

MOST KILLED, LEAST COVERED

The Case of Syrian Shia



2013

Established in 2011, Shia Rights Watch (SRW) is the world's first independent organization dedicated to define and protect the rights of Shia Muslims around the world. SRW is a non-governmental, not-for-profit research entity and advocacy group headquartered in Washington D.C., U.S.A. Shia Rights Watch aims to draw the international attention where Shia rights are violated; the aim is to give a voice to the oppressed and hold oppressors accountable for their crimes. S.R.W. achieves its objectives through strategic investigations supported by targeted advocacy in order to bring about informed action.

Vision

Freedom of religion for all

Shia Rights Watch envisions the world with peace for all humans, regardless of their religion, gender, race and origin. There should be regulations in every country to support every religion. We believe Shia Muslim as religion should be recognized in every country and any discrimination should be brought to light. God has given us all the freedom of religion and the rights to live in peace.

Mission

No Shia above the law and no Shia Below the law

Shia Rights Watch is dedicated to protect the rights of Shia Muslims worldwide. We investigate violations against Shia communities in order to raise awareness against injustice. We promote the change through research and publications. Our reports and articles are submitted to the governments and international organizations, and we continually monitor media outlets to ensure coverage of Shia rights violations. Shia Rights Watch stands for victims of prejudice, and supports activism in order to prevent discrimination, support political freedom, and protect people from inhumane conduct. We enlist the local public and international communities to support the cause of human rights for all.

The Purpose of SRW

Shia Muslims face constant oppression throughout the world solely based on their faith. In some countries, Shia Muslims have been the target of repeated persecution for centuries as evidenced in the well-documented expansion of extremism of the Wahhabi movement. We believe the underrepresented Shia Muslim population need a human rights organization that highlights the violations against them, while giving their call for help a louder voice.

Staff Organization

The organization began with the collaborative efforts of volunteers with a common interest in advocating international human rights. The momentum created by the increasing number of volunteer and activism allowed for a formal development of the foundation of Shia Rights Watch. Currently the organization has more than 100 active members working in various locations worldwide. The responsibilities of members range from gathering news and information to publishing reports and articles in order to advocate change. We are proud of the religiously and ethnically diverse group of activists who are working together towards a common goal.

Methodology of SRW

We believe that information is the most valuable resource in the investigative process. From the organization's inception, we have focused on gathering information through various media: interviewing witnesses, family members of the victims and victims themselves; on-site collection of resources; analyzing reports from various national and international organizations; meeting with non-governmental and religious organizations, leaders, and journalists; and creating information networks in a wide range of social sectors.

Based on the information collected from the above sources, different types of human rights violation have been identified. These violations include but are certainly not limited to:

- *Violation of right of living;*
- *Arbitrary arrest, unfair trial, and illegal detention;*
- *Psychical & psychological abuse: torture, rape, and sexual assault;*
- *Illegal confiscation of private property;*
- *Demolition of Religions centres;*
- *Employment discrimination;*
- *Education discrimination;*

Reports, Publications, and Distribution

Whether it is terrorist bombings of sacred shrines, torture and unjust detention of people, discriminative legislation or intimidation of school children for their sectarian beliefs, Shia have been victimized in most the world. In countries where the press is tightly controlled, most of these cases go unnoticed. Shia Rights Watch tells the stories of injustices and atrocities in order to give a voice to the marginalized Shia victims.

Journalists investigating topics regarding the Middle East will benefit from SRW's focus on the Shia communities since they are crucially important sectors in Middle Eastern society. For instance, In order to fully examine the ongoing atrocities committed against protesters of the Arab spring, it is necessary to know about the embedded Shia struggle. In areas where Shia have been formerly discriminated against more subtly, the Arab Spring opened a door for more blunt persecution. Cases reported in other parts of the world, such as in South Asia, describe violence and intimidation which reflect fluctuating trends in sectarian hostilities, fueled by various political issues, including terrorism. SRW's aim is to be able to report the crimes affecting Shia in every part of the globe.

SRW has investigators on the forefront who communicate directly with the victims and monitor multilingual news media outlets. SRW networks with national committees, international human rights organizations, as well as religious scholars of Shia communities. SRW's members comprise of people with diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds united to defend the of human rights. This international network provides invaluable information to commentators and journalists of the media who are seeking to explore the impact of events on the Shia communities worldwide.

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ShiaRightsWatch



ShiaRights

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www.ShiaRightsWatch.org



www.zhr.org.uk

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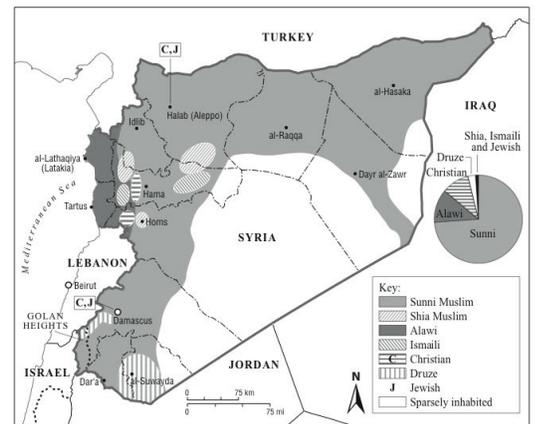
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SUMMARY

It is now clear that those involved in the Syrian conflict are violating all of the articles contained in the International Bill of Human Rights. During the last three years, Syrians have witnessed crimes that have few counterparts in human history. In an age of record-breaking advances, human rights activists continue to report the most uncivilized behavior by all parties that raises very important questions concerning dignity and the value of human life. How many lives will it take before the international community stands up for the rights of civilians in war zones?

At the Middle East Institute's "Syria's Civilians: Urgent Priorities and Policy" seminar, Abdallah al-Dardari, chief economist of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) in 2012, and director of the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) stated that:

- *Every week, 10,000 Syrians lose their jobs,*
- *Every day the Syrian economy loses \$109 million,*
- *Every month 6,000 people die,*
- *Every day 300 people lose their homes and become displaced,*
- *Every day 2,005 Syrians lose the ability to provide for their food necessities,*
- *Every day 9,000 Syrians fall below the absolute poverty line,*
- *Almost 40% of the population cannot find their daily bread,*
- *1.5 million homes have been partially or fully destroyed (more than the total homes in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates combined), and*
- *Syria now is 34 years behind in the human development index as of February 2014.* ¹



The U.S. Department of State reported that "serious problems included kidnappings, disappearances, targeted killing, torture and abuse including of women and children, the use of rape and assault as punishment, poor prison and detention center conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of fair public trial; arbitrary interference with privacy; and lack of press, internet, and academic freedom" have been witnessed in Syria. Armed extremist groups, both pro- and anti-government, have engaged in abuses, massacres, bombings; the kidnapping of minorities, religious figures, activists, journalists, and humanitarian aid workers; and driven people out of their homes based on sectarian identity. ²

This report seeks to increase awareness about human rights violations in Syria. However, because the problems are so vast, only a very small portion of what is taking place within its borders can be fully addressed here. We hope that it will help make the general public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) more aware of this ongoing tragedy, which the world has so far failed to address and resolve.

1. Middle East Institute-<http://www.mei.edu/saving-syrias-civilians/mapping-the-crisis>
2. US State Department- <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2013/nea/220376.htm>

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND RELIGIOUS DISTRIBUTION IN SYRIA

Syria is bordered by Turkey (north), Lebanon (west), Israel (southwest), Jordan (south), Iraq (east) and Mediterranean Sea (west).¹ The island of Cyprus is located just off its coast. The country's location in proximity to both Israel and Iraq has been a factor in giving it a geopolitical importance that far outweighs its size and population.

Syria, which occupies 71,500 square miles and has 22.5 million inhabitants,² contains a unique complexity and mixture of ethnicities,³ religions, and sects.⁴ Its people long ago learned how to live together in peace. Its sectarian groupings comprise Sunnis (74%), Alawis (11.0%), Twelvers (1%), Ismailis (0.5%), and Zaydis (0.5%). The last four groups are Shia sects. The Druze account for an estimated 3% of the national population, and various Christian denominations make up the remaining 10 percent.⁵

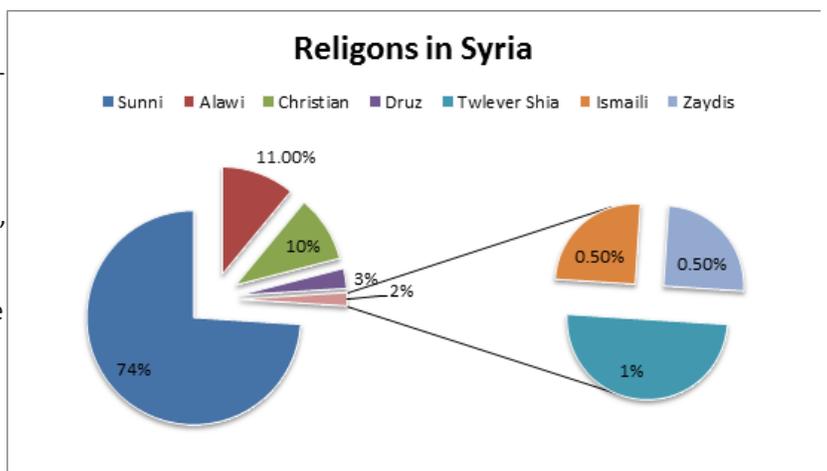


Figure 1. Religions in Syria

Sunni communities are present throughout the country. Christians, who tend to be urbanized, live mostly in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia. A significant number of Christians also live in the northeastern Hasaka governorate. A majority of the Alawis live in the Latakia governorate. A significant majority of the Druze reside in the southeastern Jabal al-Arab region, mostly in Suweida. Zaydis are found primarily in the northeast,⁵ and Shia Twelvers reside mostly in Hatlah, Deir al-Zour, Khan al-Assal, Nubbul and al-Zahra, Fuua and Kefraya (Idlib), and Zeinabia (near Damascus).

1.2 THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF SYRIA

The country's unresolved violence since the beginning of the unrest, which is now a global concern, has impacted both its neighbors and the Western powers. As Alasdair Drysdale (Australian National University) wrote in the Oxford Companion to World Politics: "Syria has a geopolitical importance out of all proportion to its relatively small population, area, resource base, and economic wealth because of [its] formidable military power ... and its location at the heart of the Middle East. As a result, it plays a central role in most of the Middle East's key disputes."⁶

According to Joseph Holliday (a former American soldier turned foreign policy analyst) and Robert Zarate (a Capitol Hill geo-

1. Maps of World- <http://www.mapsofworld.com/syria/syria-location-map.html>

2. CIA, The World Factbook, 2013, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>

3. The following ethnic groups live in Syria: Arabs, Assyrians, Kurds, Armenians, Turkmen, and Circassians.

4. The following sectarian groups live in Syria: Sunnis, Twelver Shi'as, Ismaili Shi'a's, Alawis, Druzes, Christians (Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, and Protestants), and Zaydis.

5. Index Mundi, "Syria Demographics Profile 2013," 2013, http://www.indexmundi.com/syria/demographics_profile.html

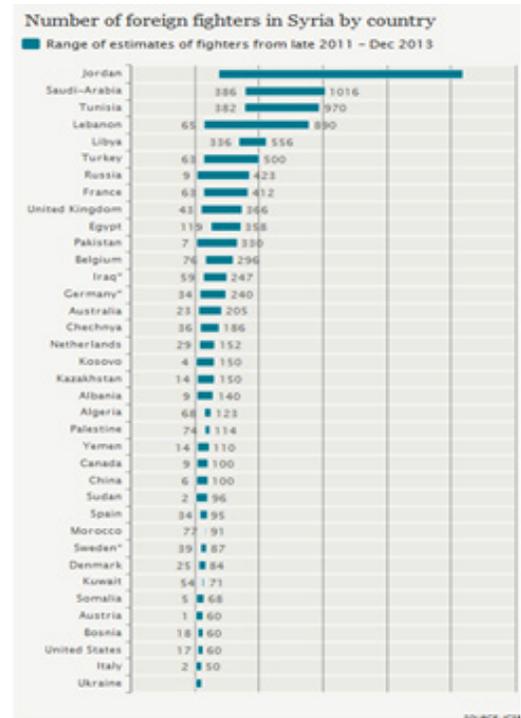
6. The Nation- <http://www.thenation.com/article/176100/why-push-syrian-intervention-about-more-just-assad#>

political strategist), Syria is an important country for many reasons. During an interview with CNN, they emphasized that one should think of it as the “Middle East’s core”: “When it is weak and destabilized, the body is susceptible to serious injury. Violence in Syria could easily spill over into countries such as Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, and Jordan”. As the interviewees predicted, unrest in Syria has led to the creation of another base for al-Qaeda, for its Middle East operations. Last but not least, this unrest has impacted the price of oil.

Due to its political importance, the ongoing conflict has now become a power struggle within both the Middle East and the West.

1.3 SYRIA AFTER MARCH 2011

The spring 2011 uprising began with the stated goal of establishing freedom and democracy. Many Syrians perceived this as a welcome and long-awaited change that would propel their country politically, economically, and socially into the twenty-first century. However, the country soon slid into uncharted territory: Militant “jihadist” groups from about seventy countries are now fighting in Syria. The Pew Research Center chart (shown right) lists the number of foreign fighters from thirty-seven countries up to December 2013.



A variety of human rights organizations, NGOs, and witnesses have documented that both pro- and anti-government forces have committed serious war crimes. Additionally, they have initiated sectarian violence and carried out mass killings on a scale rarely seen today. As Elizabeth O’Bagy states in her article “Jihad in Syria”:

“The presence of jihadist elements in Syria is a particularly worrisome development. It proves that the Syrian conflict is no longer a clear-cut situation where a pro-democracy movement is facing down a dictatorship. This jihadist presence has diminished the moral high ground of the opposition, and it has fueled doubts among its western supporters who fear that the revolution has been hijacked by more radical elements.”

The country’s Shia minority has been the group most affected by Arab Spring and the unrest in Syria. Armed groups have terrorized Syrian Shia in various ways, including the following:

- *Attacking prominent Shia public figures (e.g., religious figures and scholars) and members of the social elite,*
- *Kidnapping Shia from their homes and places of work, and killing them*
- *Forced displacement,*
- *Mass killings, decapitation, public desecration of corpses by dragging them behind vehicles, and hanging them in public places,*
- *Destroying historical places of worship (e.g., shrines, mosques, and Islamic centers),*
- *Enforcing social isolation,*
- *Besieging Shia-majority cities.*

CHAPTER 2:

TERROR AGAINST THE SHIA

Although Shia make small portion of Syrian population, this groups have been affected by the targeted violations and mass killings more than any other group. Number of Shia predominantly cities have been under siege since two years ago, in cities with mixed religious populations, mostly Shia Muslims have been kidnapped and or killed. Many Shia mosques and shrines have been attacked and in some case destroyed. Although all groups in Syria have been facing illegal treatments, Shia Muslims have selectively received most violations by foreign fighters, governmental forces, and extremists.

According to Tom Melia (deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor), “al-Qaida-linked groups and other violent extremist groups [have] engaged in gross human rights abuses.”¹ His report, available at HumanRights.gov, reveals that there “have seen several reports of violent extremists conducting massacres of Shia civilians as well as destroying a Shia mosque.”² These human rights violations infringe on the basic rights to life, liberty, security, and the freedom of religion.

Note:

All of Syria’s Shia sects are threatened by anti-Shia groups. The Alawis are associated with the government by most political groups and therefore in some cases it is believed they enjoy the government’s protection.

According to Burhan Ghalioun (chairman of the Syrian National Council), the Alawi community does not enjoy the advantageous position that the anti-Shia groups attribute to it. Damascus has “treated the Alawites the worst and those from the Alawite community that benefited from this regime make [up] only a tiny percentage.”³

This section of the report examines some examples of what the Shia community is enduring: violations of their dignity, security, and right to life in the form of kidnapping, torture,⁴ shooting, beheading, being burned alive, mutilating corpses, hanging children, tying people to cars and dragging them in the street, slaughtering family members at night, and attacking the public places (e.g., buses, schools, and hospitals). The weapons used include swords, guns, knives, mortar shells, and suicide bombings. Many of the resulting horrific crime scenes have been videotaped and uploaded to social media sites.

SRW and ZHR assessed the record of some of the victims who were killed, kidnapped or lost property during 2011, 2012 and 2013. Please see [Appendix A](#) for the list of names.

2.1 EXAMPLES OF KILLINGS AND KIDNAPPINGS

Following cases are confirmed to belong to Shia Muslims’ community. All cases involved targeted violation where people with different faiths live in same area but only selected Shia individuals or groups were attacked.

- *Two brothers kidnaped from their house in Homs were brutally killed. An armed group returned their corpses to their disabled father, Abo Amer. The brothers’ skulls had been opened and their brains placed in*

1. T. O. Melia, HumanRights.gov, “DAS Melia at the HFAC Hearing on Religious Minorities in Syria,” 2013, <http://www.humanrights.gov/2013/07/12/das-melia-at-the-hfac-hearing-on-religious-minorities-in-syria/>

2. Ibid.

3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-16108755>

4. T. Arango, A. Barnard, and D. Adnan, “As Syrians Fight, Sectarian Strife Infects Mideast,” 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/02/world/middleeast/sunni-shiite-violence-flares-in-mideast-in-wake-of-syria-war.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

*a separate bag.*⁵

- *Ali Khader Hamada was killed on November 1, 2011, while returning home to Byadda to collect what remained of his belongings. His family had fled the Byadda area, along with other Shia families, after being told to evacuate by an armed group.*⁶
- *On December 30, 2012, an armed group kidnapped Osama Halbawi (mid 50s) as he was going to his house in Mulaiha (Damascus). He was suffering from a serious disease and, during his captivity, could not receive the necessary medical care and medicine. On March 22, 2013, the kidnappers told his family that he had died and been buried.*⁷
- *On February 19, 2013, Hussein al-Mawla (20), a student at the University of Damascus, was shot and killed in Bosra (Alsham).*⁸
- *On April 10, 2012, a civilian named Mohamed Jafar Qasim was kidnapped, tortured, and killed in al-Thawra. The torture signs were clearly visible on his corpse.*
- *On March 10, 2013, Hasan Kinyar's corpse was identified among several others that had been executed and thrown in an open sewage pipe before the militant group fled the scene.*⁹ *No one had heard from him since he was kidnapped in late 2011 by an armed group at Khalidiya-Homs.*
- *On April 2, 2013 Zainab Bashir Jawrak of Nubbul was killed while in Aleppo.*¹⁰ *She is recognized to be Shia Muslim by local activists.*
- *Salem Jafer Fattouh from al-Zahra-Aleppo was killed on September 13, 2012 at al-Sayeda Zainab (Damascus).*¹¹
- *Ali Hassan al Hajaar from al-Zahra (Aleppo) was killed on June 11, 2012 at al-Sayeda Zainab-Damascus.*¹² *Al-Sayeda Zainab is a predominantly Shia populated city.*
- *Imad Riaad Bakkour from al-Zahra-Aleppo was killed on April 9, 2012 at al-Sayeda Zainab-Damascus.*¹³
- *Ahmad Faisal al-Sayed (28) from al-Bowaida (Homs), was gunned down at Kalidiya (Homs). He died instantly.*¹⁴
- *Ali Hasan Abbas was going to visit his brother in al-Sayida Zainab on the morning of July 10, 2012. He was shot at al-Rawdah but managed to survive thanks to medical treatment.*
- *On December 3, 2013, a suicide bomber attacked a funeral in Idlib. An unknown number of people were killed in the explosion.*¹⁵

5. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/ph0dU5>

6. Altawthiq Center, 2012, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/interview-with-the-family-of-the-martyr-ali-khader-hamada/>

7. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/KaT8ps>

8. Altawthiq Center, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/perfidious-sniper-targets-young-men-in-bosra-alsham/>

9. Altawthiq Center, 2013, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/clarify-the-fate-of-a-kidnapped-in-the-city-of-homs/>

10. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/y21x96>

11. Altawthiq Center, 2012, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/martyr-salem-jafar-fattouh/>

12. Altawthiq Center, 2012, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/martyr-ali-hassan-al-hajaar/>

13. Altawthiq Center, 2012, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/276/>

14. Altawthiq Center, 2012, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/martyrdom-of-a-civilian-in-al-kalidiya-district-in-homs/>

15. Altawthiq Center, 2013, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/number-of-victims-in-a-terrorist-bombing-near-idlib-fall-of-mortar-shells-on-farms-of-al-fawa/>

- *An armed group fired on farmers working on their farms on the outskirts Kefarya (Idlib). Two were injured and treated at the hospital. One of them, Abbas Mustafa Abbas, later died of his wounds.*
- *On March 3, 2012, Ahmad Ibrahim Baya, an employee in the maintenance department of a Homs' telecommunication center, was kidnapped while working in al-Wer (Homs).¹⁶*
- *On July 2, 2013, Mohammed Wohba was kidnapped from his grocery store on al-Amin Street (Damascus). Two unknown people entered his store, sedated him, and took him away.¹⁷*
- *Ahmed Ali, a taxi driver, was kidnapped while repairing his taxi in Homs. His car was found the next day abandoned by Alghanto village.¹⁸*
- *On December 12, 2012, an armed group opened fire on a gathering of farmers from Nubbul and al-Zahra who were collecting firewood from nearby bushes. Three men and two women were wounded; twelve others were kidnapped.*

The wounded people are:

- *Ali Salloum: shot in the back*
- *Yusuf Humhum: shot in the stomach*
- *Jafar Ghaban: shot between his stomach and heart*
- *Shames Aqra: shot in the head*
- *Zakia Hamada: shot several times*

The kidnapped people are:

- *Naser Mustafa Salloum*
- *Mahdi Mustafa Salloum*
- *Ali Hassan Younes (15)*
- *Jaafar Yunus Yunus (17)*
- *Raad Shaban Arab*
- *Mohammed Shaban Arab*

• *On the morning of February 13, 2013, an armed group hijacked a bus carrying forty-eight women and children from Fuaa and Kefraya to Damascus¹⁹ near Sermin village just one hour after it had left the Fuaa bus station. This was the first time that an armed group had kidnapped women on such a large scale.²⁰ All the passengers were Shia Muslims, as they always travel together for security reasons.*

- *Jafar Halbony was kidnapped by an armed group while going to his house in al-Maliha to move some*

16. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/zumx8r>

17. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/KoB3Xj>

18. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/X1vwFS>

19. Altawthiq Center, "Full Story of the Abducted Women's Bus (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/CdO7nQ> and AlArabiya 24 News, "The Abduction of the Fuaa Women by the Alnusra Front," 2013, <http://goo.gl/q6vvtz>

20. Altawthiq Center, "Fuaa and Kafrya: The Story of an Open Wound" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/I02QSV>

of his furniture after he and other Shia families had been forced out of their homes. The kidnappers have demanded a ransom. Jafar is in his late thirties, married, and has children.²¹

- Sixteen Shia Muslims were kidnapped by an armed group who stormed their houses in al-Maliha (Damascus) on December 12, 2012.²²
- Mohammed Abbas Mohiuddin and Ali Musa Kaeda, both of whom are lawyers and members of national reconciliation committees in Nubbul and al-Zahra in Aleppo's surrounding countryside, were kidnapped on February 24, 2013 by an armed group while trying to buy food for their besieged towns in the nearby town of Kimar.²³
- On January 19, 2013, neighbors told Fadi and Waseem al-Adel that their father, Mowafek al-Adel (68), had passed away. Along with their uncle Ali Mortada, they went to their father's house in the Yarmouk refugee camp (considered a dangerous spot in Damascus) to recover his body and bury him. Once they left the house with it, an armed group abducted them.²⁴
- Musa Hasan Ghurab (35), father of two children, worked as food distributor in Rabwa (Homs) until he and three other Shia were kidnapped on February 28, 2012. His family paid a 2 million Syrian pounds/ (\$13,820 USD) ransom. Upon his release, the kidnappers shot him in the elbow, knee, and ankle. He is now permanently disabled.
- Mohammed Hassan Deebo (22) of Kafraya (Idlib) was kidnapped by an armed group while going to the city center of Idlib on 1/7/2013. His family was told to pay a ransom of 3 million Syrian pounds (\$20,730 USD).²⁵
- Jafar Ali Rustam (16), a student from Nubbul (Aleppo), was kidnapped near the Sad Teshrin residential area by an armed group located in Manbej on October 4, 2012.
- On September 1, 2012, the Aqra family left their besieged town of al-Zahra to take their mother to Aleppo to find a kidney dialysis machine to treat her renal failure. Near Bejanon (Aleppo), an armed group stopped them and kidnapped a twelve-year-old child. The father's offer of himself as a ransom was refused. The family stated they saw pieces of the child's corpse while driving down the road.²⁶
- On December 8, 2012, Ali Hussain Raslan (12) from Bousra-al-Sham died instantly after a gunman shot him in the head while he was returning home after buying bread.²⁷ A militant group web page posted his killing and accused him of being a "pro-government militant."

See appendix A for more detailed list of victims of targeted killings/ kidnaps and demolition of personal properties.

21. Altawthiq Center, 2013, <http://www.altawthiq.com/en/kidnapping-a-civilian-in-al-maliha-town-2/>

22. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/MbSoTN>

23. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/RDZl8J>

24. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/axFQ1y>

25. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/5YZfGe>

26. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/xWVT7Z>

27. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/O0l31j>

2.2 MASS KILLINGS

HATLA VILLAGE

On June 12, 2013, armed groups reportedly massacred as many as sixty civilians in Hatlah (Deir al-Zour). That morning, villagers saw armed groups gathering on the village's outskirts. At 5:45 am the armed groups began attacking the houses pointed out by villagers who supported them. When they were finished, 60 Shia were reported killed in their homes. Some corpses were tied behind cars and dragged through the streets; others were hung on the main entrance to the village of Shaheel (near Deir al-Zour). The armed groups then looted their victims' homes and burned down what remained of them. Four houses and an Islamic center were also bombed.¹ Most of these acts were videotaped and uploaded on social media.

Based on eyewitness accounts, the following people were killed: Ibraheem Mulla Eid's daughter (7), Mohammed Raja's daughter (3), Eisa Khalaf Hilal (90), and Batool Raja who was (x months) pregnant. Her unborn child was taken out and hacked to pieces. The following massacre victims have been identified and documented:

1. *Omar Sayyed Himadi (90) was thrown off a tall building. His corpse was then burned.*
2. *Ali Mandil al-Ali*
3. *Basil Mandil al-Ali*
4. *Yassir Mandil al-Ali*
5. *Ali Musleh al-Ali, the uncle of victims 2, 3, and 4. All of them were publicly executed in the middle of the town's main road.*
6. *Ibrahim Musa al-Mulla Eid, a Shia cleric*
7. *Suuad al-Tarraaf al-Mulla Eid, wife of victim 6*
8. *Mustafa Ibrahim Musa al-Mulla Eid (18), son of victims 6 and 7*
9. *Murtada Ibrahim Musa Al-Mulla Eid (20), son of victims 6 and 7*
10. *The daughter (7) of victims 6 and 7*
11. *Mohammad Musa al-Mulla Eid*
12. *Taha Hasani al-Mulla Eid*
13. *Ali Sajjad Hussein al-Raja, son of a Shia cleric*
14. *Mohammad Maasoum Muhsen al-Raja. His corpse was dismembered.*
15. *Batul Hussein Al-Raja, the pregnant wife of Mohammad (victim 14). After she was hung, her stomach was cut open and the fetus was removed and dismembered.*

1. Agence France-Presse, "60 Shiite Villagers Killed," 2013, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10114887/60-Shiite-villagers-killed-as-France-warns-of-turning-point-in-Syria.html>; L. Morris and A. Ramadan, 2012, "Syrian Rebels Kill Dozens in Mostly Shiite Village," http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-rebels-kill-dozens-in-mostly-shiite-village/2013/06/12/4ab8c90e-d368-11e2-a73e-826d299ff459_story.html; H. Mourtada and A. Barnard, "Dozens of Shiites Reported Killed in Raid by Syria Rebels," 2013, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/13/world/middleeast/syria.html>; BBC, "Syria Rebels 'Kill Shia Residents of Eastern Village,'" 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-22870776>; A. Newman, "Western-backed Syrian Rebels Massacre Shia Villagers," 2013, <http://www.thenewamerican.com/world-news/asia/item/15705-western-backed-syrian-rebels-massacre-shia-villagers>; The Associated Press, "More Than 60 Shiites Killed in Raid on Syrian Village," 2013, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.529528>

16.A daughter (3) of victims 14 and 15

17.Ibrahim Muhsen al-Raja, brother of victim 14. His corpse was burned.

18.Ahmad Ibrahim al-Raja, publicly executed

19.Hashim Majeed al-Raja, publicly executed

20.Seven unidentified mutilated corpses were dragged through the city of al-Mayadin.

21.Two unidentified mutilated bodies were hung on the Big Arc of Shaheel.

22.Issa Khalaf al-Hilal (90), publicly executed

23.Ibrahim al-Saieh. After his murder, his corpse was taken to al-Mayadin and dragged through its streets.

24.Four unidentified corpses

25.Four unidentified female corpses confirmed dead

The few survivors fled to neighboring Shaheel.²

2. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/naohq>

HATLA VILLAGE

According to eyewitness, several dozen local Alawi and Shia were massacred on May 25, 2012 mostly by ISIS and Al-Nusra Front.

THE KHAN AL-ASAL MASSACRE¹

Several reports have stated that more than 200 people, including women and children, were killed by fighters using sharp objects, such as meat cleavers, knives, and bayonets. Many of them were decapitated. The attackers also bombed some houses after forcing their inhabitants to stay inside.² The blood of the victims was then used to write disgusting sectarian slogans on the village's walls and on their corpses. The perpetrators justified this crime as retaliation for what had happened during the Qusair battle and the government army's recent advances in Homs and northern Aleppo.

2.3 DEMOLITION OF BUSINESS AND RESIDENCES

Many Shia owned businesses and shops are burned down or demolished resulting in physical and economic difficulties. Appendix A provides list of names and type of damage.

1. . Abu-Nasr, 2013, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-29/syrian-opposition-to-begin-investigation-into-killing-of-troops.html>; The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Pillay Urges Investigation into Alleged Executions by Anti -Government Armed Groups in Syria's Khan Al-Assal," 2013, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>
2. Al-Alam International News Channel, "The Khan al-Assal Massacre" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.alalam.ir/news/1502260>

CHAPTER 3: SIEGE

A great deal of information and evidence describing the armed groups' tight and persistent sieges of Shia towns and cities has been uploaded and published in the international mainstream media. A case in point are the cities of Nubbul and al-Zahra, which have been besieged by ISIS and Al-Nusra Front for over two years at the time of writing this report. The Shia-populated cities of Fuaa and Kefraya remain under siege as well.

- *NUBUL AND ZAHRAA*

Nubbul and al-Zahra are located 13 miles northwest of Aleppo, Syria's largest city. Their 65,000 besieged inhabitants have no access to such basic needs as food, water, electricity, and medical supplies. Many activists report that they have been reduced to eating tree leaves to survive. An activist who uses Skype to keep the BBC informed stated: "If we don't die from bombardment or snipers, we die of hunger or the cold."¹

One very serious consequence is the poor medical condition; doctors are reporting increasing cases of cholera and malnutrition in young adults and children, as well as leishmania, which causes diseases ranging from skin lesions to potentially fatal organ damage. The extreme lack of medicine and medical supplies, combined with poor sanitation, has resulted in a leishmania epidemic.²

An example of the people's daily suffering is the recent capture and brutal killing of over thirty civilian youths who were trying to break through the siege to get food, children's milk, and medical supplies.³ All of them were ambushed and captured near Tell Rifaat village. After their deaths, their corpses were beheaded and mutilated.⁴ Their severed heads were then carried on spears toward the entrance of their home village. The perpetrators filmed and uploaded all of these crimes to www.youtube.com.

- *FUAA AND KEFRYA*

Fuaa and Kafrya, located in the countryside of Idlib, about 2.4 miles away from the city center, until recently had some 20,000 mainly Shia inhabitants. As the number of internally displaced Syrians grew, the population density of these two towns has risen.

Both towns are now surrounded on all sides by armed groups. Residents are enduring a constant and daily dose of rocket and mortar fire. More than 170 people have reportedly been killed. Hundreds of people have been kidnapped and ransomed. The total amount of ransom money during the first six months of the unrest is an alarming 38 million Syrian pounds (\$262,740 USD). Eighty people were still being held hostage at the time of writing this report.⁵

1. The Documentation Center for Human Suffering, "Report on Nubbul and Al-Zahra," 2013; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-25916804>

2. J. Najmuddin, "Worst Massacre in History" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/ReTK2v>

3. The Documentation Center for Human Suffering, "Report on Nubbul and al-Zahra," 2013.

4. Al-Khabar Press, "Beheading 30 people from Nubbul and al-Zahra" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/zN28MN>

5. Altawthiq Center, "Continuous Mortar Shelling of Fuaa and Kafrya" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/2hv2ni>; M. Abdulrazak, "Kafrya: The Story of Sectarian Persecution" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.almalaff.com/?p=834>; Islam Times, "Hijacking a Bus Carrying Women and Children in the Countryside of Idlib" (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.islamtimes.org/vdcgny9xxak9w34,.rra.html>

Internal Peace Treaty

In order to keep the cities and villages safe, some local leaders signed peace treaties with fighters. According to this treaty (see picture) both parties promise not to interfere with each other's actions. However in most cases they were breached soon after. The following is a scan of an original 'peace treaty' between the elders of Kefrya and the neighbouring town, this treaty, like many others, was soon breached.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سَمِعْنَا نَسَاكًا تَمَّ لِقَاءَ جَمَاعَةٍ مِمَّنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ قَرْيَةِ كَفْرِيَا دَرَسٌ
أَخْرَجَتْهُ أَهْلُ مَرْكَبِيْنِ لِقَاءَ بَشَرَاتٍ بَيْنَ الْبَلَدِيْنِ لِمَوْضِعٍ اسْمُهُ مَلْدُوْدُ
الشَّعْرَانِ وَتَمَّتْ لِقَاءُ تَمَّ التَّوَصُّلُ إِلَى الْبِقَاعِ الشَّرِيْفَةِ الْخَالِصَةِ :

١- تَقْبِيْلُ أَهْلِ مَرْكَبِيْنِ لِعِيْمِ الْبُقْرَةِ لِرُؤْيِ حَمَاهُ مِنْ أَهْلِ كَفْرِيَا لِيَوْمِ مَعْنَى مِنْهُ
الْمَدْفُوعِ إِلَى مَرْكَبِيْنِ فِي أَيِّ وَقْتٍ وَهَذَا مَا سَمَّاهُ السُّلْبِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ
بِاسْمِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ كَفْرِيَا

٢- تَقْبِيْلُ أَهْلِ كَفْرِيَا بِأَهْلِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ لِيَوْمِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ مِنْ مَرْكَبِيْنِ
وَهَذَا مَا سَمَّاهُ السُّلْبِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ

٣- تَقْبِيْلُ أَهْلِ كَفْرِيَا بِأَهْلِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ لِيَوْمِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ مِنْ مَرْكَبِيْنِ
وَهَذَا مَا سَمَّاهُ السُّلْبِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ

٤- تَقْبِيْلُ أَهْلِ كَفْرِيَا بِأَهْلِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ لِيَوْمِ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةِ مِنْ مَرْكَبِيْنِ
وَهَذَا مَا سَمَّاهُ السُّلْبِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ الْوَدَّاعِيَّةَ

وَاللَّهُ تَمَّ لِقَاءَهُ بِالْمَوْضِعِ

أحمد بن محمد
محمد بن محمد

CHAPTER 4: DISPLACEMENT

Displacement has become a common pattern. In fact, according to Human Rights First, the civil war has caused the largest displacement crisis in over thirty years: it is estimated that more than 4.25 million people are internally displaced.¹ More often than not, these people are moving away from areas of intense fighting. Unsurprisingly, they often settle down among adherents of the same faith/sect. This form of displacement, alarming as it is, is the effect of the current war on the fabric of the Syrian community over all.

Individuals have received mailed death threats, had their children kidnapped, had their private assets destroyed or seized, and been warned of systematic starvation if they remain in their homes.

Haidar (late 50s) describes his family's displacement from Byadah (near Homs): "All the Shia in that town had received threat letters beforehand, and even my brother was abducted and later murdered."² He fled after a bomb was detonated inside his house; Haidar and his family were wounded as result. They moved to Damascus.

Abu-Waseem, another displaced person from Byadah, tells a similar story.³ He was blackmailed, his son was killed in an attempt to convince him to leave, and his house was occupied by new residents who seized his possessions. Eyewitnesses have confirmed similar pogroms against Shia living in non-Shia towns, for example, Barzeh in Damascus and Houleh in Homs. Even worse, the mass displacement of Shia has been recorded around Damascus and Aleppo, where they are openly targeted by hate speech, the destruction of public property, and threatened as a community.

As a result of these atrocities and sieges, Syria's Shia citizens have become increasingly fearful and have sought refuge in larger cities. The latest available estimates show that Damascus now houses more than 7,500 Shia families from the countryside and another 6,500 from elsewhere. That is more than half the Shia who used to live in the villages and towns surrounding Damascus.

Homs has taken in over 6,500 families and Idlib has taken in 6,000 families, whereas Aleppo has only taken 500 families from its surrounding countryside. This is due to the fact that the remaining Shia families now live in towns under siege. Five hundred families left Bousra al-Sham (Daraa) and resettled in Sayidah Zaynab (Damascus).

330 Shia families in al-Zurzur village (Idlib) were forced to resettle in nearby Shia center. Most of Marat Mesreen's (Idlib) Shia families have relocated to Al-Fowa'h or Kafria after receiving letters promising that they would be kidnapped or murdered.⁴ Thirty Shia families left al-Raqqa before the armed group entered the city.

These numbers suggest that around 30 percent of the Shia living in troubled areas have been displaced and have sought refuge in well-known Shia towns such as Sayidah Zainab (Damascus). Now crowded with civilians, these towns are being targeted and shelled.⁵ The foreign fighters have looted or destroyed the abandoned property of these families. An estimated 75 percent or more of these families have lost their possessions, jobs, and livelihoods.

1. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), "SYRIA: A Full-scale Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis with No Solutions in Sight," 2012, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/syria>

2. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/ZYrKYy>

3. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2012, <http://goo.gl/pIDszB>

4. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/DWtfsK>

5. G. Fisher, "Bomb Kills at Least Nine near Shiite Shrine in Damascus, 2012, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/bomb-kills-at-least-nine-near-shiite-shrine-in-damascus/>

CHAPTER 5: ATTACKS ON PROMINENT FIGURES

One of the methods used to terrorize the Shia is to target their important religious scholars in order to create chaos among the community's leaders. Influential figures have received threatening letters stating that they are being watched closely and may be attacked, or that their family members may be harmed at any moment. Sayyed Ali al-Makki al-Amili, a top Shia leader in the area of Sham who used to live in old Damascus, finally moved to Lebanon to avoid further personal harassment. Sayyed Abdullah Nizam and Sheikh Nabil al-Hilbawi, two of the most influential Shia figures in Damascus, along with several other highly respected members of the Shia community, have received mailed death threats because of their clear Shia beliefs. Now restricted to a specific geographic area, they cannot fulfill their duties.

Many members of the social elite and locally influential people (e.g., merchants, factory owners, doctors, lawyers, and university-educated professionals) are being viciously targeted as well. Some examples are given below.

- *SHEIKH ABBAS AL-LAHHAM*

Sheikh Abbas al-Lahham, imam of the Sayyed Ruqayya mosque in Damascus, has four children and two university degrees. On May 2012, He had just completed the evening prayer when an armed group gunned him down in front of worshipers just outside the Sayyed Ruqayya shrine in Damascus. He was a lecturer at the Islamic studies institution and was completely apolitical.

¹ His murder was a great loss to the local community.

- *SHEIKH ALI ALISHI*

Sheikh Ali Alishi (47), the imam of Kafer al-Abad mosque in the outskirts of Homs, was a member of the Homs Scholars. The father of seven children, he was an activist working for social reconciliation. An armed group killed him on March 2013. His corpse, and that of one of his bodyguards, was found in the morning on the road near al-Ashrafiya village. He had no affiliation with any political party or any militant group.

- *SAYYED NASER AL-ALAWI*

Sayyed Naser al-Alawi, imam of the Hussainia in Sayidah Zaynab (Damascus), was killed by an unknown armed person in front of his house while heading for the Hussainia (Shia Islamic Cenetr) on April 2012. He was taken to the hospital right away, but died on the way. He was a religious/social activist who helped those families and individuals who were suffering from the ongoing unrest.²

- *SAYYED ABDUL-QUDDUS JEBRA*

A terrorist armed group assassinated cleric Sayyed Abdul-Quddous Jebara and injured his sister near the shrine of Sayidah Zaynab on June 2013. Several bullets were fired into his head. His brother was also shot in the head; he remains in critical condition. Both of these men were well-known clerics and had no political affiliation.³

1. Jafria News, 2012, <http://jafrianews.com/2012/05/16/syrian-terrorists-assassinate-pesh-imam-of-sayyeda-ruqayya-mosque/>

2. Jafria News, 2013, <http://jafrianews.com/2012/04/16/head-of-hawza-e-zainabia-martyred-by-target-killing-in-syria/>

3. Shiite News, "Syrian Shia Cleric Sayyed Abdul Quddous Jebara Martyred," 2012, <http://www.shiitenews.com/index.php/middle-east/4548-syrian-shia-cleric-sayyed-abdul-quddous-jebara-martyred>

- *HASSAN AL-SALEH*

Hassan al-Saleh, imam of Sayidah Fatima Alzahra mosque in al-Raqqa, was assassinated in the morning while leaving his house; several bullets were fired into his body in January of 2013. A locally well-known man, he promoted living in harmony with all sects and religions in Syria. Dozens of Shia families left al-Raqqa after this tragedy and after receiving direct threats from the armed groups.⁴

- *JAMAL ALESA*

Jamal Alesa, chief doctor in the accident and emergency department at al-Raqqa's Alwatnee Hospital, was shot in front of his clinic in January of 2013.

- *SHEIKH ZIDANE GHAZALI*

Sheikh Zidane Ghazali, a Twelver Shia and an imam at Daraa's Ali bin Abi Talib mosque, was kidnapped by an armed group near his house in Qurfa (Daraa) and taken to an isolated farm on December 2012. According to his statement, he was systemically tortured – he was beaten with bats while suspended by his feet. He escaped when his kidnappers fled from the government army's approach. This was the third assassination attempt on Ghazali. Before this incident, an armed group had attempted to shoot him after he left the mosque, and another attempt had been made on his life when he was at home.⁵

- *FAISAL ASLAN*

Faisal Aslan, professor of Arabic at Baath University in Homs, was kidnapped by an armed group at night near his house in the al-Edeklar residential area.⁶

CHAPTER 6: TARGETING SHRINES

Places of worship and of historical religious significance have been under constant threat since the beginning of the unrest. Shrines have been looted, used as strongholds by rebels, desecrated, bombed, and destroyed. Shia centers and mosques have suffered the same fate. Historical shrines, such as those of Sayidah Zaynab, Hijer ibn Adi, and Lady Sukainah, have reportedly been bombarded.⁷

- *SAYIDAH ZAYNAB*

The Shrine of Sayidah Zaynab, located in Zeibanieh area close to Damascus, is one of the most important Shia holy places in Syria. The shrine used to have hundreds of visitors daily; now only those local civilians who protect it visit. The shrine faces constant threat from armed groups who seek to evict or kill its visitors and to destroy it.⁸ An unknown number of the shrine's workers, visitors, and guards have been killed while protecting or visiting it.

4. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/lIF49A>

5. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/dx6OvJ>; Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/XoZWJs>

6. Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/oyrGeQ>

7. F. C. Hof and A. Simon, "Sectarian Violence in Syria's Civil War: Causes, Consequences, and Recommendations for Mitigation," The Center for the Prevention of Genocide, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, <http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/pdf/syria-report.pdf>

8. P. J. McDonnell, "Two Syria Shrine Towns: Worlds apart Yet United in Battle," 2013, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-syria-sednaya-20130630,0,2150161>

- *HUJR IBN ADI*

The shrine of Hujr ibn Adi, located in Adra, has been completely destroyed.¹ The New York Times reported this incident as a raid led by the “rebels” that resulted in the shrine’s destruction² and abduction of the interred body.³



- *SAYIDAH SUKAYNA*

The shrine of Sayidah Sukayna in Darraya has been almost completely destroyed as a result of numerous and continuous attacks by armed groups.⁴ A series of atrocities have taken place within its walls, such as burning the religious and historic library, looting all valuable contents and furniture, transforming the halls of worship into storage units for weapon stockpiles, and destroying one of the historically significant minarets of an historically important site.



- *PROPHET IBRAHIM*

Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) is a highly revered historical figure who plays a prominent role in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front terrorists destroyed this historic shrine on June 6, 2013.⁵ A video shows them bulldozing the holy site in the eastern town of Ayn al-Arous in the province of al-Raqqa.⁶



- *AMMAR IBN YASIR AND UWAIS AL-QARANI*

On March 11, 2013, the shrines for Ammar ibn Yasir and Uwais al-Qarani, located in al-Raqqa, were bombed and destroyed. On March 13, 2013, the Free Syrian Army claimed responsibility for the destruction of Ammar’s shrine.

1. AhlulBayt News Agency, Sayyida Zeinab Shrine after Attack, 2013, <http://abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=443570>

2. Before It’s News, 2013, beforeitsnews.com/opinion-conservative/2013/05/syria-insurgents-destroyed-the-shrine-of-hajar-bin-adi-a-companion-of-the-prophet-2633816.html

3. T. Erdbrink and H. Mourtada, “Iran Warns Syrian Rebels after Report of Shrine Desecration,” 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/07/world/middleeast/iran-warns-syrian-rebels-after-report-of-shrine-desecration.html?_r=0

4. Al-Alam International News Channel, “Destruction of the Shrine of Sayidah Sukayna” (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.alalam.ir/news/1484166>; Al-Alam International News Channel, “Al-Alam at the Shrine of Sayidah Sukayna” (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.alalam.ir/news/1461319>; Al-Alam International News Channel, “Blind Salafism in Syria” (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.alalam.ir/news/1454459>; Al-Alam International News Channel, “Targeting Mosques and Shrines” (in Arabic), 2013, <http://www.alalam.ir/news/1270214>; Altawthiq Center (in Arabic), 2013, <http://goo.gl/n3gsdN>; Jafria News, 2013, <http://jafrianews.com/2013/02/16/holy-shrine-of-bibi-sakina-s-a-partly-damaged-by-the-attack-of-wahabi-terrorist/>

5. AhlulBayt News Agency, Sayidah Zeinab Shrine after Attack, 2013, <http://abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=443570>

6. Jafria News, 2013, <http://jafrianews.com/2013/06/06/saudi-sponsored-wahhabi-terrorists-bulldoze-prophet-abraham-shrine-in-syria/>

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION

Since the beginning of the 2011 unrest in Syria, Shia and other religious minorities have had their human rights violated. Overall, more than 140,000 people have been killed, including 11,420 children (aged 17 and under) who were recorded as killed by the end of August 2013. As many as 2.5 million refugees have fled abroad, and another 6.5 million people are internally displaced.

Siege warfare and the denial of humanitarian aid, food, and basic necessities (e.g., medical care and clean water) have forced people to choose between surrender and starvation. In its independent report of March 5, 2014, the United Nations called this a “starvation until submission campaign.” The civil war has also affected the situation in neighboring countries. For example, the 2.4 million Syrians who have sought refuge in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey need medical attention, schools for their children, and jobs in order to survive. As a result, those countries’ schools and hospitals are now overloaded. It is unclear how long these governments can provide services to these refugees in addition to their own citizens.

Syria’s future is actually more worrisome than its current situation. Significant resources have been squandered during the civil war and the country will one day be led by young people who have lost access to education: young men and women who have been traumatized and undernourished. Human rights violations in Syria have become unimaginably damaging, and the world needs to act now.

Shia Rights Watch hopes this report can help increase awareness about the severity of situation in Syria and all communities and committees take action to bring peace in this country.

CHAPTER 8: RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- *Send and manage humanitarian aid,*
- *Deport all foreign fighters,*
- *Conduct a full investigation of the massacres carried out in Houla, Hatla, and Khan al-Assal, and hold the perpetrators accountable in front of the International Criminal Court.*
- *Send the names of armed group members who participated in mass killings to the International Criminal Court and to the local authorities,*
- *Initiate human rights training within Syria and promote religious tolerance among all sects and faiths,*
- *Encourage UNICEF and other interested international organizations to help all children who have lost over two years of education catch up with their peers, and*
- *Rebuild shrines and nominate them for World Heritage Site status with UNESCO.*

8.2 FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE

- *Hold people who spread anti-Shia hatred via media outlets accountable for their deeds. This would include such shaykhs as Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Adnan al-Aroor, Muhammad Hassan, Mohamed Yaacob, Muhammad al-Arifi, and Nabil Awadi,*
- *Allow all pro-Shia media outlets, now banned from Arabsat and Nilesat, to operate again,*
- *Recognize Shia Islam as one of the official faiths in Arab states,*
- *Help Syrians rebuild their country,*
- *Withdraw all their fighters from Syria, and*
- *Stop providing financial aid and support to all terrorist groups.*

8.3 FOR THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT

The government of Syria must:

- *Allow for greater transparency by allowing international human rights organizations to send in promi-*

ment monitors to investigate and monitor the situation in Syria,

- *Immediately release all human rights activists,*
- *Protect all minorities, and guarantee the right to legal representation for all,*
- *Protect historical and holy sites,*
- *Allow humanitarian aid to reach people in need,*
- *Establish independent and impartial bodies to investigate and punish those responsible for deaths, torture, and mistreatment*
- *Promote tolerance and respect, and*
- *Initiate human rights training within Syria and promote religious tolerance among all sects and faiths.*

Appendix A

2013

Victim	Date	Description	Location
Hussein Ali Khaber	03-01-2013	Kidnapped	Kafrayya
Khader Turki Aqeel	03-03-2013	Killed	Homs
Louay Khadr Saqr	03-03-2013	Killed	Homs
Hassan Khader Ased	03-03-2013	Killed	Homs
Hussein Khatib	03-03-2013	Kidnapped	Homs
Maher Fawaz	03-04-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Ahmed Abdo Masri	03-04-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Ali Qaseer	03-05-2013	Killed	Homs
Yasser Abdu al-Abrash	03-05-2013	Killed	Homs
Mohamed Kamal al-Halabi	03-05-2013	Killed	Homs
Rakan Ahmed Younis	03-05-2013	Killed	Homs
Ahmed Diab	03-05-2013	Kidnapped	Homs
Abdullah Hassan	03-05-2013	Killed	Nubbul
Mohamed Hassan Debo	03-05-2013	Ransomed	Kafrayya
Akram Deep Zazoua	03-06-2013	Killed	Homs
Rami Mohammed Kasas	03-06-2013	Killed	Homs
Mehdi Totti	03-07-2013	Killed	Homs
Zaheer Ghrab	03-07-2013	Killed	Homs
Hasan Tiro	03-07-2013	Killed	Homs
Moses Zaayter	03-07-2013	Killed	Homs
Sheikh Ali Alisha	03-08-2013	Killed	Homs
Saeed Mohammed Ali Sandouk	03-08-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Abdullah Hassan Sherbo	03-08-2013	Killed	Nubbul
Hussain Fawaz	03-09-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Ahmed Bagud	03-09-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Ali Mustafa Baroud	03-09-2013	Killed	Nubbul
Alaa Abdou Al Azba	03-09-2013	Killed	Bosra Al Sham
Ahmed Abdullah Bagud	03-09-2013	Killed	Latakia
Abbas Mustafa Abbas	03-10-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Mohammed Abdul Muttalib Jafar	03-10-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Hatem Mohamed Sheikh	03-10-2013	Kidnapped	Homs
Nazeeh Amin	03-10-2013	Kidnapped	Homs
Wael Faisal Jamal	03-11-2013	Ransomed	Aleppo
Hassan Knyar	03-11-2013	Killed	Homs
Yahya al-Qasim	03-12-2013	Killed	Homs
Saleh Abdel Karim Al-Mohammad	03-13-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Fahmi Hakim Zain	03-13-2013	Killed	Fuaa

Victim	Date	Description	Location
Mehdi Qara Bash	03-13-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Jamil Hasan Asad	03-13-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Mohammed Deebo Stayh	03-13-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Ahmed Hussein Knyar	03-13-2013	Killed	Homs
Faiz Mohammad Ali Reda	03-13-2013	Killed	Homs
Taher Hasan Younes	03-13-2013	Killed	Homs
Imad Mostafa Khafaja	03-13-2013	Killed	Homs
Radwan Fawzi Mari	03-14-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Yusuf Ali Jalowd	03-14-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Ahmed Hussein Rumman	03-14-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Abdul Majid Ahmad Reda	03-14-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Mohammad Mohammad Reda	03-14-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Sami Shakool	03-14-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Hosam Taher Mohsin	03-14-2013	Kidnapped	Damascus- Mulaiha
Hossam Ali Abida	03-14-2013	Killed	Homs
Imad Mahdi Stoof	03-16-2013	Killed	Al-Zahra
Hasan Mahdi Stoof	03-16-2013	Killed	Al-Zahra
Ibrahim Mahdi Stoof	03-16-2013	Killed	Al-Zahra
Ali Al Shemali	03-18-2013	Killed	Homs
Ahmed Abdul Ghafoor Najjar	03-19-2013	Killed	Damascus
Mohammed Youssef Ragheb	03-19-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Hasan Mahmoud Asad	03-19-2013	Kidnapped	Damascus
Ali Fayez Saeed	03-20-2013	Killed	Homs
Ali Hajj Ismail Abbas (Assaf)	03-20-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Sajid Al Tufaylee	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Ali al-Abrash	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Mohammad Dom	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Osama Halbawi	03-21-2013	Killed	Damascus- Mulaiha
Amjad Ali Khayat	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Mohammed Abbas Dom	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Hussain Ali	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Zain Ali	03-21-2013	Killed	Homs
Ali Hasan Arab	03-23-2013	Ransomed	Nubbul
Ali Mohammed Kanan	03-23-2013	Ransomed	Nubbul
Mohamed Samir Ghaleb Yaghi	03-23-2013	Killed	Damascus
Basel Mohammad Abu al-Khair	03-23-2013	Killed	Damascus
Hassan Saeed Khaski	03-23-2013	Kidnapped	Tartus
Abbas Younis	03-24-2013	Killed	Homs

Victim	Date	Description	Location
Nemer Ahmed Ibrahim	03-25-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Mohamed Al Asad	03-26-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Ahmed Mohammed Kengo	03-26-2013	Ransomed	Homs
Mohammad Baqir Al-Sous	03-26-2013	Killed	Damascus
Ahmed Ibrahim Baya	03-27-2013	Kidnapped	Homs
Ghassan Mustafa Lahlouh	03-27-2013	Killed	Sayda Zainab
Hussain Saeed Sheikh	03-30-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Saeed Hussain Sheikh	03-30-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Yusuf Abdul Sattar Mohsen	03-30-2013	Killed	Fuaa
Ali Mustafa	03-30-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Hussain Rateeb Abida	03-30-2013	Killed	Homs
Yahya Fateh Hammam	03-30-2013	Killed	Al-Zahra
Muhannad Hussein Mohiuddin	03-30-2013	Killed	Nubbul
Ali Mohammed Yahya Zam	03-30-2013	Ransomed	Nubbul
Ibrahim Mohammed Hamaddouche,	03-30-2013	Ransomed	Nubbul
Alaa El Din Mohammed Al Munajed	03-30-2013	Killed	Damascus
Musa Abdul Salam Fatama	03-31-2013	Killed	Kafrayya
Hussain Idleb Eido	04-01-2013	Killed	Kafrayya

2012

Victim	Date	Description
Mustafa Husain Kashkoosh	01-4-2012	His car windows were smashed by two armed men on the Ma'araba gas station.
Mohammad Haidar Khbeiz	01-14-2012	His office completely burnt down
Ali Hussain Marji	01-24-2012	His house in old town completely burnt down.
Ibrahim Ahmad Al-Khidr	01-30-2012	Assaulted in his own home, home vandalised with stones and Molotov bottles
Ahmad Abdu Jaffar	2-2-2012	His car is burned on front of his house
Mohammad Abdu Al-Athbeh	02-11-2012	His motor bike was stolen in front of the house.
Mahmood Ali Khudr	02-15-2012	He lost his car in an ambush by an armed man. The car was later found burned.
Jameel Kasem Haidar	02-28-2012	His motor bike was stolen by Mostafa Gathian and Hamza Mokdad.
Ahmad Jadallah Al-Ibrahim	3-1-2012	Kidnapped near Ma'raba Village by armed men who forced passengers out and lead him to inside the village.
Mustafa Mohammad Al-Najar	03-4-2012	Brutally beaten by a group of armed members.
Ali Khudr Khudr	03-11-2012	His shop's front window was broken down by Khalid Al-Haji and Ibn Haitham Al-Awdeh (well-known criminals of the city).
	03-30-2013	Killed
Ahmad Ibraheem Al-Athbeh	03-12-2012	His car was seized and burned.
Mohammad Kheer Hmedi Jaffar	03-12-2012	Directly shot at by unrecognized armed men.
Afif Husain Khubeiz	03-13-2012	His black smith workshop was robbed
Faisal Mahmood Wahbi	03-15-2012	His motor bike was stolen near the west round about by an armed group.
Abdulnaser Kasem Al-Khudr	03-19-2012	His car was directly shot at while passing through the town of Ma'araba.
Ali Ahmad Athbeh	03-19-2012	Directly shot at on the eastern ridge.
Ali Husain Al-Mula	03-20-2012	His car was stopped by the armed groups while coming back from the town of Jamreen. He was attacked and the car confiscated and broken down.
Husain Shhadeh Al-Thaher	03-21-2012	Stolen items from his house.
Adnan Ibraheem Al-Athbeh	03-22-2012	His car was attacked, robbed and later burned.
Hasan Al-Ghabsheeh	03-22-2012	His house was burned down after his family and he were expelled out. They were disallowed to take their belongings.

Victim	Date	Description
Muhammad Ali Dia	03-22-2012	Was expelled out of his house under gun intimidation.
Abu Aiman Khubeiz	03-25-2012	His house was burned down
03-27-2012	03-25-2012	His car was stolen
Ali Husain Bakri	03-27-2012	His car was stolen twice. Returned at the first time and burned on the second.
Ibraheem Ahmad Al-Khudr	03-27-2012	His house in the eastern district was burned down.
Mohammad Ali Dia	03-27-2012	His house was seized after his family and he were expelled out.
Abdullah Al-Najjar and Jaffar Al-Khbeiz	03-27-2012	Beaten by Muneer Al-Jini and Ali Al-Naileh at Afif Khbeiz's shop (well-known criminals of the city).
Muree Hasan Al-Najar	03-29-2012	Attacked by wood and iron sticks by a group of men who later burned his motor bike.
Khalil Mahmoud Al-Najjar	04-01-2012	His bookshop partially burnt down
Shiekh Abdulazzez Al-Khurd	04-17-2012	His car was stolen on the west roundabout by Ali Al-Naeela and Bian Al-Haji after pointing a gun to his head.
Abu Abdullah Al-Khudr	04-19-2012	The brother of Shiekh Abdulazzez Al-Khurd. His Van was stolen under gun intimidation.
Younes Haidar Khurd	04-22-2012	A secondary school student beaten up
Gassan Mohammad Kheir Al-Athbeh	09-3-2012	His car was stolen on the road to Smad.
Jameel Kasem Haidar		Directly shot at and hit in his leg.

2011

Victim	Date	Description
Mahmoud Mustafa Al-Haraji	02-11-2011	His car partially burnt down.
Qasem Mohammad Kheir Khbeiz	02-11-2011	His car partially burnt down.
Ghassan Yousef Al-Mazara'ani	05-12-2011	Brutally beaten with bats and attacked with sharp objects in front of an ATM machine. His car was smashed.
Ibrahim Dagher	08-12-2011	Attack on his home with stones and Molotov bottles
Mohammad Kheir Hasan	08-15-2011	His barber shop was vandalised.
Raed Ghassan Jaffar	08-15-2011	Reported his brick workshop was attacked and destroyed
Jaber Mohammad Jaffar	08-15-2011	His mobile phones shop was robbed by "protesters" who chanted "We will say it out loud, we don't want Shias".
Abu Khalil Al-Harisi	08-15-2011	His shop was completely burned down in the eastern quarter
Osama Ali Al-Khidr	08-15-2011	His shop was completely burned down in the eastern intersection
Shaker Hasan Jaffar	08-15-2011	His shop was completely burned down in the eastern road
Abu Fouad Wahbi	08-15-2011	Reported his shop was completely burned down . The violators also attempted to kill him and his son Haidar inside their shop which prevented by the help of other people.
Hassan Abbas	08-15-2011	His shop was completely burned down
Mohammad Hussain Mahdi	08-15-2011	His shop was completely burned down
Mahdi Jaffar	08-15-2011	Burn down a number of mobile phone shops on the eastern intersection
Khidr Ali Khidr	11-13-2011	His home attacked with stones and gun shots by his neighbours. Suffered a stroke and died as a result.
Eissa Hussain Marji	11-13-2011	Partially burn down his house.
Ali Qasem Haidar	11-13-2011	Burnt down his coach in the eastern quarter. Terrorists stopped the coach, forced passengers out and completely burnt the coach.
Ali Al-Mazra'ani	11-15-2011	His car burnt down in front of his house
Abu Ali Al-Salman	11-15-2011	Attempt to burn his house using Molotov bottles.
Rida Najeeb Al-Khidr	11-15-2011	His car completely burnt down
Qasem Mohammad Kheir Khbeiz	11-16-2011	His car burnt down
Basel Ayman Haida, Ali Rida Al-Athba, and Adnan Yaseen Al-Athba	11-17-2011	Brutally beaten and threatened with firearms on their way back from Suwaida City.
Basel Mohammad Hamdoun	11-17-2011	Attacked, beaten, and verbally abused by Mustafa Al-Rajab, Aziz Kareem Al-Rajab, Fouad Kareem Al-Rajab and 10 other people (well-known criminals of the city).

Victim	Date	Description
Kathem Mohammad Dhiya	11-19-2011	Beaten and had his arm broken by Khaled Al-Manna, Mohammad Al-Najim, who are high school students, along with 4 other people.
Hussain Abd Al-Kareem Al-Salamn	11-22-2011	His home burnt down by a number of masked men.
Qasem Jado Al-Athba	11-26-2011	Attacked with stones by masked men as he was heading to his workplace at the School of Al-Khalil



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