



46 Individuals Died under Torture in September 2015 44 amongst which were killed by government forces

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Report Methodology:

Since 2011, the Syrian regime has refused to recognize any arrests it had made as it accused Al-Qaeda and the terrorist groups of committing these crimes. Also, the Syrian regime doesn't recognize any torture cases or torturing to death. SNHR acquire its information from former prisoners and prisoners' families where most of the families get information about their beloved ones who are in prison by bribing the officials in charge.

At SNHR, we rely on the families' testimonies we get. However, it should be noted that there are many cases where the Syrian authorities don't give the families the dead bodies. Also, many families abstain from going to the military hospitals to bring the dead bodies of their beloved ones or even their belongings out of fear that they might themselves get arrested.

Also, most of the families assure use that their relatives were in good health when the arrest was made and it is highly unlikely that they died of an illness.

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says:

“The principle of “Responsibility to Protect” must be implemented as the state has failed to protect its people and all the diplomatic and peaceful efforts have failed as well. Crimes against humanity are still being perpetrated on a daily basis in Syria mainly at the hands of the state authorities.”





Therefore, SNHR faces serious difficulties in the documentation process because it is banned and pursued. In light of such circumstances, it is difficult to completely verify the number of victims as the process remains mainly based on ongoing documentation and investigation even with taking into consideration families' testimonies

Please visit the following [URL](#) for more information on our methodology in documenting victims

Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less 46 cases of death under torture in official and non-official government detention centers or prisons in September in September 2015, detailed as follows: Government Forces (army, security forces, local and foreign militias) killed 44 individuals under death.

Armed Opposition Groups killed 1 individual under torture.

PYD Kurdish Forces killed 1 individual under torture.

Cases of victims being tortured to death have been recorded ceaselessly since 2011 which clearly reflects the excessive and systematic force that is being used against detainees.

Damascus suburbs and Daraa governorates had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 11 victims, while the other victims were divided as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Hama: 9 individuals died under torture, Deir Al Zour: 9, Idlib: 2, Aleppo: 1, Homs: 1, Al Qunaitera: 1, and Raqqa: 1 individual died under torture.

Torture victims' distribution according to the Syrian governorates and the major conflict parties in Syria:

Conflict Party	Government Forces	Armed Opposition Forces	PYD
Damascus Suburbs	10	1	
Aleppo	1		
Daraa	11		
Homs	1		
Hama	9		
Deir Al Zour	9		
Raqqa			1
Al Qunaitera	1		
Idlib	2		





The most significant death under torture cases in September are: a university student, an artist, one medical personnel, and related individuals.

The Most Significant Cases of Death under torture:

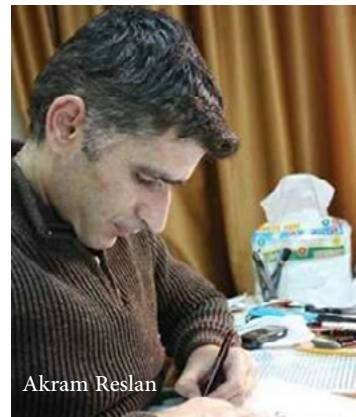
University Students:

Bader Lulu, a university student from Banyas city in Tartous governorate, 21 years old, a freshman in the Faculty of Information Technology . He was arrested by government forces a year ago and his family confirmed that he was in a good health state before he was arrested on 1 September 2015. His family informed us that they confirmed his death under torture in a government detention center.



Artists:

Akram Reslan, a caricaturist from Souran town in Hama governorate, born on 1974, was arrested by government forces on 2 October 2012 from his workplace in Al Fidaa Newspaper headquarters in Hama since he drew a caricature about a famous pro-regime phrase in the uprising: “Either Assad or we burn the country”. He was in good health when he was arrested; however, his family told us that on 19 September 2015 they confirmed his death under torture in the Intelligence Branch in Damascus.



Medical Personnel:

[Erfan Sultan Swaidan](#), a volunteer in the Syrian Red Crescent, from Daraa Al Mahata neighborhood in Daraa city. He was arrested by government forces two years ago. His family told us that on 13 September 2015 they confirmed his death under torture in a government detention center.





Related Individuals:

Ali Houssein Al Atma, and his brother Abdul Basit, from Al Sanameen city in Daraa governorate, were arrested by government forces four years ago. On 29 September 2015, their family confirmed their death under torture.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR notes that this huge number of torture victims who are falling on a monthly basis, with taking into consideration that this number is the minimum we were able to get information about, indicates clearly that this is a systemized policy adopted by the head of the ruling regime and all its parties and branches. This policy was carried out in a widespread manner which is a crime against humanity and also a war crime.

Some of the extremist groups have practiced torture acts that can be classified as war crimes as well as some of the armed opposition factions.

Recommendations

Security Council

To transfer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court.

To impose sanctions on all the commanders that were involved in torture practices which violate the international criminal law and security council resolutions on Syria especially resolutions 2042 and 2139.

To bind the Syrian government and the various influential parties to fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council investigation committee in order to conduct a thorough investigation on torture inside detention centers.

To grant human rights organization access to any location in Syria.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank everyone who helped to deliver data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

