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# The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in April 2022

**The Syrian Regime Issues More 'Laws' Contradicting the Essence of the Law Which Are More Like Security Texts Aimed at Legitimizing the Violation of Citizens' Rights**

**Saturday 07 May 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 analyzes in Syria.

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## I. Introduction and Methodology

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances are the violations most frequently perpetrated against Syrian citizens. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, also violating the rights of Syrian citizens. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has continued to document every incident that its team members are able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our publication of periodic monthly reports recording and highlighting the continued suffering of the Syrian people, which subsequently grew to eight reports on different issues issued at the beginning of each month. In the course of our work, SNHR has compiled a massive database cataloguing hundreds of thousands of incidents, each of which involves a pattern of violations that we have been able to document.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria, which SNHR documented in April 2022, and catalogues the death toll of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights attacks on civilian objects, which SNHR's team was able to document during this period. To find out more about our working [methodology](#) in documenting and archiving data, please visit the following link that explains this in detail.

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. Summary of the Most Notable Events in April:

### In regard to bombardment and military operations:

In April, we documented a noticeable increase in the frequency of artillery shelling carried out by Syrian regime forces on the Idlib region in northwestern Syria, compared to previous months this year. This shelling was concentrated on the villages and towns of Jabal al Zaweya close to the line of contact with Armed Opposition factions in the southern suburbs of Idlib. Regime artillery shelling also targeted the towns of the western suburbs of Aleppo and the northern and eastern Idlib suburbs, with one of these attacks resulting in the deaths of [four children in Ma'aret al Na'san](#) village, east Idlib, on April 4. We also documented Syrian regime forces' targeting of some roads near the contact lines with anti-armor missiles.

[On April 5, the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a statement](#) that the relevant United Nations bodies and the international community share a large part of the responsibility for the Syrian regime's continued human rights violations, including the killing of four children in the Idlib suburbs the previous day. The statement added, **"The shells fell directly or very close to the children's whereabouts, targeting indiscriminately without any justification, which may amount to a war crime."**

Also in April, especially in the last two weeks of the month, we documented an increase in the frequency of Russian overflights and airstrikes on northwestern Syria compared to March. These attacks were concentrated on the villages and towns of the Jabal al Zaweya area and the villages of the western suburbs of Hama. In the second half of April, we also monitored several Russian overflights in the Idlib region, during which the Russian aircraft fired air-to-air missiles, whose loud explosions were heard across the region.

The Syrian-Russian alliance forces launched dozens of airstrikes on the Syrian Badiya (desert) in April, targeting vehicles and areas where ISIS elements, who've been launching attacks on Syrian regime forces, are in hiding. The military operations killed dozens of fighters from both sides.

In the areas of the northwestern and eastern suburbs of Aleppo, we documented Syrian Democratic Forces continuing carrying out ground attacks in April. One of these attacks, [targeting a sports field in Marea city on April 26](#), injured several children, while another attack [targeting a Civil Defense team](#) in Jarablos city, east Aleppo, on April 18, injured three Civil Defense rescue personnel, in addition to causing significant material damage to a vehicle belonging to the targeted team.

The areas controlled by the Syrian National Army forces in the Afrin region and the northern and eastern suburbs of Aleppo witnessed an escalation in the intensity of clashes among the Syrian National Army factions in April compared to previous months, in which light and medium weapons were used within residential neighborhoods, especially in Afrin city, Bulbul, Izaz, al Bab, and other areas, intimidating civilians and creating a state of chaos. In addition, we recorded several injuries among civilians due to stray gunfire during the shootout, with [one of the wounded civilians dying in Bulbul town, north of Aleppo governorate on April 21](#), while [another civilian died](#) as a result of clashes between two factions in Afrin city on April 23.

In terms of bombings, in April, we monitored the explosion of improvised explosive devices in the governorates of Daraa, Hasaka, and Aleppo. A car bomb explosion [in al Bab city, east of Aleppo, on April 10, resulted in the death of a civilian.](#)

April also saw continuing civilian deaths and injuries due to explosions caused by landmines and munitions remnants [in various governorates and regions of Syria, with these incidents being concentrated especially in the governorates of Daraa, Deir Ez-Zour, Hasaka, Idlib, and Hama.](#) SNHR documented the deaths of 13 civilians, including four children and two women, resulting from landmine explosions in April, bringing the total death toll from this cause since the beginning of 2022 to 51 civilians, including 24 children and four women.

April also witnessed killings of civilians, including children and women, in various governorates, mostly in Daraa and Hasaka governorates, by gunmen whom SNHR has been unable to identify. Deir Ez-Zour governorate has witnessed an increase in killings by gunmen who we believe are affiliated with ISIS, totaling about 15 operations in the governorate. Among the most prominent [killings in April](#) was the murder of two women in al Shaddadi city, south of Hasaka, on April 2. We also documented the killing of a child in al Zer village in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour on April 6 by gunmen whom SNHR has been unable to identify, in addition to the killing of a judge in Qeita village in the north of Daraa governorate on April 7. We also documented [continuing killings in al Hawl Camp](#); among the most prominent killings in the camp during April was [the killing of two IDP women on April 18.](#)

On April 9, the Syrian regime's [SANA news agency](#) reported that the Israeli Air Force had launched raids on some locations in the central region, with the agency adding that the airstrikes caused material damage. On April 14, the Israeli Air Force launched airstrikes on some locations [in the western suburbs of Damascus](#), causing material damage. On April 27, SANA news agency said that [four Syrian regime soldiers](#) were killed as a result of airstrikes launched by the Israeli Air Force on some locations in the vicinity of Damascus city, adding that the airstrikes also resulted in material losses, according to the agency.

#### **In regard to arrests and enforced disappearances:**

Syrian regime forces have continued to persecute and target Syrian citizens in areas under regime control in connection with their political dissent and expression of opinions, despite the right to both being guaranteed by the Syrian constitution and international law. This proves once again the truth of the crucial point which we have reiterated several times previously, namely that no Syrian citizen can feel safe from arrests since these are carried out without any basis in law or any oversight by any independent judiciary. Among the arrests and detentions that we recorded in April are the following:

**First:** Syrian regime forces continued in April to persecute and arrest individuals who had concluded settlements of their security status with the Syrian regime in areas that had previously concluded settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in Damascus Suburbs and Daraa governorates, with most occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests and at checkpoints.

**Second:** We documented arrests by Syrian regime forces in Damascus Suburbs governorate targeting a number of civilians and former activists who had previously worked in the medical and humanitarian relief fields while their areas were under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition.

**Third:** We documented random arrests in the governorates of Raqqa and Deir Ez-Zour, targeting citizens, including civilians, who had previously settled their security status at the beginning of 2022.

**Fourth:** We also documented arrests targeting civilians while they were visiting the Immigration and Passports offices in the governorates of Daraa, Hama, and Homs to obtain documents related to traveling abroad.

In terms of releases from prisons and detention centers in April, we documented the release of 16 civilian detainees held by the Syrian regime, most of them from Damascus Suburbs, Aleppo, and Idlib governorates, who were released from regime detention centers in Damascus after the end of their arbitrarily imposed sentences. According to the released individuals' families, relatives, and friends, and to the information recorded on our database the former detainees spent an average period of between one and 10 years in the Syrian regime's detention centers, where they were held in extremely poor conditions which included being subjected to torture, and endured an almost complete lack of healthcare and medical care, along with severe overcrowding; all had been arrested without receiving any explanation of the reasons for their detention and without any arrest warrants being provided.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in April, with the number detained and forcibly disappeared increasing this month as SDF personnel continued carrying out campaigns of mass raids and detentions, targeting civilians, including women, on the pretext of fighting ISIS cells, with some of these campaigns backed by US-led coalition helicopters. We also documented detentions targeting civilians, including a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party's sub-council in Syria. These arrests were concentrated in Hasaka city. We also recorded the detention of internally displaced civilians from Homs governorate following raids on their current places of residence in random camps in Raqqa governorate.

We also recorded Syrian Democratic Forces kidnapping children with the aim of taking them to its training and recruitment camps and forcibly conscripting them, preventing their families from communicating with them, and failing to disclose their fate.

April also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham detaining civilians, including media activists and politicians, with these arrests concentrated in Idlib governorate; most of these arrests occurred due to the detainees expressing opinions critical of the HTS's management of areas under its control. We also documented Hay'at Tahrir al Sham personnel detaining a number of women along with their children after beating them, before later releasing them, on charges of smuggling cigarettes from the areas under the control of the Syrian National Army to the areas of the western suburbs of Aleppo under HTS control.

Meanwhile, all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army also continued carrying out arbitrary detentions and kidnappings in April, most of which were carried out on a mass scale, targeting individuals coming from areas controlled by the Syrian regime. In addition, we documented detentions carried out under an ethnic pretext. We also documented raids and detentions carried out by Syrian National Army personnel, targeting civilians, on charges of collaborating with Syrian Democratic Forces. These incidents were concentrated in some villages near Afrin city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

### **Regarding living conditions:**

The living and economic situation in all regions of Syria continues to deteriorate drastically and constantly at all levels. **The areas under the control of Syrian regime forces** witnessed a continuation of the increase in steep price rises for most food and other grocery items, amid a scarcity of services, especially in supplies of electricity and water. Some families in areas under Syrian regime forces' control told us that despite the restrictions imposed by the regime on receiving money transfers from their relatives abroad, this is the only source available to tens of thousands of families to enable them to secure the most basic necessities of life.

**In Aleppo city's al Sheikh Maqsoud and al Ashrafiya neighborhoods**, which are under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, the distribution of bread was suspended on April 5th after the limited amount of flour stored in the warehouses ran out following the siege imposed by Syrian regime forces on the entrances to the two neighborhoods since March 13, 2022, which prevented local people from bringing in any flour, medicines, medical supplies or fuel, due to a dispute between members of Syrian regime forces and Syrian Democratic Forces, which arose after a checkpoint belonging to the Syrian regime's Fourth Division prevented a trailer loaded with sugar from entering al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, with Syrian Democratic Forces stationed in a location near the Fourth Division checkpoint clashing with them, killing a member of Syrian regime forces. Following this incident, Syrian regime forces imposed a siege on the two neighborhoods which has continued up to the current day. We note that nearly 200,000 civilians live in the two neighborhoods suffering from deplorable and deteriorating humanitarian conditions as a result of the siege.

**The cities of Hasaka and al Qameshli** witnessed clashes between Syrian regime forces and Syrian Democratic Forces on April 5, after which the Syrian Democratic Forces imposed a siege on all the security centers belonging to Syrian regime forces in both cities; this siege was reportedly launched in response to the siege imposed by Syrian regime forces on al Sheikh Maqsoud and al Ashrafiya neighborhoods in Aleppo city.

**In northwestern Syria**, civilians continued to suffer from the high prices of consumer goods, in light of the dominance of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham over the trade in these materials and setting of their prices by pro-HTS traders, in addition to the depreciation of the value of the Turkish lira - used for trading there - against the US dollar, in light of the almost total lack of purchasing power of those living in the region, due to the spread of unemployment and high poverty rates, especially among those living in the camps. With the advent of Ramadan at the beginning of April, the prices of vegetables, fruits, and food supplies increased. Activists in the region told us that the price of a kilo of tomatoes amounted to 20 Turkish liras, and a kilo of meat exceeded 100 Turkish liras. As for basic food items, the price of sugar reached 13 Turkish liras per kilo, while bulgur has risen sharply to reach 10 Turkish liras per kilo, and the price of a liter of vegetable oil reached 22 Turkish liras. In addition to these increases, fuel prices witnessed a new rise in April, as the price of gasoline rose to \$1.17 per liter, and the price of household gas rose to \$13.81 per cylinder.

On April 14, [Mercy Corps warned that](#) the conflict in Ukraine threatens to exacerbate Syria's increasing food insecurity. The organization added that food prices increased throughout Syria by 86% in January 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. This has exacerbated food insecurity, especially in the north-west region of Syria where a large part of the population lives in overcrowded IDP camps and is highly dependent on humanitarian aid that enters through Bab al Hawa border crossing with Turkey.

**As for northeastern Syria**, the economic situation in this region is not different from the rest of the Syrian regions, with the markets witnessing a significant increase in the prices of consumer goods in conjunction with the month of Ramadan, which amounted to nearly 100% due to the absence of supply control, fluctuation in the US dollar exchange rate, smuggling operations to other regions and the charge fees imposed by the checkpoints of the Syrian regime and Syrian Democratic Forces for entering these materials.

[Al Monitor website](#) reported on April 11 that Deir Ez-Zour governorate in eastern Syria is facing a water and bread crisis that is likely to become even worse during the month of Ramadan. The website added that water cuts for long periods have caused a sharp rise in the prices of bottled water from tanks, with the price of 30-barrel tankers having reached 15,000 Syrian pounds. The website added that the residents of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which was long considered the bread basket of Syria, are now battling hunger and thirst.

### **In regard to asylum, displacement and forced displacement:**

The suffering of the IDPs in northwest Syria has continued, especially in light of the deteriorating economic conditions coinciding with the month of Ramadan. On the level of UN humanitarian aid, the World Food Program, on April 9, informed humanitarian organizations operating in northwestern Syria via email about reducing the size of the food ration for each family as follows: 5.7 kg of bulgur becoming 5 kg after adjustment, 7.5 kg of rice becoming 5 kg, 6 kg of red lentils becoming 5 kg, 6 kg of chickpeas becoming 5 kg, while keeping the other materials as they were, so that the adjusted food ration for each person provides 1,170 calories, assuming that the average number of members in one family is 5 individuals, [as of May 2022, according to the World Food Program's notice](#). This will exacerbate the suffering of the beneficiaries who depend mainly on food baskets to secure food. We note that this is the second time that such a measure has been taken, as the contents of the food basket were reduced [in October 2021](#), making the food ration for each person in the family at 1,341 calories.

**In al Rukban camp** on the Syrian-Jordanian border, the already extreme suffering of the camp's residents continues to worsen due to the siege imposed on the camp by the regime and the prevention of humanitarian aid entry, forcing some families (including women and children) to go to areas controlled by Syrian regime forces where they face extreme danger. On April 3, [Anadolu Agency](#) reported that Syrian regime forces had tightened the siege on the camp and prevented the entry of basic materials such as fuel, firewood, and flour. The agency added that the rudimentary health clinic in the camp does not have any doctors, and the medical team working in it consists of nursing staff only. The agency quoted Jens Lark, spokesman for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as stating that humanitarian aid convoys have not reached the area since September 2019. In the same context, [the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor](#) said on April 6 that 8,000 IDPs in al Rukban camp need urgent humanitarian intervention, adding that the camp's residents are suffering extremely poor living conditions due to the Syrian regime besieging the camp, preventing the entry of basic materials and essential supplies, and to Jordan's closure of its side of the border.

**In the camps in northeastern Syria**, the situation is also still catastrophic, especially in al Hawl Camp in Hasaka suburbs, where the camp's first sector witnessed [a fire incident](#) on April 19 that burned several tents; SNHR has so far been unable to identify the cause of the fire.

On April 14, [the Guardian](#) said that British MPs and a human rights group have called on the UK government to repatriate a young British boy and his gravely ill mother from a detention camp in northeast Syria, after doctors said she was at risk of dying and leaving the child orphaned, as she is suffering as a result of a head injury sustained in an explosion in 2019. The newspaper pointed out that at least 30 British children remain in 'detention camps' in northeast Syria, where they live in dangerous and squalid conditions.

On April 15, the Russian [Izvestia newspaper](#) reported that 10 Russian children had arrived in Russia after being repatriated from al Rouj Camp in northeastern Syria. The newspaper quoted the Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, as saying that the ages of the children six boys and four girls - ranged from five to 17 years old.

### On the political and human rights level:

On March 31, [the International Rescue Committee](#) reported that since the beginning of the conflict, the healthcare system in Syria has seen unprecedented levels of violence and violations, with a quarter of all killings of health workers in conflict zones around the world in the past five years recorded in Syria. The committee added that, according to the latest estimates, more than 50% of the physicians previously in the area have left the northeastern region of Syria. As for the Coronavirus pandemic, less than 7% of the population received a full vaccination against the virus, with the committee indicating that health activities are witnessing a severe case of lack of funding, as funding in 2021 covered only 36% of the needs, leaving a funding gap of 64%.

On April 1, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted Resolution [A/HRC/49/L.30](#) on the human rights situation in Syria, with 23 countries voting in favor of the resolution, while Russia, China, Eritrea, Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, and Armenia voted against, and 16 countries abstained from voting. The adopted resolution included a renewal of the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) for an additional year. The resolution condemned the grave violations of basic human rights and international humanitarian law throughout Syria, including the use of chemical weapons, calling for those responsible to be held accountable. [In a report issued on April 21](#), the SNHR welcomed the renewal of the COI's mandate, emphasizing the COI's prominent role in documenting violations committed in Syria and the SNHR's continuous cooperation with the commission.

| HRC 49th session                                                      |                                  |      |                  |      |                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------|
| A/HRC/49/L.30 - Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic |                                  |      |                  |      |                                                      |
| YES                                                                   | ARGENTINA                        | ABST | INDIA            | ABST | PAKISTAN                                             |
| NO                                                                    | ARMENIA                          | ABST | INDONESIA        | YES  | PARAGUAY                                             |
| YES                                                                   | BENIN                            | YES  | JAPAN            | YES  | POLAND                                               |
| NO                                                                    | BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) | ABST | KAZAKHSTAN       | YES  | QATAR                                                |
| ABST                                                                  | BRAZIL                           | ABST | LIBYA            | YES  | REPUBLIC OF KOREA                                    |
|                                                                       | CAMEROON                         | YES  | LITHUANIA        | NO   | RUSSIAN FEDERATION                                   |
| NO                                                                    | CHINA                            | YES  | LUXEMBOURG       | ABST | SENEGAL                                              |
| YES                                                                   | COTE D'IVOIRE                    | YES  | MALAWI           | ABST | SOMALIA                                              |
| NO                                                                    | CUBA                             | ABST | MALAYSIA         | ABST | SUDAN                                                |
| NO                                                                    | ERITREA                          | YES  | MARSHALL ISLANDS | YES  | UKRAINE                                              |
| YES                                                                   | FINLAND                          | ABST | MALI             | ABST | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES                                 |
| YES                                                                   | FRANCE                           | YES  | MEXICO           | YES  | UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND |
| YES                                                                   | GABON                            | YES  | MONTENEGRO       | YES  | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                             |
| ABST                                                                  | GAMBIA                           | ABST | NAMIBIA          | ABST | UZBEKISTAN                                           |
| YES                                                                   | GERMANY                          | ABST | NEPAL            | NO   | VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)                   |
| YES                                                                   | HONDURAS                         | YES  | NETHERLANDS      |      |                                                      |
|                                                                       | YES                              | 23   | ABST             | 16   | NO                                                   |
|                                                                       |                                  |      |                  |      | 7                                                    |

**The result of the vote on the resolution on the human rights situation in Syria in the Human Rights Council**

On April 1, Catherine Marchi-Uhel, [Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism in Syria \(IIIM\)](#), said, while presenting the [IIIM's eighth report](#) at the United Nations General Assembly, that the atrocities perpetrated in Syria are among the most barbaric since the end of World War Two. She added, **"The ripple effect of pervasive impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity can be clearly seen today,"** noting that despite the tireless efforts of many States and individuals regarding the need for accountability, **"the response to the Syrian crisis has been inadequate."**

On April 1, UN human rights experts issued [a statement](#) expressing profound concerns for the physical, mental, educational and overall medical welfare of children arbitrarily held in detention centers in north-east Syria. Commenting on the fate of dozens of children as a result of the attack launched by ISIS on Ghwayran prison in Hasaka city in January 2022, the experts added, **"We are extremely concerned that since the January 2022 attack, the fate and whereabouts of at least 100 of those boys remain unaccounted for which raises serious concerns relating to their right to life."**

On April 1, [Human Rights Watch](#) stated, commenting on [Law No. 16 of 2022 criminalizing torture](#) issued by the Syrian regime's President Bashar al Assad on March 30, "The passage of the law could be a response to ongoing efforts to prosecute the use of torture by Syria officials in the conflict, including an effort by some states to hold the Syrian government accountable for torture under the United Nations Convention Against Torture."

Lynn Maalouf, [Amnesty International](#)'s Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said **"The new law effectively whitewashes decades of state-sanctioned human rights violations."** She added that the law fails to offer redress to past victims of torture, include any protection measures for witnesses or survivors of torture, and it fails to mention any measures that could be taken to prevent torture from occurring in detention centers and prisons in the future.

On April 5, [Physicians for Human Rights \(PHR\)](#) said in a statement commenting on the law that the legislation **"does nothing for the thousands of Syrians who have been victims of torture in the past. [...] nor does it explain how such torture will be prevented from occurring in the future."** SNHR issued a [report](#) on April 28 in which we confirmed the existence of a major flaw in the text of Laws [15](#) and 16 of 2022 and the impossibility of their implementation. The report indicated that the regime issued Law 16 of 2022 as a pro forma response to a Dutch/Canadian move before the International Court of Justice, further explaining that the legislation is impossible to implement in light of the existing repressive environment, and of an arsenal of laws that protect the security services from accountability, providing details of five fundamental faults in the law's text that empty it of any effectiveness and render it useless in practice.

On April 4, [the Carter Research Center](#) said that according to a report issued by the center, which highlights the need to clear Syria of unexploded ordnance and remnants of weapons, there are still at least 300,000 live but unexploded explosive munitions across Syria which failed to detonate after being deployed December 2012 and May 2021. The report further noted that the actual number could be much higher, adding that the presence of unexploded ordnance is a critical impediment to Syria's recovery and development.

On April 5, [the Action on Armed Violence Organization \(AOAV\)](#)<sup>1</sup> published its eleventh annual report on harm from explosive weapons looking at the global impact of explosives-related violence in 2021. The report stated that despite the decrease in the frequency of attacks in 2021 compared to the preceding year, Syria still ranks second among the nations worst affected by this problem worldwide, in terms of civilian casualties, as a result of the use of explosive weapons in general, and also as a result of airstrikes.

On April 5, the New Lines Institute issued a [report](#) on the captagon drug trade in the Middle East. The report said, “The illicit production, trade, and consumption of captagon has become deeply embedded into Syria’s wartime economy.” The report added that prominent figures associated with the Syrian regime are benefiting from the presence of armed groups active on Syrian soil to organize the captagon trade, among which is the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, which plays a key role in smuggling operations. The report indicated that pro-Syrian regime businessmen were able to play leading roles in the manufacture of captagon due to their access to state resources and infrastructure, in addition to enjoying military protection from the Syrian regime, including members of the Assad family.

On April 6, [Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\)](#) published a press release in which it reported that women face substantial health challenges amid funding shortfalls, as the proportion of women and children among the 2.7 million displaced people living in the region has reached 80 percent, with most women living in dire conditions and being subject to food insecurity, with other current challenges, including gender-based violence and early marriage, exacerbating the risks faced by women.

On April 7, [the United Nations Children’s Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) reported that only one in four young children have access to the diet they need to grow healthy.

On April 7, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) suspending Russia’s membership of the Human Rights Council, against the backdrop of Russian human rights violations in its war on Ukraine. The resolution was adopted with 93 approving it, 24 opposing and 58 abstentions. The Syrian regime’s delegate in the General Assembly voted against the resolution. SNHR welcomed the adoption of the resolution in a [report](#) issued on April 21.

On April 8, Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [told](#) the United Nations General Assembly on the situation of human rights in Syria that **“Tens of thousands of Syrians have been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in dire conditions and often subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Men and women, as well as children, including boys as young as 11, have suffered sexual violence while in detention.”** The High Commissioner added that the scale of this tragedy is daunting, with people going missing in different contexts, such as during hostilities, displacement or in detention.

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<sup>1</sup>A London-based non-profit organization that conducts research on the impact of armed violence globally. It seeks to reduce the impact of armed violence through monitoring and research of the causes and consequences of weapon-based violence, with a specific focus on the impact of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas.

On April 11, [the Guardian](#) reported that according to a World Vision report, women and children living in some of the hardest-to-reach camps in northwest Syria face chronic and high levels of violence, with some women forced to engage in “survival sex”. The newspaper added that more than 80% of women say they do not have adequate healthcare, 95% expressed feelings of hopelessness, and about 34% of children said that they have experienced one or more forms of violence with 2% saying they had married young. The report noted that child labour is a major problem, with 58% of boys and 49% of girls aged 11 or older forced to work.

On April 12, [the US Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor](#) released its annual report for 2021 on the human rights situation for various countries worldwide, with the Syria section of the report including documentation of multiple patterns of violations of international law. The report said, “Syrian regime and pro-regime forces have continued major aerial and ground offensives initiated in 2019 to recapture areas of northwest Syria, killing civilians and forcing the additional displacement of more than 11,000 persons,” adding that Syrian and Russian airstrikes repeatedly struck civilian sites, including hospitals, markets, schools, settlements for internally displaced persons, and farms, many of which were included in UN de-confliction lists. The report also referred to the presidential elections that the Syrian regime unilaterally held without the participation of the majority of Syrians residing in territories outside its control, which were deemed unfree and unfair by nongovernmental monitoring organizations. SNHR was the second most cited source in the report. On April 18, we issued a [statement](#) in this regard.

On April 15, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [reported](#) that the economic crisis in Lebanon has pushed 90% of the Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon into a state of extreme poverty, adding that nearly 7 million people remain displaced in Syria and 55% of the total population faces food insecurity.

On April 17, [the Guardian](#) reported that Australia is failing its own citizens held in camps in northeast Syria. The newspaper quoted a letter submitted by United Nations human rights experts to the Australian government that there are deep concerns about the conditions of Australians, including 30 children, in al Hawl and al Rouj camps in northeast Syria, where most of these individuals are held and are deprived of their liberty without any judicial process. The letter warned that children are suffering from malnutrition under humanitarian conditions that constitute a violation of a number of human rights, and which meet the standard of torture or other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

On April 18, the Syrian regime's President, Bashar al Assad, issued [Law No. 20 of April 2022](#) "concerning cybercrime." Article 28 of the law stipulates that anyone who publishes digital content that contains what it called false news that "undermines the prestige of the state or compromises national unity" shall be punished with imprisonment from 3 to 5 years and a fine. We at the SNHR stress that the legislation's terms simply constitute a consolidation of the Syrian regime's policy of restricting freedom of opinion and expression, and an expansion of the broad and exceptionally vague accusations fabricated and invoked by the regime since March 2011 to legitimize its brutality, mass arrests and other crimes it has perpetrated and to give a free hand to its security forces.

On April 19, [UNHCR](#) reported that as of December 31, 2021, Iraq was hosting a total of 254,561 Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, of which 96 percent currently live in the country's Kurdistan Region. UNHCR added that due to the present conditions in Syria not being conducive for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, return is not currently being facilitated or promoted by UNHCR and partners.

On April 23, [UNICEF](#) reported that acute malnutrition remains a serious concern across northeast Syria, driven by insecurity, displacement, economic deterioration, precarious livelihoods, inadequate health care services and the water crisis and drought conditions affecting the region, all of which exacerbate the suffering of the population and underline the grave seriousness of the humanitarian situation.

On April 25, Save the Children issued a [report](#) on the psychological impact of the ongoing violence on children in al Hawl Camp, east of Hasaka, in which it said that the high rate of killings inside the camp in 2021 made it one of the most dangerous places for children in the world, adding that children there suffer from nightmares and difficulty sleeping due to constant exposure to scenes of violence.

On April 26, Geir Pedersen, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, said during a [briefing](#) to the Security Council, "**Although the war in Syria may not be making headlines lately, the international community must remain focused on achieving a comprehensive political solution to the conflict.**" He added that Syria remains among the greatest humanitarian crises of this era, and the biggest displacement crisis in the world, with a whole generation born and brought up in displacement.

On April 26, the Russian state-owned RT Agency quoted [Vassily Nebenzia](#), the Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations, as saying during a meeting of the Security Council on Syria that he does not see any justification for extending the cross-border humanitarian aid mechanism to Syria after it expires next July.

On April 26, Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said during [her briefing](#) to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria, that 4.1 million people in northwest Syria need humanitarian aid, with almost a million people there, mostly women and children living in tents and basically dependent on this aid for survival. She added that although the cross-line missions complement the massive cross-border operation, they cannot substitute its size and scope.

On April 27, [the Guardian](#) published a report on an investigation conducted by Ansar Shahoud and Professor Ugur Umit Angor of the University of The Holocaust and Genocide Center in Amsterdam, which exposed a war crime committed by members of Branch 227 of the Syrian regime's Military Intelligence Service. The newspaper reported that one of the videos obtained by the researchers shows that a number of members of the regime's intelligence service took a total of 41 civilians, one by one, blindfolded, shooting each of them as they fell into a large pit that had been dug in advance, and that after these killings were ended, these members poured inflammable materials on the pile of corpses in the pit and set it on fire. In a detailed article published by the researchers in [New Lines magazine](#) on the same day, they said that the videos they obtained document the killing of 288 civilians, including 12 children and 7 women, who were executed in cold blood by Syrian regime forces personnel. The researchers added that these videos reveal an aspect of the policy of systematic mass executions against civilians that Syrian regime forces have practiced, in addition to their indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas during the past 11 years. SNHR welcomed the investigation, which was able to identify one of the main criminals shown and the branch to which he belongs, reaching to him and extracting a confession from him, thus fully condemning the Military Intelligence and the regime with which it is affiliated, and stressing that the leaked video contains strong evidence that can be built upon judicially.

On April 29, Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, said during [her briefing](#) to the Security Council that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) continues to document cases of the use of these weapons in Syria, adding, **"Syria's continued failure to remedy outstanding issues of chemical weapons is a wake-up call to the international community"** and indicated that despite repeated calls by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to act, the Security Council had not fulfilled its responsibility to hold the perpetrators of these heinous acts to account. She also expressed her regret that no progress has been made in the course of chemical disarmament in Syria, as the OPCW secretariat has not yet received the information requested from the Syrian regime in several cases, and the deployment of the OPCW team in Syria is still being delayed due to the **"continuous refusal"** by the Syrian regime to issue an entry visa to one of the team members.

On April 29, Jalina Porter, [US Department of State's](#) Principal Deputy Spokesperson, said, **"Syria remains in non-compliance with the CWC,"** adding that the US administration will continue to work to hold the Assad regime accountable for its repeated use of chemical weapons against its own people, in addition to continuing efforts to hold Russia accountable for its continued efforts to shield the Assad regime from accountability for its chemical weapons use.

On April 30, the Syrian regime issued [Legislative Decree No. 7 of 2022](#) granting a general amnesty for 'terrorist' crimes committed by Syrians before the date of April 30, 2022, except those which caused death to a human being, as stipulated in the Counter-Terrorism Law No. 19 of 2012 and the Penal Law issued by Legislative Decree No. 148 of 1949 and its amendments. These are the two main laws under which detainees are tried, in connection with expressing an opinion and in connection with the conflict, in the exceptional courts - the Counter-Terrorism Court and the Military Field Court. The SNHR Detainees' team continues to monitor releases from central and military prisons and also to monitor the implementation of the decree.

#### **On the course of advocacy and the pursuit of accountability:**

On April 4, [TRIAL International](#), in collaboration with Civitas Maxima, the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the REDRESS organization, published the Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review (UJAR) 2022. The report reviewed all cases that took place within the framework of universal jurisdiction in 2021, including special cases regarding the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations in Syria. The report stressed the increasing importance of universal jurisdiction within the framework of international justice, as 2021 witnessed developments in 60 cases, through 16 jurisdictions.

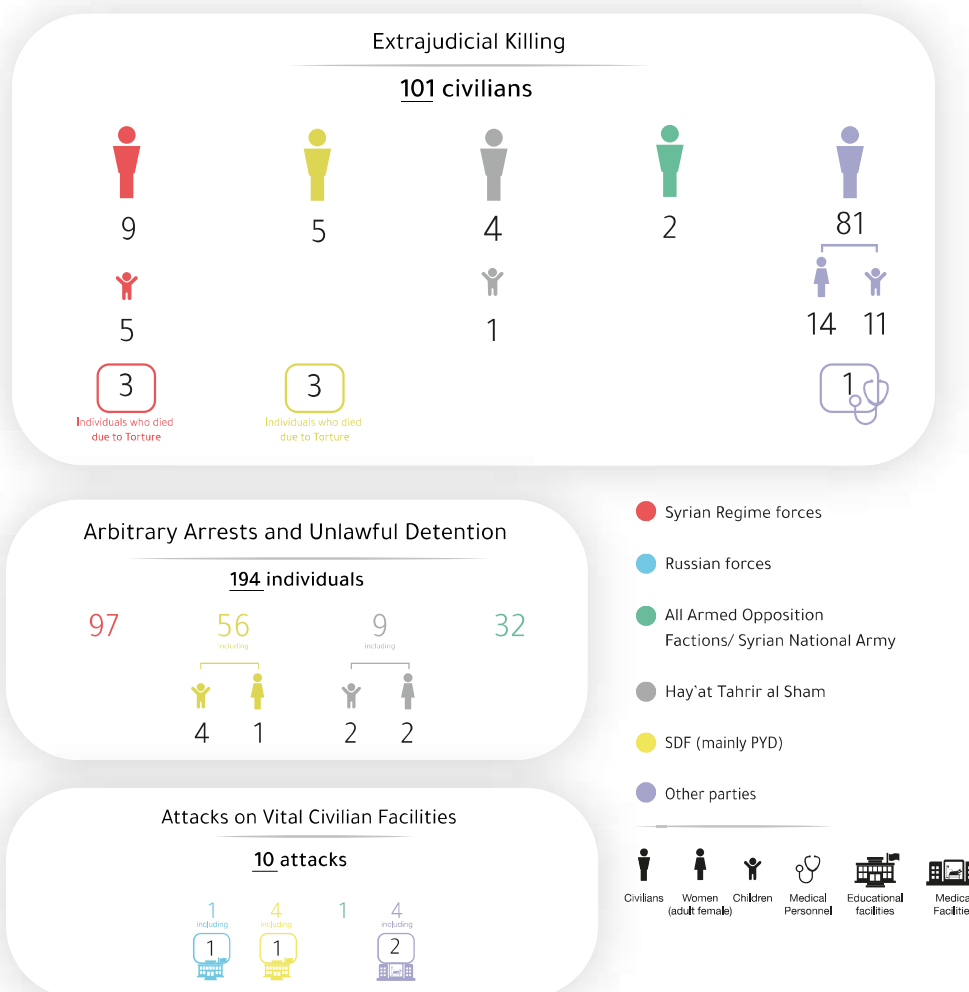
On April 4, SNHR issued a [brief report](#) on the International Day for Mine Awareness in which it stated that Syria is among the world's worst countries for the number of mines planted in unknown locations, noting that between March 2011 and April 4, 2022, at least 2,829 civilians, including 699 children, 294 women (adult female), have been killed due to hundreds of mine explosions in various Syrian governorates. The report recommended increasing support for organizations working in clearing landmines.

On April 6, the Investigating Judge of the German Federal Court of Justice issued an arrest warrant for a Syrian refugee named as Raed J. in Berlin on charges of belonging to ISIS, in addition to the charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The court [statement](#) said that the accused joined ISIS in Syria in the summer of 2014, and added that the accused participated in the organization's attack on the Sh'aitat tribe in Deir Ez-Zour governorate. As a result, at least 700 of the tribe's menfolk were killed. Additional charges have also been brought against Raed related to torture of prisoners in an ISIS prison.

On April 14, the Office of [the Prosecutor at the German Federal Court of Justice](#) indicted a man named Muwaffaq D. related to the commission of war crimes in Syria, where a statement published by the office explained that the suspect "had fired a grenade, possibly a rocket launcher, an RPG-type missile" on March 23, 2014, at a gathering of civilians in al Reija Square in al Yarmouk neighborhood in Damascus city while they were waiting to receive food aid from UNRWA, killing 7 people and injuring 3 others, including a child. The statement added that at the time of the crime, the accused was a member of the pro-Syrian regime Free Palestine Movement.

### III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in April:

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in April 2022 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.



#### A. Extrajudicial killing:

In April 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 101 civilians, including 17 children and 14 women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom were killed at the hands of other parties; among the victims was one medical worker. We also documented six individuals who died due to torture. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in April at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

#### **A. The main parties:**

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**<sup>2</sup> Nine civilians, including five child.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:**<sup>3</sup> Four civilians, including one child.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** Two civilians.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** Five civilians.

#### **B. Other parties:**

We documented the deaths of 81 civilians, including 11 children and 14 women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 13 civilians, including four children and two women.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 46 civilians, including four children and eight women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 12 civilians, including two children and four women.
- Turkish border guards: Two civilians.

#### **B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:**

In April 2022, SNHR documented at least 194 cases of arbitrary arrests, including six children and three women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The largest number of arbitrary arrests was carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs, Damascus, then Raqqa. We issued a report on the fifth of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in April at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 97.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** Nine, including two children and two women.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 32.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 56, including four children and one woman.

<sup>2</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 ceremonial 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 turn 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 branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria. Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

<sup>3</sup> The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

### C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

In April 2022, SNHR documented at least 10 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, four of which were at the hands of Syrian Democratic Forces.

Among these attacks, we documented two on educational facilities, and two on medical facilities.

These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

#### A. The main parties:

- **Russian forces:** One.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** One.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** Four.

#### B. Other parties:

Other parties perpetrated four incidents, distributed as follows:

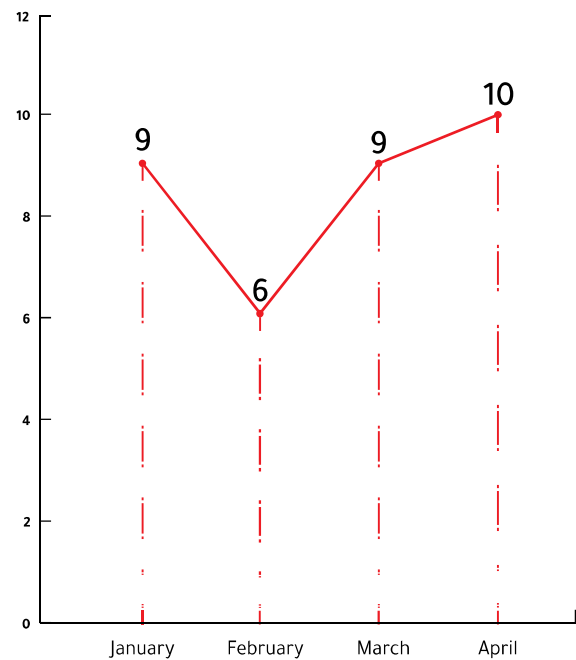
- **Attacks whose sources we have not been able to identify:** One.
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify:** Three.

The record of attacks on vital civil facilities documented in April 2022 was distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

|                                      | Russian forces | All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army | Syrian Democratic Forces | Other parties                                           |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      |                |                                                    |                          | Attacks whose sources we have not been able to identify | Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify |
| Vital Educational Facilities         |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         |                                                               |
| Schools                              | 1              |                                                    | 1                        |                                                         |                                                               |
| Vital Medical Facilities             |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         |                                                               |
| Medical Facilities                   |                |                                                    |                          | 1                                                       | 1                                                             |
| Communal Facilities                  |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         |                                                               |
| Playgrounds and stadiums-            |                |                                                    | 1                        |                                                         |                                                               |
| Markets                              |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         | 1                                                             |
| Infrastructure                       |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         |                                                               |
| Power stations and energy facilities |                | 1                                                  |                          |                                                         |                                                               |
| Civil Defense Centers                |                |                                                    | 1                        |                                                         |                                                               |
| Bakeries                             |                |                                                    | 1                        |                                                         |                                                               |
| Official Headquarters                |                |                                                    |                          |                                                         | 1                                                             |
| <b>Total:</b>                        | <b>1</b>       | <b>1</b>                                           | <b>4</b>                 | <b>1</b>                                                | <b>3</b>                                                      |

The record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2022 up to May of the same year at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria has now reached 34 in total, distributed monthly as follows:

The chart shows that the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities in April was the highest to date this year, with this month accounting for 30% of the total record of attacks on vital facilities since the beginning of 2022.



The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in April:

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022, an improvised explosive device, whose source we were unable to identify, exploded near the dispensary in [al Akreishi](#) village in the eastern suburbs of Raqqqa governorate, causing minor material damage to the dispensary gate and wall. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses to that incident to obtain more details. Al Akreishi village was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, at around 01:00, masked gunmen, whose identities we have so far been unable to identify, riding a motorcycle opened fire and threw an improvised explosive device at the health center of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Daraa city's Daraa Camp neighborhood, causing moderate material damage to the building housing the center. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses to that incident to obtain more details. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On April 14, the UNRWA published a [statement](#) on its official website condemning the attack on the health center in Daraa Camp.

On Monday, April 18, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces personnel stormed the Euphrates Elementary School in Mazra'et al Yarmouk village in the northern suburbs of Raqqqa governorate, took it over and turned the school building into a military base. The Syrian Network for Human Rights indicates that the school was in service for its intended purpose before the SDF turned it into a military base. The village was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Monday, April 18, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces fired an anti-tank missile at the bank of the Euphrates River on the outskirts of Jarablos city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, while a family was in the location, resulting in casualties. Upon the arrival of the Civil Defense team from the Jarablos Center at the site to treat and hospitalize the injured, the SDF fired another missile. As a result, [three personnel from the Civil Defense team sustained various injuries](#), with the attack also causing significant material damage to a service vehicle (pickup) belonging to the team. Jarablos city was under the control of the Syrian National Army forces at the time of the incident.

The Syrian Civil Defense Organization (White Helmets) published a [news article](#) about the incident on its official Twitter account.



On Friday, April 22, 2022, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at [al Enkawi High School](#) in [al Enkawi](#) village in the western suburbs of Hama governorate, partially destroying [the high school building](#). The Syrian Network for Human Rights indicates that the high school had suspended its work as a result of the displacement of most of the village's residents due to its proximity to the contact lines with Syrian regime forces. Al Enkawi village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

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

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

## **IV. Attachments:**

[\*\*101 Civilians, Including 17 Children, 14 Women, and Six Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria in April 2022\*\*](#)

[\*\*At Least 194 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in Syria in April 2022, Including Six Children and Three Women\*\*](#)

## 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, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime or Russian forces prior to any attack under 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 lead to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army 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 IV Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

## **Recommendations:**

### **UN Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states’ veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions and landmines in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and 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 person 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.

**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 incidents mentioned in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.

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

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to co-operate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.

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

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

**The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria**

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.

**The Syrian regime**

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- 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 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.

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

- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- 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.

**All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army**

- The Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

**Humanitarian Organizations**

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.
- Provide protected facilities and vehicles, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with distinctive signs that can be distinguished from long distances.

**Acknowledgments**

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.



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