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**Aan:** Veerle Solia  
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June 06, 2013

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## [In Syria, Attacks on Schools, Evidence of Executions](#)



Photo © 2012 AP

### **[Dangers at School:](#)**

Syria's schools were once a place to learn, but both the government and opposition groups have used schools as military bases, barracks, detention centers and sniper posts. Teachers and security agents have interrogated and beaten students for alleged anti-government activism. Government forces even fired on schools not being used for military purposes.

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### **[Evidence of Executions:](#)**

At least 147 bodies bearing signs of execution were found in the city of Aleppo's river. Human Rights Watch confirmed that many victims had hands tied behind their back, gunshot wounds in their head, and tape across their mouth.

Although it is not definitively known who killed them, signs indicate that they were executed in government-controlled areas.

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### **[Trapped Civilians:](#)**

Syria's government has shelled civilians as they fled the battle-torn town of al-Qusayr, making it difficult for other civilians, including the wounded, to escape the now-successful government offensive, local opposition activists said.

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## [Zimbabwe's Security Forces Pose Election Risk](#)

With the security forces right up to the top leaders threatening and attacking Mugabe's perceived opponents, Zimbabweans have little faith in the upcoming elections. Zimbabwe's unity government is going to have to rein in the security forces and keep them out of politics if the elections are going to have any meaning.

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## [The Americas Should Decriminalize Personal Use of Drugs](#)

The 'drug war' has taken a huge toll in the Americas, from the carnage of brutal drug-trafficking organizations to the egregious abuses by security forces fighting them. Governments should find new policies to address the harm drug use causes while curbing the violence and abuse that have plagued the current approach.

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## [Istanbul: The Voices from Taksim](#)

by Emma Sinclair-Webb  
*Open Democracy*

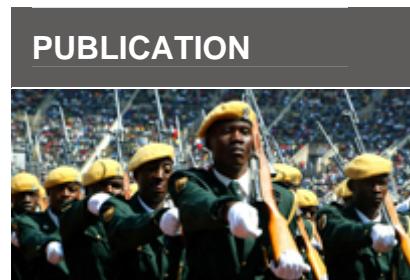
Spend a night in Istanbul's Taksim Square, and it becomes very clear why protesters are there. They feel that the government ignores them, overlooks them, and excludes them. They say their voices are not heard, and that the government serves its own constituency, telling everyone else how to live and what not to say.

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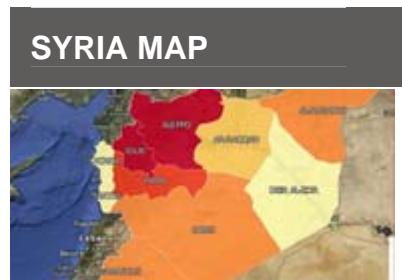
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### VIDEO



### PUBLICATION



### SYRIA MAP

**Warning, Graphic Content:** Residents of Aleppo, Syria discover scores of bodies in the river. Human Rights Watch investigates.

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**The Elephant in the Room:** Reforming Zimbabwe's Security Sector Ahead of Elections

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**Under Attack:** This interactive map details damage to schools across Syria.

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