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# **334 Civilians, Including Two Media Workers and Two Civil Defense Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in March 2019**

SNHR Documented 13 Massacres and 30 Persons Who Died due to Torture



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, April 1, 2019

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

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### I. Introduction and Methodology

The documentation process to register victims killed in Syria is one of the most important roles performed by the Syrian Network for Human Rights since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the greatest pattern amongst all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of fathers, mothers, brothers, friends, etc. These violations have become widespread, predominantly through Syrian regime forces' and affiliated militias systematic killing of civilians using every kind of weapon. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then progressed to also deploying warplanes and helicopter gunships which have dropped or fired barrel bombs, in addition to Scud missiles and chemical weapons.

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

Since 2011, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has created complex electronic programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies; enabling us to catalogue the victims according to the gender and location where each was killed, the governorate from which each victim originally came, and the party responsible for the killing, and to make comparisons between these parties, and identify the governorates which lost the largest proportion of residents.



Since 2011, we have also deemed it appropriate to highlight the death toll among women and children due to the vulnerability of these groups and their central role in the community, and because they give a strong indication of the targeting of civilians. We later added other groups which have played a key role in the popular movement and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, relief and civil defense personnel.

Given the importance and sensitivity surrounding the murder of Syrian citizens, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has never stopped issuing daily death toll of victims for nearly eight years, or publishing monthly reports documenting the death toll of victims Syria lost each month, in addition to issuing an annual report, as well as dozens of other reports documenting massacres committed on Syrian soil. Also, SNHR periodically sends a special form to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

## Methodology

This report records the death toll of victims killed by the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria in March 2019, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst media and medical personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres which the SNHR was able to document that were committed by the main perpetrator parties to the conflict over the past month.

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

The report also includes a review of the most prominent incidents during this period. Finally, we maintain the full details of every incident on the SNHR database.

The report catalogues the death toll of victims perpetrated by each of the main perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for particular attacks to one specific party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and International Coalition forces, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we



are able to likely establish which one of the parties was responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.

The main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria are:

- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)
- Russian forces
- Extremist Islamist groups
- Factions of the Armed Opposition
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic forces (the Democratic Union Party)
- International Coalition forces
- Other parties

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

In relation to victims amongst armed forces, these are divided into two categories:

- Victims from the armed opposition: We face additional difficulties in assessing these casualties as many of these victims are killed on battlefronts rather than in cities or other urban settlements. We are also often unable to obtain information on the victims such as names, photographs and other important personal details due to the reluctance of armed opposition forces to reveal such sensitive information for security concerns among other reasons. Therefore, the actual number of victims is far higher than the number documented.

- Victims from Syrian Regime force, extremist Islamist groups, and Kurdish Democratic Union Party forces: It is almost impossible to access information about this category of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher than usual due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation, since these parties don't publish, reveal, or document information about their casualties. From our perspective and given these facts, it is rational to conclude that the statistics published by some groups concerning casualties amongst this category of victims are fabricated rather than being based on any actual data.

In this report, we record only the toll of civilian casualties - with the exception of the death toll among victims who died due to torture, which includes armed combatants as well as civilians - whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. Some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.





The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link<sup>1</sup>.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death.

SNHR has analyzed videos and photographs that our team documented, which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, the sites of attacks, and bodies of the victims and the injured, whilst other photos may show the bodies of victims killed under torture, and of victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database and in hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source.

We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups.

This report contains two accounts that we've collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, neither of which are cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR

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<sup>1</sup> "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <[http://sn4hr.org/public\\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\\_Methodology\\_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf)>



endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, as well as providing assurances that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

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

The type and level of evidence available varies from one case to another. In light of the aforementioned challenges, the legal definition of many of the incidents documented may be subject to change based on any new evidence or information which emerge after this report is released. We shall update our data archive with any such items of evidence and information as soon as they become available. Meanwhile, although many incidents don't technically constitute a violation of international humanitarian law under the terms of such legislation, they involved collateral damage, so we have recorded and archived these incidents to document what happened historically and to preserve these as part of the national record, although we don't qualify these specific incidents as crimes.

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

## **II. Death Toll of Civilian Victims Documented in March**

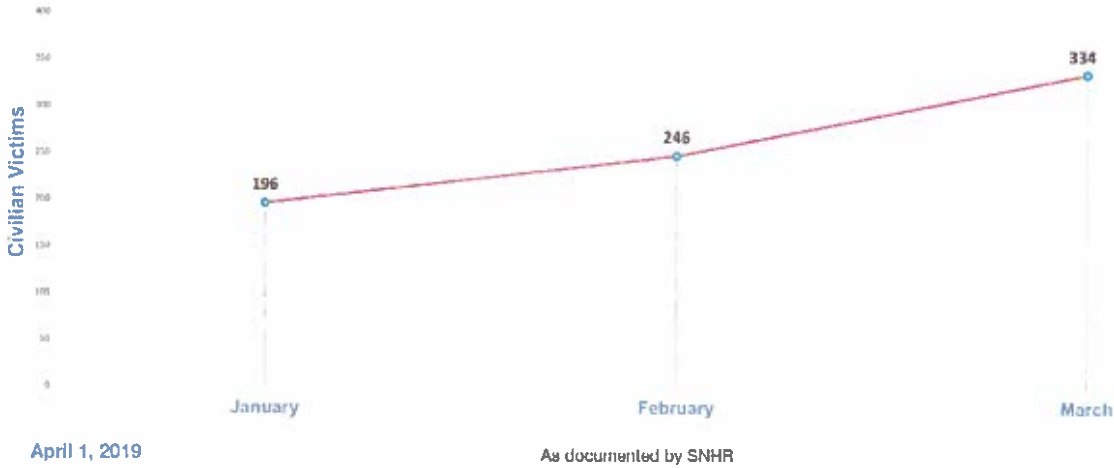
**SNHR documented in March 2019 the deaths of 334 civilians, including 85 children and 63 women (adult female), bringing the death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria since the beginning of 2019 up to April 2019 to 776.**



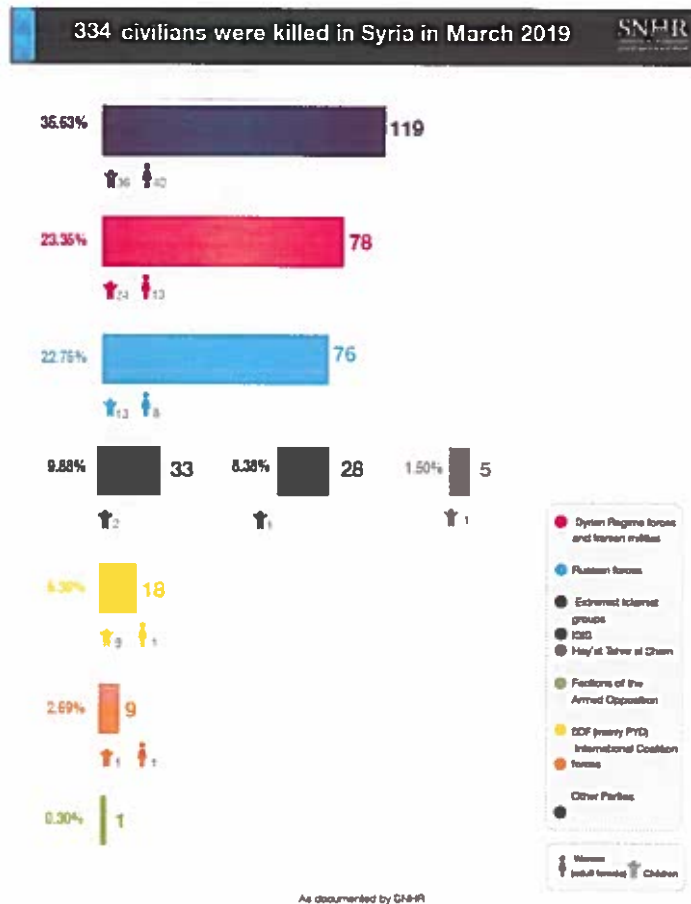
The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria since the beginning of 2019 was distributed as follows:



776 civilians were killed in Syria since the beginning of 2019



The death toll we documented in March was distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:





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

We documented the deaths of 78 civilians at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, including 24 children and 13 women (adult female).

**- Russian forces:**

We documented the deaths of 76 civilians, including 13 children and eight women, as a result of bombardment which we believe was by Russian forces.

**- Extremist Islamist groups:** killed 33 civilians, including two children. These groups are divided between:

- ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): killed 28 civilians, including one child.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): killed five civilians, including one child.

**- Factions of the Armed Opposition:**

SNHR documented the death of one civilian.

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

SNHR documented the deaths of 18 civilians, including nine children and one woman.

**- International coalition forces:**

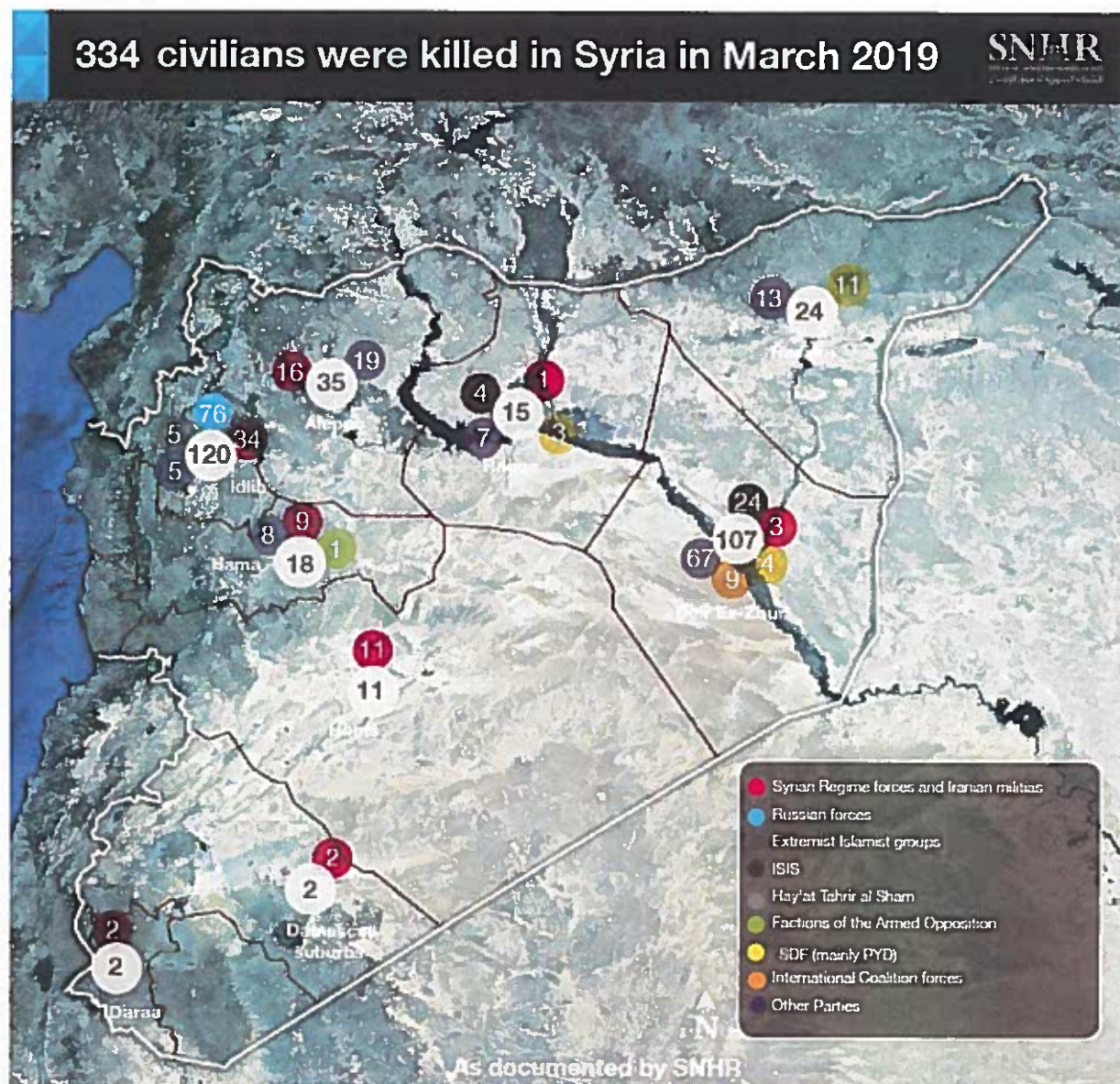
We documented the deaths of nine civilians, including one child and one woman.

**- Other parties:**

We documented 119 civilians, including 36 children and 40 women, killed by other parties. Victims in this category include those who were killed in bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified, victims who died in fires of unknown source, victims killed by landmines of unknown origin, and victims who drowned, in addition to victims who died in fires, victims who were killed in indiscriminate shelling by Turkish aerial and land forces, and victims who were killed by Jordanian or Lebanese forces.



The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the main perpetrator parties documented in March 2019 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



### III. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Documented in March

#### A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

SNHR documented the deaths of 30 persons due to torture in March 2019, distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- Syrian Regime forces: 26
- Syrian Democratic Forces: Two
- Other parties: Two



The most notable cases are:

Brothers [Isam](#) and [Maher](#) Mohammad Madrati, from Aleppo city, both married, born respectively in 1975 and 1987, were arrested in December 2016, by Syrian Regime forces as they were passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Aleppo city. On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, we were informed that their names had been registered at the civil registry department as deceased. Isam's death was registered as occurring on Saturday, October 21, 2017, and Maher's as on Friday, September 22, 2017. It's probable that they died due to torture in one of the regime's detention centers.

[Alaa al Din Mustafa Hammash](#), a university student at the Faculty of Arts, University of Aleppo, French language department, from Anadan city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was born in 1993. He was arrested by Syrian Regime forces in December 2016 from his place of residence in one of the neighborhoods of eastern Aleppo city following a mass raid and arrest campaign after the regime seized control over the city. On Saturday, March 9, 2019, we received information confirming his death due to torture in a detention center.

[Mohammad Rakan al Miqdad](#), a university student at the Faculty of Arts, University of Damascus, from Busra al Sham city east Daraa governorate, was born in 1999. He was arrested by Syrian Regime forces in the University of Damascus in 2017. On Sunday, March 10, 2019, his family learned of his death while visiting the civil registry department, and were handed his identity card without receiving his death certificate.

### **B. Death toll of medical personnel**

SNHR didn't document any death incident among medical personnel in March.

### **C. Death toll of media workers**

**SNHR documented in March 2019 the deaths of two media workers, distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:**

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One
- **Russian forces:** One





Mahmoud Emad Abdul Aal, a media worker for Mhambel Civil Defense Center, from Mhambel village in Idlib governorate western suburbs, was born in 1990. He had a high school certificate, and was married with four kids. He [was killed](#) on Saturday, March 9, 2019, as a result of missiles [bombardment by fixed-wing warplanes](#), which we believe were Russian, on al Mentar village, which is administratively a part of Jisr al Shoghour city in Idlib governorate's western suburbs, while he was checking the site of earlier bombardment by the same warplanes on the village with his Civil Defense team colleagues.



SNHR contacted Mahmoud's friend, Hassan al Ali<sup>2</sup>, a media worker, who told us what he had been told by one of the members of the team who witnessed the incident in which Mahmoud was fatally injured: **“At around 4.30 pm, Russian warplanes launched several raids on al Mentar village in Idlib governorate western suburbs, and while Mahmoud was documenting the bombing, a missile landed near him, causing serious injury to his stomach. He was immediately taken to Jisr al Shoghour Hospital, but unfortunately he died a short time after his arrival.”** Hassan added, **“The bombing on the village that day also resulted in the deaths of two women, and injured six civilians, including two children and two members of the Civil Defense.”**

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) mourned Mahmoud on its official Twitter account.

Nasif Mohammad al Sarmani, a media and freelance photographer with Jaish al Ahrar, one of the factions of the Armed Opposition, came from Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs. Born in 1984, he was a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Department of Reclamation and Agriculture of Dry and Semi-Arid Lands, and was married with four children. He was killed on Sunday, March 10, 2019, [dying of fatal head injuries inflicted by lethal shrapnel](#) that also injured his left foot, when Syrian Regime forces using a missile launcher fired a missile near him while he was covering earlier regime bombardment of his home city, Khan Sheikhoun, which is under the joint control of Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.



<sup>2</sup> We contacted him via his Facebook account on March 24, 2019



#### **D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel**

**SNHR documented in March 2019 the deaths of two Civil Defense personnel, distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:**

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One
- **Russian forces:** One

Nour al Din Haj Hussein, a 49-year-old member of the Civil Defense Center in Morek, from Morek town in Hama governorate northern suburbs, was married with children. He was killed at around noon on Sunday, March 10, 2019, when Syrian Regime artillery forces fired shells at the Civil Defense Center in Morek town.

The Syrian Civil Defense mourned Mahmoud on its official account on 'Twitter'.



Nour al Din Haj Hussein

#### **IV. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented by SNHR in March**

**SNHR documented at least 26 massacres since the beginning of 2019, including 13 massacres in March, distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:**

- **Russian forces:** Four
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** One
- **Other parties:** Eight

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacres documented this month resulted in the deaths of 140 civilians, including 32 children and 33 women (adult female). This means that 47 percent of all the victims were women and children, a noticeably higher proportion than usual, and an indication that civilian residents were specifically targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres was distributed by the perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Russian forces:** 63 civilians, including 13 children (eight females and five males) and three women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** Five civilians, including one female child.
- **Other parties:** 72 civilians, including 18 children and 30 women.





The most notable cases are:

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at around 15:15, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired three missiles at Idlib Central Prison, west of Idlib city, resulting in the deaths of 31 prisoners. Up to the time of writing, the incident is still under investigation. The same warplanes later returned to fly over the city at around 17:15, then bombed al Kasih area in the center of Idlib city with eight missiles that targeted the Government Square, which includes the buildings housing the civil services of the Salvation Government (Idlib Electricity Department and its warehouses, the Central Electricity Transformer Substation, the Civil Registry building, the Salvation Government headquarter and Ministry of the Interior headquarter).

Two missiles landed on a residential building opposite the Social Insurance building, which Hay'at Tahrir al Sham had taken as its headquarters, resulting in the deaths of 12 civilians, including five [children](#) (three females and two males) and one woman.

We note that one missile fell in an area between residential buildings located opposite the Electricity company around 250m away from the site of the massacre, resulting in the deaths of four more civilians, all from the same family, namely two children – a male and a female - and their grandparents. Idlib city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

The attack caused [significant material](#) damage to the buildings of [Idlib Electricity Department and its warehouses](#), [the Central Electricity Transformer Substation](#), the Civil Registry building and the [Salvation Government](#) headquarters, all of which were put out of service, in addition to inflicting moderate [material damage](#) to the Yousef al Azma Elementary School, located opposite the Civil Registry building.



Visual guide showing the site in al Kasih area and the details of the Russian air attack on it:



SNHR contacted the media activist Ahmad Rahal<sup>3</sup>, who works in Idlib city, and was present at the time of the incident: **“The Russian warplanes flew after the afternoon hours in the sky above Idlib city and its countryside, and soon the explosions began to shake the area, where I saw smoke plumes rising from the western side of the city, and heard the broadcasts from the Observatories [saying] that warplanes had bombed the Central Prison. A few minutes later, that was followed by the sound of ambulances heading towards the city from the prison side. We tried to reach the area, but there was tight security, because of the escape of prisoners from the prison. ”** Ahmad told us that the

<sup>3</sup> We contacted him via WhatsApp on March 16, 2019



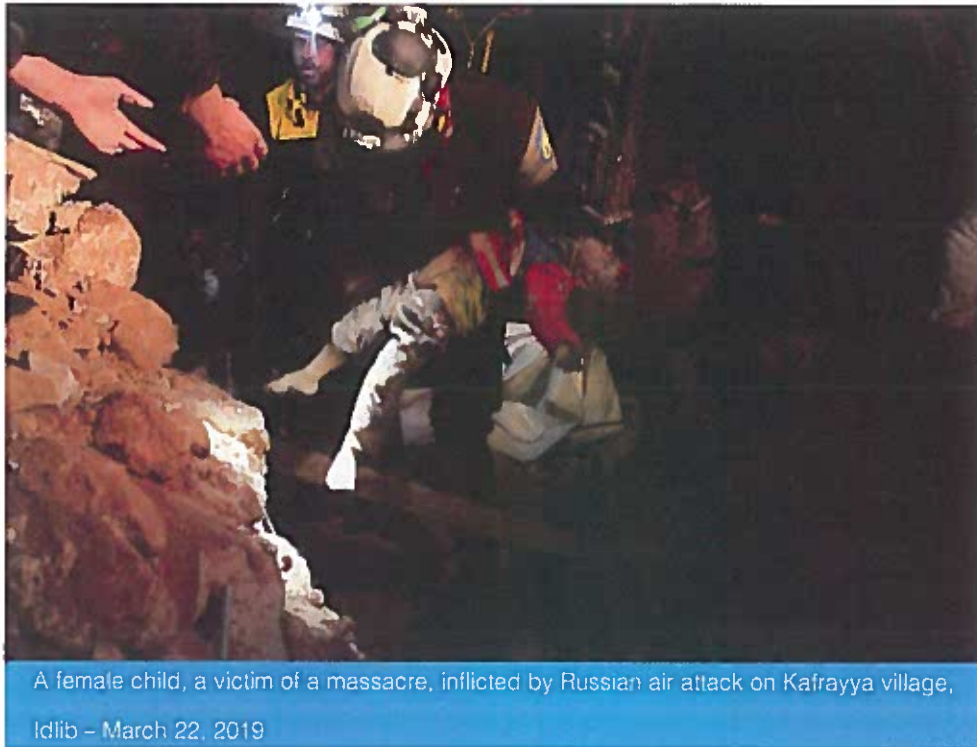
same warplanes had returned to the skies over the city at least an hour-and-a-half after the raid: **“The observatories broadcast to the central prison compounds for fear of being targeted again, but we were surprised that the raids targeted al Kasih area in the center of the city from the side of the facilities of the Salvation Government. I was one of the first to arrive at the site, the level of the destruction was large in the residential buildings and in the electricity substation specifically. Fire broke out everywhere, and the damage was immense. Rescue teams arrived and began to retrieve the [bodies of] martyrs from the buildings near the Salvation Government’s headquarters, where more than 10 martyrs were recovered. “ Ahmed added: “Also in a nearby location, there were several missiles that landed on the buildings of al Zir’s, causing casualties and injuries, including a father and a mother who were recovered alive. The other facilities such as the electricity department, warehouses, and al Kasih station that feeds the entire city of Idlib were badly damaged.”**

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, several landmines exploded in the Badiya of al Shoula village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate southern suburbs during the passage of a “large cargo” vehicle [carrying civilians](#) on their way to collect truffles in the Badiya of the southern suburbs of the governorate; this resulted in the deaths of 16 civilians, from al Shamitiya village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate western suburbs, including three female children and 13 women, while 30 others were injured. We were unable to identify the party responsible for planting the mines as of the time of preparation of the report, given the difficulty of identifying perpetrators of explosions. Shoula village was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Friday, March 22, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of missiles on residential neighborhoods in the center of [Kafrayya](#) village, in northern suburbs of Idlib governorate - for the first time since being out of the control of Syrian Regime forces in July 2018. The missiles fell in an area of approximately 500 meters square, resulting in the deaths of 15 civilians, including four children (two males and two females), their parents and another woman, and the injury of nearly 30 others; up to the time of preparing this report, the incident is still under investigation. We note the presence of several buildings being used as military headquarters by Hay’at Tahrir al Sham in an area around 50 meters from the site where civilian casualties fell. The village was under the joint control of Hay’at Tahrir al Sham and the Turkistan Islamic Party at the time of the incident.







A female child, a victim of a massacre, inflicted by Russian air attack on Kafrayya village, Idlib – March 22, 2019

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, a landmine exploded in a car carrying civilians - agricultural workers - as it was passing through agricultural land near [Tal Jebbin](#) village in al Shahba area in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, resulting in the deaths of nine women, and injuring two others along with the driver of the vehicle. We have been unable to determine who planted the mine up to the time of the preparation of this report, due to the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of such bombings. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

## V. Conclusions and Recommendations

### **Conclusions:**

- The evidence we gathered indicates that attacks were directed against civilians and civilian objects. The Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the alliance of International Coalition forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, inflicting indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.



- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the deaths of many civilians.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mentality intended to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime, or by Russian or International Coalition forces prior to any attack in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- These attacks, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.

## **Recommendations:**

### **Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly states that " all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such."
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians' lives and to save the Syrian people's heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions in Syria, similar to the prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.





- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and expose its involvement in this regard.
- We request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

### **International Community**

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing, and by lifting sieges, as well as through increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

### **OHCHR**

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.



- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and providing humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

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

### **The United Nations special envoy to Syria**

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

### **The Syrian regime**

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and using prohibited weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Reveal the fate of some 82,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

### **The Russian regime**

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the victims' families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.



- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 82,000 disappeared by the Syrian regime.

### **The Coalition (International Coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those affected.
- The states supporting the SDF (which is mainly PYD) should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- All forms of support, military and all others, should be ceased until the SDF commits itself to complying with the previous recommendations. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that these can be used in perpetrating war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.

### **Armed Opposition factions**

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



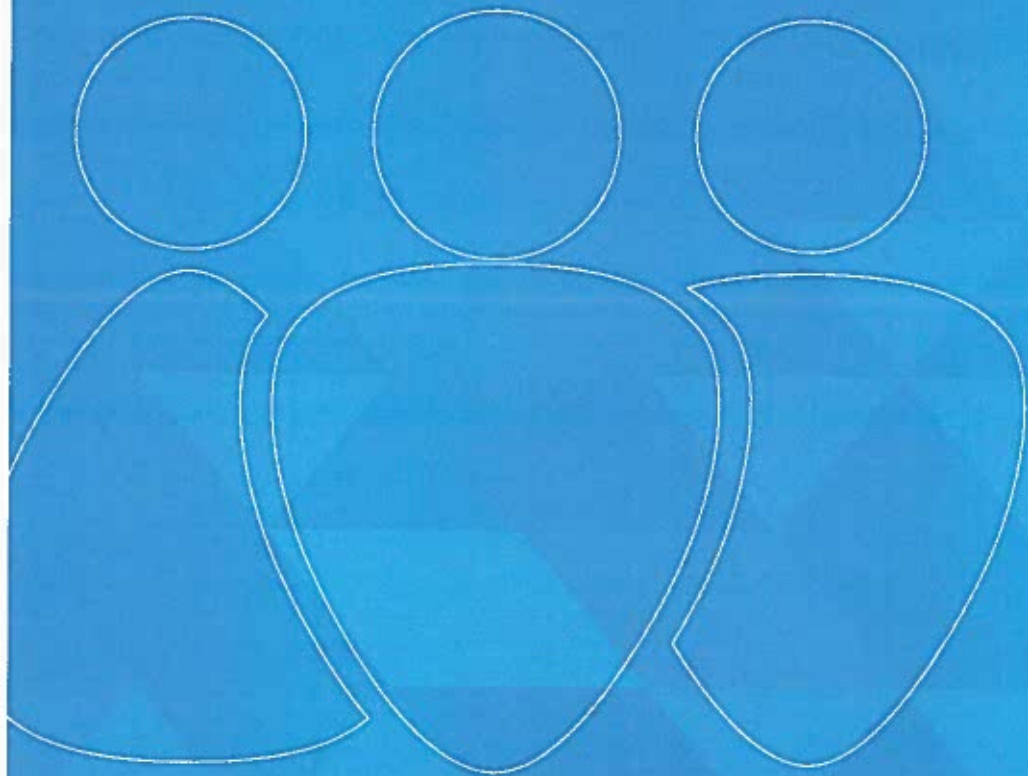
### **Humanitarian organizations:**

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

### **Acknowledgments**

We thank all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.





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