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161 Civilians, Including 28 Children, Six Women, and 66 Victims Due to Torture, Documented Killed in Syria in February 2022

The Syrian Regime Informs Dozens of
Families of Persons Forcibly Disappeared by
the Regime That Their Loved Ones Have Died

Tuesday 1 March 2022

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

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I. Background and Methodology:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. The main parties:

- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)¹
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham²
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army
- Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party)

B. Other parties

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

The reason behind this exclusion is the great difficulty in conclusively assigning responsibility in cases of deaths caused by mines or their remnants because, in the vast majority of cases, we are unable to decisively determine which party planted the mines, since all parties to the conflict use this type of munition, and also because of the multiplicity of controlling parties which have been present in the areas where the minefields are located. None of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have revealed maps of the places where they planted landmines. We have recorded continuing deaths due to landmines despite repeated appeals by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, and urgent requests for the essential intervention of international teams to help uncover the locations where landmines are deployed and to put pressure on the controlling forces in Syria to determine their locations of deployment in order to reduce the number of casualties among civilians resulting from them.

The same applies in the case of remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks, which include person-borne IEDs or vehicle-borne IEDs, with the detonation process in such attacks mainly carried out either by radio or via a timer, meaning that the process of proving the responsibility of a party for a remote detonation incident is very complex and requires a great deal of effort and advanced logistical capabilities, as well as the ability to visit the site of the incident, with many of these factors being unavailable to us.

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

¹ 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.

² The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

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

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

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link³.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. Our team follows up on incidents and related reports in a variety of ways in the effort to verify information and collect as much relevant evidence and data as possible. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location immediately. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily violation incidents. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, as we try to reach them promptly, and secondarily on the accounts of those who witnessed or photographed the violation in question, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets; third, by talking with medical personnel who treated the individuals injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

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

³ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>

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

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

II. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in February

February saw a significant increase in the civilian death toll, which reached 161 in total, including 28 children and six women, 77 of whom were killed at the hands of Syrian regime forces, accounting for approximately 48% of the death toll documented in February.

The reason behind the high death toll recorded this month is that the Syrian regime informed 56 families from Deir al Asafeir town in Damascus Suburbs governorate that their relatives who had been arrested by the Syrian regime had died in custody. The families were notified of their deaths through the Civil Registry Department. In many reports, we have detailed the phenomenon of the Syrian regime informing detainees' families that their loved ones died in regime custody. We at the SNHR believe that the regime's method of notifying detainees' families of their loved ones' death is an additional condemnation of the regime, whose personnel first arrest these individuals, then forcibly disappear them, due to the regime's denial of their detention and of any knowledge of them before its eventual notification of their loved ones' deaths. We believe that the cause of the detainees' deaths was torture exacerbated by lack of healthcare. The SNHR's records of enforced disappearance cases show that these individuals, all of whom were arrested in 2018, died under torture in Seydnaya Military Prison. We will issue a detailed report on this incident soon.

Syrian regime forces also continue bombing civilian-populated areas with Idlib governorate seeing the largest death toll in February with 14 civilians killed there.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at around 10:15 a.m., Syrian regime artillery forces fired around six successive shells, coinciding with the flight of a Russian reconnaissance plane over the area, targeting a fuel market belonging to the Watad Fuel Company, affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, with the fuel being stored in tanks and ground-level warehouses, in the southwestern outskirts of Termanin town in the northern suburbs of Idlib. The bombing killed at least [four civilians](#) who worked in an agricultural project, while other civilians were wounded. The area was under the joint control of the Syrian National Army factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, a nine-year-old child, [Khaled Shadi al Saad](#) from Adwan village west of Idlib governorate, was killed as a result of the explosion of munition remnants left by previous bombardment by the Syrian-Russian Alliance on farmland in Adwan village.

Meanwhile, 67 civilians (42% of the death toll documented in February) were killed at the hands of other parties. February also saw continuing civilian deaths as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria, with SNHR documenting the deaths of 16 civilians, including five children, bringing the death toll resulting from the explosion of landmines since the beginning of 2022, to 20 civilians, including eight children.

On Sunday, February 13, 2022, [the explosion](#) of a landmine planted by a party, which we have not been able to identify, in al Sousa town east of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which is under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, resulted in the death of a child, identified as Abdullah al Ali al Medhi.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the explosion of a landmine planted by a party, which we have not been able to identify, in farmland to the east of Aqarb village in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, which is under the control of Syrian regime forces, resulted in [the deaths](#) of two children while they were herding sheep, namely 15-year-old Saif al Nouman and 14-year-old Najma al Nouman, both nomads from the suburbs of Raqqa governorate.

On Tuesday, February 1, Ms. [Afraa al Ibrahim](#), an IDP from Talmennes town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate died due to wounds she sustained on Monday, January 17, 2022, in a fire caused by a heater explosion in her tent in Ibraz IDP Camp in Rajo town in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.

In February, we documented the deaths of [11 civilians](#) at the hands of Syrian Democratic Forces, including one child and one woman. On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Saed Jihad al Haji, age 21, from Beyanoon village in the northwest of Aleppo governorate, and Akram al Hasan from al Neyrab village east of Idlib governorate, both second-year students at the 'Free' Aleppo University, Faculty of Mechatronic Engineering, were among the victims of Syrian Democratic Forces missile strikes targeting a busy area called 'Future Square' in Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.

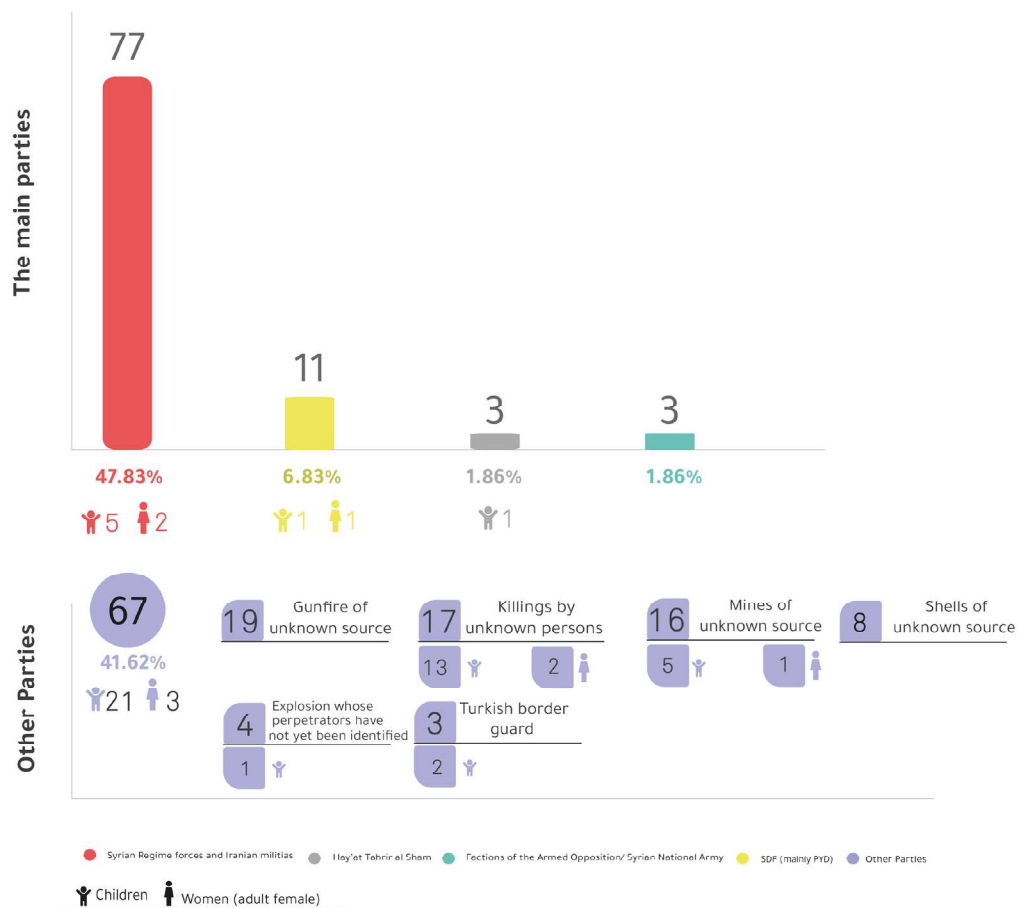
February also saw the deaths of three civilians at the hands of all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army, including one due to torture, identified as Abdul Razzaq Tarrad al Abeid, from M'arzaf village in the suburbs of Hama governorate, who worked in car sales and lived in Jalma village of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. He was arrested by personnel from Failaq al Sham, a faction of the Syrian National Army, at midnight on February 24, 2022, from his home in Jalma village. On February 25, 2022, the family of the victim, Abdul Razzaq, was informed by a member of Failaq al Sham of Abdul Razzaq's death, with his body being released to his family at Afrin city's Military Hospital. The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a [statement](#) condemning the Syrian National Army forces' detention and lethal torture of Abdul Razzaq.

In February, we documented three massacres, with a combined death toll of 22 civilians in total, including eight children and three women. The massacres were perpetrated at the hands of Syrian regime forces and other parties.

III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

In February, SNHR documented the deaths of 161 civilians, including 28 children and six women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

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



A. The main parties:

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

We documented the deaths of 77 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including five children and two women.

- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:

We documented the deaths of three civilians, including one child, at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:

We documented the deaths of three civilians at the hands of all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army.

- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):

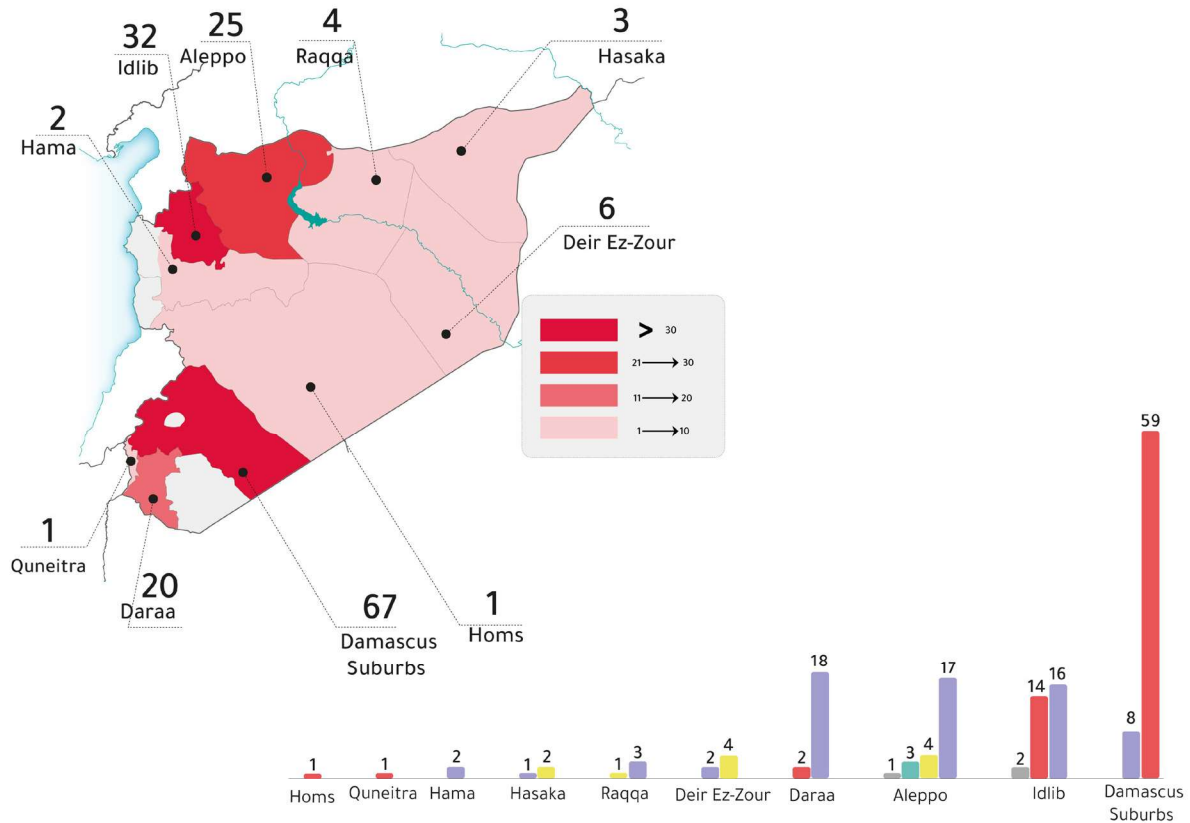
We documented the deaths of 11 civilians, including one child and one woman, at the hands of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party).

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 67 civilians, including 21 children and three women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians.
- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 16 civilians, including five children and one woman.
- Gunfire by parties we have been unable to identify: 19 civilians.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Four civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 17 civilians, including 13 children and two women.
- Turkish border guards: Three civilians, including two children.

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



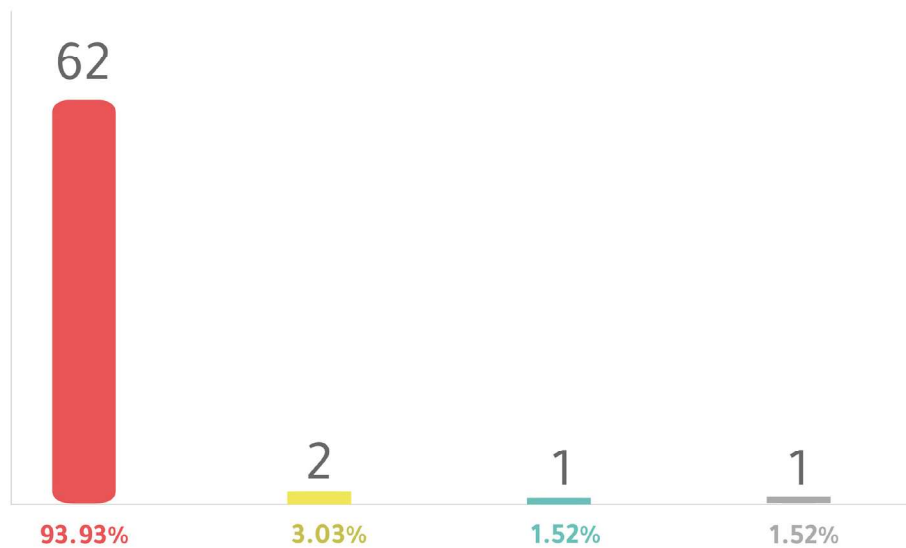
Damascus Suburbs governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented in February compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 42% of the total death toll, followed by Idlib governorate which accounted for approximately 20%, then Aleppo governorate which accounted for approximately 16%, with 48% of the death toll documented being perpetrated by Syrian regime forces, while other parties were responsible for 42% of the death toll.

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

A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

SNHR documented in February 2022 the deaths of 66 victims due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of victims whose deaths due to torture were documented by SNHR at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in February 2022 was distributed as follows:



Syrian regime forces: 62.

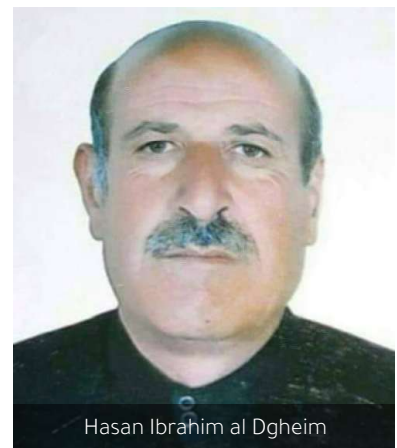
Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: One.

All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army: One.

Syrian Democratic Forces: Two.

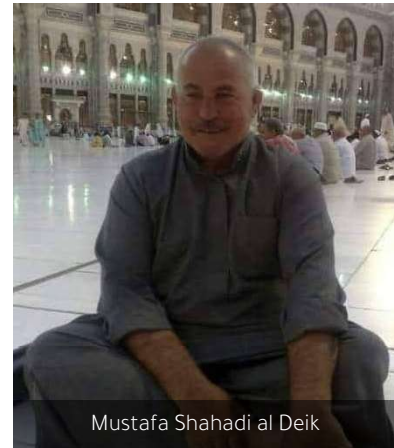
The most notable cases are:

Hasan Ibrahim al Dgheim, born 1965, an employee at the Military Housing Institution, from Jerjanaz town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Sunday, October 26, 2014, in Idlib city. Since then, he has been considered forcibly disappeared, with the Syrian regime denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, his family was notified that he had been registered as dead on May 5, 2015, in the civil registry. SNHR believes it's probably that he died due to torture inside a Syrian regime forces' detention center. We confirm that Syrian regime forces did not hand over his body to his family.



Hasan Ibrahim al Dgheim

Mustafa Shahadi al Deik, born in 1953, from Kafrouma village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Saturday, January 28, 2012, in a raid on his home, and has been classified as forcibly disappeared almost ever since that date, with regime forces denying his detention and not allowing anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Sunday, February 13, 2022, Syrian regime forces informed his family through a lawyer that he had died in a regime detention center in Damascus city on August 6, 2013. We have information confirming that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating that he probably died due to torture and neglect of healthcare. We confirm that Syrian regime forces did not hand over his body to his family.



Mustafa Shahadi al Deik

[Faisal Ahmad al Juma](#), born in 1967, from M'ar Shimsha village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, who was the speaker and Imam at a mosque in Darkoush town in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, was arrested by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham personnel on Saturday, April 27, 2019, in Darkoush town, over accusations that he had been in contact with Syrian regime forces. He was taken to the HTS's al Zanbaqi Prison in the town, with his family managing to visit him for the last time on December 6, 2021, at the town's police station. On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham notified his family that he had passed away on February 2, 2022, inside an HTS detention center, though the group failed to release his body to his family. SNHR received information confirming that he was in bad health when arrested as he suffered from paralysis in his left foot, making it probable that he died due to lack of healthcare inside an HTS detention center.

Yousef Mohammad Salama al Rashed, a 42-year-old man from al Qouriya city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, who had been living in the Ghuwayran neighborhood of Hasaka city, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel on Friday, January 28, 2022, in a raid on his home in the neighborhood, and taken to a detention center in the city. On Saturday, February 19, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces informed his family that he had died, releasing his body to his family from a hospital in Hasaka city. SNHR has obtained information confirming that he was in good health when arrested, which means it's very probable that he died due to torture and lack of healthcare inside one of the SDF's detention centers in Hasaka.



Yousef Mohammad Salama al Rashed

Abdul Razzaq Tarrad al Abeid, from M'arzaf village in the suburbs of Hama governorate, worked in car sales and lived in Jalma village of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. He was arrested by personnel from Failaq al Sham, a faction of the Syrian National Army, on February 24, 2022, from his home in Jalma village, and taken to a Syrian National Army detention center in Jandreis town near Afrin city, where he was [tortured](#) to [death](#). On February 25, 2022, Abdul Razzaq's family was informed by a member of Failaq al Sham of Abdul Razzaq's [death](#), with [his body](#) being released to the family at the Military Hospital in Afrin city. Later the same day, the Syrian Network for Human Rights received images and video footage clearly showing that the victim had been subjected to [brutal](#), lethal [torture](#).

B. Death toll of medical personnel

In February 2022, SNHR documented the death of one medical worker at the hands of other parties, who was killed as a result of gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify.

[Wasim Mohammad al Hamad](#) from [Mahjeh village](#) north of [Daraa governorate](#), who worked as a nurse at Busra al Sham city's hospital east of Daraa governorate, was shot and killed on February 15, 2022, by gunmen whom SNHR has so far been unable to identify, who opened fire on the victims' car on Damascus-Daraa highway - al Ghariya al Sharqiya-al Mseifra Road - east of Daraa governorate, which is under the control of Syrian regime forces.

C. Death toll of media workers

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

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

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

V. Record of Most Notable Massacres:

SNHR documented three massacres in February 2022, bringing the total number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2022 to at least four, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One.

B. Other parties:

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

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

The three massacres we documented in February were distributed as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One.
- **Other parties:** Two massacres, distributed as follows:
 - Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: One.
 - Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: One.

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacres documented in February resulted in the deaths of 22 civilians, including eight children and three women, distributed according to the perpetrators as follows:

Syrian Regime forces: Six civilians, including two children and two women.

Other parties:

- Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: Eight civilians, including six children and one woman.

The most notable massacres are:

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, a [number](#) of missile were fired from a [missile launcher](#) whose source SNHR has been so far unable to identify, although we believe the perpetrators to be either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces as the [attack](#) originated from an area under their control in the [eastern suburbs](#) of Aleppo governorate. The [missiles fell](#) in al [Novotel market](#), a [popular market](#) in al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of [Aleppo governorate](#), [killing](#) at least eight [civilians](#) and [wounding](#) 20 [others](#). The SNHR is still trying to reach witnesses and survivors of that incident to get more details. Al Bab city was under the control of the Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, Syrian regime artillery forces [fired](#) a [heavy mortar](#) shell, targeting a gathering of [civilians](#) near a [house](#) in the eastern neighborhood of Ma'aret al Na'san village in the northeastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the [deaths](#) of [six civilians](#) from [one family](#), including [two female](#) children and [two women](#), and [injuring](#) three others. Ma'aret al Na'san village was under the joint control of the Syrian National Army and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Victims killed as a result of a mortar shell fired by the Syrian regime artillery forces targeting the eastern neighborhood of Ma'aret al Na'san village, Idlib - February 12, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of Syrians were killed as a result of landmines, and none of the perpetrator forces in the Syrian conflict have revealed maps of the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.

- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army have 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.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva VI Convention.⁴
- We documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

Recommendations:

UN Security Council

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

⁴ ICRC, Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949, articles 27, 31, 32.
<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Treaty.xsp?documentId=AE2D398352C58028C12563CD002D6B5C&action=openDocument>

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proved equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now spanned a decade in Syria.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a time period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely and settled return to their homes.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be unsafe, and put pressure to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

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

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

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch extensive investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public opinion and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

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

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes, the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security-military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the party responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

The Syrian regime

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

The Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

The Coalition (Us-led coalition and Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.

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

All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:

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

Humanitarian organizations

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

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