

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة
Justice for Life Organization



Human Rights Report

ديوان الحسبة



الدولة الإسلامية
سجن الحسبة



المنسأة

Deirish Women

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First: Executive Summary:

Women in Deir Ezzor suffered many sorts of violations and restrictions that were practiced by the militants of “Islamic State” group in the areas held by the group in Deir Ezzor before they lost most of them in the end of 2017 as the Deirish woman is considered the most vulnerable category that was affected by the group crimes.

The violations varied from restricting personal freedoms, preventing from work, restriction on movement, and imposing harsh physical punishments.

Riham, pseudonym, talks about the incident of lashing her by the group militants as a result of her clothes violation “ I was arrested with my mother after altercation with a wife of Head of Islamic Police. They took us to women prison and lashed us because my eyes appeared in the market of the area where I live”.

Mohammad, pseudonym, narrated his testimony of stoning a woman in Al Boukmal city by the charge of adultery. “The group militants got her out of the vehicle. She was unable to walk. One of the militants read the charge and the woman was gesturing to deny the charge. The group militants brought a big truck filled with stones and rocks and stoned the woman until she died. They moved her body to an unknown place”.

The international human rights treaties did not include explicit rules that admit the individuals right to obtain reparation for damages that were resulted by violating those rights included in those treaties, providing that these treaties states that the states shall comply and commit to individuals rights that are recognized by these treaties, including commitment in providing adequate and effective remedies to address the violation regardless of its gravity , one of the ways of remedies is to obtain reparation.

This is stated in the article 14 of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and article 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Justice For Life Organization demands the following:

To take the required and necessary actions to protect the civilians, to stop the violations against the international humanitarian law, and to comply with the international resolutions in order to achieve a sustainable peace in Syria. It also

demands to refer the Syrian file to the International Criminal Tribunal to implement the responsibility against the individuals, including the leaders of ISIS, on the war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Second: About JFL:

[Justice for Life Organization](#) in Deir Ezzor is a Syrian independent non-governmental non-profit organization that includes human rights Syrian activists regardless of their affiliations and ideologies. It works on documenting the violations of human rights in order to be used in the phase after war; where the collected and checked proofs will be used in the process of reconciliation and transitional justice. The organization works constantly on the campaigns of advocacy of human rights in order to reach the desired peace.

Our Vision

The Observatory endeavors to a Syrian society founded on the citizenship and the sovereignty of law, where all Syrians enjoy justice and equality.

Our Message

The message of JFL is to promote the justice by observing and documenting human rights violations, publishing statistics and reports in a professional manner in order to be used in peace building and achieving justice in Syria. JFL works on building the capacity of the Syrian activists in order to enable them to detect the truths, collecting proofs and archiving them.

Our Values

JFL believes that the human rights are original ones; all people enjoy these right equally and without neutralization. These rights are interconnected and not able to indivisibility and inalienable ones.

Third: Introduction:

At the end of 2017, “Islamic State” group lost the majority of territory that were captured in Deir Ezzor province in mid-2014. The Syrian government forces recaptured the cities, towns, and villages that are located in the south of Euphrates river including Deir Ezzor city, Al Mayadin city, Al Boukmal city. On the other hand, the Syria Democratic Forces captured the towns and villages located in the north of the river including Al Kasra town, Al Suar town, Khsham town, and Theeban town.

“Islamic State” group control on Deir Ezzor province presented a transformation of the lives of the populations in the province as the group used the harshest and most brutal ways in dealing with them leaving a negative impact on their lives. The civilians including children, men, and women describes the state of fear and panic they lived under the rule of the group.

Women of the province suffered from the group procedures and laws as she lost father, son, brother, and breadwinner. She was one the most vulnerable categories that suffered from violations under the group rule. The restrictions on women that were imposed by the group presented the group vision on woman as it deprived her from her rights and turned her into a mean of pleasure. The group expressed its vision about woman in “Al Madina charter” where the article number 14 stated

“To the honorable women: God is in decency and loose jackets and robes. Stability is in the house, inherently the *khidr* (women’s quarters), and go out [from the house] only when necessary for the guidance of the mothers of the believers... blessings upon them”

The group arrested and executed a number of women in Deir Ezzor by different charges such as communicating with armed factions’ opponent to the group or contacting with the US-led coalition along with charges of honour. The group did not consider any of the due processes neither in charges nor in execution.

The Justice for Life organization document the execution of five women in 2016-2017 by the “ Islamic State” group by different charges.

Fourth: The Legal Framework:

UN Security Council, in its resolution No. [2170](#), which adopted at its 7242nd meeting, held on 15 August 2014, considered “the organization of Islamic State” as a terrorist group, condemning all criminal acts committed by it and other terrorist organizations, stressing that the Member States are responsible for protecting the civilian population in their territories in accordance with their obligations under international law.

The General Assembly of the United Nations in the Resolution No. 60/147 on 16 December / December 2005 adopted the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, It called for appropriate measures to prevent violations and to provide access to justice for those claiming to be victims of violations of human rights and humanitarian law and to provide effective remedies to victims. ¹

The obligation of the states to provide reparations to individuals is well established in international compensation laws. “Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation”. ²

International human rights treaties did not include explicit rules recognizing the right of individuals to reparation for damage they exposed to as a result of violations of the rights enumerated in those treaties, However, these treaties state that States are bound to and guarantee the rights of individuals recognized under those treaties, which include the obligation to provide effective domestic remedies for alleged violations of a person's human rights, and to investigate, prosecute and punish such violations and provide redress to the victims concerned. This is in article 14 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment³ and article 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. ⁴

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arabic/BPGRRRVGVHRLS.pdf>¹

See also article 14 (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/b003.html>

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/b039.html>³

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/b010.html>⁴

Article 75 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that the Court establishes principles with regard to reparations to or for victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. .⁵

Fifth: Methodology and Challenges

Justice for Life Organization had 'interviewed with 11 women from Deir Al Zour, these women had been abused by the "Islamic State", 10 of the interviews were in Syria and conducted by the organizations' researches and 1 is conducted via WhatsApp. The report covers violations committed by the "Islamic State" group against women in Deir al-Zour province. The meetings covered many violations such as prevention form education,

restrictions on movement, corporal punishment and others. Justice for Life Organization explained to the ladies the purpose of the report and obtained their consent to use the information included in their testimonies. Many women refused to give their testimonies, and women who gave their testimony refused to reveal their real names for security reasons.

Sixth: There is no value for women in the “Islamic State” Shariah:

All the women interviewed by the Justice for Life Organization said they had been in a state of fear throughout their presence in the areas controlled by the Islamic State. Where they stressed that women were with no value in the rules and regulations imposed by the “Islamic State”.

- 1- The "Islamic State" released regulation ordering the women to wear the Niqab and cloak covering the whole body, face and

head with gloves and socks. The dress had to be black without any other colors and wearing ornaments was prevented.

Reham (pseudonym) says “My mother and I were arrested after a verbal altercation with the wife of the “Islamic Police Chief”. They took us to the women's prison, and they whipped me and my mother only because my eyes was appearing while I was in the bazaar of the area that I live in”.

Reham as well tells about what she saw in the women's prison:

“I saw in prison a woman who was detained with her baby only because she took him to the hospital without a mahram (Father, Brother, Husband ...)”.

Abeer, who was arrested by the “Islamic State” for several hours and fined her financially, says: “The members of the “Islamic State” Hesbah arrested me for three hours because of my non-compliance with the dress regulation imposed by the “Islamic State” on women, I was also forced to pay 6000 Syrian Pounds as price for Islamic dress and my brother was financially fined for allowing me to get out without being bound by the Islamic dress. " Abeer describes the way she has been arrested, “ A white car belonging to Al-Hesbah took me to my grandfather’s house to get my ID. They asked my brother to bring me to the center of Al-Hesbah. After we arrived at the center they imprisoned me in a room specified for women and my brother in a room specified for men. 3 hours later they released us after paying the fine, whipping my brother and imposing Islamic courses on me and my brother in Al-Faruq mosque in the village of Zoughir; western Deir Al Zour”.

- 2- Through these restrictions, “The Islamic State” tried to end any participation of women in the social life. Many women said that the control of the “Islamic State” caused difficulty of the movement for women without a mahram, they were able to go out very rarely (once a month and sometimes every two or three months) except in emergency health cases. Khadija (pseudonym) while talking to Justice for Life says:” The Islamic state viewed women as being source of shame and prevented them from going out on their own, I was moving in disguise due to

the fear of being subjected to insult (me and my family) in case of being recognized without mahram by Islamic State members". This is asserted by witness Maram (pseudonym): "I was in a shop to fix my mobile phone, the members of al-Hesbah arrested me for going out without a mahram. When my husband came to ask about me at the center of Al-Hesbah they directed to him harsh words, called him deyouth, fined and subjected him to an Islamic course".

Khadija says she saw members of the Islamic State whipping a woman 20 lashes for not obeying the Islamic State's instructions.

Alia (pseudonym), who suffers from visual impairment, says:

"Black spots started to appear in my eyes, there were no doctor to diagnose my case in the nearby areas, I applied for travel to go to the areas of control of the Syrian government for treatment, but they refused. One of the Islamic State members said: "Better to her remain blind in the state of the Khalifa than having full sight eyes in the land of AlKufur". After this refusal I had to deal with a smuggler and paid him one and a half million Syrian pounds to get out of the control areas of the Islamic States."

Reham confirms what Alia said: "Spending all what we have, we managed to get out of Deir Al Zour through smugglers in order to get rid of the Islamic State"

Preventing people (especially for women) from going out of the territories of the Islamic State, forced many people with chronic diseases to leave through smugglers and pay large amount of money to reach areas where treatment and hospitals are available.

- 3- Health workers in areas under the control of the Islamic State have been subjected to many restrictions, including preventing male doctors from treating women, harassing male gynecologists in their work, and degradingly interfering in the work of health personnel in centers and clinics. This restriction led health workers to leave the areas under control of the

Islamic State in Deir Al Zour. The thing that negatively impacted the health care of civilians, including women who have encountered additional difficulties and constraints. The female doctors remained in the province were unable to provide the required health care to women, they were monitored by feminine Al-Hasbah members in the clinics and hospitals.

Umm Ahmed (pseudonym), who worked as midwife in a hospital in rural Deir Al-Zour, talks about the intervention of the Islamic State in her work:” After the Islamic State took control of the area, I was forced to continue working in the hospital under their administration”. Umm Ahmed continues saying:

"After a month of work, four women members from the Islamic State entered my room in the hospital without permission. I was monitoring a woman's health condition on ECHO machine. They asked me to continue working under their observation. When I refused, they threatened to file a complaint against me.

The next day some members of the Islamic State came to arrest me from the hospital, but by chance I was not there, and as a result I decided to leave Deir Al-Zour "

- 4- Preventing women from work and imposing fines due to violation of the regulations increased the financial burden on civilians in the governorate, while hundreds of women working in the Syrian state institutions in Deir Al-Zour governorate were deprived of their monthly salaries as a result of travel restrictions the thing that negatively affected the financial conditions of their families.

Siham (pseudonym) says:” The members of Al-Hesbah arrested my husband and whipped him because they saw me working alone in the market that we have. They fined him 15,000 Syrian pounds”.

Siham and her husband were forced to close the market at the times of her husband’s absence, which affected their financial condition.

- 5- The Islamic State closed the schools in its areas of control in the province and then reopened it after issuing a new curriculum. Teachers were subjected to Islamic courses and they managed to separate males from females and allow

females to get education only till the end of primary school. However, most civilians' refrain from sending their children to these schools forced the Islamic State to shut down again.

Nahed (pseudonym) who lived in the eastern rural of Deir al-Azuor and prevented from traveling to attend the secondary school exam:" The Islamic State did not allow the students to travel to government-controlled areas calming that it is lands of Al-kufur. One of the doctors gave me a medical report to give it to Al-Hesbah to let me out, but they also refused".

Nahed speaks to the Justice for Life organization about the exit trip to the Syrian government-controlled areas to get to school and attend the exam:

"I went out in a car carrying caws, I put my books in a bag and placed them under the cows. Whenever I approached the checkpoint, I hid because if they recognize me, they would take me back, whip, fine me and I will lose one year. After 8 hours I arrived in Al-Hasakah and gave high school exams and returned to Deir al-Azuor on the same way. "

In the same context, says Reham: "The members of the Islamic State prevented me from going to the government-controlled areas to attend secondary school exams. Thus, left the areas under their control in Deir al-Zour and enrolled the exam in Damascus".

6- The Islamic State did not take into consideration the circumstances of those who went out of the neighborhoods that were under siege in the city of Deir al-Zour. They arrested many of them (including men and women) some of them are still missing and some of them were released.

Reem (pseudonym), who emerged in August 2015 from the neighborhoods under the control of the Syrian government, she suffered from the siege and talked to Justice for Life about the details of the investigation of the Islamic state members with her and her family after they went out of the siege. "I started the journey with my family from the besieged Kusour neighborhood, we

crossed all the Syrian government forces' checkpoints and reached the areas under control of the Islamic State. A group of Islamic State members took us out of the car and separated the men from the women and took the women to an uninhabited home where a number of Islamic State feminine members exist. The place turned out to be a place to investigate women, some of the detained women were holding babies”⁶

Reem continues saying:

“The feminine members of the Islamic State searched our bags and mobile phones and broke all the sim and memory cards; their words were very provocative. They said that we are late to leave regimes areas and accused us of supporting the regime because we were in the areas under its control. They took all our information and then lead us to a school in the town of Ma'adan, where about 1,000 people are gathering for investigation.”

Reem talks about the behavior of the Islamic State members and investigators at the school where the detainees were transferred. There were a lot of foreign members from Tunisia, China and other countries, as well as to members from Deir al-Zour:

” The investigations were very slow, they used to search our bags and threw our belongings on the ground and ask us to collect them. I saw a woman sitting next the foot of one of the members begging him to return her husband's ID as he is arrested for accusing him of serving the regime. I knew this person who was only an old teacher suffering from the disease”

7- The Islamic State used to impose corporal punishment to be carried out at public squares, aiming spread terror among the local population and to strengthen its authority.

Watch the interview of Reem with Justice for Life Organization⁶
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCxtJZgp1Xg&feature=youtu.be>

Mohammad (pseudonym) talked to Justice for Life organization about incident of stoning of a woman in the town of AbuKamal, east of Deir al-Zour. "Al-Hasbah cars roamed the streets of the town and asked all to close the shops and to gather in the public square opposite to Alameen school to witness the rule of stoning a woman to death on charges of adultery, the woman was from the village of Sukariya - AbuKamal "⁷

Mohammed says:

"The members of the Islamic State took the convicted woman out of the car, she wasn't able to walk. One of the members read the charge directed to her, at the meanwhile the woman was indicating with her hands denying the charge, the members brought a large car full of stones and stoned to till she died then they transferred the body to an unknown location."

Many women in that gathering could not bear what happened, as result many of them lost their consciousness. The members of the Islamic State threatened the gathering that this is the fate of anyone who commits a similar crime.

- 8- The Islamic State pursued some of the displaced families reached areas of its control in Deir al-Azour and asked them to vacate the houses they live in on the pretext that it belongs to those who are accused of being apostate (AlMurtad - anyone who is against the ideology of Islamic State). Many displaced people were forced to evacuate some of the official institution buildings that formed residential complexes for the displaced. The Islamic State did not give any reasons or justifications for such orders.

Hanan (pseudonym) is a displaced who living in a room of a governmental office in the countryside of Deir al-Azour along with her 60-year-old mother and her 15-year-old brothers said:

"The Islamic State forced me, without giving any reasons, to vacate the

room where I live with my family in the governmental office, and because of my refusal, they beat me with a bamboo stick and directed to my mother harsh words."

Hanan continues: "We did not have the financial resources to rent a house, so my younger brothers had to work, The Islamic State imposed on me an Islamic Course and they took my ID to force me to attend the course. The cost of each travel was between 2,000 and 3000 Syrian Pounds, not having the amount. I could not attend the course and my ID remained with them".

Seventh: Recommendations:

Justice for Life Organization is Demanding:

Government of the Syrian Arab Republic:

- 1- To be committed to its legal obligations to protect the citizens against humanity crimes and other serious violations.
- 2- To join the International Criminal Court to allow the ICC to investigate and prosecute crimes committed in Syria by any of the parties to the conflict.

The international community:

- 1- To Reach a sustainable political solution in Syria in accordance with Security Council resolutions, any failure to reach a solution will preserve the administrative vacuum that will be exploited by the extremists, which means the return of extremist groups.

- 2- Addressing (treating) the current climate, which is characterized by the ease of impunity the thing that is exploited by the members of Islamic State.
- 3- Refer the Syrian file to the International Criminal Court to carry out the investigations regarding the responsibility of individuals, including leaders and members of Islamic State for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- 4- To respect of fundamental principles and guidelines. Putting in place the right of victims to benefit from remedies and redress.

Parties to the conflict:

- 1- Take steps to stop violence and protect civilians.
- 2- To comply with international humanitarian law and to end all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.
- 3- Women who have left the province of Deir al-Azour should not be subjected to additional restrictions and underlining their right to live wherever they want to live their country.
- 4- Women who have left the province of Deir al-Azour which was under control Islamic State, should not be prosecuted for being followers or supporters of the Islamic State.

Human rights and humanitarian organizations:

- 1- Provide medical services and psychological support to women who have been abused by any of the parties of the conflict.
- 2- To highlight the violations against women in the province of Deir al-Azour by the various forces that have took the control of the city.

Syrian Democratic Forces:

- 1- To cooperate with all international efforts that aims to investigate violations committed by the Islamic State in Deir al-Azur.
- 2- Cooperate with all international efforts to redress the victims of violations.



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