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Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November 2023

**The ICJ Issues an Order Indicating Provisional
Measures Against the Syrian Regime and Demanding
that the Regime Prevent Torture**

Tuesday 05 December 2023

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 have been at the forefront of the crimes endured by the country's people for over a decade. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for approximately the first seven months of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, perpetrating their own share of human rights violations against Syrians. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has been documenting human rights violations to the best of our abilities since the earliest days of the uprising in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, as the numbers of human rights violations rose sharply, our team was confronted by the need to issue periodic monthly reports, in order to highlight the continued suffering of the Syrian people. At that stage, we began releasing eight reports each month, and, in tandem with this, created a large and still growing database which now houses the details of hundreds of thousands of incidents sorted into the various categories of violations that have emerged during our documentation work.

By the end of 2018, however, the level of violence had fallen to some degree, which prompted another change in our reporting strategy. At this point, we opted for releasing one monthly report summarizing the most notable human rights violations in Syria that we were able to document in the previous month. As such, this latest report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in November 2023. In this report, we summarize the civilian deaths we have documented in this period at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces, as well as providing details of the numbers of arrests and enforced disappearances. The report also sheds light on the use of unlawful weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and incendiary ammunition), as well as attacks on civilian objects documented by SNHR's team during last month. For a detailed explanation of our [methodology](#), please visit the following link.

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 of these events.



II. Brief Summary of November's Most Notable Developments

Bombings and military operations

November saw the continuation of the Syrian regime's ground attacks on **northwestern Syria**, albeit at a significantly lower rate than the two previous months, especially October. These attacks were concentrated in southern and eastern rural Idlib, western rural Aleppo, and Sahl al-Ghab in western rural Hama, all areas close to the dividing lines. On November 7, for instance, regime forces fired anti-armor rockets at Taftanaz in eastern Idlib, [killing a civilian](#). On November 10, [Syrian regime artillery forces](#) fired a mortar shell at the western outskirts of Afis village in eastern Idlib, injuring three civilians and damaging the Afis School for Elementary Education. Additionally, we noticed that many ground regime attacks on northwestern Syria targeted civilians while they were harvesting olives on their agricultural lands during the olive season, killing and injuring dozens. One such attack took place on November 2, when Syrian regime artillery attacks fired a shell at a field in the area between the two villages of Tadil and Kafr Ta'al in western Aleppo, [killing one woman and injuring another, as well as injuring an elderly man](#) all of whom were harvesting olives at the time. The deadliest attack took place on November 25, when regime forces committed [a massacre](#) of 10 civilians, including seven children and one woman, by firing an artillery shell at agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in southern Idlib, while families were harvesting olives there.

We also documented the killing of [two civilians](#), one of them [a child](#), by regime snipers in November. The snipers were targeting civilians in the areas under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) in eastern rural Aleppo governorate.



👁️ Civilian victims killed in a massacre by Syrian regime forces who fired an artillery shell at people harvesting olives on agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in southern rural Idlib November 25, 2023 ©SNHR

Meanwhile, the number of Russian attacks targeting northwestern Syria fell in November compared to October. In November, Russian attacks were concentrated on areas close to the dividing lines in southern rural Idlib and rural Latakia, causing only material damages with no casualties recorded.

Elsewhere, the peaceful civilian demonstrations in regime-controlled areas continued in November for the fourth consecutive month, mostly in the regime-controlled governorate of Suwayda in **southern Syria**. The protestors continued to condemn Bashar Assad for the dire state of the country, and to call for the downfall of the regime. These protests are continuing at a time of multiple, unprecedented and increasingly dire economic, living, and human rights crises in Syria. For instance, a Syrian state employee currently earns an average monthly salary of no more than approximately \$10, which is a natural outcome of the Syrian regime's oppressive policies since March 2011.

Syrian regime forces were also responsible for civilian deaths in **northeastern Syria** this month. On November 6, regime artillery forces fired a mortar shell at al-Hawayej town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour, which is under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), [killing one woman and one child](#). On November 24, Syrian regime's National Defense [shot a civilian dead](#) as he was trying to cross the Euphrates River from Darnaj town to al-Ashara city.

The SDF also killed many civilians in northeastern Syria in November, whether in the territories under their own control or in regime-held areas. On November 1, SDF personnel stationed in al-Shnan village in eastern Deir Ez-Zour shot and [killed a civilian](#) in al-Qouriya city on the opposite bank of the Euphrates River. On November 5, a four-year-old girl [was killed](#) by SDF personnel manning a checkpoint in Abu Hamam town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour when they opened fire indiscriminately after the checkpoint was attacked by unidentified gunmen. On November 6, SDF artillery forces fired mortar shells at al-Mayadeen city in eastern Deir Ez-Zour, [killing two civilians](#). On November 9, [a civilian was killed](#) when SDF personnel opened fire indiscriminately at civilians' houses in the vicinity of al-Wehda al-Irshadiya in al-Andahi village in northern Deir Ez-Zour.

Meanwhile, clashes also continued between the Deir Ez-Zour Military Council's forces and the SDF in Deir Ez-Zour in November, with the fighting lasting since it first broke out on August 27. As in October, however, these clashes were more sporadic than they had been at first, and were geographically limited to eastern Deir Ez-Zour.

November also saw three civilians, including a child and a woman, [killed by landmine explosions](#). This brings the total number of victims killed by landmines in Syria since the beginning of 2023 to 104, including 26 children and nine women. On November 4, [a woman was killed](#) by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source near her home village of al-Mahsanli, affiliated with Manbij subdistrict, in eastern Aleppo. On November 5, [a civilian was killed](#) by a landmine of unidentified source on the southern outskirts of Deir Senbul in southern Idlib.

November also saw more [assassinations of civilians](#) at the hands of unidentified assailants across Syria, mostly in the governorates of Suwayda, Daraa, and Deir Ez-Zour.

On November 9, the Syrian regime's Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) [reported](#) that the Israeli Air Force (IAF) had carried out an attack on military sites associated with regime forces in the southern sector, causing material damage. On November 17, SANA reported, the IAF [carried out another missile attack](#) on multiple sites in the vicinity of Damascus city. SANA also reported a third Israeli missile attack that [took place on November 22](#), targeting multiple sites in Rural Damascus or 'Rif Dimshaq', with the state news agency further claiming that the Syrian regime's air defense system had shot down one of the missiles. On November 26, the IAF [targeted Damascus International Airport](#) as well as multiple locations in Rural Damascus governorate, causing damage and rendering the airport temporarily out of commission.

Living and Security Conditions

In November, economic, living, and security conditions, as well as public services, continued to deteriorate across all sectors in areas under Syrian regime control, with a particularly sharp decline seen in the services sector. Regarding the power crisis specifically, the regime government continues to implement a rationing policy, with the power crisis significantly worsening in November, [which saw power outages lasting for over eight hours for every one hour of electricity provided](#). The further intensification of the rationing policy is a result of the limited imports of gas, with around 1.5 million cubic meters per day currently being imported, although demand for and consumption of electricity are soaring due to the increasingly cold weather, according to Ghassan al-Zamel, the Minister of Electricity in the Syrian regime's government as reported by the [pro-regime al-Watan Newspaper](#) on November 27. Similarly, the [water supply continues to be scarce in many areas](#) because of the power rationing policy and inadequate water pumping facilities.

Meanwhile, civilians in regime areas are still struggling with price increases for all types of goods, particularly for [foodstuff, vegetables, and red meat](#). As the olive season begins, the [price of one kilogram of olives ranged](#) from 15,000-20,000 Syrian pounds (SYP), while one kilogram of olive oil costs 70,000-85,000 SYP. On November 6, [the Syrian regime's Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection](#) set the price of one bag of non-subsidized bread (i.e., bought without the use of the smart card) at 3,000 SYP, with each bag containing about 1.1 kilograms of bread. On November 14, the [pro-regime Tishreen Newspaper](#) reported that the increasing costs of agricultural supplies had driven many farmers to rent out (Tadmeen in Arabic) their lands since they cannot afford the costs of farming it on their own. [On November 27](#), the Syrian regime's Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection published a price gazette, announcing new prices for a number of fuel types: this set the prices of 95 octane at 12,770 SYP per liter, 'free' diesel at 11,425 SYP per liter, fuel at 7,049,700 SYP per ton, and liquefied gas, known as 'dukma', at 10,273,365 SYP per ton. Naturally, the increase in fuel prices led to further price increases for all kinds of other goods, due to the increase in manufacturing and transportation costs.

Also in November, the exchange rates for the Syrian Pound continued to nosedive. As of the last week of November, one US dollar (USD) equals 13,800 SYP, an increase from 13,650 SYP at the end of October, according to the website, [sp-today.com](#). Naturally, the plunging value of the Syrian Pound caused further price rises, and led to the absence of many goods from supermarket shelves.

Moreover, Syrian citizens living in areas that saw intense hostilities are living in severely dilapidated buildings riven with dangerous cracks as a result of bombing, which could collapse on top of their residents at any moment due to the lack of resources and investment in structural repairs. One such incident happened on November 14 when a severely damaged five-story residential building near al-Zubair Mosque in al-Tadamun neighborhood in southern Damascus city, two of whose stories were still inhabited, [collapsed](#), injuring 14 people.

In **northwestern Syria**, meanwhile, civilians' already severe suffering continues to worsen under deteriorating economic and living conditions in parallel with rising prices for food and grocery supplies, all intensified by the people's waning purchasing power due to widespread unemployment and poverty, especially in those areas housing internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, with wages for those in work in these areas also continuing to decline. Further exacerbating the dire living situation has been the declining value of the Turkish Lira (TRY), which has plummeted to an exchange rate of 28 TRY to 1 USD. Regarding services, many areas suffered water outages, as the fragile mains water network was adversely affected by frequent power outages.

Moreover, a number of SDF-controlled areas in eastern rural Aleppo suffered a fuel outage, which adversely affected the living situation for many civilians in the areas. Since November 20, military checkpoints manned by personnel from the Syrian regime's Fourth Division have been blocking the entry of food and fuel supplies to the SDF-controlled al-Shahba area in northern Aleppo governorate, resulting in a number of disastrous consequences, such as effectively suspending the functioning of bakeries and main hospitals in the areas, and exacerbating the already horrendous suffering of these areas' residents especially those in camps. This siege continues as of this writing.

The situation in **northeastern Syria** remains similarly dire, with worsening living and security conditions. Prices of food, fuel and other essential commodities in the region continue to rise due to the controlling forces' failure to regulate the market. The situation further deteriorated in areas in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate on the heels of the clashes in September, which continued, though more sporadically, in October and November. Overall, these clashes made it even more difficult for civilians in these areas to secure water and day-to-day essential requirements such as food and medication.

Forced displacement

The suffering of IDPs **in northwestern Syria** also continued to worsen in November in relation to both living conditions and the ongoing humanitarian crisis, with the humanitarian needs of millions of IDPs reaching unprecedented levels. The crisis is further intensified by the ever-increasing prices, especially of food supplies, on one hand, and by widespread unemployment and virtually non-existent purchasing power among residents of the area on the other.

We also documented more fires in November. [On November 2](#), a fire of unidentified cause broke out at an irregular camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near Ma'aret Misreen city in northern Idlib, with the blaze destroying a tent and its contents. [On November 17](#), a fire, caused by the misuse of a cooking oven, broke out in temporary residential structures in an IDP Camp, affiliated with al-Wadihi Camp near Deir Hassan town in northern Idlib, heavily damaging one of the residences and its contents.

On November 19, [about 22 IDPs camps](#) in 10 areas in rural Idlib and Aleppo were affected by the heavy rains across northwestern Syria. In total, 140 tents and temporary residential structures housing over 200 families were affected. In northern and eastern rural Aleppo, the camps of al-Nasr, al-Jesr, Ali bin Abe Taleb, Shmarin, al-Qadi, Zoughara, and the informal camps or 'gatherings' of al-Kousa village, al-Waha, al-Jabal, Ataa Residential Gathering, and Zoughara al-Jadida were affected, while in rural Idlib governorate the camps of Zamzam, al-Jneina, al-Arabiya, Reef Halab al-Janoubi, al-Hamza, al-Wdeihi, al-Khayrat, Tal al-Karama, and Shahranaaz were similarly adversely affected. The damage ranged from tents collapsing to water leaking into tents or temporary residential structures, while sizeable water channels and pools formed on the roads, making movement in these areas more difficult for both pedestrians and vehicles.

On November 13, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [revealed](#) that the UN and the Syrian regime had reached an agreement to extend the Syrian regime's permission for the use of Bab al-Salam and al-Ra'ie crossing to deliver cross-border humanitarian assistance to northwestern Syria by three months (until February 13, 2024). The understanding between the OCHA and the regime first became apparent following the February 6 earthquakes that devastated northwestern Syria. The OCHA further revealed that 4,200 trucks carrying humanitarian aid have crossed from Türkiye to northwestern Syria via the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salama, and al-Ra'ie crossings since the beginning of 2023.

In regard to **al-Hawl IDPs Camp**¹ in northeastern Syria, meanwhile, 186 Iraqi families (comprising around 736 individuals in all) were [repatriated](#) from the camp to Iraq on November 12.

In **al-Rukban IDPs Camp**,² the already terrible suffering of residents further worsened as the winter season arrived amid an almost complete lack of humanitarian assistance. The camp's residents of the camp, as well as everyone within the 55-km zone within which the camp is located, are desperately trying to shield themselves from the freezing weather in light of rising prices of heating supplies. The cost of one kilogram of firewood has leapt to 3,500 SYP from last year's 850 SYP, while one liter of heating diesel now costs now 16,000 SYP, a sharp increase on 6,000 SYP last year. It must be reiterated that the situation in the camp is extremely dire on all levels.

In regard to refugees and asylum seekers, on November 2, [Associated Press \(AP\)](#) reported a statement by Liza Abou Khaled, the spokesperson for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)'s Office in Lebanon, in which she announced that the UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) would have to reduce the number of families receiving cash assistance in Lebanon in 2024 by 88,000, citing "significant funding reductions." The spokesperson added that the programs that provided additional assistance for some families in the winter to cover the costs of heating fuel will also be halted. "That aid was critical for vulnerable families to survive the winter season." Abou Khaled noted.

1. Located near al-Hawl town in eastern rural Hasaka governorate, al-Hawl IDPs Camp is under the control of the SDF.

2. Located on the Syrian-Jordanian borders in eastern Homs governorate, al-Rukban IDPs Camp is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Political and human rights situation

On October 27, the [UN Secretary-General submitted his fourth report on children and armed conflicts in Syria](#) to the UN Security Council. The report, which documents the effects of the conflict on children and Syria while highlighting patterns and trends of violations in the period from July 1, 2020, to September 30, 2022, reveals that the UN has verified 5,219 grave violations against 5,073 children (divided between 4,153 boys, 613 girls, and 207 children whose sex was unknown). The report revealed that the total number of violations has increased by 10 percent from the last report submitted in April 2021, which covered the period between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2022. The report further revealed that “recruitment and use of children was the most prevalent verified violation (2,990), followed by killing and maiming of children (1,891) and the abduction of children (222).”

On November 1, the US Embassy in Syria published a post on X (formerly Twitter) [condemning](#) the most recent attacks carried out by regime forces and Russian forces in northwestern Syria, which, the embassy noted, targeted schools, medical facilities, and an IDP Camp, leading to the displacement of over 120,000 people, killing numerous civilians. The embassy stressed, “Neither the Assad regime nor Russia has even tried to offer a plausible explanation for these horrors”.

On November 1, the OCHA released a statement entitled, [‘The Cost of Inaction’, As of October 2023](#), in which it revealed that there are still about 6.8 million IDPs in Syria who have little hope of returning to their original homes, while 90 percent of Syria’s population now lives under the poverty line. The report further revealed that about 30,103 children in Syria suffer from severe/acute malnutrition, while a total of 12.1 million individuals are food-insecure. Finally, the statement noted that about 2.4 million children, nearly half of all school-aged children in Syria, are currently out of school.

On November 2, Jordan’s Anti-Narcotics Department [revealed](#) that the Jordanian Border Guard has intercepted a drone carrying narcotics coming from Syria in the eastern military area. The drone, according to the Department, was carrying quantities of methamphetamine.

On November 2, [ReliefWeb](#)³ published the ‘Whole of Syria Cholera Outbreak Situation Report No. 20’ prepared by World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, and originally published by the OCHA on October 23. The report revealed that, between August 20, 2022, and September 2, 2023, a total of 189,374 suspected cases of cholera were reported across Syria, with 105 cholera-caused deaths. The report also outlined the distribution of suspected cholera cases across the country, with Idlib seeing the highest number of deaths at 75,959 suspected cases, followed by Aleppo with 63,255 suspected cases, then Raqqa with 23,032 suspected cases. The report further revealed that 28,065 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and 10 associated deaths had been recorded in IDP camps across Syria since the beginning of the outbreak up to the date of publication.

3. A service provided by the OCHA that covers developments in the humanitarian field worldwide.

On November 2, the UNHCR [published a factsheet](#) on core relief items (CRIs) in Syria for the month of October. The document stressed that the protracted crisis has adversely affected the living situation of Syrians across the country, with a worsening socioeconomic situation, breakdown of families, and widespread poverty. The factsheet added that the security situation remains volatile in some parts of the country. On the subject of CRIs, the UNHCR noted that there has been a 15 percent increase in the overall number of people who need CRIs in the year 2023, with the total reaching 5.7 million people.

On November 2, the OCHA [released a report](#) on the situation on Syria. Among various topics, the report shed light on the education situation, noting that the recent escalation in hostilities has affected the access to education of about 2.2 million school-aged children in the 2023-24 school year, which began in northwestern Syria last September. Estimates suggest that about one million of those 2.2 million children are now out of formal education. The situation is particularly dire in displacement camps, with 57 percent of all children there lacking access to elementary schools, and 80 lacking access to high schools. By October 18, the report adds, the recent offensive, by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in Idlib and western rural Aleppo, which began on October 5, had led to the displacement of 120,000 people, including 40,000 school-aged children who require educational support. Moreover, the report noted that, besides hostilities, the devastating February 6 earthquakes adversely affected 54 percent of schools in northwestern Syria, including 1,000 schools that were partially damaged in the quakes.

On November 3, SNHR [released a statement](#) noting that some of the states on the General Committee of the 28th Conference of the State Parties (CSP-28), held by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), had rejected SNHR's application to attend the Conference, which is held annually in the Hague with the objective of overseeing the implementation of the Convention, promoting the Convention's objectives, and reviewing compliance with the treaty. SNHR believes that the application was rejected by Syrian regime-supporting dictatorships.

On November 5, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released [a report](#) entitled, 'Northwest Syria: Government Uses Cluster Munitions', in which the group noted that regime forces used prohibited cluster munitions in a widespread manner in the attack carried out on October 6, 2023, which targeted Termanein town in northern Idlib, killing two civilians and injuring another nine. This attack, the report states, was part of a larger offensive by regime forces and Russian forces on northwestern Syria that began on October 5.

On November 6, REACH⁴ [announced in a brief](#) that the water crisis that has afflicted northeastern Syria for the past three years is still continuing. The brief noted that the area is still dealing with gaps in its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems. In particular, the small communities and informal areas that are isolated from water networks have limited access to safe and affordable drinking water. The brief also added that "populations often rely on untreated water sources and inadequate sewage systems, increasing the risk of waterborne disease spread."

4. Founded in 2010, REACH was established as a humanitarian initiative by IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED, and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). It aims to provide accurate data and in-depth information and analysis in the contexts of crises, disasters, and displacement.

On November 7, Doctors Without Borders (MFS), issued a statement [stressing](#) that over 2.2 million people are still living in camps in northwestern Syria after being displaced from their homes as a result of the 12-year-long conflict. The group also noted that “the camps are overcrowded, and their infrastructure is basic or even non-existent”, with over 4,400 households lacking the primary means to shelter themselves from the cold, since many tents were intended as temporary shelters which are not equipped to withstand severe winds or heavy rainfall.

On November 10, Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and Samuel Cheung, Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Coordinator, [released a joint statement](#) expressing their concern at the ongoing impact of the fatal ground and aerial attacks targeting densely populated areas, including IDP camps, in multiple areas in Idlib governorate and western Aleppo in northwestern Syria. The statement stressed that, since early-October 2023, northwestern Syria has been an epicenter of intensified attacks by regime forces and other parties to the conflict, adding that “the consequences of this surge in hostilities have been widespread, affecting more than 91 communities in southern Idlib and western Aleppo.”

On November 11, Syrian regime head Bashar Assad delivered [a speech](#) at the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit that was held to address the Israeli offensive on Palestine’s Gaza Strip, having been officially invited to attend the summit which was held in Saudi capital Riyadh. During the summit, [Assad met with some of the heads of participating states](#). SNHR stresses that the Syrian regime’s participation is a grotesque insult to the summit and to the participating states. It is patently absurd that such a summit, held to address such events, features a dictator whose own forces have been perpetrating heinous violations against the Syrian people since 2011, with most of these violations constituting crimes against humanity and war crimes. In fact, [SNHR has documented the killing of 201,110 civilians, including 22,998 children and 11,981 women \(adult females\)](#) at the hands of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime militias. In July 2020, [we released a report](#), in which we documented that no fewer than 3,196 Palestinian-Syrians have been killed at the hands of Syrian regime forces since March 2011, while outlining the numerous violations by regime forces against Palestinian refugees in Syria who chose to side with the rightful demands of the Syrian people following the outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy. It should be noted that the Syrian regime’s participation in this summit formed part of a larger effort by some states to restore relations with the Syrian regime, which should be seen as a form of support for the regime’s violations against the Syrian people under international law, since combating grave violations that constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes is a core part of the responsibilities of all world states, since they ratified the Geneva Conventions.

On November 13, commenting on the Syrian regime’s agreeing to extend the delivery of humanitarian assistance to northwestern Syria via the Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Ra’ie border crossings with Türkiye by three months, Ann Snow, the UK Special Representative for Syria, [stressed](#) that this consent-based model is not a reliable nor a sustainable system to provide aid to Syrians in need. [“The UK will continue to press for secure, transparent and predictable aid access, which is a vital element of the humanitarian response for the 4.1m people in need in north-west Syria,”](#) she added. In this context, SNHR reiterates its legal position, which it declared three years ago, that the delivery of UN humanitarian assistance does not require permission from the UN Security Council. SNHR also must highlight the imperative need to find a coordination mechanism among donor states to avoid the regime’s attempts to control and steal any aid that goes through it.

On November 14, REACH [released a report](#) regarding the “emergency” displacement that took place in the Greater Idlib region between October 3-17 as a result of the escalated offensive by Syrian-Russian alliance forces that was launched on October 5, which the report described as the “largest outburst of violence since 2019”. The report summarized the displacement and return movements resulting from the offensive in the region of northwestern Syria during that period.

On November 14, REACH released a report entitled, ‘[Camps in Northeast Syria - Humanitarian Needs](#)’ in which the group explained that there are currently 12 camps in northeastern Syria housing about 140,000 IDPs, while approximately 520,000 others are living in host communities, collective centers, and informal settlements. “[The camps primarily host populations that were displaced by conflict events since the beginning of the Syrian crisis.](#)” the report noted. Moreover, the report explained that the households living in camps are reliant on the life-saving aid provided by camps, with residents’ individual circumstances and economic conditions preventing households from being able to meet their own essential needs. Even with the level of aid currently being provided there, the report stressed, households are facing serious gaps in accessing essential goods and services.

On November 15, the member states of the UN General Assembly voted on draft resolution [A/C.3/78/L.43](#), which condemns the Syrian regime’s continuation of gross, systematic, and widespread violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The resolution was passed with a majority of 86 states voting in favor, while 15 states voted against and 73 abstained from voting.

The resolution acknowledges that the number of detainees in Syria continues to rise steadily, already exceeding 135,000. Furthermore, the resolution stresses that the documented number of child deaths has risen to 30,034, including 198 children who died due to torture. Relatedly, the resolution holds the regime responsible for the systematic use of enforced disappearance, which, as the resolution adds, constitutes a crime against humanity. The resolution also condemns the regime’s extrajudicial killings.

The resolution draws upon SNHR’s data in many of the figures and much of the information it cites. In this context, it should be noted that SNHR has been working closely with many UN bodies on Syria for nearly 13 years, including the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI), the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), the UNICEF, and many UN special rapporteurs. On November 18, SNHR released [a statement](#) welcoming this resolution.

On November 16, the Syrian regime promulgated [Legislative Decree No. 36 of 2023](#), granting amnesty for crimes committed before the date of the decree. The decree excludes political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and prisoners arrested in relation to the armed conflict. This decree was predated by three in 2022 that were released over a short period of time, with no more than a few months between each decree. On November 21, SNHR [released a report](#) analyzing some articles in the latest decree, focusing on seven main points in its texts. Those seven main points were divided between articles granting complete and partial pardons for sentences, and articles of exclusion which are related to detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in regime detention centers, as well as points that scrutinize the real motive behind the promulgation of the decree. In this context, it should be noted that the Syrian regime has not released any more than 3,696 of the child detainees in its custody and 144 adult detainees aged over 70, with

all prisoners in both these categories supposed to be included in previous amnesty decrees. Based on our investigations, we concluded in that report that Legislative Decree No. 36 of 2023 was designed specifically to ensure the release of drug users, deserters, military servicemen, and criminals who had committed misdemeanors and infractions. Meanwhile, the decree excludes all prisoners of conscience and those arrested in the context of the conflict, meaning that it is effectively devoid of legal meaning and has no real bearing on the release of detainees and forcibly disappeared persons held in regime detention centers.

On November 19, the US Department of State [revealed in an post on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) that Ethan Goldrich, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs responsible for the Levant and Syria, had met with Mustafa Yurdakul, who is in charge of Syrian affairs at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim of supporting the Syrian opposition in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254 and ensuring the continuation of border-crossing humanitarian assistance.

On November 19, the UNHCR [released a report](#) revealing that Syria's IDP population has reached 6.8 million people, 5.7 million of whom require assistance to secure shelter. The report also noted that 44 percent of the displaced people and refugees who returned to their original areas are living in substandard and/or unsound and/or inadequate shelters.

On November 20, ReliefWeb published [a report released](#) by the GPC⁵ as its latest update on its analysis of protection in northwestern Syria. The report noted that accessing rights has become increasingly challenging in light of the ongoing conflict and protection crisis that began 12 years ago, adding that, "The earthquakes in February 2023 further compounded humanitarian needs, while exacerbating existing protection risks." The report further revealed that fear is the most salient factor affecting residences' decision to move elsewhere in northwestern Syria. A recent survey showed that 82 percent of those asked expressed this fear as a primary source of concern, while one-third of respondents said they are considering moving abroad. Lastly, the report noted that 3,761,691 individuals in northwestern Syria are currently in need of protection, with the situation of 2,042,945 of these people described as 'catastrophic' and the situation of 1,618,183 described as 'extreme'.

On November 20, SNHR [released its 12th annual report](#) on violations against children in Syria in observance of World Children's Day. The report documented the killing of 30,127 children in Syria since March 2011, further revealing that 5,229 children are still detained and/or forcibly disappeared. The report further revealed that the Syrian regime's continuing bombardment has partially or completely destroyed no fewer than 1,681 schools and kindergartens. The report also shed light on the SDF's widespread child conscription practices. The report called for providing protection and assistance for forcibly displaced children, both IDPs and refugees, especially girls and for ensuring that their needs are met, particularly in regard to protection.

5. [On October 29, 2023](#)

On November 24, the EU [issued a press release](#) revealing that €15 million worth of humanitarian aid had been released for the most vulnerable groups in Syria and Lebanon. The statement reveals that €11.5 million of this had been allocated for Syria, and the remaining €3.5 million was earmarked for Lebanon. Those funds were intended to cover the needs of Syrians in Syria, as well as refugees and vulnerable persons in Lebanon, the press release said, adding that the funds “will provide food assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene support for those who need it the most.”

On November 24, the Protection Monitoring and Analysis Working Group (PMAWG),⁶ with its partners, [released a comprehensive survey-based study](#) on the camps near the dividing lines and military bases in northwestern Syria. The study was based on a survey that gathered information from 206 “key informant interviews” in 60 camps. On the subject of the repetition of bombardment and targeting of camps, 62 percent of respondents reported a low frequency of ground and aerial attacks on camps in the last three months. As for protection threats, the report described the findings as “varied” with “74% of respondents [152 people] experiencing psychological/emotional harm and 53% [110 people] facing physical violence.” Furthermore, 18 percent of respondents said that they had been displaced following incidents, while 53 percent reported that all displaced or individuals typically return.

On November 25, SNHR [released its 12th annual report](#) on violations against females in Syria in observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The report revealed that no fewer than 28,926 females have been documented killed in Syria since March 2011, while 11,203 are still detained/arrested, and 11,541 incidents of sexual violence against females have been documented. The report noted that most of these violations were committed by Syrian regime personnel.

On November 28, the OCHA [revealed in a post on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) that its Non-Food Items sector estimated that although 2.7 million people require winterization assistance in Syria, only seven percent of the required funding had been secured as of the time of the post.

On November 28, Najat Rochdi, the Deputy UN Special Envoy to Syria, [stressed, in a briefing to the UN Security Council](#), the need for de-escalation in Syria moving towards a complete ceasefire countrywide. She added that all parties must demonstrate the highest levels of self-control and full compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law. At present, she further stressed, the humanitarian situation calls for concern more than ever, reiterating that efforts must refocus on the neglected political path. “We have not seen verified, concrete progress on the ongoing unlawful detentions of tens of thousands of individuals in relation to the conflict. We continue to seek information from the Syrian Government on all amnesties that they issue...” the statement continued, further emphasizing that refugees and IDPs still see no path for a safe, dignified, and voluntary return.

6. Affiliated with the GPC.

On November 28, Edem Wosornu, the OCHA Director of Operations and Advocacy, [said, in a briefing to the UN Security Council](#) on the humanitarian situation in Syria, that regime shelling on November 25 had killed nine civilians, including one woman and six children, while they were harvesting olives.

On November 28, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US Ambassador to the UN, [said, in a briefing to the Security Council](#), that the Syrian regime's escalating criminal behavior is unacceptable and does not help in addressing the harsh economic and oppressive conditions endured by Syrian civilians today. Ms. Thomas-Greenfield stressed that the UNSC should not allow the Syrian regime to draw its attention away from the needs in Suwayda, further noting, "[We welcome the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice earlier this month, which order Syria to prevent acts of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, and prevent the destruction of evidence of such acts. This is a vitally important step in holding the Assad regime accountable for acts of torture.](#)" In that context, the US diplomat called on the Syrian regime to release the over 150,000 arbitrarily arrested detainees and forcibly disappeared persons currently detained in its prisons, or to clarify their fate at the very least.

On November 29, the US Department of State [revealed](#) that Ethan Goldrich, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs responsible for the Levant and Syria, met with Brigitte Curmi, France's Special Envoy to Syria. The two diplomat stressed their governments' commitment to bring about a political resolution in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254, to protect refugees, and to provide unhindered humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people.

On November 30, the OPCW's CSP-28 [adopted the decision 'Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use'](#). [The decision](#) recommends a host of collective measures pursuant to Subparagraph 21(k) of Article VIII, and Paragraph 3 of Article XII of the Convention. Those measures include: "[\[to\] afford the greatest measure of assistance possible in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings in accordance with international law relating to the chemical weapons attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic, and to provide appropriate support to relevant national and international accountability efforts, including the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism \(IIIM\).](#)" SNHR welcomes this decision, asserting our agreement with its contents, as it calls on all State Parties to act on all levels to deter the Syrian regime and to sever all forms of cooperation with it. SNHR also calls for steps to be taken to address the Syrian regime's contraventions of the Convention, similar to the case brought against the regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the application of the UN Convention Against Torture. Moreover, SNHR condemns in the strongest possible terms the decision of some states to vote against the decision, which in other words was a vote in support of the Syrian regime's continuing to use chemical weapons. On November 28, SNHR released a report entitled '[29 Morally Bankrupt Governments, Headed by Russia, Voted Against the OPCW's Resolutions](#)', summarizing the decisions adopted by the OPCW on Syria at the time of its release, and an analysis of the states that voted against the OPCW's decisions, and in favor of the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons, which further emboldened the regime to keep using chemical weapons. The report noted that these states share a number of common characteristics, such as dictatorial and oppressive leadership, opposition to fundamental human rights, and, in some cases, absolute loyalty to Russia and Iran, i.e., the Syrian regime's two main allies. Still, however, those states constitute a minority which has been consistently defeated many times in votes. In total, 29 states have voted against one or more OPCW decisions.

On November 30, the UK Delegation to the OPCW [noted](#) that the Syrian regime still possesses chemical weapons, stressing that the "repeated, proven use of CWs, chronic non-compliance with CWC and proliferation risks to non-state actors pose a significant threat to regional and international security." To that end, the mission stressed that steps must be taken to mitigate this growing threat.

On November 30, the US Department of State Bureau of Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability (ADS) [said in a statement posted on X](#), "Today, OPCW States Parties acted to address the threat of chemical weapons use by Syria and non-state actors by adopting a decision that strengthens the OPCW's investigative capabilities and recommends SPs take collective measures to prevent the transfer of toxic chemicals to Syria."

Accountability and advocacy

On November 15, criminal investigative judges at a French court [issued arrest warrants](#) for Bashar Assad, the head of the Syrian regime, his brother Maher Assad, the commander of the regime's Fourth Division, Ghassan Abbas, Director of Branch 450 of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC), and General Bassam al-Hassan, Presidential Advisor for Strategic Affairs and the official currently acting as liaison officer between the Presidential Palace and the SSRC. The warrants were issued over charges of complicity in crimes against humanity in the form of carrying out chemical weapons attacks using sarin gas against Eastern Ghouta and Muxadamiyat al-Sham in Western Ghouta in Rural Damascus governorate on August 21, 2013. SNHR stresses that this decision is binding to all states that have extradition agreements with France. In this sense, this is a landmark decision because it targets the head of the Syrian regime and is based on intensive investigations carried out by magistrates leading to the official issuance of those arrest warrants. [As SNHR's database attests](#), the chemical weapons attack on the Two Ghoutas on August 21, 2013, killed no fewer than 1,144 individuals who suffocated to death, divided between 1,119 civilians, including 99 children and 194 women, and 25 armed opposition fighters, while about 5,935 others exhibited respiratory problems and suffered from suffocation.

On November 16, the Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) group [issued a press release](#) welcoming the international arrest warrants issued against Bashar Assad, head of the Syrian regime, his brother Maher Assad, and two senior regime military officers for their involvement in the chemical weapons attack against civilians in 2013. The statement asserted that these warrants constitute "a crucial first step towards justice for the many victims of the Syrian government's gross human rights violations."

On November 16, [the Hague-based ICJ delivered its verdict](#) on the request made by Canada and The Netherlands to indicate provisional measures on the Syrian regime in the case brought by the two countries against the Syrian regime 'concerning the Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment' (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic). By the effect of this binding order, the ICJ indicated a number of provisional measures

on the Syrian regime.⁷ The order was passed by a majority of 13 votes, with two votes against. SNHR [released a statement](#) welcoming this order to indicate provisional measures on the Syrian regime to put an end to torture in its detention centers and to preserve evidence. SNHR also underscores that it is vitally important that this verdict is properly implemented, as we must remind the international community that over **135,638 individuals**, including 3,693 children and 8,478 women (adult female) are still enduring arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, and torture in regime detention centers. SNHR also condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the choice made by two Russian and Chinese judges on the ICJ to vote against this order. We find it deplorable and absurd that ICJ judges who are supposedly independent would vote against an order that provides for ending torture and preserving evidence. We believe in the significance of this trial as an effective and genuine step on the long overdue path of accountability, the lack of which has enabled the Syrian regime to act with impunity for 13 years.

On November 16, the COI released [a press release](#) welcoming the ICJ's order issued earlier the same day. The statement, citing Paulo Pinheiro, Commission Chair, said, "This is a landmark order by the world's top court to stop torture, enforced disappearances and deaths in Syria's detention facilities. Such violations have been a hallmark of the Syrian conflict for 12 years - and were among its chief root causes." He further remarks, "While we have seen dozens of criminal trials of individual Syrians for war crimes and crimes against humanity, this is the first time that the Syrian State itself is part of a judicial process - required to defend its abysmal record of violations of the Convention against Torture before international justices at the highest level."

On November 17, HRW released [a press release](#) describing the ICJ's order calling on the Syrian regime to take all measures possible to prevent acts of torture and other violations as a "milestone [order] toward protecting civilians in the country." The statement further noted that, considering the Syrian regime's atrocious record with respect to accountability for systematic and widespread torture, all states need to reassess any decision to normalize relations with the regime as long as such violations persist.

On November 18, the US Embassy in Syria [welcomed the ICJ's order](#), describing it as a "key step toward holding the Assad regime accountable for the reported torture." The Embassy further notes that victims, survivors, and the families of both groups, deserve justice and accountability for those who perpetrated atrocities against them and their loved ones. Additionally, the US Embassy declared, "We must push for a political solution to achieve justice."

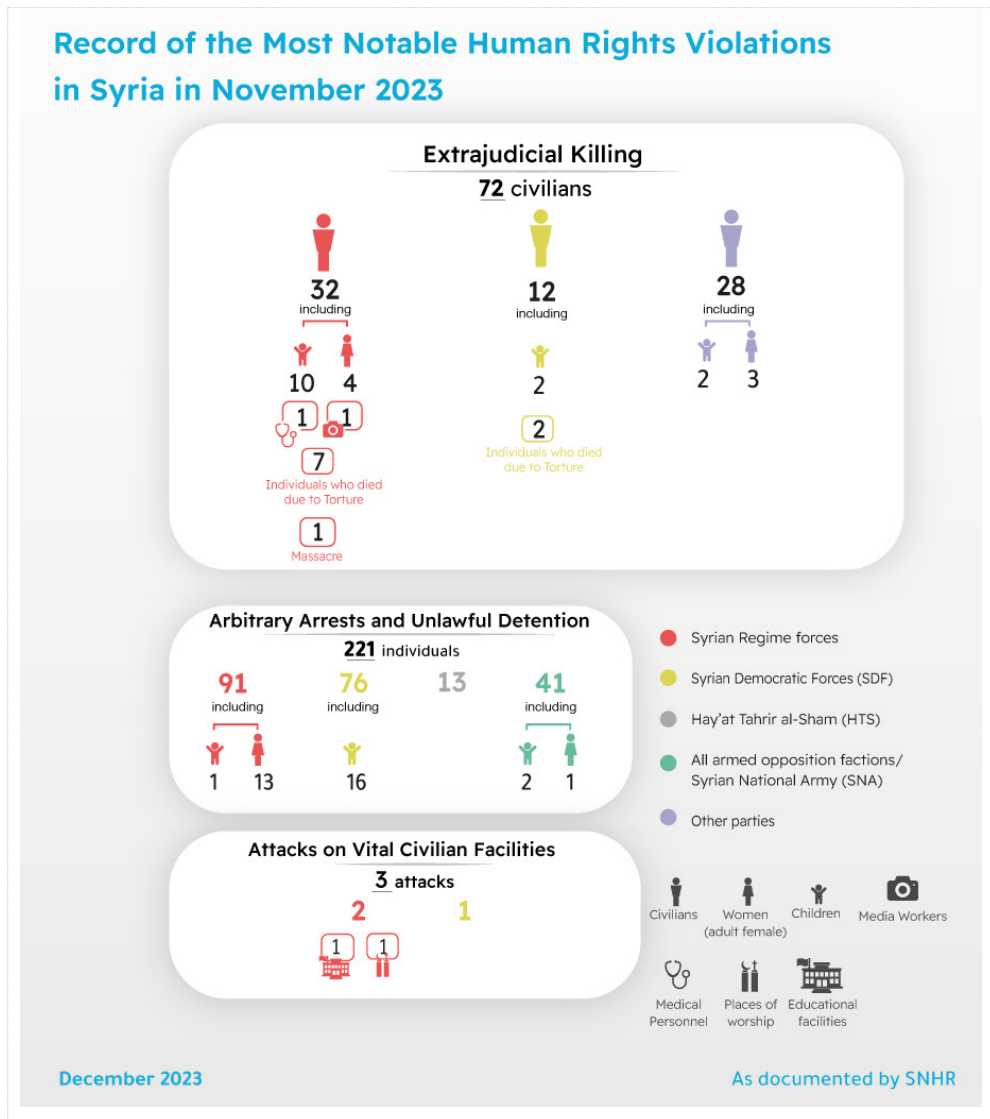
On November 30, SNHR released [a joint statement](#) with a number of other human rights, humanitarian, and civil society organizations, as well as associations and groups representing victims and their families, eyewitnesses, and survivors of the chemical weapons attacks in Syria. The statement called for establishing an exceptional chemical weapons tribunal to hold perpetrators accountable for the use of chemical weapons internationally in cases where existing international criminal and judicial bodies cannot be invoked domestically, as is the case in Syria.

7. 1. The Syrian Arab Republic shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, take all measures within its power to prevent acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and ensure that its officials, as well as any organizations or persons which may be subject to its control, direction or influence, do not commit any acts of torture or other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. The Syrian Arab Republic shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of any evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

III. Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November

This report summarizes the most notable human rights violations committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria that were documented by SNHR in November 2023.



A. Extrajudicial killing

In November, SNHR documented the death of 72 civilians, including 14 children and seven women (adult female), most of whom were killed by Syrian regime forces. Also among these victims were one medical worker, one media worker, and nine individuals who died due to torture. We also documented one massacre this month. On December 1, we released a report detailing the civilian victims documented killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in November 2023.

Civilian deaths recorded in November were distributed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**⁸ 32 civilians, including 10 children and four women.
- **SDF:** 12 civilians, including two children.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 28 civilians in November, including two children and three women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify:** Three civilians, including one child and one woman.
- **Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify:** 16 civilians, including one child and two women.
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify:** Three civilians.
- **Killings by parties we have been unable to identify:** Two civilians.
- **Turkish Border Guard:** Four civilians.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance

In November 2023, SNHR documented at least 221 arbitrary arrests carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, with those detained including 19 children and 14 women (adult female). Most of these arrests were carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Rural Damascus “Rif Dimshaq”, then Aleppo, and then Damascus. We issued a report on December 2 detailing the arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in November 2023 by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

Cases of arbitrary arrests were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 91 individuals, including one child and 13 women.
- **HTS**⁹: 13 individuals.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/SNA:** 41 individuals, including two children and one woman.
- **SDF:** 76 individuals, including 16 children.

8. We generally use the term ‘the Syrian regime’ rather than ‘the Syrian government’, because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is that of a totalitarian dictatorship where power is concentrated in the hands of a small circle of individuals, namely the President of the Republic and the heads of the regime’s security apparatus. As a result, 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, with no real decision-making power or active role of their own. Syria is under autocratic, hereditary rule, with no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade merely for show. The Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he supposedly presides. The Minister of Justice cannot even summon a low-ranking security office, let alone a security branch head. Syria is ruled by the president assisted by the heads of the security branches.

While we are aware that the United Nations and its agencies use the term ‘the Syrian government’, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

9. Designated as a terror group by the UN.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

SNHR documented at least **three attacks** on vital civilian facilities during November 2023.

Of these attacks, we documented one that targeted an educational facility and one that targeted a place of worship.

The attacks on vital civilian facilities recorded in November 2023 were distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties

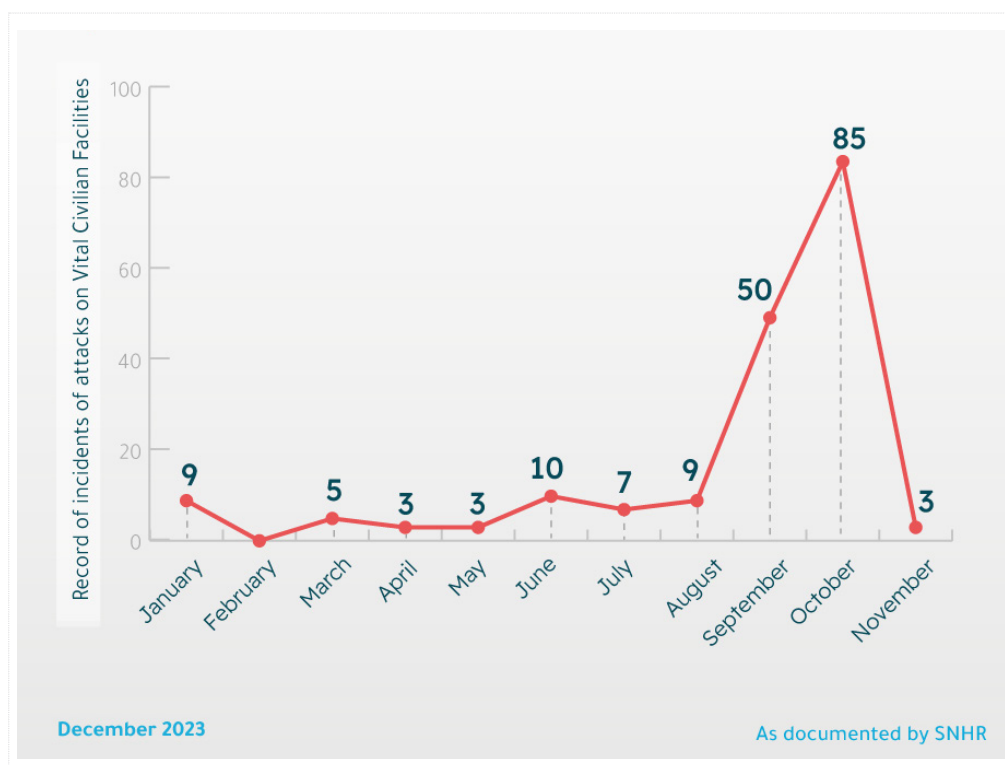
- **Syrian regime forces:** Two attacks.
- **SDF:** One attack.

Attacks on vital civilian facilities during November 2023 are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	SDF
Attacked Facility		
Places of Worship		
Mosques	1	
Vital Educational Facilities		
Schools	1	
IDPs Camps/Gatherings		
Regular Camps		1
Total	2	1

We have documented **184 attacks** on vital civilian facilities at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023 up until December.

Those attacks are distributed by month as follows:



As shown on the graph, November saw a decline in the number of attacks on vital civilian facilities from the two previous months. The primary reason for this decline is the decrease in the number of aerial and ground attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on northwestern Syria.

Most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in November:

On Friday, November 10, 2023, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a mortar shell that landed about 30 meters from Shuhada Afis School for Elementary Education (Formerly al-Gharbiya School) on the western outskirts of [Afis village](#) in eastern rural Idlib governorate. The shell injured three civilians, while the school perimeter fence was slightly damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

D. Indiscriminate attacks and attacks using prohibited weapons

SNHR documented no indiscriminate attacks or attacks involving the use of prohibited weapons in November 2023.

IV. Attachments

1. [72 Civilians, Including 14 Children and Seven Women, Killed in Syria in November 2023: Nine of Them, Including One Woman, Died Due to Torture](#)
2. [At Least 221 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in November 2023, Including of 19 Children and 14 Women](#)

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- SNHR notes that for more than 12 years to date, the Syrian regime has been involved in the most horrific types of violations against the Syrian people, some of which amount to crimes against humanity. Since the Syrian regime continues to commit such violations up to the present day, as documented in the numerous reports we have released, any normalization of relations with the regime or efforts to rehabilitate it are acts of support for a criminal entity engaged in crimes against humanity, which constitute a violation of international law.
- The evidence we have gathered confirms 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 regime 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 as required under 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 a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with such 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.
- All Armed Opposition factions/SNA have 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, have caused massive collateral damage involving 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 munitions 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 IV 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 responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using its veto, since 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 homes, 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 should include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other UNSC 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 UN Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken at 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 involved in perpetrating them.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan 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 (R2P)', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. Through failing to take these essential steps, the UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work to ensure justice and achieve accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

UN Human Rights Office

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the UN 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 for 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.

Syrian regime

- End all indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

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 those wounded by it.
- 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 must 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, towns and villages under their control.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the personnel involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

All Armed Opposition factions/SNA

- The Armed Opposition/SNA 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.

Acknowledgment

We extend our most sincere gratitude to the victims' families and friends, and to eyewitnesses and local activists for their invaluable contributions to this report.



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