

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index: MDE 24/022/2012
Date: 7 March 2012

New Amnesty International report on torture in Syria

On 14 March, Amnesty International is releasing a new report on Syria *'I wanted to die': Syria's torture survivors speak out*.

The report, which is being released a day before the one-year anniversary of the start of mass protests in Syria, documents 31 methods of torture or other ill-treatment described by witnesses or victims to Amnesty International.

The organization finds that a year after protests began on 15 March 2011, the scale of torture and ill-treatment by security forces, army and the pro-government armed gangs known as shabiha has risen to a level not witnessed in Syria for years and which are reminiscent of the dark era of the 1970s and 1980s.

Amnesty International has interviewed dozens of Syrians who fled the violence to Jordan, including 25 people who reported they had been tortured or otherwise ill-treated in detention before they fled across the border.

More than half of the cases featured are from Dera'a governorate, where protesters were first killed in March 2011. The remainder of the cases are from the governorates of Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Hama, Homs, Latakia, al-Suwayda and Tartus.

When: The report is being released at 0001hrs GMT on 14 March 2012.

Spokespeople: The Amnesty International researchers who carried out the research for this report in Jordan are both available for interview from London on this report: Neil Sammonds in English or Spanish; and Maha Abu Shama in English or Arabic.

Case studies: Amnesty International can on request put media in touch with some of the survivors of torture featured in this report (Arabic language will in most cases be necessary).

Images: Amnesty International can provide a small selection of images of injuries sustained by torture victims in Syria.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Amnesty International Press Office on +44 (0) 20 7413 5566, email press@amnesty.org or follow us on Twitter [@amnestypress](https://twitter.com/amnestypress)

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