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86 Civilians, Including 21 Children, Eight Women, and Five Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria in July 2022

Russian Forces Again
Violate the Ceasefire
Agreement and Commit
a Massacre against IDPs
in al Jadida Village in the
Western Suburbs of Idlib
Governorate



Monday 01 August 2022

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. Background and Methodology

This report records the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in May 2022, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical personnel killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces which the SNHR was able to document in this period.

We should note that in this context, we use the term "massacre" to refer to any attack that resulted in the deaths of five or more peaceful individuals in the same incident.

The report also includes an outline of the most notable incidents during this period. Finally, we maintain the full details of every incident on the SNHR database.

The documentation process to register victims killed in Syria has been one of the most important roles performed by SNHR since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of fathers, mothers, sisters, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily through Syrian regime forces' and affiliated militias' systematic killing of civilians, with these forces being almost the sole perpetrators of killings from the aforementioned date up to the beginning of 2012. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which have deployed barrel bombs, in addition to Scud missiles and chemical weapons.

The entry of several other parties into the Syrian conflict has further increased the importance and complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the eleventh consecutive year, as it has continuously since the outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011, resulting in casualty numbers that are among the largest worldwide; this underlines the fact that Syria is still the most dangerous nation in the world for civilians, and remains an exceptionally insecure and perilous environment wholly unsuitable for the return of refugees.

The report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for the attack in some incidents of ground bombardment, especially those in which the source of the bombardment is an area adjacent to the control of another party among the controlling forces, continuing our investigations until we are able to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

In addition, in cases where we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties because of the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons, the incident is categorized among 'other parties' until we have sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

The parties to the conflict who this report documents as committing extrajudicial killings are:

#### A. The main parties:

- · Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)
- · Russian forces
- ·ISIS
- · All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army
- · Syrian Democratic Forces

#### B. Other parties

We at the SNHR are keen to accurately attribute incidents to those responsible, but we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility that we carry out, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in detailed reports.

As for the anonymous victims whose names we haven't yet been able to determine or on whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a private archive until any information indicating these victims' identity has been found which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, and also by the governorate from which they originally came. This report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by the governorate they originally came from.

<sup>1</sup> We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonal role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role, this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in reality under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians, whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link. <sup>2</sup>

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides a <u>special form</u> that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

We note that the death toll of victims detailed on SNHR's database includes extrajudicial killings by the controlling forces which occurred as a violation of either international human rights law or international humanitarian law or both, but does not include cases of natural deaths or those which occurred because of disputes between members of society or other such issues.

This report contains one account that we've obtained through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, which is not cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, and reassures all interviewees that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

Our investigations confirm that all of the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks, and in which the perpetrators failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

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.

<sup>2\*</sup> The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights ". SNHR . <<a href="http://sn4hr.org/public\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\_Methodology.en.pdf">http://sn4hr.org/public\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\_Methodology.en.pdf</a> >>

# II. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in July

July 2022 saw a decrease in the documented death toll compared to the previous month, with SNHR documenting the deaths of 86 civilians, including 21 children and eight women, 18 of whom were killed at the hands of the Syrian Russian alliance forces, including six children. As a result of the monitoring operations, we noticed that several points distinguished the killings in July:

- 1- We recorded the death of a child by a Syrian regime sniper, documenting two cases of killing by snipers in both June and July, while the most recent incident of targeting by Syrian regime snipers recorded by SNHR prior to that was at the end of 2021.
- 2- We recorded a massacre resulting from a Russian airstrike on al Jadida village in the suburbs of Jisr al Shoghour in the western suburbs of Idlib, in violation of the Russian-Turkish agreement of March 2020.
- 3- More than one party to the conflict targeted areas housing internally displaced people: On July 22, fixed-wing Russian warplanes targeted an IDP shelter in al Jadida village in the western suburbs of Idlib. The attack resulted in the deaths of six civilians, including four children, and injured 13 other people. In addition, on July 24, Syrian Democratic Forces used a missile launcher to fire several missiles at the Kuwait al Rahma Camp for IDPs (a camp consisting of several concrete housing units) in Harch al Khalediya region southeast of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo. The bombing led to the death of Hasan Sha'ban Madino, an IDP from Anjara village in Aleppo governorate, and wounded several other civilians.

Meanwhile, we documented the deaths of 57 civilians at the hands of other parties, including 28 civilians, due to gunfire by parties that we have not yet been able to identify; the largest number of victims were killed in Daraa governorate, which saw the deaths of 13 civilians due to gunfire by parties that we have not yet been able to identify. July also saw the continuation of civilian casualties killed or wounded as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria; we documented the deaths of 14 civilians, including six children, as a result of landmine explosions, bringing the death toll resulting from the explosion of landmines since the beginning of 2022, to 90 civilians, including 45 children and nine women.

On Thursday, July 7, 2022, a thirty-year-old civilian, Muhammad Abdul Hamid al Rashed, from Kherbet Ghazala town in eastern Daraa governorate, <u>was shot and killed</u> by unidentified gunmen in al Katiba region near the town, which was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, July 2, 2022, the explosion of a landmine planted by a party that we have not yet been able to identify in agricultural land in al Owaina village in Sahl al Ghab in the western suburbs of Hama governorate, resulted in <a href="the death of">the death of</a> a ten-year-old boy, Yousef Ziad al Faisal al Yassin, from Salba village west of Hama governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, July 5, 2022, the explosion of a landmine planted by a party that we have not yet been able to identify on one bank of the Euphrates River in Ja'da al Sam'wat village, resulted in the death of a thirteen-year-old boy identified as Abdi Ali al Abdi al Hwaisan, from Ja'da al Sam'wat village east of Manbej city in eastern Aleppo governorate, and injured two of his siblings, also children, with the explosion occurring while the siblings were playing in the vicinity. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, July 26, 2022, a fire of unknown cause broke out in al Kanayes Camp for IDPs in the northwest of Idlib city. The fire caused <u>the death of</u> a four-year-old girl, Anwar Adnan Muhammad al Thiyab, and injured two other children, as well as burning down three tents housing IDP families. The area was under the control of Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

In July, we documented the deaths of eight civilians, including four children and one woman, as a result of explosions whose perpetrators we were unable to identify; on Saturday, July 2, 2022, a fifty-year-old civilian, Nadim Muhammad Jo, from Qaryat village of Tal Kalakh city in western Homs governorate <u>died</u> due to wounds sustained on July 1, 2022, in an explosion of an unknown cause and source which took place while he was fishing near al Ghayda village in Homs governorate western suburbs. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Friday, Jul 15, 2022, a thirteen-year-old boy, Abdul Rahman Samer al Abd, from al Zabadani city in western Damascus Suburbs governorate <u>was killed</u> by the explosion of munition remnants of an unknown cause and source left by previous shelling of al Mahkma neighborhood in the city, which was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

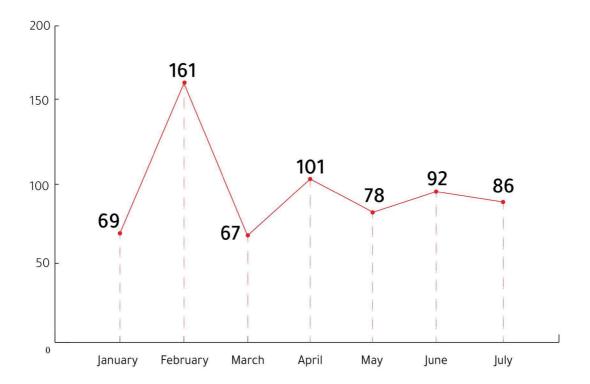
Also in July, we documented the death of a civilian at the hands of gunmen who we believe to be ISIS members, who shot and killed Alaa Mahmoud al Hathal on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, while he was on a football pitch in al Hawayej village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate's eastern suburbs, which was under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

We also documented the deaths of four civilians, including two children and one woman, at the hands of all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army forces; on Friday, July 22, 2022, Mrs. Sanaa Hasan Safi and Hamza Amin Ali were killed, and several other people were wounded when the armed opposition faction, the National Front for the Liberation of Syria, used missile launchers to fire several missiles at Nabl al Khatib village in western Hama governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

# III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

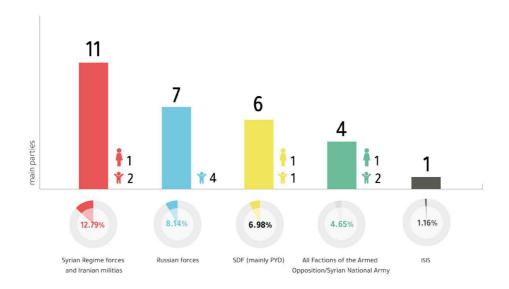
In July, SNHR documented the deaths of 86 civilians, including 21 children and eight women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented civilian death toll since the beginning of 2022 up to August 2022 to 654.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 was distributed as follows:



February saw the largest number of deaths in 2022, accounting for approximately 25% of the total death toll documented since the beginning of the year, followed by April with approximately 15%.

The death toll we documented in July 2022 was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:





#### A. The main parties:

## - Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

We documented the deaths of 11 civilians, including two children and one woman, at the hands of Syrian regime forces.

#### - Russian forces:

We documented the deaths of seven civilians, including four children, at the hands of Russian forces.

#### - ISIS:

We documented the death of one civilian at the hands of ISIS.

## - All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:

We documented the deaths of four civilians, including two children and one woman, at the hands of all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army.

## - Syrian Democratic Forces:

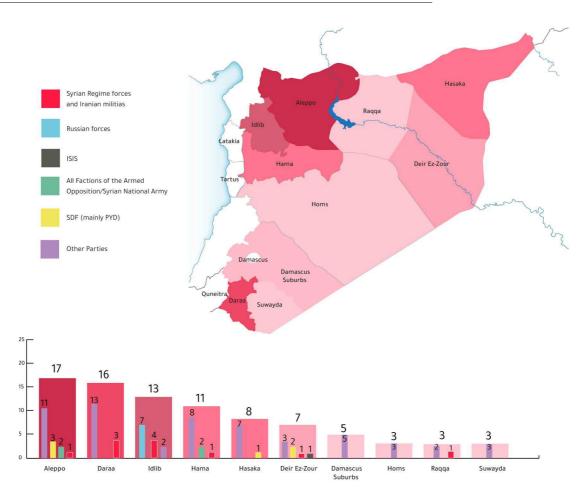
We documented the deaths of six civilians, including one child and one woman, at the hands of all Syrian Democratic Forces.

## B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 57 civilians, including 12 children and five women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- · Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 14 civilians, including six children.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 28 civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians, including four children and one woman.
- · Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: Seven civilians, including three women.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in July 2022 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



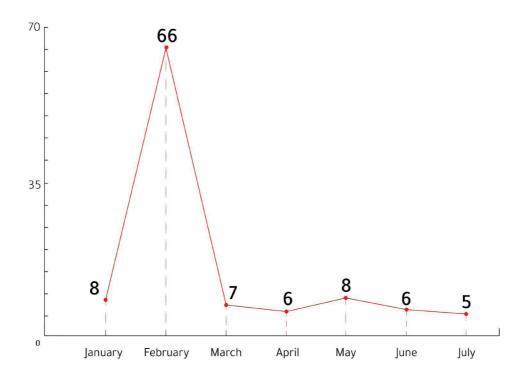
Aleppo governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented in July compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 20% of the total death toll, followed by Daraa governorate, which accounted for approximately 19%, Idlib governorate, which accounted for approximately 16%, then Hama governorate, which accounted for approximately 13%, with most of the victims in all the governorates killed at the hands of other parties.

# IV. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel

#### A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

SNHR documented in July 2022 the deaths of five victims due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the death toll of victims documented as dying due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 up to August 2022 to 106.

The death toll of victims whose death due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have been documented by SNHR since the beginning of 2022 is distributed as follows:

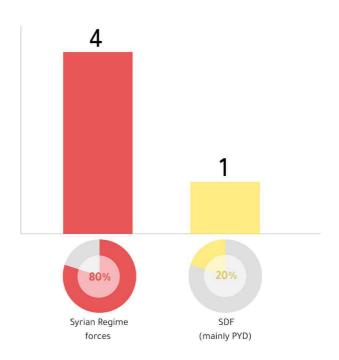


February saw the largest number of victims killed under torture since the beginning of 2022, accounting for approximately 62% of the total to date, meaning that most of the victims killed under torture in 2022 died in February.

The death toll of victims whose deaths due to torture were documented by SNHR at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in July was distributed as follows:

Syrian regime forces: Four.

Syrian Democratic Forces: One.



#### The most notable cases are:

Ahmad Musa al Ghanem, born in 1958, from Mashrafa Abdul Karim village of Khafsa town in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Thursday, May 5, 2022, in a raid on his home in the village and was placed in Aleppo Central Prison. On Friday, July 1, 2022, Syrian regime forces informed his family of his death in Aleppo University Hospital, releasing his body to them on the same day. SNHR has received information confirming that Ahmad had suffered from renal failure before his arrest, and had recently returned from Saudi Arabia for treatment, therefore it is highly likely that Ahmad died due to medical negligence and lack of medical care.



Amjad al Abdullah from al Qusour neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, a student at the Faculty of Medicine in the city's Euphrates University, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in June 2014, in a raid on his home in the neighborhood and has been forcibly disappeared ever since, with the regime denying that he's being detained and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Thursday, July 14, 2022, a Syrian regime military officer notified Amjad's family of his death inside a detention center. SNHR has received information confirming that Amjad was in good health at the time of his arrest, which indicates that he died due to torture and lack of medical care. SNHR confirms that Syrian regime forces have failed to hand over Amjad's body to his family.



Muhammad Ahmad al Qadi, a 32-year-old man from Ghuwairan neighborhood in Hasaka city, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces' Internal Security Force personnel on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in a raid on his home in the neighborhood on charges of collaborating with foreign parties, and was taken to one of the SDF's detention centers. On Friday, July 15, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces notified his family of his death and released his body to them. SNHR has received information confirming that Muhammad was in good health at the time of his arrest, which indicates that he died due to torture and lack of medical care in one of the SDF's detention centers in Hasaka city.

#### B. Death toll of medical personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among medical personnel in July 2022.

#### C. Death toll of media workers

SNHR didn't document any deaths among media workers in July 2022.

#### D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among Civil Defense personnel in July 2022.

# V. Record of Most Notable Massacres:

SNHR documented two massacres in July 2022, perpetrated by Russian forces and other parties, bringing the total number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2022 to at least eight, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

#### A. The main parties:

- Syrian Regime forces: One.
- Russian forces: one.
- ISIS: One.

#### B. Other parties:

We documented five massacres at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- · Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Two.
- · Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: One.
- · Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: One.
- · Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: One.

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacres documented in July resulted in the deaths of 11 civilians, including four children. The death toll resulted from the massacres was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

## A. The main parties:

- Russian forces: Six civilians, including four children.

#### B. Other parties:

- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: Five civilians.

#### The most notable incidents are:

On Friday, July 22, 2022, at around 5:50 am, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian Su34s, carried out four successive missile raids, targeting al Jadida village, a Christian community, in the suburbs of Jisr al Shoghour in the western suburbs of Idlib, hitting two locations on the outskirts of the village from the northern and southern sides. In the first location, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, carried out two airstrikes using three missiles, hitting a site nearby an IDP residential house located in agricultural lands, north of al Jadida village, in which displaced families from al Ziadiya village in the western suburbs of Idlib had been living. The bombardment resulted in the deaths of six civilians, including four sibling children, and wounded 13 others, including the children's father and mother, in addition to causing massive damage to the target site. The following two airstrikes using four missiles, targeted two houses, south of al Jadida village, killing a civilian. The SNHR will issue a special report on this incident.







SNHR spoke with the witness, Hasan Ahmad Jamal Daoud,<sup>3</sup> from Jabal al Zaweya, currently displaced to al Jadida village, who told us:

"At around 6:00 am on July 22nd, a Russian warplane fired a missile at a residential house. I felt the missile the moment it fell and took a photo of it from where I was, then I followed four of my friends to the site in order to rescue the wounded. When they approached the site, they were about 20 meters away, the same warplane launched another airstrike on the previously targeted site with two missiles, killing one of my friends, 'Fajr' instantly, and wounding the remaining three, whom I helped transfer to the ambulance, while I escaped injury because I was about 25 meters behind them. I was one of the first to arrive at Abu Ref'at's house, and I contributed with other civilians to transporting the wounded from the site. Meanwhile, the Russian warplanes launched two other successive airstrikes, about ten minutes apart, on another site near al Jadida." Ahmad added, "I saw the warplane and was able to distinguish it clearly from the mechanism for carrying out the airstrike."

# VI. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue

Since 2011, the SNHR has created complex electronic programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, method of killing used, type of weapon used, and perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which the incident of death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the loss suffered by the people of that governorate, and enables us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates its comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, and several backup copies being stored in different locations.

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Since 2011, we have also been exceptionally concerned about incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly a statistic recorded on our database that does not include either, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, relief and Civil Defense personnel.

For nearly 11 years, we have issued <u>daily death tolls</u> of victims, as well as <u>daily news reports</u> on killing incidents. We also issue a <u>monthly report</u> detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died <u>due to torture</u>, in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports <u>documenting the total death toll</u> or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a <u>monthly report</u> and special and periodic reports documenting the <u>massacres</u> committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically sends a special form to the United Nations <u>Special Rapporteur</u> on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. The SNHR also has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) project. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to governments of states, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the path of justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

# VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

#### **Conclusions:**

- The evidence we collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in 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.
- A large proportion of Syrians were killed as a result of landmines, and none of the perpetrator forces in the Syrian conflict have revealed maps of the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- 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 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.
- · ISIS has violated international humanitarian law, causing the deaths of civilians.

#### **Recommendations:**

# **UN Security Council**

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, "...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment."
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Members of the Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request all relevant United Nations agencies to make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow-up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.

• Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

#### International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied 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' doctrine (R2P) 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 were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proved equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now spanned a decade in Syria.
- 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.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a time period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely and settled return to their homes.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be unsafe, and put pressure to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

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

• The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed more light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

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

- Launch extensive 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.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public opinion and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

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

• Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and provide an exchange of experiences with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

# The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes, the 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 transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security-military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the party responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

#### The Syrian regime

- · Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- $\cdot$  End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

#### The Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the 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 allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- 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 disposal of unexploded ordnance.

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

- 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.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

## All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army

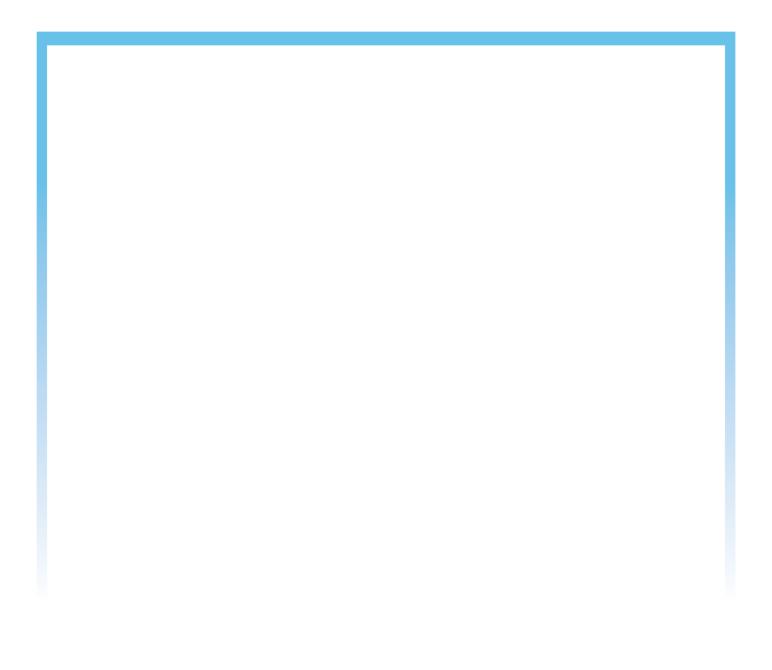
- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that took place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

#### **Humanitarian organizations**

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, primarily widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

#### Acknowledgment

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





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