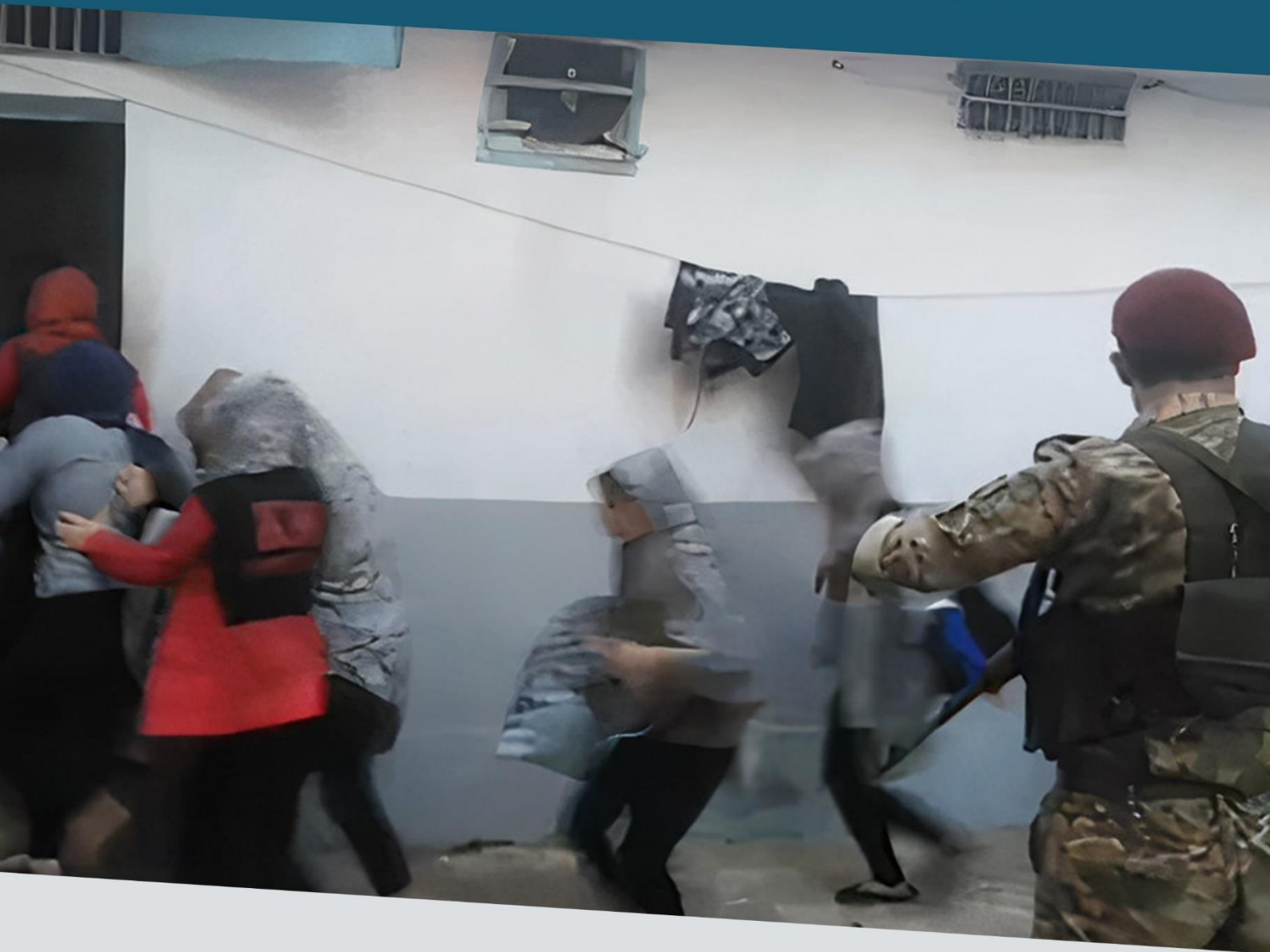


25 January 2021

سوريون
من أجل
الحقيقة
والعدالة
Syrians
For Truth
& Justice



877 Arrested and Forcibly Disappeared across Afrin Region in 2020

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Categorized by month and location, this brief report shows the total number of arrests carried out by the armed groups of the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) across the territories of Operation Olive Branch throughout 2020

Throughout 2020, Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) documented 877 arrests, detentions, and forced disappearances carried out by armed groups and security services affiliated with the Syrian National Army (SNA) across the Syrian/Kurdish Afrin region. STJ verified that the 877 arrests were conducted by 24 parties, including armed opposition groups and security apparatuses, and in some cases, Turkish Intelligence forces.

Out of the 877 arrests, STJ confirmed the release of only 420 individuals and failed to track the remaining 457 who continue to be held incommunicado. Eight children and 70 women were arrested in total, however, only four children and eighteen women were released. The other four children and 52 women remain detained with no hint of their whereabouts.

Timeline: arrests throughout 2020

In this section, STJ includes monthly reports documenting arrests over the course of 2020:

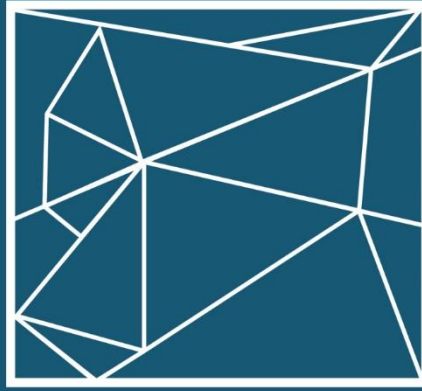
1. In January, [66 persons were arrested](#), including five women. Only 28 persons were released, while the 38 others were held incommunicado.
2. In February, [73 persons were arrested](#), including five women and a child. Only 38 persons were released, while the other 35 were held incommunicado.
3. In March, [43 persons were arrested](#), including five women. Only 12 were released, while the other 31 were held incommunicado.
4. In April, [43 persons were arrested](#). Only 30 were released, while the other 13 were held incommunicado.
5. In May, [17 persons were arrested](#), including a woman. They were all subsequently released.
6. In June, [40 persons were arrested](#), including two women. Only 20 were released, while the other 20 were held incommunicado.
7. In July and August, [101 persons were arrested](#), including six women and two children. Only 65 were released, while the other 36 were held incommunicado.
8. Also, in August, [12 women were arrested](#) by the SNA-affiliated armed groups. Two were released later.
9. In September, [116 persons were arrested](#), among them six women and a child. Only 56 were released, while the other 60 were held incommunicado.
10. In October, [135 persons were arrested](#), including five women and a child. Only 49 were released, while the other 86 were held incommunicado.
11. In November and December, [237 persons were arrested](#), including 22 women and four children. Only 103 were released, while the other 128 were held incommunicado.

Mapped Out: Arrests in and Around Afrin Region

In this section, STJ locates the arrests which occurred in the seven districts of Afrin region:

1. In Afrin district: 153 persons were arrested, including 15 women and four children.
2. In Jindires district: 123 persons were arrested, including 14 women.
3. In Bulbul district: 45 persons were arrested, including two women.
4. In Maabatli district: 284 persons were arrested, including 18 women.
5. In Sharran district: 50 persons were arrested, including a child and five women.
6. In Rajo district: 125 persons were arrested, including four children and five women.
7. In Shaykh al-Hadid district: 52 persons were arrested, including four women.
8. In different parts of the Afrin region, 12 women were arrested.
9. In and around the Afrin region, 24 persons were arrested. However, no further information was obtained as to the victims' birth or residence place.

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History

Syrians for Truth and Justice was conceived during the participation of its co-founder in the Middle-East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Leaders for Democracy Fellowship program, who was driven by a will to contribute to Syria's future. Starting as a humble project to tell the stories of Syrians experiencing enforced disappearances and torture, it grew into an established organisation committed to unveiling human rights violations of all sorts.

Convinced that the diversity that has historically defined Syria is a wealth, our team of researchers and volunteers works with dedication at uncovering human rights violations committed in Syria, in order to promote inclusiveness and ensure that all Syrians are represented, and their rights fulfilled.

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