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At least 183 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in October 2019

Including 109 Cases of Enforced Disappearance



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, November 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 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 methodology ¹.

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 89 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 89 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 parties to the conflict documented in October. In addition, it records the most notable raids and arrests at checkpoints 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 in October, 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 accordance with principles of the international laws and the aforementioned set of principles on arbitrary arrest.

The Detainee and Forcibly-Disappeared Department at SNHR records cases of arrest which departmental personnel collect 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 people 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 144,000 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. October Outline

In October, Syrian Regime forces continued to pursue and arrest refugees returning to Syria via land crossings, including women, particularly at the Kasab border crossings with Turkey, despite the returnees' having settled their security situations prior to their return, or after reaching their original areas of residence, with regime forces also targeting civilians, and former members of factions of the Armed Opposition along with their families in areas that have signed settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests, which include women, children and elderly people, have been concentrated in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs and Deir Ez-Zour.

In October, we documented the detention by Syrian Regime forces of civilians who had previously reached security settlements with the regime while they were traveling to areas not currently under the control of Syrian Regime forces or traveling to areas under its control whilst they were passing through regime checkpoints and crossings.

Throughout the month of October, we documented the arrest of civilians by Syrian Regime forces in areas where they have recently deployed on the roads linking the governorates of Raqqa and Hasaka following the withdrawal of Syrian Democratic Forces.

In October, we recorded that Syrian Regime forces released 33 detainees, including six women, from their detention centers between October 1 and October 31, most of whom had served their sentences, and those were included in the amnesty legislation issued by the Syrian regime on September 15.

Meanwhile, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance throughout the month of October, targeting political activists and members of civil society groups who oppose their ideological views. These arrests were concentrated in the governorates of Raqqa and Hasaka. Also in October, SNHR documented Syrian Democratic Forces carrying out arrests in the areas it subsequently withdrew from in Hasaka governorate and targeting dignitaries and several members of the same family without providing clear charges, taking those detained to an undisclosed location.



In addition to these incidents, October also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham arresting activists with civil society groups, media activists, teachers, students and clergymen, with those detained including children and elderly people. We documented increased rates of arbitrary arrests carried out by HTS in areas under its control in the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib, focusing particularly on media activists and dignitaries detained for organizing meetings without obtaining HTS's permission, with most of these arrests occurring due to the publication of reports on social media accounts criticizing the HTS's management of areas under its control. These arrests were carried out arbitrarily in the form of raids in which HTS members broke down the doors of homes and stormed their targets' homes or by kidnapping their victims while they were travelling or passing through temporary checkpoints, with HTS opening fire with guns towards their victims to intimidate them.

Factions of the Armed Opposition also continued carrying out arrests and kidnappings, which included women and children, in the territories under their control during October, which were concentrated in areas under their control in Aleppo governorate, particularly in the Afrin area. 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, and were carried out without presenting any clear charges against those detained. The aim of these arrests was to spread fear among the population in the areas under the influence of the faction controlling the area.

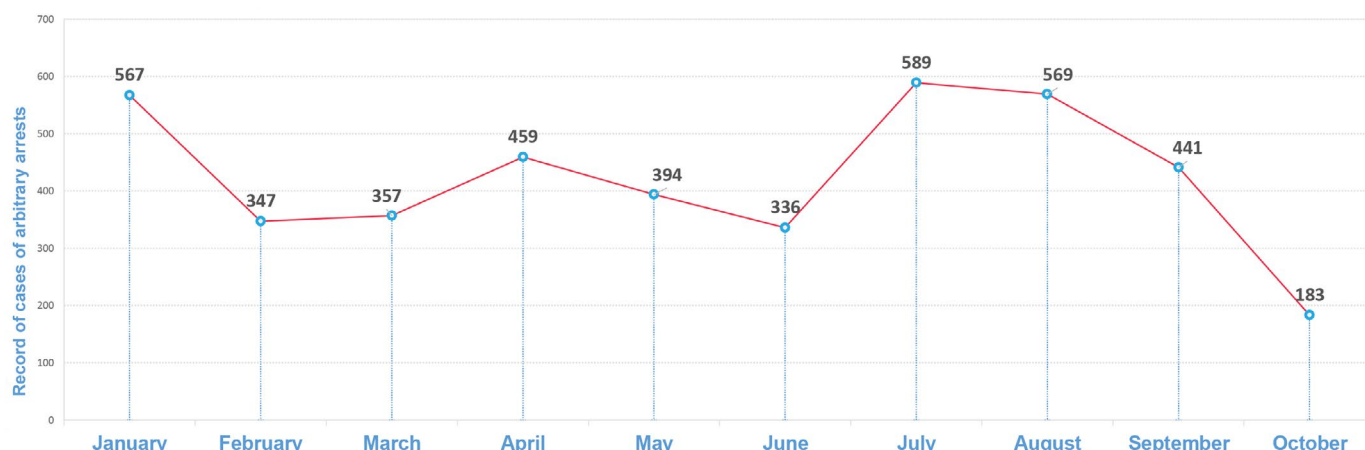
III. Record of Cases of Arbitrary Arrests by the Parties to the Conflict

A. Record of cases of arbitrary arrests since the start of 2019:

SNHR documented 4,242 cases of arbitrary arrests at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria since the start of 2019 up to November 2019, distributed as follows:



At least 4242 cases of arbitrary arrests in Syria in 2019
From January to November

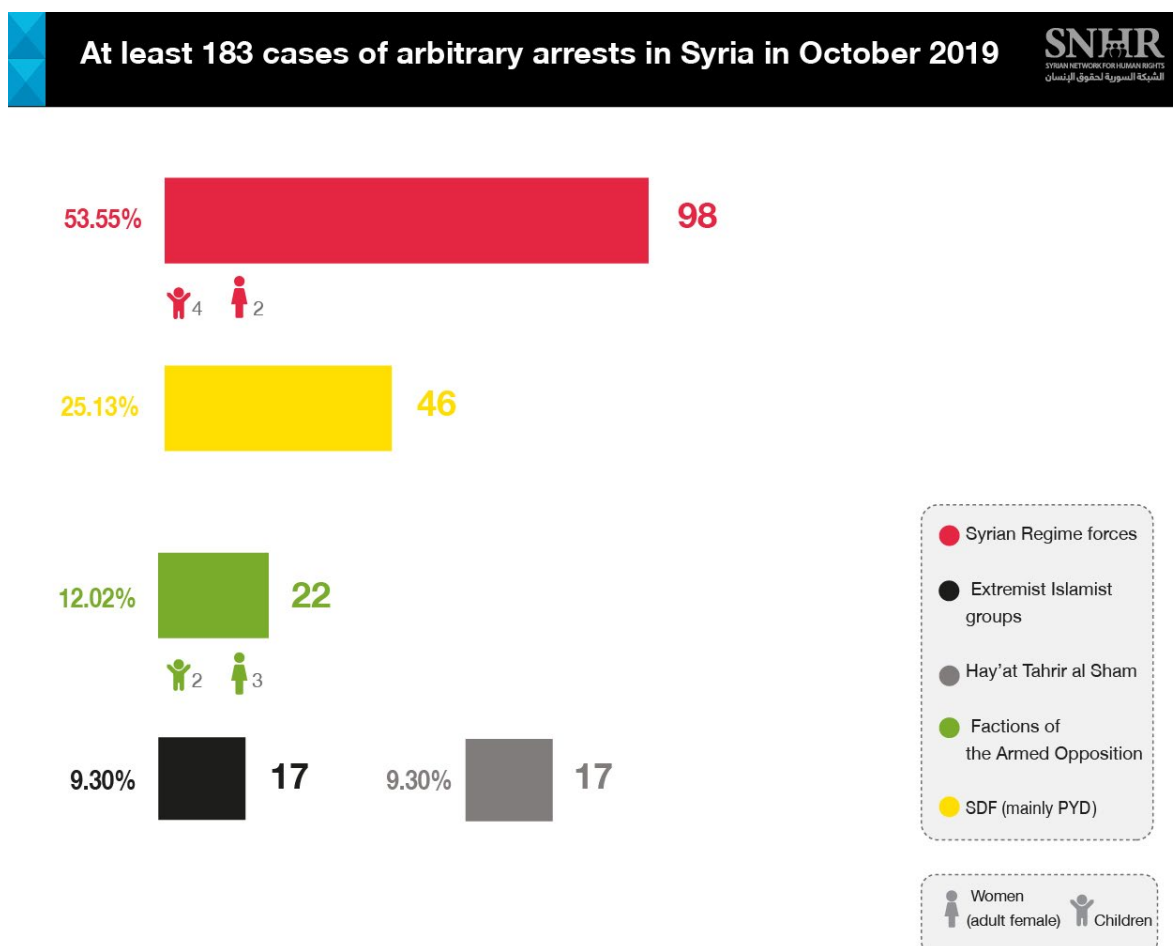


The chart above shows the increasing rates of cases of arbitrary arrests in the months of July and August 2019. This was due to the widespread nature of the arrests and kidnappings carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces targeting Arab civilians in areas under SDF control, specifically in Manbej city in the northwestern suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

B. Record of cases of arbitrary arrests in October:

SNHR documented at least 183 cases of arbitrary arrests in October 2019, including six children and five women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria, including 109 which have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

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



98 individuals, including four children, and two women. 55 of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

C. Factions of the Armed Opposition: 22 individuals, including two children and three women. 12 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): 17 individuals. 10 of these have subsequently been categorized as cases of enforced disappearance.

At least 183 cases of arbitrary arrests in Syria in October 2019

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Legend:

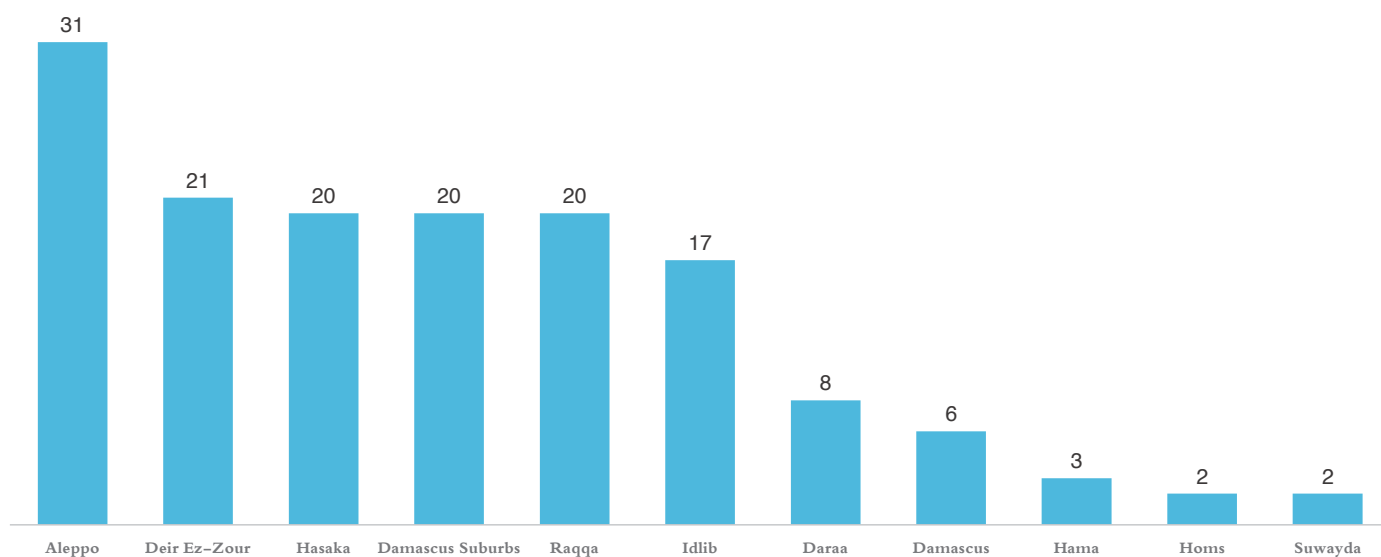
- Syrian Regime forces
- Extremist Islamist groups
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham
- Factions of the Armed Opposition
- SDF (mainly PYD)

As documented by SNHR

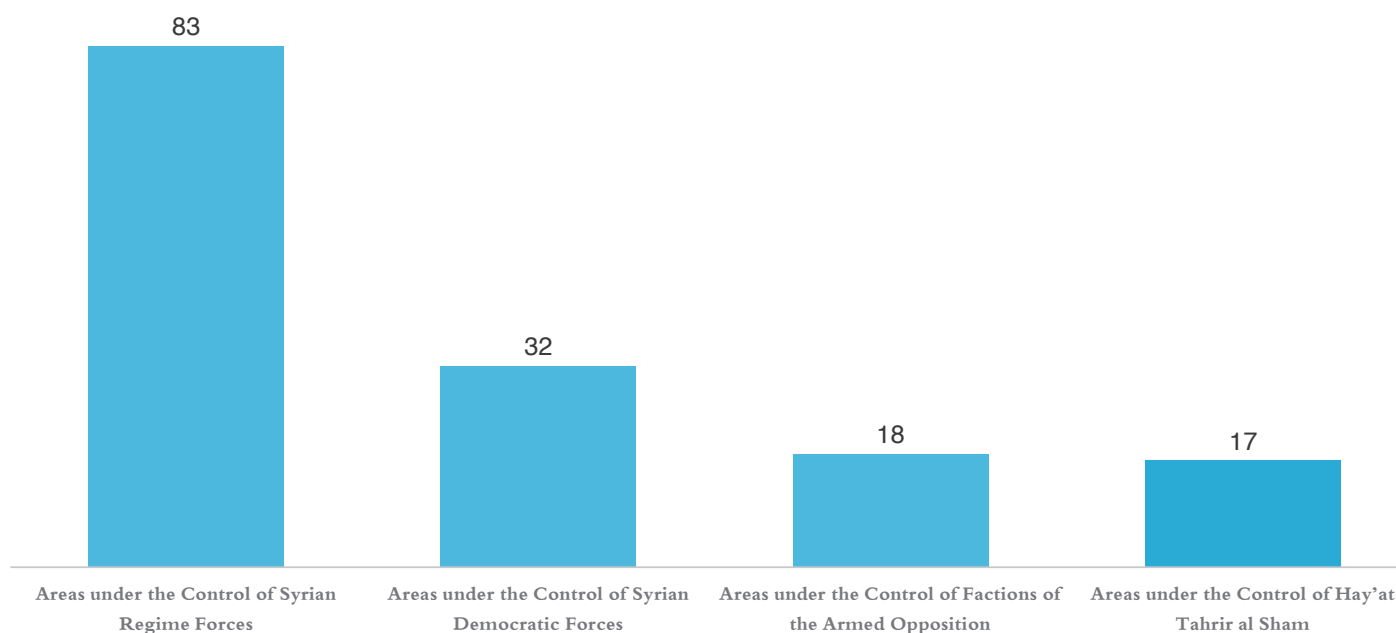
The map above shows that the highest rate of cases of arbitrary arrests during this period was seen in Damascus Suburbs, followed by the governorates of Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zour.



We also documented at least 150 raids and checkpoints in October, 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 October:

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

- Most notable incidents:

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019, Syrian Regime forces arrested five civilians, including one woman, as they were returning from Turkey to Syria via the Kasab border crossing in the northern suburbs of Latakia governorate, taking them to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

On Thursday, October 3, 2019, Syrian Regime forces arrested a 50-year-old woman from the Barza neighborhood in Damascus city as she was passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Aleppo city, while she was heading towards areas controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition in northern Syria. Her fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, Syrian Regime forces arrested 10 civilians at regime checkpoints in al Sharekrak village located on the road linking Tal Abyad city and Ein Eisa city in the northern suburbs on Raqqa governorate, taking them to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

On Friday, October 25, 2019, Syrian Regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in the towns of Yalda, Babbila and Beit Sahem, south of Damascus Suburbs governorate. SNHR documented the arrest of 35 civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

- Most notable cases:

Mustafa Hamdan al Khalaf, a 70-year-old doctor specializing in the treatment of internal diseases, from al Sheikh Maskin city in northern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested on Monday, October 7, 2019, by members of the Syrian regime's Air Security Branch in a raid on his house in al Sheikh Maskin city, and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

Tayseer Ahmad Eid al Allash and Mahmoud Eid al Allash, both from al Mayadeen city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, were arrested by Syrian Regime forces on Thursday, October 10, 2019, in al Mayadeen city, and taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.



Moayad al Shareef and Mazen al Shareef, former leaders of a faction of the Armed Opposition, from Nasib village in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, were arrested by Syrian Regime forces on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, while they were passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Menkat al Hatab village north of Daraa governorate, and taken to an undisclosed location. We note that they had previously made a security settlement to resolve their legal status. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

Abdo Qtaifan, from Daraa city, aged 60, was arrested by Syrian Regime forces on Friday, October 25, 2019, while he was passing through one of the regime's checkpoints near the al 'Camp' neighborhood in Daraa city, before being released the following day.

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:

Mohammad Sadeq al Omar, a former member of the Syrian regime's People's Assembly, from Zardana town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, was arrested by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham members on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, in a raid on his house in Zardana town, and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.



Mohammad Sadeq al Omar

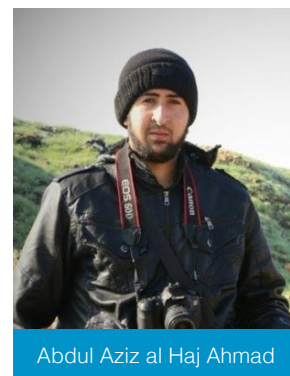
Sahel Abu Abdul Rahman, a media activist who formerly worked with the Nour al Din al Zenki Movement, a faction of the Armed Opposition, from Hawwar village in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on Monday, October 7, 2019, after returning to Hawwar village, and taken to an undisclosed location. We note that Hay'at Tahrir al Sham had previously given him promises not to harass him.



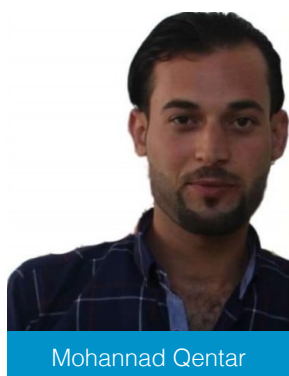
Sahel Abu Abdul Rahman



Abdul Aziz al Haj Ahmad, nicknamed Abo al Baraa, a member of the Hama Media Office, from Breidig village in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on Saturday, October 12, 2019, while he was passing through one of HTS' checkpoints near Deir Ballout village in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, after a dispute with a member at the checkpoint. He was released an hour after his detention.



The brothers Majd and Mohannad Qentar, teachers from Ein Larouz village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, were arrested on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, by members of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, while they were heading from Ein Larouz village to Ariha city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.



Mohammad Abdul Malek al Iliewi al Sultan, a media activist from M'arshimsha village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, who had been filming reports about humanitarian cases and publishing them on a page called 'Heba al Abdullah', was arrested on Monday, October 21, 2019, by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham in Reef al Muhandesin area in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

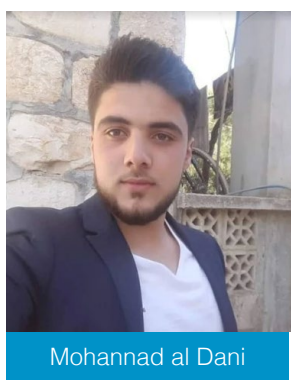


Moayad Haj Hamada, from Kafr Takhareem city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, and Rami Qaddour, from the suburbs of Hama governorate, who both work for the Syria Relief Organization, were arrested by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at the Bab al Hawa crossing border with Turkey, and taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

Yaser al Tarraf and Mohannad al Dani were arrested by gunmen affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on Friday, October 25, 2019, while they were passing through one of HTS' checkpoints near Deir Ballout village in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, and taken to an undisclosed location. Dani was then released on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

Yaser al Tarraf, the Media Office Director of al Amin Humanitarian Organization, is from Hass village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate.

Mohannad al Dani, a former media worker with the Soqour al Sham Brigade - a faction of the Armed Opposition - is from Kafranbel city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate.



Mohannad al Dani



Yaser al Tarraf

C. Factions of the Armed Opposition

- Most notable incidents:

On Thursday, October 5, 2019, gunmen belonging to factions of the Armed Opposition carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in Karzila village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. Ten civilians were documented as having been arrested, and were taken to an undisclosed location.

The following day Friday, October 6, 2019, gunmen belonging to factions of the Armed Opposition carried out another campaign of raids and arrests in Karzila village with seven civilians documented as having been arrested, and taken to an undisclosed location.



On Friday, October 13, 2019, gunmen belonging to factions of the Armed Opposition carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in Kafr Safra village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. Two civilians, including one woman, were documented as having been arrested, and taken to an undisclosed location.

On Friday, October 25, 2019, gunmen belonging to factions of the Armed Opposition carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. Two civilians, including one woman, were documented as having been arrested, and taken to an undisclosed location.

- Most notable cases:

Hanan Hashko, aged 55, the Mukhtar [village head] of Mohammadli Midana village, which is administratively a part of the Rajo district of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, from Mohammadli Midana village, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with the al Sham Legion, a faction of the Armed Opposition, on Monday, October 1, 2019, in Mohammadli Midana village, and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

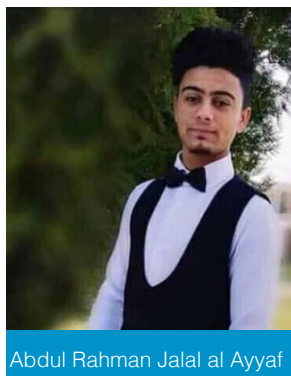


Daoud Omar, a lawyer, from Ma'batli village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with one of the factions of the Armed Opposition on Tuesday, October 2, 2019, in Ma'batli village, and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

Ahmad Waqqas, the imam at the mosque in Deir Sawwan village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, from Deir Sawwan village, was arrested by gunmen affiliated with one of the factions of the Armed Opposition on Thursday, October 17, 2019, in Deir Sawwan village, and taken to an undisclosed location. His fate remains unknown to the SNHR.



Bothers Hassan Jalal al Ayyaf, aged 16, and Abdul Rahman Jalal al Ayyaf, 18, from Ein Eisa city in the suburbs of Raqqa governorate, were arrested by gunmen affiliated with one of the factions of the Armed Opposition on Saturday, October 19, 2019, in Ein Eisa Camp in the suburbs of Raqqa governorate, and taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

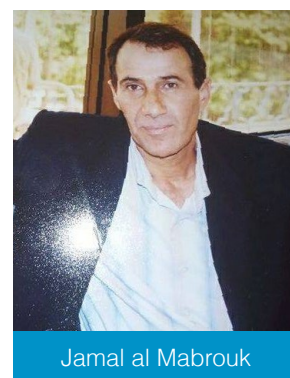


Ms. Khaldiya Suleiman and Abdul Hamid Suleiman, from Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, were arrested by gunmen affiliated with one of the factions of the Armed Opposition on Saturday, October 26, 2019, in Afrin city, and taken to an undisclosed location. Their fate remains unknown to the SNHR.

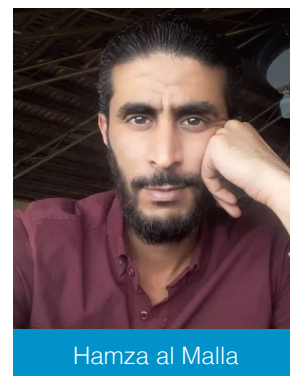
D. Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic forces

- Most notable cases:

Jamal al Mabrouk, aged 60, a civil engineer, the former head of the municipality of al Suwaydiya Saghira village, and his son Kazem Jamal al Mabrouk, from al Suwaydiya Saghira village, which is administratively a part of the al Tabqa area in the western suburbs of Raqqa governorate, were arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, in al Suwaydiya Saghira village, and taken to one of the SDF's detention centers in al Tabqa city in the western suburbs of Raqqa governorate. We note that Jamal, who is married with five children, is working for the al Furat for Development program, which is a development program that is supported by the US Department of State-sponsored Creative Associates International. On Tuesday, November 15, 2019, both were released.



Hamza Eisa al Malla, born in 1985, an activist and coordinator of the community dialogue process at the House of Citizenship in Raqqa city, and a dissident former recruiter for Syrian Regime forces, from Raqqa city, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces' members on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, in al Bayda Park in the center of Raqqa city, before being released on Thursday, October 31, 2019.



Saleh Mohammad al Tharthar, from al Qahtaniya town in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces' members on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, in a raid on his house in al Qahtaniya town, and taken to an undisclosed location.



Ibrahim al Abeid, director of the water office in al Ya'rubiya town in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, from al Qahtaniya town, also in the suburbs of Hasaka governorate, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces' members on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, in a raid on his house in al Qahtaniya town, and taken to an undisclosed location.

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, and prevented from appointing a lawyer and from receiving family visits. 65.08 percent of all 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. The Syrian regime has also violated the right to liberty enshrined in article 9 of the ICCPR through the widespread practice of arbitrary and unlawful detentions.



- 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 98,000 documented missing persons in Syria, approximately 85 percent of whom are detained by the Syrian regime.

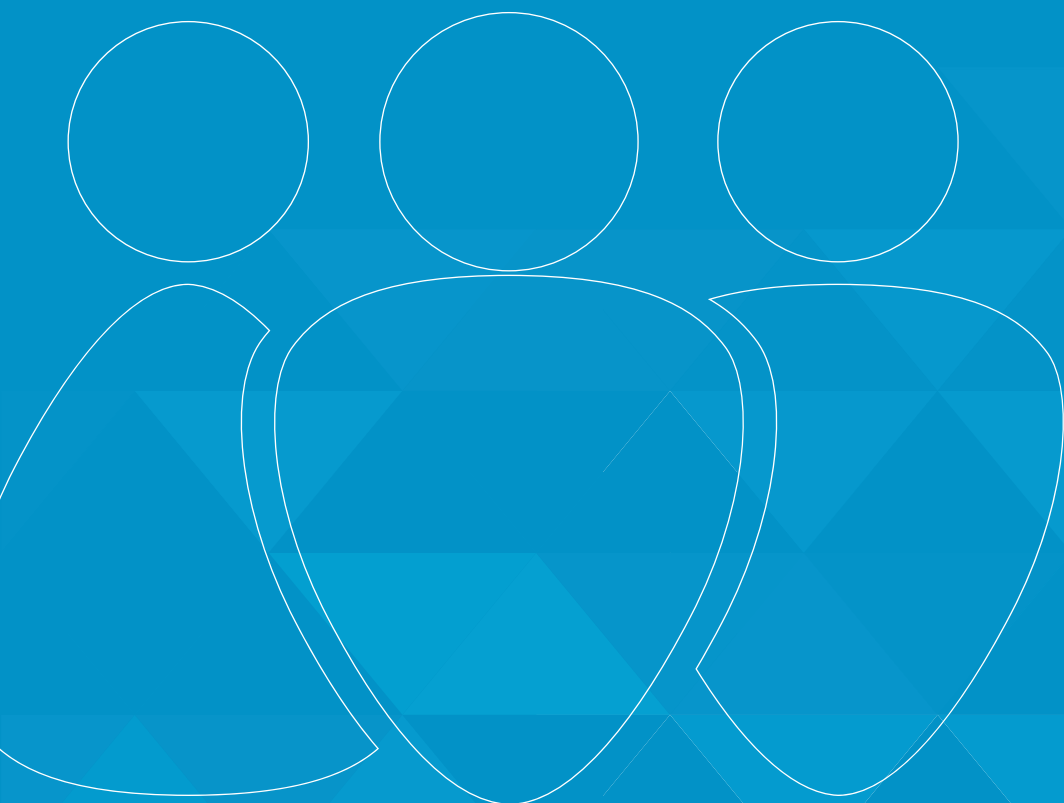


- Immediately begin applying pressure on all parties to ensure that they immediately reveal their detention records according to a timetable. In the meantime, detention places should be revealed immediately, and humanitarian organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross should be allowed to visit them directly.
- Ensure the release of children and women, and the end to the practice of 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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