

Syria: Escalation of violence in a context of impunity International Federation for Human Rights 31 May 2012 The discovery of 13 bodies in the area of Deir Ez-Zor reported by the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) on May 30, a few days after the El Houleh killings, confirms the urgent need for an immediate and unfettered investigation of these incidents by an independent and impartial international body. (...)

According to UN observers, the 13 bodies discovered in Assukar (50 kilometers away from the city of Deir Ez-Zor) on the evening of May 29 had their hands tied behind their back and some appear to have been shot in the head from a short distance. In addition to attacks by government artillery and tank shellings on the village of El Houleh, the killing of civilians due to close range shooting and severe physical abuse have also been reported. Several reports suggest that pro-government paramilitary group could be responsible for those crimes. (...)

International crimes have been perpetrated for more than 15 months in Syria. The UN estimates that more than 9,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed. Crimes against humanity and other international crimes have allegedly been perpetrated on a wide-scale. (...)

(...) A possible «Yemen-style solution» agreement, which could grant immunity to those responsible for grave human rights violations in exchange of a power transfer, could be currently taking place. FIDH recalls that such a deal could lead the international community to contravene international law. (...)

Despite the extreme difficulties and hazardous conditions faced by UNSMIS, FIDH insists that Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan's six-point plan, must be implemented without any further delay.

(...) FIDH encourages the UNSC to renew and extend the UNSMIS mandate so that it can effectively monitor the implementation of the plan and allow the observers to access detention centers and inquire about the fate of political prisoners who remain in detention. **Read [press release](#)**