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The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in September 2019

Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces
Commit Dozens of Violations
Despite Ceasefire Agreement in
Northwest Syria



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Thursday, October 3, 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 September 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.

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 photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about our methodology.¹

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



This report contains one account 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. September Outline

September saw a reduction in the rate of violations committed following a ceasefire agreement [declared](#) by the Russian Ministry of Defense in the fourth de-escalation zone, which came into effect at 06:00 on August 31 and remains in force at the time of writing this report. Despite this agreement being in force, ground attacks by Syrian Regime forces and its allies on the area have not stopped, killing dozens of civilians.

On September 19, the Security Council convened a session to vote on two cease-fire resolutions in the fourth de-escalation zone; the first, submitted by Belgium, Germany and Kuwait, proposed a humanitarian ceasefire, with Russia using its [veto](#) for the 13th time to vote against it in favor of the Syrian regime, supported by China. The second draft resolution, submitted by Russia and China, concerned fears of terrorism by extremist groups, but was rejected by nine countries, with four abstentions.

Attacks on vital civilian centers in the fourth de-escalation zone continued this month despite the ceasefire agreement. The Syrian-Russian alliance forces committed 78 percent of the total number of attacks documented.

The bombings in northern Syria were instrumental in the killing of civilians and attacks on the operations of vital civilian facilities throughout this month.

Also throughout September, Syrian Regime forces continued to pursue and arrest refugees returning to Syria via land crossings, despite the returnees having settled their security situations prior to their return, as well as targeting civilians and former members of factions of the Armed Opposition, along with their families, in areas that have signed settlement agreements with Syrian Regime forces. Syrian Democratic Forces also continued their pol-



icy of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of political activists and members of civil society organizations opposing their policies. Syrian Democratic Forces also carried out mass arrests against a number of families, targeting several members of the same family, without providing clear charges and taking all those detained to an undisclosed location. September also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham arresting activists with civil society groups, media activists, university professors and civilians, including children and elderly people. Factions of the Armed Opposition also continued carrying out arrests and kidnappings that concentrated in the Afrin area.

This month, we also documented Syrian Regime forces' continued use of cluster munitions, with three attacks launched using these munitions. The Syrian Air Force also dropped dozens of barrel bombs, mostly on the al Kbaina hills' front in the suburbs of Latakia suburbs. During the same period, demonstrations broke out in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, with protesters demanding that the International Coalition forces expel Iranian militias and Syrian Regime forces from villages and towns which those forces controlled in the east of the Euphrates, especially from al Salehiya, Marat, Khsham, Mazloom and Hatla. In response to these protests, Syrian Regime forces shot at demonstrators, resulting in the deaths of two civilians, and injuring dozens of others.

On September 30, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [announced](#) that between September 26 and 29, the UN and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent had successfully completed the delivery of a humanitarian convoy of aid to the al Rukban Camp near the Jordanian border, which has been suffering from the deteriorating humanitarian situation for months.

At the end of September, we recorded a cautious reverse-displacement of thousands of civilians who returned to their areas in the fourth de-escalation zone following a reduction in the frequency of bombardment due to the dire humanitarian conditions in their places of displacement caused by the high population density and the lack of material resources and of adequate relief assistance.



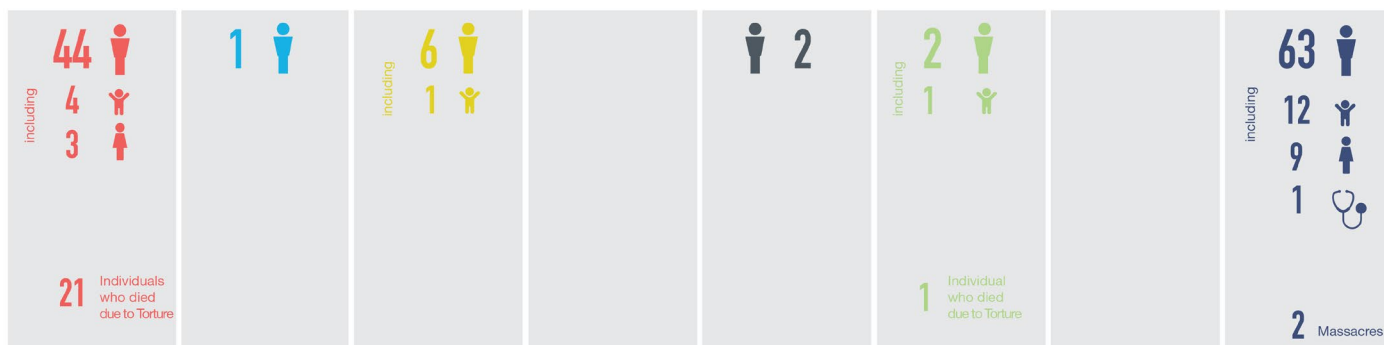
III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in September

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in September 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 September 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			

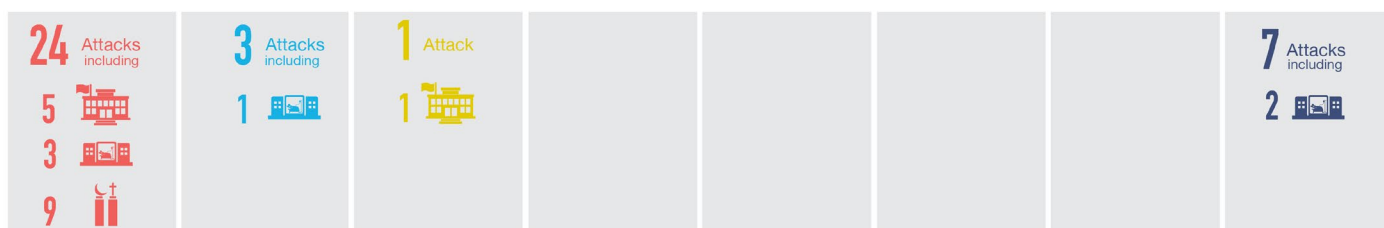
Extrajudicial Killing



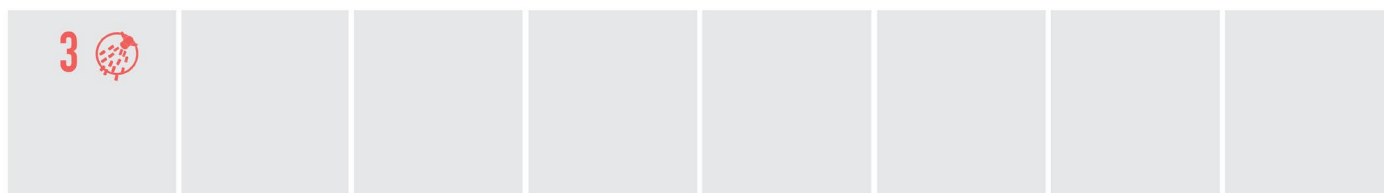
Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



Record of Indiscriminate Attacks and Attacks Using Outlawed Weapons



At least 48 barrel bombs were dropped by the Syrian Regime air force



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A. Extrajudicial killing:

In September 2019, SNHR documented the deaths of 118 civilians, including 18 children and 12 women (adult female), including one medical personnel staff member. We also documented the deaths of 22 individuals due to torture (20 civilians and two gunmen), and at least two massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in September 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):** 44 civilians, including four children and three women.
- **Russian forces:** One.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** Two civilians, both at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition)
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** Two, including one child.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** Six civilians, including one child.
- **Other parties:** 63 civilians, including 12 children and nine women.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

SNHR documented in September 2019 at least 441 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 26 children and 12 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 Daraa governorate, followed by Damascus Suburbs governorate then Deir Ez-Zour governorate. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in September 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:** 197, including four children and one woman.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 29, including three children, all at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 32, including two children and two women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 183, including 17 children and nine women.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented in September at least 35 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, 27 of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian-Russian alliance forces, which concentrated in Idlib governorate.



Among these attacks, six were on schools, six were on medical facilities and nine others were on places of worship.

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

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 24
- **Russian forces:** Three
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** One
- **Other parties:** Seven

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

Perpetrator Party				
Attacked Facility	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	Syrian Democratic Forces	Other Parties
Places of Worship				
Mosques	9			
Vital Educational Facilities				
Schools	5		1	
Orphanages				1
Vital Medical Facilities				
Medical Facilities	3	1		2
Ambulances		1		
Communal Facilities				
Markets				2
Infrastructure				
Civil Defense centers	2			
Water facilities and related resources				1
Bakeries	1			
Civil Society organizations	4			
IDP Camps				
IDP camps		1		1
Total	24	3	1	7

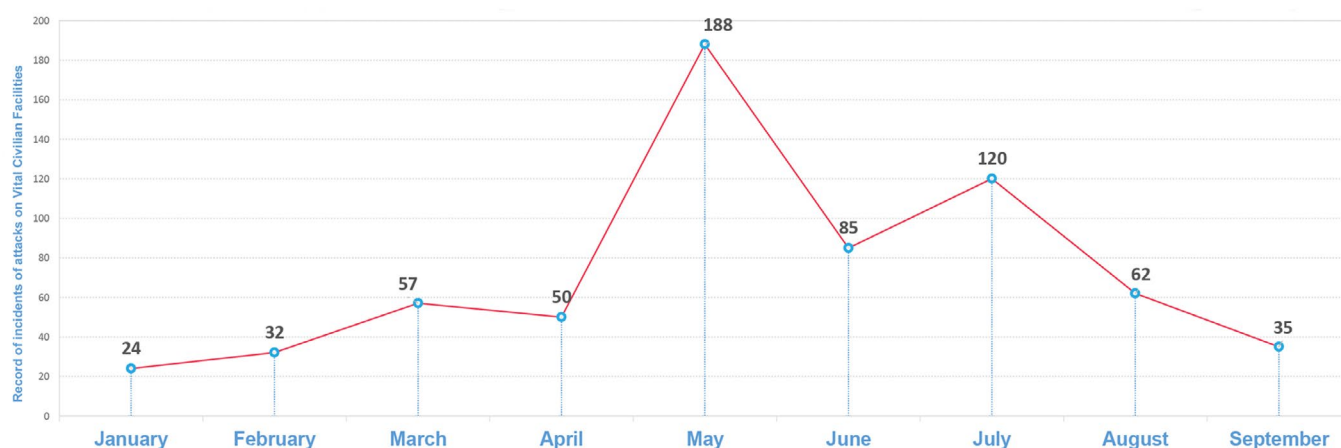


Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2019 up to the start of October of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 653 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



At least 653 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria in 2019

From January to October



The previous chart shows that the record of incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in September is the lowest since March 2019; this was due to the ceasefire agreement in the fourth de-escalation zone that came into force on August 31, which was accompanied by an unprecedented reduction in the frequency of bombardment since the beginning of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces' military escalation on the region on April 26.

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

On Friday, August 30, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at al Zerba dispensary, one of the facilities listed in the humanitarian de-confliction mechanism adopted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and supported by Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) and located in al Zerba town in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. [The attack](#) caused [severe destruction](#) to the [dispensary building](#), [as well](#) as [inflicting significant damage on its equipment](#), putting it out of service. We note that the center had previously been attacked by the same forces three months earlier on Monday, May 6, 2019. Al Zerba town 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 American Medical Society (SAMS), which supports the center, issued [a statement](#) condemning the attack on the facility





Destruction caused by an air attack by the Syrian regime on al Zerba dispensary in al Zerba town, Aleppo – August 30, 2019

On Saturday, August 31, 2019, at around 00:31, a fixed-wing warplane, which we believe was Russian, took off from Hmeimim airbase in the suburbs of Latakia governorate flying towards the southeast, and at around 00:56, it fired at least six missiles in the vicinity of al Eman Children's and Women's Hospital, a facility supported by HUMAN APPEAL for relief and development, located to the west of Urm al Kubra village in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The attack injured six children, [in addition](#) to [causing the partial destruction](#) of [the hospital building](#), as well as [inflicting severe](#) material damage to the hospital equipment and [an ambulance](#) belonging to it. Following the shelling of the hospital, patients were evacuated to other medical facilities and its work was suspended. We note that a ceasefire in the area declared by the Russian regime came into effect after the attack at 06:00 on the same day. Urm al Kubra village 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 babies' incubators following an air attack which we believe was Russian on the perimeter of al Eman Children's and Women's Hospital in Urm al Kubra town, Aleppo - August 31, 2019

The SNHR contacted Dr. Mustafa Barakat ², the director of al Eman Hospital in Urm al Kubra town, who told us that at around 01:00 on Saturday, August 31, 2019, the vicinity of the hospital was exposed to six consecutive raids, with each coming around five minutes after the preceding one. He added: **“When the warplane launched the raid, I was in my house, which is about one kilometer from the hospital, and I heard the sound of a light explosion, as a result of which one of the alternate nurses told me that the hospital is being bombed and that the observatories had circulated reports that the aggressor warplane is a Russian one, and that it was still in the air and would repeat the bombing. So, I directed the hospital’s personnel to go to lower levels and rushed to get to the place; however, the Civil Defense members and I were unable to get close, and the medical staff and patients were unable to leave the hospital because of the continued shelling.”** Dr. Mustafa added that he learned from the medical staff upon his arrival that a Russian warplane carried out two raids three meters from the west side of the hospital,

² Via WhatsApp on September 9, 2019



another raid six meters from the north side, and two more raids from the east side. He said: **“The raids caused great damage to the hospital equipment and damaged several incubators in the children’s department. Also, part of the hospital’s surrounding wall was demolished, and some of the windows, doors, fuel tanks, generators and vehicles belonging to the doctors were destroyed. The missiles also caused five holes in the vicinity of the hospital, about five to six meters deep, with a radius of about seven meters. The hospital was completely put out of service.”** Dr. Mustafa stressed that the area where the hospital is located is free of any military headquarters or presence.

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, a motorcycle bomb exploded near the orphanage building in the middle of Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, for the second time in the same day, causing minor [material damage](#) to the [orphanage building](#). We were unable to identify the party responsible for the bombing up to the time of preparing this report. Izaz city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Friday, September 6, 2019, gunmen blew up the elevated water tank in north of Heesh village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing the complete destruction of the tank and putting it [out of service](#). We were unable to identify the [party responsible](#) for the [assault up](#) to the time of preparing this report. Heesh 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, September 12, 2019, fixed- wing (Su-24) Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile near the Civil Defense Center in Sfuhun village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing significant destruction to the center’s building, as well as [inflicting moderate](#) material damage to its furniture and [an ambulance belonging to it](#), putting it out of service. Sfuhun 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 Civil Defense](#) Organization published news of the targeting of the Sfuhun Center through its official account on the social networking platform “Twitter”.





Destruction caused by an air raid by the Syrian regime on the Civil Defense Center in Sfuhun village, Idlib - September 12, 2019

On Friday, September 13, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' artillery fired a shell in front of Kewan Hospital in Kansafra village in Jabal al Zaweya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing moderate material damage to [the hospital building](#). 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.



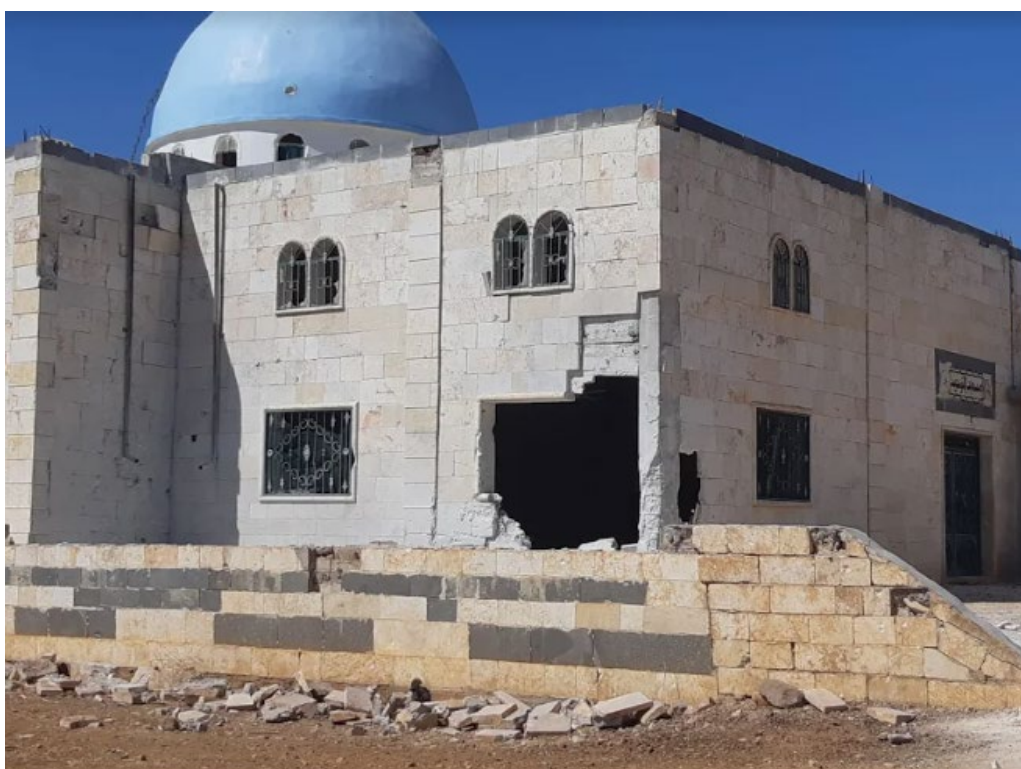
Damage caused by a ground attack by the Syrian regime on Kewan Hospital in Kansafra village, Idlib - September 13, 2019



On Friday, September 13, 2019, Syrian Democratic Forces' artillery forces fired two shells near al Urouba School in the middle of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The shells fell on houses near the school, causing minor material damage to the school's furniture. Afrin city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, a car bomb exploded near al Ra'ee Hospital on the main road between al Ra'ee town and al Bab city in the northeastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The explosion occurred about 500m away from the hospital, causing a massacre, in addition to causing [moderate material](#) damage to the [hospital's building](#) and furniture. We were unable to identify the party responsible for the bombing up to the time of preparing this report. The area was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' artillery fired a shell at al Tawhid Mosque in Hassana village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing the partial destruction of the [mosque building](#), as well as inflicting [moderate material](#) damage on its furniture. 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.



Destruction caused by a ground attack by the Syrian regime on al Tawhid Mosque in al Hassana village, Idlib – September 26, 2019



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

SNHR documented at least three cluster munition attacks in September carried out by Syrian Regime forces through ground attacks in Idlib governorate. These attacks resulted in the deaths of two civilians, including one woman, and injured five others.

The Syrian Regime's air force also dropped at least 48 barrel bombs, all in the fourth de-escalation zone, distributed as follows:

- Hama governorate: Six
- Idlib governorate: Four
- Latakia governorate: 38

These attacks caused damage to at least two vital civilian facilities, namely two schools.

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

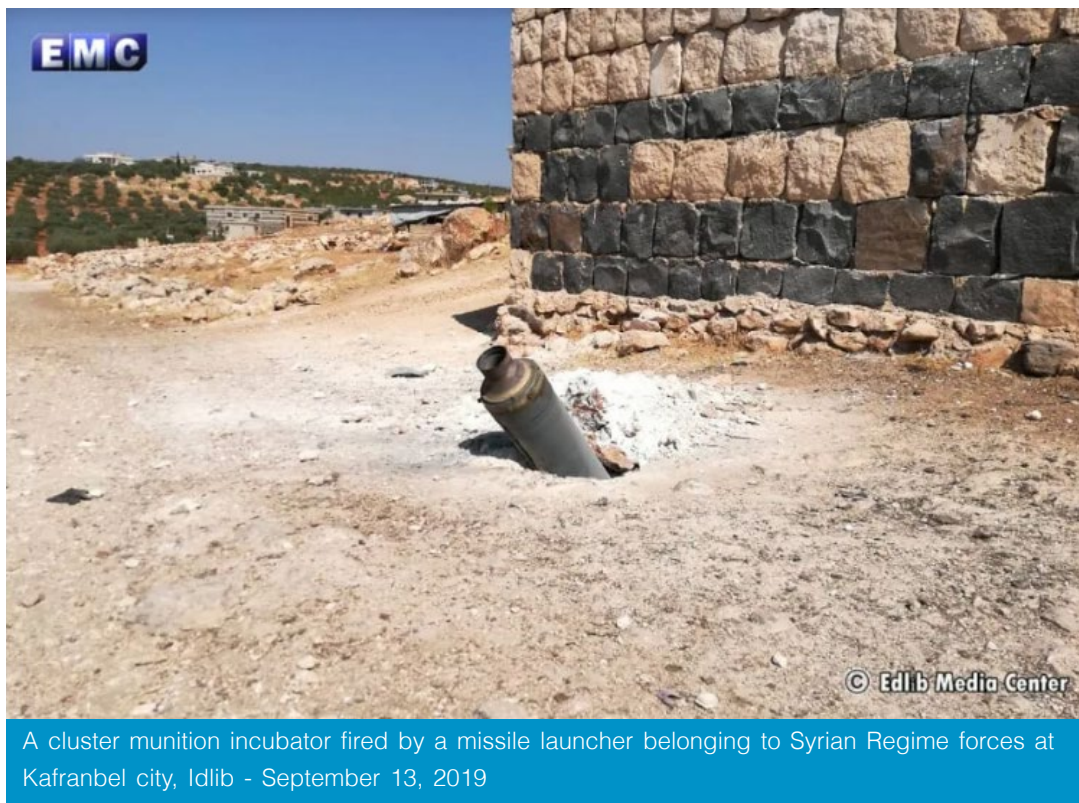
On Saturday, August 31, 2019, Syrian Regime forces' helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near al Wehda Preparatory School in Ma'ar Shamarin village of eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the [school building](#), and causing significant material damage to its furniture. We note that the bombardment took place before the ceasefire declared by the Russian regime entered into force at 06:00 the same day. Ma'ar Shamarin was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction caused by an air attack by the Syrian regime using barrel bombs on al Wehda Preparatory School in Ma'ar Shamarin village, Idlib – August 31, 2019



On Friday, September 13, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to fire a number of missiles loaded with [cluster munitions](#) at al Jedar neighborhood in west of Kafranbel city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the deaths of a young man and a woman from the same family, and injuring at least five others. 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.



IV. Attachments

[118 Civilians, including One Medical Personnel Member Staff, Documented Killed in Syria in September 2019](#)

[At least 441 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in September 2019, including 276 Cases of Enforced Disappearance](#)



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.

Armed Opposition factions

- Armed Opposition factions must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Pledge to cease any arbitrary arrests, and investigate incidents that have resulted in violations of international humanitarian law.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

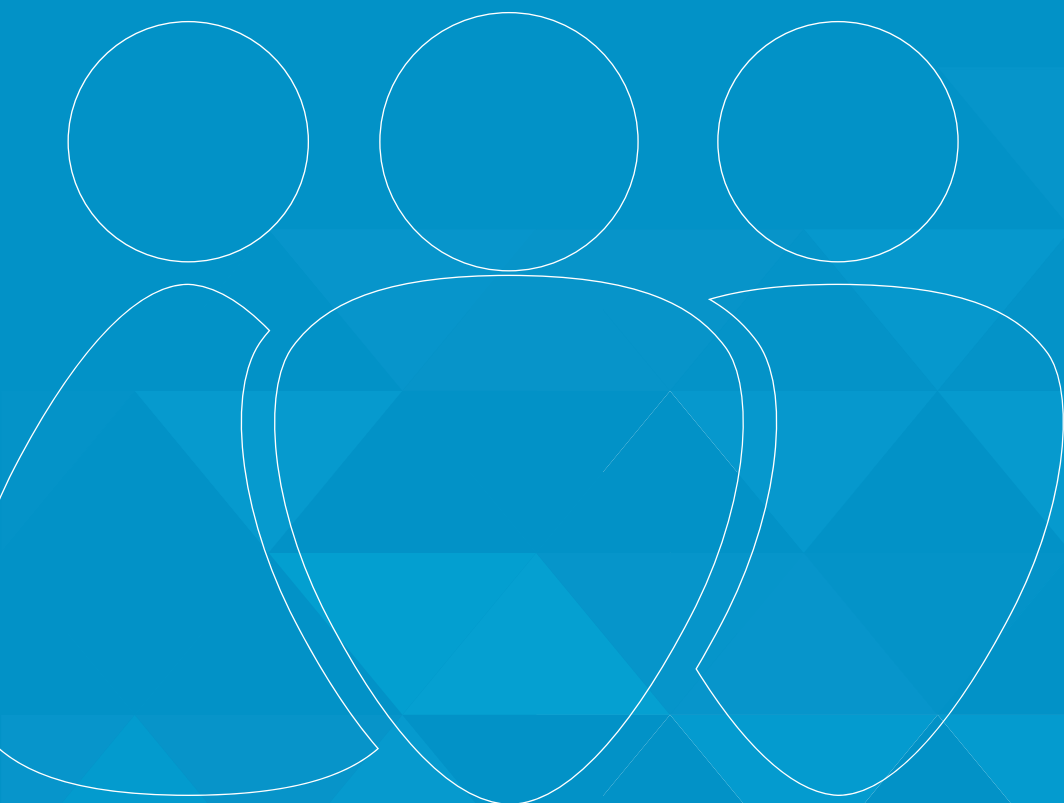
Humanitarian Organizations:

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

Acknowledgments

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