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سوريون
من أجل
الحقيقة
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Tulib to Support Woman and Kid Organization

As Suwayda: A violent Incident Ends a Sit-in Demanding the Return of Abductees

The Sit-in Ended on its Sixth Day upon Request by the Person in charge of Negotiations with ISIL following shooting incident

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Sheikh al-Karama Forces¹, a local armed group in As Suwayda, attacked a sit-in demanding the release of the abductees by ISIL, held near the provincial building which they fired and threatened to raid, they also assaulted a police officer and some of the protesters.

Salam Azzam, alias, an activist who witnessed the incident testified to STJ on October 8, 2018:

"At 12:00pm, fighters of Sheikh al-Karama Forces stepped out of four vehicles stopped at the provincial building where they assaulted the police officer standing at the entrance with threats to seize the building and expel all the employees in it, because of being affiliated to the Syrian government which they accused of being involved in the kidnappings. That triggered a dispute between the protests and the fighters, which ended in the latter's shooting on the building, threatening to raid it the next day. After they left, the fighters cut the highway to the city."

Following the incident, the sheikh Abdul Wahab Abu Fakhr, representative of the Akl sheikh Hikmat al-Hajri, the liaison between the families of the kidnapped and the negotiation committee, headed to the sit-in square and asked the protestors to end the sit-in, promising to keep them informed with any updates on the abductees' issue. The protesters responded to his request and clear the square in which the law enforcement officers and agents of the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Branch were then deployed.

Azzam said:

"Against the background of Sheikh al-Karama Forces' threat, pro-government militias, including the Bath Battalions, the National Defense, and Kata'ib Hummat al-Diyar, cut all the roads to the city center in the morning of Oct. 9, 2018, and deployed soldiers around the provincial building and the police command as well as snipers on all the governmental buildings in the city center, in addition to installing sand berms around them."

Families of the kidnapped posted on the Facebook page, they have created to publish the updates of the case, a statement condemning the shooting incident, stating that they will suspended their sit-in for 48 hours.

¹ According to local sources, the Sheikh al-Karama Forces is an independent armed group split from Rijal al-Karama movement six months ago.

أهالي مختطفي الجبل من الشبكي- الصفحة الرسمية
١١ ساعة -

#بيان_للرأي_العام
إلى شرفاء العالم وشرفاء سوريا وأهلنا الشرفاء في جبل العرب..
إننا وفتنتنا السلمية على منبر التمسرح في ساحة سلطان باتنا الأملين واعتصامنا أمام مبنى المحافظة (إثر إعدام المخطوفة الشهيد تروت فاضل أبو عمار) لم يكن من أجل الاعتصام والتذكير بأهلنا المخطوفين فحسب، بل من أجل التأكيد على وطنية قضيتنا لما تحويه ساحة سلطان باتنا الأملين - من رمزية وطنية لكل السوريين، وشرعية مطالبتنا لأننا نفق أمام (مبنى المحافظة) وما يحويه هذا الصرح- من رمز لهيبة الدولة، واحترامنا له وإصدارنا على العمل في ظل مؤسساتنا الوطنية وقناعتنا بقدرة هذه المؤسسات على حمايتنا.
لذلك فإننا نرفض بشدة ونستنكر بحرق ما حصل صبيحة اليوم الإثنين الموافق لـ 8/10/2018 بإقدام بعض الأشخاص بإطلاق النار باتجاه مبنى المحافظة والاعتداء بالضرب على أهالي المخطوفين وبعض عناصر الشرطة، وإطلاق الوعيد والتهديد ومهلة 48 ساعة، وليست هذه الأعمال من عادات أهل جبل العرب المجبول على الأذنب والحزمة وإغاثة الملهوف ونصرة المظلوم والضعيف.
ومن أجل ذلك نهيب بأهلنا الأكارم عدم النزول إلى ساحة الاعتصام لمدة (48) ساعة لقطع الطريق على أصحاب الفتن والصيادين بالماء العكر وواد الفتنة في مهدها وعدم النيل من قضيتنا وعدالتها.
ونؤكد للناس جميعاً أننا مكلومين بأفئدتنا وفداتنا أكبادنا ومطلبنا الوحيد: عودة من تبقى- من نساءنا وأطفالنا الأرياء قبل أن تقوم عصاة داعش المجرمة بدمجهم واحداً تلقى الآخر.
نناشد حكومتنا السورية والشرفاء في محافظتنا الحريصين على استتباب الأمن والأمان بموازنتنا في وقتنا التضامنية وحمائيتنا بشكل قانوني ومنظم كي نمنح الفوضى وأعمال الشغب، وندعو إعلامنا الوطني لتغطية وقتنا الإنسانية السلمية العادلة وإيصال صوتنا إلى كافة المنابر كي يشاهد العالم بأسره مأساتنا علماً يستطيع أن يساعدنا في إنقاذ هذه الأرواح البريئة. ونؤكد على استمرارنا في الوقوف بشكل سلمي ومدني (خالٍ من مظاهر السلاح) بعد انتهاء اليوم 11/10/2018

The statement released by the abductees' families

Photo credit: the official Facebook page of al-Shabaki village abductees

The abductees' detention conditions have worsened recently, as 3 deaths were reported during Aug. 2018; on the 5th ISIL beheaded Mohanad Thoqan, and on the 9th Zahya al-Jiba'ei died of health problems while on the 12th a fetus died in a preterm birth.

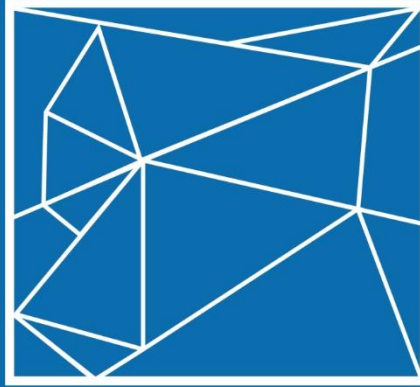
The numbers of the abductees became 18 children, 7 males and 11 females, as well as ten girls over the age of 15.²

² "Widespread Summary Execution Against Civilians Coincided with Attacks Carried out By Daesh in al-Sweida", STJ, July 31, 2018. <https://stj-sy.com/en/view/652>

"ISIS Executes the First Kidnapped from As Suwayda Province", STJ, Aug 11, 2018. <https://stj-sy.com/en/view/670>

"ISIS Executes a hostage and Threatens the Rest with the Same Fate", STJ, Oct 5, 2018; <https://www.stj-sy.com/en/view/829>, (Last visit: Oct 9, 2018).

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About Syrians for Truth and Justice:

STJ is an independent, nongovernmental organization whose members include Syrian human rights defenders, advocates and academics of different backgrounds and nationalities.

The initiative strives for SYRIA, where all Syrian citizens (females and males) have dignity, equality, justice and equal human rights.

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