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The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November 2019

Syrian-Russian Alliance
Forces Escalates Their Military
Campaign in Northwest Syria



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Thursday, December 5, 2019

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 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 November 2019, and catalogues the record of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the main parties to the conflict 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 International Coalition forces, 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. In addition, in cases where we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular violation 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.

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, 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 pho-



tographs 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 methodology¹.

This report contains four accounts that we've collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, which are 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 to provide assurances that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

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. November Outline

The month of November saw Syrian-Russian alliance forces continuing their military escalation campaign on northwest Syria which began on October 30, spreading to populated areas, with SNHR documenting a significant increase in the record of civilian casualties and the displacement of thousands, and in damaging vital civilian facilities. We monitored continuous coordination between the Russian and Syrian Regime forces in the implementation of these attacks, with the Russian Air Force carrying out air raids after reconnaissance planes overflowed the area, followed by Syrian regime ground forces carrying out intensive attacks on the same area, causing more casualties, with this process being repeated more than once. We issued [a report](#) outlining the record of the most notable violations committed since the start of the recent military campaign on northwest Syria.

In addition, on November 4, we recorded the first fixed-wing raid by Syrian Regime forces in nearly six weeks. The raids lasted for four days and then ceased again; on November 13, we recorded the return of Syrian regime helicopters to carry out barrel bomb attacks for the first time since August 25, violently attacking villages and towns in the southern suburbs of Idlib, far from contact lines.

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>



November saw clashes between Syrian Democratic Forces and Operation Peace Spring alliance forces on the Tal Tamer - Ras al Ein axis in Hasaka suburbs, and Ein Eisa - Tal Ab-yad axis in the northwestern suburbs of Raqqa, despite the announcement of the cessation of the Operation Peace Spring on October 22. On the other hand, northeastern Syria saw an unprecedented increase in the frequency of bombings, mostly in areas controlled by Peace Spring forces (northern suburbs of Raqqa and western suburbs of Hasaka), causing massacres and damage to vital civilian facilities.

Also throughout November, Syrian Regime forces continued to pursue and arrest individuals who settled their security situation in areas that have signed settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs and Daraa. At the end of November, we recorded that the Syrian regime's Military Police transferred five detainees held in favor of the military field courts 'al Midan courts' in Suwayda Central Prison to Sydnaya Military Prison in Damascus Suburbs in conjunction with similar transfers of other detainees in the Adra Central Prison, and they were likely sentenced to death.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance throughout the month of November, targeting activists and members of civil society groups. These arrests were concentrated in the governorates of Raqqa and Hasaka.

November also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham arresting activists with civil society groups, media activists, civilians, with those detained including women and elderly people.

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

With the resumption of the military escalation on October 30, residents of some villages and towns that had not previously been displaced began to flee northwards, such as the residents of the towns of Bsqa, Heesh, Kafr Sajna, Kfarrouma, and Hass. The last third of November saw an increase in the pace of displacement, with the inhabitants of some villages and towns that had not previously been fully displaced starting to flee northwards as a result of Russian forces escalation of their air attacks on areas in the southern and western suburbs of Idlib; an estimated 50,000 civilians have been displaced to northern Syria.



Displaced people in northwest Syria are suffering from horrendous and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in camps and residential villages due to massive overcrowding and to the extremely poor response of humanitarian organizations. Many of the non-residential facilities such as schools, poultry farms, shops and other buildings that had been converted into shelters for the displaced have been bombed.

In addition, the military attacks by Operation Peace Spring caused the continued displacement movement from Eisa city and its villages towards Raqqa city, in addition to the displacement of villages of Tal Tamer city towards Hasaka city. IDPs in northeastern Syria suffer from poor resources and lack of most basic means of life. As winter approaches, the IDPs' humanitarian situation in northern Syria is deteriorating in light of the need to provide heating and protecting camps from rainstorms.

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

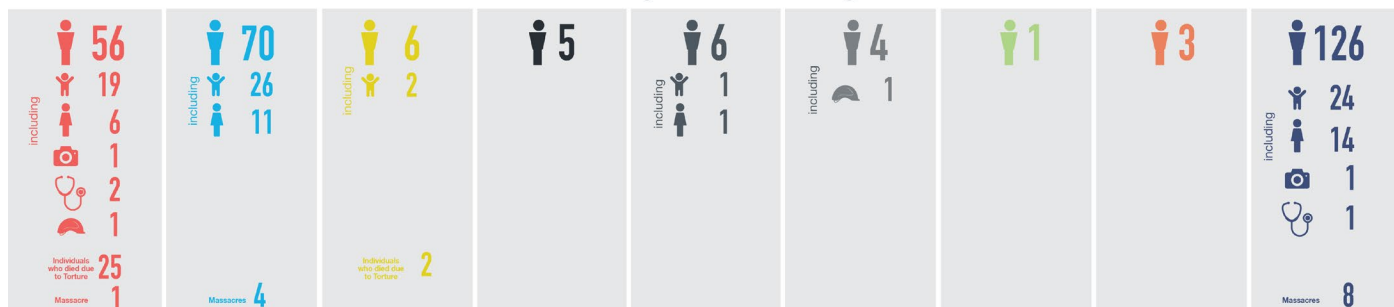
This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in November 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.



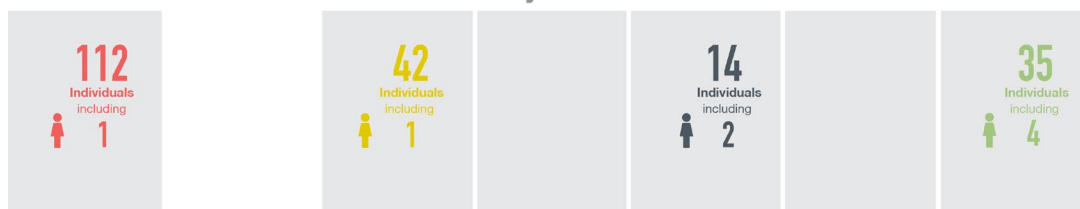
Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November 2019

Syrian Regime forces	Russian forces	SDF (mainly PYD)	Extremist Islamist groups			Factions of the Armed Opposition	International Coalition forces	Other parties
			ISIS	Hay'at Tahrir al Sham	Turkistan Islamic Party			

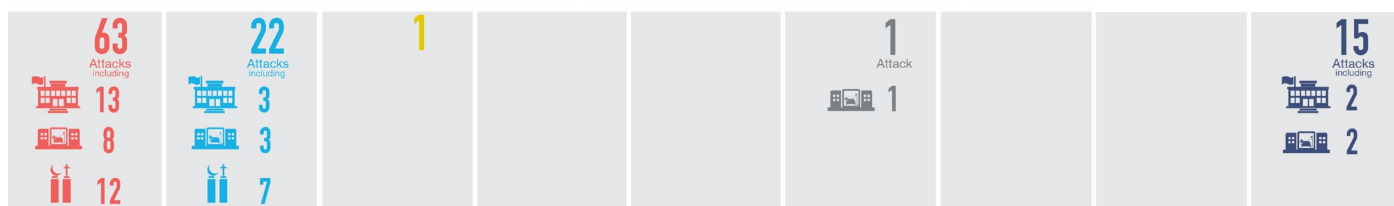
Extrajudicial Killing



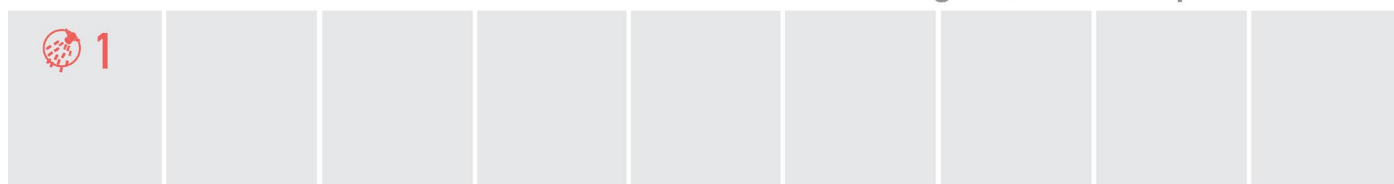
Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



Record of Indiscriminate Attacks and Attacks Using Outlawed Weapons



At least 348 barrel bombs were dropped by the Syrian Regime air force. Killing 3 civilians and damaging 7 civilian vital facilities



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A. Extrajudicial killing:

In November 2019, SNHR documented the deaths of 277 civilians, including 72 children and 32 women (adult female), 46 percent of whom killed by Syrian-Russian alliance forces; among the victims were three medical personnel, two media workers and two Civil Defense personnel. We also documented the deaths of 27 individuals due to torture, and at least 13 massacre. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in November at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

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

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

56 civilians, including 19 children and six women.

- **Russian forces:** 50, including 26 children and 11 women.

- **Extremist Islamist groups:**

- o **ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'):** Five.

- o **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition):** Six, including one child and one woman.

- o **Turkistan Islamic Party:** Four.

- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** One.

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

- **US-led coalition:** Three.

- **Other parties:** 126, including 24 children and 14 women, distributed as follows:

- o **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** 56 civilians, including 13 children and five women.

- o **Fires of unknown source:** 34 civilians, including two children and six women.

- o **Landmines of unknown origin:** 28 civilians, including eight children and one woman.

- o **Peace Spring forces:** Seven civilians, including two women.

- o **Shelling from unknown sources:** One child.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

SNHR documented in November 2019 at least 203 cases of arbitrary arrests, including eight women (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 Damascus Suburbs and Daraa governorates. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in November 2019 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:** 112, including one woman.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 14, including two women, all at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 35, including four women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 42, including one woman.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented in November at least 102 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, 85 of which were carried out at the hands of Syria-Russian alliance forces, mostly in Idlib governorate.

Among these attack, we documented 18 on schools, 14 on medical facilities and 19 others were on places of worship.

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

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 63.
- **Russian forces:** 22.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:**
Turkistan Islamic Party: One.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** One.
- **Other parties:** 15 attacks, distributed as follows:
 - Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** 13.
 - Landmines of unknown origin:** One.
 - Peace Spring forces:** One.

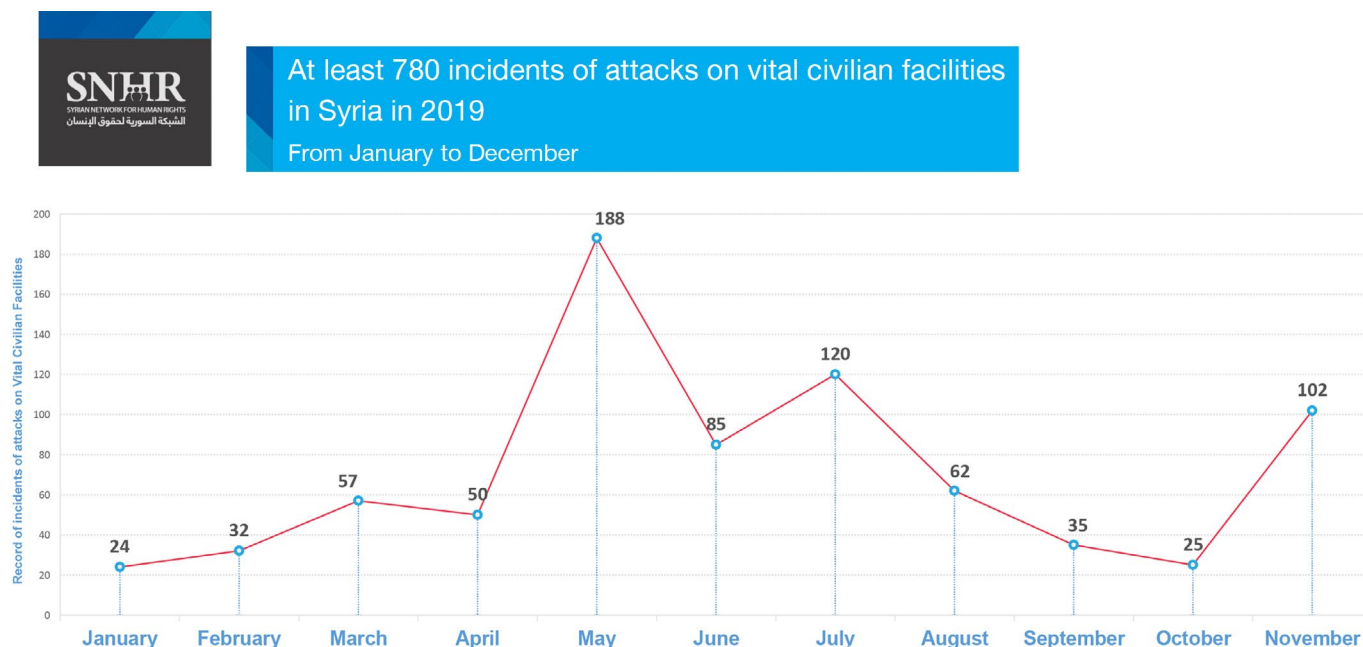
The record of attacks documented in November on vital civilian facilities is distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:



Perpetrator Party			Extremist Islamist groups		Other parties		
Attacked Facility	Syrian Regime forces	Russian forces	Turkistan Islamic Party	Syrian Democra tic Forces	Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified	Landmines of unknown origin	Peace Spring forces
Places of Worship							
Mosques	11	7	-	-	-	-	-
Churches and monasteries	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vital Educational Facilities							
Schools	13	3	-	-	1	1	-
Universities	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Vital Medical Facilities							
Medical Facilities	8	3	1	-	1	-	1
Ambulances	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Communal Facilities							
Gardens	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Markets	1	-	-	-	4	-	-
Playgrounds and stadiums	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure							
Power stations and energy facilities	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civil Defense Centers	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water facilities and related resources	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Official Headquarters	5	2	-	-	2	-	-
Means of transport	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bakeries	1	3	-	-	2	-	-
Civil society organizations	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
IDP Camps							
IDP camps	1	2	-	1	-	-	-
Total	63	22	1	1	13	1	1



Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2019 up to the start of December of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 780 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



The previous chart shows a noticeable increase in the record of incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in November as a result of the recent military escalation by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in northwest Syria this month.

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities that were we were able to document in November:

On Saturday, November 2, 2019, a car bomb exploded in the center of the popular market in Tal Abyad city in the northern suburbs of Raqqqa governorate, perpetrating a massacre, [in addition](#) to [causing varying levels](#) of [destruction](#) of [some 50 shops](#). We still try to reach witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Tal Abyad city was under the control of Operation Peace Spring forces (Turkish and Syrian National Army forces) at the time of the incident.





Destruction caused by the explosion of an unknown-source car bomb in the popular market in Tal Abyad city, Raqqa – November 2, 2019

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at the Civil Defense Center in Anadan city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, causing the partial destruction of the [center's building](#), and [inflicting varying levels](#) of [material damage](#) to its equipment and four vehicles belonging to the center (two [tank](#) trucks, a fire rescue vehicle and a dump truck). We note that the same artillery forces also targeted the center repeatedly over the next two days, putting it out of service. Anadan city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damage to vehicles belonging to the Civil Defense Center in Anadan city, Aleppo, caused by three days of ground attacks by Syrian Regime forces; these photos were taken on November 5, 2019 - Syrian Civil Defense



The SNHR contacted Mohammad Walid², a staff member at the Civil Defense center of Anadan city, who told us that on Sunday morning, November 3, at around 10:15 am, Syrian regime artillery began shelling the city intensively: **“The shells were fired consecutively every one-and-a-half minutes, with a number of shells hitting the Civil Defense Center in the city directly. The shells hit the garage while most of the vehicles were inside, causing damage to many of them; the reconnaissance flights were accompanied by artillery shelling.”** Mohammad informed us that the Civil Defense personnel were unable to evacuate the equipment and vehicles from the center, and added: **“The next day, at the same time, the regime’s artillery repeated the shelling, also in conjunction with the reconnaissance flight, and with the first shell landing, we evacuated the center and left the site. The shelling on that day focused on the center’s building, with most of it coming from the regime’s artillery stationed in the areas of Jam’iyeat al Zahraa and al Ramousa near Anadan city. The damage was significant, as four vehicles belonging to the center and several items of equipment sustained moderate material damage, in addition to several motorbikes belonging to the center’s members, solar panels and surveillance cameras that were also damaged, and 6,000 liters of diesel fuel were burned as a result of the shelling.”** Mohammad confirmed that there were no military headquarters in the area.

On Monday, November 4, 2019, at around 15:30, Syrian Regime forces used [a missile](#) launcher to fire missiles at the Dispensary in Jisr al Shoghour city directly at the center’s building, causing [partial destruction](#) of the facility, and inflicting moderate material damage to its equipment. We note that the dispensary has been providing services to about 9,000 patients per month. Jisr al Shoghour city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

The [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#) (‘UOSSM’) issued a statement condemning the assault on the center.

² We contacted him via WhatsApp on November 13, 2019





Destruction to the Dispensary in Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib, caused by Syrian regime's ground attack – November 4, 2019

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at around 23:55, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, launched an air raid, firing two missiles that landed near al Ikhlas Children's and Women's Hospital, southeast of Shnan village in Jabal al Zaweya area in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate; the planes subsequently launched a second air raid with two missiles shortly afterwards at around 00:20 on November 6, targeting the hospital directly, injuring two medical staff, [in addition](#) to [severely destroying](#) the [hospital building](#), [igniting fire](#) in a [part of the hospital](#), and [inflicting significant](#) material damage to its equipment, furniture and [an ambulance belonging](#) to the Syrian American Medical Association (SAMS), putting the hospital out of service. Shnan village was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



Visual guidance showing the site of an air attack, which we believe was Russian, on al Ikhlas Hospital in Shnan village, Idlib:



Adham Hamrin, a nurse from Me'rata village, who was working in the ambulance department of al Ikhlas Hospital in Shnan village, was suffocated by the fire that broke out in the hospital as a result of the attack. Adham³ told us: **“I woke up a few minutes before midnight of November 6 to the sound of a huge explosion that rocked the area. I later learned that it was the explosion of two missiles, one of which fell 50 meters east of the hospital, while the other fell a little further away than the first one. The bombing injured a number of the hospital’s reviewers. We gave them first aid, then we immediately started evacuating the nursing mothers, infants in the incubators, and staff from the hospital.”** Adham said that he returned with one of his colleagues to the hospital to make sure that it was empty: **“After we arrived, the aircraft returned to carry out a raid with two missiles that hit the hospital building directly, causing its destruction and igniting fire in it; we were able to get out only after the arrival of the Civil Defense members and the people who extinguished the fire got us out.”** Adham added: **“The hospital was severely destroyed in most of its departments, generators and equipment, and an ambulance was damaged. It is currently out of service.”**

On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a number of missiles that landed near the New al Janoudiya Bakery (formerly the al Taqwa Bakery), run by Ataa Relief and Development Organization, in [al Janoudiya](#) town in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles fell 50 meters from the bakery, [causing moderate material damage](#) to [the bakery’s building](#). Al Janoudiya 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 Thursday, November 7, 2019, fixed-wing (Su-24) Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Obada Bin al Samet Mosque in Jisr al Shoghour city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the mosque building](#), and [caused significant material damaged](#) to its furniture. Jisr al Shoghour city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

³ We contacted him via WhatsApp on November 13, 2019





Damage caused by Syrian regime's air attack on Obada Bin al Samet Mosque in Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib – November 7, 2019.

On Friday, November 8, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired [missiles](#) at St. [Georges Greek Orthodox Church](#) in Jisr al Shoghour city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the [church building](#). We note that the church building is empty and unused due to being subjected to previous repeated attacks and the displacement of the Christian community from the area. The 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, November 12, 2019, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at [an agricultural field](#) southwest of Ma'aret Harma village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, one of which hit a Civil Defense ambulance – Ma'aret Harma Center, while its staff were working to evacuate those injured in a previous bombing by fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, that used missiles to target the same field, resulting in the deaths of three civilians, including a Civil Defense member, and injured some others. In addition, an ambulance was completely [burned](#) and [put out of service](#). The moment another Civil Defense team arrived from Sfuhun Center to evacuate victims and injured from the area, several shells fired by the same artillery forces landed near the team, injuring three members of the team, in addition to causing [significant material](#) damage to a [Van-type service](#) vehicle belonging to the team. Ma'aret Harma village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



We spoke with Bassam al Hamad⁴, a member of the Civil Defense in Ma'aret Harma who was injured in the incident. He told us: **“We received a call about Russian warplanes targeting civilians who were picking olives southwest of Ma'aret Harma. Upon arrival, we found two men and two women who were injured, then we put them in the ambulance. After moving about 20 meters, we were hit by artillery shells. The shells fell behind the ambulance, in front of it and to its left about 50 meters away. I was hit in the thighs and the driver Ahmad al Najjar was also injured; my colleague Ahmad al Ali was hit in the head. I went out with the driver and two of the injured away from the vehicle. Artillery bombardment resumed, with shells falling respectively. We holed up behind a dirt barrier and asked for a support team to help us. In the meantime, the shells hit the ambulance and set it on fire, killing Ahmad and the two injured who could not leave the vehicle.”**

The SNHR contacted Abdul Salam Walid al Khalaf⁵, a Civil Defense member at the Sfuhun Center, who went with his team to support the Ma'aret Harma team: **“At the call of the sunset prayer, while we were following the shelling reports, we received the news that the Ma'aret Harma Center team had been bombed and asked for support; I went with the team in response despite the reconnaissance flights. We headed to them with the headlights off for fear of being bombed. Nearly half an hour later and about 100 meters before reaching them, a shell landed near us, injuring me in the eye and injuring the driver in the foot. We contacted the center and notified them that we were injured and that the ambulance of Ma'aret Harma Center was burning in front of us, and our vehicle was also hit and we were no longer able to use it. We waited at the site until the support arrived. We evacuated the Civil Defense team of Ma'aret Harma and the two civilians who were with them to the nearest medical point, while the bodies of the three martyrs were charred in the vehicle.”**

On Saturday, November 16, 2019, a car bomb exploded in front of travelers' bus station “al Karaj” in the middle of al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, perpetrating a massacre, [in addition](#) to [causing extensive destruction](#) of the seizure section and the police station within the starting point, and igniting fire in a number of buses. We still try to reach witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Al Bab city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

⁴ We contacted him via WhatsApp on November 13, 2019

⁵ We contacted him via WhatsApp on November 13, 2019



On Monday, November 18, 2019, Syrian Democratic Forces used a missile launcher to fire missiles at an IDPs' shelter in Jern al Haj Saleh village, which is administratively a part of Tal Abyad city in the northern suburbs of Raqqqa governorate, resulting in [casualties](#), in addition to [partially destroying the building](#). We note that the IDPs shelter in Jern al Haj Saleh High school. The village was under the control of Operation Peace Spring forces (Turkish and Syrian National Army forces) at the time of the incident.



On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, between 19:45 and 20:00, Syrian Regime forces and pro-Syrian regime Iranian militias, which we believe stationed in Jabal Azan area in the southern suburbs of Aleppo, used a missile platform to fire a Tochka 9M79 missile at Qahh [al Qadim IDP Camp](#) near Qahh village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The missile](#) landed [directly](#) in [the center](#) of the [IDP tents](#), [perpetrating a massacre](#), in addition to [igniting fire](#) in some [eight tents](#) and causing [significant material](#) damage to them. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at [al Nasr Mosque](#) in al Bara village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the mosque building](#), and caused moderate material damaged to its furniture. Al Bara 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 Saturday, November 23, 2019, a car bomb exploded near the [National Hospital](#) in al Sinaa neighborhood of Tal Abyad city in the northern suburbs of Raqqqa governorate, perpetrating a massacre, in addition to causing moderate material damage of the hospital building. We still try to reach witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Tal Abyad city was under the control of Operation Peace Spring forces (Turkish and Syrian National Army forces) at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, at around 11:00, a landmine exploded inside the Ibn Sina Primary School in al Tayba village, which is administratively a part of al Mayadeen city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, during school hours, perpetrating a massacre among children of the school students, while a number of children were playing with the mine, believing it to be a toy, and causing moderate material damage to the schoolyard. We still try to reach witnesses and survivors of the incident to obtain more details. The village was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at Adnan Kiwan Children and Women Hospital, which is supported by Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), in Kansafra village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles directly targeted the [hospital building](#), [severely destroying](#) its [building](#), and [causing significant material damage](#) to [its equipment](#) and [furniture](#), putting it out of service. Kansafra village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

The Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) issued [a statement](#) condemning targeting of the hospital on their official website.





On Monday, November 25, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at al Eman automatic Bakery northeast of [Beneen](#) village in Jabal al Zaweya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the [bakery's building](#), causing significant [material damage](#) to its equipment, and igniting fire in the fuel section inside [the bakery](#), putting it [out of service](#). The city 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:

SNHR documented at least one cluster munition attack in November carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Idlib governorate. This attack caused a massacre, resulting in the deaths of 15 civilians, including 10 children and three women (adult female).

The Syrian Regime's air force, including helicopters and fixed-wing warplanes, also dropped at least 348 barrel bombs on the governorates of Idlib and Latakia, distributed as follows:

-Idlib governorate: 278

-Latakia governorate: 70

These attacks resulted in the deaths of three civilians, and at least seven attacks on vital civilian facilities, including one on a school, two on places of worship and two on medical facilities.

The following are the most notable indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons that we were able to document in November:

On Wednesday, November 13, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on al Othman football ground, located on the outskirts of Kafr Sajna village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the deaths of [three civilian siblings](#), and causing moderate material damage to the playground facilities. The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, November 14, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' helicopters dropped at least four barrel bombs on an area, known as al Halya area, south of Kafranbel city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The Syrian Network for Human Rights obtained [exclusive videos](#) documenting the incident. We note that 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.





On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, between 19:45 and 20:20, Syrian Regime forces and pro-Syrian regime Iranian militias, which we believe stationed in Jabal Azan area in the southern suburbs of Aleppo, used a missile platform to fire a Tochka 9M79 missile loaded with 9n24 cluster submunitions at Qahh IDP Camp in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the deaths of 15 civilians, including 10 children and three women (adult female), and injured 50 others.

Most of the submunitions were deployed in the tent gathering area, with their [explosion](#) causing the [damage](#) of at [least eight tents](#), as well as [inflicting damage](#) to [the Maternity Hospital](#), which is supported by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), located 150 meters from Qahh Camp; we will issue a detailed report on the incident in the coming days.





Remnants of Tochka 9M79 missile loaded with 9n24 cluster submunitions fired by the Syrian regime and Iranian militias using a missile platform on Qahh IDPs Camp, Idlib - November 20, 2019.

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Ihsem town in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing damage to residential houses and to three vital facilities (Zafer al Alloush High School, the Civil Registry Building, Police Station); some [barrels contained](#) iron balls of varying sizes. Ihsem town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Iron balls among the remnants of barrel bombs dropped from the Syrian regime's helicopters on Ihsem town, Idlib – November 24, 2019



On Tuesday, November 26, 2019, Syrian regime helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that fell in front of al Rawda Children's and [Women's Hospital](#) - a private hospital - in Kafranbel city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, partially destroying the hospital building, and caused severe [material damaged](#) to its equipment and tools. We note that the hospital's work has been suspended after being previously attacked several times as a result of the ongoing Syrian-Russian alliance forces' attacks on the fourth de-escalation zone since April 26, 2019. Kafranbel city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damage caused by an air attack using barrel bombs by the Syrian regime on al Rawda Hospital in Kafranbel city, Idlib – November 26, 2019

IV. Attachments

[277 Civilians, including Two Media Workers, Three Medical Personnel and Two Civil Defense Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in November 2019](#)

[At least 203 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in November 2019](#)



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 by Russian or International Coalition 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 International Coalition forces and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.



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

Recommendations:

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, and empower the Constitutional Commission 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 82,000 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 82,000 people forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.

The Coalition (international coalition forces 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.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF members, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.

Operation Peace Spring alliance:

- Those responsible for Operation Peace Spring should investigate the incidents that resulted in civilian victims and determine the causes behind them, compensate the victims and hold those responsible accountable, as well as working to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.
- The committee established by the Defense Ministry of the Syrian Interim Government to investigate abuses and breaches should publish the findings of its investigations into violations on a dedicated website, update this data regularly, issue recommendations and follow up on their implementation.

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.

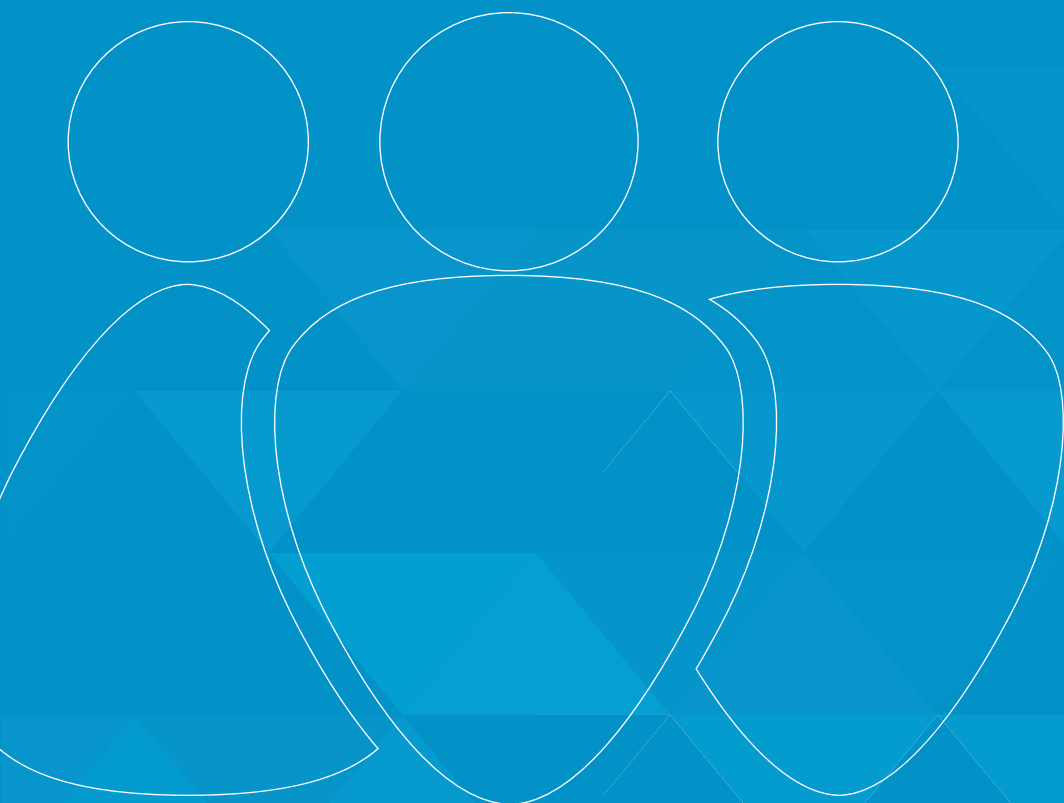
Humanitarian Organizations:

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

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