

Al-Amshat faction imposes fines and taxes on the returnees to Afrin



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The process of imposing and collecting fines and financial taxes from people takes place in the Kurdish regions only, excluding other regions, as part of a policy to clamp down on the indigenous population.





The district of Sheikh Al-Hadid / Shiya and villages under the control of Sultan Suleiman Shah's faction are witnessing popular discontent, due to the imposition of financial fines and taxes with various pretexts on the people, one of which amounted to about forty thousand dollars on the entire population of the village.

In the details, private local sources confirmed to the "Lelun Association for Victims", who refused to reveal their identities afraid of arrest, that the Sultan Suleiman Shah squad, known as Al-Amshat, led by Muhammad Al-Jassem, nicknamed "Abu Amsha", imposes financial fines on the Kurds returning from the indigenous population to their homes in villages they control after summoning them to the security branches and interrogating them for varying periods. Some of them are subjected to torture and imprisonment, until they are allowed to reside and recover their homes and property after paying a ransom and varying financial fines according to the charge against them, including the towns: Sheikh Hadid / Shih, Senara, Anqla and Kakhera, Shetka, Khalil, and Alkana). Those amounts ranged between [1,000-1,500 US dollars](#), under the pretext of settling their situation.

Many armed factions, which are controlled by Turkey and control the whole of Afrin region, and the district of Sheikh Al-Hadid / Shih specially its affiliated villages, impose sums and financial fines on each family of the returning Kurdish population from Aleppo city and the neighboring regional countries such as Lebanon, Turkey and the Kurdistan region. Note that the process of [collecting money](#) takes place in the Kurdish regions only, excluding other regions such as Azaz, Al-Bab, Jarabulus, Marea, and others.

On the other hand, another local source told "Lelun" that the "Bahar Relief Society" distributed financial vouchers at the beginning of August 2023, in the amount of \$150, to some families in several villages, including Sheikh Al-Hadid, Sanara, and Anqala. Members of the aforementioned faction (Al-Amshat) took \$100 from each family at gunpoint. Where poor families of the indigenous Kurdish population and the displaced, who suffer from great difficulties in securing basic needs, periodically receive financial aid, which makes them a target for the armed factions' ambitions to take their share from them.

In the same context, the "Al-Amshat" faction imposed a fine of \$50 on about 400 families from the village of "Kakhera" after they received cash assistance of





\$100 from the "Al-Ihsan Charity Association" at the beginning of August 2023 but after the association left the village, members of the faction summoned all the families who received financial assistance and forced them to hand over the amount publicly.

Also, as part of the policy of harassing the indigenous people in the region, people are repeatedly prevented from harvesting their agricultural crops to force them to pay certain percentages of money imposed by the faction on the people in order to allow them to harvest the crops. In this regard, private local sources told "Lelun" that the "Al-Amshat" faction imposed an exorbitant tax (forty thousand US dollars) on the people of the village of "Kakhra / Yakhour" in the Maabatli district, under the pretext that the villagers harvested the sumac crop without obtaining "the approval or Permission" from the aforementioned faction. Same faction imposed a tax of three thousand US dollars on the "Mirkan/Hassiyeh"s people and a thousand US dollars on "Shitka" village of the Maabatli district in the Afrin region, under the pretext that the people harvested the sumac crop without the permission of the faction as well. .

On the other hand, a source from the region told "Lelun" field researcher that a tax of 100 Turkish liras was imposed on each walnut tree from the villagers of Shitka who own walnut trees, in order to allow them to dispose of it and harvest it.



About LELUN:

We are a group of daughters and sons of Afrin, who love its soil, are devoted to its olives, and we believe in the history of the fathers and grandfathers, and in fulfillment of their efforts and struggle in preserving the human being, the land and the trees, and in order for the trees to return to their splendor, and for the families and loved ones to return to their mountains, plains and homes, it was necessary to launch The ground is being prepared for the return of rights to their owners and the pursuit of justice.

The goal of justice for the victims was the main stimulus that generated us; Young men and women of Afrin who are jealous of its people, people and land, regardless of their nationality, sect, background or political affiliation, to establish an association for the victims of violations in this Afrin under the name "Lilon", to extend a helping hand to the affected women on an equal footing. by defending them.

"Lilon" will work to contribute to the prosecution efforts by providing evidence related to the violations committed against the residents and people of the Afrin region by all parties to the conflict, and to contribute to compensating the affected victims.

