



First: Zeinab Al-Hosni – a human tragedy and a sacrifice story

This story began in one of the revolutionary neighborhoods of the city of Homs, from Bab Al-Sibaa, which was one of the first neighborhoods to join the Revolution and raise the banner of rebellion against oppression and tyranny.

Muhammad Al-Hosni, a young man and Zeinab's brother, was one of the most important and known activists in the Revolution, and he called for freedom and dignity. Muhammad was wanted for being active in the Revolution and being in the demonstrations. He was exceptionally known because he participated in most demonstrations in most neighborhoods, and had a major role in attending to and helping the wounded. We do not have information as to whether he was with any of the coordinating committees, but he was active from the beginning of the Revolution, and was very brave that he went out in most demonstrations, and would stay till the end, under the severe shelling to help the wounded. As a result, the security forces got to know about him through their informants present at the demonstration locations. There are many more like him.

As a result security forces and Shabiha thugs raided his home more than once looking for him. Because of this struggle, the family could not continue to live in their house, which has become a target for continuous security operations. As a result, the family looked for another house to seek shelter, finally settling in a house they rented in a refugees' neighborhood, thinking the new location will be better and safer than the previous one. But with the absence of Muhammad, it was Zeinab's job to bring the family's necessities, which had become very tough in light of the siege and poverty from which the city's residents now suffered. Meanwhile, the treacherous tools of the regime watched Zeinab's movement in and out of the house and tapped their landline and cellular phones. On the second day of Ramadan (coinciding with August 2, 2011), they kidnapped her. Five days later, one of Zeinab's friends called and said that they had Zeinab, and that they will hand her over in exchange for Muhammad, who was wanted by the security forces. They set a location in one of the neighborhoods that was known to be dangerous, so the family negotiated on another location in the heart of the city, but the girl who called them hung up the

phone on them and the family since then didn't know anything about their daughter's whereabouts. On the 13th of September, the family was shocked by the news of the death of their son Muhammad at the hands of security forces and informants during a military operation in the neighborhood of Baba Amr on September 10, 2011.

Video clip showing torture signs of fallen hero Muhammad Adeeb Al-Hosni

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib_4DEe0x6U

Video clip showing burial of fallen hero Muhammad Adeeb Al-Hosni

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feliEB098VM>

The family went to receive his body that was in a morgue in the Military Hospital in Homs. While they were in the hospital, they found out by chance that there is a 19 year old girl in the hospital's morgue. The family tried to verify the story, but in the beginning, they could not identify their daughter Zeinab, because her arms were cut off from the shoulder, and she was decapitated and her face was burnt, with marks of torture and burn on her back and all of her body.

The family was not allowed to receive their daughter's body until they signed a declaration that forbade them from photographing her body or holding a funeral for people to attend. Indeed, the family carried Zeinab's body to bury her in Bab Al-Sibaa cemetery in a small group of mourners that was limited to her immediate family and some relatives. However, after the mourners left, a small group of young activists dug up the grave and photographed the evidence of the ugly inhumane crime.

Video clip showing burial of fallen hero Zeinab Al-Hosni in Al-Shuhada'a (Martyrs) Cemetery on 17-September-2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRXlmfiBcyU>

Two: The story of Zeinab may not be the only one... and may be repeated

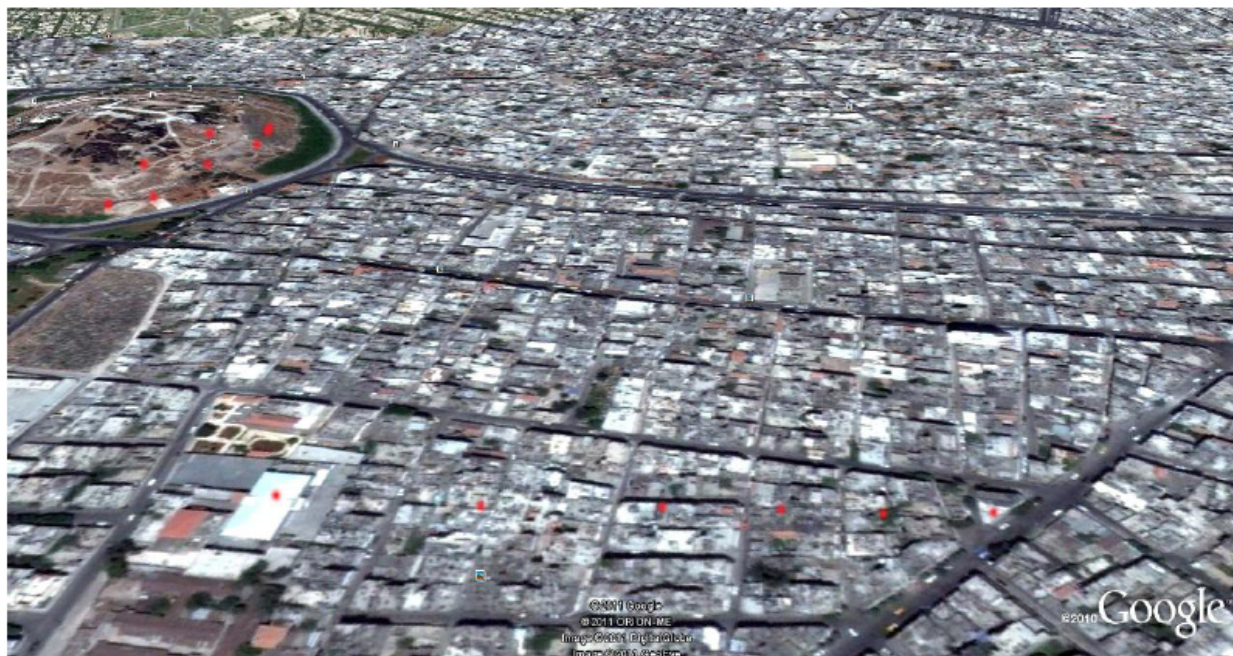
Bab Al-Sibaa is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city of Homs, and its residents are known for being peaceful and friendly. For hundreds of years, families of all religions and sects, Christians, Sunni Muslims, Alawis, have lived in the neighborhood side by side. This was one of the first neighborhoods that went out asking for freedom and dignity, and as a result, the regime put the neighborhood under a very tight watch and under siege from the beginning. The regime also benefitted from neighborhoods around Bab Al-Sibaa that were pro-regime, which tried to tell to Alawi residents of these neighborhoods that there are terrorists in Bab Al-Sibaa. The regime also tried to agitate a sectarian feeling among its residents to benefit from the pro-regime residents in trying to control the neighborhood. The following points show the method used to put the neighborhood under siege:

- Security surrounding of the neighborhood: shown using Google Earth map below

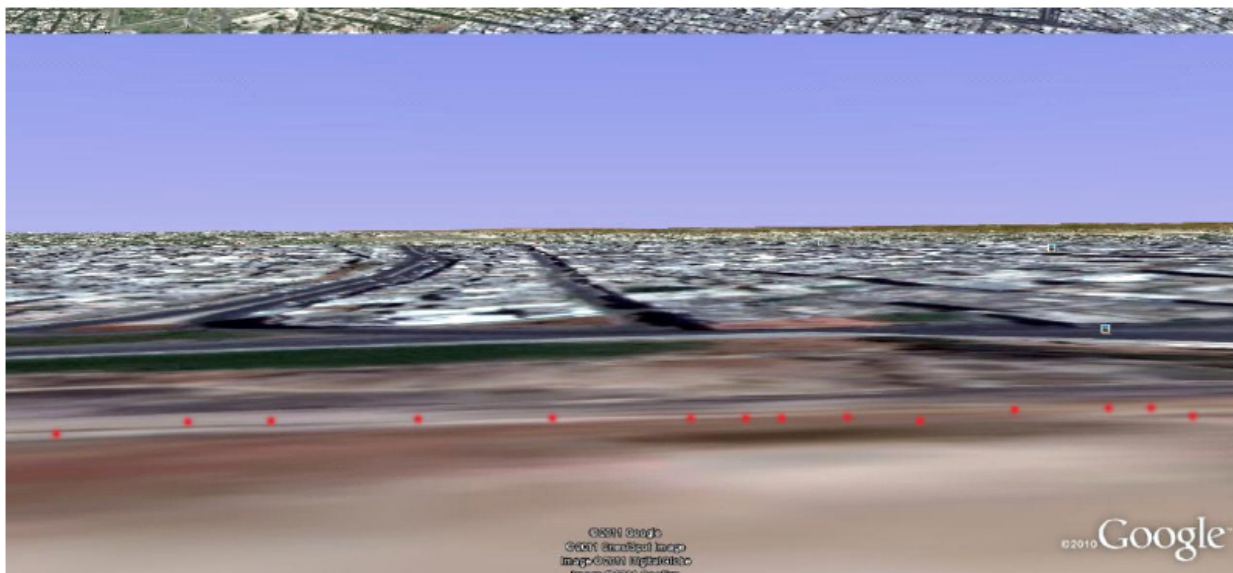
Picture (1) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood within the red rectangle, and the red dots show the security points around the neighborhood



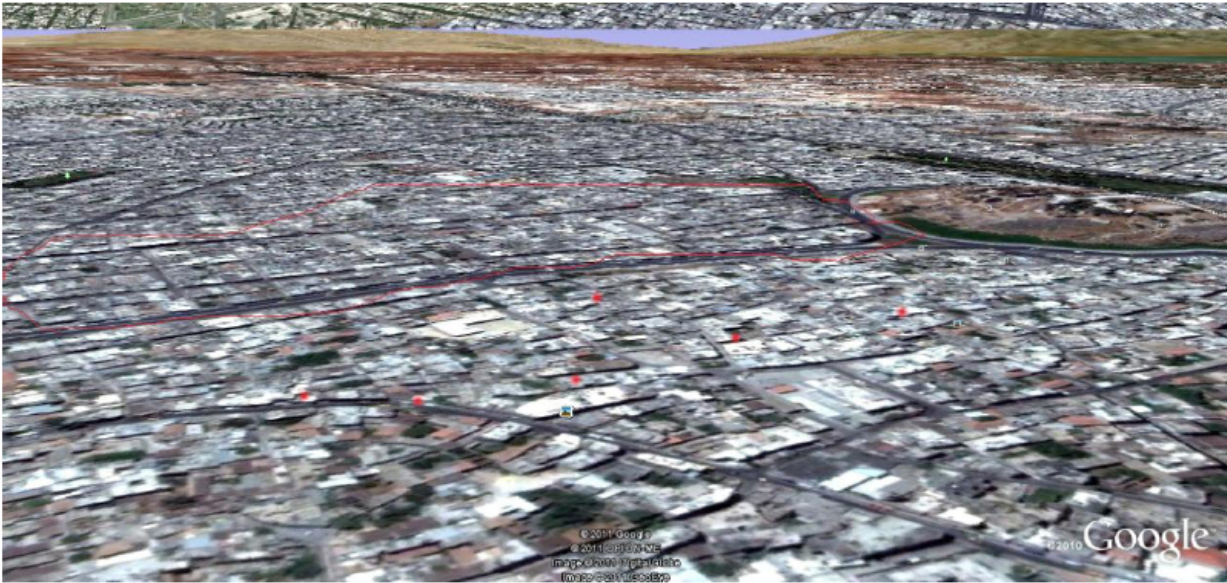
Picture (2) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood from one end and using the nearby pro-regime neighborhoods to concentrate snipers



Picture (3) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood as it appears from the top of the castle that overlooks it, on top of which snipers were located



Picture (4) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood from another end with red dots indicating security locations, which are merely residential locations and a school taken over by security in the old neighborhoods



Picture (5) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood from the circle of Bab Al-Draib and security locations indicated with red dots, with some red dots also indicating snipers



Picture (6) shows Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood as would be seen by a sniper from the top of the castle overlooking the neighborhood



The humanitarian conditions inside Bab Al-Sibaa: for over 3 months, drinking water is being getting cut off every day except for 2 hours, which the residents sometimes miss completely during security raids. Residents are not allowed to bring water into the neighborhood from outside, and back in July, a person who used to bring in water to the neighborhood was killed after he went missing for two days. There are power outages nearly daily, and sometimes the power outage lasts for more than a day. Cellular networks are nearly completely severed, as there is a lot of interference on the networks, and sometimes cellular service is unavailable for days, along with landline and internet services. There are no city services, as the residents now clean the neighborhood streets and take the trash out of the neighborhood. There is no lighting in the streets and there are streets that have needed maintenance from the beginning of the Revolution. Entering and exiting the neighborhood is very difficult in “normal” circumstances and almost nearly forbidden during crises. There are security checkpoints that impose strict searching of the residents. The shopping center in the neighborhood is considered the second largest in the city, and includes clothing stores, groceries, and small coops that used to attract residents of nearby neighborhoods and was always busy before the siege. Today, most merchants close their stores for days because of the siege and because the number of their customers has gone down by more than 90% as no one is allowed to enter or exit the neighborhood.

Migration from the neighborhood: especially in the last 4 months, Bab Al-Sibaa has witnessed large migrations from the neighborhood, just like the example of Zeinab’s family. Some families have resorted to paying additional expenses for homes outside the neighborhood, despite owning

a home inside the neighborhood. These families face a lot of difficulties in light of the shortage of income these days.

Snipers, security checkpoints and armored vehicles around the neighborhood: the Castle of Homs overlooks Bab Al-Sibaa from a small hill, from which the neighborhood's streets and homes can be easily seen. The security forces that are inside the neighborhood practice all types of harassments from using binoculars to expose the homes to sniping passersby indiscriminately. Other snipers are also placed around the neighborhood, using the buildings and homes of the pro-regime residents after they convinced of the sectarian lies. Additionally, armored vehicles and tanks and other combat vehicles are present around the neighborhood to terrorize residence. Until today, about 57 fallen heroes from Bab Al-Sibaa have lost their lives, among them women and children. A lot of the neighborhood residents get arrested and now there are over 100 detainees who are permanently detained in prisons and their fate is unknown. There is also a large number of wounded residents, some who have recovered, and some who are permanently maimed and unable to work and make a living, and whom the government does not provide medical attention. In fact, if the government knew about some of the wounded, their lives may be taken.

Answer to some recurring questions

Why did Zeinab's family move to the refugees' neighborhood, did they have relatives there?

The family went there to live in their rented home to escape the cruelty and terror of the security forces, and they have some family and friends in the refugees' neighborhood.

Did Muhammad know about his sister's kidnapping?

Muhammad knew about his sister's kidnapping, and went into hiding so the security forces wouldn't bother his family with other actions like kidnapping Zeinab, so he went to some of his friends in Baba Amr and hid with them, and he went out in demonstrations with them.

Do you have any information about similar incidents?

The number of missing women up to this date and according to information we received from several sources, is 18 girls, but their families have not announced their kidnapping because of traditional issues associated with honor. We know of 5 situations where the girls were returned to their families raped, assaulted by beating, and their psychological condition was very bad, but the families did not allow us to mention any details.

Do you have any information about the farm where the rape incidents are taking place?

The farm is near Al-Waar area, and is owned by Shiaa Muslims, whose young men have mostly become Shabiha thugs. The area is somewhat separated from the city and reaching it is difficult,

which makes it isolated and protected, especially that security checkpoints have been placed around it to protect it further. The Shabihha hides the kidnapped girls there according to confirmed information that is leaked from people living in the area, whose names we obviously cannot disclose.

Is there a copy of a report from the forensics doctor who examined Zeinab's body?

Doctors refused to write a report after they examined the body, allegedly for security reasons. But there is a report in the Military Hospital in Homs, but the hospital conditioned handing the report over on Zeinab's brother going on Al-Dunnia TV (a state-run television channel) to say the body was intact and her death was the result of being shot by armed gangs.

Is there evidence of rape and can it be confirmed?

There is no eyewitness to the rape, as far as we know. There is no way to confirm that Zianab was not raped, as the body was in the morgue fridge for nearly a month and it was not medically dissect or examined, but all the situations where girls were kidnapped, they were raped, and some of them told stories of being raped by more than 13 security members.

Is there information about skinning Zeinab?

Regarding the skinning issue, one doctor confirmed that her skin was removed using chemicals that cause chemical burns which completely burnt the top layer of the skin, and the evidence is that there are some parts that the chemicals didn't reach, and did not burn, as evidenced by the photos.

One mistake was that when the body was washed in preparation for burial, the remnants of the skin got removed.

Zeinab's personal information

Fallen hero Zeinab Omar Al-Hosni

She was born in the city of Homs on 1-1-1993

Her father, Omar Al-Hosni, married her mother after the death of his first wife, with whom he had 5 sons.

Her father died when she was 3 years old in 1996.

She grew up fatherless in a small and poor family that included her mother and her siblings, Bilal, Muhammad, and Ruqayya.

She lived with her siblings, and was cared for by her mother who sacrificed her life and health to raise her fatherless children well.

Zeinab lived her childhood like the rest of the neighborhood's children, between home and school, in a modest home in Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood of Homs.

Her hobbies included sewing and fashion design.

Zeinab could not complete her education because of her family's poverty, and she worked in a sewing shop for a year to financially help her family as much as she could. After that she stayed at home to help her mother after her oldest sister, Ruqayya, got married.

Zeinab was exceptionally well-behaved and good-hearted, so she was loved by everyone around her, especially her brother, fallen hero Muhammad.

She was dedicated to praying and fasting and reading the Koran since she was a child.

Homs Quarters Union: <https://www.facebook.com/Revolution.of.Homs.Union>

Zeinab's Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Zeinab.AlHosni>



Appendix 1

Some of the rape incidents around Homs

Name: Hibah Bazerkan

Occupation: Hair dresser in a women's salon

Marital status: Married

Number of children: 3 children (girls)

Financial status: at the poverty line

Residence: Souk Al-Khadra neighborhood

Rape date: Friday, May 13, 2011 (named Friday of the Free Women of Syria)

Place of kidnapping: Jawret Al-Shyah, near the new clock

Summary:

Homs is considered to be the city that has experienced the most number of rape incidents among Syrian cities. There are several reasons including, but not limited to, that one of the first women who called for freedom and dignity, was the innocent girl, Tal Al-Molohi. Also, the first to tend to the wounded and help the injured were the women of Homs. Until now, Homs is still a backbone to the Syrian Revolution, lately being even labeled the Capital of the Syrian Revolution. Homs was also in the forefront of the cities to be able to coordinate between the opposition and revolutionaries inside Syria and abroad. Homs also was ahead of other cities in publicizing and broadcasting information about what is happening on the ground and the blood shed with objectivity, which enraged the regime's grudge, especially when that Friday, when she was kidnapped, was named in honor of the Free Women of Syria. As a result, they kidnapped any women they came across and raped them, and among those was Hibah Bazerkan, who was so poor that she was forced to be a hair stylist to help her husband. The kidnapping happened in Jawret Al-Shyah neighborhood, where two guys stepped of a van and picked her and her one and a half year old daughter and put them in the van. They took away her cell phone and dialed the last number that she had dialed, which was to one of her friends, whom they told that they had Hibah and that they would kill her. Afterwards, no one knew anything about her, as she was taken to an unknown place, where she was raped and tortured, along with other women like her, whose screams she could hear. For 15 days, no one knew anything about her, until she was thrown on the street with her daughter. She was threatened by the Shabiha thugs that if she said anything, her daughter would be killed in front of her, then she would be killed. Hibah then suffered psychologically and her husband disowned her, but then took her back, though she has become a source of shame in a society like that.

Appendix 2

Stories that are unbelievable, tales that one would think are made up, atrocities that are being done by our own people. Although they cannot be categorized as humans, as they must have hearts of stone.

The ugly unbelievable things, which whoever sees with their own eyes cannot ever get out of their mind, are indescribable. We mention one of those stories, one that has been hidden all this time, and took place in a town called Jisr El-Shigour. The residents of the town have suffered for more than 40 years at the hands of this regime, some of which we mention here so you are aware. This is told from someone who lived and witnessed it, not from someone else:

The Syrian Army, with the support of Security forces and Shabiha thugs, kidnapped 30 girls, who are activists' sisters, and took them to a large square, then forced them to take off their clothes and offer tea naked to their criminal captors. The Assad gangs then raped one of them in front of the other girls. They then used the girls, who would have rather been killed over having a man see even their nail, to force their activist brothers to come and turn in themselves, and promised they would not harm them. However, those thugs betrayed 30 young men in front of the sugar factory in the city, and slaughtered them like cattle, and raped their sisters.

We asked the man who told this story why he had not told it before, even though he had appeared as an eyewitness. He said that he was afraid that no one was going to believe him. He said that he had more stories and that he would tell more about what he had seen with his two eyes.

Other stories come from the town of Al-Holah, which is west of Homs. Girls from 4 well-known families from the town were assaulted and taken from their homes, they were insulted then raped. The girls were returned crushed to their families after days of physical and psychological torture, and sadistic rape, which has not been seen in history. The families are well-known, and their relative tells these stories, fearing the families will be harmed by the dishonor, which kept him and other relatives from telling the story to the media. He told one heartbreaking story of a man walking with his wife, and the Assad thugs grabbed her harshly to take any jewelry she had on, right in front of her husband, who could not move or say anything as he watched his wife getting insulted, and even though he would rather die than see a hand touching his honor, and in front of him.

Here is a story about a woman from Talbisah, another town outside Homs, who broke the silence, and told the story of her rape. People thought that it was just one incident and it would not be repeated. But suddenly we are hearing horrific stories from all towns.

34 year old Duhha Abdel-Ghaffar Ah-Shawwa left her house in Al-Karabees neighborhood in Homs to visit relatives in Bab Al-Sibaa neighborhood, on September 18, 2011. When she was

finished visiting them, she got in a taxi and disappeared since then. Her family is still looking for her, to no avail.

The last story we heard was about the arrest of a young girl, Malak Al-Shinawi, who is 26 years old. She is from Damascus, and a graduate of “elderly compensation” institute. She was grabbed violently from the middle of the capital, in front of people. She was not charged with anything, and now, no one knows where she is or what has happened to her.

Table of incidents mentioned in this report

Name	D.O.B.	Place	Marital Status	Disappearance Date	Death Date	Burial Date
Zeinab Al-Hosni	1-Jan-1993	Homs	Single	02-Aug-2011	13-Sept-2011	17-Sept-2011
Muhammad Deeb Al-Hosni	1984	Homs	Single	Did not disappear	10-Sept-2011	13-Sept-2011
Hibah Bazerkan	Unknown	Homs	Married	13-May-2011 For 15 days	Alive	Alive