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## ISIL Executes a hostage and Threatens the Rest with the Same Fate

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the captives if its demands are not met*

On October the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISIL executed a Druze woman named Tharwat Abu Ammar, 25, one of the 26 hostages from the July 25th As Suwayda attacks<sup>1</sup>, as it sent a footage to the former negotiation committee<sup>2</sup> shows shooting Tharwat dead in the head by two of the Organization's agents who threatened to kill the whole group of captive women and children within three days if government forces still ignores ISIL's demands.

Salam Azzam, testified to STJ on October 5, 2018, that two masked men appeared in the video threatening to kill all of the captives within three days if government forces didn't call off the al-Safa offensive and release ISIL prisoners.

ISIL agents abducted Tharwat Abu Ammar from her house in al-Shabaki village, As Suwayda countryside, on July 25, 2018 after they slaughtered her parents in front of her eyes, the activist reported.

After the publication of the footage, families of the kidnapped launched an open-ended sit-in, in front of the provincial building to where the Syrian government sent a delegation, headed by a major-general from the Republican Guard, on Nov. 4, 2018 for negotiations, but no conclusions have revealed yet, since the delegation members had no prior information about the case they came to discuss, the activist added.

ISIL demanded the Syrian gov a ransom of SYP 1,000,000 in exchange for the release of each of the kidnapped, besides the release of all its hostages from Regime jails. Families of the kidnapped are still waiting for the Syrian gov's response to ISIL's request while a delegation from them met the major-general Kifah al-Melhem, vice-president of the Military Intelligence Branch in Damascus, as reported by Azzam

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

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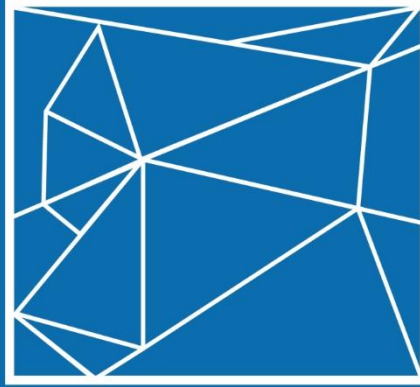
<sup>1</sup> "21 Women and Children Kidnapped, Toll Victims of Bloody Attacks Rise in al-Sweida", STJ, July 30, 2018. <https://stj-sy.com/en/view/650>

<sup>2</sup> According to information obtained by STJ, two committees were formed to negotiate for the release of the kidnapped. The first committee was formed on July 27, 2017 by activists from the Druze religion living abroad, this committee worked for two months during which it conducted 5 negotiations. After its failure, the Akl Sheikhdom, formed a new committee on August 23, 2018, which also dissolved on Oct. 2, 2018. Then, al-sheikh Hikmat al-Hajri headed the new negotiation committee.

<sup>3</sup> "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>

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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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