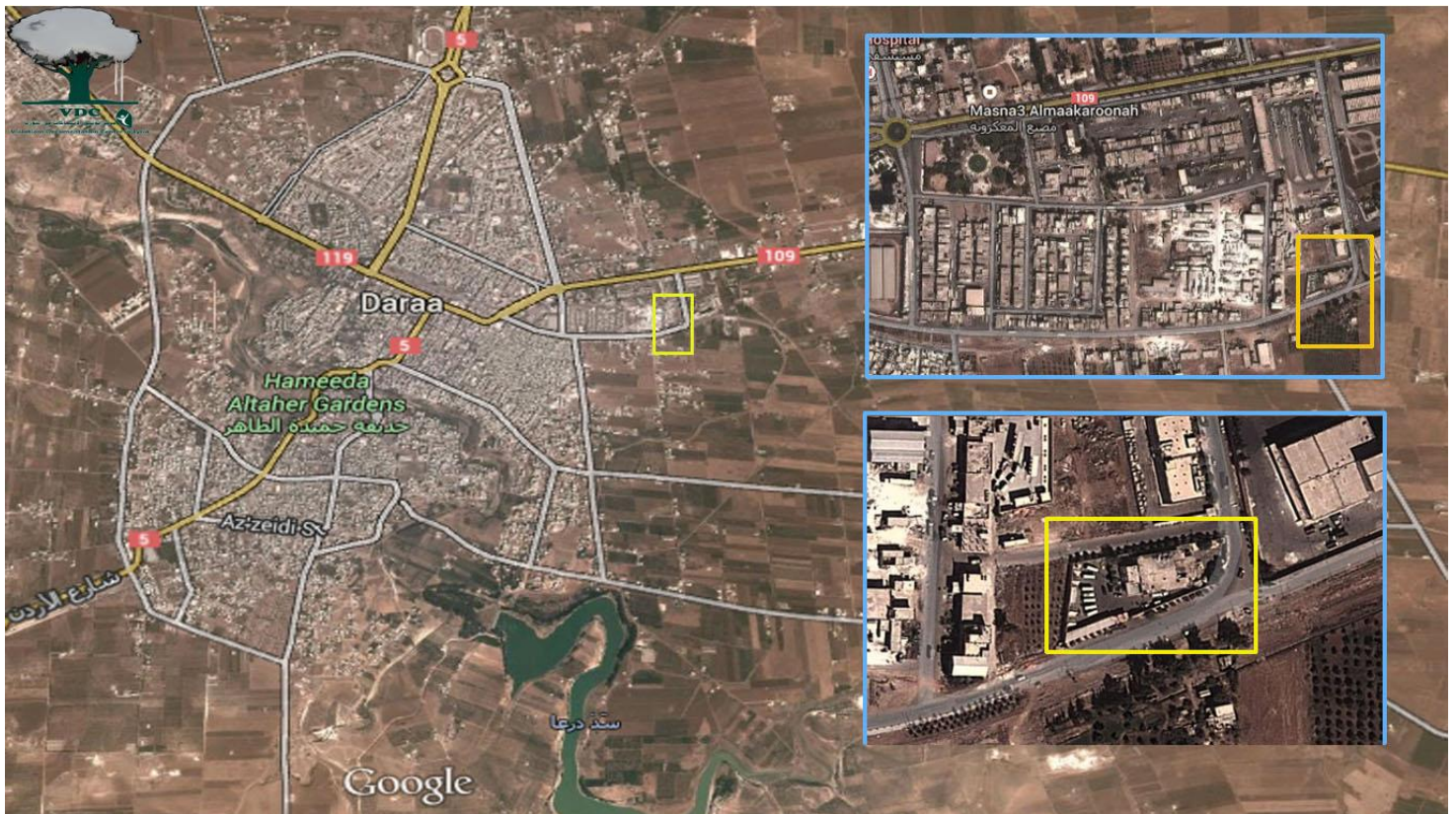




**Testimony of the former detainee,**  
***Ahmed Abou Ali***  
**Known as *Abou Tammam*, in the**  
**Air Force Intelligence Department in Daraa**

**Violation *D*ocumentation *C*entre in Syria**

**2013**





**Ahmad Abou Ali \*** is 24 years old, from Qatana city, Damascus suburbs, he started his work for the Syrian Revolution as a media activist then worked in relief and later he worked in medical domain which was his last interest before getting detained.

Ahmad is not married and he owns a mobile shop, and works in computer trade, one day a driver called him telling that he has some necessary relief items for the city in addition to some mobile phones, so they arranged a meeting near **Soumariya garage** after the driver insisted as **Abou Tammam** refused because that area is full of security members and Shabiha, after a long discussion they agreed to meet at that place at **03:30 May 27th 2012**, but as soon as Abou Tammam arrived there he saw the car of the driver and once he opened its door, security members caught him, then he realized that it was an ambush made for him after the security members threatened the driver to kill if he didn't cooperate with them.

Security members carried **Abou Tammam** and covered his head with his shirt and they took him on a long ride during which they abused and hit him with the Ak **74** and pistols on his head and back, after an hour they took him to the second two floor-building, where there was a colonel called **Qusai Maiyhob** for investigation, this colonel spoke a coastal language and was carrying a bamboo stick of which he used it to hit Abou Tammam more than **20** times on his back and chest, then he ordered the members to take him down for investigation.

**Ahmad said:**

When I arrived to **Daraa** governorate they took me to a building with two floors and a basement to which they took me as the colonel said, later I asked the detainees they said that I am in the Air force intelligence department in Daraa near the old garage in Alhamam Square; I was accused of trying to get developed transmission devices and mobile phones and trying to get relief items.

At the first day they put me in small narrow corridor in the basement in which there were five small cells and a big room in which they put me for a while then the jailor told me to undress as all the **127** detainees left in their underwear in a room of **5.5\*4.5 M**, then he got me out to the corridor again and hanged me from my hands that my toes were hardly touching the ground, then he started to beat me with the help of another jailor by an electricity cable, a whip and a green plastic water pipe, they call it (Alakhdar Alebrahimi) and they pour cold water on me, they beat me four five hours and I stayed tied up and hanged for the next day which is about **15** hours of hanging, next day I could hardly move when they called me again and they repeated everything for four days, and in the second day they beat on my legs (flagellation) more than 120 hits where after each **20** hits they poured cold then very hot water on my legs which started to bleed.

\* The witness requested to be anonymous for safety concerns



The fifth day was the worst when they brought a device that look like an electric converter and there is a meter that measures the electricity , then the jailor said that he will shock me starting from 80 till **220** voltage if I didn't confess all the charges, and that was what he did, he started to shock me on thighs, abdomen and hands while pouring cold water and beating me with the cable, then as he raised the electricity voltage I started to faint, and had black spots on my hands I knew later that they were from the electrical shocks, all what he had done was not enough for him so he brought a thick stick and smear it with acid and beat me on the back where each hit opened a wound in my back, at this point I confessed all the charges they wanted me to say.

After that he took me to a cell of **1.5\*2.10 M**, in which the number of detainees varied from **4** to **17** , in Ramadan month we were **17**, after the first five days I was beaten on my feet **20** times or more every day for **24** days and I was asked to remind them of beating me if they forgot, one day they took me again for investigation for more new charges and they were: joining Salafi religious groups, planning sabotage actions and media misleading process, I signed and agreed on them fearing of a new investigation round that could take me life. I stayed in the cell for **345** days including **7** days in the big room with more than **120** detainees.

The food was very bad, when during the first months they gave us one meal consisting of one loaf of bread and something else (Lentil soup , rice or wheat) it was very small amount and badly cooked with no flavor , but it was good compared with the meal they gave us during the last **8** months where it was a loaf of bread without baker's yeast in addition to a very small amount of jam or yogurt, what caused severe bad nutrition to all detainees who lost half of their weight.

We were allowed to use **WC** twice a day for few seconds only, three persons each time, and we bathed once each three months, what caused bad effects on our health which was already weak, so skin diseases spread largely and wounds got rotten which were fast to spread because we wore nothing but underwear and they are moving against each other as the room is very crowded, they neglected the sick deliberately where the doctor came twice every month, and those who suffers diseases like diabetes or heart disease where left for their fate and who was lucky of them was detained with his medicine.



Of the most recent cases which I remember well is the case of one of the detainees of from **Daraa** Governorate of "Al-Suwaïdan," family where one of his feet in which his skin and flesh had opened up as a result of the flagellation" but on the muscle and not on the bottom of the foot, what caused a large deep wound, the blood and "pus" got out from it constantly, and the smell of rotten wound spread, so the detainees are telling the medic in charge, who brought a medical "blade" and carried out the dredging of the area inflamed, and when he could not continue due to harsh scene of the wound, the jailor completed the operation, and then he wrapped it by a small piece of medical texture and a little of antiseptic, but that did not work, especially as the water was drown on the wound during the going to **WC**, and after few days we noticed that the wound began to get rotten more and more and the bone of the leg is becoming clear addition to the fall of the "worms" with the green color of the his leg ... this was not the only case, but there were more than fifteen similar cases among the detainees ....

There were daily deaths in this place, especially in recent months of my detention, I have seen with my own eyes (35) bodies of detainees most of them were tortured to death during the investigation process, corpses were gathered in the evening before we are out to **WC**," which allowed us to watch dozens of deaths, not a day passed without new deaths.

One day in Ramadan they arrested about 107 people from the village of Kafr Shams Daraa, governorate, where 22 of them were kept in a small cell, and after few hours six detainees were dead of suffocation..... Also one day they arrested four brothers from "Al Sowaidan" family, I knew two names of them "Maher Sweidan" and Bahaa Swidan, and during the investigation process they smashed their fingers one by one with a hammer in order to admit the charges they were told.

A few days before I got out, and on (07/04/2013) one of the detainees "Ihsan Mflana" was killed under torture and when I was released I learned that the security forces contacted his family later and asked them to come to the hospital to take the his body.

The temperature was very high which was a main reason that lead to death also, where the detainees lost consciousness a few days after they act unconsciously, and went through a period of "delirium" which led mostly to immediate death.



After **345** days, on (**12/04/2013**) they called my name along with (**5**) detainees and took us to military security building in Deraa governorate, where we were surprised by the presence of the governor and Secretary of the Party branch, who spoke in what looked like a speech in which he told us that we will be released in response to "amnesty act" issued by the President Bashar Alasad.

**Interviewer:** Bassam Al-Ahmad

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