

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة
Justice For Life Organization



Human Rights Report

Due to the Grave Scene, I Could Not
Feel Around Anymore

2018 July



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A Report on Executions Practiced by ISIS in Deir Ezzor

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Introduction:

The duration of ISIS control on most of Deir Ezzor province resulted in [hundreds of execution cases](#) that conducted against civilians in ISIS jails, providing that hundreds of detainees whose fate is still unknown despite the fact that government forces and Syria democratic forces recaptured most of the province.

The charges that were took by ISIS to conduct executions varied, for instance and not limited to; dealing with armed opposition groups or Al Nusra Front, dealing with US-led coalition and SDF, blasphemy etc.

ISIS depends basically on information provided by the security agents in charging the civilians. There is no chance for the detainees or their relatives to provide any proof that is in contrary with the charges.

The locals in the areas held by ISIS had no chance to talk and narrate their testimonies concerning the violations due to fear from detention and being killed by ISIS.

Methodology:

This reports comes within the continuous process of documenting the violations committed in Deir Ezzor province by parties to conflict. Justice for Life (JFL) issued many reports on the summary executions in Deir Ezzor that were committed by parties to conflict in the province, including [The Forgotten Crime](#) and [They Killed Them to Make Them an Example](#).

This brief report covers four execution cases that were committed by ISIS in Al Tayyan, Abo Hamam in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor province.

This report depends on direct interviews that were carried out by JFL field researchers with five people who witnessed the execution incidents.

About the Organization:

[Justice for Life Organization](#) Is an independent, Syrian, civil society organization which is non-governmental and nonprofit. The organization includes a lot of Syrians activists and defenders for human rights despite the difference of their orientation and their affiliations. The organization works on documenting all human rights violations for the aim of benefiting the documentations in upcoming phase that follows the war, the organization uses collected evidence which is being audited carefully by transitional justice processes in its various forms. Furthermore, the organization constantly works on advocacy campaigns, workshops and conferences that mainstream the human rights culture in the Syrian society

Our Vision

The organization aspires to a Syrian society based on citizenship and the rule of law, in which all the Syrians can have justice and equality.

Our Message

The enhance of justice through monitoring and documenting human rights violations, the issuance of statistics and thematic reports of human rights to be use it in the process of justice achievement in Syria. Nevertheless, the organization since its establishment is working on the capacity building of Syrian activities to enable them to seek the facts and document them in the most efficient methods

Our Values

The Organization believes that human rights are inherent rights, owned by people on an equal manner without any neutralization, interrelated, indivisible or inalienable.

Legal Frame:

Extrajudicial and extrajudicial executions:

The Article 89 in [the study of the International Committee of the Red Cross's on Customary International Humanitarian Law](#) (IHL), the Article (2) 6 of [the Additional Protocol II](#) according to the four Geneva Conventions states:

‘No judgment or execution of any sentence may be imposed against any person found guilty of a crime without prior trial by a court with the basic guarantees of independence and impartiality ‘.

Article 6 of [the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) states: "*The right in life is an inherent right of every human being. The law should protect this right and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the life*”

“The death penalty may not be imposed for crimes committed by persons under the age of 18 years, neither on pregnant women ‘.

The Article 8 (2) (c) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court defines war crimes:

“In the case of an armed conflict not of an international trait, the violations of article 3 in the four Geneva Conventions which are acknowledged on the 12 August 1949, which are any of the following acts Committed against persons not actively involved in hostilities, including members of the armed forces who have laid down their arms and those who have become unable to fight because of illness, injury, detention or any other reason

- 1- The Use of violence against life and persons, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture
- 2- The Assault on the dignity of any person, in particular the humiliation of the dignity
- 3- Taking the hostages
- 4- The judgments and executions without prior judgment by a structured constituted court which ensures all judicial guarantees that generally recognized as indispensable ‘.

The following actions are considered as a crime against humanity if committed in the context of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population: Murder, Extermination, Forced displacement, Extreme deprivation, Torture, Persecution of any specific group of people for any political, racial, national, ethnic, culture or religious reasons as well as any other action.

The Guarantee of Fair trial for all people:

The Article 6 (2) of the Additional Protocol II stated the guarantees that to be available in a trial to ensure its independency and Neutrality

“No sentence shall be passed and no penalty shall be executed on a person found guilty of an offence except pursuant to a conviction pronounced by a court offering the essential guarantees of independence and impartiality. In particular:

(a) the procedure shall provide for an accused to be informed without delay of the particulars of the offence alleged against him and shall afford the accused before and during his trial all necessary rights and means of defence;

(b) no one shall be convicted of an offence except on the basis of individual penal responsibility;

(c) no one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence, under the law, at the time when it was committed; nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than that which was applicable at the time when the criminal offence was committed; if, after the commission of the offence, provision is made by law for the imposition of a lighter penalty, the offender shall benefit thereby;

(d) anyone charged with an offence is presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law;

(e) anyone charged with an offence shall have the right to be tried in his presence;

(f) no one shall be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt.”

The Article 6 (3) states: “A convicted person shall be advised on conviction of his judicial and other remedies and of the time-limits within which they may be exercised”.

They Killed Them and Prevented Anybody to Close to Them:

During the period where ISIS was losing locations in Deir Ezzor to government forces and its allies, and SDF backed by US-led international coalition, it grasped tightly as it detained and killed dozens of civilians.

Executing Dalil Mahmoud Al Hameed:

Dalil Mahmoud Al Haeed is a petro-engineer who was born in 1980 in Al Tayyana village, Theeban sub-district in Deir Ezzor eastern countryside. He was married and had three children. He had a stroke on January 7th 2011 that resulted in paraplegic and impacted on his behavior.

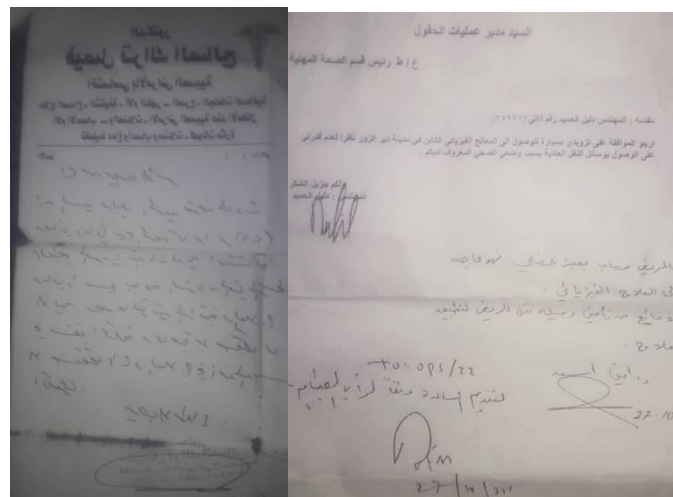
Hafez Mahmoud Al Hameed, Dalil's brother, narrated to JFL the details of the incident "ISIS stormed the cyber café where Dalil was in Al Tayyana village and arrested him by the charge of claiming the soon defeat of ISIS". Hafez continues his testimony "Following detention of Dalil, ISIS stormed our house once again and confiscated some official documents and laptops. They refused to have the medical reports that prove his abnormal mental health. Many of the village locals tried to convince them to release him due to his bad mental health. We were promised many times that they will release him following the end of Sharea course".

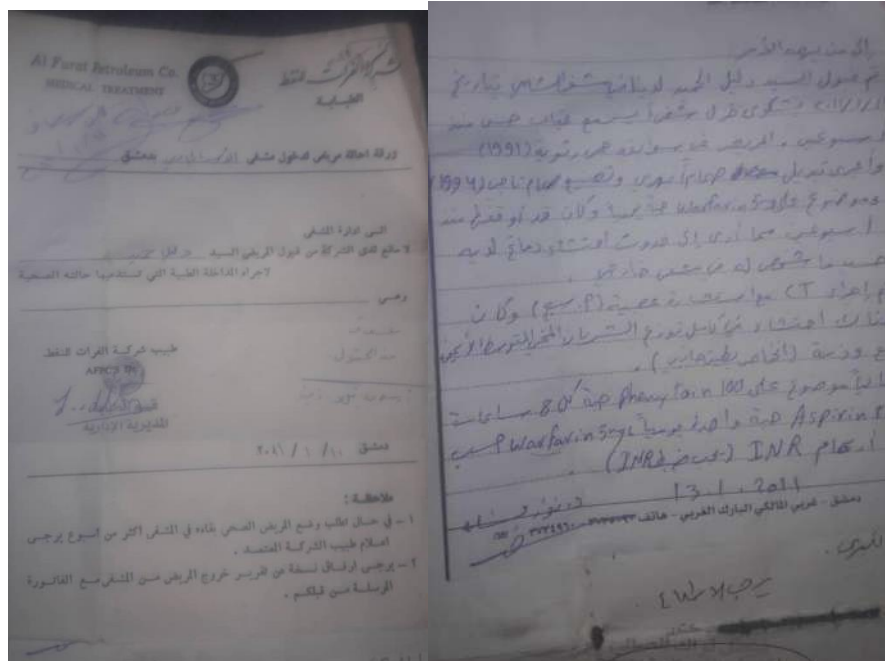


Photo of Dalil Mahmoud Al Hameed

ISIS did not allow Dalil's family to visit him and they were not aware of his detention conditions.

Hafez continues "Two months later, on June 31st 2017, at 11:00, ISIS group besieged our house and forced my father to exit the house to witness the execution incident. Dalil was executed and my father was arrested as he threw stones on them. Dalil's poor health condition and the medical reports were not an excuse to save him from death".





Exclusive reports that prove that Dalil had cerebral infarction and muscle-deficiency

Ahmad, pseudonym for a person who witnessed the [execution incident of Dalil](#), told JFL “ISIS arrested Dalil by the charge of claiming soon defeat of ISIS by SDF”. He continues “It was about 11:00 on June 31st 2017, four vehicles stopped nearby the cybercafé where armed militiamen came and got Dalil off. One of the militiamen stated the charges against Dalil. The militiamen beheaded Dalil in front of his father, who was screaming for such horrifying scene”.

Executing Khattab Eid Al Hijab:

Mahmoud, a pseudonym, who witnessed the execution of Khattab along with Dalil Al Hameed, says “ISIS members brought Khattab who was 14-year-old. He was accused to deal with FSA and Jabhat Al Nusra. Khattab was shouting that he was wronged and he has not committed any of these charges. He accused some ISIS members to fabricate these charges”.

Ammar, a pseudonym, says “Dalil and Khattab were executed nearby Dalil’s family house. At least 500 people witnessed the execution incident including under 15 children. An ISIS cameraman used two cameras to document the execution; fixed, and mobile one to capture the whole process”.

Executing Khalid Mohammad Al Raja:

Amer, a pseudonym, narrates his testimony “We were a group of young men in Gharaneej village in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, talking about the close control of SDF over some villages in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor. Khalid was happy by the defeat of ISIS and said that he will make a party when ISIS is defeated in all Deir Ezzor territory”. Amer says “Khalid was not careful as agents were everywhere. In the evening, a group of ISIS members came and arrested Khalid. Ten days later, and by the charge of dealing with US-led coalition and SDF, Khalid was beheaded nearby the square of Abo Hamam village and he was crucified for two days.”

Executing Saleh Khalaf Al Abboud:

Subhi, a pseudonym, says “Hundreds of ISIS members headed from the villages that were captured by SDF towards the villages in the eastern countryside. These villages became a destination for ISIS members and leaders including locals and foreigners. The civilians feared the aerial bombardment that targeted these villages and started leaving these villages for the sake of safety”.

ISIS did not allow the civilians to exit, which forced them to resort to smugglers for delivering them to safe areas. Subhi says “ISIS arrested Saleh Khalaf Al Abboud from gharaneej village in November 2017 by the charge of helping people to move from Islam lands to blasphemy ones. Five days later, ISIS executed Salehin front of his family and relatives by shooting him with twenty bullets along with beheading him. ISIS did not allow anybody to close to the body, which remained for two days, until his family took him and buried him”.

Recommendations:

Justice for Life organization demands the following

The International Community:

- The prosecution of ISIS members who have fled to many countries outside Syria. And activate the principle of universal jurisdiction to be enabled to prosecute the war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity committed in Syria.
- The need to be vigilant in pursuing those who were involved in ISIS and avoiding the collective punishment, which in the long run generates counterproductive consequences that deep extremism.
- The necessity to consider all committed crimes in Syria from all parties of the Syrian conflict as this will contribute in prevention against extremism.
- Supporting local groups to detect the mass graves and provide them with required support to save the proofs and recognize the bodies of victims.

The Syrian Government:

To allow UNHCR to conduct an honest and independent investigation in the committed crimes in Syria, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and humanitarian agencies which subordinate to the United Nations to be allowed to carry out all its activities in Syria.

The Syria Democratic Forces:

- Cooperating with all international efforts to investigate the crimes committed by ISIS in the areas which were under the control of ISIS in Deir Al-Zour Governorate.
- Seeking to detect the fate of those who were arrested by ISIS from Al Shu'aitat tribe and all civilians of Deir Ezzor Governorate.



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