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The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March 2020

The Syrian Regime Fails to Run the Syrian State, Allowing Public Gatherings in Front of Banks and Bakeries Even After Outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Must Resign and Leave



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Friday, April 3, 2020

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 March 2020, and catalogues the record of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the main perpetrator parties 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.



The report also includes documentation of violations distributed according to the perpetrator parties responsible for each one. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for specific attacks to one particular party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and the US-led coalition, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we are able to likely establish which one of the parties was likely responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of relations with various sources that have been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly, although this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks involved, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources to carry out this work. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents and examined the deceased victims' bodies and identified the cause of death. SNHR also analyzes videos and photographs that our team has documented, or which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, sites of attacks, and the bodies of the deceased victims and the injured, the scale of destruction, and the remnants of the incendiary and cluster munitions and other munitions used, whilst other photos may show victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about our methodology ¹.

¹ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>



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. March Outline

March 2020 saw an extensive spread of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, including in Syria, whose authorities finally acknowledged the 'first' case of infection in the country on March 22; since the popular uprising for democracy began in 2011, the Syrian regime and its allies have targeted medical facilities, putting them out of service, and persecuted medical personnel on charges of providing medical treatment to opponents of regime policy and hospitalizing injured demonstrators. Thousands of medics have been arrested, most of whom have been forcibly disappeared, with dozens more dying due to torture, and thousands of others resorting to migrating outside Syria in order to save their own lives. These are the most prominent causes of the medical sector's current lack of capability throughout Syria in general, and there is no doubt that the situation will worsen in the event of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The regime's security forces have also threatened medical centers and prevented them from announcing any case of infection or death due to COVID-19, restricting all data announced by the Ministry of Health, which therefore does not declare all the cases, instead ascribing deaths believed to result from the COVID-19 coronavirus to other causes. All ministries in Syria are effectively controlled by the security services, a result of the totalitarian mindset that affects every aspect of the dictatorship which the people languish under.

The Syrian regime has also failed to take any serious precautionary measures to introduce social distancing to prevent the spread of the pandemic in regime-controlled areas, which could lead to a high mortality rate among citizens; indeed, it has done the opposite, with the SNHR documented crowded gatherings of Syrian citizens [in front of ATMs](#), [bread distribution points](#), shops and markets.

In addition to the aforementioned threats from the COVID-19 pandemic, detention centers, especially those under the control of Syrian Regime forces, suffer from an almost complete absence of healthcare, in addition to being overcrowded with detainees; as the SNHR has already confirmed, most of the detainees, especially those in the four main security branches and military prisons, have an average area for each person not exceeding 70 cm² in cells that lack ventilation and the most basic standards of sanitation and cleanliness. In light of the detainees' contact with the security personnel who mix with people in the outside world and particularly with members of Iranian and Iraqi militias coming to Syria from



pandemic-afflicted areas, and in light of the decision issued by the Syrian government to prevent visits to prisons and the regime's lack of commitment to the principle of transparency in revealing the reality of the detainees, there are increasing fears of the runaway spread of COVID-19 within these centers, with the Syrian regime demonstrating its continued complete indifference to the fate and life of the detainees through its failure to initiate the release of any of the tens of thousands of those arbitrarily arrested as a result of their participation in demonstrations for political change.

As for the areas outside the control of Syrian Regime forces in northwest Syria, especially in the IDP camps and shelter centers, the conditions there encourage the spread of the pandemic in the event of its emergence there, with these massively overcrowded camps lacking the most basic means to follow the essential precautionary measures, as these areas are crammed with civilians, which hinders the achievement of any social distancing (requiring 1 - 1.5 m between people). The camps also lack adequate water and hygiene resources, in addition to the presence of shared sanitary facilities for each sector in the camp, which lack the necessary hygiene measures to limit the spread of the pandemic. Northwest Syria also suffers from inadequate medical capabilities in light of the lack of beds and equipment that could contribute to meeting the needs of all citizens there.

The first five days of March also saw the continuation of the latest military campaign by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the Idlib region in northwest Syria, during which these forces committed two massacres; the first of these was carried out by Syrian Regime forces, while the second was committed by Russian forces in conjunction with consultations between the Turkish and Russian Presidents, which concluded in a ceasefire agreement, the fifth since April 26, 2019, with the regime and Russian forces apparently exhibiting a desire to kill as many people as possible before the beginning of the ceasefire. We have issued [a report](#) on this massacre.

As a result of the ceasefire which came into effect on March 6, the SNHR monitored the cessation of air strikes by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces, while recording some ground attacks by Syrian Regime forces and its allies, though these are the lowest numbers of such attacks compared to previous months, with the pandemic apparently affecting the military capabilities of the Syrian regime's army and affiliated Iranian militias, which has contributed to a reduction in the rate of their killing of Syrian civilians.

We have also documented the continuation of Syrian Regime forces and affiliated militias' pillaging and looting of civilians' property in the areas the regime has taken control of in the Idlib region in northwest Syria; we have issued [a report](#) on this phenomenon.



In March, Syrian Regime forces continued to pursue and arrest individuals who had settled their security situation in areas that have signed settlement agreements with the Syrian regime; these arrests have been concentrated in the governorate of Damascus Suburbs, with most occurring during mass campaigns of raids and arrests, some of which targeted former workers in humanitarian organizations. We also documented arrests which took place in areas that the Syrian regime forces had recently taken control of in the suburbs of Aleppo and Idlib governorates, targeting civilians who had remained in their homes and refused to be displaced.

Meanwhile, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance throughout the month of March, targeting activists and members of civil society groups who oppose their policies. These arrests were concentrated in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Hasaka. Also in March, SNHR documented Syrian Democratic Forces carrying out arrests targeting civilians with the aim of forced conscription.

In addition to these incidents, March also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham arresting activists working with civil society groups, as well as media activists and other civilians, with most of these arrests occurring due to the publication of reports on social media accounts criticizing the HTS's management of areas under its control.

Factions of the Armed Opposition also continued carrying out arrests and kidnappings in March, most of which occurred on a mass scale, in many cases targeting several members of the same families; these incidents were concentrated in areas under their control in Aleppo and Raqqa governorates.

III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March

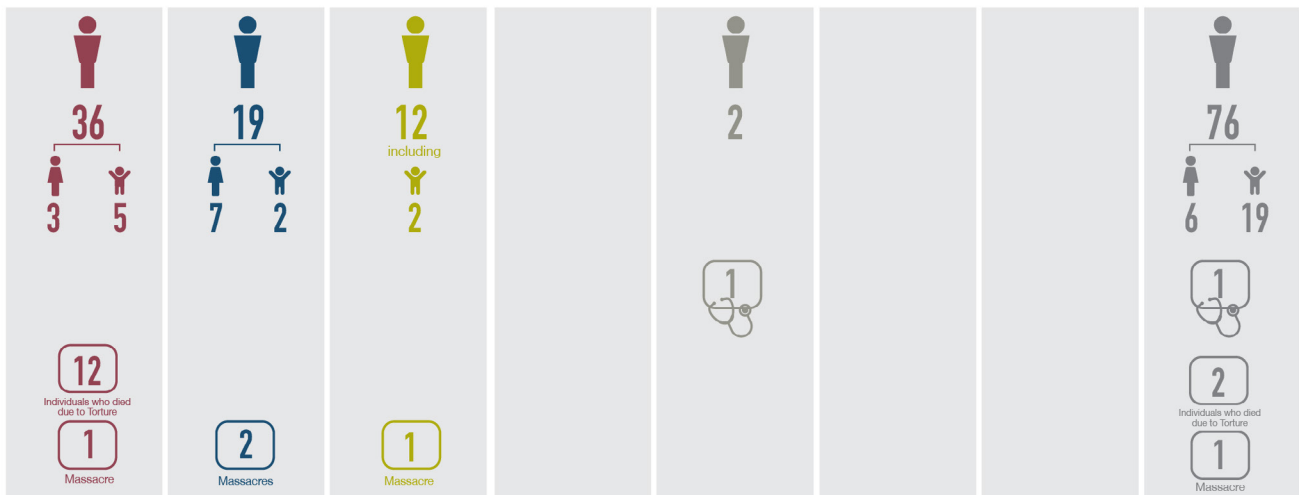
This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in March 2020 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.



Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March 2020



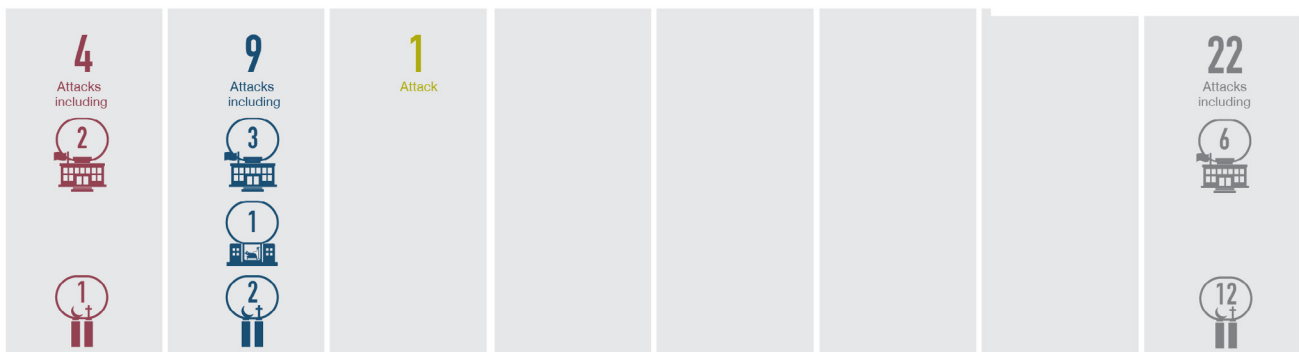
Extrajudicial Killing



Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



A. Extrajudicial killing:

In March 2020, SNHR documented the deaths of 145 civilians, including 28 children and 16 women (adult female); among the victims were two medical personnel. We also documented the deaths of 14 individuals due to torture, and at least five massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in March at the hands of the perpetrator parties in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**

36 civilians, including five children and three women.

- **Russian forces:** 19 civilians, including two children and seven women.

- **Extremist Islamist groups:**

o Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of **factions of the Armed Opposition**): Two civilians.

- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** 12 civilians, including two children.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 76 civilians, including 19 children and six women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown origin: 13 civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Fires of unknown source: 28 civilians, including three children and one woman.
- Turkish border guards: Two.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 20 civilians, including nine children and one woman.
- Killings by unknown persons: 10 civilians, including two children and three women.
- Drowning: Three children.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

In March 2020, SNHR documented at least 156 cases of arbitrary arrests, including two children and one woman (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, followed by Damascus Suburbs governorate. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in March 2020 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.



These arrests are distributed according to the main perpetrator parties, as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 74, including one woman.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:**
 - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: Nine.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 38.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 35, including two children (one of whom a female).

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented at least 36 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in March. Among these attacks, we documented 11 on schools, one on a medical facility and 15 others on places of worship.

These attacks are distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** Four.
- **Russian forces:** Nine.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** One.

B. Other parties:

22 attacks were committed by other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** One.
- **Explosions whose source has not yet been identified:** One.
- **Attacks whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** 20.



The record of attacks documented in March on vital civilian facilities is distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

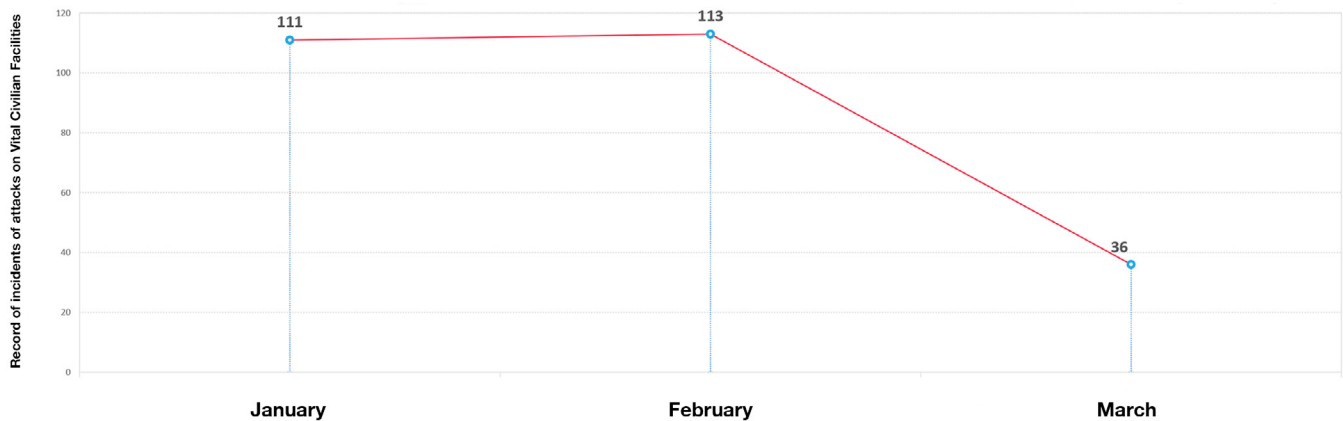
Attacked Facility	Perpetrator Party					
	Syrian Regime forces	Russian forces	Syrian Democratic Forces	Other parties		
				Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified	Explosions whose source has not yet been identified	Attacks whose perpetrators have not yet been identified
Places of Worship						
Mosques	1	2	-	-	-	12
Vital Educational Facilities						
Schools	2	3	-	-	-	6
Orphanages	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vital Medical Facilities						
Medical Facilities	-	1	-	-	-	-
Communal Facilities						
Markets	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infrastructure						
Power stations and energy facilities	-	-	-	-	1	-
Civil Defense Centers	-	1	-	-	-	1
Official Headquarters	-	-	-	-	-	1
Means of transport	-	-	-	1	-	-
Domestic animal farms	-	1	-	-	-	-
Industrial facilities	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	4	9	1	1	1	20



Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2020 up to the start of April of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 260 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



At least 260 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria in 2020 From January to April



The previous chart shows the decline in the record of the attacks on vital civilian facilities in March, compared to the first two months, due to the entry into force of the Russian-Turkish ceasefire on the sixth of the month.

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities that we were able to document in March:
On Sunday, March 1, 2020, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired shells at the Bdama Second Primary School, in Bdama town in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing [moderate material](#) damage to its building and perimeter wall. Bdama town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Monday, March 2, 2020, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles that landed near the Civil Defense team – Sarmin Center – near Binnesh city in northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, while the team was heading to inspect a site that was earlier bombed by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the outskirts of the city, causing [significant material](#) damage to [Van-type vehicle belonging](#) to the Civil Defense. Binnesh city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Monday, March 2, 2020, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at [Oth-man bin Affan Mosque](#) in Balyoun village in Jabal al Zaweya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the mosque building, and caused moderate material damage to its furniture. Balyoun village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a shell at the Orphanage '6' building in Idlib city; the shell hit the Little Hearts School, established in the orphanage building, partially destroying the school building, and causing [moderate material damage to its furniture](#) and to the orphanage building. 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.





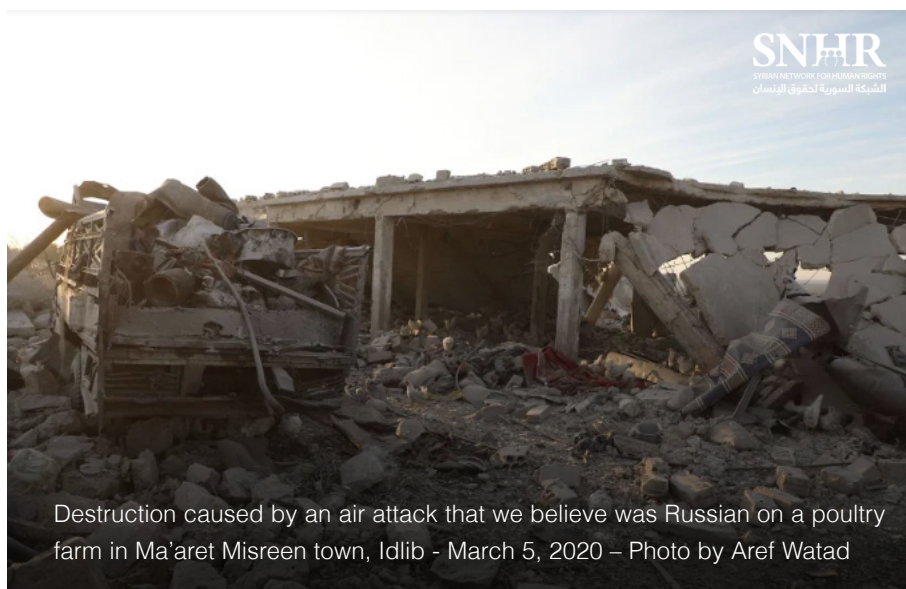
On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles that landed near al Sena'a Mosque located in the industrial zone in Ariha city in southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, partially destroying the mosque building. We note that the city residents had fled from it as a result of the ongoing military escalation campaign by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the region since April 26, 2019. Ariha city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, March 5, 2020, at around 02:05, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, carried out a raid using at least two missiles, targeting a poultry farm where IDPs from Idlib and Aleppo suburbs were living. The poultry farm is located on the western outskirts of Ma'aret Misreen town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate - about 2 km as the crow flies - on the road between Ma'aret Misreen and Batenta. The poultry farm building consists of two hangars used for raising chickens, which are linked on the western side to a two-storey residential building where the IDPs were living. At the entrance to the poultry farm there is a building for guards where IDPs also reside.

At around 02:27, after the recovery operations for the wounded and the injured had begun, the same warplanes again targeted the site with at least two missiles. No casualties were reported in this second attack among the paramedics and rescue workers, who were able to escape the scene prior to the bombardment. We note that we were unable to accurately verify the number of missiles and the impact site of each of them up until the time of preparing this report, because the attacks were carried out at night, and because we have been unable to visit the site of the incident so far. 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 two attacks resulted in [the deaths](#) of [15 civilians](#), including [two female](#) children and [seven women](#), and [injured at least 19 others](#), in addition to killing hundreds of birds that were in the hangars, and almost complete destroying the poultry farm building and some of the houses surrounding it. We issued [a report](#) on the incident.



On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Syrian Democratic Forces used artillery to fire a number of shells at the popular market in Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, [partially destroying a number of shops](#), and causing moderate material damage to the market facilities. Afrin city village was under the control of Armed Opposition factions supported by Turkish forces at the time of the incident.



On Thursday, March 19, 2020, an explosion from an unknown source occurred, believed to be caused by a car bomb in a vehicle parked at the site – near a gas station in Dawwar al Hariri ‘roundabout’ area in Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, causing casualties, as well as causing significant material damage to the gas station. SNHR is still trying to establish contact with witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Izaz city was under the control of Armed Opposition factions supported by Turkish forces at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, unidentified elements used mines and explosive devices to detonate the al Kfair Bridge located on the M4 International Road near al Kfair village in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing [massive destruction](#) to [the bridge](#). SNHR is still trying to establish contact with witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. 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.

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

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

IV. Attachments

[145 Civilians, including Two Medical Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in March 2020](#)

[At least 156 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in March 2020](#)

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, arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance. 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 in accordance with 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 leads 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 alliance of US-led coalition and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- 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 including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians' lives and to save the Syrian people's heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions 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 persons 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.

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 since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.



- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

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.

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

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Reveal the fate of some 83,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- 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 the 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.
- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the safe disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 83,000 people forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.

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

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those affected.
- 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.
- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that the SDF violates the rules of international humanitarian law can be seen as a contribution to these violations.
- 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.



Armed Opposition factions

- Armed Opposition factions 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.
- Pledge to cease any arbitrary arrests, and investigate incidents that have resulted in violations of international humanitarian law.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

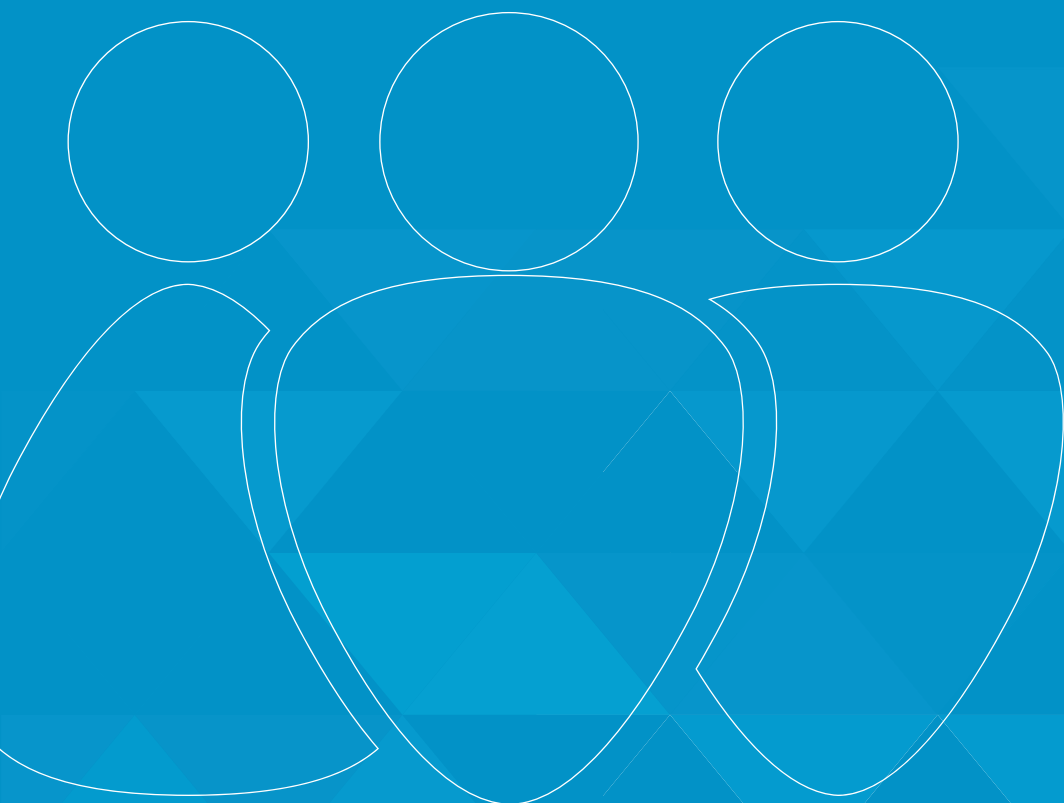
Humanitarian Organizations:

Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.

Acknowledgments

We thank all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.





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