

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                 |                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>               | <b>2133</b>                                                                                                         |
| Land:                           | Syrien                                                                                                              |
| Kilde:                          | Syrian Network for Human Rights                                                                                     |
| Titel:                          | 1,562 Deaths, Including 102 Children and 99 Women, as well as 33 Medical Personnel, Recorded in March 2025 in Syria |
| Udgivet:                        | 9. april 2025                                                                                                       |
| Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet: | 20. juni 2025                                                                                                       |
|                                 |                                                                                                                     |

## Monthly Report (Civilian Deaths)

**1,562 Deaths, Including 102 Children and 99 Women, as well as 33 Medical Personnel, Recorded in March 2025 in Syria**

Wednesday 09 April 2025

**1,562**





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

## Contents:

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| I. Background and Methodology .....                                 | 1  |
| II. Brief on the Most Notable Killings in March 2025.....           | 2  |
| III. Death Toll .....                                               | 8  |
| IV. Deaths Among Medical Personnel.....                             | 10 |
| V. Most Notable Massacres.....                                      | 10 |
| VI. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities.....                       | 12 |
| VII What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue? ..... | 14 |
| VIII Conclusions and Recommendations .....                          | 16 |
| Acknowledgment.....                                                 | 19 |

## I. BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

This report outlines the civilian killed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in **March 2025** as documented by the **Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)**. The report focuses particularly on deaths due to torture, victims among medical personnel, victims among media workers, and the massacres committed during the period covered by this report. Furthermore, the report outlines the most notable incidents and the attacks on vital civilian facilities. SNHR stores the full details of these incidents on its database.

The fatalities recorded in this report are limited to civilian deaths documented in the preceding month. Some of these deaths may have taken place months or years before and only have been formally confirmed or documented during the past month, in which case we list the date on which the death was officially documented, as well as the estimated date of death.

We have taken into consideration the major changes in Syria with the downfall of the Assad regime on December 8, 2024. However, we are still recording civilian deaths at the hands of pro-Assad forces in various forms, despite the ousting of the Assad regime. These forms include:

- Pro-Assad militias killing civilians or Syrian security personnel.
- Explosion of cluster bomblets or landmines planted by Assad regime forces.
- Citizens injured in attacks carried out by Assad forces and then dying later.

This report catalogues the civilian deaths according to the parties responsible. In some cases, this may require additional time to properly investigate, especially in cases of joint attacks. In this context, SNHR faces particular difficulties in assigning culpability in attacks involving ground bombardment, especially if the bombardment originated from an area under the control of one party and close to territories of another party. To address this, our teams continue investigations until accurately identifying the perpetrators. In the event that identifying the perpetrator was found to be not possible, however, we catalogue such incidents under other parties until new evidence comes to light.

While we, at SNHR, are keen to assign culpability to the parties responsible, two types of cases are excluded: **anti-personnel landmines (APLs)** and **remote bombings**, with the latter including suicide or forced bombings. We have explained our reasoning behind this in detail in separate reports.

As for anonymous victims, that is, victims whom we have not been able to identify or obtain any information indicating their identity, we store these cases in a separate archive until we can obtain new information.

This report draws upon the continuous monitoring of news and developments carried out by SNHR, and through an extensive network that includes dozens of resources that SNHR has fostered since 2011. In this regard, SNHR has created [a special form](#) that can be filled out with the names and information of victims, so our victim documentation team can follow up and verify these information before adding them to our database.

All of the attacks included in this report have targeted civilian areas. We recorded no military presence in the attack sites. Civilians have also not been alerted prior to the attack by the aggressor forces as required by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In the end, it is important to note that this report only covers the bare minimum of the volume and magnitude of the violations that occurred, which SNHR was able to document. It also does not cover the social, economic, and psychological of these violations.

## II. BRIEF ON THE MOST NOTABLE KILLINGS IN MARCH 2025

In March 2025, we documented the deaths of **1,562 individuals**, including 102 children and 99 women, as well as 33 medical personnel. Below are some observations regarding the civilian deaths documented during the month:

### **A. A total of 1,334 individuals, including 60 children and 84 women, were killed as violence escalates in the Syrian Coastal Region**

Between March 6 and 10, 2025, the security situation in Syria deteriorated to unprecedented levels, with one of the worst waves of violence to hit the country since the fall of the Assad regime on December 8, 2024. Non-state armed groups linked with the Assad regime carried out coordinated attacks targeting security and military sites belonging to the Ministries of Defense and Interior of the transitional government. These attacks were concentrated mainly in the governorates of Latakia, Tartus, and Hama, prompting official government forces to launch extensive security operations to pursue the attackers.

Participating alongside the official forces were local military factions, foreign Islamic organizations formally affiliated with the Ministry of Defense but without actual organizational integration, as well as local groups of armed civilians who supported government forces without having any formal affiliation to any specific military formation. However, these security operations did not remain limited to pursuing the direct perpetrators. They soon escalated into violent confrontations accompanied by widespread and severe violations, most of which were characterized by retaliatory and sectarian motives. Local factions and foreign Islamic organizations, formally under the Ministry of Defense, played the most prominent role in committing these violations.

These events resulted in extrajudicial killings, including field executions and mass killings driven by retaliatory and sectarian motives. Civilians were targeted, including medical, media, and humanitarian personnel. The violations also affected public facilities and dozens of public and private properties. These violations caused waves of forced displacement of hundreds of residents, as well as the disappearance of dozens of civilians and members of the Internal Security Forces, leading to a significant deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in the affected areas.

[SNHR released a preliminary report addressing in detail the widespread violence and armed attacks witnessed in the Syrian coastal region.](#) The report outlined violations committed against civilians, including extrajudicial killings, field executions, and attacks on public and private properties. The report particularly focused on what occurred in the governorates of Latakia, Tartus, and Hama, systematically documenting testimonies from survivors and relatives of victims, alongside information obtained by SNHR directly from sources on the ground, amidst significant challenges in accessing the affected areas.

Additionally, [SNHR released an update](#) regarding the death numbers in the wake of these operation. It is important to point out, however, that the new updated figures do not reflect new killings that occurred in recent days, as the security situation has relatively stabilized in the past period. Most of these cases date back March 6,7,8, and 9 2025, and had not been documented at the time in light of the significant challenges on the ground, including difficulty accessing certain remote areas and the security deterioration in several targeted villages. The team was recently able to reach these areas to obtain new accounts from dozens of families.

It is important to note that the figures in this report do not include members of the non-state armed groups linked to the Assad regime who were killed in clashes, since these deaths occurred in the context of military clashes, and thus are not classified as violations under international humanitarian law. The killings were distributed as follows:

### 1. Non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime<sup>1</sup>:

SNHR recorded the killing of at least **445 individuals**, distributed as follows:

- **At least 214** members of security, police, and military forces (Internal Security Forces and Ministry of Defense).
- **231 civilians**, including one humanitarian worker and one medical worker, were killed as a result of direct shootings carried out by these groups.

### 2. Armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns<sup>2</sup>:

SNHR documented the killing of no fewer than **887 individuals**, including civilians and disarmed remnants of Assad forces. Among them were 51 children, 63 women. Also among the victims were 32 medical personnel, including eight women, at the hands of the armed forces participating in the military and security campaign (factions and undisciplined organizations formally under the Ministry of Defense). This took place during the extensive security and military crackdown launched by these forces in the areas where non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime were concentrated.

- 
1. They are known by the term 'Fulol' or remnants. Those are military or paramilitary formations that retained their loyalty to the Assad regime after its fall. These groups include Assad loyalists who had previously served in the Assad regime's regular army, security agencies, or the auxiliary militias that the former Assad regime had formed or supported. These groups continued their armed activities after the collapse of the Assad regime, driven by retaliatory motives, desires to control specific areas, or aims to destabilize the new Syrian government.
  2. These forces mainly include factions and armed groups that are nominally affiliated with the Ministry of Defense but without actual organizational integration. For this reason, these groups have relative independence in making decisions on the ground and with their operational movements. These forces also include members of the Internal Security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, as well as local groups of armed civilians who participated in operations without an official organizational framework.

## **B. A total of 227 civilians, including 42 children and 15 women, killed across Syria (besides those killed in the waves of violence in the Syrian Coastal Region)**

Several parties were responsible for these deaths, including the Syrian government, non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime. Other parties were also responsible for civilian deaths, including Turkish forces, Israeli occupation forces, Hezbollah, and Jordanian board guards, in addition to those killed by landmines of unidentified source, gunfire of unidentified source, killings by unidentified parties, those who drowned to death, and those who died as a result of munition-related incidents.

### **1. Syrian government forces:**

In March 2025, we documented the killing of **10 civilians**, including one child, by the Syrian government's General Security forces. On Friday, March 14, 2025, a man, identified as [Mou-sa Khaled al-Jahel](#), was shot killed and another, identified as [Mohammad Ziad al-Jarrah](#), was shot and injured by General Security personnel manning a checkpoint in al-Sanamayn city in northern rural Daraa governorate who shot the two men after refusing to stop at the checkpoint on their way back from Damascus. The two men are from al-Hara city in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

### **2. Other parties:**

In March 2025, we documented the killing of **215 civilians**, including 40 children and 15 women, at the hands of other parties. Thirty-One percent of the victims killed by other parties were killed in the two governorates of Daraa and Homs. These deaths are distributed as follows:

- **Landmines**

A total of **44 civilians**, including 11 children and one woman, were killed by the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. Landmine blasts also resulted in a massacre in which six victims were killed as they were disarming landmines. As of the beginning of April 2025, a total of 160 civilians, including 18 children and five women, have been killed by the explosion of landmines of unidentified source since the start of 2025. These deaths can be broken down into two subcategories:

**1. Victims who were killed while disarming landmines:** Seven victims.

**2. Victims who were killed in landmine explosions:** 37 civilians, including 11 children and one woman.

- On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, [three children](#); identified as Maha, Mohammad and Sumayya Mtair from Hasaka governorate who lived in Kherbt Ghazala town in eastern rural Daraa governorate; were killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source in the vicinity of Kherbt Ghazala town. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

#### • **Gunfire of unidentified source**

In March 2025, a total of **90 civilians**, including 10 children and two women, were killed by gunfire of unidentified source. Unidentified gunmen also committed three massacres in March. These deaths, which accounted for about 41 percent of all victims killed by other parties, can be broken down into two subcategories:

- **Victims who were killed by gunfire shot by unidentified parties:** 86 civilians, including seven children and two women.
- **Victims who were killed by stray bullets/bullets shot in celebration:** Four civilians, including three children.

- On Saturday, March 15, 2025, [engineer Ahmad Abdul Rahman Tou'ma](#), from al-Jdeida al-Sharqiya village in eastern rural Homs governorate, who worked at the Public Water Institution, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in al-Jdeida al-Sharqiya village. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

#### • **Killings by unidentified parties**

In March 2025, a total of **21 civilians**, including one child and one woman, were killed by unidentified parties. On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the dead body of a woman, identified as 65-year-old [Mariam Ali al-Hamid](#) from Mrat village in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour, was found bearing strangulation signs by local residents in al-Husainiya village in western Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area is under the control of SDF.



- **Explosions of unidentified source**

In March 2025, a total of **26 civilians**, including eight children and eight women, were killed by the explosion of war remnants and bombings by unidentified parties. Also, a rocket from the remnants of war exploded as civilians who collect scrap were trying to dismantle it, resulting in a massacre. A boy, identified as [Rashid Hani Alyan al-Zubair](#) from al-Sha'fa town in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, died on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, of wounds sustained two days earlier, March 17, in the explosion of a projectile war remnant of unidentified source in al-Sha'fa town. The area is under the control of SDF.

- **Israeli occupation attacks**

In March 2025, [Israeli occupation attacks killed 10 civilians](#), including one woman. On Monday, March 17, 2025, fixed-wing Israeli occupation aircraft carried out two airstrikes, firing four missiles in total, on the western side of Daraa city. The attack targeted the 132nd Brigade, a military site located near a residential area, resulting in the deaths of four individuals—three civilians and one Syrian Ministry of Defense soldier—and injuring 18 others. Among the wounded were four children, a woman, and three Civil Defense personnel (White Helmets), who sustained varying degrees of injuries.

According to information obtained by SNHR from reliable local sources, the Israeli occupation aircraft conducted its first strike, followed by a second strike approximately 20 minutes later. The second attack occurred while civilians and civil defense personnel were gathering at the site, leading to an increased number of casualties.

- **Lebanese group Hezbollah**

On Sunday, March 16, 2025, an armed Hezbollah group known for its smuggling activities ambushed personnel from the Syrian Ministry of Defense in Zita village located on the Syria-Lebanon border. The attack resulted in the abduction of three ministry personnel in the area of Zita Dam near the border, where they were taken to the al-Qasr town in Lebanon and were subsequently stoned to death by the militias.

Following the incident, the Lebanese army, in cooperation with the Red Cross, transported the bodies to the al-Harmal Government Hospital before handing them over to the Syrian authorities via the Joussieh–Al-Qaa crossing in rural Homs.

The incident led to a significant military escalation, as the Syrian Ministry of Defense deployed reinforcements to the area, which resulted in intense clashes with Hezbollah militias backed by drug trafficking gangs and tribal fighters. The clashes were concentrated in the border villages controlled by the Lebanese militias and Syrian families. Approximately 10 fighters from the Syrian Ministry of Defense were [killed](#) in these [clashes](#) over March 16-17, 2025.



↑ 👁 The dead bodies of the Syrian Ministry of Defense personnel following their capture on the border with Lebanon by Hezbollah militia members – March 16, 2025

- **Drowning**

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, we recorded that **three young men**, from Ma'ar Ballit in southern rural Idlib governorate drowned to death in the Mediterranean Sea off the coasts of Cyprus. This occurred after a boat carrying migrants, which is believed to have departed from the shores of the city of Tartus toward the island of Cyprus, capsized.

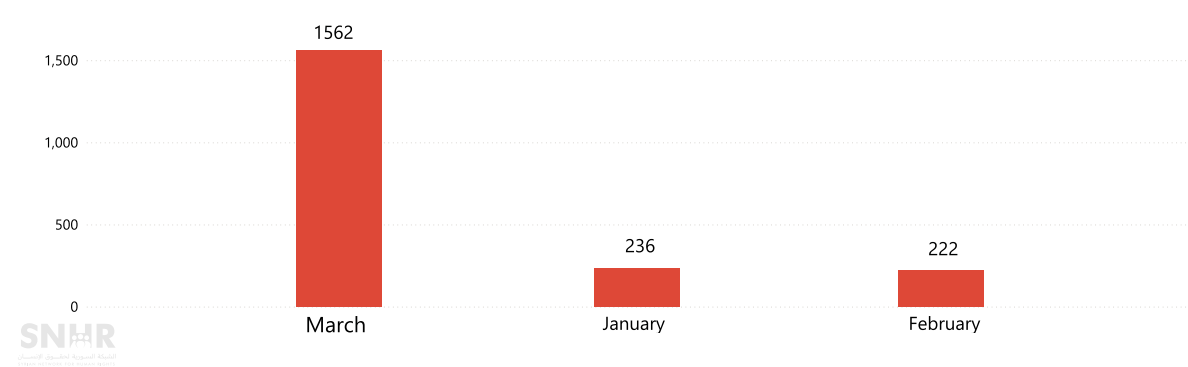
- **Munition-related incidents**

In March 2025, we documented the deaths of **three civilians, including one child and one woman**, in munition-related incidents. On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, a woman, identified as Jihan al-Yousef from Sha'ara village in al-Lajat area in eastern rural Daraa shot herself by accident while handling a firearm. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

III. DEATH TOLL

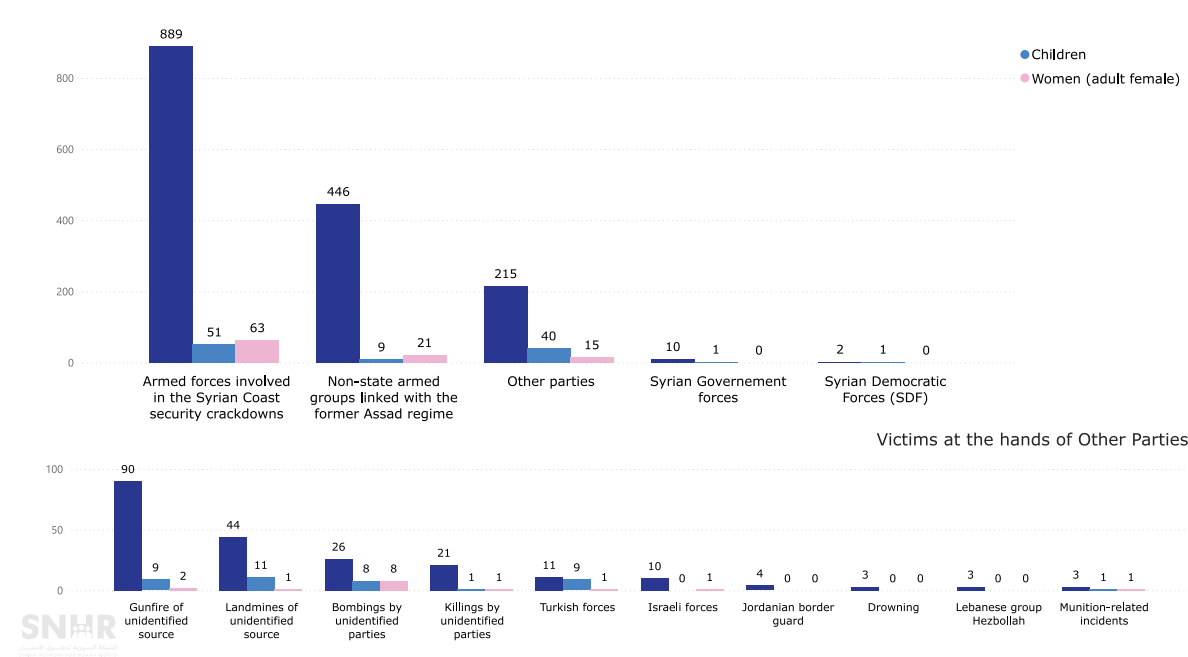
In March 2025, SNHR documented the killing of 1,562 individuals, including 102 children and 99 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until the end of March, to 2,020..

Deaths documented since the beginning of 2025 are distributed by month as follows:



March saw the highest monthly death toll since the start of 2025, accounting for about 77 percent of all deaths documented this year. Meanwhile, January accounted for about 12 percent, while February accounted for about 11 percent of the total, which was the lowest monthly death toll.

Deaths documented in March 2025 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:



## A. Main parties:

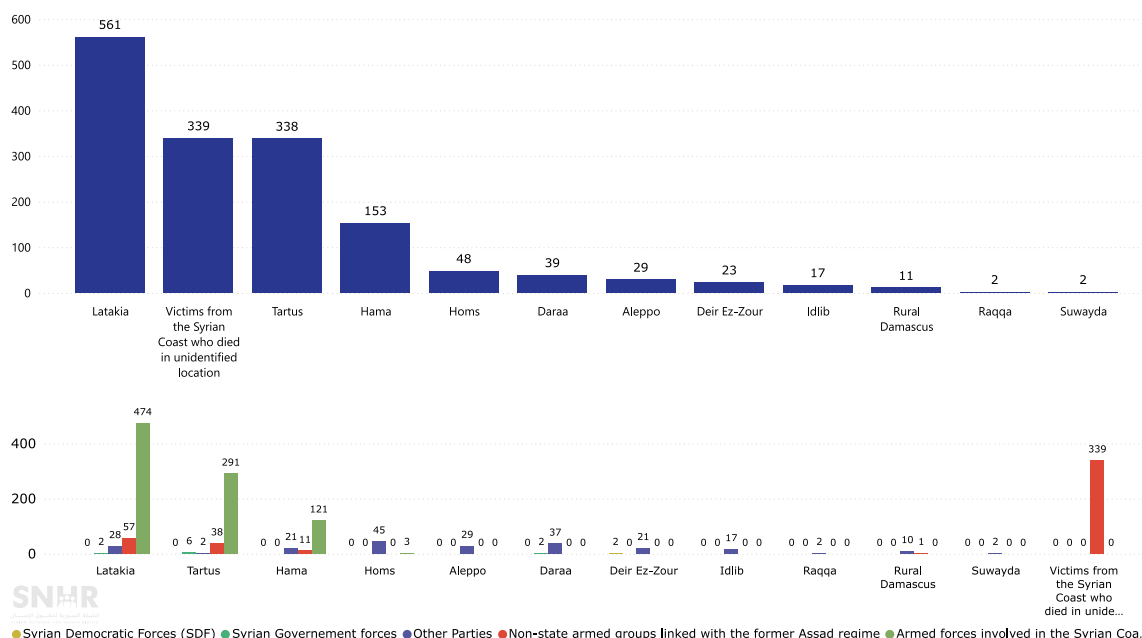
- **Syrian government forces:**  
We documented the killing of 10 civilians, including one child, by General Security forces.
- **Armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns:**  
We documented the killing of 889 individuals, including 51 children and 63 women, by armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns.
- **Non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime:**  
We documented the killing of 446 individuals, including nine children and 21 women, by non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**  
We documented the killing of two civilians, one of whom a child, by the SDF.

## B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 215 civilians, including 40 children and 15 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: 44 civilians, including 11 children and one woman.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 90 civilians, including 10 children and two women.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: 26 civilians, including eight children and eight women.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 21 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Munitions-related incidents: Three civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Turkish forces: 11 civilians, including nine children and one woman.
- Israeli forces: 10 civilians, including one woman.
- Drowning: Three civilians.
- Hezbollah forces: Three civilians.
- Jordanian border guard: Four civilians.

Deaths documented in March 2025 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



As the chart shows, Latakia governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths documented in March, accounting for about 36 percent of the total, followed by Tartus governorate with 22 percent. Most of those victims were killed by the armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns

## IV. DEATHS AMONG MEDICAL PERSONNEL

In March 2025, we documented the killing of **33 medical personnel**, including eight women. These are distributed as follows:

- Non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime: One medical worker.
- Armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns: 32 medical workers, including eight women.

On Friday, March 7, 2025, [Mohammad Hassan Sharif](#), a medical worker, was killed by armed personnel from the armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns during a raid on al-Qosour neighborhood in Banyas city in rural Tartus. According to available information, Mohammad was a third-year medical student at Latakia University. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria at the time of this report.



↑ ⓘ Mohammad Hassan Sharif

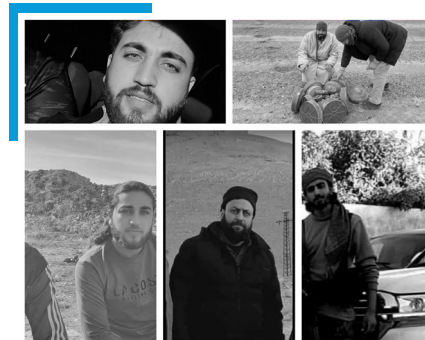
## V. MOST NOTABLE MASSACRES

In March 2025, SNHR documented 64 massacres. They are distributed as follows:

- Armed forces involved in the Syrian Coast security crackdowns: 53 massacres.
- Non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime: Four massacres.
- Formations affiliated with the Ministry of Defense in the transitional government: One Massacre.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: Three massacres.
- Turkish forces: One massacre.
- Landmines of unidentified source: One massacre.
- Explosions of unidentified source: One massacre.

### Below are the most notable massacres:

- On Monday, March 3, 2025, six individuals, all from Tadmur city, were killed by the explosion of a landmine from remnants of war while they were disarming landmines in al-Alyaniya area in eastern rural Homs governorate. The information gathered indicates that they were from military formations affiliated with the Ministry of Defense. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities of Syria.



↑ 👁 Civilians from Tadmur city killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source in al-Alyaniya area – March 3, 2025

- On Saturday, March 15, 2025, a total of 16 civilians, including five women and five children, [were killed](#) and 18 others, including six children, [were injured](#) when a rocket from the remnants of war exploded inside a scrap shop beneath [a four-story building](#) in al-Raml al-Janoubi neighborhood in Latakia city. The explosion occurred while civilians working in scrap collection were attempting to dismantle the rocket. The blast also caused severe destruction to the building and damaged nearby structures. Search and rescue efforts continued for approximately 12 hours following the explosion. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.



↑ 👁 A residential building destroyed in the aftermath of the explosion of a rocket from remnants of war inside the building in al-Raml neighborhood in Latakia city – March 15, 2025

- On Sunday, March 16, 2025, 10 civilians from the same family — a father, a mother, and their children — were killed, and another child was injured, in a drone strike reportedly carried out by Turkish forces. The strike targeted the home of a family of agricultural workers on the outskirts of Barkh Butan village (Qamji), south of Ein al-Arab (Kobani) city, in eastern rural Aleppo. The area was under SDF control at the time of the attack. According to reliable local sources and analysis of open-source photos and videos, the area appeared to be entirely civilian, with no signs of SDF military presence.

## VI. ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES

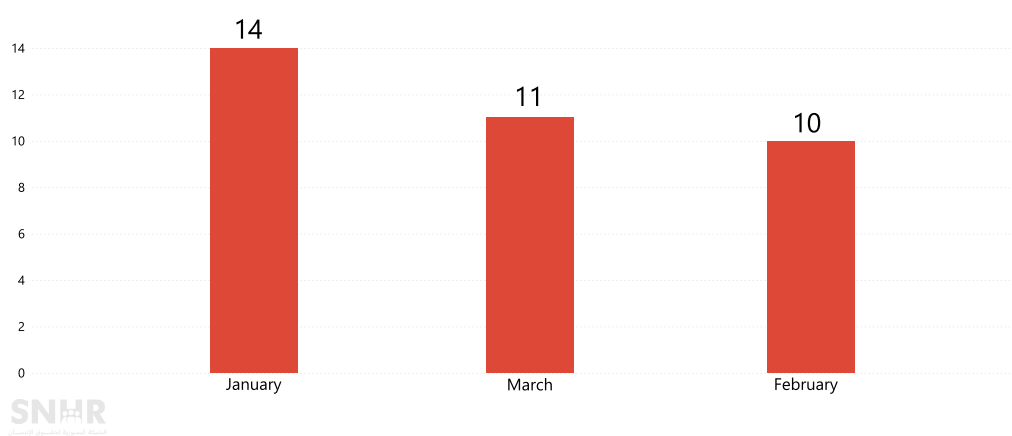
In March 2025, SNHR documented at least **11 attacks** on vital civilian facilities. Eight of these attacks were by non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime, and were concentrated in the governorates of Latakia and Tartus.

Of these 11 attacks, six targeted medical facilities.

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

- **Attacks by unidentified parties:** Two attacks.
- **Non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime:** Eight attacks.
- **Hezbollah:** One Attack.

Since the start of 2025 up until the end of March, 35 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria have been documented. These are distributed by month as follows:



This toll indicates that attacks against vital civilian facilities and civilian objects have been carried out in Syria since the start of 2025. These attacks constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, which mandates the protection of these facilities, which are essential for civilians. A total of 35 attacks on vital civilian facilities have been carried out since the start of 2025, as of April 2025, with January recording the highest number of attacks in a single month, with 14 attacks, accounting for approximately 40 percent of the total.



## Below are the most notable attacks:

- On Thursday, February 27, 2025, unidentified gunmen stormed the shrine of the Ikhwan al-Safa and Khellan al-Wafa (Brotherhood of Purity and the Companions of Fidelity), a religious site of the Ismaili sect, located at the top of Jabal al-Mashhad al-'Ali (Mashhad Ali Mountain) near Misyaf city in western rural Hama governorate.

According to information obtained by SNHR from reliable local sources, [the attackers fired shots inside the shrine and deliberately vandalized some of its contents](#). The area was under the control of the Syrian transitional government at the time of the incident.

This shrine holds significant religious and historical importance for the Ismaili community as it contains the remains of prominent figures, including Imam Hussein bin Ahmad bin Abdullah, the father of the founder of the Fatimid state, and Sinan Rashid al-Din (1130-1193), who was the governor of Misyaf Castle and one of the leaders of the Ismailis, known by the title Sheikh of the Mountain. The shrine's name is attributed to a group of scholars known as the Brotherhood of Purity and the Companions of Fidelity, who authored a series of philosophical and doctrinal epistles called 'Tuhaf Ahl al-Safa,' consisting of 52 letters aimed at unifying Islamic beliefs.

- On Thursday and Friday, March 6 and 7, 2025, Jabla National Hospital, located in Jabla city in rural Latakia governorate, was attacked by non-state armed groups linked to the former Assad regime.

According to information obtained by SNHR from reliable local sources, the attack saw the use of gunfire, grenades, and RPG shells aimed at the hospital, which was followed by an attempt to storm the building in an effort to reach the third floor, where injured internal security forces personnel were being treated, having been wounded in previous clashes with these armed groups before reaching the hospital.

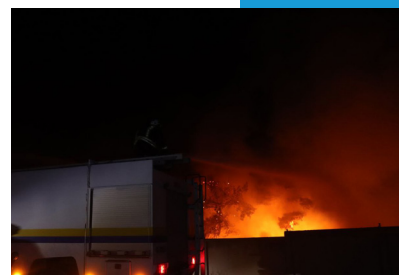
[The assault caused varying levels of damage to the hospital's infrastructure and medical equipment](#). The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria at the time of the incident.

- On Monday, March 17, 2025, the Ein al-Tannour Water Station, located in western al-Qsair city in western rural Homs governorate, was targeted in a missile attack believed to have been carried out by Hezbollah, according to reliable local sources. [The attack resulted in large fires and material damage to the station's building and equipment](#), affecting water supply in the region. The area targeted is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria at the time of the incident.

It is worth noting that Ein al-Tannour is a spring that feeds into the Orontes River, where a water purification and pumping station was built, supplying several neighborhoods in the cities of Homs and Hama with drinking water.



This attack comes amid escalating security tensions in the border region with Lebanon, following the Syrian Ministry of Defense's announcement of a military operation on March 16, 2025. According to the ministry, the operation was in response to the kidnapping of three of its personnel near the Zita Dam area, close to the Syrian border, where they were taken into Lebanese territory and stoned to death. This development led to clashes between the two sides.



↑  A fire broke out following a missile attack believed to be carried out by Hezbollah members targeting Ein al-Tannour Water Station near al-Qsair city in Homs – March 17, 2025

## VII. WHAT IS SNHR DOING ABOUT THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING ISSUE?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which our team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of their death, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these cases. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and the one from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered among the population of each governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the rates of violence documented in relation to each type of violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to SNHR's database being retained securely, along with several backup copies.

We have also been exceptionally concerned with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community during this period, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian categories which played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, and humanitarian aid workers, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For almost 14 years, SNHR has issued daily reports providing details of the death toll during the conflict. We also issue monthly, biannual, and annual reports. In addition to this, we've also published dozens of special reports documenting deaths at the hands of all, or certain parties to the conflict, including reports documenting massacre documented in Syria.

For more clarity and transparency, we have also turned the database of victims into interactive maps and charts that can be accessed on our website, which categorize the victims according to governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. We also provide charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, with special focus on children and women.

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

The UN has relied on SNHR for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources on Syria. SNHR has also signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\) project](#), which stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous UN bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to help achieve justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous well-respected regional and international news agencies and international human rights organizations.

## VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusions

1. **Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** The evidence collected by SNHR indicates that most of the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities.
2. **Landmines:** A large proportion of the Syrians killed in February died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict, past or present, issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines have been planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
3. **Indiscriminate bombing by SDF:** The indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the SDF are clearly violations of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
4. **Remote bombings:** The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva IV Convention on Civilians of 1949, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
5. Turkish forces have failed to respect the principle of proportionality, as prescribed in international law, in their attacks on SDF sites, which resulted in civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the SDF has violated international humanitarian law by stationing its personnel in civilian areas.
6. **Failure to protect civilians**

All parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, particularly the Syrian government, have systematically failed to take the necessary measures to protect civilians in the areas under their control. This constitutes a violation of international human rights law and the rules of international humanitarian law that mandates the protection of civilian residents from military operations, especially women and children.

### Recommendations

#### New Syrian government

##### 1. Cooperate with international mechanisms

- Issue official invitations to independent UN and international mechanisms, including:
  - » International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)
  - » Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
  - » International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).
  - » International Red Cross, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and Amnesty International.
- Enable these organizations to have unrestricted access to detention centers and crime scenes.

## **2. Protect evidence and crime locations**

- Take urgent measures to safeguard evidence, including documenting mass graves and detention facilities and preventing any tampering or trespassing.
- Register and clearly mark important sites to ensure they can serve as legal evidence in the future.

## **3. Address the issue of missing persons and arbitrary arrests**

- Cooperate with international institutions to determine the fate of missing persons and facilitate access to detention centers.
- Release all remaining detainees still being held unlawfully, provide them with medical and psychological care, and ensure they are reunited with their families.
- Establish a national system to monitor the conditions of former detainees and support their rehabilitation.

## **4. Promote justice and accountability**

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate victims.
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and grant the court retroactive jurisdiction.
- Adopt comprehensive transitional justice policies, including holding perpetrators accountable, compensating victims, and ensuring transparency and credibility.

## **5. Protect civilians and cultural sites**

- Ensure the safety of civilians and minorities and protect their fundamental rights to live securely.
- Prioritize the removal of mines and remnants of war, allocate the necessary funding, and raise awareness of related risks.
- Protect cultural and heritage sites from looting or destruction.

## **6. Governance reform**

- Build an inclusive governance structure representing all components of Syrian society, including women and minorities, as well as civil society organizations.
- Document and safeguard abandoned properties to ensure their rightful owners receive compensation in the future.
- Improve essential services and ensure they're accessible to all citizens, including those with disabilities.

## **7. Prevent further violations**

- Ensure respect for fundamental rights and freedoms for all without discrimination.
- Reform the judiciary and security apparatus in accordance with international human rights standards.

## **8. Support affected populations and rehabilitation**

- Provide psychological and social support to families of missing persons and conflict victims.
- Develop comprehensive programs for the rehabilitation of survivors and released detainees.

## UN Security Council and the international community

### 1. Refer crimes to the ICC

- Refer the Syrian dossier to the ICC or establish a special tribunal to prosecute those involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Pressure international actors, including the Russian government, to hand over individuals responsible for crimes, including Bashar Assad and his family, to international courts.

### 2. Freeze and confiscate the former regime's funds

- Freeze the financial assets of the former regime and its affiliates and allocate them to support transitional justice efforts and humanitarian aid.

### 3. Enhance humanitarian efforts

- Urge UN agencies to intensify the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, in affected areas and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.
- Ensure humanitarian aid reaches northeastern Syria, in coordination with local authorities, to meet the needs of IDPs and facilities detaining individuals accused of formerly belonging to or being affiliated with ISIS.
- Guarantee that aid provided to the current or future government promotes respect for human rights and creates conditions for free and fair elections.

### 4. Remove mines and war remnants

- Allocate funding from the UN fund to support landmine removal efforts in affected areas to reduce long-term risks and ensure a safe environment for civilians.

### 5. Support the missing persons issue and national reconciliation

- Provide resources to strengthen the efforts of the ICMP, including training local staff and using advanced technologies to identify missing persons.
- Support initiatives contributing to national reconciliation and offer psychological and social support to families of missing persons.

### 6. Lift sanctions to ensure they don't adversely affect humanitarian operations

- Review economic sanctions imposed on Syria to ensure they do not adversely affect humanitarian operations while maintaining sanctions targeting designated terrorist groups.

### 7. Ensure protection of Syrian refugees

- Urge host countries to refrain from forcibly deporting refugees or pressuring them to return.
- Work to create conditions within Syria for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees in accordance with international standards, prioritizing infrastructure improvement and security stability.

## Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR)

1. Submit reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN on documented violations in this and previous reports, highlighting that killing is still going on in Syria.

## Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)

1. Open comprehensive investigations into the violations mentioned in this and previous reports. SNHR is willing to collaborate in such endeavors and share more evidence.
2. Work to identify individuals responsible for war crimes and publish their names to expose them internationally and halt political and economic dealings with them.

## International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

1. Collect further evidence of the crimes documented in this report and share expertise with Syrian organizations working on documentation and data collection.

## Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

1. Establish an internal committee to investigate violations committed by the SDF, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims.
2. Refrain from positioning military forces in civilian areas, which poses a threat to their lives.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by SDF personnel in civilian areas.

## Syrian National Army (SNA)

1. Protect civilians in all areas under their control.
2. Launch investigations into human rights violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and disclose the investigation results to the local community.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by the factions in civilian areas.

## Turkish forces

Launch investigations into the incidents documented in this report, compensate the victims, and respect the principles of international law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.

## Humanitarian organizations

1. Develop urgent plans to provide decent shelter for IDPs, particularly widows and orphans.
2. Intensify efforts to remove landmines alongside relief operations.
3. Equip vital facilities, such as medical facilities and schools, with ambulances marked with clear, recognizable signs visible from long distances.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SNHR wishes to thank survivors, and victims' families and friends, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and invaluable contributions to this report.



## SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



[info@snhr.org](mailto:info@snhr.org)  
[www.snhr.org](http://www.snhr.org)

*No justice without accountability*

© Syrian Network For Human Rights (SNHR).  
April, 2025

