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On November 7, 2018, the people of the city of Da'el found the body of the former director of the Free Police Station, bearing torture and stabbing marks a few hours after his arrest from his house in the city Elements of the Syrian Air Force Intelligence Service arrested a former official of the Free Police, affiliated with the Syrian opposition, in the city of <u>Da'el</u>, Daraa, for his body was abandoned on the road to be found by the town's people on November 7, 2018, a few hours from his arrest, according to a testimony obtained by Syrians for Truth and Justice/STJ.

On November 8, 2018, a local activist, based in the city of Da'el, told STJ the following:

"On Wednesday, November 7, 2018, a group of six elements of the Air Force Intelligence raided the house of Ghanem Hamdi al-Jamous, around 3 that night. In the morning, the people found his body in the city's suburbs, which was subjected to a massive stabbing with sharp tools, in addition to gunshots. Al-Jamous was a former commander of the Military Council, under the armed Syrian opposition, and the director of the Da'el city's police station prior to the Syrian regular forces' control of the city in July 2018. While on duty, as a director of the police station in July 2018, an unidentified armed group kidnapped one of the reconciliation committee's members, called Bashar al-Shuhadat. Known for his cooperation with the Syrian government, Shuhadat was found dead a few days later. I think that what happened is some sort of vengeance against the opposition's commanders who are still in the city."



Ghanem Hamdi al-Jamous, former director of the Da'el Police Station. Photo credit: Activists from the city of Da'el.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The activist's name is not revealed for his own safety.

In addition to this, STJ's field researcher reported that the Air Force Intelligence Service is basically running the city of Da'el, which witnessed a similar incident before that of al-Jamous. On November 4, 2018, the former commander of the armed Syrian opposition Fadi al-Assmi, who also was a member of the Military Council, was arrested at one of the checkpoints, near the city, and is yet held in detention.

It is worth mentioning that the incident of al-Jamous' death after he was arrested is the second of its type in Daraa province after the Syrian government controlled it, for STJ has document the death of Abdulmawla Mahmmod al-Hraki, a civilian, who died two months from his arrest<sup>2</sup>. In addition to this, dozens of arrests and dentations in the governorate were documented, about which STJ published several detailed news reports. <sup>3</sup>

On the other side, the Syrian regular forces have, on the same day, found a mass grave, containing the dead bodies of dozens of their elements, who were killed in the previous years during the confrontations with the armed Syrian opposition groups.

<sup>2</sup> "Daraa: Arrest Campaigns by Syrian Security Services Continue, Contrary to Settlement Deal", Syrians for Truth and Justice, October 18, 2018, last visit: February 5, 2019. <a href="https://www.stj-sy.com/ar/view/888?fbclid=lwAR1770hXQA6F8CQpjSsNgmGaEY61tjEZx">https://www.stj-sy.com/ar/view/888?fbclid=lwAR1770hXQA6F8CQpjSsNgmGaEY61tjEZx</a> IlgQXJolqBL9i6JOcl UmZlAg.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "'Regularizations' for Women and Men in Dara'a Province without Real Guarantees", Syrians for Truth and Justice, August 16, 2018, Last visit: February 3, 2019. <a href="https://stj-sy.com/en/view/698">https://stj-sy.com/en/view/698</a>.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Daraa Province- Syrian Regular Forces Arrest Youths In Contrary to the Agreement Concluded", Syrians for Truth and Justice, August 4, 2018, Last visit: February 3, 2019. https://stj-sy.com/en/view/660.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Arrests of 26 Persons in Dael, Daraa Countryside Despite Russian Guarantees", Syrians for Truth and Justice, August 13, 2018, Last visit: February 3, 2019. <a href="https://stj-sy.com/en/view/676">https://stj-sy.com/en/view/676</a>.



## **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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