



59 Deaths under Torture during June 2015

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I. 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

II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less than 59 torture-to-death cases at the official and unofficial detention centers in the month of June 2015, detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (military, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shitte militias) killed 57 individuals

B. ISIS (known as Daesh in Arabic) killed 2 individuals

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.

Daraa governorate had the highest number of victims who were tortured to death with 15 victims, while the other victims were divided as follows:

12 in Hama, 11 in Damascus Suburbs, 5 in Homs, 4 in Damascus, 4 in Deir Al Zour, 2 in Idlib, 2 in Raqqa, 2 in Lattakia, 1 in Aleppo and 1 in Tartous.

III. The Most Notable Death under Torture Cases in June 2015 are:

A university student, a high school student, a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, media activist, a child, and one case that involved victims from the same family.

a. University Students:

[Moahamad Khaled Al Khattab](#), a student in the faculty of Civil Engineering in Damascus University, from Tebet Al Imam City in Hama, was 24 years old when on 16 August 2012 was arrested by the National Security Forces in his university campus. On 21 June 2015, his family announced his dead after they received a statement from security forces declaring his death in the 215 security branch in Damascus.





b. High School Students:

Othman Fawaz Al Dalu, a high school student from Al Blubeil town in Deir Al Zour, was 18 years old when government forces arrested him in May 2014 at Al Harabish – Al Joura checkpoint in Deir Al Zour City while he was going to the examination center. On 7 June 2015, we learned from his family that they verified their son's death under torture in the 293 security branch in Damascus, without handing over the body to them.

c. Doctors

[Mahmoud Mohamad Al Kassem](#) Al Mefa'alni, a doctor from Nahta town in Daraa, was arrested by government forces three and a half years ago. On 16 June 2015, we learned from his family that they were informed of his death under torture in one of the governmental detention centers.

d. Lawyers

Imad Momamad Nouhad Al Droubi, from Al Wa'er neighborhood in Homs, was 44 years old when government forces arrested him on 22 May 2013 on one of the checkpoints in Homs. On 19 June 2015, we learned from his family that they were informed of his death in one the detention centers in Damascus.



Imad Momamad Nouhad Al Droubi

e. Engineers

[Mohamad Shehab Housein Al Khateeb](#), from Jirjinaz town in Idlib, 47 years old, was arrested on 27 November 2014 by the military security branch in Aleppo. Back then, he was healthy and in good condition but on 24 June 2015, we learned from his family that they were informed of his death under torture when they checked the military police branch in Damascus. He died on 15 January 2015 in Palestine Security Forces Branch.

f. Media Activists

(A.N) (His name was kept confidential for security reasons), a media activist, from Hama governorate, was 46 years old when on 24 March 2012 was arrested by government forces from his house. His parents confirmed that he was in a good health state before he was arrested. On 27 June 2015, we learned from his family that they officially notified of their son's death inside the 215 security branch in Damascus.





g. Children

Marcel Adnan Khalifi, a 17 years old Palestinian young man, from Douma in Damascus suburbs, was arrested on 25 May 2015 on Misraba checkpoint; his family assured that he was in a good healthy state before his arrest. We learned from his parents that on 8 June 2015, they were informed of his death under torture, when a member of the security forces handed over Marcel's belongings and his death certificate that states that he died on 25 May 2015. Nonetheless, his parents did not receive his ID, nor his body.



Cases that Involve Victims from the Same Family

Majed Abdu Abu Trakyu and his brother, Mohannad, from Hurayra village in Damascus suburbs, were arrested by the government forces. On 16 June 2015, we were informed from their family that they died under torture on 16 June 2015 in one of the government detention centers.

IV. 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 parts 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

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