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At least 2,460 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in the First Half of 2019

Including 336 Cases in June



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



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I. Introduction and Methodology

Arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances have been amongst the most widespread violations perpetrated since the early days of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011.

These are considered to be the most common and pervasive regime violations against Syrian citizens, affecting hundreds of thousands of Syrians. These violations are carried out by the Syrian security services, as well as their affiliated militias, as part of a deliberate and planned strategy, often in a sweeping indiscriminate manner, in order to instill terror and fear into the largest possible number of Syrian people. Approximately eight months after the start of the popular uprising, other parties began to emerge in Syria, also carrying out arrests and kidnappings. The process of documenting the cases of detention and cataloguing whether detainees are released or join the ranks of the forcibly disappeared has been one of the greatest challenges and difficulties faced by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, as is clarified in our methodology¹.

Since 2011, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has created complex electronic programs to archive and categorize the detainees' data, which the team collects and verifies; this enables us to catalogue the detainees according to gender, the location where each was arrested, the governorate from which each detainee originally came, and the party responsible for their arrest. These programs also enable us to cross-index cases and make comparisons between these parties, as well as identifying the governorates from which the largest proportion of residents have been arrested and disappeared.

¹ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>



Given the importance and sensitivity surrounding the violation of arrest of Syrian citizens, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has since its establishment never stopped issuing daily news of arrest incidents, or publishing monthly reports documenting the arrests, enforced disappearances and releases that took place in the preceding month, in addition to issuing an annual report, as well as publishing dozens of other reports on different detention centers run by various parties to the conflict, and additional special reports concerning detainees. Also, the SNHR periodically submits special forms to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture.

Most of the arrests in Syria are carried out without any judicial warrant while the victims are passing through regime checkpoints or during raids, with the security forces of the regime's four main intelligence services often responsible for extra-judicial detentions. Every detainee is tortured from the very first moment of his or her arrest and denied any opportunity to contact his or her family or to have access to a lawyer. The authorities also flatly deny the arbitrary arrests they have carried out and most of the detainees are subsequently forcibly disappeared.

The Syrian regime is responsible for no fewer than 87 percent of all the arbitrary arrests that we have documented, and is the first and most prominent of all the parties to the conflict in systematically perpetrating this violation. In most cases, victims' families are unable to accurately identify the body responsible for making the arrest, given the vast array of forces affiliated with the Syrian regime (Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, and others), in addition to the four main regime security agencies and their many branches, all of which are authorized to arrest and torture detainees, and to commit the crimes of enforced disappearance.

The issue of detainees and disappeared persons is one of the most crucial human rights issues in Syria which there has been no progress in resolving, despite its inclusion in several resolutions of the UN Security Council, as well as in UN General Assembly resolutions, in Kofi Annan's plan, and finally in the statement of cessation of hostilities issued in February 2016, which states that "all parties undertake to work for an early release of any arbitrary detained persons, particularly women and children", and in Security Council resolution 2254 of December 2015, article 12, which states that all detainees, especially women and children, must be released immediately. Despite all these resolutions and other official statements, no progress has been made on the issue of securing the release of detainees in any of the rounds of negotiations sponsored by international parties regarding the conflict in Syria.



In light of these considerations in regard to this particular issue, we therefore recommend:

1- Arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, which are still ongoing, as detailed in this SNHR monthly report, must be ended immediately. The fates of all detainees must be revealed, and their families' right to visit them must also be ensured immediately.

2- All detainees imprisoned for merely exercising their political and civil rights must be released unconditionally. The use of women and children as prisoners of war must be stopped and they must all be released.

3- The independent international monitors of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which was established by the UN, and the International Committee of the Red Cross must be granted access to all official and unofficial detention centers without establishing any prior arrangements or any restrictions or conditions.

4- A UN committee should be formed to monitor and periodically assess the release of the detainees according to a timetable that must be presented by all the detaining parties, primarily the Syrian regime forces that are responsible for 87 percent of all detentions.

5- All rulings issued by the regime's field military courts and terrorism courts should be suspended or repealed, since they are non-compliant with domestic and international legislation, as well as failing to provide guarantees of a fair trial.

Methodology

This report outlines the record of arbitrary arrests by the main parties to the conflict documented in June and in the first half of 2019. In addition, it records the most notable raids and check points that resulted in deprivation of freedom, as well as shedding light on the most notable individual cases and incidents of arbitrary arrest that the SNHR's team documented since the beginning of 2019, as well as categorizing cases and incidents of arrest according to the location of the incident.

According to the SNHR's database, we can categorize cases of arrest according to the governorate in which the incident occurred, and according to the governorate from which the detainee originally came. In this report and in most of our reports, we categorize the record of arrests according to the place where the arrest took place, not according to the governorate from which the detainee originally came. It should also be noted that sometimes we categorize the cases of arrest according to the governorate from which the detainee originally came in order to show the magnitude of loss and violence suffered by the people of that governorate compared to other governorates, in which case we refer to this in the report.



The report also documents arbitrary arrests that subsequently turned into enforced disappearances. A number of criteria must be met before SNHR will classify a case as an enforced disappearance: the individual must have been detained for at least 20 days without his or her family being able to obtain any information from the relevant authorities about their status or location, with those responsible for the disappearance denying any knowledge of the individual's arrest or whereabouts.

The SNHR team implements strict standards in evaluating and assessing any incident of arbitrary arrest in order to avoid any faults in recording any incidents of detention, imprisonment, or deprivation of freedom in accordance with the relevant international laws and the aforementioned set of principles on arbitrary arrest. The Detainee and Forcibly-Disappeared Department at SNHR records cases of arrest, about which departmental personnel gather information from various sources, such as: victims' families, SNHR members in Syrian governorates, cooperating local activists, and former detainees, before diligently working to contact the families of the detainees and forcibly disappeared persons, as well as individuals close to them and people who survived detention, for the purpose of collecting as much information and data as possible, in light of the extraordinary and extremely complex challenges. We also record eyewitnesses' accounts and track cases of arrest to update these records regularly in order to determine the fate of a detainee, their place of detention, and the circumstances of their arrest. We have created on our website a special form [to document a detainee](#) to facilitate access and contact with victims' families.

The ongoing daily process of documenting detainees also comes with other additional challenges for SNHR, which has been documenting detainees' cases since 2011. One of the most notable challenges amongst these is the reluctance of victims' families to cooperate and reveal or provide details of any information on their family members' arrest, even confidentially, more especially if the arrested individual is female, due to a well-founded fear still prevalent in Syrian society that being discovered doing so would result in more torture and further danger for their loved ones and themselves. Instead, families try to negotiate with security forces which usually blackmail these families and demand cash payments, effectively ransoms, that can amount to thousands of dollars in some cases. Despite the fact that SNHR possesses lists detailing the cases of more than 127,000 detainees, including children and women, we can safely say that our estimate of the actual number of detainees exceeds 215,000.



The failure of the international community and of all the organs of the United Nations to apply pressure on the Syrian authorities to release even one individual (including those whose sentences are completed), even prisoners of conscience, has affirmed the conviction of many within Syrian society that it is useless to cooperate in the documentation process. Most of the releases achieved were part of exchange deals with the armed opposition. The detainee figures included in this report don't include prisoners with a criminal background, but do include cases of arrest that are based on the internal armed conflict, mainly due to opposition activity against the ruling authorities, as well as cases of detention to suppress freedom of opinion and expression.

II. June Outline

Syrian Regime forces in June continued with their campaigns of persecution and arrest, focusing primarily on civilians, former armed opposition fighters and their families in the areas that had signed settlement agreements with Syrian Regime forces. Our monitoring also confirmed that Syrian Regime forces arrested some of the previously forcibly displaced civilians as part of these settlement agreements who returned from north Syria to their hometowns. In addition, Syrian Regime forces in June arrested individuals who had returned from neighboring countries who should supposedly have been protected by the amnesty laws and reconciliation offers established by the Syrian regime.

Syrian Regime forces, throughout the month of June, continued with their policies of pursuing civilian members of the families of activists involved in the popular uprising for democracy and of the families of fighters of factions of the Armed Opposition in areas under their control, with SNHR documenting the Syrian Regime forces carrying out campaigns of raids and arrests that targeted entire families related to members of factions of the Armed Opposition. These arrests, which included women and children, were concentrated in the areas of the Eastern Ghouta, specifically in Douma city, in Damascus Suburbs governorate. Syrian Regime forces also carried out raids and mass arrests targeting all segments of society aged between 18 and 42 years, with the aim of conscription and reserve military service in their forces.

In June, we recorded that Syrian Regime forces released 56 detainees from their detention centers between June 1 and June 30, most of whom had served their sentences. Meanwhile, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing their policies of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance throughout the month of June, targeting political activists and members of civil society groups who oppose their ideological views. These arrests were concentrated in Hasaka governorate. Additionally, Syrian Democratic Forces also carried out mass arrests of Arab civilians in areas under their control, with these arrests, which included entire families, concentrated primarily in Raqqa governorate.



The arrests carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces targeted IDPs residing in areas under their control, mainly the residents of refugee camps, with the Syrian Democratic Forces making various allegations against these individuals, such as suspected kinship relationships between them and members of ISIS or members of Armed Opposition factions. We recorded several incidents in which the Syrian Democratic Forces arrested many members of the same family.

In addition to these incidents, June also saw the arrests of members of civil society groups, including a media activist and a nurse, by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, whose members also continue to pursue and arrest individuals affiliated with armed opposition factions, which were eliminated formerly by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, with these arrests being concentrated in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and the northern suburbs of Hama governorate.

Factions of the Armed Opposition, meanwhile, continued making arrests in the territories under their control, which were concentrated in Aleppo governorate, particularly in the Afrin and al Bab areas, throughout the month of June. Most of these arrests occurred without judicial authorization and without the participation of the police force, which is the legitimate administrative authority responsible for arrests and detentions through the judiciary. Those responsible for these operations were specific factions who detained individuals without any clear charges. The aim of these arrests was to spread fear among the population in the areas under the influence of the faction controlling the area. We recorded several cases of arrests and kidnappings carried out in order to extort ransom money to secure the hostages' release.

III. Record of Cases of Arbitrary Arrests by the Parties to the Conflict

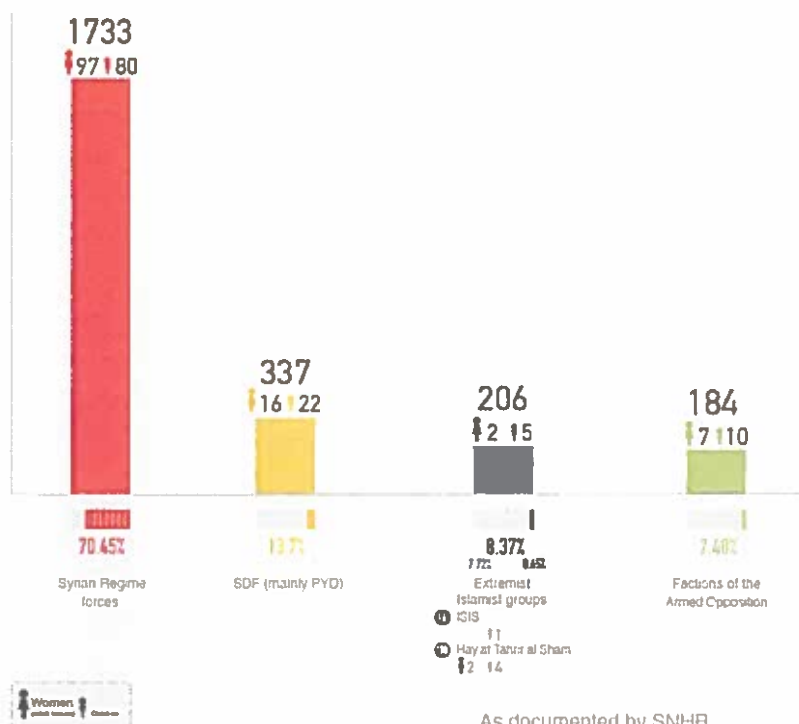
A. Record of cases of arbitrary arrests in the first half of 2019:

SNHR documented 2,460 cases of arbitrary arrests at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria in the first half of 2019, including 117 children and 122 women (adult female), 1,204 of whom have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance. The record was distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:



The record of cases of arbitrary arrests which we documented in the first half of 2019 by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

Distributed as follows:



At least
2460
cases of arbitrary
arrests at the hands of
the main parties to the conflict
in Syria in the first half of
2019

A. Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

1,733 individuals, including 80 children, and 97 women. Of these cases, 880 have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

B. Extremist Islamist groups:

ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): 16 individuals, including one child. Seven of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

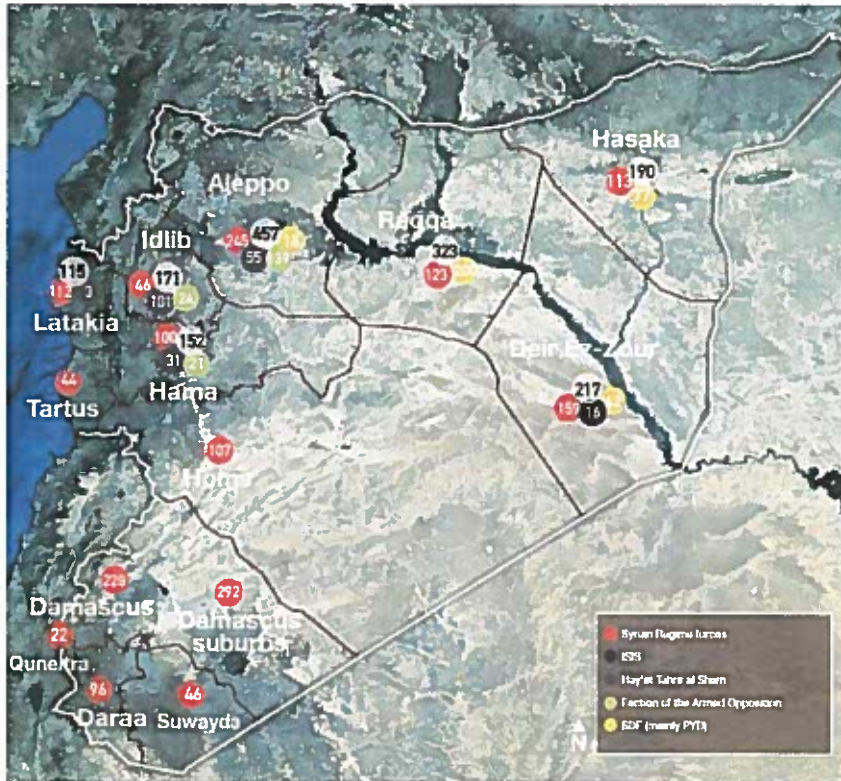
Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): 190 individuals, including four children and two women. 82 of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

C. Factions of the Armed Opposition: 184 individuals, including 10 children and seven women. Eighty-three of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

D. Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party): 337 individuals, including 22 children and 16 women. Of these cases, 152 have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.



The following map shows the distribution of cases of arbitrary arrests documented in the first half of 2019 across all the Syrian governorates by the main perpetrator parties:



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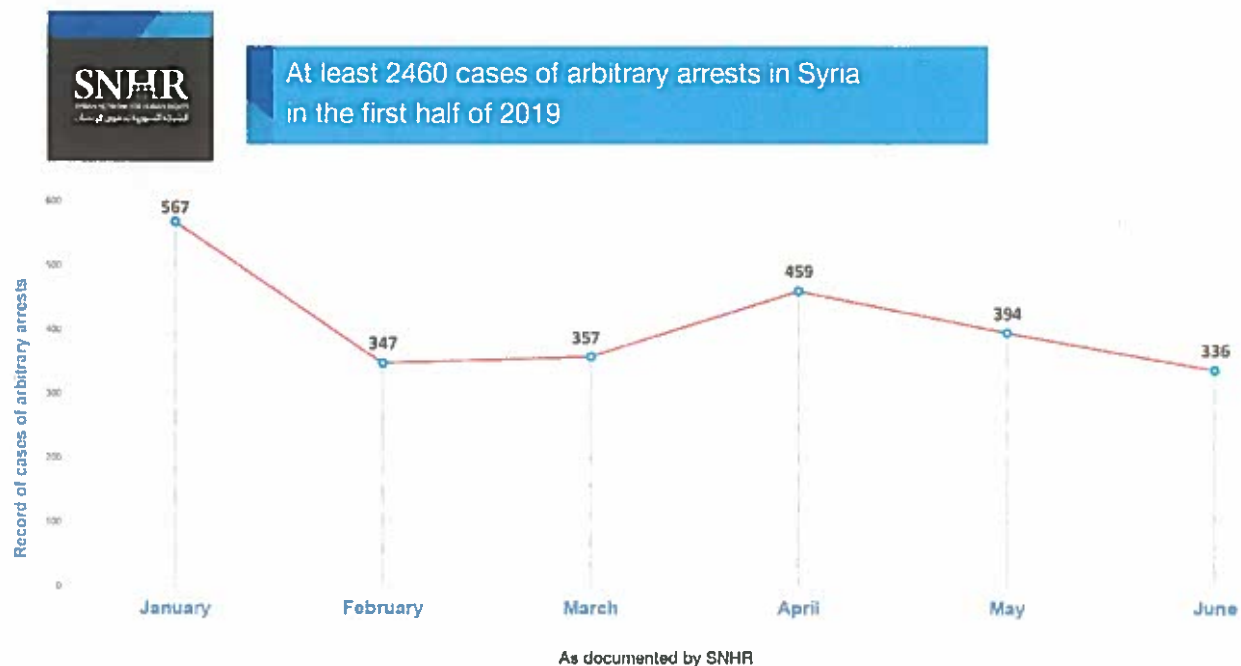
At least
2460
cases of arbitrary
arrests at the hands of
in Syria in the first half of
2019

As documented by SNHR

The previous map shows that the highest rate of cases of arbitrary arrests was in Aleppo governorate due to its unique status compared to other Syrian governorates in having the largest number of the parties involved in the Syrian conflict present there, with control of various parts of the governorate being divided among the Syrian regime, Syrian Democratic Forces, factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham. We find that at least 65 percent of these arrests were at the hands of Syrian Regime forces.



Cases of arbitrary arrests at the hands of the main parties to the conflict in Syria documented since the beginning of 2019 were distributed as follows:



The previous chart shows that January witnessed the highest rate of cases of arbitrary arrests in the first half of the year. This was due to the systematic and widespread nature of the arrests carried out by Syrian Regime forces targeting civilians from the areas that were forced to submit to settlements with the Syrian regime, especially areas in southern Syria, the Eastern Ghouta and the area of the northern suburbs of Homs.

The most notable cases and incidents of arbitrary arrest in the first half of 2019:

On Thursday, January 24, 2019, Syrian Regime forces carried out a campaign of arrests in number of neighborhoods of Aleppo. Twenty-five civilians were documented as being arrested, with the aim of military conscription into regime forces, with all taken to an undisclosed location.

Derzi Ramadan, a volunteer with the Mosaic Human Relief and Development, from Qaber Fidda village in the western suburbs of Hama governorate, lives in al Raml al Janoubi area in al Gharraf neighborhood of Latakia city. He was arrested by gunmen affiliated with the Syrian Regime's State Security forces on Thursday, February 7, 2019, in Latakia city, on charges of taking a selfie photograph near a gas distribution center, where he took a picture of himself to send to his wife to reassure her he was okay. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family.

Judge Mohammad al Sayyed, a graduate in Islamic law, from al Atareb city in the western suburbs of Aleppo, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on Monday, January 7, 2019, in al Atareb city, and released the same day. We note that Judge Mohammad al Sayyed previously worked in the judiciary division of the Nour al Din Al Zenki Movement's Political Bureau.



Judge Mohammad al Sayyed

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, armed men affiliated with factions of the Armed Opposition launched a campaign of arrests in the Sheikh Hadid district of Afrin city in Aleppo governorate northern suburbs. Nine civilians were documented as being arrested, all of whom were taken to an undisclosed location.

Brothers Shawwakh, Hussam and Ali al Hasan were arrested by armed men affiliated with factions of the Armed Opposition in a raid on their home in Afrin city in Aleppo governorate northern suburbs on Monday, April 8, 2019. Their fate remains unknown to SNHR, as well as to their family.

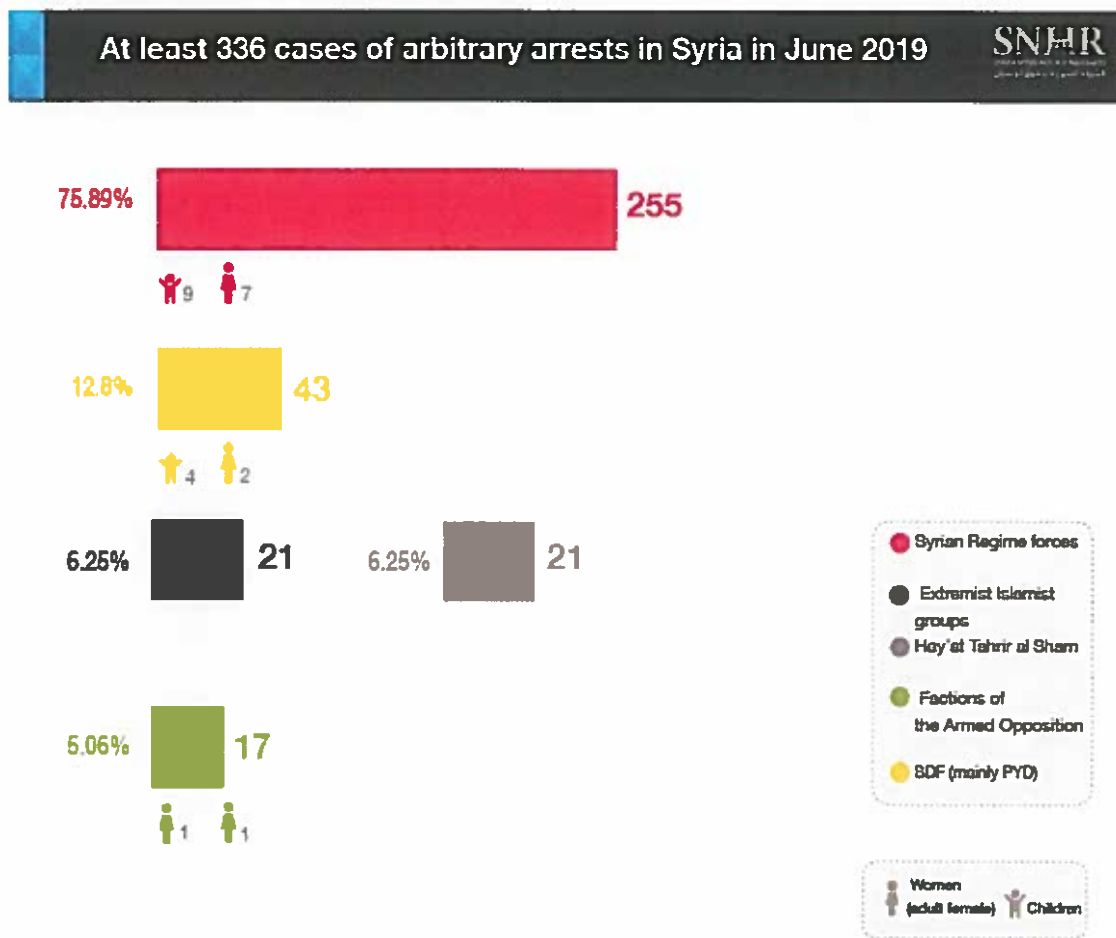
The child Yousef, was arrested along with his two brothers, Ryad and Faadel al Ali, who are respectively a college student and another school pupil. The child Yousef is a student at the local secondary school, while Ryad is a student at the Institute of Computer Technology in Hasaka city, from al Bashiriya village of al Qahtaniya district in Hasaka governorate northern suburbs. Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (Democratic Union Party) arrested the three brothers together on Thursday, May, 23, 2019, in al Bashiriya village. Their fate remains unknown to SNHR, as well as to their family.

B. Record of cases of arbitrary arrests in June:

SNHR documented at least 336 cases of arbitrary arrests in June 2019, including 14 children and 10 women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria, including 189 which have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.



These arrests were distributed according to the main perpetrator parties responsible, as follows:



As documented by SNHR

A. Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias): 255 individuals, including nine children, and seven women. 142 of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

B. Extremist Islamist groups:

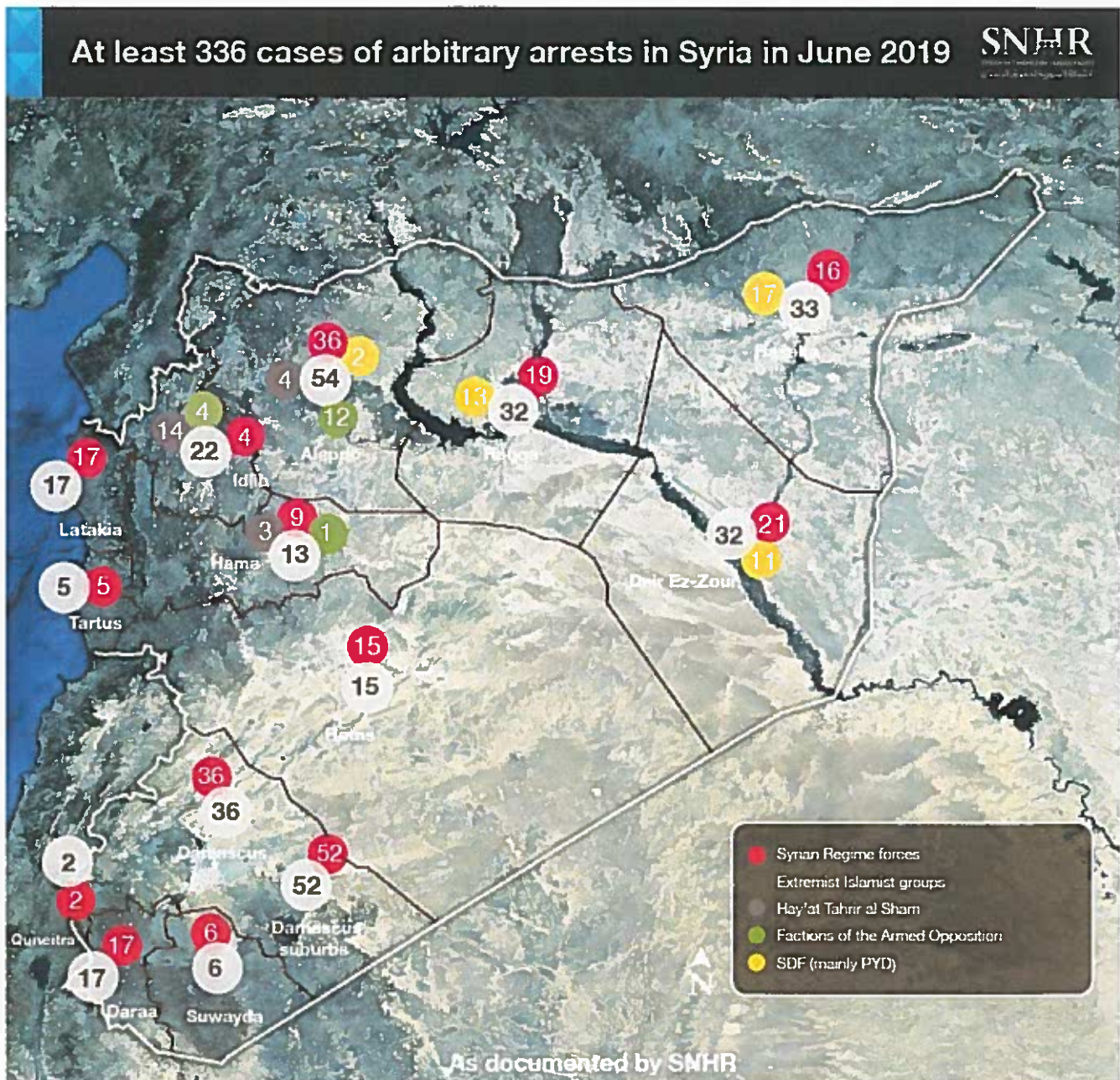
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): 21 individuals, all males. 14 of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

C. Factions of the Armed Opposition: 17 individuals, including one child and one woman. Six of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

D. Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party): 43 individuals, including four children and two women. Twenty-seven of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

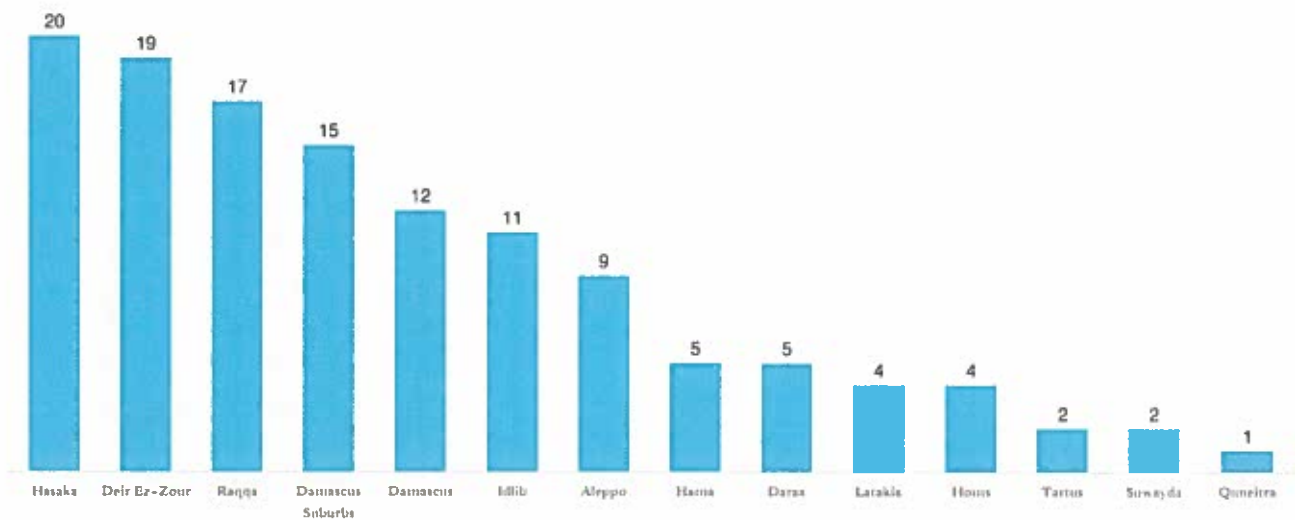


The following map shows the distribution of cases of arbitrary arrests documented in June across all the Syrian governorates by the main perpetrator parties:

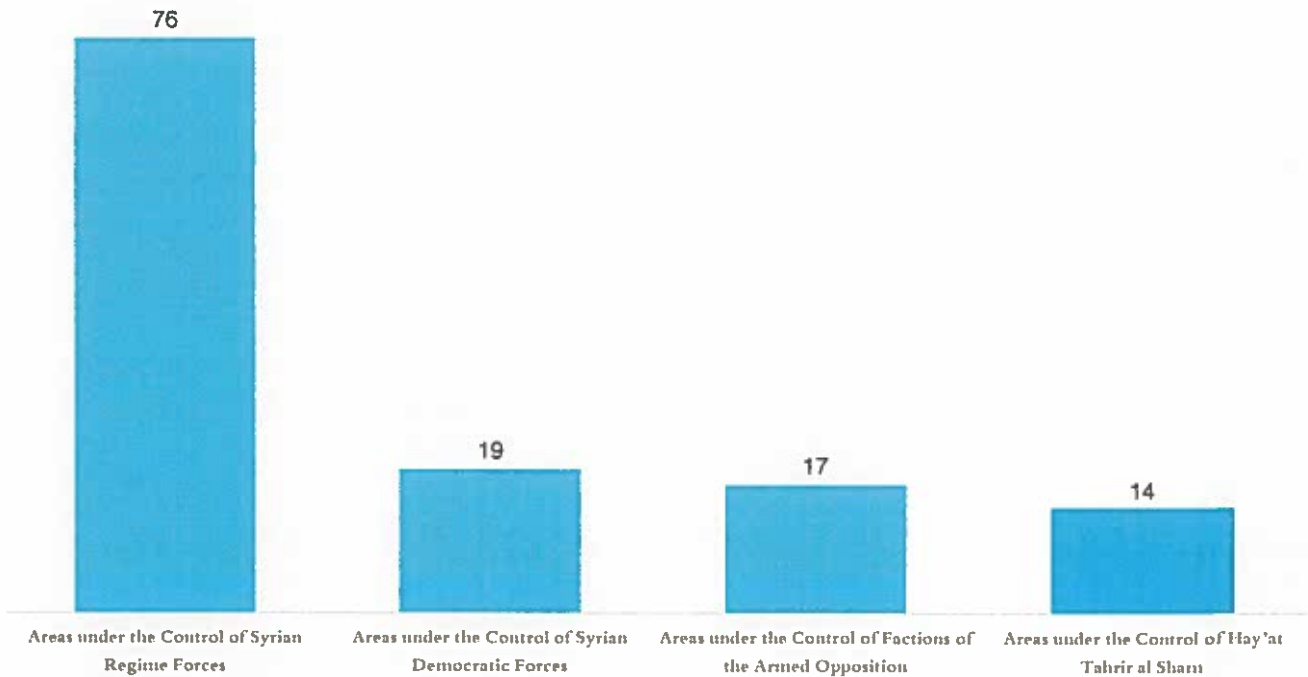


The previous map shows that the Syrian regime is at the forefront in terms of arbitrary arrests, with at least 255 arrests most of which took place in the governorates of Damascus suburbs, Damascus, and Aleppo, followed by the Syrian Democratic forces with at least 43 cases mostly in Hasaka and Deir Ez-Zour governorates.

We also documented at least 126 raids and checkpoints in June, which resulted in deprivation of freedom. These were distributed across all governorates as follows:



Record of raids and checkpoints, distributed according to the responsible party as follows:



IV. Most Notable Cases and Incidents of Arbitrary Arrest in June:

A. Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

Most notable incidents:

On Thursday, June 6, 2019, Syrian Regime forces arrested two civilians from the same family in al Boukamal city in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, in a raid on their homes in al Jetef neighborhood in al Boukamal city, taking them to an undisclosed location.

On Wednesday, June 19, 2019, Syrian Regime forces arrested four civilians, who are from al Raqqa city, while they were passing through a regime checkpoint in al Qosour neighborhood east of Hama city, taking them to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to their families.

Most notable cases:

Nour al Din al Hamed, head of the educational complex in Ma'aret al Numan area in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, from Kafr Mous in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, was arrested by Syrian Regime forces on Monday, June 17, 2019, as he was passing through a regime checkpoint while on his way from Idlib governorate to Hama city. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family.

Mohannad Shehab al Din, a civic political activist from Suwayda city, who works as a carpenter and cabinet maker, was born in 1973. Mohannad, a married father of four, was arrested by personnel belonging to the Syrian regime's Military Security forces on June 16, 2019, at his place of work in the west of Suwayda city, and taken to the Military Security branch in the city. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family. We've published [a special report](#) documenting the incident.



B. Extremist Islamist groups

- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition):

Most notable cases

Abdul Rahman Turki al Najjar, a civil society activist, director of the media office of "al Idlebi House", and founder of Humanitarian Charity Pharmacy, from Idlib city, was arrested on Sunday, June 9, 2019, by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham gunmen in a raid on his workplace in Idlib city, and released four days later on Thursday, June 13, 2019.



Mazen Ghazal, director of al Hekma Hospital in Taftanaz town in Idlib governorate northern suburbs, from Taftanaz town, was arrested on Monday, June 17, 2019, by gunmen of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham while he was in a court belonging to the group in Idlib city after being summoned there by the group. He was released five days later on Saturday, June 22 2019.



C. Factions of the Armed Opposition

Most notable incidents:

On Monday, June 10, 2019, gunmen affiliated with a faction of the Armed Opposition, launched a campaign of raids and arrests Matenli village, which is administratively a part of Sheran district of Afrin city in Aleppo governorate northern suburbs. Five civilians were documented as being arrested, including one woman, with all those detained taken to an undisclosed location.

D. Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic forces

Most notable incidents:

On Monday, June 3, 2019, Syrian Democratic Forces launched a campaign of raids and arrests in al Jamili neighborhood in the center of Raqqa city. Fifteen civilians from one family



were documented as being arrested, with all those detained taken to an undisclosed location. On Wednesday, June 26, 2019, Syrian Democratic Forces launched a campaign of raids and arrests in Abu al Neitel village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate northern suburbs. Four civilians were documented as being arrested, with all those detained taken to an undisclosed location.

The most notable cases:

Renas Mahmoud al Awsi, from Tammouya village which is administratively a part of al Qameshli city in Hasaka governorate northern suburbs, was arrested on Monday, June 10, 2019, by Syrian Democratic Forces as he was passing through one of their checkpoints near al Qameshli city while heading to help people to put out a fire that broke out on agricultural land near Tammouya village. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to his family.

Saddam al Kerat, a pharmacist from al Qameshli city in Hasaka governorate northern suburbs and the individual responsible for managing the national reconciliation file of Syrian Regime forces, was arrested on Monday, June 10, 2019, by Syrian Democratic Forces in a raid on his workplace in al Kurneish Street in al Qameshli city. He was released two days later on Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

The child Hajar Saleh al Khadr, from al Shamsani village, which is administratively a part of Markada town in Hasaka governorate southern suburbs, aged 15, was arrested by members of the women's protection units of the Syrian Democratic Forces on Monday, June 10, 2019, in a raid on her family's home in the village, and taken to one of the group's detention centers in al Shaddadi city in Hasaka governorate southern suburbs. Her fate remains unknown to the SNHR, as well as to her family.

Jamal Mohammad al Mhaimed, the head of the Syrian regime's agricultural association in Ras al Ein in Hasaka governorate northern suburbs, from al Asadiya village of Ras al Ein area, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces on Saturday, June 8, 2019, while he was passing through one of their checkpoints, specifically al Kasra Checkpoint, on the road between the cities of al Derbasiya and Ras al Ein north of Hasaka governorate. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR,



as well as to his family.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The SNHR believes that the Syrian regime has not fulfilled any of its obligations under any of the international treaties and conventions which it has ratified. We refer specifically to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It also violated several articles of the Syrian Constitution itself, with thousands of detainees detained without any arrest warrant and held for many years, without charges, while also being prevented from appointing a lawyer and from receiving family visits. Eighty-five percent of all the detentions documented have subsequently been categorized as enforced disappearance cases, with detainees' families being denied any information on their loved ones' whereabouts, while anyone making enquiries about the detainees faces the risk of being arrested themselves for doing so.
- ISIS has practiced widespread and systematic violations of torture and enforced disappearances in the areas under its control, which constitute a violation of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, being considered war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham imposes absolute authority over the large areas it controls and the residents there. The group which has a political entity, and has developed a highly hierarchical structure, is therefore obliged to implement the provisions of international human rights law. Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has committed widespread violations through arrests and enforced disappearances.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition have carried out arrests and torture against a number of residents in areas under their control.
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic forces have violated many basic rights and practiced numerous violations such as torture and enforced disappearance. They also have a political entity with a largely hierarchical structure and are, therefore, also obliged to apply the provisions of international human rights law.

Recommendations

Security Council

- Monitor the implementation of Resolution 2042, adopted on April 14, 2012, Resolution 2043, adopted on April 21, 2012, and Resolution 2139, adopted on February 22, 2014, all of which demand the immediate cessation of the crime of enforced disappearance.

Human Rights Council

- Follow up on the issue of detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in Syria and highlight this issue in all annual meetings.
- Cooperate and coordinate with all active local human rights groups in Syria.



Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidence and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

Address the cases mentioned in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidence and data.

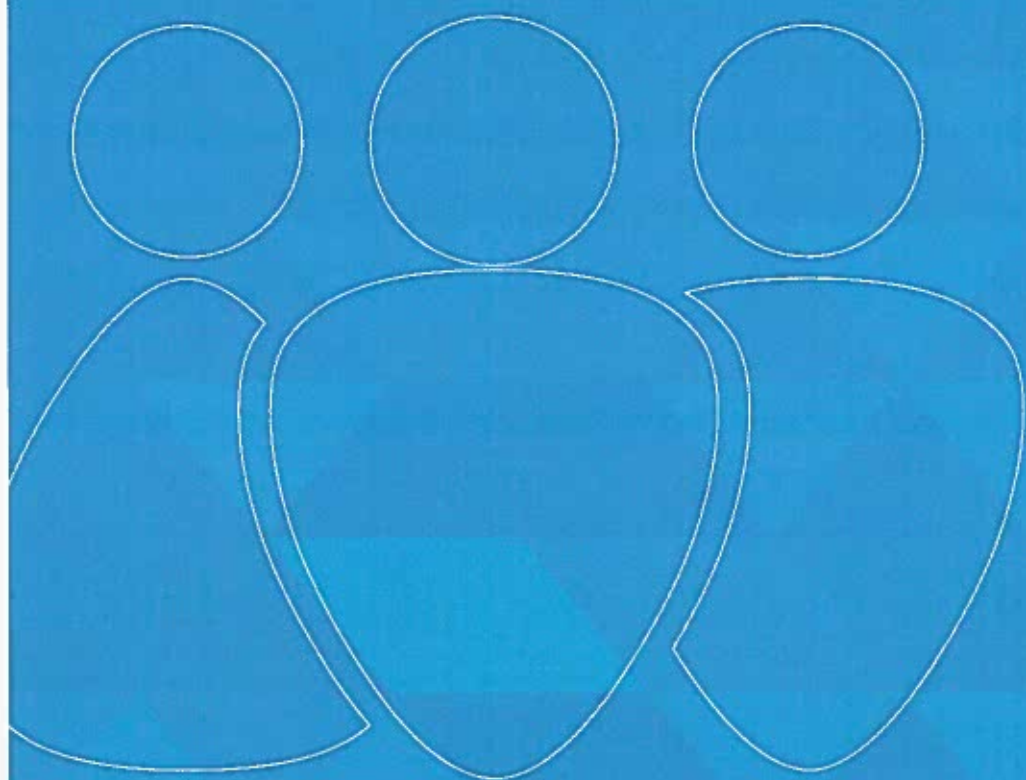
United Nations and the guarantors of the Astana talks

- An impartial special committee should be formed to monitor cases of enforced disappearance, and to make progress in revealing the fate of the nearly 95,000 documented missing persons in Syria, approximately 86 percent of whom are detained by the Syrian regime.
- Immediately begin applying pressure on all parties to ensure that they immediately reveal their detention records according to a timetable. In the meantime, detention places should be revealed immediately, and humanitarian organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross should be allowed to visit them directly.
- Release children and women, and stop holding families and friends as war hostages.
- We call on the official recently appointed to take charge of the detainee file at the UN special envoy's office to include the issue of the detainees during the upcoming round of Geneva talks, as this issue is of far greater importance to the Syrian people than other longer-term issues which can be jointly addressed later by the parties after a political settlement is reached, such as the constitution.

Acknowledgments

Our sincere thanks to the relatives and families of the victims, their friends, eyewitnesses and local activists who have contributed effectively to the collection and verification of data.





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