

SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN FILE: EYEWITNESS REPORTS

Methods of FACT-CHECKING

For the purpose of fact-checking, more than 100 Syrian eyewitnesses of the following categories were interviewed:

- MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HELMETS;
- FORMER FIGHTERS FROM ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS AND TERRORIST GROUPS;
- PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY TERRORIST GROUPS AND ARMED GROUPS WHERE THE WHITE HELMETS OPERATED;

Each interview was videotaped and made accessible to the public.

Moreover, a sociological survey was conducted with the help of volunteers in Aleppo and Dera'a (more than 500 residents were interviewed in each city).



Photos: sociological survey in Aleppo

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THE WHITE HELMETS: NEITHER NEUTRAL NOR VOLUNTEERS



Mohamed Baha Al-Shihadi, member of the White Helmets:

"All members of this Organization received money - there were no activists working for free. Abdul Neulu, one of the leaders of the White Helmets in Aleppo, regularly visited us, always saying that we should work well if we wanted the funding to continue."

Muhammad Musa Abu Salem, one of the leaders of the White Helmets' center: *"We were referred to as volunteers. 150 dollars that we received were not called salary, but "gratitude". Many of us had assault rifles, including me."*



Mohamed Bashir Biram, member of the White Helmets: *"When fighters took eastern Aleppo under their control, I was thrown into a Jabhat Al-Nusra prison and was beaten. In prison I was given time to decide whether to join Jabhat al-Nusra or the White Helmets. If I had not accepted one of the two options, they would have killed me ... Once in the White Helmets, I arbitrarily left the*

organization seeking to evacuate my father, whom I took to Al-Bayan hospital that cooperated with the White Helmets. Since my father was not a fighter, the doctors in the hospital refused to help him and he died. The White Helmets threatened me and took half of my salary as a punishment for leaving the Organization for the purpose of evacuation without a permission."

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Hatem Uyn, aged 31, former member of the Internal Security Service of the Jaysh al-Islam illegal armed group: *“From 2014 to the end of 2017, I was working in the Jaysh al-Islam Internal Security Service. I conveyed the instructions given by the leaders of the Internal Security Service to the White Helmets. If I did not have time, I made phone calls. If I had time, I sent an official paper on the Jaysh al-Islam letterhead signed by Bashir Sheikh ad-Deayea Abu Abdul, Head of the Internal Security Service of Jaysh al-Islam in Eastern Ghouta. The White Helmets in the Jaysh al-Islam districts were under their full control.”*

Abdulmunam Faiz Al-Alush , member of the White Helmets:

“Sometimes we did not have missions at all, sometimes – only one per day. Amir Abu Mohamed, coordinator of several armed groups, radioed us to give instructions to go on a mission. He told us to go to point 27, military cipher code.”

The White Helmets were by no means a "group of volunteers." Almost all its members were permanent employees with a monthly salary (cash and food), for the sake of which they joined the organization seeking to save their families from hunger. The White Helmets were militarized; the heads of the centers often threatened their employees with weapons and murder if the latter refused to perform tasks that were regularly and directly received from terrorist or armed groups.

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FAKE NEWS BY THE WHITE HELMETS ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS



The “White Helmets” posted this video from a hospital in its Twitter in April 2018 with a caption: "Another Video showing cases of suffocation among civilians, mostly children and women, following the chemical attack against the civilians in Douma city."

On 13 February 2019, the BBC Syria producer Riam Dalati tweeted: "After almost months of investigations, I can prove without a doubt that the Douma Hospital scene was staged. No fatalities occurred in the hospital ... everything else around the attack was manufactured for maximum effect" and "In fact, one of the 3 or 4 people filming the scene was Dr Abu Bakr Hanan, a "brute & shifty" doctor affiliated with Jaysh Al-Islam. The narrative was that "there weren't enough drs" but here is one filming & not taking part of the rescue effort."

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We went to the Hospital that was filmed by the “White Helmets” in a video where its employees allegedly helped out those suffered a chemical attack. The hospital personnel and Syrian civilians completely refuted these staged rescues.

Doctor Hassan from the Douma Hospital: “On 7 April 2018, about 15 persons were admitted with suffocation symptoms. Those who brought us these people told that they had chemical poisoning. But the medical examination revealed no signs of chemical poisoning. We provided them elementary medical aid and let go home.”

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The picture on the right features a photo from “The Time” article “A Photographer Bears Witness to a Suspected Chlorine Attack in Syria” (<http://time.com/syriaeastern-ghouta-suspected-chlorine-attack/>)

We found WH employee Mahmud Bouweidani from this photo and interviewed him exactly on the spot where “The Time” shot was made.



**Mahmud Bouweidani
fully exposed the WH propaganda:**

“We brought one family to the Douma Hospital, representing things as if the Syrian army had used chlorine, but there was actually no gas. I was told to sit down on a bed and hold an oxygen mask on to get the required shot ”.



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Rihab Ali Mansour, 36, housewife:

“A man approached me with a proposal to be in the films. I was offered the role of a woman who died in a chemical attack. I was taken to a flat and given a white prayer clothes. I was then told to lie down and smear my mouth with toothpaste, playing dead in a chemical attack. He gave me about 10 dollars in the evening”.



Yazan at-Tharazi, 12, fifth form pupil:

“When I lived in Douma, Abu Feraz asked me and my friends: “Care for a city ride?” The five of us went with him. He took us to a medical center where WH members also were. The doctors covered us with white blankets, told to close our eyes and filmed us as for a movie. I was paid 200 liras. Next time Abu Feraz told my mother: “We need to film and you may take part and earn some money”.

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Wafika Hubbiya, 54, housewife:

“I was brought by car to the city of Zamalka and taken to a house. I was given a white blanket, I lay down on the staircase feigning death in a chemical attack. In a day or two I got 3000 for this job”.



**Omar al Mustafa ibn Muhammed, Aleppo,
41, small business:**

“They staged a chemical attack as follows: they brought children, put them on the floor, simulated the use of chemical weapons, put gas masks on, pushed civilians away, poured water over alleged corpses before them, like the children died in the chemical attack. I saw this with my own eyes”.

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Ahmed Bouweidani, 24, WH employee in Douma:

“There were 8 small children in the street, they gave them candies and told they wanted to play with them. Then they dusted the children with white stuff, seated them in minivans and took to the Hospital. There they filmed the children saying that the children had suffered a chemical attack”.



Abdurazak Nassan ibn Nuaman, 45, Aleppo:

“From 10 to 15 WH employees took part in this staging. They gathered area people, poured them over with water and began to cry that the Syrian authorities had used chemical weapons. This was not the case, this was just the smell of household chlorine, and the people stood staring around. The WH members had neither gas masks nor gloves on them.”

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Amran Makiah, member of the White Helmets organization, Duma: *"We were told that there were victims of the chemical attack, so we should go there. We went there and saw that everything was fine, nothing special, just a fire, but the White Helmets were taking pictures, filming everything and said that those were the consequences of a chemical attack."*



Mohammed Al-Mustafa Ibn Hassun, 48 years old, Aleppo, vendor:

"The White Helmets always disseminated information according to which the authorities had used chemical weapons. It was not true: in fact, we as the inhabitants of that district had never seen or heard of a child that had become victim of a chemical attack."

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FAKE-NEWS AND STAGED RESCUES



In this report the White Helmets stated that the Syrian troops had attacked the Jisr al-Haj in the district of Aleppo. Abduljabar Bodaka, member of the White Helmets, describes there how he personally took part in the filming of this staged rescue: *"In summer 2015, I received an order by radio to go to Jisr al-Haj. There were crashed cars, the fighters lit the garbage and brought the dead people taken from the morgue and the wounded taken from the hospital to the filming location. Everything was videotaped. It was a staging. A few days after the end of the filming, every participant received a reward in the amount of 50 dollars."*

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- Suleiman Mohamed Darwish, member of the White Helmets in Saqba: "There were people from the White Helmets working there, some of them wore gas masks, while others had gauze bandages. We were told that the helicopter had dropped the cylinder. However, in that case, there would be fake information, and there was none. The cylinder was intact."
- Abduljabar Bodaka, member of the White Helmets, says that the "White Helmets centers in Aleppo had a special group that arrived to the filming location beforehand and prepared it – brought dead bodies and injured people from the hospitals, set tires and trash on fire, used drones for filming."
- According to Abdulkarim Said Ahmad, member of the White Helmets in Kafr Batna, in Eastern Ghouta the White Helmets have a "special team of about 20 people to film staged rescues."
- Suleiman Mohamed Darwish, member of the White Helmets, says that the White Helmets Office for Eastern Ghouta "requested fabricated information every two days, and their center had a special information room for the production of false information headed by Abdulkarim Al-Hafi, Jabhat Al-Nusra fighter."

MULTIPLE WITNESSES PROVE THAT THE PRODUCTION OF FAKE NEWS WAS A CONSTANT WHITE HELMETS' WORK.

SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN FILE: EYEWITNESS REPORTS

FRAUD, THEFT OF ORGANS AND VALUABLES



Ahmad Al-Omar, head of nursing staff at Ibn Rushd Hospital, Aleppo: *“The White Helmets took my neighbor who had worked as a driver to Turkey for treatment. When they brought his corpse back from Turkey, I helped to carry the body. The corpse was very light – 30 to 45 kilograms. I have known him for a long time. He weighed about 70 kilograms. I lifted the sheet and saw a large wound cut from the throat to stomach. The skin almost touched his back. I have a medical degree, I touched him with my hand, and understood that there were clearly no organs left.”*



Amal Amino, Aleppo, mother of a boy whose organs were removed: *“Behind the hospital there was a tent where they kept corpses, and I saw my son there. A member of the White Helmets said I was not allowed to see him. After a while they let me see him, but all wrapped up, and they only let me look at his neck and head. Everybody here knows that his organs were removed. I have applied to the hospital several times to collect his body, and the last time they threatened me and said they could kill me.”*

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FRAUD, THEFT OF ORGANS AND VALUABLES

Omar Al-Mustafa, aged 41, owner of a small business: *“People evacuated by the White Helmets often did not come back alive. For example, a person receives a minor injury, is rescued, evacuated, and then brought back with their stomach cut open and with their internal organs missing. I heard that a little girl was injured. They took her to Turkey and brought back in three days, dead and with no internal organs. People were scared. When someone got injured, they were afraid to call the White Helmets and ask for help.”*



Abdurozak Nassan, former Ahrar Al-Sham member: *“Members of the White Helmets arrived after shellings. I asked people whose wounded relatives had been taken to Turkey, and they said that the corpses were brought back without some of the organs. In Ahrar Al-Sham, I worked under Shadi Kadik, codename Abu Adel Al Halabi. I asked him why they came back with their organs removed after hospitalization in Turkey. He said they did it on purpose to provide treatment to their fighters.”*



A large body of evidence allows for a clear conclusion that the White Helmets centers were a key element in the system of forced removal of human organs.

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FRAUD, THEFT OF ORGANS AND VALUABLES



Ali Mohamed Al-Mardini, former Jaysh al-Islam member: *“The house of a rich family on Sahat al Jamiya square in Saqba was shelled. In the course of the rescue, the White Helmets took away a bag with money and gold. I saw it with my own eyes. Once a shell fell on a gold store in Quwatli street. After the White Helmets went there, 60 thousand USD, as well as 1.5 million Syrian pounds and some gold, disappeared.”*



Omran Makia, aged 21, member of the White Helmets in Douma: *“Sometimes we came to help, entered a flat, and, if we found gold or jewelry, seized it. In one flat, there was a woman who felt ill, we came to help her, found some gold and stole it.”*



Mohamed Al-Nassan, aged 49: *“Once the shells fell near a mosque, a woman was robbed and abandoned. The White Helmets wanted to help the injured woman, but then they saw gold jewelry on her arms. So they took it all off and left without giving her any help.”*

Multiple witnesses say that it was common for members of the White Helmets to rob the wounded, especially women, as well as steal from stores and buildings damaged in shellings.

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FRAUD, THEFT OF ORGANS AND VALUABLES



Saif Ad-Din Khubia, physician, Douma:

“The head of the White Helmets in Douma, Mohamed Masarwi Abu Salama was a corrupt official. He earned a lot of money, and bought cars and summer houses for himself. Mohamed Masarwi was very famous and rich. He hid his money on one of the farms, and when the Syrian Army launched the offensive, he wanted to get the money he had hid, but Jaysh al-Islam militants killed him.”



Suleiman Mohamed Darwish, member of the White Helmets in Saqba: *“Heads of the White Helmets center stole a lot of money. Once we installed a crane on a car. One piece for this car was worth 100,000 Syrian pounds. They wrote off one million. Another one: they reported they had bought a new minibus, but instead they upgraded the old one. I know that at one moment our center received 4,300 dollars for diesel and gasoline, but only 1,000 dollars was spent for that purpose.”*

Members of the White Helmets give detailed accounts of the exact mechanics of the extensive system of corruption and theft among sponsors in the organization.

SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN FILE: EYEWITNESS REPORTS

THE WHITE HELMETS: DESTRUCTIVE AND INCOMPETENT

Nur Al-Farhan, aged 12, pupil in the Gaza school, Aleppo, describes how the White Helmets entered her school: *“They got everybody out of the school and said that there would no longer be any lessons. If you want to learn, go to the Mosque. Since we were not able to go to the school and we went to the Mosque.”*



Nuha Mohamed Al-Naja, Director of the kindergarten occupied by the White Helmets: *“Children aged 1 to 6 attended our kindergarten as the fighters occupied it in 2011. Then they handed the building over to the White Helmets. The children could no longer attend it.”*



Bassam Az Ad-Din Hadi Al-Najib, an opposition journalist, who worked with the White Helmets: *“Roughly 10 centers out of those 26, which operated in Eastern Ghouta, were located in schools and 1 center – in the kindergarten. They prohibited children learning in the schools.”*

Occupation of schools and kindergartens with pupils and children forced them to leave the buildings. Teachers were given the orders under the penalty of death to send them to religious schools – a standard practice of the White Helmets which had a devastating impact on the Syrian educational system.

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THE WHITE HELMETS: DESTRUCTIVE AND INCOMPETENT

Ramadan Kurdi, who has been a fireman for more than 25 years, told us: *“I was a Chief of the fire-fighting center in Aleppo. The Syrian government financed us and paid for everything and we worked even when the fighters came. One day three people came to announce that this building would be taken for the White Helmets... They imprisoned me, and the Chief of the White Helmets center was at my interrogation ... I sold my wife’s gold bracelet, gave money and went to Latakia.”*



Mohamed Bashir Biram, White Helmets member in Aleppo: *“There were 15 vehicles in my center. The majority of them was not used, they were held in reserve.”*

Omran Makia, White Helmets member in Douma: *“Although I had never received medical training, I was responsible for helping the wounded. I have no skills, I have not completed school.”*

The White Helmets destroyed an efficient state fire-fighting system and made an attempt to replace it with their own, which aimed at self-advertising and performed poorly, consisted of gunmen and incompetent people who indulged in theft.

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THE WHITE HELMETS AS A ENGINEERING, MEDICAL AND RATIONS UNITS OF ARMED GROUPS AND TERRORISTS

Ahmad Buweidani, White Helmets member in Douma:
“We constructed earthen mounds, dug trenches, transported fighters, weapons and ammunition for the fighters. For instance, we dug trenches in the towns of Mesraba and al-Shaifuniya and constructed an earthen mound.”

Mohamed Saber, White Helmets member in Saqba :
“Our White Helmets center used its bulldozer to dig positions for the fighters and to construct earthen mounds. The White Helmets members also took part in digging tunnels. They helped to set up positions for the fighters in the towns of al-Salhia, Utaya, al-Rihan, al-Shaifuniya, Mesraba.”



There is overwhelming evidence which proves that the White Helmets centers were permanently engaged in building fortifications for battle positions for terrorist and illegal armed groups who had been supplying them with water and food and evacuating wounded terrorists from the front line.

SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN FILE: EYEWITNESS REPORTS

THE WHITE HELMETS: PART-TIME JOB FOR MEMBERS OF TERRORISTS GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS



Zakaria Mustafa, Aleppo: *“Omar Sheihu Farhodi was a sniper in the Alaa al-Hadrami Mosque and a White Helmets member at the same time. He walked freely with a rifle on the broad street in our district Sahur. All residents and I saw it ourselves. It was he who arrested me and had been holding me in the Saif Mohamed school for a week, which was their center. In the school they stripped me naked and beat me.*

Shobak family members, originally from the town of Kafr Naha, also worked for the White Helmets. They worked for the White Helmets as well as for the Ahrar al-Sham militia. One day they arrested me, took me to a cellar and started to beat me.”



Omar Al-Mustafa: *“Almost all people who worked in the nearby White Helmets centers were Al-Nusra fighters or were linked to them. I tried to join the White Helmets myself, but I was told that if I was not from Al-Nusra, they could not employ me. Every person who came to the White Helmets center in our district had a document certificated by the Al-Nusra Sharia Committee. One had to be a fighter to get a recommendation from Al-Nusra in order to join the White Helmets. A lot of White Helmets members participated in hostilities and storms.”*

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THE WHITE HELMETS: PART-TIME JOB FOR MEMBERS OF TERRORISTS GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS



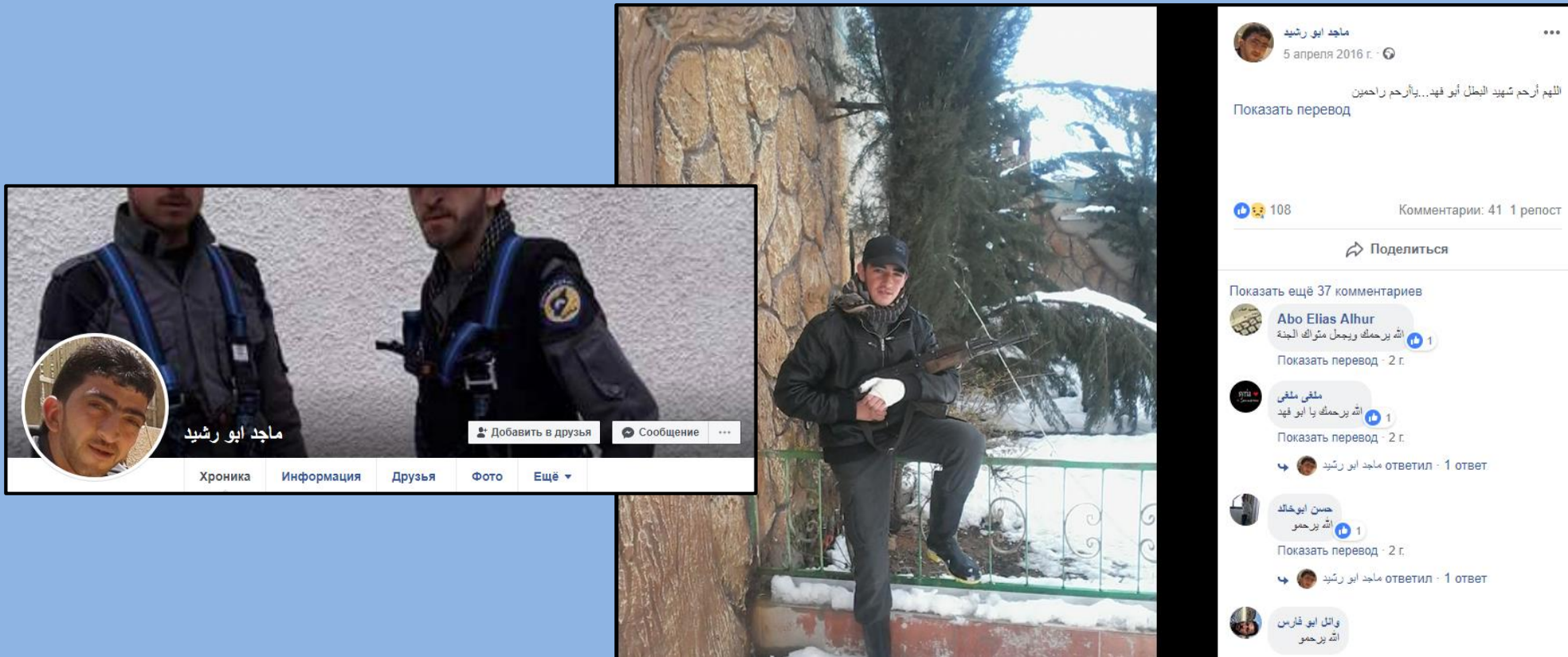
Bassam Az Ad-Din Hadi Al-Najib, aged 31, an opposition journalist who worked with the White Helmets: *“After Eastern Ghouta was divided into sectors, groups ensured that their members joined the White Helmets in each sector. Each White Helmets center was subordinate to the group which held control over the area. Feilaq al-Rahman was in the central sector, Jaysh al-Islam – in the northern. Leaders of these groups worked in the White Helmets.*

I know Abu Sayyah, who was one of the leaders in Feilaq al-Rahman in the al-Shaifuniya area, I know Abu Omar al-Rihan from the White Helmets center in the town of al-Rihan. Mohamed Katado was in the town of Harasta. Bashar al-Hafi was a representative of Jabhat al-Nusra. Roughly 100-150 people of the White Helmets workers in Eastern Ghouta were members of different groups. In fact, Jaysh al-Islam, Feilaq al-Rahman, Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya were subordinate to this groups, but they were referred to as the White Helmets in public. I know a lot of people who were the White Helmets members and the fighters at the same time.”

There is overwhelming evidence which proves that a significant number of terrorists and members of illegal armed groups headed or worked in the White Helmets centers.

SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN FILE: EYEWITNESS REPORTS

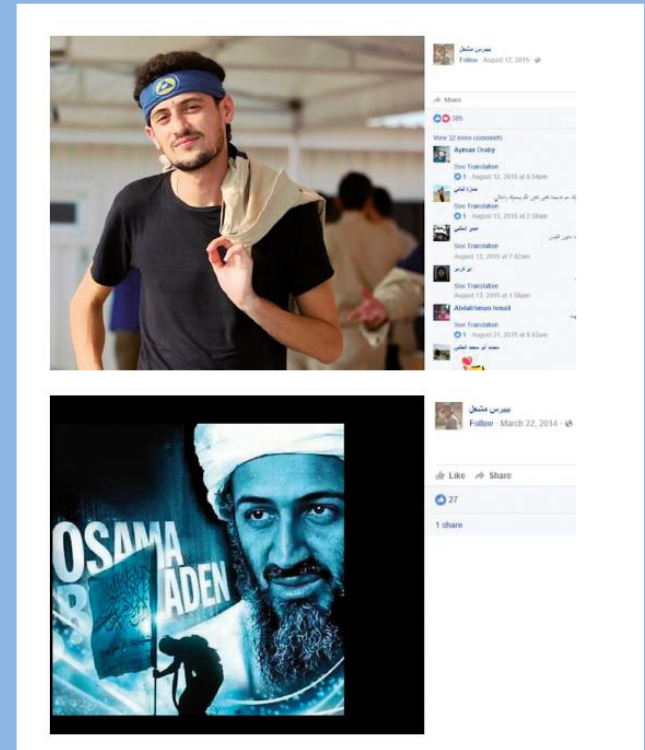
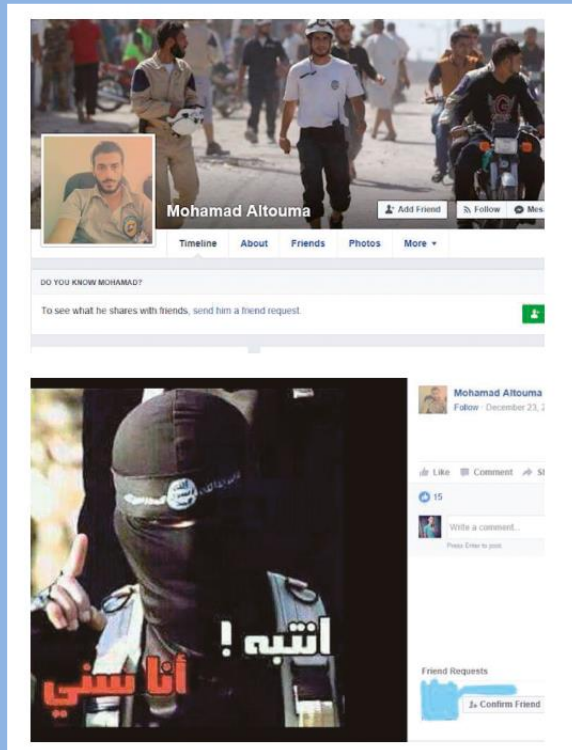
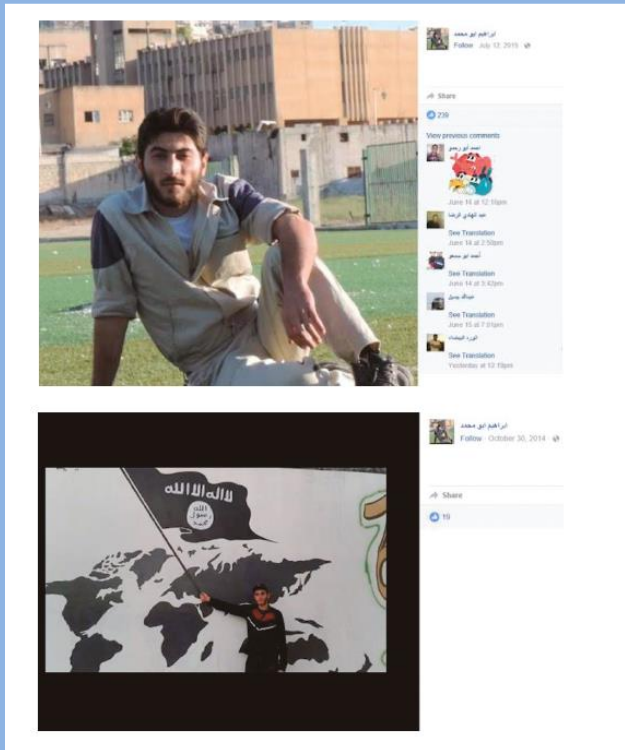
THE WHITE HELMETS: PART-TIME JOB FOR MEMBERS OF TERRORISTS GROUPS AND MEMBERS OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS



Hundreds of the White Helmets members do not conceal the fact that they participated in hostilities and know how to handle a weapon. There are hundreds of their own photos on Facebook where they pose with weapons.

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MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HELMETS CENTERS WITH GUNS IN THEIR HANDS AND TERRORIST PROPAGANDA ON THE INTERNET



Facebook accounts of the White Helmets members are filled with the photos of themselves with guns in their hands and propaganda of terrorist groups.

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The results of a survey of more than 100 witnesses from among the White Helmets members, former members of armed groups and Syrian civilians, as well as the social surveys unequivocally confirm the following conclusions:



Production of fake news about chemical attacks and staged rescues was a permanent element of the White Helmets' work. Specialized divisions and groups within the Organization's centers and offices have been established for that purpose.



A significant number of terrorists and members of illegal armed formations headed or worked in the White Helmets' centers while participating in combat operations. Many Organization's centers were comprised entirely of terrorist organizations' members.



The White Helmets' centers were in fact engineering and medical units, as well as logistic support divisions for terrorist groups and illegal armed formations.

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The results of a survey of more than 100 witnesses from among the White Helmets members, former members of armed groups and Syrian civilians, as well as the social surveys unequivocally confirm the following conclusions:



The White Helmets destroyed the efficient State system of civil protection and fire prevention (continuously funded by the Syrian government) in the territories occupied by fighters and tried to replace it with their own that was aimed at self-promotion, functioned poorly and comprised fighters and untrained people who often did not even have secondary education. The widespread practice of establishing the White Helmets' centers in the occupied schools and preschools after forcing teachers and students out of the buildings had a devastating effect on the education system of Syria.



The White Helmets became a key element of the criminal system of forced organ harvesting from Syrian victims.