

Major violations of media freedom in Syria, November 2013

killing 15 media activist, abduction 21, injury 15 ,and shelled tow media centers..

violations against media activists in Syria November 2013

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Summary:

Violations committed against media activists for this month distributed as follows:

1- **Kill:** 15 victims of media activists and journalists, Syrian regime killed 14 of them including 2 under torture, armed group killed a female media activist.

2- **Detention and Abduction:** Syrian Network for Human Rights documented 21 cases distributed as follows:

- Detention of 5 media activist: 2 by government forces, and 3 by Kurdish Troops

- Abduction 16 media activist have been abducted this month: 7 of them kidnapped Islamic state of Iraq and Levant , 9 by unidentified armed groups, as 3 media activist was released including: Polish war photographer Marcin Suder.

While Blogger Tal Almalohi still in detention in spite of a decision to release her from more than one month ago.

3- **Injured:** 15 media activist have been injured: 12 by government forces and 3 Jordanian Journalists injured by unknown armed groups.

4- Shelling and destruction: two media centers have been shelled and destroyed in Aleppo.

Introduction:

Syria is the most dangerous country for media to work in as a result of the ongoing armed conflict from nearly 3 years ago, the violence is no longer confined on one party, as is the danger wracking free media by several active armed forces.

It seems that we are not saying any new fact or information if we point out to the Syrian government as the main responsible of the huge loss in souls and properties, as nothing new when we mention the superiority of government forces on armed and extremist groups in quantity and quality of targeting media activists.

On the other hand there is an increase and raise in the number of abduction and direct threat cases, which in many times reached to the kill, whether to Syrian or foreign media activists, by some armed groups, particularly The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant organization, where they try to impose their own rules on the territories that partially or completely under their control, particularly Raqqa and Aleppo.

As a result of The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant organization's threats, Syrian media activists are fleeing out of the country, since the beginning of November 2013 the number of fleeing media activists' cases blatantly increase, where tens of them went to Turkey and neighboring countries, on the other hand many of them decided to stay in Syria but they stopped all of their activities fear of revenge, as many number of foreign journalists declined entering areas outside the regime's control.

Report Details:

A- Major violation against media freedom committed by government forces in Syria during November 2013:

Killed Victims:

SNHR monitored during November 2013, raise of media activists' victims number in Syria, where 16 media activists were killed and at least 16 were injured, in addition to target two media centers in Aleppo.

1- The bloody events of this month started with the murder of Media activist Diab Albatran, correspondent of Free Syrian channel, during covering events in thermal station of Aleppo countryside, 6/11/2013.

2- Media activist Photographer Abdullah Alghazawi, cause of shelling on Daraa, 8/11/2013.

3- Media activist Hasan Haj Omar, during covering clashes in Barza neighborhood of Damascus, 12/11 /2013.

4- Media activist Modar Almasalma, during covering clashes in Alsad road of Daraa, 18/11 /2013.

5- Media activist Mohamad Alandani, Managing editor and correspondent in Shahba TV channel killed in a sniper bullet near Air force intelligence branch of Aleppo, 19/11 /2013.

6- Media activist Abdullah Alakhras, shelling during covering events in Daraa, 21/11 / 2013.

7- Media activist Abdulrahman Shulah, during covering clashes in Otaiba of Damascus countryside, 23/11 /2013.

8- Media activist and spokesman of revolutionary command council of Damascus countryside Mohammad Alsaed, executed with other three media activists in an ambush in Jarba town of Damascus countryside while they were going to cover events in Almarah area, Shiite militia are involved in their execution, 23 /11 /2013.

9- Media activist Mohammad Altaib one of the most prominent media activist in Doma and Eastern Ghouta, executed with other four media activists in an ambush in Jarba town of Damascus countryside while they were going to cover events in Almarah area, Shiite militia are involved in their execution , 23 /11 /2013.

10- Media activist Salih Abdulrahman, executed with other four media activists in an ambush in Jarba town of Damascus countryside while they were going to cover events in Almarah area, Shiite militia are involved in their execution , 23 /11 /2013.

11- Media activist Mohammad Shaher Alnajar, executed with other four media activists in an ambush in Jarba town of Damascus countryside while they were going to cover events in Almarah area, Shiite militia are involved in their execution , 23 /11 /2013.

12- Media activist Eng. Ahmad Alshaib during covering clashes in Ghota 23/11 /2013.

13-Media activist Yamen Naddaf correspondent in Shahba TV channel, killed during covering clashes in Alshikh Saeed neighborhood of Aleppo, 24/11 /2013.

14- Photographer and Media activist Nibal Aliman , during covering clashes in Eastern Ghouta , 26/11 /2013.

Detention and Abduction:

The blogger Tal Almalohi still in detention in Department of general intelligence ,in spite of the issuance of judicial decision for her release in 24/10/2013, but it didn't carried out until this moment, should be mentioned that Tal have been arrested from almost 3 years.

Arrest by Syrian governorate:

Journalist Omar Alshaar, managing editor of English section in D Press news website , from his house in Jaraman of Damascus countryside 11/11/2013, and seized his laptop.

Journalist Lotfi Naqshabandi arrested by security forces for the third time in Damascus 13/11/2013.

Government forces raided and devastated the house of journalist writer Abdullah Amin Halak in Salamia of Hama countryside 5/11/2013, he is a former detainee by Syrian governorate.

Arrest by Kurdish troops

Al-Jazira area, media activist Barazan Alhusain correspondent in Zagros TV channel by troops of PYD, 12/11/2013

Kidnapped correspondent Mohamad Tawfiq Altawel and photographer Jamil Altwos at Syrian News channel by Kurdish troops in Raas Alain of Hasaka countryside, because a report prepared and transmitted by the channel's team in 26/11/2013.

Injuries:

SNHR also documented at least 12 injuries, in during covering events in the battle fields, and they are:

Media activist **Hadi Alabdullah**, by fragment in his head in Mhin village of Homs countryside, 6/11 /2013.

Media activist **Mohamad Alzhor** in Mhin village of Homs countryside, 5/11 /2013.

Four members of Aleppo Media centers in shelling, we know the names of photographer **Fadi Alhalabi**, photographer **Mohamad Altaib**, and media activist **Hasan Katat**, where the headquarter of the center was shelled by warplanes caused almost totally destruction and loosing many equipments so he temporarily stopped working 16/11/2013

Government forces' shells targeted Aleppo News Network offices in Nafisa of Aleppo, causing partial destruction without injuries 17/11/2013

Media activist **Omar Aljolani** correspondent at Syria Live Network in Qunaitra 18/11 /2013

Media activist **Mohamad Alrefai** in Daraa , 22/11 /2013

Media activist **Abu Ali Alhalabi** correspondent at Unified Aleppo reporters center in Naqarine, 27/11/2013

Media activist **Mohamad Ibrahim** correspondent at Sham News Network in besieged Homs 28/11/2013

Media activists **Mohammad Btihish** and **Mahmoud Yasou** cause of shelling by heavy machine guns on Albab city of Aleppo 30/11/2013

In addition to Amputate the legs of media activist **Abu Fahd Alhalabi** correspondent of Shada TV channel cause a mine in Khanaser of Aleppo countryside 5/11/2013.

B- Major violation against media freedom committed by armed opposition in Syria during November 2013:

SNHR recorder unprecedented raise in kidnapping workers in the media field by armed groups, (led by Islamic state of Iraq and Levant organization especially in the area under their control), 16 media activist including two journalists from Sweden was kidnapped, in addition to the kill of female media activist in Aleppo countryside after they kidnapped her for 40 days.

3 media activists were released including Polish war photographer Marcin Suder after paying ransom to the kidnappers.

Details:

Killed Victims:

The most prominent bloody events was the kill of Samira Kayali female media activist in Aleppo countryside by Battalion Commander in Andan Brigade known as Nimr Abu Alkhaer with other two fighters “ suspected to be involved with Aleppo Air Force Intelligence “in armed groups in a farm of the north countryside of Aleppo after they kidnapped her for 40 days, while she was going to the Turkish border, signs of torture appeared on her body 9/11/2013.

Abduction:

- Moaead Salmoum correspondent in Orient TV channel by elements of Islamic state of Iraq and Levant organization near Castello roundabout in Aleppo 2/11 /2013, as the same organization kidnapped the following :
- Prominent media activist Abdulwahab Mola know as Abu Staif, in Masaken Hanano neighborhood of Aleppo, he is a member of Aleppo news network and presenter of program revolution 3 stars on Aleppo today TV channel, 8/11 /2013.
- Media activist: Tarek Shekho correspondent at Syria Live Network , released after one day in Rabeaa of Lattakia countryside 10/11 /2013
- Media and relief activist Ahmad Bremo, in Zabidiea neighborhood of Aleppo 16/11 /2013.
- Media activists Louai Abu Aljoud (previous correspondent at Alarabia Channel), Karam Karam and Noor Taiba while they were going to cover Kadi Asqar neighborhood massacre 28/11/2013.

Release:

Elements of Islamic state of Iraq and Levant organization broke into the house of Media activist Anwar Alhalazwni for the second time in Eazaz in Aleppo countryside and threaten his family 11/11/2013.

- Photographer Ziad Alhomsy (a member in Rosol Arts) was released in 24/11/2013, after been kidnapped by the Islamic state of Iraq and Levant organization in his way back from Turkey to Eastern Ghouta in 12/10/2013.

Abduction by unknown armed groups:

- Kidnapping Mohamad Idlibi correspondent of “ Idlib Press” news agency in an ambush in his way back from Alhajia village to Darkoush in Idlib countryside 20/11/2013
- Media activist Mohaimen Alhalabi in Eastern Aleppo countryside 26/11/2013
- Media activist Yaser Satouf correspondent in Shahba TV channel in Dier Hafer of Aleppo 20/11/2013
- Sweden reporter Magnus Falkehed and photographer Niclas Hammarström near Lebanese border 23/11/2013

- Media activist Hisham Alkhateb from his shop in Wadi street of Raqqa 30/11/2013
- Media activist Omar Alhasan in Baaedin neighborhood of Aleppo 30/11/2013.

Release:

- Release correspondent of Free Syrian TV channel Mohamad Alnashef by a patrol of Sham Islamic Freedom Movement from the kidnapping gang on Ras Alain road 28/11/2013
- Release media activist Hazem Alhusain 5/11/2013, after almost one month of detention by armed groups.
- Release Polish war photographer Marcin Suder after paying ransom to the kidnappers in 31/10/2013, he was working for Corbis French agency, and was kidnapped since 24/7/2013 by armed groups in Saraqeb of Idlib countryside.
- An armed group attacked the office of journalist Raafat Rifaai to arrest him (correspondent of Zaman Alwasl newspaper) in Aleppo, although he stopped his work and disappeared since 7/11/2013, they sabotage and looted his office 13/11/2013.
- From his side media activist and Orient TV correspondent Aqel Husain that he stopped his work in 4/11/2013 due to threatens and violations against media activists, in addition to Loua Abu Aljoud (ex correspondent of Al-Arabia channel) who quite from the channel after threaten when the kill of media activist Mohammad Alsaaed, as Zaman Alwasl newspaper correspondent Raafat Rifaai, who decided to stop media work and many others of media activist and reporters who decided to flee out of the country or to stop.
- Should mention that 3 Jordanian Journalists (members of writers association of Jordan) had minor injuries in head after an attempt to explode the bus they were travelling on from Damascus to Amman by unknown armed groups after interviews with Syrian officials 22/11/2013.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Legal Conclusions:

Rule 34 of Customary IHL the applicable law in the armed conflicts

Rule 34. Civilian journalists engaged in professional missions in areas of armed conflict must be respected and protected as long as they are not taking a direct part in hostilities.

- Widespread unlawful killing operations committed by government forces, not only don't respect media nature, but also deliberately target media activists and workers since the beginning of Syrian revolution to this date, the ongoing fact that we lose as a monthly average nearly 20 victims between media activists and reporters.

It proves that the violations committed by government forces are systematic state policy, it evidenced by the large number of media victims in all of the Syrian governorates, so it is crime against humanity according to the article 7 of Rome Statute.

- Syrian Government's Forces deliberately committed those crimes under non-international armed conflicts which is considered as a war crime according to Article 8 of the Rome Statute.

Armed groups in Syria, especially Islamic state of Iraq and Levant committed multiple violations against Syrian medias, which amount to war crimes

Syrian National Coalition Of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces should follow-up and account those responsible of such violations and should ensure that no one of them escape punishment.

[SNHR](#) reaffirmed its condemnation of the continuous violations against media freedom and convey the truth of any party and whatever type or size disparity.

As the network seeks actively from all parties, to respect media freedom and to ensure the safety of media activists, with accounting involved in violations against journalists and media activists.

[SNHR](#) also emphasis the need to move hard and fast by security council to issue resolutions oblige all the parties to allow free media coverage.

Recommendations:

- Intensification of press and media coverage about the tragedies and violations committed against the Syrian people
- Supporting the struggle of the Syrian people and their revolution to get freedom and democracy.
- Train Syrian media activists in order to upgrade their media and press level

Attachments:

Pictures and videos of media activities that are mentioned in the report

A- Victims ,wounded and detainees by Government's forces:

[Abdullah Alghazawi](#)

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

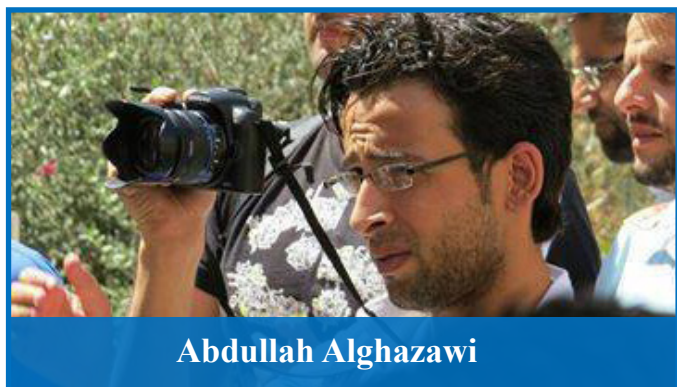
[Hasan Haj Omar](#)

[Modar Masalma](#)

[Link](#)



Diab Albatran



Abdullah Alghazawi

[Mohamad Alandani](#)

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#)

[Abdullah Alakhras](#)

[Abdulrahman Shulah](#)

Mohammad Alsaed

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#), [Link 4](#), [Link 5](#), [Link 6](#), [Link 7](#), [Link 8](#)

Picture show Shiite militia that killed Mohammad Alsaed

Mohammad Altaib

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#), [Link 4](#), [Link 5](#), [Link 6](#)

Salih Abdulrahman

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Mohammad Shaher Alnajar

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Ahmad Alshaib

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Yamen Naddaf

Nibal Aliman

detainees

[Tal Almalohi](#)

[Barazan Alhusain](#)

Omar Alshaar

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

[Abdullah Amin Halak](#)

Injuries

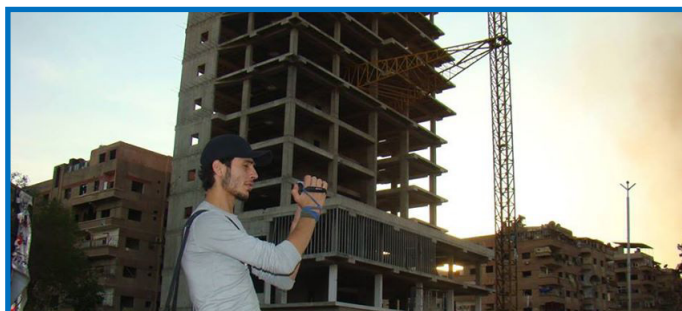
[Hadi Alabdullah](#)

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#)

Amputate the legs of media activist

[Abu Fahd Alhalabi](#)

[Mohammad Alzahori](#)



Mohammad Shaher Alnajar



Fadi Alhalabi

Mohammad Altaib

Video of shelling Aleppo Media Centre AMC

Omar Aljolani

Mohammad Alrefai

Mohammad Ibrahim

B- Victims and Abduction by Armed groups:

Mrs. Samira Kayali

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#), [Link 4](#), [Link 5](#)

Abduction:

Moaead Salmoum

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Aqel Husain

Abdulwahab Mola know as Abu Staif

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Tarek Shekho

Polish war photographer Marcin Suder

Ziad Alhoms

Hazem Alhusain

Raafat Rifaai

Ahmad Bremo



Yaser Satouf

Mohaimen Alhalabi

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Sweden reporter Magnus Falkehed and photographer Niclas Hammarström

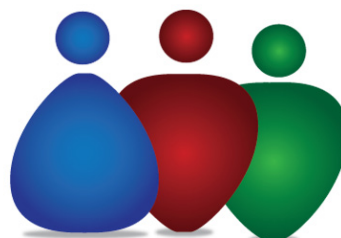
[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Mohamad Alnashef

[Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Louai Abu Aljoud

Thanks to the victims' families and to all of journalists and media activists who helped Syrian Network for Human Rights to prepare this report.



Syrian Network
For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان