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The Syrian Committee for Human Rights



THE 13TH ANNUAL REPORT

On human rights in Syria 2014

(January 2014 – December 2014)



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Preface

The year 2014 was a year that saw the violations committed against the Syrian people reach a dangerous level of continuity and repetition, to the extent that they no longer attract much public attention. Even crimes such as massacres and the use of internationally prohibited weapons have become part of the Syrian people's daily lives.

The report shows continuity of all the violations committed last year and in some cases an increase in these violations. This excludes the use of chemical weapons, which was replaced this year by the use of poisonous gas.

The year 2014 was the bloodiest in the last 4 years as more than 60.000 Syrians were killed this year alone. However, international and local reactions to these on-going violations were the weakest.

One of the main factors that played a major role in Syria this year was the presence of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS). The largest massacre this year was committed by ISIS when it attacked the al-Sh'eitat tribe in August. The second largest massacre in terms of numbers was that of ar-Raqqah, an area controlled by ISIS, when it was raided by the Syrian Air Force on 25 November 2014.

Unlike the regime, ISIS used new and unprecedented methods to carry out, record and market its crimes. For example, it published many propaganda videos this year in which it showed its executions, including executions of

foreign hostages it had kidnapped or al-Nusra Front had kidnapped. It also showed other videos of its crimes such as crucifying its victims, public executions carried out even in front of children, bodies being dragged and murder by kicking.



ISIS began a series of unprecedented crimes that were not present in
previous years

A child from ISIS boasting whilst carrying the head of a judge from
Suqur al-Sham Brigades executed by ISIS

The use of barrel bombs was one of the main features of the regime's daily crimes against the Syrian people in 2014. The Syrian Army's helicopters dropped approximately 11.000 barrel bombs mainly on cities in Aleppo, the countryside of Aleppo, the countryside of Daraa and Rif Dimashq.

In addition, this year saw a significant increase in the regime's use of poisonous gas and cluster bombs, mainly on cities in the countryside of Hama, Rif Dimashq, the countryside of Daraa and the cities in Aleppo and Damascus.

Furthermore, Syrians faced the threat of car bombs this year. The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) recorded **19 cases in which car bombs** were used this year. Nine of which targeted people in mosques during Friday prayers which are performed in large congregations.

The regime's forces also continued its arbitrary detentions and crimes of forced disappearance against opposition members and suspected opposition members. It also continued its brutal and lethal acts of torture and executions on detainees whom it deprived from medical care and food. In some cases, prison management even executed detainees infected with contagious diseases inside prisons and detention centres.

The regime's Army also deliberately and systematically targeted busy social gatherings and institutions. The report recorded **37 cases** in which **hospitals and medical centres** were targeted, **59 cases** in which **schools** were targeted (**50** of which were targeted by air raids) and **82 cases** in

which **mosques** were targeted whilst people were performing Friday prayers.

Similarly to 2012 and 2013, Syria was the most dangerous country in the world for journalists in 2014. Two main parties were responsible for attacking journalists: the Syrian regime and extremist groups especially ISIS. The armed opposition brigades had a very limited role in this.

SHRC recorded the death of **19 journalists** in 2014, 7 of whom were non Syrians, and the death of **51 Syrian media activists**.

As a reflection of all the violations being committed on the ground in Syria, the displacement and refugee crisis escalated dramatically in 2014 compared to the previous years, to the extent that Syria was the top country of origin among asylum seekers internationally and the top country of origin of displaced persons. Syrians also came second in refugee numbers, following refugees from Afghanistan.

The number of refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reached a total of 3.341.249 people on 31 December 2014, most of whom are in five neighbouring countries which are: Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. By the end of 2013, the number of refugees reached a total of 2.350.826 people, meaning that 2014 saw an increase of 1 million refugees.

The 13th annual report on human rights in Syria 2014

The international community's lack of serious and firm stances towards the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian regime have contributed to the tragic and bloody crisis Syrians are witnessed in 2014, and which is expected to continue to in 2015.

In addition, the international community indirectly supported these crimes by focusing on a political solution that will protect it from accountability, in an unprecedented disregard of the international human rights law, UN Human Rights Charter and other human rights treaties.

As the Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) publishes its 13th annual report since 2001, it looks forward to an end to this humanitarian crisis that has been escalating for 4 years. It also hopes that the international community fulfils its role in ensuring that all criminals are held accountable rather than be left unpunished.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC)

1 January 2015

Genocide: daily massacres amidst international silence

Since the spark of the popular demonstrations against the Syrian regime in March 2011, acts of genocide have been committed in Syria on a daily basis, varying in their frequency depending on the latest political and field developments. These crimes usually escalate directly following the advancement of the armed opposition brigades or before the Syrian Army's attack on a certain area. On the other hand, they tend to decrease when international talks are being carried out to determine a resolution regarding the crisis in Syria or to determine a solution for it. For example, no air raids were carried out on 22 January 2014, the day of the Geneva II Conference on Syria.

Similarly to 2013, barrel bombs were the most popular method used by the regime to commit its crimes. The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) estimated that more than **11.000 barrel bombs** were dropped on Syrian towns and cities this year, killing approximately **4.000 people**, the majority of whom were in Aleppo, Daraa and Rif Dimashq.

In addition to dropping barrel bombs, this year the Syrian Air Force continued its air raids and artillery shelling on Syrian towns and

cities in addition to using rocket launchers.

There was a significant drop in the use of Scud missiles this year, which could be a result of their high cost compared to the cheap barrel bombs. Furthermore, the regime systematically used poisonous gas in 2014, which will be discussed in another chapter.

In addition to the shelling carried out by the regime's Air Force, the only party which possesses this form of arms in the Syrian crisis, the International Coalition against ISIS was also responsible for shelling Syrian civilians since the start of its campaign in 23 September 2014.

Moreover, this year saw an increase in the massacres committed using car bombs. These crimes were all committed by unknown parties, as it is difficult to determine who is responsible for them accurately. In 2014, twenty two cases in which car bombs were used were recorded by SHRC.

The Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) had a large role play in the acts of genocide carried out against the Syrian people this year, as it committed field executions in several Syrian cities. It also began a series of unprecedented crimes such as crucifying people, carrying out executions in front of the public, including children, and executing people by kicking them to death, as it had done with 3 Syrian officers on 7 November 2014.

Other crimes recorded include those committed by the armed opposition brigades and crimes committed by unknown parties but which the armed opposition brigades were accused of. Most of these crimes were committed using mortar rockets whose launchers usually find difficulty in accurately aiming.

For the purpose of documentation in this chapter, SHRC based its definition of “genocide” on any single attack that has resulted in the death of a minimum of ten people. This criterion is the most popular in defining “killing members of a group” as a form of genocide.

On average, around 70 Syrians are killed on a daily basis, which means that at least one genocide occurs in Syria everyday. As a result, documenting all of these crimes will not be possible in this report, and only the main ones have been mentioned per month.

It is important to mention that the numbers of genocide victims recorded by SHRC below and by other fellow organisations are all based on direct victims whose names are identified within the first few hours of an incident. Details of victims who pass away the following days, whose numbers are in thousands, cannot be gathered and recorded. For example, following a barrel bomb air raid a minimum of ten people are injured on average with various wounds, most of whom pass away the following few days. These

victims are not referred to as victims of this attack specifically, and in cases where they pass away after a long period of time or where they are transferred to other areas, they might not be recorded as victims of war crimes at all.

January

On 1 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb on **al-Sukkari neighbourhood in Aleppo** killing 15 people.

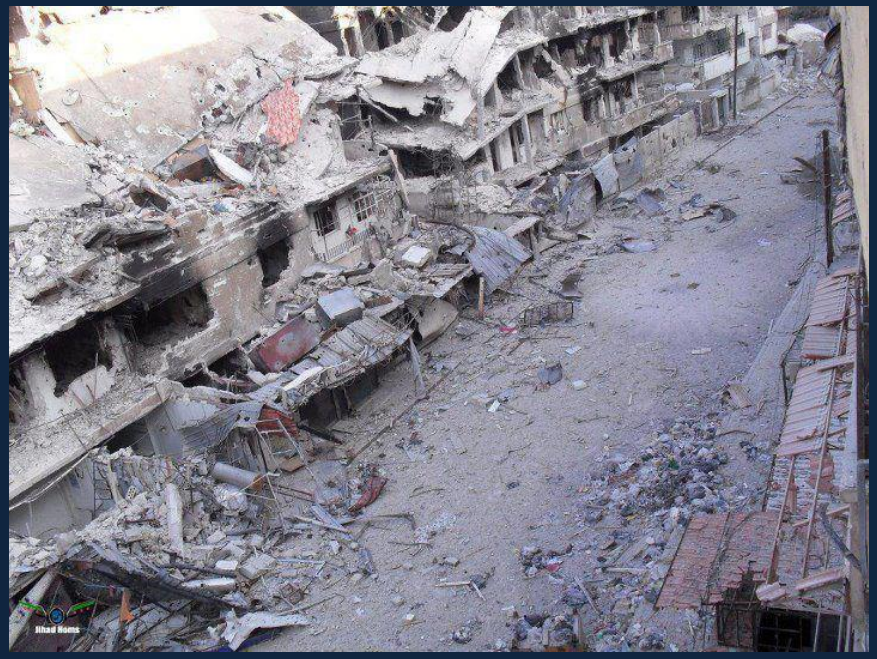
On 2 January 2014, the Syria Air Force shelled **Tariq al-Bab neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 20 people, among them 11 children.

On 4 January 2014, ISIS executed 30 prisoners in **Harem in the countryside of Idlib**. Most of the victims were from Jabal al-Zawiyah.

On 6 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped barrel bombs on **the town of Bazza'ah in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 21 people among them 10 children.

On 6 January 2014, the armed opposition brigades besieged **the Eye Hospital in Aleppo**, which ISIS had been using as its base. After two days of clashes, they were able to break into the hospital where they

found the bodies of 65 tied up prisoners who were executed. Among the victims were media and field activists that ISIS had detained in previous months.



The city of Douma in Rif Dimashq was shelled extensively and almost daily with barrel bombs in 2014

On 6 January 2014, ISIS members fired at civilians in **ar-Raqqa** killing 12 people.

On 7 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force carried out a number of consecutive raids on **Douma in Rif Dimashq** killing 23 people,

among them 18 children.

On 7 January 2014, the Army's rocket launchers shelled **al-Firdos neighbourhood in Aleppo**. The rockets fell on a bread distribution centre whilst people were queueing up for bread, killing 24 people and injuring 20 others.

On 10 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped an explosive container on **Qaryet Rabeea mosque in Jabal al-Turkman** while people were praying their weekly Friday prayers in congregation. The attack killed 11 people while more than 50 others were injured.

On 11 January 2014, the Syrian Army used heavy artillery in an attack on **al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs**, killing 28 people and injuring another 100.

On 12 January 2014, the Syrian Army centred at **Tal al-Sheukh Yusef in the countryside of Aleppo** launched thermal rockets on the village of Sheikh Najjar, killing approximately 40 people.

On 12 January 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades found a mass grave in an ISIS base in **al-Brej neighbourhood in Aleppo** after ISIS was ousted out of the town. The grave contained dozens of bodies that were killed at different times. Most of them were tied up from the back and shot from a close range.

On 12 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped barrel bombs on **al-Bab in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 23 people among them 14 women and children.

On 12 January 2014, the Syrian Army launched mortar rockets on **al-Ghouta neighbourhood in Homs**, killing 20 people.

On 13 January 2014, ISIS executed dozens of the armed opposition brigades members when it managed to regain its control over **the city of ar-Raqqah**. The number of fighters who were field executed was estimated at 100 fighters.

On 17 January 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled Miderah mosque in **the town of Miderah in Rif Dimashq**, killing 17 people.

On 18 January 2014, the Syrian Air force dropped two barrel bombs on **al-Bab neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 18 people among them 8 children.

On 18 January 2014, the Syrian Air force dropped two barrel bombs on **Karm al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 48 people among them 10 children.

On 18 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket on **al-Rastan in the countryside of Homs**, killing 10 people.

On 18 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force aimed a rocket at **al-Bab in**

the countryside of Aleppo, killing 11 people.

On 20 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **Daraa camp for Palestinian refugees in Daraa**, killing 12 people, most of them children.

On 20 January 2014, ISIS forces set off two car bombs on **Bab al-Hawa crossing on the Syrian-Turkish borders**, killing 10 people.

On 21 January 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on a car park near **Jisrel Haj roundabout in Aleppo**, killing 10 people.

On 23 January 2014, the Air Force aimed a rocket at **al-saliheen neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 11 people.

On 25 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force aimed a rocket at **al-saliheen neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 23 people.

On 28 January 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a vegetable market in **Karm al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 20 people.

On 29 January 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on **al-Maadi neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 12 people.

On 30 January 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on **Karm al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 11 people.

February

On 2 February 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped eight barrel bombs on **al-Bab neighbourhood in Aleppo** near Abdullah bin Masoud mosque and the vegetable market in Duwwar al-Hilwaniyyeh during peak time, killing 52 people, half of whom were women and children, in addition to injuring more than 90 others.

On 3 February 2014, the Air Force dropped 33 barrel bombs on the neighbourhoods of **Bal al-Nayreb, al-Maadi, al-Myassar, Tariq al-Bab, al-Hilwaniyyeh, Dahret Awwad, al-Qatirji, al-Sukkari, al-wakalat street, Bani Zayd al-Ashrafiyyeh, al-Ansari al-Sharqi, al-Maamarieyyeh and al-Jazmati in Aleppo**, killing 85 people and injuring more than 300 others.

On 8 February 2014, the regime's forces lead an incursion into **the town of Soran in the countryside of Hama**, where it carried out field executions killing 27 people.

On 9 February 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the **al-Haydariyyeh roundabout in Aleppo**, killing 15 people and injuring dozens others.

On 14 February 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of Al-Baraa bin Malek mosque in the town of **Yadude in Daraa** whilst worshippers

were leaving their weekly Friday prayers, killing at least 50 people. The party responsible for this attack is unknown.

On 18 February 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Ayn al-Zaytoon school in **al-Mizerib in the countryside of Dara** and its dispensary. The school is affiliated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the attack killed 15 people, all of whom were Palestinian refugees and most of whom were children.

On 20 February 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Bab al-Salameh crossing** on the Syrian-Turkish borders near the Bab al-Salameh Camp for refugees, killing 17 people.

On 22 February 2014, the People's Protection Unit which is affiliated to the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) carried out an incursion into the town of **Tal Barrak in the countryside of al-Hasakah**. There, it captured a large number of people and at least 43 people were victims of its field executions.

On 24 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **al-Nashabiyyeh in Rif Dimashq** three times, killing 14 people and injuring dozens others.



Images published by pro-regime media of what it stated was an ambush carried out by the Army against fighters in al-E'tebe do not show any signs of a fire. They also show bodies laid out in neat rows with toys in between

On 26 February 2014, pro-regime media published pictures of approximately 150 bodies laid out in neat rows. It stated that these bodies belonged to opposition fighters who were in a military line that was targeted in **al-E'tebe in Rif Dimashq**. However, the images aired by the pro-regime media confirm the story presented by human rights activists which mentioned that these bodies belonged to civilians from eastern Ghouta who were ambushed by members of Hezbollah forces and the Iraqi Abul Fadel al-Abbas military group whilst attempting to leave the besieged area.

March

On 1 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Kafr Tkhareem in the countryside of Idlib** using a number of thermobaric rockets, killing 13 people and injuring approximately 40 others.

On 8 March 2014, members of the National Defence Force and Hezbollah's militias broke into **al-Zara village in the countryside of Homs**. There it carried out many field executions as it gathered the village's residents in an abandoned building and fired at them. SHRC was able to record the death of 40 people in this attack, however activists in the region estimated that the number of victims could actually reach 150 people.

On 11 March 2014, an ISIS suicide bomber blew himself up in **Hedaya Hotel in Qamishli**. The hotel was the headquarters of the town of Qamishlo which was ran by the PYD. The attack killed 10 people.

On 15 March 2014, the Air Force shelled the local market in **the town of Maarrat Misreen in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 17 people and injuring 25 others.

On 21 March 2014, the Air Force shelled **the town of Qudsaya in Rif Dimashq**, killing 10 people among them 6 children and 3 women.

On 24 March 2014, the Syrian Army along with its foreign militias carried out an incursion into **al-Shamuta village in the southern countryside of Hama**, where it executed 12 people and detained another 14.

On 25 March 2014, members of Fatah al-Intifada and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, militias which support the Syrian regime, fired at Palestinian refugees in the **Yarmouk Camp in Damascus** while the UNRWA was distributing food baskets there. The attack killed 11 people and injured dozens others.

On 31 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched four rockets on **the city of Harem in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 13 people.

April

On 2 April 2014, members of the Syria Revolutionaries Front, which is part of the armed opposition brigades, launched missiles on al-Shamaliyyeh quarters in Jame' Omar bin al-Khattab neighbourhood in **the city of Jisr al-Shugour in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 13 people.

On 9 April 2014, two car bombs exploded in al-Khadram street in **Karm el-Loz neighbourhood in Homs** which is an area that

supports the Syrian regime, killing 21 people.

On 24 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched the local market in **the city of al-Atareb in the countryside of Aleppo** with two thermobaric rockets when it was crowded with people in the early morning, killing 33 people and injuring more than 50 others.

On 26 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a crowded street in **the town of Kafr Hamra in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 12 people and injuring approximately 40 others.

On 27 April 2014, mortar rockets were aimed at **al-Manshiyyah neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 38 people. The party responsible for this attack is unknown but is believed to be the armed opposition brigades.

On 29 April 2014, al-Sheikh Badreldeen al-Hussieni complex (the international institute for Islamic and Arabic sciences) **in al-Shaghur in Damascus** was hit with 3 mortar rockets, killing 16 children and injuring more than 80 others. Government sources said that the armed opposition brigades were responsible for this attack.



The attack on an exhibition in Ayn Jalut school in Aleppo was one of the main examples of the regime's attacks on schools and school children in 2014. On 30 April 2014, **Ayn Jalut school in al-Ansari neighbourhood in Aleppo** was hit by a rocket fired by the Syrian Air Force while pupils were inside and while parents were attending the opening of the children's art exhibition, killing 25 people, among them 17 children.

May

On 2 May 2014, a car bomb exploded in **Jidreen village in the countryside of Hama**, which supports the Syrian regime, killing 15 people most of whom were women and children.

On 15 May 2014, a car bomb exploded in Saju car park in the **al-Salameh border crossing**, killing 44 people among them 8 children.

On 16 May 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades launched 6 rocket missiles on **al-Ashrafiyyeh neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 15 people among them 8 women and children.

On 16 May 2014, a car bomb exploded in the main market in **the city of Bansh in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 12 people.

On 22 May 2014, the Sijeel Brigade, which is one of the armed opposition brigades, launched 3 rocket missiles on **al-Matar neighbourhood in the city of Daraa**. The missiles hit an elections tent during the “presidential campaigns”. According to government state media, this attack killed 29 people and injured approximately 250 others.

On 28 May 2014, a car bomb exploded in al-Mazot market in **Maarrat al-Nasan village in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 17 people. The party responsible for the attack is unknown.

On 29 May 2014, members of ISIS led an incursion into Talila village in **Ras al-Ayn city in the countryside of al-Hasakah** where they fired at the residents, killing 15 people among them 7 children and 3 women.

On 29 May 2014, members of ISIS entered Talila village in **Ras al-Ayn city in al-Hasakah** after PYD forces had left the village. There, they fired at the civilians, killing 12 people among them 5 children and a woman.



Fifty people were killed in a car bomb near Bab al-Salameh border crossing on 18 May 2014

On 30 May 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades shelled **al-Midan neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 19 people among them 12 children and a woman.

On 30 May 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhood in Aleppo** near the street leading to

Karaj al-Hajez crossing, killing one person. After the residents gathered around the site to help the wounded, the Air Force launched a rocket at the area killing 11 people and injuring dozens others.

On 31 May 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades launched a mortar rocket on **al-Midan neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 17 people.

June

On 14 June 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a local market in **the city of Adnan in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 20 people and injuring more than 30 others.

On 15 June 2014, al-Izz Front, one of the opposition brigades, launched a mortar rocket on **Karm al-hal neighbourhood in Jisr al-Shughour in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 14 civilians.

On 16 June 2014, the Air Force dropped two barrel bombs on **al-Sukkari neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 35 people and injuring dozens others.

On 18 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two barrel bombs on al-Shajra Camp **in al-Shajra village near Daraa** at 1.00am. The

massacre killed 18 refugees and injured approximately 60 others.

On 21 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb on **the town of Khan al-Sheikh in Rif Dimashq** that fell on a building of two floors, killing 11 people from one family, seven of which were children.



The massacre committed moments before sunset (the time people open their fast and eat) on the second day of the holy month of Ramadan was an example of the regime's attacks on people before and during their meals in the holy month

On 23 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a funeral service in **al-Busid neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor**, killing 16 people and injuring dozens.

On 29 June 2014, the Air Force shelled **the city of Silqeen in the countryside of Aleppo** moments before the sunset (the time people open their fast and eat) during the holy month of Ramadan in which people fast, killing 38 people and injuring dozens.

On 30 June 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades launched dozens of mortar rockets on **Idlib**, killing 14 people among them 7 women and children.

July

On 1 July 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades launched mortar rockets on **Idlib**, killing 10 people.

On 5 July 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **the city of Da'el in the Governorate of Daraa**, killing an entire family of refugees that had arrived from Nawa a few days earlier. Both parents and their six children died from the raid.

On 5 July 2014, the Syrian Army and its popular militias executed 10 people, including women, in a field execution in **al-Sheikh Hadid village in the countryside of Hama**.

On 7 July 2014, the Syrian's Army forces at Hamadaniyye neighbourhood in Aleppo launched a surface to surface missile on **al-Mashad neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 10 people.

On 9 July 2014, Syrian officials stated that the armed opposition brigades killed 14 people in **Khattab village in the northern western countryside of Hama**. The accuracy of these claims could not be determined by SHRC from an independent source.

On 10 July 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a local market in the main street in **al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 20 people and injuring dozens others.

On 13 July 2014, a car bomb exploded near al-Nadi roundabout in **the city of al-Mayadeen in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 14 people.

On 14 July 2014, the Syrian Army launched a surface to surface missile on al-Maghara village in the countryside of Idlib, moments before sunset (the time people open their fast and eat) during the holy month of Ramadan in which people fast. The missile hit an oil and gas distribution centre which caused a large fire that killed 15 people and injured dozens.

On 14 July 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs

on **al-Firdos neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 11 people, injuring dozens and destroying 4 buildings completely.

On 24 July 2014, the Syrian Army launched a surface to surface missile on the main market in **the town of Zbedin on eastern Ghouta in Rif Dimashq**, killing 10 people and injuring 15 others.

On 26 July 2014, a car bomb exploded in a vegetable market in **Aazaz in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 10 people. The party responsible for the attack is unknown.

On 28 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two barrel bombs on **al-Sha'ar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 20 people.

On 30 July 2014, the Syrian Army targeted **the city of Douma in Rif Dimashq** with missiles and rockets on the last day of Eid celebrations, killing 18 people and injuring 70 others.

August

In the beginning of August, ISIS carried out an incursion into the villages inhabited by **al-Sh'eitat tribe in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, specifically Likshekeh, Abu Hammam and Graneej, after an ongoing siege and heavy attack using artillery ISIS managed to get from the Iraqi Army. At least 400 men from the tribe were executed by ISIS and it estimated that the number could reach 700

victims, making the Sh'eitat massacre one of the biggest massacres committed against the Syrian people since the spark of the anti-regime demonstrations in Syria.



ISIS recorded the massacre it committed against al-Sh'eitat tribe and published it in special films which are considered among the harshest films Syria has seen, especially that the criminals themselves are promoting them

ISIS itself documented these events by airing images and videos of the massacre. It published a propaganda video called “And those behind them were left astray” which showed images of victims being slaughtered with knives in cold blood, their executors

exchanging jokes in the process and waiting for their turn to take pictures with their victims. The massacre carried on for days, mainly during the beginning of August.

On 1 August 2014, mortar rockets were dropped behind al-Ridwan mosque in **al-Hamadaniyye neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 11 people among them 6 children. The party responsible for the attack is unknown.

On 3 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a supermarket in **the town of Kafrobatna in Rif Dimashq** while it was packed with customers, killing 27 people and injuring more than 8 others.

On 3 August 2013, the Syrian Air Force shelled the Qutli street in **the city of Douma in the Governorate of Rif Dimashq**, killing 16 people and injuring dozens.

On 9 August 2014, ISIS launched several mortar rockets on **Asheeret al-Shwet area in Der ez-Zor**, killing 18 people.

On 9 August 2014, one of the armed opposition brigades launched mortar rockets on **Amnel Dawleh area near al-Siddiq mosque in Idlib**, killing 8 children and a woman.

September

On 3 September 2014, pro-regime militias armed with cold weapons committed a massacre in **Tal Khazne village on the way to Tariq Silmiyyeh in the countryside of Homs**, killing 14 people from one al-Naimi family who were refugees from Deir Ba'alba.

On 3 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted a bus carrying passengers in **al-Shula on the way between Der ez-Zor and Damascus**, killing 14 people and injuring dozens.

On 4 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Ashara city in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 8 people and injuring approximately 20 others.

On 5 September 2014, the Army's helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on **al-Haydariyyeh neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing at least 26 people.

On 6 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled al-Andalus bakery in **Tal Abyad street in ar-Raqqah**, killing 44 people in the breadline.

On 6 September 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on **the town of al-Tamna in the countryside of Hama**, killing 10 people.

On 7 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a school in the **town of Sbeikhan in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 11 refugees who were staying at the school.

On 9 September 2014, the Air Forces shelled a residential area in **Jisr Misraba neighbourhood in the city of Douma**, killing 27 people among them 15 children and a woman.

On 11 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a cattle market in **the city of al-Bab in the countryside of Aleppo** with thermobaric rockets, killing 19 people and injuring dozens.

On 11 September 2014, more than 45 people were killed in **Douma in Rif Dimashq** when the Air Force shelled an old residential neighbourhood which caused a number of houses to collapse.

On 14 September 2014, the Kurdish People's Protection Unit which is affiliated to the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) led an incursion into **Tal Khalil and al-Hajjiyyeh villages near Tal Hmes in al-Hasakah**, killing 51 people mostly women and children. Most victims were killed when their houses were hit with RPG grenades from a close range.

On 15 September 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **al-Marje neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 18 people and

injuring dozens.

On 15 September 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on **the city of Talibiseh in the countryside of Homs**, killing 15 people among them women and children.

On 16 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force carried out two air raids on **the city of al-Hamuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq** in which it launched thermobaric rockets on the city, killing 20 people and injuring more than 30 others.

On 16 September 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled **the city of Talbiseh in the countryside of Homs**, killing 31 people among them 15 women and children.

On 17 September 2014, the Syrian Air force launched two guided missiles at al-Jalaa Street in **Douma in Rif Dimashq**, killing 15 people among them 12 women and children.

On 18 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb on a breadline in **the city of al-Bab in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 44 people among them 16 women and children.

On 19 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a residential building and a tailoring workshop in **Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 10 people.

On 21 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the way to Kafr Emem in the city of Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib** with thermobaric rockets, killing 22 people.

On 21 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the town of Ehsim in the countryside of Idlib** with thermobaric rockets, killing 33 people.

On 22 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the city of Hammuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq**, killing at least 10 people and injuring more than 30 others.

On 24 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the city of Douma in Rif Dimashq** four consecutive times, killing 12 people among them 7 women and children.

October

On 1 October 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Ikrima al-Makhzoomi primary school in Ikrima neighbourhood in Homs**, killing 53 people among them 51 children.

On 3 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force used thermobaric rockets in a raid on Khorshed Street in **Douma in Rif Dimashq**, killing 15 people and injuring more than 120 others.

On 6 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the town of Khan al-Sabeel in the Governorate of Idlib**, killing 10 people mostly women and children.

On 8 October 2014, the Army's forces launched a surface to surface missile on **al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs**, killing 10 people mostly women and children.

On 9 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided a local market in **the town of Irbeen in Rif Dimashq** using thermobaric rockets, killing 31 people and injuring more than 200 others.

On 10 October 2014, the Army's forces launched a surface to surface rocket on **the town of al-Hara in the Governorate of Daraa**, killing 21 people.

On 14 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided a residential neighbourhood in which it targeted Omar bin al-Khattab mosque in **the city of Irbeen in Rif Dimashq**, killing 14 people.

On 14 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided a residential neighbourhood in **Ayn Turma in Rif Dimashq**, killing 14 people and destroying a large number of houses and supermarkets.

On 15 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs**, killing 10 people and

destroying a large number of assets there.

On 16 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the town of Jisren in Rif Dimashq** with four thermobaric rockets, killing 24 people and destroying two entire buildings.

On 17 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the city of Douma in Rif Dimashq** eight times, killing 21 people among them 7 children.

On 21 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on **the town of Naseeb in Daraa**, killing 23 people half of which were women and children.

On 23 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on **the town of Qarrah in the countryside of Aleppo**. The barrels fell on a wedding hall in which refugees were residing. The attack killed 19 people, all of them women and children.

On 25 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the city of Talbiseh in Homs**, killing 18 people mostly children.

On 26 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a residential building in the heart of al-Sharqi neighbourhood in **Busra al-Sham in Daraa**, killing 15 people from one family.

On 29 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel

bombs on **Abdeen Camp in al-Sheik Mustafa village in Idlib**, killing 18 people.

November

On 5 November 2014, two Katyusha rockets were aimed at al-Hayat school in **Qabuoun neighbourhood in Damascus**, killing 16 children at least and injuring approximately 50 others. The neighbourhood is under the complete control of the armed opposition brigades. The source of the firing is unknown.

On 6 November 2014, two barrel bombs were dropped on al-Muwasalat Street in **al-Sha'ar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 14 people among them women and children.

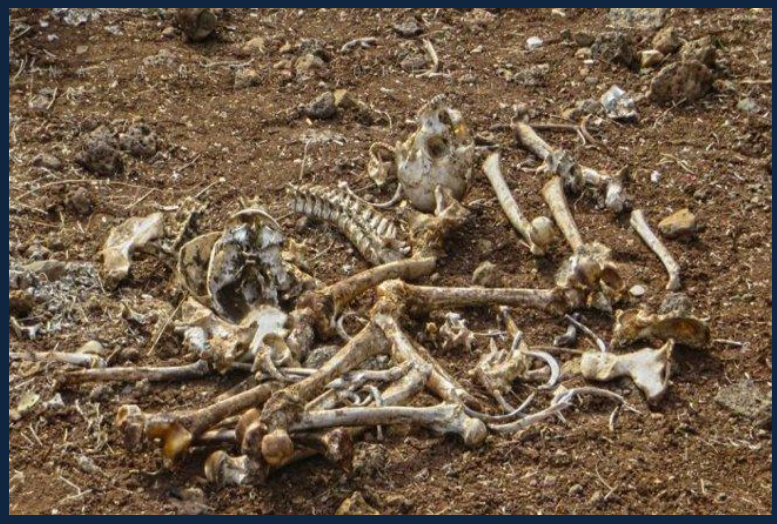
On 12 November 2014, a Grad rocket hit **Kirnaz primary school in the northern countryside of Hama**, killing 10 children at least and injuring dozens others. The party responsible for the firing is unknown.

On 12 November 2014, refugees from **the Governorate of Homs** were ambushed by pro-regime forces when a group of approximately 100 refugees heading towards Turkey were fired at. The attack killed 30 people.

On 18 November 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on **al-Qabr al-Ingleezi area between the town of Hretan and Kafr Hamra village near Karfur Mall in the countryside of Aleppo**, destroying two public transport buses and an ambulance which resulted in the death of at least 14 people and injured no less than 20 others.

On 21 November 2014, the residents of **the city of Nawa in the western countryside of Daraa** found a container of decomposed bodies between Tal Um Horan and Tal al-Jabiye near the city. The bodies are believed to have belonged to civilians who attempted to flee Nawa a year ago. The bodies were found after the opposition forces gained control over the city and the regime forces withdrew from there.

On 25 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **the city of ar-Raqqa** eight consecutive times, targeting: the industrial city in al-Sawajeen neighbourhood, Mustdawda' al-Asfar north the city, al-Hinni mosque, al-Mashlab, al-Muthaf square and al-Bareed near the Bolman car park. The attack killed more than 100 people, all of them civilians as the raids targeted residential and civilian areas. This massacre is one of the largest committed in 2014.



The remains of the bodies found in the city of Nawa on 21 November 2014 show that the victims had died approximately a year before

On 29 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the surroundings of al-Nawawi mosque in the city of ar-Raqqa**, killing 11 people, injuring dozens and damaging the mosque.

On 30 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a market street in **Hatle village in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 12 people among them 9 women and children and injuring 14 others.

On 30 November 2014, **the city of Jasem in the Governorate of Daraa** was raided twice. The first targeted a residential building for refugees in the towns surrounding the city while the second

targeted the town hall where residents were gathering to register for humanitarian aid. The raids killed 28 people and injured at least 100 others.

On 30 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched thermobaric rockets at a residential building in **the city of Adnan in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 11 people and injuring dozens.

December

On 8 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided the **town of Hammuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq**, killing 10 people and injuring dozens others.

On 15 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Khsham, Muhsin and al-Tabiye villages in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 26 people; ten of which were in al-Tabiye and 11 of which were in Khsham.

On 15 December 2014, activists from al-Sh'eitat tribe in **Graneej village in the southern countryside of Deir ez-Zor** found a mass grave containing approximately 20 bodies that were executed. Other activists stated that the mass graves contained up to 200 bodies. A large massacre was committed against al-Sh'eitat tribe by ISIS in August.

On 16 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force carried out two raids in front of **Al-Tib Al-Hadith Hospital at the western entrance of the city of Deir ez-Zor**, killing 10 people and injuring dozens.

On 16 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched 15 air raids on **al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs** which is under the control of the opposition. That attacks killed 14 people and injured at least 40 others.

On 16 December 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled Orient Hospital in **the city of Kafr Nabl in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 13 people and injuring dozens.

On 18 December 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **the town of al-Naji near Kanaker in Rif Dimashq**, killing 10 people. All of whom were residents from the town al-Mal in the countryside of Daraa.

On 24 December 2014, the Syrian Air force carried out five air raids on **the city of ar-Raqqah** which targeted: al-Huda mosque, Adnan al-Maliki school and al-Maalumatiyyeh school in al-Browaseer neighbourhood. The raids killed 26 people among them 9 children.

On 24 December 2014, the Syrian Army fired at women and children exiting the **town of Zbedin in Rif Dimashq** to the Hteta al-Jarsh crossing in coordination with army. The attack killed 12

people, among them 9 women, and injured 25 others.

On 25 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a number of raids on **al-Bab city and al-Qbasin village in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 45 people and injuring 170 others.

On 27 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped four barrel bombs on the centre of **the town of Abtaa' in the countryside of Daraa**, killing 10 people and injuring 20 others.

Syrian Prisons: arbitrary detention, forced disappearance and death from torture

The Syrian regime continued using the same tactics of arbitrary detention and forced disappearance which it has been using since the spark of the anti-regime demonstrations in 2011 and in fact, since the Ba'ath Party took power through a military coup in 1963.

Unlike the other violations committed by the regime, violations related to forced disappearance and arbitrary detention are mere estimates that are far from the actual numbers. No human rights body has a specific or approximate number of detainees or missing people in Syria, whether for this year or the past four years. This is due to several reasons such as: the unprecedented increase in numbers of detainees and missing people, the different reasons behind their detention and disappearance, the different parties responsible for their detention and disappearance, the long distances between the cities and areas and the fear that runs through

people who live in areas controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) and by the regime, which prevents them from communicating with human rights and media organisations.

This issue of detention and forced disappearance is one of the harshest issues in the Syrian crisis, as the Syrian government is infamous for having one of the worst records in the world in this regard. It had detained children and innocent civilians for decades even before the spark of the demonstrations and has become even harsher after them.

On 1 January 2014, one of the oldest political prisoners in Syria passed away in Aleppo's Central Prison. Ahmed al-Mahmoud, who spent more than 25 years in detention, was detained in 1988. He spent most of his prison sentence in Saidnaya and Tadmor prisons before he was transferred to Aleppo's Central Prison in 2013 after Saidnaya prison was closed down. He passed away after a long battle with cancer amidst the lack of medical treatment in prison.

On 27 December 2014, blogger Tal al-Mallohi completed her fifth year in detention. She was detained when she was 18 years old when the authorities accused her of providing information to foreign parties.



Ahmed Hamdo al-Mahmoud passed away on 1 January 2014 after spending 25 years of his life in prison. He died from the harsh health conditions in Aleppo's prison

Absolute authority

The reports and eyewitness accounts collected by SHRC since the beginning of the popular demonstrations in 2011 show that the security forces, the Army and the popular militias affiliated to the regime enjoy complete and absolute authority to detain any person regardless of their age and race. They do not even require legal documents to do so. Moreover, the families of the detainees cannot trace their whereabouts and the detainees are prohibited from contacting anyone until they are released, if and when that happens.

In numerous cases, security barriers set up by the security forces, the army and the popular militias in various cities in Syria, detained one person or several people from a car that was passing through the barrier for unknown reasons. The parties responsible for these detentions are also unknown.

Detentions for military conscription

The year 2014 saw an increase in detentions carried out by the Syrian Army and security forces to conscript young people for the Army, in areas under the regime's control and in the barriers set up there.

The Army's conscription branches prepared long lists containing names of young men wanted for military service. Cities and villages are raided into to detain these young men as seen in areas supporting the regime for the first time.

The number of people detained for mandatory military service in 2014 is estimated to be 5000 people.

In addition, the People's Protection Unit which is affiliated to the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) launched similar campaigns in Kurdish areas under its control, to detain young men of military service age. In October 2014 alone, it detained more than 250 people in al-Hasakah.

Old methods continued: torture in Syrian prisons

Torture is one of the most difficult crimes to document as it is impossible to reach the crime scene and the criminals. SHRC documented 1034 cases in which people died from torture in 2014. However, indications show that the actual number of deaths from torture is ten times this number. However, checking the exact numbers at this stage is impossible, as most detentions occur without any legal basis and cannot be recorded. Therefore, a large number of detainees can be categorised under forced disappearance whose future is unknown.

In cases that were recorded, the bodies of the victims were delivered to their families for burial and they had signs of brutal torture such as electrocution and amputation.

Furthermore, recorded cases and eyewitness accounts show that the security forces sometimes contact the family of the victim to retrieve their identification documents and personal possessions without

handing them the body. In other cases the families are not contacted and the bodies are buried in mass graves. SHRC was unable to determine the standards followed by the security forces in this regard.



The leaked images which were published on 21 January 2014 provided rare and vital evidence of the systematic inhumane nature Syrian prisoners undergo

On 21 January 2014, an international report containing 55.000 images leaked from Syrian prisons was published. The images show the bodies of 11.000 detainees who died from torture in a single security branch in Damascus. These pictures provide a rare and vital evidence for the events that occur inside prisons and detention centres in Syria.

Eyewitness accounts recorded by SHRC in 2014 show a continuation of brutal torture inside Syrian prisons and detention centres as security branches are given the authority to torture and kill detainees.

Prison conditions

In addition to torture, detainees in prisons and detention centres face poor conditions that sometimes lead to their death, as communicable and contagious diseases spread in an environment that lacks nutrition and medical care.

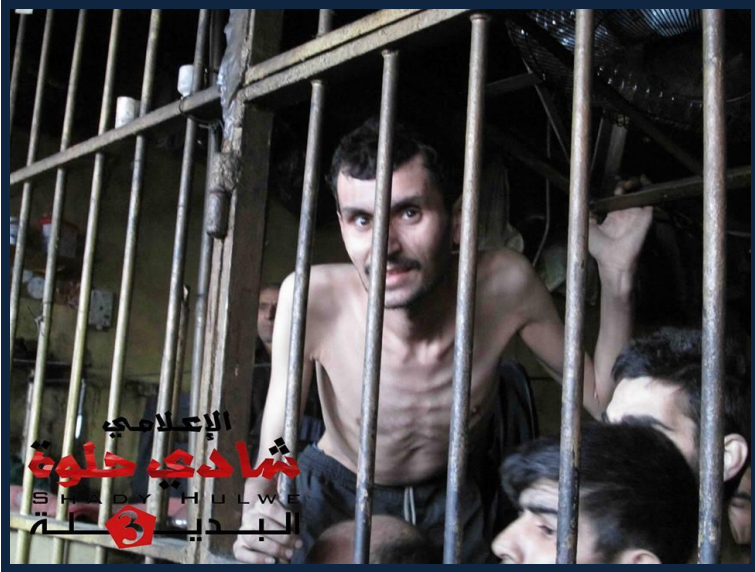
Many accounts mentioned that pneumonic plague broke out in

branch 215 which is affiliated to the military intelligence. This caused the prison management to execute dozens of infected prisoners in December 2014.

Other accounts attained by SHRC show that many prisoners in Aleppo's Central Prison and in Saidnaya prison died from the freezing cold. This was a deliberate act on behalf of the prison management which deprived them from blankets and in some cases forced them to sleep naked on the floor after spraying them with cold water in extremely low temperatures. Other recorded cases also show deaths from starvation and other forms of torture.

In a rare case, Shadi Hilweh who works for the state media in Aleppo, put pictures of Aleppo's Central Prison on his Facebook page on 22 May 2014. The images showed prisoners suffering from extremely poor health and a small girl detained there.

On 27 December 2014, detainees in Homs's Central Prison started a hunger strike demanding their release.



The images published by a pro-regime journalist from inside the prison provide rare evidence of the serious violations committed against detainees

Releases

The year 2014 saw a limited number of releases, most of which occurred as part of a prisoner exchange deal with the armed opposition forces to release kidnapped foreigners.

On 9 March 2014, the Syrian authorities released 153 female prisoners in return for the detained nuns in Ma'loula. Records of the

exchange show that the nuns were happy with the deal and their contribution to its success. In a press conference, the nuns expressed their appreciation towards their kidnappers' good treatment, which caused the state media to accuse them of treason.

On 14 April 2014, 8 women were released in Daraa in a prisoner exchange deal with the regime in return for the release of 2 Army officers who were detained by al-Nusra Front.

The exchange was completed over several days, as each lady was released after the other till the last day of the exchange, when officer Rani Makhoulf and the last detained woman were released.

On 9 June 2014, legislative decree No.22 of 2014 was enacted and it granted general amnesty for a number of crimes. Around 124 male and female political prisoners were released. Among those included in the amnesty was prisoner Adnan Qassar, who was detained for 21 years due to his disagreements with Basel al-Assad, brother of Bashar al-Assad.

Trials

Even though trials held for activists before 2011 lacked legitimacy as they were mainly held in exceptional courts, in the last three years Syria has seen a decrease in these trials. The authorities only prosecute famous activists while other detainees are prosecuted as cases of forced disappearance which do not require the formalities that could restrict the authority of the kidnappers and investigation.

Since the establishment of the Counter-terrorism Court as stipulated by presidential decree No.22 of 2012, the Court has prosecuted political prisoners instead of the state security court which was responsible for doing so beforehand.

One of the main examples of prosecuting activists in 2014 was the case that referred 3 female field activists to the Counter-terrorism Court in Damascus on 15 April 2014, after they were arbitrary detained in military security branch 227 in Damascus. These activists are: human rights lawyer Jihan Amin, activist Amal Nasr

from the National Coordination Committee and wife of opposition member Adnan al-Dibis and arts student Ranim Ma'touq, daughter of prominent human rights lawyer Khalil Ma'touq who has been detained since 2 October 2012.

Conscience prisoners Mazen Darwish, Hussein Ghairr and Hani Zaitani of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (CMFE) remain detained since 16 February 2012.

Violations committed against health and healthcare

The Syrian Armed Forces, alongside its popular local and foreign militias, continued its systematic assaults on healthcare and healthcare employees this year, including attacks on field and official hospitals, ambulances, doctors, nurses and paramedics.

In 2014, the regime's Armed Forces recommenced its attacks on hospitals and health centres it had targeted in 2013. It also attacked certain hospitals numerous times such as Orient Hospital in Karanbel and Al-Ihsan Hospital in Saraqib which were attacked 3 times each in 2014.

In addition, health facilities were used by the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) members, armed opposition brigades and mainly by the Syrian Army as military bases and headquarters in which military vehicles were stored. As a result, these buildings were made into military targets.

For example, the Al-Kabir Hospital in Homs was used by the Syrian Army as their main headquarters. Rockets were launched from the hospital and snipers were deployed on its roofs to target civilians in the neighbourhood.

In Syria, hospitals, medical centres and medical staff suffer from a

severe shortage of medicine and they continue to function without essential equipment, such as dialysis machines, which require maintenance and replacement parts. Many hospitals also lack basic medical essentials such as sedation drugs, to the extent that surgeries are carried out without anaesthesia.



A grave mistake made in the health centre in Jirinjaz killed 16 children who were injected with a measles vaccine mixed with a skeletal muscle relaxant

Furthermore, there has been a severe shortage in medicine and drugs due to the complete destruction of all drug factories in areas no longer under the regime's control and to the shortage in drugs and medicine allowed into these areas.

Shortages in staff have forced non-specialists to work in allied healthcare jobs and in some cases to actually take on major responsibilities and tasks, despite the serious risks this involves.

Functioning hospitals face severe shortages in financial resources, forcing many of them to suspend their services completely or partially. All hospitals and health centres are associated with a charity, a political organisation or an international organisation which help fund these hospitals. If these donor organisations cut off their funds for any reason, these hospitals suspend their services until another funding body is found.

Some of the challenges Syrians face with regards to health are: the large number of injured Syrians which is estimated at 1.5 million people, patients who suffer from regular and chronic diseases, dealing with diseases caused by the lack of medicine and nutrition in besieged areas, the lack of drinking water, pollution caused by uncollected waste and the lack of sanitation services.

Many diseases and illnesses have spread in areas no longer under the regime's control due to the difficult field conditions there, the lack of medical resources and due to the continuous attacks on hospitals and medical staff. In the beginning of November 2014, many cases were recorded in which children suffered from **scabies**

and lice in Aleppo, causing many schools to close for certain durations. A school in al-Sukkari neighbourhood had to shut its doors for a week after 100% of its pupils were ill while others schools in al-Kallaseh and Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhoods had to close when 50% of their pupils became ill.

In the same month, many people were diagnosed with **myiasis (maggots)** in Rif Dimashq. This disease spreads through flies in areas with stagnant water and which lack sanitation and the use of pesticides.

Poliomyelitis, which broke out in Syria in 2013, still poses a serious threat to children in 2014. Despite providing children with vaccines, 36 children were diagnosed with this disease this year.

In December, around 100 people in eastern Ghouta in Rif Dimashq were diagnosed with **tuberculosis**. Some cases were also recorded in al-Mizerib in the countryside of Daraa.

One of the reasons behind the severe lack of healthcare in Syria lies in the vaccine distribution process in areas no longer under the regime's control. These areas are controlled by more than one party and international organisations are unable to access them due to the lack of an official internationally recognised body to liaise with.

Distribution of poliomyelitis vaccines was delayed for more than a month because World Health Organisation (WHO) which provides the vaccine, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which distributes it do not liaise with political bodies that are not affiliated to recognised governments. As a result, the Turkish government received the vaccines and delivered them to the Syrian Interim Government.

On 16 September 2014, fifteen children, all under 14 months, died in the town of Jarjanz in the countryside of Idlib after they were injected with measles vaccines by the town's vaccination team. The vaccines were contaminated with Atracurium, a skeletal muscle relaxant used in surgeries to replace distilled water used to prepare the vaccine. The centre had kept the relaxant in the same fridge it kept the diluent.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) recorded cases in which **37 hospitals and health centres** were targeted by the Syrian Armed forces and its allied militias in 2014, including those targeted numerous times. In addition, **81 members of medical staff** who worked in these hospitals and centres were killed.

Below are the main **violations recorded by SHRC in 2014:**

On 2 January 2014, **the field hospital in the Saraqib** was shelled, killing Dr. Husam Jroud. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) announced the Syrian Army's responsibility for the attack, which is the first time official state media openly declares its responsibility for a war crime.

On 3 January 2014, ISIS members broke into **Al-Shaheen Usama Ablaq field hospital in Rif Dimashq**. There, it kidnapped Jameel Lala (also known as Abu Hiddo) a leader from the armed opposition brigades who was undergoing a surgery to amputate his leg after an injury he incurred whilst fighting the Army's forces. The hospital closed down after the attack.

On 13 January 2014, the family of **Dr. Adnan al-Zain** was informed that he died from torture. Dr. al-Zain was detained by the security forces for approximately 2 months.

On 17 January 2014, **Orient Hospital in Maarrat al-Nu'man** was shelled by the Syrian Air Force, which caused damage to the hospital.

On 28 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **a health centre ran by Sidq Association in Masaken al-Baladiyyeh in al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo**, damaging the centre without causing any injuries.

On 28 January 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on **Kafr Zita Hospital in Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, damaging the intensive care unit and several of the hospital's equipment.



Orient Hospital in Kafranbl was raided three times in 2014

On 16 February 2014, **Ibrahim Khaled al-Mabrook**, a paramedic at Orient Hospital in Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Idlib, died from an injury he incurred whilst working in Marrat al-Nu'man when it was being shelled.

On 23 February 2014, a car bomb exploded in **the village of Atma at**

the border strip between Idlib and Bab al-Hawa crossing. The explosion occurred at the northern side of **Orient Humanitarian Relief Hospital**, damaging the hospital almost completely, killing 17 people and injuring 60 others.

On 29 March 2014, **the field hospital at al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs** was shelled with what is believed to be a surface to surface missile, which destroyed the hospital almost completely and killed 10 people, among them 2 medical staff members.

On 14 April 2014, a barrel bomb was dropped on **Khail dispensary in the town of Khail in the countryside of Daraa**, which is the only medical centre there. The assault killed 4 people and caused serious damage.

On 15 April 2014, **pharmacist Mohammed al-Hasan Aladdin al-Sayyed Esa** died from torture in the Palestine Security Branch in Damascus. Al-Sayyed Esa had been detained since 2 September 2013 near the Tayyar barrier in Aleppo.

On 30 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped an explosive container on **Kafr Zita Hospital in Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, destroying its front completely. The hospital was shelled previously on 28 January 2014.

On 4 May 2014, ISIS executed **Dr. Marwan Ismail in the city of Tal Abyad in the Governorate of ar-Raqqah**. His body was handed to his family on 7 May 2014.

On 7 May 2014, **pharmacist Mahmood Skaf died from torture in Palestine Security Branch**. Skaf was detained in Homs on 29 November 2013 and is from al-Jalaa neighbourhood in Hama.

On 11 May 2014, **ophthalmologist Dr. Walid Moahmmed Khattab and dentist Dr. Walaa Ahmed al-Suwedani** were killed when the Armed Forces, located at Tal Jmoo' military base in the countryside of Daraa, targeted their car with a guided missile on the road to Nawa al-Rfed.

On 14 May 2014, civil defence ambulance driver **Anas Mahmoud al-Qaser** was killed in the city of Atareb in the countryside of Aleppo when the city was attacked with thermobaric rockets. Anas's brother, Ahmed Mahmoud al-Qaser who is a member of the emergency ambulance service, was also killed in the attack.

On 14 May 2014, **Dr. Mohammed Hasan Obied** was killed in Atareb in the countryside of Aleppo after he was injured in a the same raid that killed al-Qasr brothers.

On 15 May 2014, **Al-Ridwan field hospital in the city of Jasem in**

Daraa was shelled with thermobaric rockets that caused serious damage to the hospital. The attack killed orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Walid Shbat al-Nmeri, radiologist Luay Mohammed al-Jibawi, lab technician Hani al-Hishme and nurse Shadi Zaher al-Mizal.

On 16 May 2014, fifth year medicine student **Ziyad Tareq Abu Ras** passed away. Abu Ras worked at field hospitals in al-Medaniyyeh in Muadamiyat al-Sham in Rif Dimashq and al-Hbet, Kafr Sajneh and Karanbel in the countryside of Idlib. Abu Ras was injured on 30 April with fragments of shrapnel from a barrel bomb that was dropped on al-Hbet. He was transferred to Turkey for treatment where he passed away.

On 20 May 2014, **Tal Rif'at field hospital in the countryside of Aleppo** was attacked, nurse Ridwan Mohammed Shobak died as a result.

On 23 May 2014, **paramedic Moahmmed Musa Hamza** was killed when the ambulance he was in was shelled in eastern Ghouta.

On 26 May 2014, **paramedic Omar al-Sheikh** died from an injury he incurred whilst treating patients near Aleppo's Central Prison.

On 28 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the fifth field hospital in Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, causing serious damage to it.

On 30 May 2014, **Dr. Salah Atik** was killed when members of the armed opposing brigades launched mortar rockets on Jisr al-Shugour in the countryside of Idlib.

On 31 May 2014, **nurse Baha Mustafa al-Ibrahim**, from Kafr Zita, died in the Palestine Security Branch in Damascus. Al-Ibrahim was detained a year before due to his services in field hospitals in Damascus.

On 3 June 2014, **Umayyah dispensary in the town of Zbedin in Rif Dimashq** was raided. The raid caused serious damage to the dispensary and killed 24 people, among them 9 medical staff members including Dr. Khaldun al-Wadi; the dispensary's director.

On 16 June 2014, **a point of care in Tal Rif'at in the countryside of Aleppo** was shelled and destroyed completely and shut down as a result.

On 26 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the field hospital in the town of Jisren in Rif Dimashq** with two thermobaric rockets, causing very serious and large damage to the building and injuring several members of staff.

On 29 June 2014, an air raid dropped thermobaric rockets at **Orient Hospital in Karanbel in the countryside of Idlib** killing Dr.

Mahmoud Ibrahim and anaesthetist assistant Saeed al-Musa. The attack destroyed the hospital almost completely.

On 1 July 2014, **paramedic Anas Waleed al-Khayyat** died from an injury he incurred from a raid on al-Kasra village in Deir ez-Zor.

In 2 July 2014, **paramedic Khaled Khalaf al-Saher** died from an injury he incurred from a raid on the town of al-Busera in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor.

On 3 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the field hospital in al-Sakhur neighbourhood in Aleppo**, causing serious damage to the hospital and injuring several members of staff.

On 4 July 2014, the family of **Mohammed Atfeh, who volunteered for the Red Crescent in Homs**, were informed of his death from torture. Atfeh was detained by security forces on 3 February 2014 in al-Inshaa'at neighbourhood in Homs.

On 17 July 2014, **Yaser Abdelkarim Abdelrahamn, a paramedic at paramedics without borders**, was killed when an ambulance he was riding with some patients was targeted in the countryside of Aleppo.

On 20 July 2014, **paramedic Fayyad Othman al-Sheikh** died from an injury he incurred in an air raid on al-Ansari neighbourhood in

Aleppo. Al-Ansari, originally from the city of Manbej in the countryside of Aleppo, was looking for survivors from an earlier raid and worked in an ambulance for the emergency ambulance service in the Governorate of Aleppo.



The Army continued its attacks on medical staff and ambulances in specific despite the clear signs they carry

On 23 July 2014, the family of **Mohammed Ramadan al-Hmayyid al-Jarrad** learned of their son's death from torture in the Palestine Security Branch in Damascus. He was detained in February in 2014.

On 26 July 2014, **Dr. Ghassan Allawi al-Ahmad** was killed when his ambulance was hit in an air raid on ar-Raqqah while he was on his

way to treat the victims of an earlier raid.

On 28 July 2014, **al-Nashabiyyeh Hospital in al-Marj in Rif Dimashq** was raided by the Air Force, killing emergency doctor Dr. Yaser Jabbawi and general surgery resident Nour J'edani.

On 3 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **Al-Noor field hospital in the village of Hoor in the countryside of Aleppo**, killing 4 members of staff who are: Dr. Mohammed Siraj Elnoor Dinwar, surgeon Kamel Sayyed Omar, nurse Eman Abdelrahman and manager Hasan Abdelrahman.

On 3 August 2014, **Mohammed Rida al-Miflitani, a volunteer at the Red Crescent branch in Douma, and paramedics Anas Omar al-Nabils and Bassam al-Tibji** were all killed in an air raid on the city where they were treating the victims of an earlier raid.

On 3 August 2014, the family of **Dr. Iyad Hussien al-Homsi** were told he died from torture whilst being held at a security branch. Al-Homsi was detained in Al-Sharq Hospital in the city of Daraa in March 2014.

On 7 August 2014, the body of **Dr. Hanna Ilyas Shammass** was found in Aleppo with the bodies of his wife and son, pharmacist **Shadi al-Shammass**. The family was detained the previous day at a

barrier controlled by popular groups affiliated to the regime at the road to al-Silmiyyeh Aleppo.

On 7 August 2014, barrel bombs were dropped at **the National Hospital in Halfa in the countryside of Hama**, causing serious damage to its facilities.

On 8 August 2014, the family of **Palestinian Red Crescent volunteer Maher Nihad Hameed** were informed of his death from torture whilst being held at a security branch. Hameed was detained on 25 May 2014 at a security point controlled by the Army and Palestinian militias affiliated to the regime.

On 10 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Orient Hospital in the town of Karanbel in the countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to most of the hospital and injuring several of its staff and patients.

On 12 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **al-Ihsan Surgical Hospital in Irbeen in eastern Ghouta**, causing serious damage to the hospital and **killing Dr. Anas Mohammed Bi'yoona**, a third year medicine student at Damascus University.

On 13 August 2014, the Syrian Army launched **a rocket missile on an ambulance in eastern Ghouta**, killing nurse **Abdelmajeed (nicknamed Abu Yazan)** and injuring others.

On 16 August 2014, the family of **nurse Khaled Mustafa Jerodeh** were informed of his death from torture at a security branch. Jerodeh had worked at one of the military hospitals in Damascus before he was detained two years before. He was accused of providing medical aid to patients who opposed the regime.

On 18 August 2014, members of ISIS executed **Dr. Rua Diab, a dentist** from Deir ez-Zor. Diab was detained by the regime in her clinic ten days before and was accused of liaising with the regime.

On 23 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the National Hospital in ar-Raqqah**, causing serious damage to its facilities and killing Dr. Saleh al-Hussien (a surgeon), Dr. Hamdo Sheehan (an anaesthetist) and voluntary driver Abdullah Mohammed Gathwan.

On 25 August 2014, **nurse Ismail Mohammed al-Hameedi** died from an injury he incurred when the Air Force shelled ar-Raqqah. Al-Hameedi worked at the point of care in the town of Albuamr in the Governorate of Deir ez-Zor.

On 31 August 2014, barrel bombs were dropped at **the only field hospital in the city of Dael in Daraa**, forcing it to close down despite being the only hospital in the city.

On 31 August 2014, **Dr. Ziyad al-Rahmoon** died from an injury he

incurred in an air raid on the town of al-Hbet in the countryside of Idlib. Dr. Al-Rahmoon is originally from Kafr Nbudeh in the countryside of Hama but had to flee to the town of al-Hbet.

On 1 September 2014, barrel bombs were dropped at **the field hospital in Dael**, destroying it almost completely and injuring several of its staff.

On 3 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Nashabiyeh Hospital in the town of al-Nashabiyeh in Rif Dimashq**, causing serious damage to its facilities and forcing it to close down.

On 6 September 2014, **Kafr Zita Specialist Hospital in the countryside of Hama** was seriously damaged when the Air Force dropped explosive containers on it.

On 10 September 2014, **Dr. Mahmoud al-Nazzal** died from an injury he incurred in an air raid on ar-Raqqah on 4 September 2014.

On 18 September 2014, the Syrian Army launched rockets on **an ambulance** on the highway connecting Hazzeh and Kafr Batna, killing **paramedic Yusuf Mahmoud Hamze and driving assistant Abelateef Zino**.

On 19 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched rockets on **Orient Hospital in Qinya village in the countryside of Jisr al-**

Shugour in Idlib, destroying the hospital almost completely.

On 22 September 2014, the family of **Dr. Saleem Mawed**, a Palestinian doctor from Yarmouk Camp, were informed of his death from torture whilst being held at a security branch.

On 22 September 2014, **trainee nurse Rana Abdelaal**, was injured and killed in an air raid on **al-Hamuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq**. Abdelaal also worked at the National Office Hospital in al-Marj.

On 26 September 2014, the family of **nurse Kamal Atiyye Diab** were informed of his death from torture whilst detained at a security branch. Diab, who is from al-Kareem village in Hama, was detained a year before.

On 30 September 2014, **nurse Mohammed Fawzi al-Hariri** died from an injury he incurred in an air raid on the town of al-Sura in the countryside of Daraa.

On 30 September 2014, the Syrian Army shelled **the National Hospital in Nahyet Eqerbat in the eastern countryside of Hama**, which is the only hospital there.

On 9 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the national Hospital in the town of Mkhel in the countryside of Daraa**, destroying it almost completely.

On 15 October 2014, **Dr. Mohammed Majed Barri** was killed when the Army launched a rocket on the ambulance he was in on Castello Road.

On 22 October 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a bomb barrel for the second time on **al-Ihsan Charity Hospital in Saraqb in the countryside of Idlib.**

On 5 November 2014, the Air Force raided **the field hospital in the town of Kasanfra in Jabal al-Zawiya in the countryside of Idlib,** destroying it almost completely.

On 7 October 2014, a mortar rocker hit the entrance of Homs university, **killing Hom's Red Cross volunteers Ikhals Ibrahim Sulieman and Mohammed Ahmed Othman.**

On 8 November 2014, the family of **nurse Samira Ahmed al-Sihli** from Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, were informed of her death from torture in a detention centre. She was detained on 11 June 2014.

On 18 November 2014, **a paramedic from Kafr Hamra Hospital in Aleppo** died when the ambulance he was in was hit by a dropped barrel bomb in al-Qabr al-Ingleezi area in Kafr Hamra.

On 21 November 2014, **paramedic Nabil Qtee** was killed when an unknown source opened fire at the ambulance he was in.

On 24 November 2014, the family of **Dr. Ghaleb Abu Zned** from Yarmouk Camp was informed of his death from torture in a security branch. He was detained in the beginning of 2013.

On 27 November 2014, **Salah Sulieman Ayyash**, a driver at a care point in Zbedin in the Governorate of Rif Dimshq, was killed by gunshot when the Syrian Army led an incursion into the town.

On 27 November 2014, **Dr. Yusuf al-Yusuf** was killed from an injury he incurred from an attack by al-Ansar Brigades, one of the armed opposition brigades, during its clashes in the town of al-Fqee' in the countryside of Idlib.

On 7 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **al-Shaheed Ziyad al-Biqaa'i field hospital in the town of Khan al-Sheikh in Rif Dimashq**, damaging the hospital and injuring several of its staff.

On 16 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Tib Alhadeeth Hospital in al-Mayadeen in Deir ez-Zor**, killing a doctor, a nurse and several of its security members.

On 15 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Orient Hospital in Karanbel in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 13 people and injuring 20 others.

On 20 December 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Esa Ajaj field**

hospital in Daraa, burning the medicine and drugs warehouse almost entirely.



Esa Ajaj field hospital in Daraa after the car bomb explosion on 12

December 2014

Displacement: the Syrian crisis becomes an international dilemma

The Syrian displacement and refugee crisis escalated dramatically in 2014 compared to previous years. For the first time in documented history, Syria was the top country of origin among asylum seekers internationally and the top country of origin of displaced persons, replacing countries such as Columbia, The Republic of Congo and Sudan. According to international calculations in the first half of 2014, Syrians came second in refugee numbers following refugees from Afghanistan.

On 31 December 2014, the number of refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reached a total of 3.341.249 refugees, most of whom are in five neighbouring countries: Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. The total number of refugees at the end of 2013 reached a total of 2.350.826 refugees, indicating that the number of Syrian refugees increased by 1 million in 2014. This increase is a clear indication of the continuous serious violations committed in Syria which forced its people to flee their homes. It also highlights the international community's failure in dealing with these violations.

The number of Syrian asylum seekers around the world has increased since 2012. In the first quarter of 2012, 2.914 Syrians were recorded to have sought asylum in 44 receiving countries. At the end of the second quarter of 2014, this number multiplied nine times reaching a total of 26.489 people.

Death boats

One of the main features of the Syrian crisis that emerged in 2014 is what has become to be known as “death boats”. Syrians seeking asylum in Europe topped the number of refugees who ventured on boat trips to cross the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 2.500 people drowned or went missing whilst attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea since the beginning of 2014, a large number of them most likely Syrian.

The year 2014 also saw many shipwrecks that claimed the lives of illegal migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. On 21 July 2014, 30 people died when their vessel that carried 600 illegal migrants, most of whom were Syrians, sank near Lampedusa in Italy.

On 10 September 2014, around 500 people died in a shipwreck near Malta's coast. Only 10 people survived the incident described by the

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as “the most dangerous shipwreck in recent years”.

On 23 November 2014, a vessel carrying at least 300 Syrians sank near the coast of Cyprus. Cyprus's Turkish authorities managed to save its passengers.

Conditions of refugees in receiving countries

Turkey

By the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey had reached a total of 1.165.279 refugees, making Turkey the highest receiving country of Syrian refugees.

Syrian refugees in Turkey receive the best treatment compared to those in other receiving countries. The state provides them with medical treatment, food aid and shelter in all its refugee camps. It has also allowed Syrian residents in Turkey to attain work permits and treats them similarly to Turkish residents.

In the last week of September 2014, Turkey received 150.000 refugees from Ayn al-Arab/Kobani due to the clashes with the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) there.

No violations were committed against the refugees, and unlike

previous years, no cases of death of natural causes were recorded either.

Lebanon

By the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon had reached a total of 1.158.995 people. Syrians in Lebanon reside in the cities and in unofficial camps. In the past few years, Lebanese officials declined to officially recognise the presence of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, creating a legal and political dilemma.

The conditions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon are considered the worst among the receiving countries due to the continuous harassment the refugees receive from the Lebanese militias and political parties that support the regime.

On 3 August 2014, the Lebanese Armed Forces alongside forces from Hezbollah and Amal Movement launched a series of military campaigns in Aarsal, a city near the Lebanese-Syrian borders which contains a large Syrian refugee camp. The forces used heavy and medium weaponry against Syrian refugees, forcing 2000 of them to flee towards villages in al-Beqaa.

Another refugee camp was shelled by the Lebanese Armed forces on 4 August 2014, killing two children instantly and injuring others. On

6 August 2014, the city's field hospital received more than 70 injured victims.



Syrian refugees detained by the Lebanese Army were tied up in the heat
on 25 September 2014

On 25 September 2014, a child was killed when the Lebanese Armed Forces led an incursion on five Syrian refugee camps in Aarsal. The forces launched this campaign in order to capture the kidnappers of the Lebanese soldiers. The Army burned large sections of the camps, beat up and humiliated many of their residents including women and children. It also kept women and children under the sun for long hours and detained more than 450 people, mostly men.

Furthermore, this year saw many cases of assault against Syrian refugees. On 6 December 2014, Hezbollah militants in the town of Labweh attacked Ras Baalbak Refugee Camp with rockets and artillery, killing two children and injuring others.

In addition to facing these assaults carried out by official, semi-official and popular forces which support the Syrian regime, Syrian refugees suffer from poor living conditions in the refugee camps in Lebanon. Two children died from the cold on 24 November 2014 in a refugee camp in Aarsal, while another two also died from the cold on 4 December 2014.

Jordan

By the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan had reached a total of 622.865 people. Jordanian officials state that there are one million three hundred and ninety thousand Syrians living in Jordan.

Around 150 thousand refugees live in camps established by the United Nations (UN) while other Syrians live in residential buildings alongside Jordanian citizens.

Syrian refugees are not allowed to work in Jordan. However, the government generally disregards Syrians working there illegally.

The Jordanian government in coordination with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) provide educational services for the majority of Syrian children there.



Death boats made the Syrian crisis into an international dilemma

In the beginning of April 2014, a few clashes with members of the Jordanian Gendarmerie occurred in Zaatari Refugee Camp, the largest Syrian refugee camp in Jordan. Furthermore, one refugee died while others were injured after clashes with the Jordanian police on 6 April 2014, when 2 refugees who attempted to flee the camp were detained.

Iraq

By the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq reached a total of 231.843 people, most of whom live in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) supports Syrian refugees in the camps there and provides them with food, medical aid, educational services and accommodation.

Refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan do not face any major legal, political or security problems. No major violations against them have been recorded there.

Al-Obaidi Refugee Camp lies eastern al-Qaem in Iraq's al-Anbar province which has been under the control of ISIS since July 2014. On 14 July 2014, ISIS executed 4 refugees accusing them of liaising with the Syrian regime.

Egypt

By the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Egypt had reached a total of 138.212 people who live in residential areas. Egypt does not have any refugee camps and no signs of scattered refugees were present there as they were in other countries.

Syrian refugees in Egypt face mainly legal and security problems, as the Syrian Embassy in Cairo blackmails those seeking official

documents which are essential for their stay there. This has not occurred in other countries which understand the refugees' inability to attain or renew their documents.

Syrians living in Egypt also face a main obstacle, as the Egyptian authorities ban them from travelling from or to Egypt. Any Syrians who do so are detained in the airport and are repatriated. Syrians detained by the government receive poor and humiliating treatment in detention centres.

Other countries

Syrians in several other receiving countries and in countries that are crossed in order to seek refuge in receiving countries suffer from many obstacles by the authorities.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) was able to record a series of ongoing violations committed by the Greek, Bulgarian and Italian authorities against Syrian refugees. Police forces in these countries use excessive violence, torture and humiliation whilst dealing with the refugees. Their methods include: starvation, dehydration and separating children from their families.

Greek and Bulgarian authorities repatriate refugees to Turkey by

force, threatening their lives. Moreover, many cases have been recorded in these two countries in which the police have confiscated and stolen the refugees' money, mobiles and precious possessions before repatriating them.

In addition to the harsh treatment by the corrupt police, Syrian refugees in Greece are assaulted by members of the extremist right wing Golden Dawn organisation. As a result of its large campaign against refugees, many members of the movement have led several consecutive attacks on the refugees.

Similar violations were recorded in Australia, where the police uses harsh methods which include: torture, detention in inhumane conditions and repatriation.

Emails published by *The Guardian* on 13 March 2014 and 19 August 2014 revealed that Australian immigration department officials were willing to repatriate Syrians despite the danger this puts them in. This disregards the numerous statements given by Australian officials regarding the humanitarian situation in Syria.

Targeting displaced persons

In an attempt to push displaced Syrians towards becoming refugees in neighbouring countries, the Syrian regime's forces deliberately

and increasingly targeted refugee camps and centres; an unprecedented crime in the Syrian crisis.



The Syrian crisis escalated to record breaking rates as a result of the international community's lack of serious action towards the violations committed there which forced Syrians to flee

On 20 February 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Bab al-Salameh crossing** on the Syrian-Turkish borders near the Bab al-Salameh Refugee Camp killing 17 people. Furthermore, on 18 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two barrel bombs on al-Shajra Camp **in al-Shajra village near Daraa** at 1.00am. The massacre killed 18 refugees and injured approximately 60 others. On 29 October 2014,

the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on **Abdeen Camp in al-Sheik Mustafa village in Idlib**, killing 18 people. In addition, on 12 November 2014, refugees from **the Governorate of Homs** were ambushed by pro-regime forces that opened fire at a group of approximately 100 refugees heading towards Turkey. The attack killed 30 people. On 18 December 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **the town of al-Naji near Kanaker in Rif Dimashq**, killing 10 people. All of whom were residents from the town al-Mal in the countryside of Daraa.

Violations against the education sector

The year 2014 witnessed a large increase in the number of violations committed against the education sector which have been ongoing for the past three years. These violations targeted students, schools and educational institutions directly in addition to targeting educational services which 2.8 million Syrian were deprived from in 2014; the second highest number in the world in terms of children dropping out of school.

The Syrian Army, the armed opposition brigades and the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) continued to use schools as military bases. The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) was able to record 27 cases in which schools were used as military bases by the regime's forces, 8 in which they were used by ISIS as military bases and 2 in which they were used by the armed opposition brigades as military bases.

Many schools were also used as shelters for refugees from all around Syria which in turn, has prevented these schools from functioning and delivering educational services, yet has not protected them from the regime's air raids.

The number of schools that are out of order for any of the mentioned

reasons was estimated at **3.483 schools** till then end of 2014.

The documentation carried out by SHRC shows that the Syrian Air Force systematically and deliberately targeted schools in 2014, where **59 schools** were targeted, **50 of which were targeted by air raids**, mostly barrel bombs dropped by helicopters. In addition, one school was targeted by a car bomb, six others were hit by mortar rockets from an unknown source and two were attacked by Grad rockets from an unknown source also.

Two main war crimes were committed in April this year, with less than 24 hours in between. The first was when the al-Sheikh Badreldeen al-Hussieni complex was hit with 3 mortar rockets on 29 April 2014, which resulted in the death of 16 children and injured more than 80 others. The following day, Ayn Jalut school in al-Ansari neighbourhood in Aleppo was targeted with a rocket from the Air Force which killed 25 people, among them 17 children.

Furthermore, two schools used as refugee shelters were targeted, one of which was under the regime's control.

Below are the main violations recorded against educational institutions, educational bodies and students committed in 2014:

On 8 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a **high-school in Saida in the countryside of Daraa** whilst students were completing

their baccalaureate exams, killing 3 students and injuring dozens others.

On 28 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb near **Abdulqader Usood school in Karm al-Tahan neighbourhood in Aleppo**, damaging the school.

On 31 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two barrel bombs on **Nurulhaq school in al-Mashad in Aleppo**, destroying the school.

On 7 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Thawra school in al-Sukkari neighbourhood in Aleppo** with two rockets, causing many injuries and damages to the school.

On 8 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped an explosive container on **Sayfeldawleh al-Hamadani school in al-Itafa'eyye neighbourhood in Masaken Hanano in Aleppo**, causing serious damage to the school.

On 9 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb near **Tar'aan school in al-Mizerib in Daraa**, injuring approximately 40 students.

On 11 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two barrel bombs near **Sayfeldawleh al-Hamadani school in al-Itafa'eyye**

neighbourhood in Masaken Hanano in Aleppo, killing 11 children.

On 18 February 2014, the Air Force dropped several barrel bombs on **Ayn al-Zaytoon school, which is affiliated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**, and its dispensary in the al-Mizerib complex for Palestinian refugees in Daraa, killing 18 people all Palestinians, among them 5 children. The United Nations (UN) condemned this attack on its school.

On 17 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the town of **al-Tamna** during school home time, killing 3 female primary school pupils.

On 20 March 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **Yasin al-Farjani school in Karam al-Shami neighbourhood in Homs** which was under siege at the time, killing 5 people among them 3 children.

On 25 March 2014, Syrian officials stated that two mortar rockets hit **al-Mutasem school in al-Zahera neighbourhood southern Damascus**, which was being used as a temporary shelter for refugees, killing 2 children. Government officials stated that the rockets were fired by the armed opposition. SHRC was not able to determine the credibility of this claim.

On 10 April 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **the town of al-Rastan**

in Homs during school home time, which killed 4 children and injured others.

On 15 April 2014, a mortar rocket was dropped on a **school playground in Bab Tuma in Damascus**, killing one child and injuring others. The source of the rocket is unknown.

On 20 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Sirmeen school in Idlib** seriously damaging the school.

On 27 April 2014, an Army helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on the town of **al-Mizerib in the Governorate of Daraa**, causing many injuries mostly among children.

On 27 April 2014, **Generation Freedom school in Qaa' in the countryside of Idlib** was shelled with a thermobaric rocket whilst pupils were still inside, killing a female pupil and injuring several others.

On 27 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Qah al-Hududiyye school in the northern countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the school.

On 29 April 2014, **al-Sheikh Badreldeen al-Hussieni complex** (the international institute for Islamic and Arabic sciences) in al-Shaghur in Damascus was targeted with 3 mortar rockets that killed 16

children and injured more than 80 others. Government sources claimed that the rockets were fired by members of the armed opposition groups.

On 30 April 2014, **Ayn Jalut school in al-Ansari neighbourhood in Aleppo** was hit by a rocket fired by the Syrian Air Force while pupils were inside and while parents were attending the opening of the children's art exhibition, killing 25 people, among them 17 children.

On 1 May 2014, two mortar rockets were dropped on **al-Saada private school in al-Qanawat street in Damascus**, which according to the regime's official sources injured 2 teachers and caused damage to the school. The state media accused the armed opposition groups of firing the rockets.

On 4 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped an explosive container on **Sayfeldawleh al-Hamadani school in al-Itafa'eyye neighbourhood in Masaken Hanano in Aleppo**, destroying it almost completely. The school had been damaged previously when an explosive container was dropped on it on 8 February 2014.

On 22 June 2014, a mortar rocket was dropped on the playground of **Abdelrahman al-Khazen school in al-Baramkeh in Damascus**. No

one was injured and the party responsible for the attack is unknown.

On 29 June 2014, the Army's artillery shelled the **town of al-Rastan** where several missiles were dropped near a primary school during home time, killing four children and injuring one.

On 4 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Zayd bin Haritha school** and the residential areas surrounding it in **al-Haydariyah neighbourhood in Aleppo**, causing serious damage to the school.

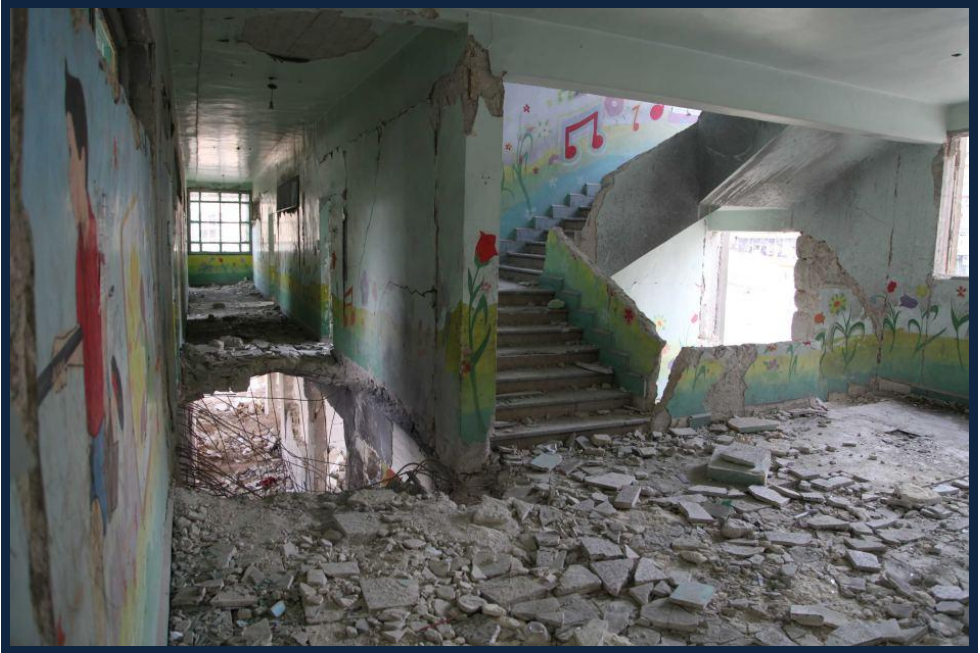
On 4 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Sanaa Mhedli school in Hanano neighbourhood in Aleppo**, causing the school to collapse completely.

On 25 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **al-Maqshaleh school in Kafr Tkhareem in the countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the school.

On 7 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **a school in the town of Sbekhan in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor**. The shelling killed 4 people and injured 10 who were displaced refugees living in the school.

On 8 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the high school of agriculture in the town of Hjen in Deir ez-Zor** which ISIS use as a military base, causing serious damage to the school.

On 24 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped barrel bombs during home time in **the town of al-Rastan in the countryside of Homs** injuring several children.



The Army continued to systematically target schools and other social hubs

On 1 October 2014, a car bomb exploded in **Ikrima al-Makhzoomi primary school in Ikrima neighbourhood** in Homs, killing 53 people among them 51 children.

On 4 October 2014, a helicopter raid dropped a barrel bomb on a **school in al-Shamaliya neighbourhood in the town of Saraqib** in

the countryside of Idlib, causing serious damage to the school. On the same day, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **a school in al-janoobi in the town of Saraqib** causing large damage to the school.

On 4 October 2014, the Army artillery shelled **Abdulqader Usood school in al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo** with several missiles, killing one person, injuring others and causing slight damage to the school.

On 12 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Ayn Jalut school in Jirinjaz in the Governorate of Idlib**, killing one person and causing serious damage to the school.

On 12 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a number of barrel bombs on Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib targeting **four schools which are: Khaled bin al-Waleed, al-Sinaa'a, al-Shaheed Abdelbaset Bakeer and al-Shar'iye**. The shelling damaged these schools.

On 13 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Arab school in Douma in Rif Dimashq**, damaging the school.

On 14 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Ahmad al-Shami Islamic school in Douma in Rif Dimashq**, causing slight damage to the school.

On 16 October 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled **Adnan Modern primary school in the town of Adnan in the countryside of Aleppo**, causing serious damage to the school.

On 27 October 2014, a Grad rocket was dropped on **al-Kamal school in al-Mhamadaniyye neighbourhood in Aleppo**, killing 7 people mostly children. The Syrian government accused the opposition of firing it.

On 4 November 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled a **girls' school in al-Rastan in the Governorate of Homs**, killing two people.

On 5 November 2014, two Katysuha rockets hit **al-Hayat school in Qabuoun neighbourhood in Damascus**, killing 16 children at least and injuring approximately 50 others. The neighbourhood is under the complete control of the armed opposition brigades. The source of the firing is unknown.

On 5 November 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **Abdelkareem al-Gayth school in the town of al-Rastan** in the countryside of Homs causing serious damage to the school

On 5 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a **modern school in Kasanfrah in the countryside of Idlib** causing serious damage to the already suspended school.

On 5 November 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled **Hazarma primary school in Hazarma in Rif Dimashq**, injuring one child and damaging the school.

On 6 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Daret Izza secondary school in the town of Daret Izza in the countryside of Aleppo**, injuring 7 people and causing serious damage to the school.

On 9 November 2014, the Syrian Army shelled **al-Shaab school, which is affiliated to the UNRWA, in Douma in Rif Dimashq** causing serious damage to the school.

On 12 November 2014, a Grad rocket hit **Kirnaz primary school in the northern countryside of Hama**, killing 10 children at least and injuring dozens others. The party responsible for the firing is unknown.

On 13 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **a school in Rajmel Qit village in Nahiyat Sinjar in the countryside of Idlib** killing a female teacher and injuring many others.

On 16 November 2014, a mortar rocket hit **Aliya bin al-Mahdi school in al-Zahraa neighbourhood in Aleppo**, damaging the school. It is believed that one of the armed opposition forces is responsible for the attack.

On 17 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Amjaad al-Sham school in the town of Zamalka in Rif Dimashq**, killing 3 children, injuring 17 others and causing serious damage to the school.

On 19 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Ibn Khaldoon school in the town of ar-Raqqah** killing 9 people, injuring 14 others and causing serious damage to the school.

On 27 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Dar al-Salam school in the town of ar-Raqqah**, causing damage to the school.

On 28 November 2014, the Syrian Air force shelled **Iblin school in the village of Iblin in the countryside of Idlib**, killing one child and damaging the school.

On 29 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Khareeta high school in the town of al-Khareeta in Deir ez-Zor**, almost destroying the school completely.

On 29 November 2014, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on **Wahid al-Yusef school in the village of Kafr Sajneh in the countryside of Idlib**, almost destroying the school completely.

On 22 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a school bus carrying pupils from **Hafsa primary school with a thermobaric**

rocket in **Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 4 children and injuring 9 people.

On 23 December 2014, the Syrian Air force targeted a **primary school in the town of Douma in Rif Dimashq**, killing 5 people, among them 3 children, and injuring 20 other children.

On 23 December 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a school in **the village of Safhoon in Jabal al-Zawiyah in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 4 people.

The use of internationally prohibited weapons

The Syrian regime continued using internationally prohibited weapons in its attacks on Syrian cities and on the armed opposition brigades in 2014 as it has done since the first few months of 2012.

No chemical attacks were carried out in 2014 as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced on 28 August 2014, that all Category 1 chemicals declared by Syria were destroyed. This came as a result of the talks between Russia and the United States which led to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 on 27 September 2013 which called for the full destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. This came after the 2013 Ghouta chemical attack which killed 1400 people.

In 2014, the Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) recorded 97 cases in which cluster bombs were used and 69 cases in which poison gas was used. The records shows that the Syrian Army used cluster bombs consecutively and sometimes daily to target the main following areas: Rif Dimashq (especially Darayya), the countryside of Idlib (especially Tamaan'ah village near Maarrat al-Nu'man), Aleppo and its countryside and the countryside of Hama, especially the town of Kafr Zita which suffered the highest number of cluster bombs and poison gas attacks in 2014.

The records also show that the Syrian Army dropped cluster bombs on open areas such as farmlands and empty town squares so that these bombs can detonate among people who pass by them in cases where they do not explode whilst falling. These attacks, specifically cluster bombs which detonate on the ground, killed many people this year, especially children.

The documentation of attacks involving cluster bombs depends on the activists and residents' ability to identify these bombs, their sources and their numbers when they are dropped or when they explode. Therefore, in many cases SHRC was unable to determine exactly whether these bombs were used by the Air Force or the Army's artillery and tanks, especially that these bombs were used sometimes at the same time as barrel bombs and in air raids. In addition, SHRC was unable to record the attacks in which the residents could not determine the time when these bombs were dropped, especially in open areas and farmlands.

Moreover, the documentation of the victims of these attacks cannot be precise, as cluster bombs are used in air raids and field attacks. Therefore, SHRC did not record the number of victims when it recorded these incidents, unless the attack was carried out using cluster bombs alone.

The records also show that the Syrian regime used poison gas extensively in 2014, despite Syria's commitment to refrain from using Category 1 chemicals. The regime took advantage of the lack of serious international commitment to stop the regime's war crimes and the fact that some of these gases, such as chlorine gas, are not categorised as prohibited weapons and were not included in UN Resolution 2118.

Sigrid Kaag, head inspector of the UN-OPCW mission for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, stated that investigating chlorine gas was not within the mission's work.

The regime used poison gas extensively especially in Jobar neighbourhood in **Damascus** and in the town of Kafr Zita in **the countryside of Hama**. SHRC was unable to record all the cases involving poison gas in these two areas; however it was able to record 29 attacks on Jobar neighbourhood and 25 attacks on Kafr Zita in which poison gas was used.

The extensive use of chemical weapons and poison gas the last few years has had serious health and environmental effects in Syria. In 2014, many cases of birth of deformed babies whose mothers had inhaled poison gas were recorded in Muadamiyat al-Sham in Rif Dimashq.



Many cases of birth of deformed babies whose mothers had inhaled poison gas were recorded in Muadamiyat al-Sham in Rif Dimashq

SHRC recorded attacks involving poison gas without referring to the type of gas used. As even though Syrian activists and residents are able to identify the types of gases used, it is very difficult to examine them.

Below are **the main attacks committed using internationally prohibited weapons recorded in 2014:**

On 11 January 2014, **the town of Talbiseh in Homs** was shelled with

cluster bombs. Activists mentioned that similar attacks had occurred on the city in previous days. SHRC was unable to document these attacks.

On 12 and 13 January 2014, **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 13 January 2014, the Syrian Army attacked **the city of Darayya in Rif Dimashq** with 3 poison gas bombs, killing 4 people.

On 2 February 2014, **Jabal Badro neighbourhood in Aleppo** was shelled with cluster bombs, injuring several people.

On 6 February 2014, **al-Qaa'ah neighbourhood northern Yabrud in Rif Dimashq** was shelled several times with cluster bombs.

On 13 February 2014, **the town of Misraba in Rif Dimashq** was shelled with poison gas shells that caused many cases of suffocation among the civilians.

On 13 February 2104, **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs. Activists in the town were able to record the time of the attack. International organisations which examined the recordings stated that this type of cluster bombs was among the biggest in the world and that it contained small lethal ammunition.

On 17 February 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the town of Eqerbat in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 19 February 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped an explosive container carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Khan Shaykhun in the countryside of Idlib**.

On 24 February 2014, **Jablet al-Arab near al-Uwayja neighbourhood in Aleppo** was shelled with 3 barrel bombs containing cluster bombs. SHRC was unable to determine the number of victims.

On 1 March 2014, **the town of Yabrud in Rif Dimashq** was shelled with cluster bombs, The time of the attack was also recorded.

On 2 March 2014, the Army shelled **the city of Adra in Rif Dimashq** with poison gas missiles, killing 4 members of the armed opposition brigades and injuring around 35 others.

On 3 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the town of Adra in Rif Dimashq** with a poison gas rocket, killing 4 people and injuring 25 others.

On 5 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Rashidiyyeh neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor** with a poison gas rocket, injuring many people.

On 9 March 2014, the Army shelled **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** with poison gas missiles injuring many people.

On 14 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force attacked **the town of Eqerbat in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 18 March 2014, **Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhood in Aleppo** was shelled with cluster bombs injuring dozens of the residents there.

On 19 March 2014, a helicopter dropped cluster bombs on **Handarat highway in Aleppo**. No injuries were reported.

On 21 March 2014, **the town of Yabrud in Rif Dimashq** was shelled with cluster bombs. The time of the attack and explosions were recorded.

On 23 March 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped an explosive container carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Khan Shaykhun in the countryside of Idlib**.

On 25 March 2014, **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 25 March 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped an explosive container carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Khan Shaykhun in the countryside of Idlib**.

On 27 March 2014, the Army targeted a tunnel in **al-Koo' in the city of Harasta in Rif Dimashq** killing 7 members of the armed opposition brigades.

On 28 March 2014, **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 1 April 2014, the area between **the town of Kafr Zita and the town of Mork in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 1 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb containing poison gas on **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** causing several cases of suffocation.

On 3 April 2014, the Army shelled **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** with poison gas missiles, injuring 6 people.

On 4 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **the town of al-Malihah in Rif Dimashq**.

On 4 April 2014, the Syrian Army launched missiles carrying poison gas on **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus**, injuring 6 people.

On 10 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped 4 poison gas barrel bombs on east of the **town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, injuring more than 120 people.

On 11 April 2014, **Kafr Zita city centre in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 11 April 2014, the Army launched a poison gas missile on **the city of Harasta in Rif Dimashq**, killing 4 members of the armed opposition brigades and injuring 11 others.

On 12 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Kafr Zita city centre in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 12 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**.

On 13 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled a vegetable market in **the city of Atareb in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 13 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Masqan village in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs. No victims were reported.

On 13 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a container carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Mare' in the countryside of Aleppo**. The container was dropped on a farmland and there were no victims reported.

On 12 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **al-Tamaan'ah village in the city of Khan Shaykhun in the countryside of Idlib** injuring 15 people.



The Syrian regime used cluster bombs extensively in an unprecedented manner in 2014

On 12 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Kafr Hamra in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 13 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **Atshan village in the countryside of Hama**. The barrel fell near the village's water tank and injured 20 people.

On 13 April 2013, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the city of Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib** with cluster bombs, killing 1 person and injuring 7 others.

On 13 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **al-Widehi village in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs, killing one person and injuring several others.

On 16 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**.

On 16 April 2014, the Army dropped a poison gas bomb on members of the armed opposition forces in **the city of Harasta in Rif Dimashq** killing 2 of them and injuring 7.

On 18 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched cluster bomb rockets on the farmlands north of **Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib**.

On 19 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two poison gas barrel bombs on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, causing 100 cases of suffocation.

On 19 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped two poison gas barrel bombs on **al-Tamaan'ah village in the countryside of Idlib**, causing 22 cases of suffocation.

On 20 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a container carrying more than 30 cluster bombs on **Kafr Hamra in the countryside of Aleppo**.

On 21 April 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **the town of Talmins in the countryside of Idlib**, killing a child and injuring around 200 others.

On 22 April 2014, the Army targeted **the city of Darayya in Rif Dimashq** with two poison gas bombs, killing 4 people.

On 22 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Daret Izza in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs, killing 2 people and injuring others.

On 23 April 2014, the Syrian Army's forces deployed at Tal al-Jabye in al-Qunaitra shelled **al-Suwesa village in al-Qunaitra** with a cluster bomb.

On 26 April 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Kafr Hamra in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 29 April 2014, **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 2 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted the way leading to the town of Talten in **the city of Mare' in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs, killing 6 people and injuring 20 others.

On 2 May 2014, **the city of Douma in Rif Dimashq** was attacked with a cluster bomb rocket which damaged the area.

On 7 May 2014, **the town of Jasem in the countryside of Daraa** was hit with a cluster bomb rocket that killed a child and injured 6 others.

On 15 May 2014, the Syrian Army's forces deployed at al-Manshiyyeh neighbourhood in Daraa shelled **Daraa al-Balad** with a surface to surface rocket carrying cluster bombs.

On 15 May 2014, the Syrian Army's forces deployed at Hama's military airport launched a surface to surface rocket carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Khan Shaykhun in the countryside of Idlib**, killing 4 people and injuring 20 others.

On 16 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **the city of Jasem in the countryside of Darra** after it had dropped several barrel bombs on the city.

On 19 May 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, injuring 130 people.

On 19 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **al-Hara al-Sharqiyyeh in the city of Tal Rif'at in the countryside of Aleppo**, injuring 4 people.

On 22 May 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel

bomb on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, injuring around 20 people.

On 22 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled al-Gharbi neighbourhood in **the city of Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Idlib**, killing a child and injuring 10 others.

On 29 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched several rockets carrying cluster bombs on **Um al-Sharshooh and Girnata villages in the city of al-Rastan in Homs**.

On 30 May 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **the town of al-Tamna in the countryside of Hama**, injuring about 30 people.

On 1 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **Mashfa al-Himyat street in Bustan al-Basha neighbourhood in Aleppo**.

On 2 June 2014, the Army shelled **al-Bhaar neighbourhood in Daraa al-Balad** with a cluster bomb.

On 3 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Halk neighbourhood in Aleppo** with cluster bombs, killing 2 people and injuring 2 others.

On 3 June 2014, the Army shelled **al-Arbaeen neighbourhood in Daraa** with cluster bombs.

On 27 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the road between **al-Jandool roundabout and al-Kindi hospital in Aleppo** with several rockets carrying cluster bombs. The bombs spread along the farmlands in the region.

On 28 June 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched two rockets carrying cluster bombs on **Kafrooma village in the countryside of Idlib**, injuring 12 people.

On 3 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Tal Rif'at city in the countryside of Aleppo** with a rocket carrying cluster bombs. No injuries were reported.

On 5 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Ayn al-Tal near Bustan al-Basha neighbourhood in Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 7 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Kafr Sajna village in the countryside of Ildib** with cluster bombs.

On 10 July 2014, **al-Dahshe village in Nahyet al-Sa'an in the eastern countryside of Hama** was shelled with two rockets carrying cluster bombs.

On 14 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the city of Manbij in the countryside of Aleppo** with a barrel bomb containing cluster bombs. No injuries were reported.

On 16 July 2014, the Syria Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **al-Lermun neighbourhood in Aleppo**.

On 21 July 2014, the Army's forces deployed at Kateebet al-Handase northern al-Rastan in Homs shelled **the town of al-Wazi'iyeh in the countryside of Homs** with a rocket carrying cluster bombs which fell in the farmlands surrounding the town.

On 30 July 2014, the farmlands north of **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** were shelled with cluster bombs.

On 1 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the farmland between **the town of Sarmada and the town of al-Dana in the countryside of Idlib** with cluster bombs, killing one person and injuring several others.

On 1 August 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on the local council hall in **the city of Latamneh in the countryside of Hama**, injuring 8 people.

On 1 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a rocket carrying cluster bombs on **the town of Maerzaf in the western countryside of Hama**, killing 10 people.

On 5 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **al-Myassar neighbourhood in Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 6 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the town of Eqerbat in the countryside of Hama** with a rocket carrying cluster bombs.

On 7 August 2014, rocket launchers placed at al-Firqa al-Rabi'ain the city of Sanamen in Daraa shelled **the city of Inkhil in the countryside of Daraa** with several rockets carrying cluster bombs, injuring several people.

On 10 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Twinan, Eqerbat, Jabbab Hamad and al-Qastal villages in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 15 August 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **al-Khazzanat neighbourhood in the town of Aqrab in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 15 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the town of Ihtemlat in the northern countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 19 August 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **the town of Atman in the countryside of Daraa** with three poison gas missiles, injuring 9 people.

On 21 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the city of Manbij in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs, killing 5 people and injuring 14 others.

On 20 August 2014, the Syrian Army threw several poison gas hand grenades near Arafah barrier, which is the clash point in **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus**, killing 5 members of the armed opposing brigades.

On 21 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the city of Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib** with a rocket carrying cluster bombs, killing 1 person and injuring 4 others.

On 22 August 2014, the Syrian Army shelled a building in **Sawa in Irbeen in Rif Dimashq** with a poison gas bomb, killing 3 people and injuring 44 others.

On 23 August 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped cluster bombs on **the city of Manbij in the countryside of Aleppo**. According to eye witnesses, the bombs exploded at a high altitude, spreading its fragments over a large area of land. This was unprecedented in the previous shelling with normal cluster bombs. The attack killed 7 people and injured about 40 others.

On 23 August 2014, the Army's forces deployed in the town of Khirbet Gazaleh in Daraa shelled **the city of Da'el in the countryside of Daraa** with cluster bombs, which fell near Da'el high school.

On 28 August 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a poison gas barrel bomb on **al-Sayadiyyeh in Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, injuring 55 people.

On 3 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Tallet Btesh in Halfaya in the countryside of Hama** with a cluster bomb.

On 8 September 2014, the Syrian Army launched two mortar rockets carrying poison gas on the entrance of **the town of Hteta al-Jarsh in Rif Dimashq** injuring 3 people.

On 8 September 2014, the Syrian Army shelled **al-Dukhaniyyeh in Rif Dimashq** with two mortar rockets carrying chlorine gas, injuring 4 people.

On 13 September 2014, a child was killed in **Harabnafseh village in the southern countryside of Hama** when the remains of a cluster bomb detonated.

On 14 September 2014, the Syrian Army targeted **the town of Hteta al-Jarsh in eastern Ghouta in Rif Dimashq** with 4 tank shells carrying chlorine gas, killing 9 members of the armed opposition brigades.

On 14 September 2014, the Syrian Army shelled **al-Dukhaniyyeh in Rif Dimashq** with a shell carrying chlorine gas, injuring 3 people.

On 17 September 2014, the Syrian Army deployed at Hama's military airport and Jabal Zain al-Abideen mountain shelled **Talah Milih, Hasraya and al-Tar villages in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 18 September 2014, the Army shelled **al-Dukhaniyyeh in Rif Dimashq** with a chlorine gas bomb which injured one person.

On 19 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama** with cluster bombs.

On 22 September 2014, the Syrian Army targeted **al-Dukhaniyyeh in Rif Dimashq** with a missile carrying chlorine gas, injuring 6 people.

On 24 September 2014, the Army shelled **the city of Adra in al-Umaliyyeh in Rif Dimashq** with a rocket carrying chlorine gas, killing 7 people and injuring 9 others.

On 26 September 2014, the Army's helicopters shelled **the city of Mork in the countryside of Hama** with poison gas barrel bombs.

On 2 October 2014, the Army's artillery in al-Firqa al-Tasi'ah and Tal Gharabe in Daraa shelled **the town of Deir Adas in the countryside of Daraa** with cluster bombs.

On 4 October 2014, two children were killed in **Jadil village in Lajat**

in the countryside of Daraa when the remains of a cluster bomb detonated.

On 15 October 2014, the Army targeted **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** with 4 poison gas hand grenades, killing 3 members of the armed opposition.

On 19 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Lajat in Daraa** with several rockets carrying cluster bombs.

On 20 October 2014, the Army blew up landmines containing poison gas in **Harasta in Rif Dimashq**, killing 2 members of the armed opposition forces and injuring 15 others.

On 30 October 2014, **the town of Eqerbat in the countryside of Hama** was shelled with cluster bombs.

On 5 November 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **Jobar neighbourhood and Karajat al-Abasiyeen in Damascus** with poison gas shells, killing 4 people and injuring 9 others.

On 13 November 2014, the Syria Air Force targeted **Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** with two poison gas rockets, causing more than 20 cases of suffocation.

On 20 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Daraa al-Balad in Daraa** with cluster bombs.

On 21 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **the town of al-Mizerib in Daraa** with a cluster bomb, injuring 3 people.

On 29 November 2014, the Army shelled **al-Saba' Bahrat in Aleppo** with poison gas shells during its clashes with the armed opposition brigades in the area.

On 2 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the farmland between **the towns of Yadudah and Atman in the countryside of Daraa** with a cluster bomb.

On 2 December 2014, the Army shelled **the city of Darayya in Rif Dimashq** with poison gas shells, causing many cases of suffocation among the civilians there.

On 17 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the towns of Adnan, Bayanoon, Hayyan and Kafr Hamra in the countryside of Aleppo** with cluster bombs.

On 21 December 2014, the Army's artillery deployed at al-Suwaydaa shelled **the city of Busra al-Sham in Daraa** with cluster bombs, killing an entire family of 6 members.

On 26 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched poison gas rockets on **the town of Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama**, causing several cases of suffocation.

On 29 December 2014, the Army targeted **Jabhet al-Manasher in Jobar neighbourhood in Damascus** with poison gas shells, leading to several injuries.

On 31 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the city of Jasem in Daraa** with four cluster bombs, killing a child and injuring 14 others.

Targeting the media and journalists

Similarly to 2012, Syria was classified as the most dangerous and threatening country in the world for journalists in the year 2014. And similarly to 2013, two main parties were responsible for the death of journalists which are: the Syrian regime and extremist groups, mainly the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS). Armed opposition groups played very limited roles in these violations.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) recorded the death of **19 journalists** in 2014, seven of whom were non-Syrians, while **51 Syrian media activists** were also killed.

Regions controlled by ISIS, including the Syrian areas in Syria, have been classified as one of the most dangerous regions in the world for journalists, with ISIS killing 5 journalists and 11 media activists in 2014. ISIS also targeted all media institutions in areas under its control, which has made media coverage there most dangerous, even more dangerous than that in areas under the control of the Syrian regime.

The main reasons behind targeting the media and journalists in 2014 lie in the continuous air-raids and shelling of Syrian cities and the clashes between the armed opposition forces and ISIS. As a result, 35

journalists were killed, 8 died from torture in several Syrian security branches and 12 were executed by ISIS.

In addition, SHRC recorded events in which 36 journalists and media activists were injured in 2014, mostly as a result of the ongoing indiscriminate shelling or gunfire during their coverage of the clashes.



Mazen Darwish, Hussein Ghairr and Hani Zaitani remain detained since
16 February 2012

Furthermore, systematic violations committed by the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) which controls three regions in Syria have been recorded, in which the Asayish forces, which are affiliated

to the Party, detained journalists, confiscated their equipment, threatened their lives and in some cases driven them out of Syria.

In addition to violations committed by the Syrian regime, ISIS and the PYD, some violations committed by the al-Nusra Front and some armed opposition forces, especially Ahrar as-Sham, have also been recorded, in which these parties targeted media institutions and journalists in areas under their control.

The year 2014 also witnessed cases in which journalists and activists were freed such as the release of 8 foreign journalists who were captured in 2012 and 2013 by ISIS and al-Nusra Front. The details of these releases were not disclosed, however it is assumed that these parties were given sums of money in return.

Whilst recording these events, SHRC defined “a journalist” as a person who works in a registered media institution and whose job provides him with his main income, whether he had a main role such as a journalist or a supportive role such as a cameraman. It defined “a media activist” as a person who works for non-registered media institutions such as Facebook pages.

Below are the cases recorded in 2014 in which media institutions, journalists and media activists were targeted:

January

On 3 January 2014, **Mohammed al-Ashmar** who worked for Damascus's media office was killed in the clashes in Adra in Rif Dimashq.

On 3 January 2014, media activist **Amer Hseib** as-Shoon died when he was shot by a group affiliated to ISIS whilst covering the clashes between them and the armed opposition groups in Atareb in the countryside of Aleppo.



Dozens of bodies were found in Aleppo's Eye Hospital, including those of media journalists ISIS had executed before withdrawing from the hospital which it had used as headquarters

On 5 January 2014, media activist **Bilal Shuhood**, known as Bilal al-Atarebi, died from an injury he incurred during the indiscriminate shelling of Atareb by ISIS on 3 January 2014.

On 6 January 2014, before leaving its headquarters in **the eye hospital in Qadi Askar** neighbourhood in Aleppo as a result of the advancement of the armed opposition forces, ISIS carried out a massacre from which 50 bodies were found, including those of 4 media activists who were kidnapped from Shada Alhuriya TV office on 26 December 2013. Their names are: Qutayba Abu Yunis, Amin Abu Mohammed, Sulatn as-Shami and Moahmmmed Qaranye.

On 8 January 2014, members of ISIS kidnapped media activist **Luay Barakat** in Masaken Hanano neighbourhood in Aleppo.

On 8 January 2014, media activist **Mohammed Ibrahim**, who worked for Shaam News, died of an injury he incurred during the indiscriminate shelling of the Old City in Homs.

On 10 January 2014, an anonymous armed group broke into the Aleppo Media Center in Ma'saraniyye neighbourhood, kidnapped media activist **Husam al-Halabi** and confiscated all the centre's equipment.

On 12 January 2014, media activist **Ali al-Jasem** died from an injury

he incurred whilst covering the clashes between ISIS and the armed opposition forces in Jarabulus.

On 13 January 2014, a state security patrol in Qamishli detained Rudaw TV reporter **Peshwa Bahlawi** and released him the following day.

On 17 January 2014, media activist **Marwan Mansour** died from an injury he incurred whilst covering the clashes between ISIS and the armed opposition in al-Bab city.

On January 2014, media activist **Husam Sa'eedi** died from an injury whilst covering the clashes between ISIS and the armed opposition in al-Bab city.

On 17 January 2014, media activist **Ahmed Mansour** died from an injury whilst covering the clashes between ISIS and the armed opposition in al-Bab city.

On 18 January 2014, the Syrian security forces detained **Fares Najeeb Agha**, known as Fares Haj Najeeb, who is a pro-regime journalist.

On 18 January 2014, media activist **Basheer Ayash** was kidnapped by an armed group in Kafr Nabl in the countryside of Idlib.

On 20 January 2014, **Shahba Press Agency's office** in Sheikh Najjar

in Aleppo was shelled with barrel bombs, destroying it completely. The office was looted a few days earlier.

On 20 January 2014, the family of **Muath Muhyildeen al-Khaled** were informed that he was tortured to death whilst in political confinement in Adra Prison. Al-Khaled, who was a second year university student in the media faculty in Damascus, was detained on 4 June 2012 due to participating in demonstrations in Masaken Barzeh in Damascus where he resided.

On 21 January 2014, ISIS members broke into the office of the **Turkish Anadolu Agency** in Sheikh Najjar in Aleppo and confiscated everything in it. The staff were not present during the attack which came a day after the agency leaked pictures of tortured detainees in Syrian prisons.

On 24 January 2014, media activist **Ahmed Mansour** died from an injury whilst covering the clashes between ISIS and the armed opposition in Deir Ba'alba in Homs.

On 25 January 2014, media activist **Ayman Zahr Tabbash** (nicknamed Abu Muath) died from torture in a security prison. His family were informed of his death on 4 May 2014.

On 27 January 2014, media activist **Raed Mohammed al-Fares** was

shot twice by anonymous gunmen in Kafr Nabl. Al-Fares is the head of the Kafr Nabl media centre in the countryside of Idlib.

On 28 January 2014, Al-Ghad Al-Arabi TV reporter **Wael Adel** and cameraman Abul Jood were injured after an air-strike targeted the area of Aziza in Aleppo's countryside whilst covering the clashes there.

February

On 1 February 2014, Asayish forces, which are affiliated to the PYD, detained Zagros TV reporters **Ahmed Sufi and Ismail Ali** near the village of Qasr ad-Deeb in Dayrik/ Al-Malikiyah while they were working . They were released a few hours later.

On 6 February 2014, Asayish forces detained Orient TV's **Farooj Tkhoobi** and Rudaw TV's **Firhad Hamu** in Amuda whilst they were preparing a report there. They were released a few hours later.

On 7 February 2014, media activist **Ibrahim Mohammed al-Abdullah** was killed whilst covering the clashes in Mork in the countryside of Hama.

On 8 February 2014, Al Arabiya TV's **Ahmed Luay** was hit with a fragment of shrapnel after the regime's forces shelled the Old City in Homs. He was there to cover the delivery of international aid to the city.

On 9 February 2014, five staff members working for state media institutions incurred various injuries after being ambushed whilst in the company of the Syrian Army in Ma'saraniyye neighbourhood in Aleppo. Among them were: **George Orfilyan** from the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), **Benyamin Darwish** from Al-Ekhbariya channel, cameraman **George Diablo**, cameraman **Ahmed Sulieman** and **Shadi Hilwe**; a reporter for official Syrian TV.

On 12 February 2014, **Aleppo Media Center's headquarters** in the scientific research centre area in Aleppo was shelled, causing serious damage to the centre. This is the third time it was shelled within two months.

On 16 February 2014, media activist **Ahmed al-Warde** was injured whilst covering the clashes at the Buwayda front in the northern countryside of Hama.

On 16 February 2014, media activist **Hani Ridwan al-Jabbawi**, who was a member of the Syrian Media Center in the city of Jasem in Daraa, was killed following an injury he incurred during air-raids on the city.

On 16 February 2014, ISIS killed media activist **Mosab Elewi**, member of Hanano's news network and chair of the Humanitarian

Association for Syria. He was shot at his home in Masaken Hanano neighbourhood in Aleppo.

On 18 February 2014, Asiyash forces which are affiliated to the PYD broke into **ARTA FM's office** in Amuda and suspended live radio for three days.

On 19 February 2014, media activist **Mohammed Fawwaz Hayel al-Akhras** was killed whilst covering the clashes in eastern Nawa in Daraa.

On 20 February 2014, media activist **Tarrad al-Zhoori** was killed following an injury he incurred whilst covering the clashes between the armed opposition and Hezbollah's militias in Qalamoun in Rif Dimashq.

On 24 February 2014, media activist **Abdullah al-Marandi**, cameraman for Orient News and head of Aleppo Media Center in al-Marje neighbourhood, was injured whilst covering the clashes at al-Nqaren front.

On 24 February 2014, media activist **Ahmed Abdelmenem Uthman** (nicknamed Abu Uday) was killed after being hit with a fragment of shrapnel from a tank's shelling whilst covering the events at Sheikh Najjar in Aleppo.

On 31 February 2014, media activist **Usama Kweish** was injured when he was hit by fragments of shrapnel from a tank's shelling whilst covering the clashes near Deir ez-Zor airport in Deir ez-Zor and had his left hand amputated.

March

On 1 March 2014, media activist and poet **Muath al-Khaled** died from torture in a political confinement prison in Adra. Al-Khaled was detained from his house in Barzeh neighbourhood in Damascus by a security patrol on 6 May 2012. He remained imprisoned till his death.

On 6 March 2014, Asiyash forces, affiliated to the PYD, detained **Mustafa Abdi**, chief editor of the website Kobani Kurd, whilst he was entering Kobani's borders from Turkey. He was released three days later.

On 8 March 2014, media activist **Ahmed al-Ali** was shot by an anonymous gunman near Palestine roundabout in Yarmouk Camp in Damascus. Al-Ali worked for Smart News Agency which opposes the regime.

On 9 March 2014, Canadian cameraman **Ali Mustafa** died from an injury he incurred when a barrel bomb exploded in al-Haidariya

neighbourhood in Aleppo whilst he was covering the regime's air-strikes there.

On 9 March 2014, **Omar Abdulqader** who worked for the Lebanese Al-Mayadeen channel was killed whilst covering the events at Jabal al-Tharda in Deir ez-Zor. He was buried in his birthplace in Deir ez-Zor.

On 10 March 2014, media activist **Kinan al-Atasi** died from torture in security branch 248. He had been detained since 14 November 2012.

On 19 March 2014, media activist **Raman Hassu**, who worked for Zagros TV, was detained by anonymous gunmen whilst heading towards Amuda. He was beaten and forced to hand in the passwords of the his Facebook accounts and pages. The pages were taken over and he was released a few hours later.

On 20 March 2014, media activist **Khaled al-Hosni** was shot by the Syrian Army during its incursion into Qal'at al-Hosn in the countryside of Homs. He was covering the events there.

On 24 March 2014, ISIS kidnapped media activist **Hassan al-Hamdo** (nicknamed Abu Ayham) who had been a previous member of the media centre in Manbij.

On 30 March 2014, Asayish forces in Dayrik/ Al-Malikiyah, affiliated to the PYD, detained reporter **Imsail Ali** and cameraman **Sakfan Amin** who work for the Kurdish Zagros TV and banned them from reporting, arguing that they did not have a permit. They were released a few hours later.

April

On 2 April 2014, masked gunmen burned **Shahba Press Agency's office** destroying all the equipment in it.

On 5 April 2014, media activist **Aladdin Yusuf** from Al-Jazeera Mubasher channel was kidnapped near Jisr Darkush in the countryside of Idlib. He was found on the side of a street in the same area on 12 April 2014. He had been brutally tortured and was transferred to Turkey for treatment. He refused to identify his abductors for safety reasons.

On 10 April 2014, media activist **Ahmed Mohammed Yahya** died after he was shot whilst covering the clashes in al-Rashidin in Aleppo.

On 14 April 2014, Lebanese channel Al-Manar TV, which is affiliated to Hezbollah, announced the death of three of its staff members in Ma'loula hours after the Syrian Army was able to retrieve the city

from the opposition. The channel said that its reporter **Hamza al-Haj Hasan**, technician **Haleem Ulwa** and cameraman **Mohammed Mantash** were killed “after being attacked by armed groups in Ma'loula”. The channel's staff were in the company of the Syrian Army and did not have any clear press signs. The channel's presenter aired pictures of them in military uniform and of one of them carrying a missile.

On 15 April 2014, media activist **Nawras ar-Rankoosi** was seriously injured whilst covering the clashes in Qalamoun in Rif Dimashq.

On 19 April 2014, an armed group, who said it was affiliated to the People's Protection Unit (YPG), kidnapped Orient TV reporter **Rudy Ibrahim** and Rudaw TV reporter **Peshwa Bahlawi** in Qamishli. The group transferred them to the Iraqi-Syrian borders and removed them by force to Iraqi Kurdistan.

On 16 April 2014, BBC cameraman **Philip Goodwin** was injured following the regime's mortar attacks on a shelter in in al-Dablan neighbourhood in Homs.

On 20 April 2014, media activist **Haydar Rzouq** from Sham FM, which is a pro-regime radio station, was killed by a sniper in Jab al-Jandali neighbourhood in Homs, as reported by the radio station itself.

On 21 April 2014, media activist **Ahmed Abdulkareem**, known as Abul Fath al-Sarookhi, was killed following the shelling in Aleppo in the Tareeq al-Entharat street.

On 21 April 2014, media activist **Mahmoud Mremeeni** was killed after getting injured in the indiscriminate shelling in the town of Hretan in the countryside of Aleppo.

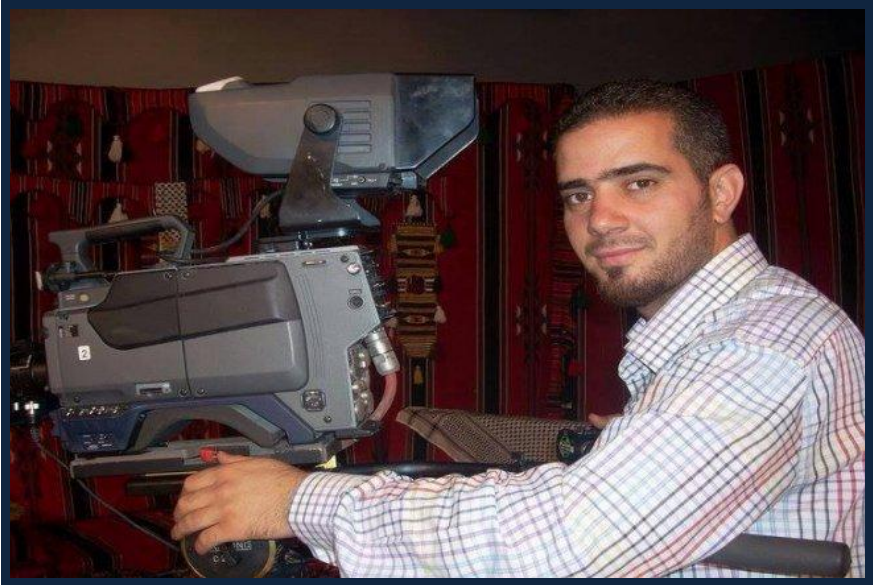
On 21 April 2014, Reuters journalist **Mohammed Abdullah** was attacked by anonymous gunmen whilst walking home in al-Marj in eastern Ghouta in Damascus.

On 23 April 2014, Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, detained **Mahmoud Bashar**, Rudaw TV's reporter in Dirbasa in al-Hasakah Governorate and released him the following day.

On 24 April 2014, the People's Protection Unit (YPG) broke into journalist **Jomard Hamdoush's** house and searched it. They threatened to exile him from Syria if he continued to "offend" their movement.

On 25 April 2014, media activist **Muath Abdulrahaman al-Omar** (nicknamed Abu Mahdi al-Hamwi) was killed after incurring an injury from barrel bombs on Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama. He was a photographer for the Syrian Revolution's lens page.

On 28 April 2014, the Syrian security forces informed the family of journalist and TV news director **Bilal Ahmed Bilal** of his death from torture in Saidnaya prison in Damascus. He was detained in September 2011 when he worked for “Falasteen Alyawm” TV channel which belongs to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement which supports the Syrian regime. The movement disregarded the news of his death.



Falasteen Alyawm TV channel disregarded the death of its news director
Bilal Ahmed Bilal from torture in Saidnaya prison

May

On 4 May 2014, ISIS executed media activist **Almoataz Bellah Ibrahim**, a reporter for Shaam News, in Tal-Abyad in ar-Raqqah Governorate. Ibrahim was detained in ar-Raqqah in March 2014.

On 9 May 2014, journalist **Lond Hussien**'s house was bombed in al-Qahtaniyah in Qamishli. The party responsible remains unknown but it is suspected that the Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, were responsible for this attack due to Hussien's views towards the party which he expresses from Germany where he currently resides.

On 11 May 2014, members of the Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, kidnapped **Duldar Hamu**, a reporter for ARK TV in Tirbespiyê/ al-Qahtaniyah and released him on 17 May 2014 after confiscating his personal computer and camera.

On 14 May 2014, an armed group attempted to kidnap **Anthony Lloyd** and his photographer **Jack** who worked for British magazine The Times near Tal Rif'at in the countryside of Aleppo. The group was originally assigned to protect them and ensure they cross the borders safely. Instead they detained them, but they managed to escape the same day.

On 22 May 2014, **Mustafa Jumah** from the Akhbaar Alaan channel

suffered from suffocation due to a barrel bomb full of toxic gases exploding over Kafr Zita in the countryside of Hama.

On 23 May 2014, ISIS executed **Adnan Dahmouh** (nicknamed Abu Hamza) along with 20 others in al-Shula in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor. Dahmouh had been covering the ongoing clashes between the Islamic Front and ISIS there.

On 24 May 2014, **Abu Mohammed al-Kurdi**, spokesperson for the Kurdish revolutionary council (Komele), was seriously injured when his car was targeted with a missile whilst heading towards Daret Izza in the countryside of Aleppo.

On 25 May 2014, **Dr. Ali Hafeth**, from Orient-news.net, was injured when he was targeted by a sniper near al-Nahaseen market in the Old City in Aleppo when he was recording a fire in an old archaeological area which resulted from a rocket attack by the Syrian Army.

On 25 May 2014, **Abdulghani al-Jarookh**, reporter for pro-regime station Samaa TV, was injured whilst covering the clashes in Jabal al-Zawiyah in the countryside of Idlib. Al-Jarookh had climbed up a building to shoot his report but was surprised to find opposition forces there so he jumped off.

On 26 May 2014, media activist **Badr al-Lafi** (nicknamed Abu Shahem) was shot and killed by anonymous gunmen in front of his house in al-Mayadeen city in Deir ez-Zor. He worked in one of the armed opposition media offices which also opposed ISIS.

June

On 3 June 2014, Asayish forces, affiliated to PYD, broke into the office of **ARTA FM** in Ayn Al-Arab/Kobani and threatened its staff. The attack took place two days after the radio channel's official launch.

On 4 June 2014, **Ahmed Hussien Ahmed Abdulatif as-Sayyid**, who worked for Chinese agency Xinhua, was killed when he was shot in the head whilst working in Damascus. As-Sayyid was Egyptian and had come to Damascus to cover the “presidential elections”. The source of the shooting remains unknown.

On 5 June 2014, Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, attacked and beat up **Ibrahim Esa**, reporter for Ora satellite channel, while he was covering an explosion which targeted the car of one of the leaders of the PYD in Qamisgli in al-Hasakah.

On 16 June 2014, media activist **Mohammed Shayyah** was killed from an injury he incurred from barrel bombs which targeted al-

Sukkari neighbourhood in Aleppo. Shayyah was one of the first media activists in Aleppo and had worked for various news networks.

On 18 June 2014, **Mohammed Omar Hamed al-Khatib** died from torture in Saidnaya Prison. The security forces informed his family of his death on 28 June 2014. Al-Khatib was detained on 8 January 2012 after meeting the head of the Arab mission of inquiry, explaining the events in Syria to him.

On 27 June 2014, media activist and Smart News Agency reporter **Mohammed Ta'nani**, known as Nasr al-Hariri, died from an injury he incurred from a bomb barrel that exploded in al-Abbasiya neighbourhood in Daraa al-Balad on 21 June 2014.

On 30 June 2014, the body of media activist **Bassam ar-Raryyes** (nicknamed Abul Baraa) was found along with the bodies of 6 others in an ISIS base in Mid'aa in eastern Ghouta one day after his kidnapping. His corpse carried signs of torture and his chest was shot.

July

On 5 July 2014, Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, detained media activist **Sadriddeen Kinno** in Ayn Al-Arab/Kobani while he was

covering the demonstrations of the families of those kidnapped by ISIS. He was released the following day but his camera was confiscated. He works for ARA News.

On 13 July 2014, the body of media activist **Omar Basle** was found in a plastic bag alongside the body of a Hanano revolutionary council member on the way to Aleppo International Airport. Basle, who worked for Halab News, was shot in the head.

On 15 July 2014, **five media activists** working for the Islamic Front, which is part of the armed opposition, incurred various injuries after their car was hit by fragments of shrapnel from the shelling of an al-Haidariya barrier in Aleppo.

On 16 July 2014, a car carrying the staff of **Anadolu Agency** was shelled with mortars by the Syrian Army while it was heading towards al-Myassar neighbour in Aleppo. The staff's guide was killed in the incident.

On 18 July 2014, **Sakfan Amin**, cameraman for the Kurdish Zagros TV, was kidnapped by the Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, near Dayrik. He was released on 21 July 2014 but his camera and computer were confiscated.

On 21 July 2014, Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, also detained

reporter **Malfa Ali** when he was at the Khana Siri barrier in al-Hasakah's countryside. He was released the same day after being detained for 8 hours.

On 22 July 2014, media activist **As'ad Bajrouk**, founder of Shamna-Hretan News magazine died from an injury he incurred in a raid on Hretan on 18 July 2014.

On 31 July 2014, ISIS broke into the office of **Deir ez-Zor satellite channel** in Deir ez-Zor. It closed the channel down and confiscated its equipment.

August

on 1 August 2014, **Italian journalists Vanessa Marzullo and Greta Ramelli** were kidnapped in the town of Abzimo in Aleppo's western countryside while their colleague Daniel Ranieri managed to escape.

On 3 August 2014, media activist **Anas al-Taleb** died from torture in one of the regime's prisons. Al-Taleb was detained in Deir Ba'alba in Homs on 28 December 2012.

On 3 August 2014, cameraman **Ahmed Wahbi** was killed in Douma in Rif Dimashq when the Syrian Air Force shelled the city.

On 4 August 2014, media activist **Mohammed al-Rifai** was killed after the shelling of al-Malihah in Rif Dimashq whilst covering the events there.

On 5 August 2014, **the media office in Tal Rifaat** in the countryside of Aleppo was shelled by the Air Force destroying it with all its equipment.

On 6 August 2014, media activist **Omar al-Hattawi**, known as Mohammed Abu Hamza, was killed in Douma in Rif Dimashq after an air strike on the city.

On 6 August 2014, media activist **Abdulrahaman Alwis** was killed when helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Karam Houmad neighbourhood in Aleppo.

On 8 August 2014, Orient TV's reporter **Sa'doun aS-Sino** was kidnapped by the Asayish forces, affiliated to the PYD, in Dirabasiyyah in the countryside of al-Hasakah. He was released two days later.

On 9 August 2014, media activists **Mohammed Alluh** from Smart News Agency and Ibrahim Fheli from Naba Media Foundation were both injured whilst working in al-Manshiyyah neighbourhood in Daraa al-Balad.

On 10 August 2014, media activist **Osama Adnan al-Abbas** was killed whilst covering the events in Qadi Askar neighbourhood in Aleppo.

On 11 August 2014, ISIS executed media activist **Mohammed Basel al-Arran** in al-Mayadeen in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor after detaining him for a week.

On 17 August 2014, **Watan FM's office** was shelled by the Air Force which destroyed all of its equipment. None of the staff were injured.



Foley's execution on 19 August 2014 was the beginning of a series of executions ISIS carried out on foreign journalists and activists

On 19 August 2014, ISIS aired a video in which it executed American journalist **James Foley** who was detained on 22 November 2012 in Taftanaz near an al-Nusra Front barrier. In the video, ISIS also threatened to kill another American citizen; Steven Joel Sotloff who appeared in the video wearing orange and kneeling down while a

masked ISIS member held his neck. Foley's execution was the beginning of a series of executions ISIS carried out on foreign journalists and activists throughout the following weeks.

On 21 August 2014, members of al-Nusra Front near Tal Abyad in the countryside of ar-Raqqah kidnapped journalist **Zakariyah Haj Jammo** reporter for Yekîfî Media's website.

On 23 August 2014, media activist **Bisher Ahmed** from Shada al-Huriyyah channel incurred several injuries when the Armed Forces fired at him whilst he was covering the events near Da'el in the countryside of Daraa.

On 25 August 2014, Asayish gunmen, affiliated to the PYD, stormed into **Siwar Htoufi**'s house in Amuda in the countryside of al-Hasakah. Htoufi had left the city after being injured in the events in Amuda on 17 June 2014. The gunmen detained his brothers; Tayseer and Yaser after breaking into the house, searching it, wrecking it and confiscating their mobile phones, books and papers. They informed his family that he should leave the country and head towards the Turkish borders within four days. They threatened to confiscate all their assets and real estate as well.

September

On 2 September 2014, ISIS executed American journalist **Robert Sotloff** who was detained near the Turkish borders in Syria on 4 August 2014.

On 2 September 2014, media activist **Karam al-Masri** was injured in Salahuddin neighbourhood in Aleppo when a sniper fired at him whilst doing his job. His left leg was seriously injured as a result.

On 10 September 2014, Aljazeera.net reporter **Mohammed Abduljalil al-Qasem**, who sometimes used the alias Kahled al-Mohammed, was killed after being ambushed in Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Aleppo. The party responsible for the ambush remains unknown. Al-Qasem was accompanying one of the heads of the armed opposition brigades while they were on their way to announcing a treaty between some of the groups. Al-Qasem was there to cover the story.

On 11 September 2014, media activist **Wasim Shibli** was killed following the Army's indiscriminate shelling in al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs.

On 14 September 2014, ISIS members detained **4 media activists working for Al-Qouriya Media Center** in the countryside of Deir

ez-Zor. Three of them were detained for hours while the fourth was detained for 4 days. The media centre suspended its activities following this incident.

On 15 September 2014, media activist **Abdullah Hammad** was killed after being hit with fragments of shrapnel from a barrel bomb which targeted Talbiseh in the countryside of Homs. Hammad was one of the founders of the Media Association of Homs.

On 16 September 2014, the Army asked the family of media activist **Ibrahim Abdulrazzaq al-Mutlaq al-Hamdan** to pay them a visit to receive their son's ID who was killed from torture in detention. Al-Hamdan was detained on 13 June 2014 and was part of the Tadmur coordinate.

On 18 September 2014, Lebanese intelligence units detained media activist **Ahmed al-Qser** in the Lebanese town Bint Jbeil. Al-Qser is a spokesperson for the Syrian Revolution General Commission.

On 24 September 2014, the Counter-terrorism Court in Damascus suspended the sentences of **Mazen Darwish**, **Hussein Ghairr** and **Hani Zaitani** of the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (CMFE) who have been detained since February 2012. The trial was adjourned till 20 January 2015.

On 29 September 2014, Orient TV reporter **Zaki al-Idlibi** survived an assassination attempt when an explosive device was planted in his car in Bansh in the countryside of Idlib. The explosion inflicted al-Idlibi with several injuries, one of them in his spine.

October

On 12 October 2014, media activist **Khaled Abdulhameed Khalaf** was kidnapped in his village al-Trinbeh near Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib. Khalaf works for the website Siraj Press and for the Syrian Revolution General Commission media office. He was released on 22 October 2014 and turned out to be detained by the group Ahrar as-Sham.

On 12 October 2014, media activist **Walid al-Qasem**, who works for Halab News Network in Hretan, was detained by the courthouse. His release announced a few days later, however he did not return home and his whereabouts remain unknown. The courthouse is a military body which is affiliated to a number of factions and was previously known as the Islamic legitimacy body.

On 15 October 2014, media activist **Atallah Bajbooj**, also known as Abu Daniyaal al-Hourani, died in a hospital in Jordan. Bajbooj was injured on 9 October 2014 whilst covering the clashes in Tariq as-Sad neighbourhood in Daraa al-Mahatta.

On 19 October 2014, media activist **Qaysar Habib** was killed when an armed group broke into a clinic in Tariq as-Sad neighbourhood in Daraa where he was being treated for wounds he got from a gunfire shot in a fight between himself and Captain Qais al-Qataana, head of the al-Omari Brigades who died on 28 August 2014.

On 25 October 2014, anonymous gunmen raided a **media centre in Sayfel Dawleh** neighbourhood in Aleppo where many media activists work for various field and media bodies. They destroyed the office's furniture and confiscated all of its contents. The office is in an area controlled by the Islamic Front and contains military headquarters for several other armed factions.

On 27 October 2014, ISIS aired a propaganda video from Ayn Al-Arab/Kobani in which they used British journalist **John Cantlie**, who was kidnapped in November 2012, as a presenter.

On 28 October 2014, al-Nusra Front detained media activist **Jawdat Malas** following its incursion into Maarrat al-Nu'man in Idlib. He remains detained till this date.

On 29 October 2014, media activist **Mohammed Nour Idris**, member of the Unified Media Center and previous correspondent for Al Arabiya News, was killed from an injury he incurred from a barrel bomb that exploded in Khan Shaykhun in Idlib.

On 31 October 2014, the Syrian Army detained **Jadee' Abdullah Nofal**, chair of the Syrian Center for Democracy and Civil Rights, along with Omar al-Sha'ar and Maria Sha'bo following their return from Beirut where they had attended a workshop on human rights. Sha'bo was released on 11 November 2014. Sha'bo and al-Sha'ar were referred to court in Rif Dimashq on 7 December 2014 without any charges.

November

On 5 November 2014, media activist **Rida al-Hur** who works for Halab News was injured when his motorbike was targeted with an explosive that caused it to tip over in Handarat in Aleppo.

On 7 November 2014, Al Jazeera reporter **Mohammed Noor** was injured in his foot when the regime's forces fired at him whilst he was working in al-Sheikh Miskeen in Daraa.

On 9 November 2014, media activist **Mohammed Yusuf Muslim** died from an injury he incurred from a landmine in Nawa in Daraa. Muslim had been injured previously and his leg was amputated.

On 12 November 2014, media activist **Mustafa ash-Hadat** was killed in Jasem in Daraa after being injured from the barrel bombs dropped on the city.

On 13 November 2014, media activist **Marwan ar-Rawwaj** (nicknamed Abu Huthayfa) was kidnapped by Ahrar as-Sham, one of the armed opposition factions, in the town of al-Rami in the countryside of Idlib. He was released five days later due to his critical health condition. Ar-Rawwaj had had his leg amputated from a previous injury.

On 13 November 2014, **Aref al-Khatib** was kidnapped in al-Rami in the countryside of Idlib by members of al-Nusra Front. Al-Khatib is a member of the Arab Writers Union and has received many awards for his works in children's literature.

On 15 November 2014, media activist **Abu Abdelrahamn al-Ansari** was injured whilst working in al-Dilli in the countryside of Daraa.

On 19 November 2014, ISIS issued a number of **regulations for media activists** and institutions working in regions under its control. The statement “general regulations for local journalists in the regions of the Islamic State” mentioned that any journalists working in their areas should swear their allegiance to their leader and that any reports they wish to publish should be checked by their media office. It also banned journalists from liaising with any channels that promote any propaganda against the “Islamic State”.

On 20 November 2014, cameraman **Ammar Esa al-Kanaan** died from an injury he incurred whilst covering the clashes in Tal 'Ered and Ayan Afa in the countryside of Daraa.

On 20 November 2014, director **Suheir Sarmini** was targeted at a security crossing controlled by the regime's forces in al-Umawiyeen Square in Damascus. Sarmini said that this attack was not justified, especially that she was able to provide her press ID to the security members at the crossing. Sarmini was previously the director of the state Syrian satellite channel.

On 21 November 2014, media activist **Abdullah Yunus al-Nimr** was killed whilst covering the clashes at Deir Adas in Daraa's western countryside.

On 27 November 2014, media activist **Iyad Mabrookeh**, chair of the media office in Barzeh neighbourhood in Damascus, was killed from a sniper shot in his head in Qaboun neighbourhood.

On 27 November 2014, the **Unified media office in Jabal al-Zawiya** announced that it will suspend all its work due to the pressure exerted on it by al-Nusra Front and Ahrar as-Sham and their threats to the office's staff.

On 30 November 2014, media activist **Yasin Abu Raed**, head of the

media office in Andan, was injured in an air-raid that targeted the city.



Three correspondents for Orient TV were killed in the city of Seikh Miskin in Daraa when they were attacked with a thermal rocket

December

On 6 December 2014, **Abdelrahamn Batra**, presenter for Suriya Al Shaab channel, was killed after being detained by ISIS for a year.

On 8 December 2014, Orient TV announced the death of three of its correspondents in Sheikh Miskeen in the countryside of Daraa when

the Army fired a thermal rocket at them. These victims are: **Rami al-Asimi, Yusuf al-Dous** and photographer **Salem Khalil**.

On 10 December 2014, Al Jazeera reporter **Muhran Bashir al-Deri** was killed when he was heading towards Sheikh Miskeen neighbourhood in Daraa to cover the clashes there. His car's lights were switched off and it crashed into a car that belonged to the armed opposition. Al-Deri had previously worked for the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA).

On 15 December 2014, **the team of Kurdish channel Rudaw TV** disappeared and no news were heard from them during their return from Tal Kojar in the countryside of Qamishli. The team included reporter Firhad Hamu and cameraman Masoud Eql.

On 24 December 2014, media activist **Hisham al-Haj Ali** who works for Al Arabiya TV disappeared. He was last present in Jroud al-Qalamoun in Rif Dimashq. Al-Haj was followed by ISIS after refusing to cooperate with them.

On 26 December 2014, media activist **Layth Alabdullah** was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in Saraqeb. Alabdullah had been previously kidnapped for 4 days.

Releases

The year 2014 witnessed many releases of journalists who had been kidnapped or detained. Below are the cases which were documented in 2014:

On 4 January 2014, ISIS released **Mohammed Salloum**, chief editor of Al-Ghirbal Magazine in Kafr Nabl in the countryside of Idlib after detaining him for almost a week.

On 1 May 2014, ISIS released Turkish reporter and cameraman **Bunyamin Aygun** who works for Turkish Newspaper Milliyet. Aygun was kidnapped by ISIS in the beginning of December 2013. The details of his release were not disclosed.

On 23 January 2014, ISIS released director and photographer **Omar al-Khani** after he demanded the release of his wife, who is American and who was kidnapped with him on 5 August 2014. She remains detained by ISIS.

On 2 March 2014, Spanish journalist **Marc Marginedas** from the Spanish newspaper El Periodico was released after being detained at an ISIS barrier in the countryside of Hama on 4 September 2013. He was released to the Syrian-Turkish borders and the details of his release were not disclosed.

On 18 April 2014, Europe 1 radio French journalists **Didier Francois** and **Edouard Elias** were released after getting kidnapped by ISIS on 6 June 2013 northern Aleppo. French cameraman **Pierre Torres** and journalist **Nicolas Hénin**, who were also kidnapped by ISIS in ar-Raqqa on 22 June 2013, were also released. The details of their release were not disclosed.



ISIS released Spanish journalist Marc Marginedas and al-Nusra Front released many of its foreign hostages. It is believed that these parties receive large sums of money by the governments of their hostages in return for their release

On 19 June 2014, ISIS released Danish cameraman **Daniel Rye Ottosen** who they kidnapped on 17 April 2013 in northern Syria.

The details of his release were not disclosed.

On 10 July 2014, ISIS released Al Jazeera reporter **Omar al-Hazaa**, ' known as Omar al-Haj. Al-Hazaa', who was kidnapped in Deir ez-Zor on 10 April 2014 at the Sad Tishreen barrier in ar-Raqqah.

On 24 August 2014, al-Nusra Front released American journalist **Peter Theo Curtis** who they detained for almost 2 years. He was handed to peacekeeping forces in the Golan.

Targeting houses of worship

The Syrian Army continued its attacks on houses of worship, especially mosques, in 2014 as part of a systematic campaign it started in the second half of 2011 in which it targeted social institutions such as schools, markets, hospitals and houses of worship.

The Syrian Army attacked mosques directly this year with its Air Force, artillery and tanks.

Cases recorded by the Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) include attacks on **82 mosques**, 2 churches and one religious shrine.

This year saw deliberate attacks carried out by the Army on mosques during the weekly Friday Prayers which are performed in large congregations. This indicates the Army's willingness to kill and injure as many civilians as possible. SHRC recorded **15 cases in which mosques were targeted** during Friday prayers and one case in which a mosque was targeted during the Taraweeh prayers which are performed during the holy month of Ramadan.

This year also saw an unprecedented tactic in the history of the Syrian crisis which involves targeting mosques with car bombs. The parties responsible for these attacks remain unknown. SHRC

recorded **9 cases in which car bombs** exploded near mosques in 2014, 7 of which went off while people were exiting the mosques after Friday prayers.

Below are the main violations committed against houses of worship in 2014 as recorded by SHRC:

On 1 January 2014, **Al-Omari mosque in al-Wa'er in Homs** was shelled when the Syrian Air Force raided the city, which damaged the mosque.

On 14 January 2014, **Abu Sulieman Al-Darnani mosque in Darayya in Rif Dimashq** was seriously damage, especially its dome, when it was hit with a barrel bomb.

On 17 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **the mosque in the town of Mdera in Douma in Rif Dimashq**, killing several people and injuring dozens.

On 17 January 2014, **Al-Quds mosque in Daraa Camp** was shelled which caused its minaret to collapse.

On 30 January 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Rahman mosque in Darayya in Rif Dimashq** which damaged the mosque.

On 30 January 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **Al-Eman mosque in al-Nashabiyyeh in eastern Ghouta**, causing limited damage to

the mosque.

On 3 February 2014, **Al-Shamali mosque in Mork in the countryside of Hama** was hit with barrel bombs which caused serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 February 2014, a military aircraft launched a rocket on **Uthman bin Affan mosque in Masaken Hanano in Aleppo**, which destroyed part of the mosque, killed several children who were having lessons inside, destroyed a house near the mosque and killed the family living there.

On 9 February 2014, a mortar rocket hit the minaret of **Ali bin Abi Taleb mosque in Kafr Nabta in Rif Dimashq**, which damaged it slightly.

On 14 February 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of **Al-Baraa bin Malek mosque in Yadudah in Daraa** while people were leaving after Friday prayers. At least 50 people were killed as a result.

On 20 February 2014, **Abu Hurayra mosque in Daraa al-Mahatta** was hit with a rocket that caused serious damage to the mosque.

On 21 February 2014, the Syrian Army's artillery shelled **Al-Sad Al-Jadeed mosque in Tariq al-Sad in Daraa al-Mahatta**.

On 14 February 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of **Al-Yadudah**

mosque in the countryside of Daraa while people were leaving after Friday prayers, killing 26 people and injuring dozens. The party behind the attack remains unknown.

On 7 March 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Al-Jame' Al-Gharbi Al-Kabir mosque in Ma'saran in Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Idlib** during Friday prayers, killing several people, injuring dozens and causing large damage to the mosque.

On 17 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force raided **Al-Shari'yyeh mosque in Der ez-Zor**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 19 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched 3 air strikes on the surroundings of **Al-Muhammadi mosque in the town of Qudsaya in Rif Dimashq**, killing 7 people, injuring dozens others and damaging the mosque.

On 21 March 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Kafr Nabl Al-Kabir mosque in the countryside of Idlib** while people were performing Friday prayers. The attack killed 4 people and damaged the mosque.

On 2 April 2014, **Omar bin Al-Khattab mosque in Jisr al-Shughur in the countryside of Idlib** was hit with mortar rockets launched by the armed opposition brigades, which killed 13 people. The brigades stated that they were aiming for the Zleto barrier and hit the mosque

by accident.

On 4 May 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Al-Malihah Al-Kabir mosque in the town of Al-Malihah in eastern Ghouta**, causing large damage to the mosque.

On 7 April, a tank shelled the minaret of **Omar bin Al-Khattab mosque in al-N'eme in the countryside of Daraa**, which destroyed it.

On 18 April 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of **Bilal Al-Habashi mosque in Homs** the moment people were leaving after Friday prayers. The mosque is near the Eight Athar barrier which leads to the neighbourhoods that support the regime.

On 23 April 2014, the Army shelled the minaret of **Bilal Al-Habashi mosque in the city of Mork in the countryside of Hama** which destroyed it.

On 7 May 2014, the Army's tanks targeted the minaret of **Al-Sheikh Khalil mosque in Daraa al-Balad** causing it to collapse.

On 15 May 2014, members of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (ISIS) blew up **the tomb of Uways al-Qarni (a well known Islamic figure) in ar-Raqqah**. It had blown up the minaret of the tomb in March 2014 and panted explosives inside the shrine.

On 15 May 2014, **Nuriddin Zinki mosque in Maarrat al-Nu'man in the countryside of Idlib** was shelled, which caused very serious damage to the mosque. The mosque was built in the 3rd century and is one of the oldest mosques in Syria.



Nuriddin Zinki mosque in Maarrat al-Nu'man was built in the 3rd century. It was targeted in an air raid on 15 May 2014

On 15 May 2014, a barrel bomb was dropped on **Uthman bin Math'oon mosque in Masaken Hanano in Aleppo**.

On 16 May 2014, a car bomb exploded in **the city of Bansh in the**

countryside of Idlib while people were leaving Al-Kabir mosque after Friday prayers. The attack killed 11 people and injured dozens.

On 20 May 2014, **Ali bin Abi Taleb mosque in Aazaz in the northern countryside of Aleppo** was attacked which killed 11 people and injured several others.

On 4 June 2014, **Al-Omari mosque in the town of al-Malihah in Rif Dimashq** was seriously damaged as a result of the ongoing arbitrary shelling on the city. This mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Syria.

On 12 June 2014, **Al-Hidaya mosque in the town of Rankoos in Rif Dimashq** was shelled which damaged the mosque.

On 14 June 2014, the Air Force shelled **Hamza bin Abdel Muttaleb mosque in the town of al-Ghanto in the countryside of Homs**, which caused small damage to the mosque.

On 17 June 2014, **Al-Shuhadaa mosque in Houla in Homs** was slightly damaged after it was hit with the Army's artillery shelling.

On 25 June 2014, a barrel bomb hit **Al-Muhtaseb mosque in Bab al-Hadid in Aleppo**, which caused serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 July 2014, a military aircraft launched a rocket at **Al-Safa mosque in al-Ummal neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor** which caused

large serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 July 2014 the Army's artillery shelled **Al-Sarmaniyyeh mosque in Jabal al-Akrad in Latakia** causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 July 2014, which was the first Friday in the holy month of Ramadan, the Air Force carried out two air raids on the city of Sarmin in Idlib while people were leaving their finished Friday prayers. One of the raids targeted **Firdous mosque**, injuring 50 people.

On 4 July 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the area surrounding **Al-Fatih mosque in the town of al-Malihah in Rif Dimashq**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 14 July 2014, a barrel bomb dropped near **Al-Abbas mosque in Masaken Hanano** damaging the mosque.

On 21 July 2014, **al-Bashiriyyeh mosque in Jisr al-Shughour in the countryside of Idlib** was shelled with rockets during Taraweeh prayers (which are performed during the holy month of Ramadan), killing 2 people and injuring several others.

On 6 August 2014, a barrel bomb dropped on **Banqusa Historical Mosque in Bab al-Hadid in Aleppo**, which causes serious damage to the mosque.

On 7 August 2014, a barrel bomb was dropped near **Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq mosque in the city of al-Bab in the countryside of Aleppo** causing serious damage to the mosque.



Banqusa Historical Mosque in Aleppo was seriously damaged when it was targeted with a barrel bomb

On 15 August 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Al-Taqwa moaque in the town of Nimr in Daraa** while people were exiting the mosque after Friday prayers. The attack killed 16 people, most of them people from the mosque.

On the same day, the armed opposition brigades detained a man working for the regime's security forces while he was attempting to take a car bomb into **the city of Jasem in the countryside of Daraa**. He admitted that he was planning to park it in front of Al-Masjid Al-

Kabir in Jasem.

On 7 September 2014, **Suwesa mosque in al-Quneitra** was largely damaged when the Army's helicopter dropped an explosive container on it.

On 11 September 2014, **Al-Adilyyeh mosque in Aleppo** was largely damaged when the Air Force shelled it. This mosque was built in 1557 and is considered one of the archaeological sites of the city.

On 12 September 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **al-Rastan mosque in al-Rastan in the countryside of Homs**, killing 3 people and injuring dozens.

On 14 September 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Bider mosque in al-Kallaseh neighbourhood in Aleppo**, causing large damage to the mosque.

On 21 September 2014, members of ISIS planted explosives which blew up **Shuhadaa Al-Arman Church in al-Rashidiyyeh neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor**, destroying the church entirely.

On 26 September 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the city of al-Rastan, one of which was dropped near **Abu Ammo mosque** while people were exiting the mosque after Friday prayers, killing 5 people at least and injuring dozens.

On 1 October 2014, **the mosque in Jaz'ah village in al-Hasakah** was seriously damaged when it was hit with missiles during the clashes between ISIS and the Kurdish People's Protection Unit.

On 2 October 2014, **the Umayyad Mosque of Aleppo** caught fire from the clashes that were taking place between the armed opposition brigades and the Syrian Army.

On 3 October 2014, the regime's forces launched a rocket on **Fatih mosque in al-Qsoor neighbourhood in Deir ez-Zor**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 3 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Masjid Al-Kabir mosque in Nahyet al-Tamaa'neh in the Governorate of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb on **Al-Masjid Al-Kabir in the city of Saraqib in the countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 4 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped a barrel bomb on **Al-Shamali mosque in the city of Saraqib**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 5 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Faruq mosque in the town of al-Dana in the countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 10 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force dropped an explosive container on **Qaryet Rabi'a mosque in Jabal al-Turkman in the countryside of Latakia** at the time of Jumah prayers, killing 11 people and injuring more than 50 others.

On 12 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Huthayfah bin Al-Yaman mosque in the city of Hamuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 12 October 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of **Ammar bin Yasser mosque in the town of Yadudah in Daraa**, causing serious damage to the mosque. The party responsible for the attack remains unknown.

On 13 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Al-Eman mosque in Douma in Rif Dimashq**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 14 October 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched a thermobaric rocket on **Omar bin Al-Khattab mosque in Arbeen in the Governorate of Rif Dimashq**, destroying a large section of the mosque and killing 14 people.

On 16 October 2014, the Syrian Army blew up the minaret of **Abu Muslim Al-Khulani Al-Jadid mosque in the city of Darayya in Rif Dimashq**.

On 17 October 2014, the Syrian Army launched a mortar rocket on **Alrawda mosque in Hamuriyyeh in Rif Dimashq**, damaging the mosque.

On 18 October 2014, a car bomb exploded in front of **Falasteen mosque in Yarmouk Camp in Damascus**, killing one person.

On 2 November 2014, the regime's army shelled **Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq mosque in the city of Zamalka in Rif Dimashq**, damaging the mosque.

On 3 November 2014, the Army launched a rocket on **Al-Maytam mosque in al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 7 November 2014, a car bomb exploded near **Al-Tiba Al-Qadim mosque in the town of Al-Tiba in Rif Dimashq** while people were exiting the mosque after Friday prayers, killing 14 people and damaging the mosque.

On 14 November 2014, several missiles were dropped on **Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq mosque in the town of al-Misefra in the Governorate of Daraa**, injuring several people and damaging the mosque.

On 15 November 2014, the Army's helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on **Omar bin Al-Khattab mosque in Mazare al-Mlaah in the**

countryside of Aleppo, destroying the mosque almost completely.

On 16 November 2014, the Syrian artillery shelled **Midera Al-Kabir mosque in the town of Midera in Rif Dimashq** several times, injuring several people and damaging the mosque.



The minaret of Al-Hinni mosque in ar-Raqqa after it was targeted on 25 November 2014 in a series of air raids that caused one of the largest massacres in 2014

On 19 November 2014, a missile was dropped from an unknown source on **Al-Saleeb Church in al-Qisaa in the city of Damascus**, damaging the church.

On 23 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched two missiles on **Harweel mosque in al-Ardi neighbourhood in the city of Deir ez-Zor**, damaging the mosque and the surrounding houses.

On 25 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force carried out a series of air raids on ar-Raqqah committing one of the biggest massacres in 2014. One of the raids targeted **Al-Hinni mosque** causing large damage to the mosque and destroying its minaret completely.

On 28 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq mosque in al-Shadadi in al-Hasakah**. A few minutes later, the Army's helicopters dropped two barrel bombs near the mosque killing 6 people and causing large damage to the mosque and the surrounding houses.

On 28 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled **Iblin mosque in Iblin village in the countryside of Idlib**, causing serious damage to the mosque.

On 28 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the surroundings of **Jirkasa mosque in the city of ar-Raqqah**, damaging the mosque.

On 29 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force shelled the surroundings of **Al-Nanawi mosque in ar-Raqqah** killing 11 people,

injuring dozens others and damaging the mosque.

On 1 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted **Al-Zubier bin Al-Awwam in Iblin village in Jabal al-Zawiyah in the countryside of Idlib** during Friday prayers, killing the preacher delivering the sermon who is a member of al-Nusra Front.

On 7 December 2014, **Sultania ancient mosque in Aleppo** was severely damaged. The mosque was built in 1223 and is in an area controlled by the Syrian Army. It appears that the Army bombed the mosque before the armed opposition forces attacked it.

On 11 December 2014, **Abdelaziz Abazayd mosque in al-Mahatta neighbourhood in the city of Daraa** collapsed. Even though it collapsed during the clashes between the Army and the armed opposition forces, it most likely collapsed due to the explosions the Army planed in the mosque before withdrawing from the area. However, sources from the armed opposition forces stated that they attacked the mosque when the Army's forces were inside it.

On 12 December 2014, the Army's artillery shelled **Salahuddin Mosque in al-Malihah in eastern Daraa** several times during Friday prayers, killing one person, injuring dozens others and damaging the mosque.

On 17 November 2014, the Syrian Air Force launched two rockets on **Khalaf Al-Naser mosque in Maskana in the eastern countryside of Aleppo**, causing large and serious damage to the mosque.

On 24 December 2014, the Syrian Army launched a series of air raids on ar-Raqqah, one of which targeted **Al-Eman mosque**, killing several people including the Imam of the mosque.

On 26 December 2014, the Syrian Air Force targeted the surroundings of **Falasteen mosque in Yarmouk Camp** while people were performing Friday prayers, injuring several people and damaging the mosque.

Legal and legislative amendments

The Syrian government issued a number of legal amendments and legislative decrees in 2014. These amendments concerned the civil and political rights of the Syrian people.

One of the most significant amendments issued is **legislative decree No.22**, enacted on 9 June 2014, which grants general amnesty to prisoners convicted before the issue date. The amnesty involves many crimes such as: offences mentioned in articles 285, 286, clause A of article 293, article 295 and article 303 of the Penal Law issued in legislative decree No. 148 of 1949. It also involves all crimes and offences mentioned in clause 1 of article 305 and clause 1 of article 306 from the Penal Law issued in legislative decree No.148 of 1949 and its amendments, in cases where the offender is Syrian. In addition, the amnesty involves all crimes mentioned in clause 2 of article 2 and article 3 of Law No.19 enacted on 7 February 2012 in cases where the offender is a Syrian who has joined a terrorist organisation.

Moreover, two legislative decrees were issued concerning military service. The first concerns military deserters while the second concerns allowances the government provides to its expatriates. On

23 June 2014, the government issued **legislative decree No.14 of 2014** which suspends all instalments paid by public banks into the accounts of military deserters from their military sponsors. This concerns individuals in the military, whether in active duty or retired, who sponsored other military deserters. This also exempts the pensions of deceased sponsors that are received by their heirs.



Legislative decree No.22 of 2014 excluded most conscience prisoners whose numbers are estimated at tens of thousands. The picture is of blogger Tal al-Mallohi who has been detained since 2009 and who the amnesty excluded

On 3 August 2014, the government issued **legislative decree No.33 of 2014** which amends some of the articles in legislative decree

No.30 of 2007 and its amendments, regarding the mandatory military service law. The decree amended the allowances paid to expatriates, changing them to: \$8.000 for those who have lived abroad for at least 4 years and \$2.500 for those born or raised in an Arab or another foreign country until they are 18.

The decree also stipulated that the duration spent in mandatory military service will be accounted as part of the duration needed for military promotion and pension entitlement. It will also be accounted as part of the duration needed for discharge compensation entitlement, provided that the employer pays national insurance contributions owed by himself and his employer.

More than 2.8 million Syrian children have been deprived from their right to education. Therefore, in an attempt from the Syrian government to take advantage from the legal vacuum at schools in areas no longer under its control, it issued **legislative decree No.34 of 2014** which establishes a public body called the Syrian Electronic School. This school, which has financial and administrative independence, aims to provide educational services to students deprived from this right and to provide official certificates recognised by the Syrian government to them, even in cases where they are attending schools in areas no longer under its control.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC)

The Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) is an independent human rights organisation concerned with defending general liberties and human rights of the Syrian people through several practices, which include:

Exposing the human rights violations, assaults and aggressions against Syrian citizens and publishing such incidents to the international media, addressing and following-up on such reported incidents with all concerned entities.

Conducting research, studies , and reports on the human rights conditions in Syria, while utilizing scientific research methodologies and investigative verification.

Raising awareness and promoting the principles of human rights in the Syrian society and encouraging its members to continuously demand their rights through peaceful means

SHRC adheres to cooperating with all entities concerned in the defence and advocacy of human rights principles, while preserving the independence of the committee.



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