2016, she was arrested by government forces at Al-Qaws checkpoint in Bloudan area in Damascus suburbs. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR and her family as well.

(M.S) from Hama city, Medical student at Homs University, 24-year-old, on 12 May 2016, he was arrested by government forces at a checkpoint located on the international road between Homs and Hama cities. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

### Extremist Islamic Groups

The lawyer [Nazih Abdulaziz Al-Bayyoush](#), from Kafr Nobul city in Idlib governorate suburbs, 39-year-old, on 19 May 2016, he was arrested by armed men from An-Nusra Front who raided his home in Kafr Nobul city. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.





Khaled Walid Al-Hammadi, from Kafr Nobul city in Idlib governorate suburbs, on 19 May 2016, he was arrested by armed men from An-Nusra Front who raided his home. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

### **Kurdish “Self Management” Forces**

Child [Yasmin Ibrahim Kurdou](#), from Kourak town in Aleppo governorate suburbs, 12-year-old, on 2 May 2016, she was arrested by armed men from Kurdish Self Management Forces for conscription purposes while she was at Kourak primary school. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

[Abdulilah Al- Awji](#), from Amouda city in Al-Hassak governorate suburbs, 47-year-old, a leader at the Kurdish party Yekiti, on 28 May 2016, he was arrested in Amouda city by Kurdish Self Management forces for participating in a demonstration protesting the Kurdish Self Management forces’ conscription policies. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

[Radwan Abdurrahman Hamou](#), from Amouda city in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, 51-year-old, a leader at the Kurdish party Yekiti, on 28 May 2016, he was arrested in Amouda city by Kurdish Self Management forces for participating in a demonstration protesting the Kurdish Self Management forces’ conscription policies. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

[Muhsen Khalaf](#), from Amouda city in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, 53-year-old, a leader at the Kurdish party Yekiti, on 28 May 2016, he was arrested in Amouda city by Kurdish Self Management forces for participating in a demonstration protesting the Kurdish Self Management forces’ conscription policies. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

[Anwar Nasou](#), from Amouda in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, 50-year-old, a leader at the Kurdish party Yekiti and the manager of Amouda Radio Station, on 28 May 2016, he was arrested in Amouda city by Kurdish Self Management forces for participating in a demonstration protesting the Kurdish Self Management forces’ conscription policies. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.

Child [Zannar Majdel Haj Qasem](#), from Krankou town in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, 16-year-old, on 23 May 2016, he was arrested by armed men from the Kurdish Self Management forces for conscription purposes after they raided his home in Krankou town. His fate is still unknown to SNHR and his family as well.







## Armed Opposition Factions

[Ayman Al-Klidou](#), from Kafr Nobul city in Idlib governorate suburbs, 40-year-old, president of the local council of Kafr Nobul city, on 18 May 2016 he was arrested from his workplace in Kafr Nobul city by Armed men from Ahrar Ash-Sham Movement, an armed opposition faction, he was released on the same day.

[Izzou Fleitani](#), from Douma city in Damascus suburbs city, 52-year-old, teacher, on 7 May 2016 he was arrested by armed men from Jaish Al-Islam in Douma city. He was taken to an undisclosed location.

## Abduction Cases by Unidentified Groups

On Saturday 21 May 2016, Hussein Mohammad As-Sinou, a media activist, was abducted in Al-Derbasiyya city in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, controlled by Kurdish Self Management forces, he was released on the next day, Sunday 22 May 2016, We haven't been able to identify the abductor group until to this moment.

Hussein, media activist who works with Walat Media Insitution, from Al-Derbasiyya in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, he was born in 1994, a university student who is studying economics.

[Younus Assad](#), from Al-Jouhariya village in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs, 46-year-old, president of the National Kurdish Council in Amouda city, on 30 May 2016, he was abducted by unidentified armed men while he was near his home in Al-Jouhariya village in Al-Hasakah governorate suburbs. He was released a few hours later after he was brutally beaten.

## Fourth: Recommendations

1. Security Council must monitor the implementation of the following resolution: Resolution 2042, adopted on 14 April 2012, Resolution 2043, adopted on 21 April 2012, and Resolution 2139, adopted on 22 February 2014 which states and end to the crime of enforced-disappearance.
2. The United Nations and the International Community must uphold their responsibilities with respect to hundreds of thousands of detainees and forcibly-disappeared individuals in Syria.

