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# The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in the First Half of 2021

Documenting 53 Attacks on Vital  
Civilian Facilities, Including  
Five on Medical Facilities

Monday 5 July 2021

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

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## I. Introduction and Methodology:

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture and enforced disappearances are the violations most frequently perpetrated against Syrian citizens. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, also violating the rights of Syrian citizens. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has continued to document every incident that its team members are able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our publication of periodic monthly reports recording and highlighting the continued suffering of the Syrian people, which subsequently grew to eight reports on different issues issued at the beginning of each month. In the course of our work, SNHR has compiled a massive database cataloguing hundreds of thousands of incidents, each of which involves a pattern of violations that we have been able to document.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in the first half of 2021, in addition to what SNHR documented in June 2021, and catalogues the death toll of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights indiscriminate attacks and the use of outlawed weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, incendiary weapons) and attacks on civilian objects, which SNHR's team was able to document during this period. To find out more about our working [methodology](#) in documenting and archiving data, please visit the following link that explains this in detail.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

## II. Summary of the Most Notable Events in June 2021:

### In regard to bombardment and military operations:

June saw [an increase](#) unprecedented in [the past several months](#) in [the pace](#) of [military operations](#) in northwest Syria, especially in ground bombardment by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the region, targeting areas far from the contact lines such as Ariha city in Idlib suburbs and the vicinity of Idlib city. During this month, the Syrian Network for Human Rights encountered difficulty in identifying whether the source of bombardment could be attributed specifically to Russian forces or Syrian regime forces, in several incidents, which are still under investigation up to the time of publication. We also documented the use of several munitions, most notably those guided by the Russian-made Krasnopol laser system, which is characterized by its precise targeting. Russian reconnaissance aircraft were also frequently seen in the airspace over the region throughout the month.

The ground bombardment was concentrated on the areas of Sahl al Ghab in the western suburbs of Hama, targeting populated areas, with the most prominent attack being the bombardment of the [Civil Defense Center in Qastoun town](#) on June 19, which killed a Civil Defense member, with SNHR so far unable to confirm whether the Syrian or Russian regime was responsible up to the time of publication. The focused bombardment also targeted the western sector of the Jabal al Zaweya area in the southern suburbs of Idlib, including the villages and towns of al Bara, Abdita, Ebleen, Balshoun, [Ihsem](#) and Kansafra, and causing civilian casualties. The Jabal al Zaweya area is one of the populated areas, with the bombardment and military escalation in the area coincided with the cherry and mahl-ab harvest season, to spread terror among farmers. We note that there was also an increase in incidents of bombardment targeting high structures, most notably water tanks, on top of which communications and Internet towers are located, causing a disruption of communication networks in those areas.

In June, we recorded Russian airstrikes on civilian areas; on June 10, we recorded airstrikes on the outskirts of al Mozara village in Jabal al Zaweya, the southern suburbs of Idlib, and on June 12 near [civilian homes in Mentef village](#) and the outskirts of Sarja village in the southern suburbs of Idlib; we also recorded Russian airstrikes on military camps of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

Afrin city, in the northwest of Aleppo governorate, was targeted by a double-tap missile attack on June 12, with the second attack targeting [al Shefaa hospital in the city](#), resulting in the deaths of 14 people, 12 of them civilians, including one child and five women. Among the victims were three medical personnel, with the attack also causing damage to the facility, putting it out of service. We have been unable to accurately identify the source of bombardment up to the time of publication; the primary parties suspected of responsibility for the attack are either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces, with the attack emanating from an area controlled by them; investigations are still underway to identify the party responsible for the attack.

The Syrian-Russian alliance forces' bombardment of northwest Syria was countered with shelling by the armed factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, in addition to the Turkish forces, whose shelling concentrated on the Jourin military camp in the northwestern suburbs of Hama and other military locations housing Syrian regime forces and their allies in the villages and towns controlled by the regime in the southern suburbs of Idlib and the suburbs of Ma'aret al Numan, which are uninhabited areas.

In June, clashes continued between Syrian National Army forces and Syrian Democratic Forces in the villages of Ein Eisa in the northern suburbs of Raqqa, which are under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, resulting in deaths on both sides without any change in the distribution of zones of control. We note that this area has witnessed intermittent clashes between the two parties since 2019.

In terms of bombings, we recorded several incidents throughout June using explosive devices and motorcycle bombs in the areas of al Bab and Jarablos and the vicinity of Afrin city in the suburbs of Aleppo, which resulted in dozens of civilian deaths and injuries, and caused damage to civilian facilities and military vehicles belonging to Syrian National Army factions; Ras al Ein city in the northwestern suburbs of Hasaka and Tal Abyad city in the northwestern suburbs of Raqqa both saw bombings that caused material damage to the infrastructure.

June saw a [continuation](#) of [civilian deaths](#) due to [landmine explosions](#) in [different governorates](#) and regions of Syria. SNHR also documented many landmine explosions, indicating that none of the controlling forces have made any significant efforts towards clearing landmines, or attempted to determine their locations and fence them off, or to warn the local populations about them.

In June, we recorded a continuation of assassinations in many areas, including the villages and towns in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour and Raqqa, which resulted in the death of a number of civilians at the hands of unidentified gunmen believed to be affiliated with ISIS.

On June 23, the Syrian regime, through the Russian guarantor, demanded that the people of Daraa al Balad in Daraa city surrender a number of light arms to the regime; after the people refused these demands, regime forces blocked the roads leading to the area and restricted the movement of civilians to and from the area. No agreement has been reached up to the time of this report's publication, with the area's residents still being subject to restrictions and intimidation.

The central and southern region was also subjected to an Israeli air attack launched from Lebanese airspace on June 8, whose damage was limited to material objects, [according to SANA news agency](#).

#### In regard to arrests and enforced disappearances:

Syrian regime forces continued in June to persecute and arrest individuals who had concluded settlements of their security status with the Syrian regime in areas that had previously concluded settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in Damascus Suburbs and Daraa governorates, with most occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests and at checkpoints. We recorded incidents of arrests of citizens, including women from Suwayda city in Homs, which we believe were based on malicious security reports. We recorded arrests in Daraa governorate targeting former civil service workers who were working in several areas when those areas were not under the control of Syrian regime forces. In addition, we documented arrests targeting civilians on the grounds that they did not participate in the 'presidential elections' held on May 26, during campaigns of mass raids and arrests. These arrests were concentrated in Damascus Suburbs governorate, with those arrested taken to an undisclosed location.

In terms of releases from prisons and detention centers in June, we documented the release of at least 117 detainees held by the Syrian regime, all of them from Damascus Suburbs and Daraa governorates, from its detention centers in Damascus governorate. The release was the result of a reconciliation process carried out by the Syrian regime in Damascus Suburbs governorate. According to the released individuals' families, relatives and friends, and to the information recorded on our database, the former detainees spent an average period of one to three years in the Syrian regime's detention centers, in extremely poor conditions which included being subjected to torture, and enduring an almost complete lack of healthcare and medical care, and severe overcrowding, while all had been arrested during raids or while passing through the regime's checkpoints, without receiving any explanation of the reasons for their detention and without any arrest warrants being provided. [The photos we obtained](#) of a number of those released show the clear deterioration in the health conditions of the gaunt and emaciated released prisoners.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in June, with the number increasing this month as SDF continue carrying out campaigns of mass raids and arrests, targeting civilians on the supposed pretext of fighting ISIS cells, with some of these campaigns backed by US-led coalition helicopters. These arrests were concentrated in Deir Ez-Zour governorate. We also documented arrests targeting journalists and media activists, which were concentrated in the governorates of Hasaka and Raqqa.

June also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham detaining civilians, with these arrests concentrated in Idlib governorate; most of these arrests occurred due to the detainees expressing opinions critical of the HTS's management of areas under its control. These detentions were carried out arbitrarily in the form of raids in which HTS members stormed their victims' homes, often breaking down the doors, by kidnapping their victims while they were traveling or passing through temporary checkpoints. We also documented arrests carried out by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham personnel of civilians, who were accused of communicating with Syrian regime forces to conduct reconciliation and return to the areas controlled by Syrian regime forces.

The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army also continued carrying out arbitrary detentions and kidnappings in June, most of which were carried out on a mass scale, targeting individuals coming from areas controlled by the Syrian regime. In addition, we documented detentions carried out under an ethnic pretext, with these incidents being concentrated in areas under the Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army's control in Aleppo governorate. Most of these arrests occurred without judicial authorization and without the participation of the police force, which is the legitimate administrative authority responsible for arrests and detentions through the judiciary, as well as being carried out without presenting any clear charges against those being detained.

#### In regard to the COVID-19 pandemic:

June saw a continuation in the documentation of infections and deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the areas under Syrian regime forces' control and those under Syrian Democratic Forces' control, with the areas controlled by the opposition factions seeing a significant increase in infections compared to previous months, where SNHR documented the highest monthly number of infections so far recorded in these areas since the beginning of 2021. We at the SNHR are still monitoring [activities](#) in all regions of Syria, all of which are suffering from a complete absence of precautionary measures.

On June 26, Hassan Ghabbash, the Syrian regime's Minister of Health, [confirmed](#) during a regime cabinet meeting that all medical staff had been vaccinated, while the vaccine was given to a large number of those who registered for vaccination through the ministry's electronic platform.

The Syrian regime's [Ministry of Health](#) officially announced 1,020 cases of COVID-19 infection and 106 deaths in June, bringing the official total announced to 25,515 cases of infection with 1,876 deaths, as of June 30.

In northwestern Syria, more infections and deaths due to coronavirus were recorded in June, with [the Early Warning Alert and Response Network \(EWARN\)](#) announcing the documentation of 2,120 infections and 39 deaths related to COVID-19 for the month; this brought the total number of infections and deaths announced by EWARN as of June 30, to 25,661 cases of infection and 709 deaths.

As of June 30, a total of 18,510 coronavirus infection cases, including 763 deaths, had been announced by [the Health Authority in the Self-Management Authority of Northern and Eastern Syria](#). We note that 635 cases of infection and 34 deaths were recorded in June.

#### Regarding living conditions:

After the end of the 'presidential election' charade, which was accompanied by an improvement in some aspects of living, the Syrian regime resumed its usual restrictive practices against citizens, with SNHR documenting an increase in the frequency of power cuts, along with overcrowding at bakeries, with one of the reasons for this being due to the lack of allocations distributed to neighborhoods; this was confirmed by a statement by Ahmad al Halabi, the headman (Mukhtar) of Halab al Jadida neighborhood of Aleppo city, [reported by the state-run Tishreen newspaper](#) on June 20, that only 600 bread bundles were being delivered daily to a neighborhood that houses ten thousand families.

On June 1, [the Syrian regime's Cooperative Agricultural Bank](#) [announced the lifting of government subsidies on the prices](#) of agricultural fertilizers and set the selling price for superphosphate fertilizer at 1.112 million Syrian pounds per ton, and urea fertilizer at 1.366 million Syrian pounds per ton, thus increasing the cost of the fertilizer threefold, according to local sources, which will in turn be reflected in the prices of agricultural products, imposing an additional burden on Syrian citizens.

On June 12, [the Scientific Council for Pharmaceutical Industries called on](#) the Syrian regime's Ministry of Health to increase the prices of many pharmaceutical items, fearing that some pharmaceutical businesses would be forced to close. Subsequently, [the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Affairs](#) in the Syrian regime's Ministry of Health announced on June 17 its response, and published lists of pharmaceutical items whose prices had been raised, attributing this to economic sanctions and the rise in the exchange rate of the US dollar. We at the SNHR are concerned about the repercussions of this decision and its impact on the health status of patients, especially those with chronic diseases, in light of the economic stagnation that the country is suffering from.

On June 1, Manbej city and its countryside, east of Aleppo governorate, saw popular demonstrations in several areas for the second consecutive day in protest against the practices of the Syrian Democratic Forces and their imposition of forced conscription, arrests and high prices. Syrian Democratic Forces shot at demonstrators, which caused the death toll to rise to five civilians, four of them in Manbej city, and one in al Hadhoud village, which is administratively a part of the city. On June 2, a meeting was held between regional dignitaries and sheikhs and officials from the Self-Management and Military Administration of Syrian Democratic Forces, concluding in an agreement to end protests and strikes in exchange for ending the implementation of the Self-Defense Law, releasing all those detained during recent events, and forming a committee to investigate the reasons for the shootings and holding all those involved in them accountable.

Northwest Syria continues to suffer from high fuel prices since the currency there is linked to the exchange rate of the Turkish lira, as the region is supplied with fuel from Turkish territory through the Bab al Hawa crossing; In June, fuel prices saw unprecedented increases, with the price of gasoline reaching 6.80 Turkish liras per liter, while diesel reached 6.42 Turkish liras per liter, and the cost of a gas cylinder reached 93 Turkish liras. The prices of basic foodstuffs were also affected by the rise in the exchange rate of the dollar and the Turkish lira, which was reflected adversely on the lives of citizens, exacerbated by the spread of unemployment due to the high population density and the lack of a suitable environment for investment in light of the constant fear of military operations.

The scorching heatwave seen throughout Syria caused huge fires in forested areas in the western suburbs of Jisr al Shoghour in the western suburbs of Idlib, causing material losses to crops.

The areas controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces, especially in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, have witnessed a continuing crisis in the availability of bread due to the high prices of a sack of flour, the lack of operational bakeries and the high costs of production. With the advent of the summer, citizens' suffering extended to difficulties in securing supplies of ice, in light of the years-long power shortages in the region, the high cost of fuel, and the inability of the available electric power generators to operate refrigerators.

### In regard to asylum, displacement and forced displacement:

The suffering of camp residents in northern and eastern Syria continued in June, especially in light of the extremely high temperatures at the end of the month. We also documented numerous fires breaking out in the camps, particularly in Idlib suburbs, causing [the deaths](#) of a [number of people](#), including children, with most of these accidents caused by the use of the misuse of cooking appliances and the explosion of solar batteries.

We also documented Syrian regime forces' [shelling of al Abrar IDP Camp](#) in the north of Idlib governorate, on June 9, which caused material damage in the camp.

Al Hawl Camp<sup>1</sup> also continues to witness deaths at the hands of unknown persons. In June, we documented [the deaths](#) of [five civilians](#) there, [including three women](#).

On June 2, Syrian Democratic Forces allowed the sixteenth group<sup>2</sup> of IDPs to date, consisting of approximately 202 people from Aleppo governorate, to leave al Hawl Camp and return to their villages and towns, under the decision issued by Syrian Democratic Forces' Self-Management Authority in October 2020 to empty al Hawl Camp. On June 5, these forces [handed over three children](#) and [a woman from ISIS families](#) to a delegation from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in al Qameshli city in the northeastern suburbs of Hasaka.

The suffering of residents of al Rukban Camp in the eastern suburbs of Homs, near the Syrian-Jordanian border, has also continued, due to numerous problems and challenges, especially in terms of a total lack of medical treatment. On June 11, the Public and Political Relations Authority of the Syrian Badiya in al Rukban Camp<sup>3</sup> [appealed](#) to the Jordanian government to allow critically ill patients in need of surgical operations to enter Jordanian hospitals in order to save their lives.

On June 26, [the Lebanese army demolished](#) about 30 concrete shelters in Khaled al Ahmad Camp for Syrian refugees in Ra'it town, Zahle District, under a judicial decision prohibiting Syrian refugees from constructing any concrete construction within the camps in which they are located, causing the fresh displacement of its already displaced residents. We note that this was not the first time that Lebanese army forces have demolished these tents with concrete walls.

<sup>1</sup> A camp located east of Hasaka city, near the Iraqi-Syrian border, which houses nearly 60,000 people

<sup>2</sup> Following the decision 146 issued by Syrian Democratic Forces' Self-Management Authority on October 10, 2020, allowing Syrians in the camp to leave after completing the necessary procedures

<sup>3</sup> A local authority concerned with the social, relief and political situation of the residents of al Rukban Camp

On June 3, the [World Food Program \(WFP\) announced](#) that 21,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan would no longer receive their monthly food assistance as of July due to a shortage of funds. Alberto Correia Mendes, WFP Representative and Country Director in Jordan, said, "These are painful choices. What's more, if we do not receive further contributions we may find ourselves having to cut food assistance for another quarter of a million refugees living outside the camps by September."

On June 23, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in its Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2022 [report](#) that Syrian refugees are among those with the highest resettlement needs for the sixth year in a row.

### **Renewing the humanitarian aid delivery mechanism into Syria:**

With the upcoming vote on UN [Resolution 2533 \(2020\)](#) related to renewing the cross-border humanitarian aid delivery mechanism into Syria, which expires on July 10, 2021, human rights organizations and countries supporting the Syrian people are warning of the dangers of not renewing the mechanism and what would happen to the IDPs and the displaced in the event that Russia arbitrarily uses its veto against its renewal.

On June 7, Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, stressed in [his daily briefing](#) the need to keep the Bab al Hawa border crossing with Turkey open to UN humanitarian aid convoys: "Bab al-Hawa is the last lifeline preventing a humanitarian catastrophe for millions of people in Syria. Despite ongoing efforts to deliver a small number of trucks cross-line from Damascus, there remains no alternative to delivering aid at this scale and with this scope."

On June 10, Human Rights Watch (HRW), in its report entitled "Russian Veto Would Shut Down Last Aid Lifeline", [called on](#) the Security Council to reauthorize full cross-border operations into the region and to authorize a resumption of aid flows from Iraq to northeast Syria, adding that "Millions of Syrians risk losing access to lifesaving aid, including during the Covid-19 pandemic, if Russia vetoes reauthorizing the only remaining UN aid corridor from Turkey into opposition-held northwest Syria."

On June 11, a group of 42 NGOs warned [in a statement](#) that if the UN Security Council failed to renew Resolution 2533, they would be unable to deliver food supplies provided by the World Food Programme to 1.4 million Syrians each month through the Bab al Hawa crossing, and that these supplies would run out by September 2021. The statement added that the failure to renew the resolution would also put a halt to the UN-led COVID-19 vaccination campaign for people living in Northwest Syria.

On June 15, the G7 summit statement [called on](#) the UN Security Council to ensure that humanitarian aid can reach all people in need in Syria, including through cross border and cross line operations.

On June 18, seven UN organizations, represented by Mark Lowcock, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme (WFP), Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO), issued [a joint statement](#) stressing that the failure to renew the humanitarian aid delivery mechanism would immediately "stop UN delivery of food, COVID-19 vaccines, critical medical supplies, shelter, protection, clean water and sanitation, and other life-saving assistance to 3.4 million people, including 1 million children."

On June 18, Doctors Without Borders issued [a statement](#) calling on the United Nations Security Council to renew the cross-border resolution (UNSCR 2533), adding that more than 4 million people residing in this area, more than half of whom are internally displaced people (IDPs), risk losing access to desperately needed humanitarian and medical aid if the resolution is not renewed.

June 23, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [said](#) at the Security Council session on the humanitarian situation in Syria that "The situation today is worse than at any time since the conflict began; 13.4 million people need humanitarian assistance; 12.4 million people are food-insecure," he added, "A failure to extend the Council's authorization would have devastating consequences."

On June 25, Amnesty International said [in its report](#) that: "More than a million people in north-west Syria risk being cut off from food, water, Covid-19 vaccines and life-saving medication if the UN Security Council (UNSC) does not renew authorization for UN cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid through the Bab al-Hawa crossing at the Turkish border."

**On the political and human rights level:**

On June 3, Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, [in her speech to the Security Council](#), called on the Council to “Unite behind the re-establishment of a global norm against chemical weapons” in Syria, underscoring “The urgent need to identify and hold accountable all those who have used chemical weapons in violation of international law.”

On June 5, [the Dutch media agency NPA published](#) a video that included a statement by Jan Sullins, head of the Dutch intelligence service, in which he spoke about investigations conducted by his team indicating that it is very likely that sarin was used in attacks in Syria, adding that they had determined the responsibility of five of senior Syrian regime officers working in the chemical weapons program for al Latamena attacks in the suburbs of Hama (2016) and Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib (2017).

On June 6, the Syrian regime government’s Ministry of Justice issued [Circular No. 20](#), which requires [judicial departments](#) to complete all personal data, especially on the number of detainees held nationwide, to remove the similarity of names and to put a final end to the case of names’ dissimilarity. We at the SNHR note that this ridiculous procedure comes after the Syrian regime, over the course of decades, arrested hundreds of people on the pretext of having similar names to wanted individuals, some of whom died due to torture inside its detention centers.

On June 8, The Economist newspaper published [the Global Liveability Index 2021](#), in which Damascus was ranked as the least liveable city in the world, ranking 140th.

On June 11, Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, stressed during an [interview with NBC](#) that he did not accept the departure of Assad or his commitment to a political solution due to what Putin claimed is the lack of an alternative to his rule. The Russian president called on the Europeans to sit down for talks with him, and seek compromise solutions that are acceptable for all parties, asserting that this is how stability will be achieved, since, he said, it cannot be achieved by imposing one particular point of view. He reaffirmed his position on the necessity of bringing humanitarian assistance into Syria exclusively through the government of the Syrian regime.

On June 14, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs released its [general report on the situation in Syria](#) in relation to the evaluation of asylum requests from people coming from Syria in order to reach a decision on the repatriation of rejected Syrian asylum seekers. The points addressed in the report cover several topics, primarily related to the human rights situation in Syria, political developments in the country and the security situation there. The Syrian Network for Human Rights was the primary source of information cited in this report with 96 quotes, issuing [a statement on this](#).

On June 17, SANA news agency [reported](#) that Hasan Khaddour, the permanent representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations office and other international organizations in Vienna, had submitted his credentials to Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna. This action comes after the spread of dozens of news articles and reports in recent months about the Syrian regime's drug trafficking, which has been taking place with an unprecedented intensity. On June 16, 2021, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) website [issued](#) a report in which it spoke about the recent boom in the drug trade in Syria and how this benefits people close to the family of the Syrian regime's president.

On June 21, the United Nations published [the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict](#), in which it affirmed the continuation of the high levels of violations committed by all parties to the conflict against children in Syria, especially the continuing high numbers associated with the conscription, use, killing and maiming of children, and the attacks on schools and hospitals. The report urges all parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with the report placing Syrian regime forces on the related blacklist along with the Houthis and the Myanmar army.

On June 25, Geir Pedersen, Special Envoy for Syria, warned [in his briefing before the Security Council](#) of signs of a possible escalation of conflict in the country and the erosion of the current arrangements regarding the ceasefire, and called on the Security Council to unite in order to make progress on the political path towards implementation of Resolution 2254 issued by the Security Council.

On June 25, Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, [announced](#) at the Security Council session that Western sanctions against Syria are worsening the humanitarian situation in the country, and seem to aim to overthrow what he referred to as the legitimate authorities in the country.

On June 26, Major General Yaroslav Moskalik, Deputy Head of Main Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed forces, [announced](#) at the Moscow Conference on International Security that the next round of Astana talks on Syria was set to take place from July 6-8 in the Kazakh capital, Nur-Sultan.

#### On the course of advocacy and the pursuit of accountability:

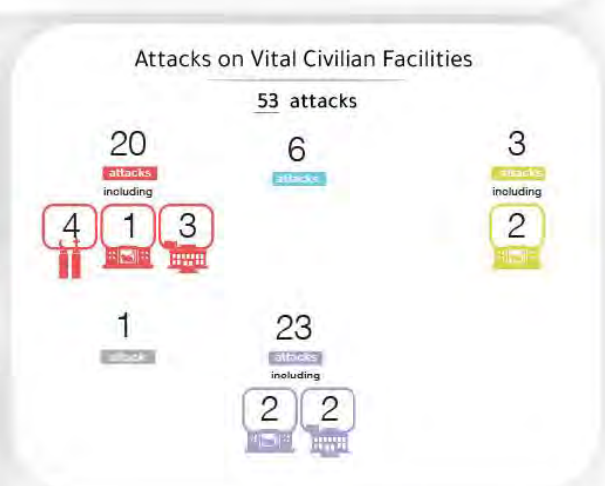
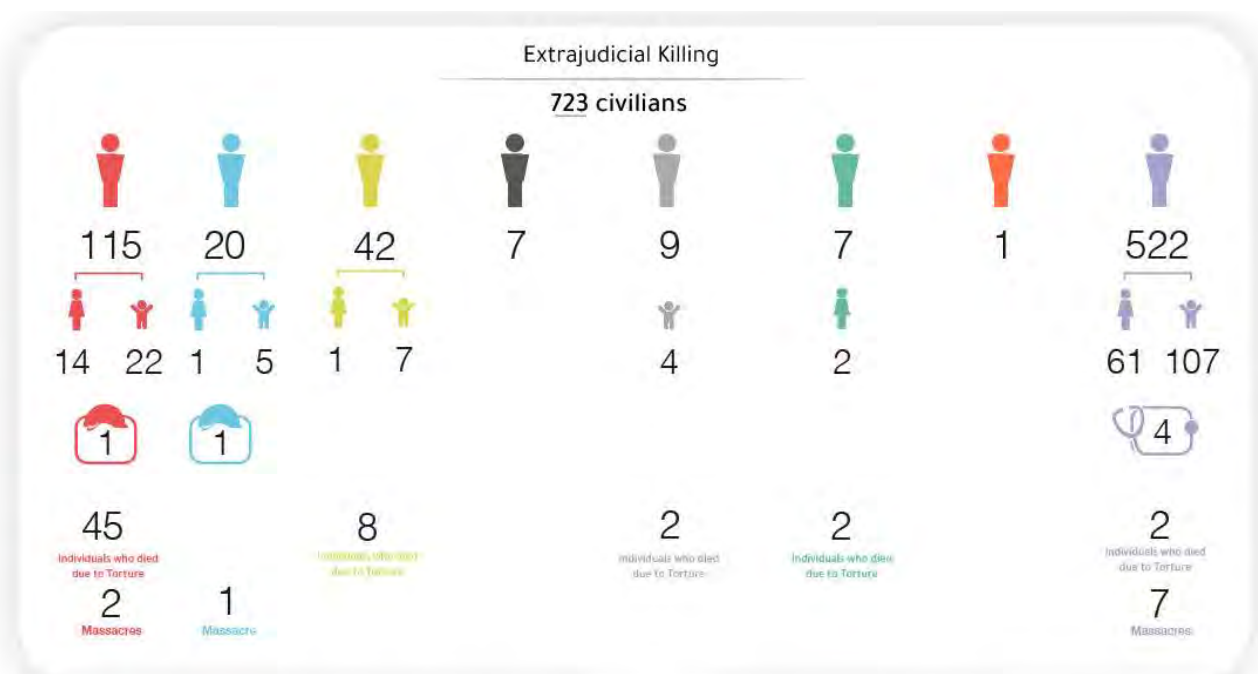
On June 11, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) participated in the second day of The Airspace Tribunal hearings, organized by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and supported by the University of Kent. We issued a [press release](#) on our participation in this event.

On June 17, [the U.S. Treasury Department issued](#) guidance excluding coronavirus-related transactions with the Syrian regime, Iran and Venezuela from economic sanctions, without lifting any sanctions against persons or individuals that had been previously approved.

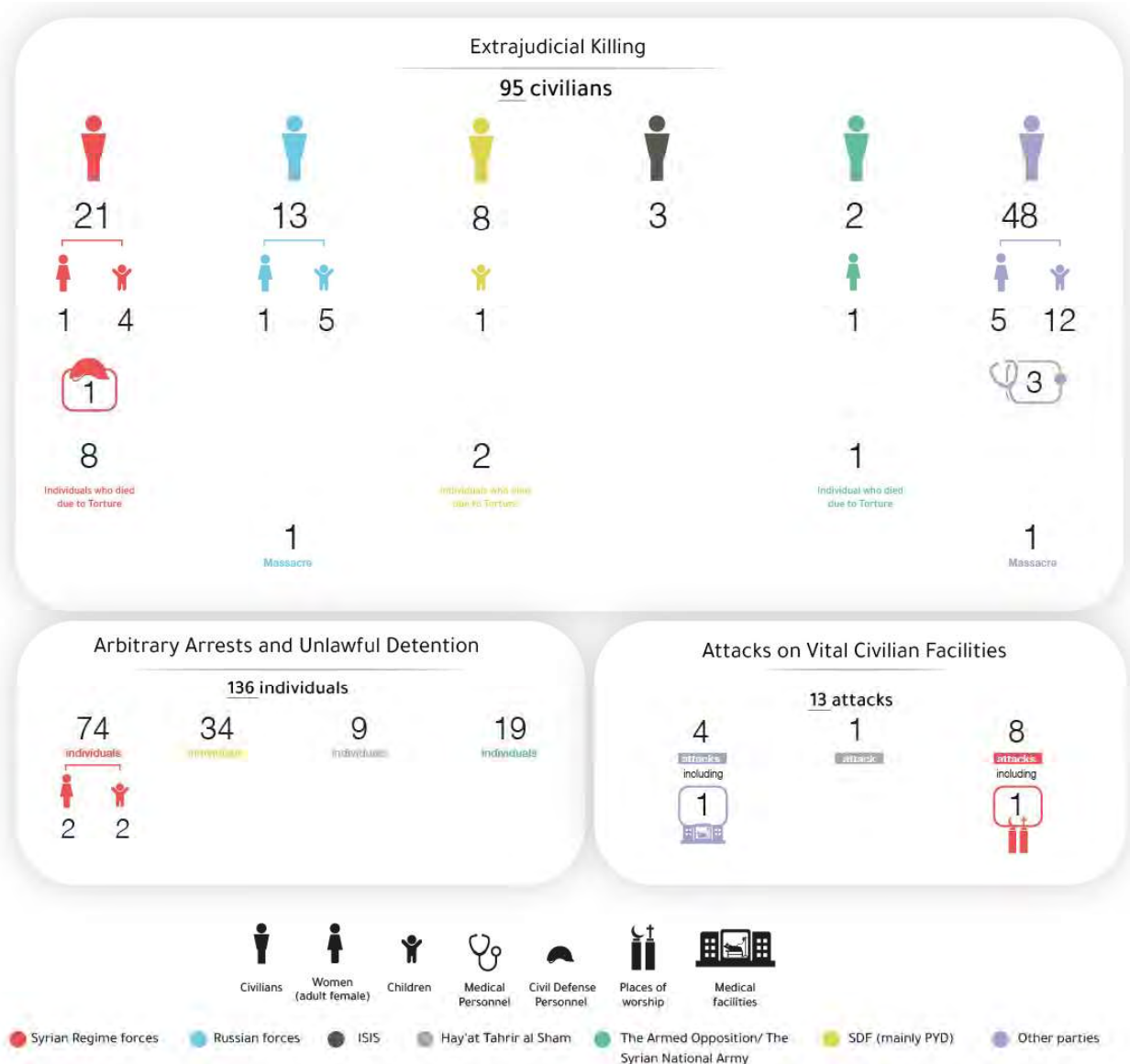
In June, the Syrian Network for Human Rights briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on [six cases of enforced disappearance](#).

### III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in the First Half of 2021:

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in the first half of 2021 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.



The report also outlines what SNHR documented in June 2021.



## A. Extrajudicial killing:

### 1. In the first half of 2021:

In the first half of 2021, SNHR documented the deaths of 723 civilians, including 145 children and 79 women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom were killed at the hands of other parties; among the victims were four medical personnel and two Civil Defense personnel. We also documented the deaths of 59 individuals due to torture, in addition to documenting at least 10 massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

**A. The main parties:**

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)<sup>4</sup>** : 115 civilians, including 22 children and 14 women.
- **Russian forces:** 20 civilians, including five children and one woman.
- **ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State')**: Seven civilians.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham<sup>5</sup>** : Nine civilians, including four children.
- **The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:** Seven civilians, including two women.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** 42 civilians, including seven children and one woman.
- **US-led Coalition forces:** One civilian.

**B. Other parties:**

We documented the deaths of 522 civilians, including 107 children and 61 women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

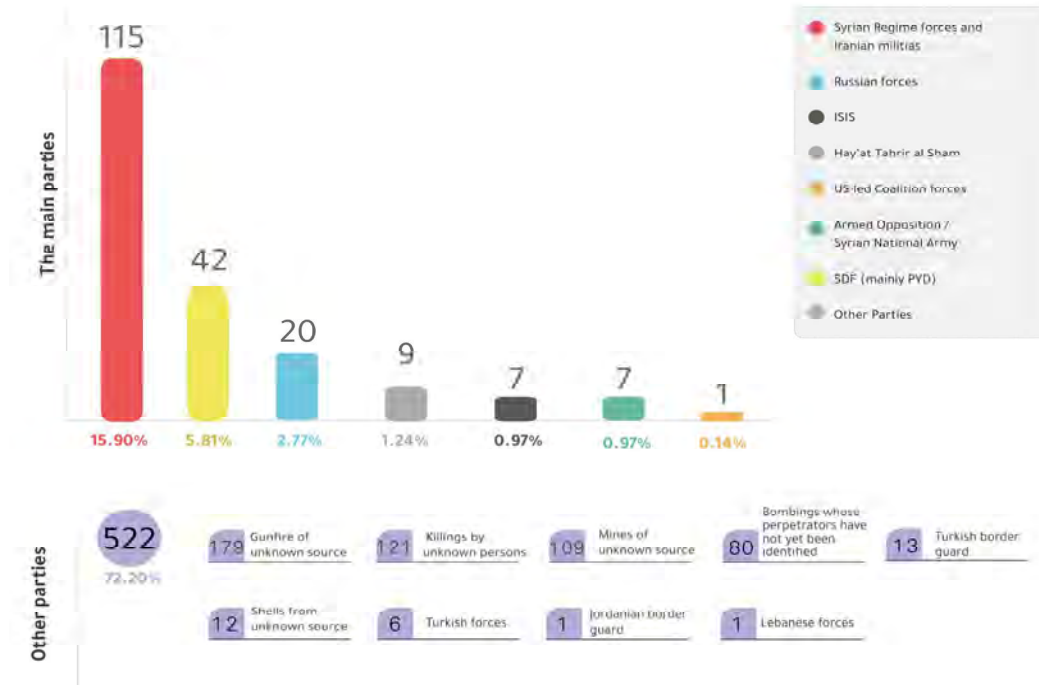
- Gunfire of unknown source: 179 civilians, including 10 children and 12 women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 80 civilians, including 32 children and five women.
- Killings by unknown persons: 121 civilians, including 18 children and 15 women.
- Landmines of unknown source: 109 civilians, including 39 children and 21 women.
- Shells from unknown source: 12 civilians, including one child and five women.
- Turkish border guard: 13 civilians, including three children and two women.
- Lebanese forces: One civilian.
- Jordanian border guard: One civilian.
- Turkish forces: Six civilians, including four children and one woman.

<sup>4</sup> We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in turn under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria.

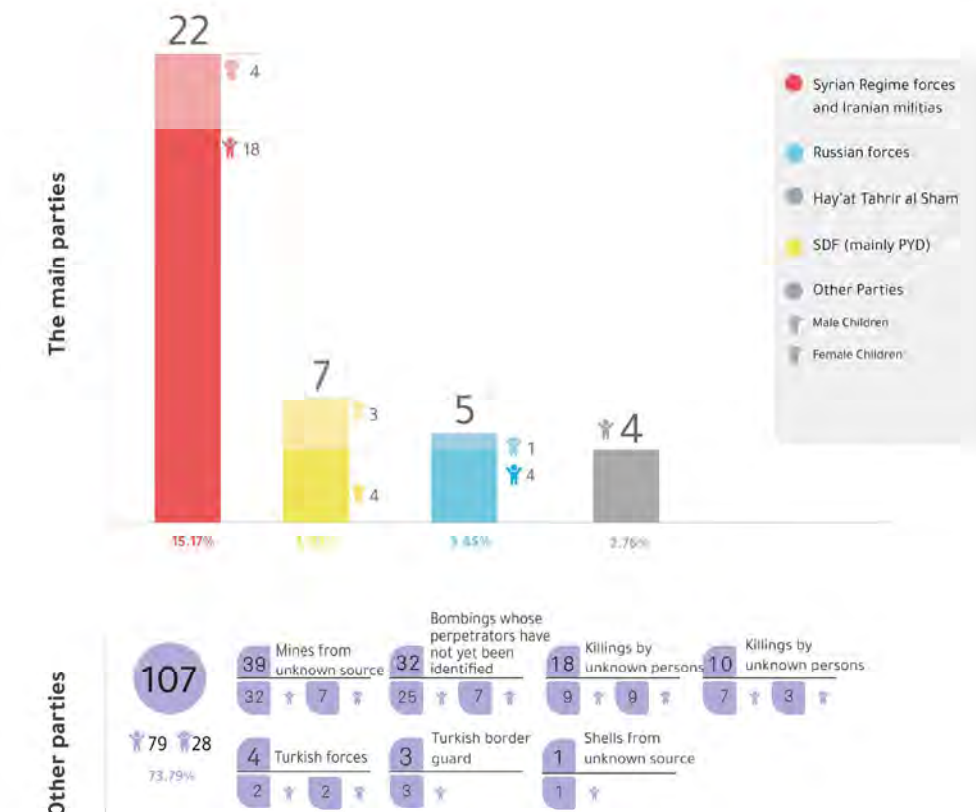
Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

<sup>5</sup> The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

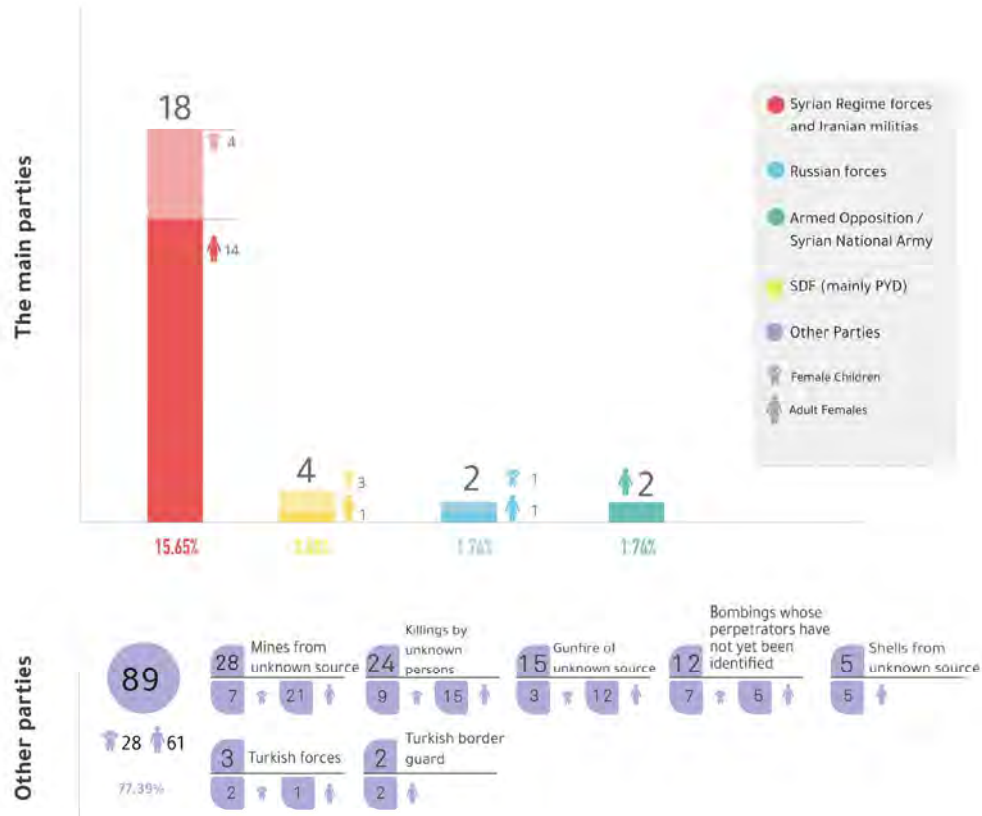
The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria we documented in the first half of 2021, which reached 723 in total, was distributed as follows:



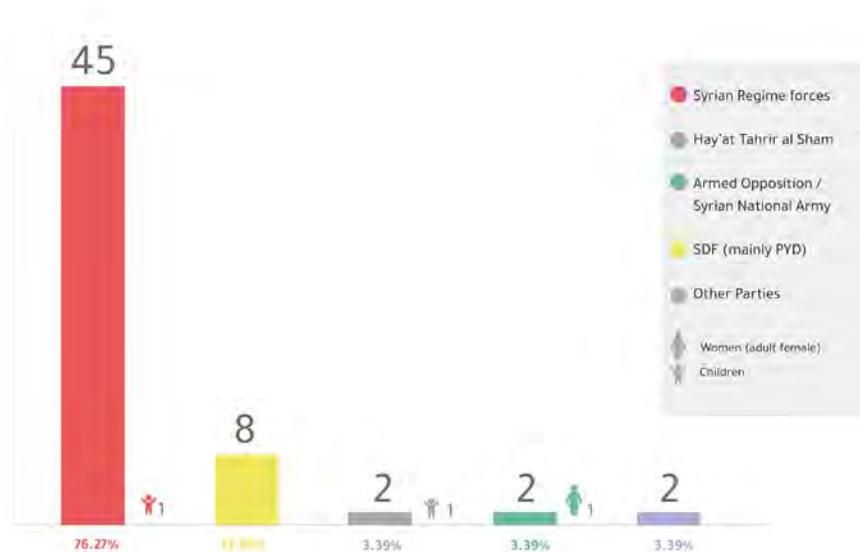
The death toll of child victims whose deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria we documented in the first half of 2021, which reached 145 children in total, was distributed as follows:



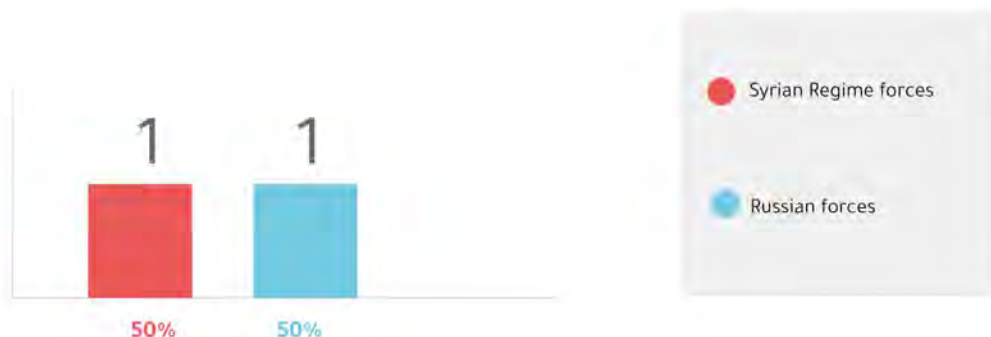
The death toll of female victims whose deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria we documented in the first half of 2021, which reached 115 females in total, was distributed as follows:



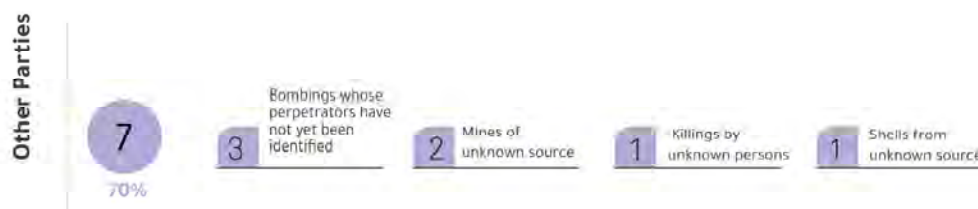
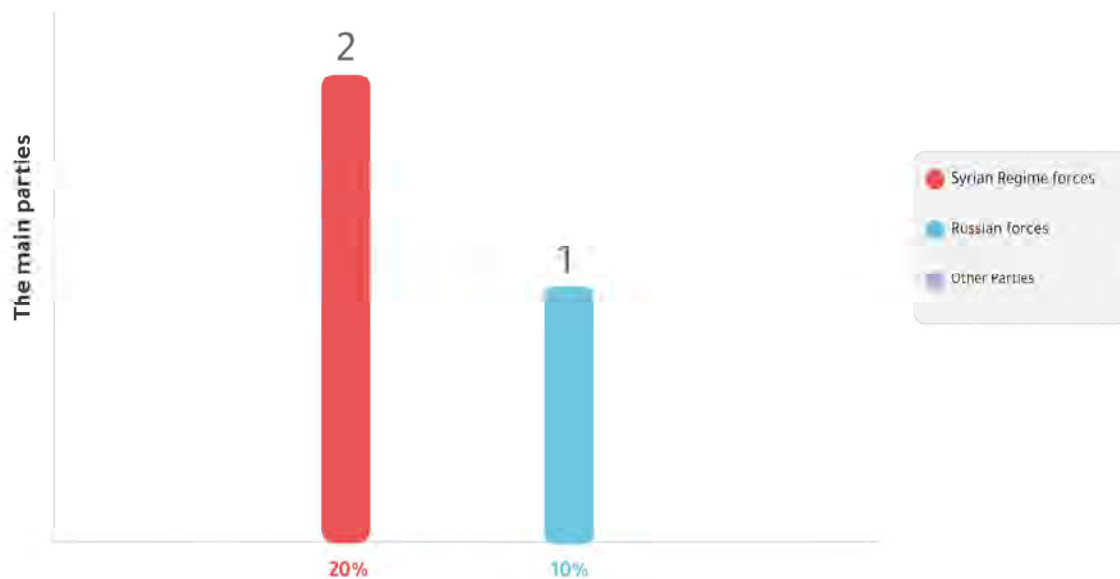
The death toll of victims whose deaths by torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria we documented in the first half of 2021, which reached 59 individuals in total, was distributed as follows:



We documented the deaths of two Civil Defense personnel in the first half of 2021, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:



The record of massacres we documented in the first half of 2021, which numbered 10 in total, was distributed according to the perpetrators among the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:



## 2. In June 2021:

In June 2021, SNHR documented the deaths of 95 civilians, including 22 children and eight women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom were killed at the hands of other parties; among the victims were three medical personnel and one Civil Defense worker. We also documented 11 individuals who died due to torture. We also recorded at least two massacres.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

### A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)/ Russian forces:** 21 civilians, including four children and one woman.
- **Russian forces:** 13 civilians, including five children and one woman.
- **ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'):** Three civilians.
- **The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:** Two civilians, including one woman.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** Eight civilians, including one child.

### B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 48 civilians, including 12 children and five women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown source: Two civilians.
- Gunfire of unknown source: 21 civilians, including two children.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 10 civilians, including six children.
- Killings by unknown persons: Two children.
- Shells from unknown source: 12 civilians, including one child and five women.
- Turkish forces: One child.

## B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

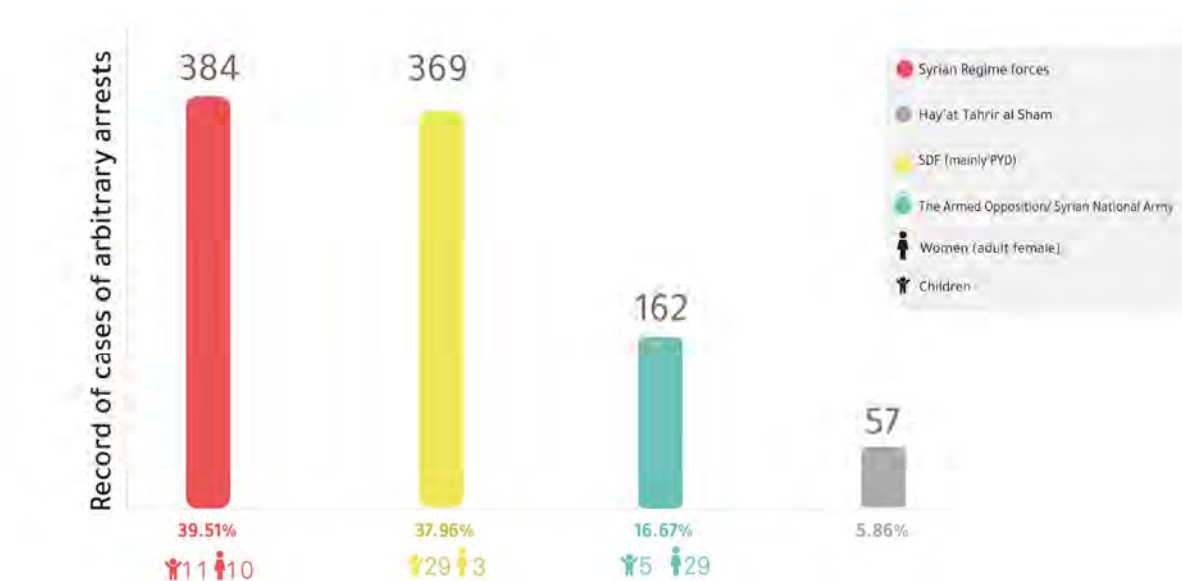
### 1. In the first half of 2021:

In the first half of 2021, SNHR documented at least 972 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 45 children and 42 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Daraa, Deir Ez-Zour, then Aleppo. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 384, including 11 children and 10 women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** 57.
- **The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:** 162, including five children and 29 women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 369, including 29 children and three women.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests in the first half of 2021, which reached 972 in total, was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:



## 2. In June 2021:

In June 2021, SNHR documented at least 136 cases of arbitrary arrests, including two children and two women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs, then Daraa.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 74, including two children and two women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** Nine.
- **The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:** 19.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 34.

### **C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:**

#### **1. In the first half of 2021:**

In the first half of 2021, SNHR documented at least 53 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

Among these attacks, we documented five on educational facilities, five on medical facilities and four others were on places of worship.

These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

#### **A. The main parties:**

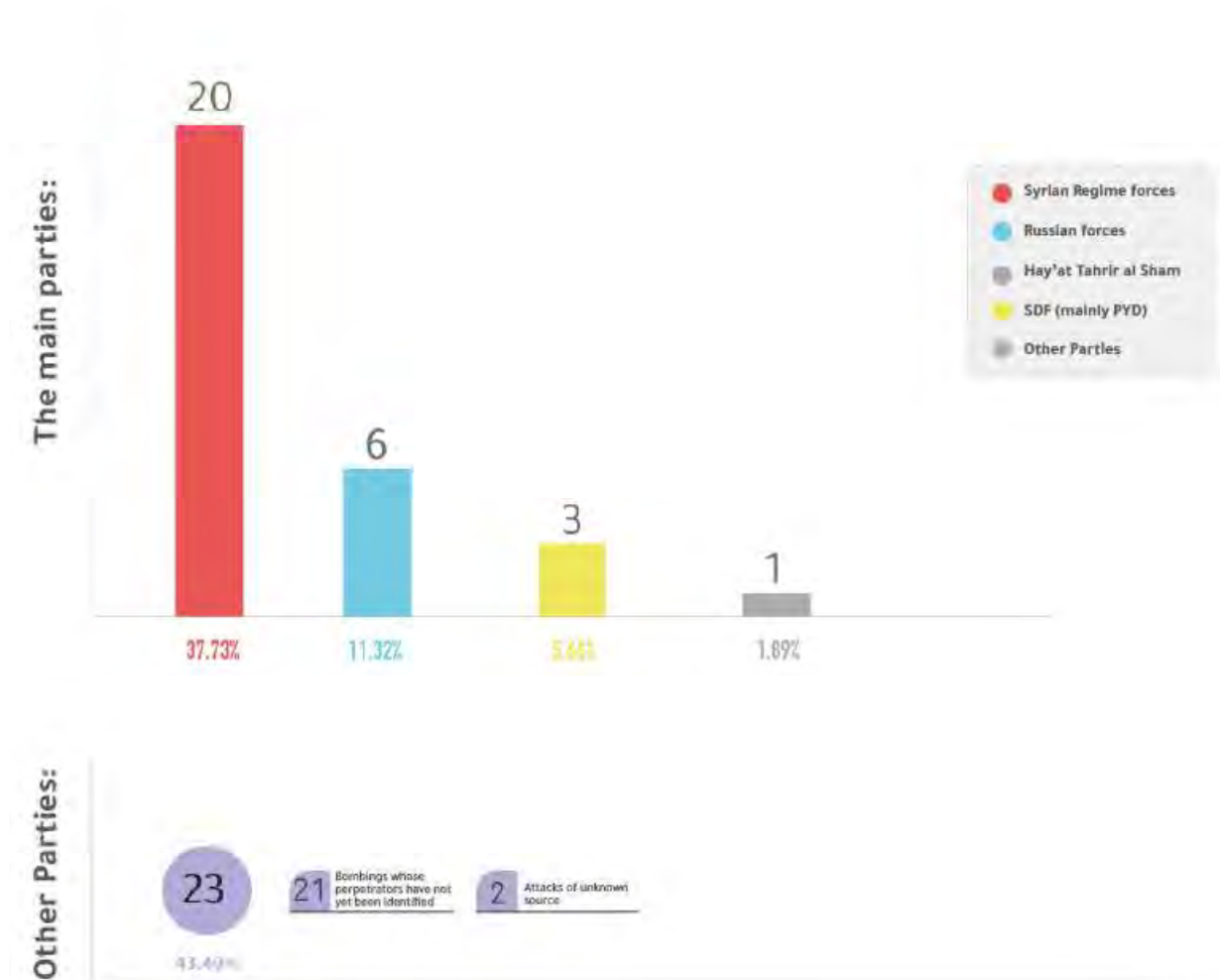
- **Syrian Regime forces:** 20, including four incidents which are still under investigation, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for these four attacks being either Syrian regime forces or Russian Forces.
- **Russian forces:** Six.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** One.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** Three.

#### **B. Other parties:**

Other parties committed 23 incidents, which were distributed as follows:

- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 21.
- Attacks whose sources have not yet been identified: Two attacks which are still under investigation, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for these two attacks are either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces.

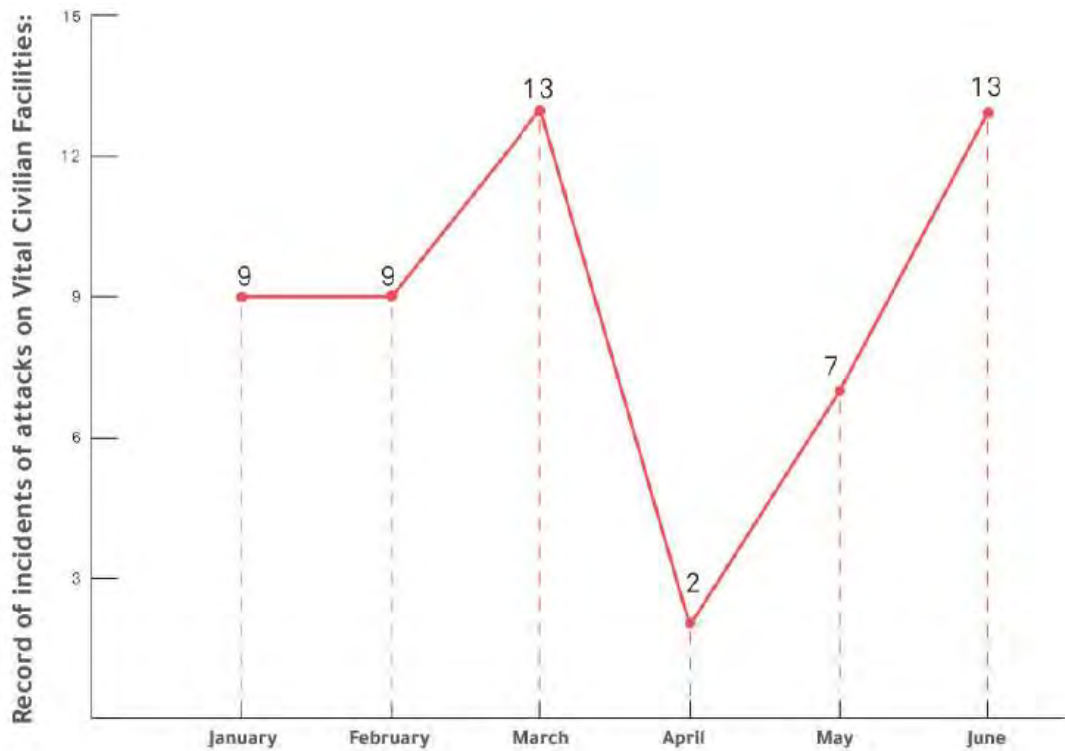
The record of attacks on vital civilian facilities carried out at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, which we documented in the first half of 2021, which reached 53 in total, was distributed as follows:



The record of attacks on vital civilian facilities was distributed according to the perpetrator parties in the first half of 2021 as follows:

| Attacked Facility \ Perpetrator Party  | Syrian Regime forces | Russian forces | Hay'at Tahrir al Sham | Syrian Democratic Forces | Other parties                                            |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                      |                |                       |                          | Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified | Attacks whose sources have not yet been identified |
| Places of Worship                      |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Mosques                                | 4                    |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Vital Educational Facilities           |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Schools                                | 3                    |                |                       |                          | 2                                                        |                                                    |
| Vital Medical Facilities               |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Medical Facilities                     | 1                    |                |                       | 2                        | 1                                                        | 1                                                  |
| Ambulances                             | 1                    |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Vital Cultural Facilities              |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Museums                                |                      |                | 1                     |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Communal Facilities                    |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Markets                                | 1                    | 1              |                       |                          | 10                                                       |                                                    |
| Infrastructure                         |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Power stations and energy facilities   |                      | 1              |                       |                          | 2                                                        |                                                    |
| Civil Defense Centers                  | 3                    | 2              |                       |                          |                                                          | 1                                                  |
| Water facilities and related resources | 3                    |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Official Headquarters                  | 1                    |                |                       |                          | 1                                                        |                                                    |
| Bakeries                               |                      |                |                       |                          | 1                                                        |                                                    |
| Domestic animal farms                  |                      | 1              |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| Industrial facilities                  | 2                    | 1              |                       |                          | 3                                                        |                                                    |
| Civil society organizations            |                      |                |                       | 1                        |                                                          |                                                    |
| IDP Camps                              |                      |                |                       |                          |                                                          |                                                    |
| IDP camps                              | 1                    |                |                       |                          | 1                                                        |                                                    |
| Total                                  | 20                   | 6              | 1                     | 3                        | 21                                                       | 2                                                  |

The record of attacks on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2021 was distributed monthly as follows:



The chart shows that the months of March and June saw the highest number of attacks on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2021, with 13 attacks in each of these two months. We note that the largest proportion of these incidents were the result of bombings that took place in Aleppo governorate and areas of northeast Syria, and that Syrian-Russian alliance forces bear a large proportion of the responsibility for these attacks, after repeatedly violating the ceasefire in the Idlib region.

## **2. In June 2021:**

In June 2021, SNHR documented at least 13 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, eight of them at the hands of Syrian regime forces, which were concentrated in the governorates of Idlib and Hama.

Among these attacks, we documented one on a medical facility and one on a place of worship. These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

**A. The main parties:**

- Syrian Regime forces: Eight, including four incidents which are still under investigation, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for these four attacks being either Syrian regime forces or Russian forces.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: One.

**B. Other parties:**

Other parties committed four incidents, which were distributed as follows:

- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: Two.
- Attacks whose sources have not yet been identified: Two attacks which are still under investigation, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for these two attacks being either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces.

The record of attacks documented in June 2021 on vital civilian facilities was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

| Attacked Facility \ Perpetrator Party  | Syrian Regime forces | Hay'at Tahrir al Sham | Other parties                                            |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                        |                      |                       | Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified | Attacks whose sources have not yet been identified |
| Places of Worship                      |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Mosques                                | 1                    |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Vital Medical Facilities               |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Medical Facilities                     |                      |                       |                                                          | 1                                                  |
| Vital Cultural Facilities              |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Museums                                |                      | 1                     |                                                          |                                                    |
| Communal Facilities                    |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Markets                                |                      |                       | 2                                                        |                                                    |
| Infrastructure                         |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Civil Defense Centers                  | 3                    |                       |                                                          | 1                                                  |
| Water facilities and related resources | 2                    |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Official Headquarters                  | 1                    |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| IDP Camps                              |                      |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| IDP camps                              | 1                    |                       |                                                          |                                                    |
| Total                                  | 8                    | 1                     | 2                                                        | 2                                                  |

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in June:

On Monday, June 7, 2021, a suicide/ forced suicide bomber blew himself up with an explosive belt in the middle of [al Ra'ie](#) town's market in the northeastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, resulting in casualties, [in addition](#) to causing [severe material damage](#) to a [number of shops](#). SNHR is still trying to contact witnesses and survivors to obtain more details of the incident. Al Ra'ie town was under the control of Syrian National Army forces at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at around 07:15 local time, Syrian regime artillery forces, stationed near Saraqeb city in the east of Idlib governorate, [fired](#) a shell at al Abrar IDP Camp near al Sawaghiya village in the northern suburbs of the governorate. [The shell](#) struck [a tent serving as a mosque](#) in [the camp](#), which [was adjacent](#) to another tent used as a school, resulting in severe material damage to both tents, in addition to moderate material damage to a number of other tents around them. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction caused by a ground attack by Syrian regime forces on al Abrar IDP Camp in the north of Idlib governorate - June 9, 2021

On Thursday, June 11, 2021, gunmen from an Uzbek faction of non-Syrian nationals affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham stormed [the Idlib National Museum](#) in Idlib city, [destroying seven statues on a mural in the museum which they categorized as 'idols'](#), after a number of photos appeared showing school students with this mural. SNHR notes that the historical statues which were destroyed by the HTS personnel are registered on the World Heritage List managed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Idlib city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. SNHR issued [a statement](#) condemning this attack.

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, [al Shefaa Hospital](#), located in Villas Street in the center of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, and the surrounding area, were subject to a ground attack in which the attackers used several shells whose source has not yet been identified up to the time of publication; the primary parties suspected of responsibility for the attack are either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces, with the attack emanating from an area controlled by them.

[The attack](#) resulted in [a massacre](#), [in addition](#) to inflicting severe destruction on the hospital building, and significant material damage to its equipment and to [a Civil Defense ambulance](#), putting the hospital out of service.

SNHR further notes that an attack was launched on Afrin city one hour before the hospital and the surrounding areas in the city came under attack, with this earlier bombardment resulting in deaths and injuries, who had been taken to al Shefaa hospital for treatment before the attack on the hospital took place.

We note that al Shefaa hospital, which is operated by [the Syrian American Medical Society \(SAMS\)](#), is [considered](#) to be [one of the biggest](#) hospitals in [north Syria](#), providing [health services](#) for about 15,000 people per month. Up to the [present moment](#), we are unable to identify the party responsible for this attack. Afrin city was under the control of Syrian National Army forces at the time of the incident.



Destruction caused by a ground attack, whose source has not yet been identified, on al Shefaa hospital in Afrin city, Aleppo - June 12, 2021

On Saturday, June 19, 2021, the Civil Defense center in [Qastoun](#) village in the western suburbs of Hama governorate was subjected to a ground attack, whose source has not yet been identified, using several shells; the primary parties suspected of responsibility for the attack are either Syrian regime forces or Russian Forces, with the attack emanating from an area controlled by them. The investigation process is still underway to identify the party responsible for the shelling. The shelling caused the death of a Civil Defense worker, and the injury of three other Civil Defense workers, [in addition](#) to [completely destroying](#) the [center's structure](#) and causing moderate material damage to two of the vehicles belonging to the Civil Defense organization (one fire truck and one service car). As a result, the center has been put out of service. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. The Civil Defense Organization published [a statement](#) about the incident on its official website.



On Wednesday, June 23, 2021, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at Kansafra village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate located near the contact lines, with one of the shells landing on the Kansafra al Kabir Mosque in the center of the village, [causing severe material damage to the mosque's structure](#). The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

#### **D. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:**

##### **1. In the first half of 2021:**

SNHR documented at least one cluster munition attack in the first half of 2021, which was a ground attack carried out by Russian forces targeting Idlib governorate, resulting in the death of a Civil Defense worker.

##### **1. In June 2021:**

The Syrian Network for Human Rights was unable to document any indiscriminate attacks or attacks using outlawed weapons in June.

## IV. Attachments:

[\(1\) Extrajudicial Killing Claims the Lives of 723 Civilians in Syria in the First Half of 2021](#)

[\(2\) 972 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest/ Detention Documented in the First Half of 2021, Including 45 Children and 42 Women](#)

## V. Conclusions and Recommendations:

### Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime or Russian forces prior to any attack under the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks lead to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

### **Recommendations:**

#### **UN Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “ all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states’ veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions and landmines in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced person camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

#### **International Community**

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing and by lifting sieges, as well as by increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.

- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan have proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

#### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.

#### **Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)**

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.

#### **International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)**

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

#### **The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria**

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.

#### **The Syrian regime**

- markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.

Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

**The Russian regime**

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.

**The Coalition (US-led coalition and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

**The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army**

- The Armed Opposition/ the Syrian National Army must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

**Humanitarian Organizations**

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.
- Provide protected facilities and vehicles, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with distinctive signs that can be distinguished from long distances.

**Acknowledgments**

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.



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