



The Killing of no Less than 12,679 due to Torture, 99% of them at the Hands of the Syrian Regime Forces The Rest of Detainees must be Rescued

Report Contents:

- I. Introduction and Methodology
- II. Executive Summary
- III. Torture for the Four Main Parties
 - a. Government Forces
 - b. Extremist Islamic Groups (ISIS and Al-Nusra Front)
 - c. Self-management forces (primarily the Democratic Union Party, Branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)
 - d. Armed Opposition Factions
- IV. Most Notable Victims of Torture
- V. Recommendations
- Acknowledgment

I. Introduction and Methodology

26 June marks the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. On this day, SNHR publishes a periodic report on torture, its methods, detention centers, and the victims of torture toll which indicates that torture practices are still ongoing and things haven't changed significantly from what we documented in last year's report. As rates of torturing detainees and victims of torture are higher in Syria than any other country in the world, we should shed light on the most notable victims of torture and continuously work on obtaining accounts of new survivors in the hopes that someday those who are responsible for these crimes will be held accountable.

The Syrian regime and its allies detain the highest number of people, and top all other parties in torture violations as they have perpetrated 99% of the torture violations which is also established in the monthly report we publish every month on victims of torture toll.

This report methodology is based on SNHR archive that have been built through ongoing and daily monitoring and documenting since 2011. All statistics and numbers are recorded with names, pictures, place and date of death or detention and other details. In light of the exceptional difficulties and the huge magnitude of violations, this report only contains the minimum of the violations that we were able to document as the actual numbers are certainly





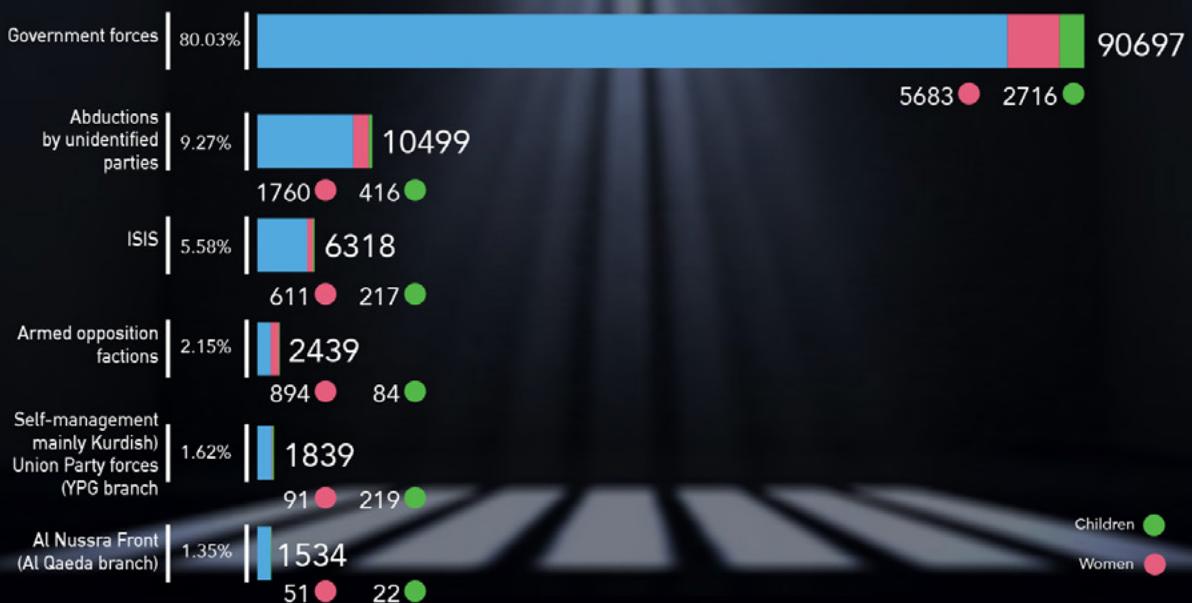
greater. We included in this report the most notable incidents that have occurred since last year's report which was also published on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 26 June 2015 – 26 June 2016.

We have spoken to hundreds of survivors of detention over the last five years, the information and methods of torture are similar to a great extent and accounts of survivors bear a resemblance whether it was southern, northern, western, or eastern Syria. It is as you are talking to one person which outlines a central pattern in the use of torture as a systematic method of warfare by the Syrian regime against its enemies. This report contains the accounts of eight survivors from different Syrian governorates. We were able to obtain pictures and documents that prove that they were subjected to torture inside detention centers. Additionally, those survivors gave us permission to use the information and evidences they presented. However, some of them preferred to have their identity concealed out of fear for their safety and the safety of their families.

II. Executive Summary

According to the following chart that illustrates the total number of recorded persons, (therefore it is the minimum) who are still under detention or still forcibly-disappeared. According to SNHR data and to hundreds of survivors' accounts, all of these detainees and forcibly-disappeared persons are being subjects to various methods of torture that vary according to the arresting party.

Toll of detainees still under arrest or enforced disappearance from March 2011 to May 2016



According to SNHR documentation



Surely, the number of those who have been arrested and released later is immensely greater and its immeasurable. Detainees, especially in security branches and secret detention centers, are detained under extremely brutal conditions. Despite the systematic use of torture methods (we highlighted in 2011 the most notable 46 methods that are still being practiced until this day) most deaths result from the inhumane detention conditions that lead to sickness and starvation and a gradual unimaginably painful death. Every day, two people die silently without any media or political spotlight. Therefore, the impossible must be done in order to save the rest of the recorded detainees and reveal the fate of the forcibly-disappeared.

From March 2011 until June 2016, we documented the death of 12,679 individuals due to torture including 163 children and 53 women divided by the four main parties as follows:





III. Torture for the Four Main Parties

a. Government forces (army, security, local and foreign militias)

Despite hundreds of news and journalistic reports from Arabic, international, and local groups on widespread cases of death under torture inside government detention centers, the most notable of which were after the leak that was known later as the Caesar Photographs (we highlighted the photographs and revealed the fates of 772 individuals in a study entitled: “The Photographed Holocaust”), in addition to Human Rights Council statements and the ten reports published by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic that have noted – since its first report- that the torture practices by the Syrian regime amount to crimes against humanity and in its most recent report: “Out of Sight, Out of Mind” it noted practices that amount to genocide, the Syrian regime or the People’s Council never launched even one investigation or held a security element, even a low-level accountable. All of this makes us certain that the torture practices and the resultant deaths are known to the civil and military leaders of the various organs of the Syrian regime and it is even being conducted on their orders in light of the current Syrian constitution that legalizes criminality and impunity or at least they chose to ignore these practices despite being completely aware of it. Therefore, the Syrian regime has to prove that all of these deaths didn’t occur due to torture or poor detention conditions. A separate investigation must be launched for each death case. Also, the fate of the dead bodies must be revealed as there are claims about a systematic process of burning bodies in order to hide it whereas the rare occurrences where the dead bodies are handed over are conditional to signing a document that says that the victim was killed by “the armed terrorist groups” and usually severe signs of torture are visible on those bodies.

As we noted in the report “The Photographed Holocaust”, published on 21 September 2015, the various state institutions coordinate between each other starting with the arrest, and then torture, and then killing, and then hiding the body instead of delivering it to the victim’s family. Thus, the security institution is not the only institution responsible for this process as the hospitals, doctors, technicians and others are also involved. From the investigations we conducted, it seems that this process is done routinely and seamlessly as if we are living with an automated machine for arresting, torturing, killing, and burying people.





Fadel AbdulGhani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“we also never recorded one arrest case that was carried out in accordance with a legal arrest warrant. Furthermore, not even one of the families of the victims of torture ever told us that it knew of an investigation that the Syrian regime conducted to find out the cause of death or to exonerate the state that detained the victim. The prevalent methodology and patterns make the torture practices used inside the Syrian regime detention centers crimes against humanity. We are still waiting for the free world to take the next step in order to protect humanity in Syria, now that this mechanism is exposed.”

Omar Ahmad Ash-Shaghri, a high school student, from Al-Byda village, located in Banyas city suburbs in Tartus governorate. He was arrested by government forces who raided his place of residence in Ibn Khaldoun neighborhood in Banyas city on 16 January 2012. Aged 17 at the time, he spent the majority of his detention time in Sydnaya military prison and Branch 215 in Damascus. He was released on 11 June 2015.

Omar told SNHR about the most heinous torture techniques he was subjected to during his time in Sydbnaya military prison. Some of the torture was of sectarian traits:

“The hardest kind of torture I experienced was the one where they put a liquid substance on an area of your body and use an electrical zapper; when you are being electrocuted the electricity flow out from the area where they pouted the liquid substance causing an unbearable pain. The other kind of torture was tying your penis with a thread and forcibly feeding you salt and water again and again. After 15 minutes, you start feeling a bitter pain in your kidney and pelvis that last for long hours. During interrogation, I sustained fractures in my legs, arms, and the ribcage caused by being beaten with a metal stick. The signs of the fractures can still be seen.”





Picture show the transformation and the sever weight loss after Omar was released from the detention center on 11 June 2015 as a result of the starvation and negligent healthcare. when he was released, Omar’s weight was 35 kilograms and he has tuberculosis.



Omar continues: “Nearly a year has passed since I was released and I still suffer from sickness, fatigue, and the effects of the severe torture I experienced. The pictures of my friends who died under torture near me are still haunting me. No one can imagine the hell that is detention centers. There are still thousands who are being subjected to the same brutality I experienced at the hands of security forces.”



Picture of medical documents that prove that Omar sustained tuberculosis during his time at a government detention center.





Dr. Kamal Muhi Al-Din Al-Jom'aa, from Al-Ghadfa in Idlib governorate suburbs, born in 1972, aged 40-year-old at the time of his arrest, he is a heart surgeon. On 6 June 2012, he was arrested by elements affiliated to State Security branch from his place of work at the heart hospital in Aleppo city. They took him to the State Security branch in Aleppo where he was detained for four days before he was transferred to branch 285, affiliated to the Military Security branch, in Kafrsusa neighborhood in Damascus via a warplane. He spent 57 days there during which he suffered various kinds of ongoing torture for 47 days that included beating, electrocution, the Ghost method “Al-Shabah”, whipping. Subsequently, he was transferred to Sydnaya military prison where he spent about “one year and seven months” before he was transferred again to Al-Balouna prison in Homs city. He was released on 13 April 2016.

Picture of Dr. Kamal Jom'a before he was arrested by government forces on 6 June 2015 and after he was released on 13 April 2016.



Dr. Kamal Jom'a told SNHR about the most brutal methods of torture he experienced:

“at branch 285 in Kafrsusa I experienced various kinds of torture the moment I entered the branch such as putting me in a tire and beating me, the Ghost method “Al-Shabah”, electrocution, and insults. However, the most brutal technique was Besaat Al-Rih “The Flying Carpet” where they put me on Besat Ar-Rih while I was blindfolded and completely na-





ked. Besat Ar-Rih is two wooded boards covered by iron, the two boards are attached via joints where they forced you to lie on your tummy and they tie you to Besat Al-Rih and then bend the borders and that is when your vertebrae start to detach and they pour cold water on the back during the torture that usually lasts for about two hours.”

Ja'far Al-Haj Qasem, from Der Ezzor city, 46-year-old. He was arrested from Der Ezzor City on 18 November 2011. He was detained at Palestine branch in Damascus city before he was transferred to Adra central prison and then Aleppo central prison and Hama central prison. He was released on 9 May 2016 after negotiations that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) mediated in.

Ja'far experienced, during the time of his detention, torture and beating with a metal pipe on his back which broke three vertebrae in his back resulting in paralysis and an inability to move.

Picture of Ja'far Al-Haj Qasem when he was released from the detention center as he was unable to move.



Ja'far Al-Haj Qasem told SNHR:

“when I was arrested I didn't know what my charges were. During the interrogation, I was beaten with a metal pipe on my back and kicked in Palestine branch. They only tortured me without any charges. After some time, they accused me of carrying weapons and they only wanted to con-





fess to that which I refused. Consequently, they continued to torture me and they used to extinguish their cigarettes all over my body and tongue. They had my fingernails removed and I experienced the Ghost method.”

Ja'far Al-Haj Qasem told us how torture led to his paralysis:

“Because I refused to confess to the false accusations, they continued to torture me in a room made for torture. One day, an officer came and said: “you don't want to confess, well you are going to after this” and started to hit me on my back with all he got until three vertebrae broke in my back and I fainted. After I woke up, I found myself lying in a clinic or a hospital (I don't know where exactly) I couldn't feel my legs and that is when I realized I had hemiplegia. Because of my disability, I couldn't go to the bathroom so they put a urinary catheter. You can imagine how a sick person who has a urinary catheter in a very unhygienic cell. I suffered from urinary infection and shortage of medicine because the officers refused to let doctors see me regularly. I stayed like this until I was transferred to Aleppo central prison and then Adra central prison and lastly Hama central prison.”

[Video](#) shows Ja'far Al-Haj Qasem when he arrived in Hama suburbs with the help of SARC and then he received treatment in the opposition-held areas on 9 May 2016.





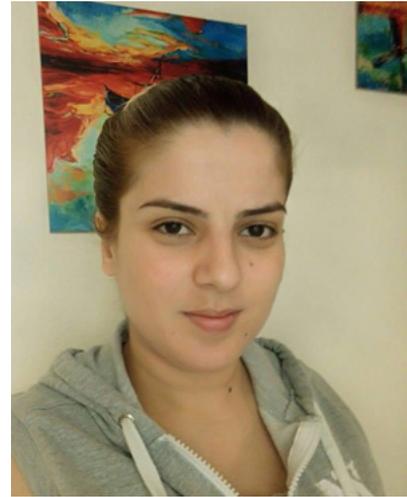
Mrs Aliya Ismat Shikhou, lives in Al-Ashrafiya neighborhood in Aleppo city, aged 29 at the time of the arrest. She was arrested by government forces from the faculty of mathematics at Aleppo University in Aleppo city on 21 May 2012. She was taken to the Air Force Security branch and was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during her detention. She was released after a person with connection with government forces mediated for her on 2 June 2012.

Aliya Shikhou told SNHR:

“When security forces entered the office I was in at the faculty of mathematics, they started hitting me recklessly on my head until I lost consciousness after I tried to struggle by screaming and pushing them away.”

At the Air Force Security branch Aliya was tortured brutally:

“during my detention at the branch, I was accused of participating in demonstration. During the interrogation they burned my hands with cigarettes and kicked me all over my body. They forced me to undress and tried to harass me and cut parts of my hair with a knife.”



Picture of Aliya Ismat Shikhou about a week before the arrest



Picture of the bruises and signs of beating on Aliya Shikhou's face after she was released from a government detention center on 2 June 2012





Alaa Fawwaz Baroudi, 34-year-old, from Al-Shrea' neighborhood in Hama, a SARC volunteer in Hama. On 16 June 2013, security forces affiliated with Air Force Security in Hama city arrested him in front of his shop in Al-Baath neighborhood. Immediately after he was captured, they started beating him with a Kalashnikov on his head and all over his body. They took him to the Air Force Security detention center in Hama military airbase. SNHR met Alaa Baroudi in Turkey where he told us:



“When I arrived in the Air Force Security branch in Hama military airbase, I was subjected to the Ghost “Shabah” method for two days and then I was tortured using electricity and they drowned my head under water. A Moath Hamdmad, a captain-ranked officer, interrogated me and they accused of possessing weapons.”

Three days after his arrest, Alaa Baroudi's family bribed the officers at the Air Force security branch and he was released. When his family went to get him from Hama military airbase, they immediately took him to Al-Hourani private hospital where he received treatment for a few hours before his family took him to an undisclosed place before his wounds and bruises from all the torture were treated as they received threats from the Air Force Security.

[Bruises and wounds](#) on Alaa Baroudi's [body](#) after he was released from the government detention center in Hama city on 19 June 2013

Some of the most notable victims of torture

University student Moath Ismail Al-Melam, from Der Ezzor city, 20-year-old. He was arrested by government forces on 1 February 2015 at a checkpoint in the area of Hassan Taha Street in Der Ezzor city. We received information confirming his death due to torture at a government forces detention center in Damascus city.





Citizen Rashad Lutfi Asfari, from Idlib city, 67-year-old. He was arrested by government forces from Idlib city in March 2012. On 5 April 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture at a government forces detention centers in Damascus city.



Semoun Farid Yaqoub, from Sqieliya in Hama governorate suburbs, 36-year-old. On 26 November 2015, he was arrested by government forces at Al-Qtiefah checkpoint on Damascus road where he was headed to a hospital in Damascus for a surgical procedure. On 10 December 2015, government forces handed over his body to his family after he died due to torture at a government forces detention center.



Child Saleh Karmani, from Der Ezzor city, aged 14-year-old at the time of the arrest. He was arrested in early-2014. On 7 May 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture at a government forces detention center in Damascus city.

Legal Conclusions:

According to this report, and previous reports, Government authorities' practices constitute a blatant violation of the international human rights law that are manifested in the crime of torture including torture through sexual violence. These acts qualify as crimes against humanity and, in many cases, have violated the right to life systematically. Additionally, Extrajudicial killings through torture amount to crimes against humanity. Furthermore, the crimes that were perpetrated after the beginning of non-international armed conflict in a systematic and widespread manner amount to war crimes that the Syrian regime is completely aware of as it was proven. The Syrian regime is also aware that the inhumane detention conditions will certainly lead to death. Nevertheless, the regime didn't do anything.





B. Extremist Islamic Groups

ISIS

ISIS uses physical and psychological methods of torture that are similar to those of the Syrian regime to a great degree. However, ISIS created new torture techniques. We extensively talked about ISIS detention centers and torture methods in the report: “The Black Bottom” where methods of torture vary according to charges such as those who were arrested for violating the regulations established by ISIS and those who were arrested for working against ISIS such as armed opposition armed elements, media activists, human rights activists, and employees of foreign organizations where the second group (people who work against ISIS) are subjected to a more severe torture. ISIS conducts farce trials according to barbarian laws that disregard all the principles of the international human rights law and the international humanitarian law and usually ends with field-execution which qualifies as a war crime.

Emad. L from Al-Shmitiya town, 28-year-old. Masked elements from ISIS raided his home in Al-Shmitiya town and arrested him at the dawn of 11 December 2014. They took him to a secret detention center and accused him of working with armed opposition factions which ISIS calls “Sahwat”. Emad told SNHR of the torture and ill-treatment he experienced during his interrogation by ISIS:

*“7 elements from ISIS raided my home. They were masked and I recognized they were ISIS from their clothes and the logo that was printed on the car. I asked them to let me change my clothes but they refused and dragged me barbarically to the car. Two of them sat next to me and blindfolded me and tied my hands and started beating me with their Kalashnikovs and insulted me and shouted: “You are an infidel who works with Sahwat” we arrived at the center an hour later, and they put me in a 2*4 meters’ room and took the blindfold off of my eyes. I remained there for five hours with my hands tied before someone entered and untied me. He took me to another room called the interrogation room where they were two masked guys talking in a Tunisian accent, one of them was called Abu-Imama. They put me on the chair and asked me about my relations with the Free Army in Aleppo city and accused me of contacting them and plotting to target ISIS elements and headquarters. I denied all of the accusations and told me that I am a civilian and even have relatives who are with ISIS. They didn’t believe me and started beating, whipping,*





and insulting me. The interrogation and torture was about two hours a day and lasted for seven days. I heard the screams of other people who were being detained in the same place. They gave me two meals a day but the amount of food was little and insufficient. They didn't let me pray because they deemed me infidel. All of the accents I heard there wasn't Syrian. After seven days I was transferred to Hatla town in Eastern Der Ezzor suburbs.”

Emad stayed for 40 days in Hatla. During that time, he underwent an Islamic course with three lectures every day on Aqida (doctrine), Fiqh, and Quran before he was released without knowing where he was interrogated.

Some of the methods of torture used by ISIS

1- Waterboarding: form of water torture in which water is poured over a cloth covering the face and breathing passages of an immobilized captive, and then cold water is pouted over him. It is usually used on foreign abductees as an emulation of the method that was used by the C.I.A. in interrogating suspects after the 9/11 attacks.



Picture shows waterboarding

2- Gasing: during interrogation, they let the captive inhale gases through opening a gas tank, or using tear gas, or letting a fire smoke leak into his cell.



Picture shows the gas torture method

3- Deluding the victim that he is going to be slaughtered: elements tell the abductee that he is going to slaughter him and they actually take him to the slaughter room and let him see the knife. They repeat the process a few times.

4- Shooting bullets around the body of the abductee

5- Force the abductee to watch video tapes of recordings of executions, beheadings, and burning former abductees.





Picture published by ISIS of detainees being forced to watch its publications in Jرابلس city in Aleppo governorate:



6- Torture to death: ISIS practiced, in the course of killing abductees and detainees, a various methods of torture under the pretext of carrying out the judgments of the Sharia such as stoning and throwing people off of a high place and then stoning them to death.



7- Cutting off an organ of the detainee such as a hand or a foot.



Media activist Mohammad Al-Eissa, from Der Ezzor city, 40-year-old, reporter for Al-Nateq Media Network. He was arrested by ISIS on 2 November 2015. On 9 May 2016 we received information confirming his death due to torture at an ISIS detention center. His body hasn't been handed over to his family.





Al-Nusra Front

Al-Nusra Front, affiliated with Al-Qaeda, uses whipping as a main torture method during interrogating detainees. Whipping is carried out through beating the detainee on his back with a stick or a cable in addition to practicing the Ghost “Shabah” and “Doulab” torture methods. Also, psychological torture is widely used such as threatening to execute the detainee, accusing him of infidelity, and taking him for execution and bringing him back repeatedly.

A rise in the use of torture during interrogation by Al-Nusra Front was noticed during the first half of 2016. However, it hasn't formed a pattern or have been used systemically.

[Mohammad Sharif Qietaz](#), from Ma'rat Al-Nu'man city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, 32-year-old. On 18 May 2016 he was arrested by Al-Nusra Front elements in Ma'rat Al-Nu'man city. He was released on the same day after he was tortured and severely beaten.

[Mohammad Moad Al-Qtieni](#), from Khan Shaikhoun city in Idlib governorate, 27-year-old, civil engineer and media activist in the revolutionary movement. He was arrested by Al-Nusra Front elements on 2 September 2015 from Khan Shaikhoun city. He was released on the same day after he was subjected to beating and ill-treatment.

Mohammad Al-Qtieni told SNHR about the causes of the arrest and the torture methods he experienced and saw inside Al-Nusra Front detention center:

“It started when Al-Nusra Front interfered in the mosque in our city and instituted religious figures affiliated to the Front. We protested these acts so the Front summoned all those who protested to Dar Al-Hesba “A police station”. However, the official of Dar Al-Hesba didn't wait for people to come to them, and instead they came carrying 14.5 machine guns, DShK weapons, and many other weapons. They blocked all the roads and arrested the Moathen (Caller for Prayer) of Al-Rawda Mosque and some of the owners of the shops. I interfered and urged them to not raise weapons because all of the people there are civilians. The head of Dar Al-Hesba, who is Tunisian, arrested me along with five others. While they were taking us, they knew of a demonstration that





went out. The Front elements told each other: “Those dogs have formed a demonstration. Let’s go back and discipline them” after we arrived at the prison we were surprised that 10 others were there who told us that a demonstration went out and the Front opened fire heavily to separate the people. They carried out arbitrary arrests and beat people while taking them to prisons. I was the first who was interrogated in a way similar to the regime method that we all familiar with. When I tried to discuss them, the Tunisian element, who is the head of Al-Hesba beaten me brutally then my hands were tied. The interrogation ended with them beating me severely all over my body with their shoes and a metal stick in addition to insulting me. I saw them calling a 50-year-old guy and then beating and insulting him in front of all the detainees. After many people intervened, I, along with a few others, were released after we signed a pledge to refrain from going out in demonstrations (even though I was arrested before the demonstration) or wronging their Dawaa Office.”

Mahmoud Al-Shahna, from Misraba town in Damascus suburbs governorate. He was arrested and forcibly-disappeared on 6 April 2016 by elements from Al-Nusra Front while he was in Misraba town. On 17 April we received information confirming his death due to torture at a detention centers. His family didn’t receive his dead body.

C. Self-management forces (primarily the Democratic Union Party, Branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)

These forces use various ways of brutal beating on the head which leads to bone fractures. The beating is carried out either through Kalashnikovs or metal sticks. A number of survivors talked to SNHR about various methods of torture such as biting, electrocution, sexual harassment, and sexual blackmailing.

[Lawyer Nasser Al-Naji Al-Abd](#), from Kriefati Al-Shrayien in Al-Hassaka governorate suburbs. He was arrested by armed elements of the Kurdish self-management in Al-Hassaka city in November 2015. We received information confirming his death due to torture on 31 January 2016.





The Kurdish self-management forces didn't respect, in this matter, the principles of the international human rights law or the international humanitarian law. The torture practices used by these forces against its enemies, as part of the non-international armed conflict, amount to a war crime.

D. Armed opposition factions

Armed opposition factions used tools such as wooden sticks and cables to severely beaten detainees during interrogations over minor criminal charges. Additionally, it used torture techniques such as “Doulab” and Ghost “Shabah”. Doulab (meaning a car tire) is a torture method where the detainee is put inside a car tire with his knees bended and then he is beaten. Shabah: a torture method where the detainee is hanged from the ceiling by his hands or legs while making sure he is not on the ground. Those two methods were mainly used on agents and spies who were accused of working with the Syrian regime or who committed major crimes such as murder and adultery. We highlighted extensively the detention centers of the armed opposition factions in the report “Awaiting Justice”. However, these practices are still not consistent acts that are carried out in a widespread manner against civilians.

Isam Hamra, from Al-Mu'adamiya town in Damascus suburbs governorate, 32-year-old. On Monday 12 October 2015, he was arrested by armed elements affiliated to “Al-Fatih Brigade – Mu'adamiyat Al-Sham” from his place of residence in Al-Mu'adamiya town. On Wednesday 14 October 2015, his body was handed over to his family with signs of torture on it.

Mr. A.H, member of Isam Hamra's family, told SNHR about the torture that Isam experienced:

“when we received Isam's dead body. The torture was undeniably visible on his body. He was burned through melting plastic over his body and was beaten with metal sticks and plastic pipes. We were shocked. He was tortured the same way the regime tortures its detainees. Until this moment the criminals haven't been held accountable. We know them by name: Alaa Mansour, Ali Qzah, known as Imam, and Hamza Abu-Zaid. All of them work for Al-Fatih Brigade.”





Pictures shows [the signs of torture on the body](#) of Isam Hamra after his family received his dead body from Al-Fatih Brigade in Damascus suburbs on Wednesday 14 October 2015:

Most notable victims of torture who died at armed opposition factions detention centers

[Ramiz Salah Aish](#), child, from Barza neighborhood in Damascus governorate. On 19 February 2016, he was arrested by the First Brigade, an armed opposition faction, over charges of theft. On Thursday 3 March 2016, his body was handed over to his family with signs of torture on it.

[Nurse Khaled Skief](#), from Aleppo city, 21-year-old, a nurse who works at Al-Dqaq makeshift hospital in Aleppo city. On 12 April 2016, he was arbitrarily arrested by armed elements from Jabhat Al-Turkman, an armed opposition faction, while he was at Al-Dqaq hospital. A few hours after the arrest, he was transferred to a hospital where he passed away on account of him subjected to sever torture and electrocution.

Torture practices used by armed opposition factions are an explicit violation of the international human rights, law when it is used against residents in areas under its control, and the international humanitarian law when it used against its enemies in the non-international armed conflict and it amount to a war crime.

V. Recommendations

To the Syrian regime:

- All death sentences must be suspended as it is based on confessions extracted under brutal torture.
- All arbitrarily arrested persons must be released especially children and women, and the fates of tens of thousands of forcibly-disappeared persons must be revealed.
- To immediately allow the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, International Committee of the Red Cross, and all impartial human rights organizations to enter.
- To immediately conduct an investigation on all cases of death inside detention centers.





To the Kurdish self-management forces

To abide by the standards of the international human rights law, cease abductions, and reveal the fate of all abductees and forcibly-disappeared persons.

To the armed opposition factions

- To end all unlawful trials, and cease torture inside detention centers.
- To immediately allow the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, International Committee of the Red Cross, and all impartial human rights organizations to visit all detention centers.
- To hold all the individuals involved in torture practices accountable and discharge them directly.

To the Security Council and the United Nations:

- To press on the Syrian government to implement Security Council resolutions 2042, 2139, and 2254, and resort to Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter in case the Syrian regime hasn't abided, which has been the case for five years.
- Russia must cease to obstruct the case in Syria from being referred to the International Criminal Court.
- All relief organs affiliated to the United Nations must search for families that have lost their providers or one of their members due to torture and to insure the passage of aids for the people who deserve them.

To the Syria Support Group:

- To impose sanctions on the individuals and group responsible for the crime of torture in Syria.
- Provide the survivors and their families with all means of health and psychological support.

Acknowledgments:

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the survivors of torture who contributed effectively to this report, and our most heartfelt condolences for the victims' families and friends.

