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89 Civilian Deaths, Recorded in Syria in October 2024, Including of 25 Children and 12 Women, With Four, Including a Child, Dying due to Torture

Israeli Airstrikes on Syria Kill 12
Civilians, Including Four Children
and Six Women

Friday 01 November 2024

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

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I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths documented by the **Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)** as having been perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during the month of **October 2024**, in addition to listing the attacks on vital civilian facilities in the same period. The report sheds light particularly on deaths due to torture, victims among medical personnel, and massacres by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

The fatalities recorded in this report are limited to civilian deaths that have been documented in the last month. Some of these deaths may have taken place months or years ago, in which case we list the date on which the death was officially documented, as well as the estimated date of death. For more information, please read [SNHR's methodology](#) on documenting victims.

This report chronicles civilian deaths according to the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for ground-based attacks, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party to the perpetrator. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment. In the event this proved to be impossible, these incidents are categorized as having been perpetrated by other parties until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility.

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, **namely anti-personnel landmines**, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in detailed reports.

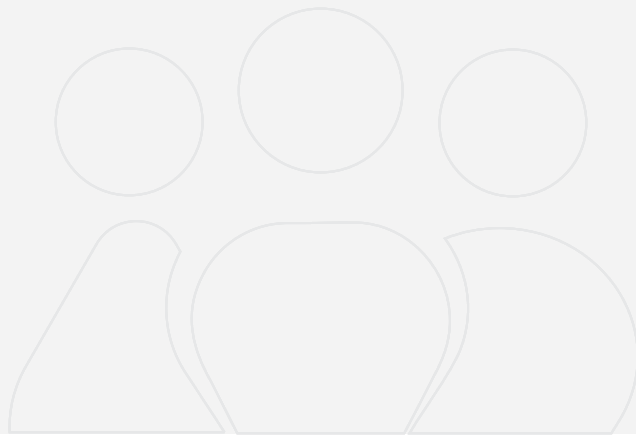
As for anonymous victims who have not yet been identified or regarding whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming these victims' identity is received.

This report draws upon the SNHR team's constant daily monitoring of news and developments in Syria, and on information supplied by our extensive and varied countrywide network, which has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. SNHR also provides a special form that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that our Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy, and then add it to the database.

This report contains three accounts that have been collected by directly interviewing the eyewitnesses, rather than from any second-hand sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews to the interviewees beforehand, and they gave us consent to use the information they provided in the service of this report. SNHR has also tried, insofar as possible, to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of recalling their traumatic experiences. Moreover, we gave assurances to the interviewees that we would protect the anonymity of any witness who wished to use an alias.

All the attacks included in this report targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks. Also, the perpetrators of these attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by **international humanitarian law**.

The information included in this report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these events on those affected.



II. BRIEF ON THE MOST NOTABLE KILLINGS AND ATTACKS ON VITAL FACILITIES IN OCTOBER

A. Killings in Syria and abroad

1. in Syria

In October 2024, we documented the killing of 89 civilians, including 25 children and 12 women, in Syria. Based on these numbers, children and women accounted for 42 percent of the total death toll. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

i. Syrian regime forces

- In October, regime forces killed 12 civilians, including three children, accounting for about 13 percent of all the month's civilian deaths. These victims were killed in various Syrian governorates: five were killed in Idlib governorate, two each in the governorates of Daraa, Homs, and Aleppo, and one in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.
- On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, a girl, identified as five-year-old [Jana Omar Hajjouz](#), was killed in an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces, who fired a shell which landed near Jana's family's home, located between the villages of Ma'ar Ballit and M'arzaf in southern Idlib governorate. The house was also damaged in the attack. The area targeted was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.
- We also documented nine deaths due to torture, including one child, at the hands of Syrian regime forces. The Syrian regime has been responsible for about 60 percent of all deaths due to torture documented in 2024 to date.

ii. Russian forces

- October, we documented the killing of 11 civilians, including four children, in an airstrike believed to have been carried out by fixed-wing Russian warplanes, which targeted a furniture workshop in an agricultural area on the western outskirts of Idlib city. [SNHR also released a report outlining the findings of an investigation](#) which proved that Russian forces were also responsible for a massacre that took place in Ein Sheeb, as well as for targeting a power station, depriving thousands of civilians of access to water.

iii. Other parties

In October 2024, we documented the killing of 61 civilians, including 17 children and 11 women, at the hands of other parties, who were responsible for about 69 percent of all the month's documented civilian deaths. The governorate of Daraa saw the largest number of deaths at the hands of other parties this month, accounting for 34 of the total, followed by Damascus governorate, with 16 percent.

■ Landmines of unidentified source:

In October, five children were killed by landmines of unidentified source. Adding October's death toll to the rest of the year's total to date, a total of 85 civilians, including 22 children and 16 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of 2024.

On Sunday, October 20, 2024, three boys, identified as [Maslat, Rasoul, and Faisal al-Ghadib](#), were killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while they were herding sheep in the vicinity of al-Fatsa village in northern rural Raqqqa governorate. The area is under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

■ Gunfire of unidentified source

In October 2024, gunfire of unidentified source killed 19 civilians, including two women, accounting for about 31 percent of all the victims killed by other parties this month. Twelve of the 19 victims were killed in Daraa governorate, while the remaining seven were killed in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

On Friday, October 11, 2024, a man, identified as [Bashar Soud al-Hassoun al-Khater](#), who worked in the oil investment field, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in front of his house in Theyban town in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

■ Bombings by unidentified parties:

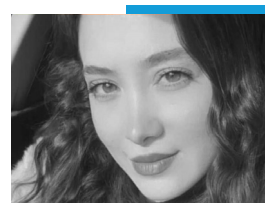
In October 2024, six children were killed by the explosion of war remnant of unidentified source.

On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, a boy, identified as 13-year-old [Hamza Fawwaz Jasim al-Sultan](#), was killed by the explosion of a bomb on agricultural land near al-Jneina village in western rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bomb exploded while Hamza was playing with it. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

■ Israeli attacks:

In October 2024, Israeli attacks [killed 12 civilians, including four children and six women](#). Among the 12 victims was a female doctor. Eight victims were killed in a single massacre, including a Yemeni family of four.

On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, a woman, identified as Tayma Hassan al-Ghazi, was killed in aerial bombardment believed to have been carried out by Israeli forces, who targeted a residential building near al-Mohammadi Mosque in the Muzza Filat district (Filat Gharbiya) in Damascus. The building was also partially destroyed, while a number of cars nearby were damaged. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ Tayma Hassan al-Ghazi

■ Turkish attacks:

In October 2024, a total of 14 civilians were killed in a Turkish artillery attack, including two children and three women. We also documented a massacre by Turkish forces this month.

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, five civilians, including one girl and two women, were killed and five others were injured, in a Turkish artillery attack that targeted houses inhabited by displaced civilians in al-Pazar Street in the center of Tel Ref'at in northern rural Aleppo governorate. The attack also caused heavy destruction. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, October 24, 2024, a girl, identified as 11-year-old [Farah Abdul Razzaq al-Barhou](#), was killed, while her brother was injured, in a Turkish artillery attack that targeted their family's house in Qabab Bunya village in northeastern Manbij in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

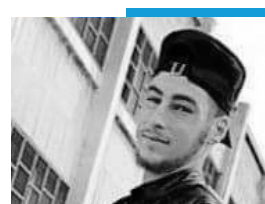


↑ Farah Abdul Razzaq al-Barhou

■ Drowning:

In October 2024, we documented the death of five civilians by drowning while fleeing to seek asylum in a foreign country.

On Sunday, October 6, 2024, the family of Mohammad Amin Mohammad Dahis, a young man from Nawa city in western rural Daraa governorate, was notified of his death by drowning in the Mediterranean Sea while he was attempting to reach Europe. Mohammad and the other passengers in the vessel set off from the Libyan coast, heading for Italy, on September 27, 2024, last speaking with his family on the same day.

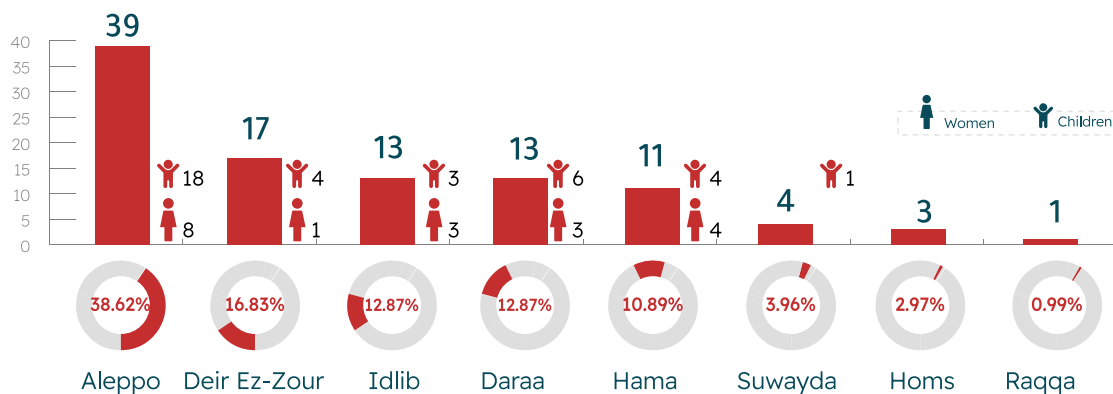


↑ Mohammad Amin Mohammad Dahis

2. In Lebanon

The airstrikes carried out by fixed-wing Israeli warplanes on several civilian areas in Lebanon have already killed hundreds of civilians, including Syrian refugees. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), about 1.5 million Syrian refugees have fled the violations taking place in Syria, seeking asylum in Lebanon, since March 2011. As SNHR's database confirms, the overwhelming majority of these violations were carried out by Syrian regime forces and their Iranian and Russian allies.

In October 2024, SNHR documented the killing of at least five Syrian refugees in Israeli airstrikes that targeted several areas in Lebanon. In total, 101 Syrian refugees, including 36 children and 19 women, were killed in Israeli airstrikes across several areas of Lebanon, between September 23, 2024, and October 31, 2024. These are distributed by governorate of origin as follows:



B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

In October 2024, SNHR documented no fewer than 10 attacks on vital civilian facilities. Of these 10 attacks, one was on an educational facility (school), another on a medical facility, and two on places of worship. Since the start of 2024 up until the end of October, SNHR has documented 92 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

■ 'Third Oil Station' in Hasaka attacked:

Time: Thursday, October 24, 2024, around 02:30 local time

Details: An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAC), commonly known as a drone, was deployed, most probably by Turkish forces, to carry out an attack on the ['Third Oil Station'](#) near al-Suwyidiya town in a rural area near al-Malkiya city in northeastern Hasaka. The attack killed seven of the station's workers, and [destroyed most of the oil burners and equipment on the site. As a result, the station was rendered temporarily out of commission.](#)

Area under the control of: SDF

Area's civilian nature: Based on the photos we received, as well as accounts from open sources, the station is of a civilian character. We have not been able to confirm the presence of any SDF fighters or SDF military equipment at the site at the time of the attack.

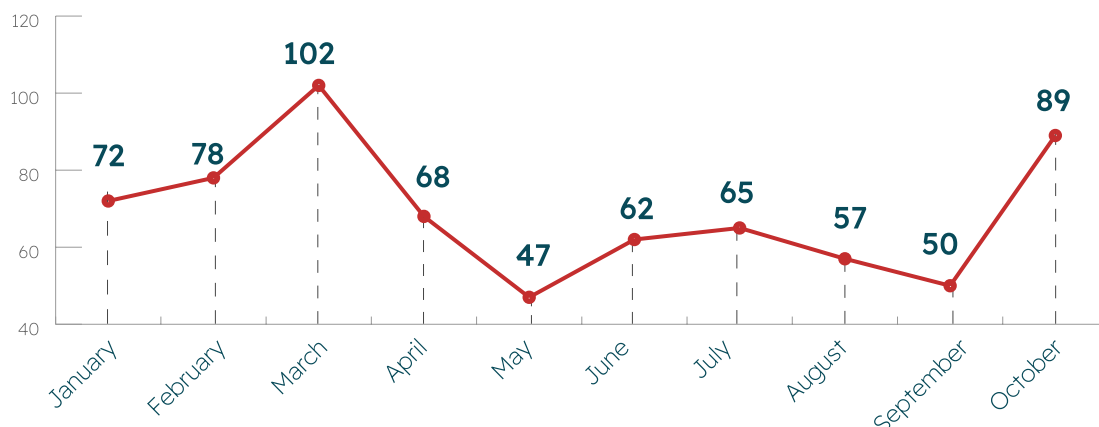


Destruction and damage caused by an aerial attack by Turkish forces on the 'Third Oil Station' near al-Suwyidiya town in Hasaka - October 24, 2024

III. CIVILIAN DEATH TOLL

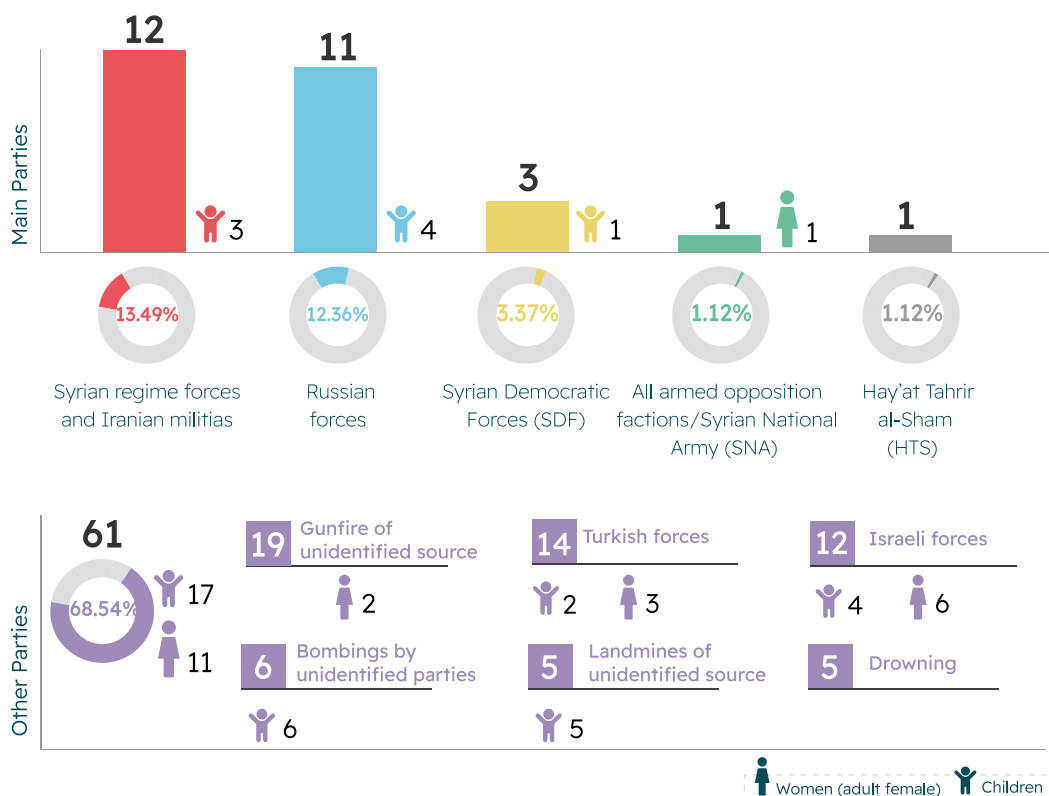
In October 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 89 civilians, including 25 children and 12 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until the end of October, to 690.

Civilian deaths documented since the beginning of 2024 are distributed by month as follows



As the graph shows, October accounted for about 13 percent of all civilian deaths recorded this year to date. Meanwhile, March saw the highest number of civilian deaths in one month so far this year, accounting for about 18 percent. Conversely, May and September saw the lowest documented number of monthly civilian deaths so far this year, with each of these two months accounting for about eight percent of the total.

Civilian deaths documented in October 2024 are distributed according to the responsible parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties:

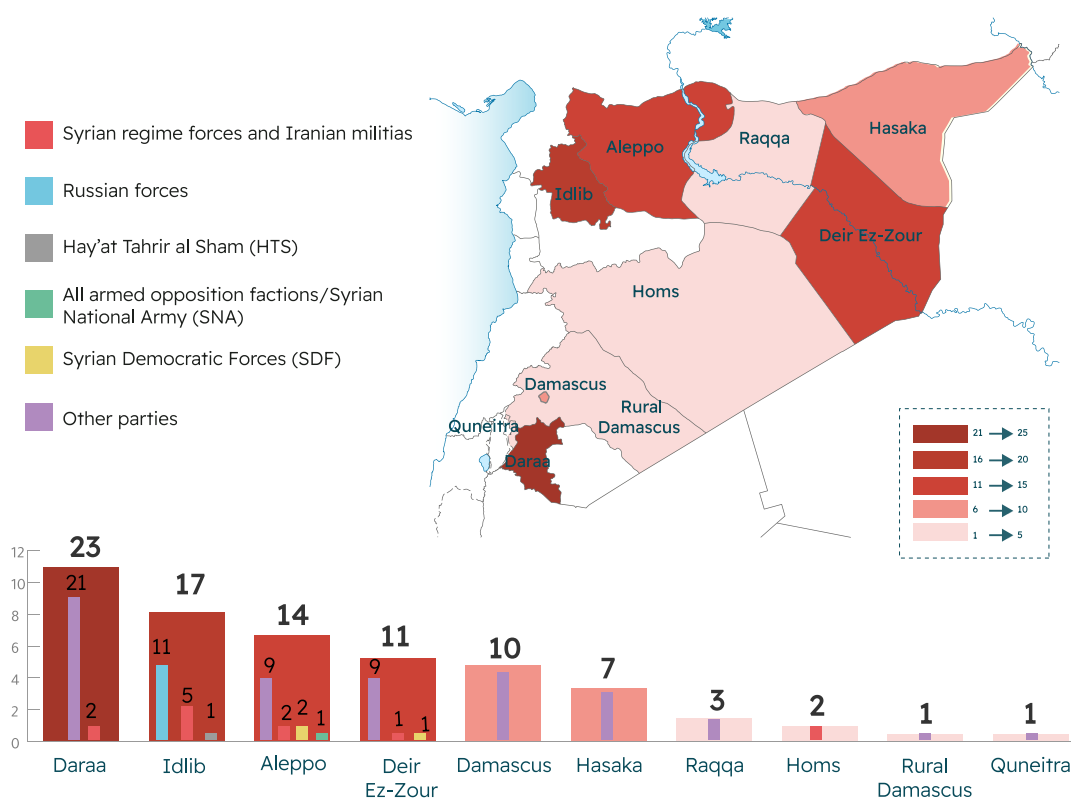
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 12 civilians, including three children, by Syrian regime forces.
- **Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of 11 civilians, including four children, by Russian forces.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of one civilian by HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of one woman by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of three civilians by the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 61 civilians, including 17 children and 11 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Landmines of unidentified sources:** Five children.
- **Gunfire of unidentified source:** 19 civilians, including two women.
- **Bombings by unidentified parties:** Six children.
- **Israeli forces:** 12 civilians, including four children and six women.
- **Turkish forces:** 14 civilians, including two children and three women.
- **Drowning:** Five civilians.

Civilian deaths documented in October 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

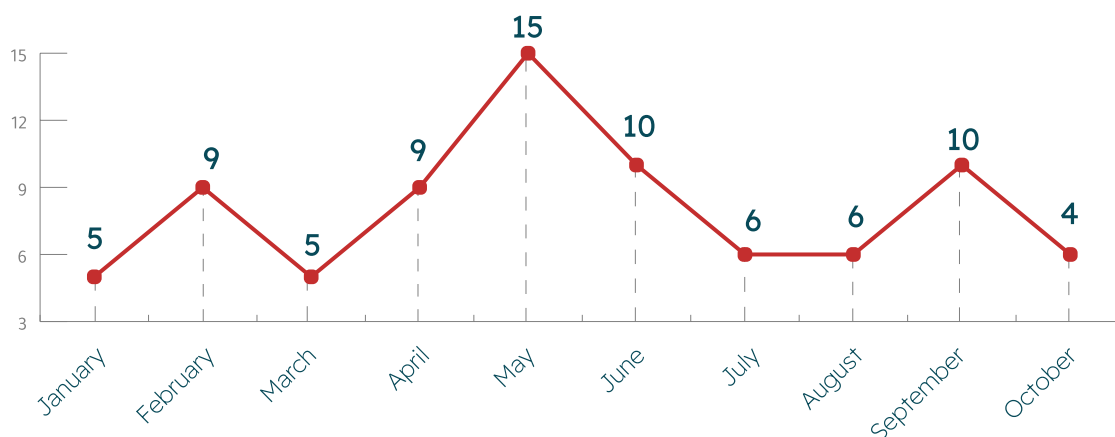


As the graph shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of victims, with 26 percent of all civilian deaths in October, with other parties killing 21 victims in the governorate. Daraa was followed by Idlib governorate with 19 percent of the total, with 16 of all victims killed in the governorate being killed by Syrian-Russian alliance forces.

IV. DEATHS DUE TO TORTURE

In October 2024, SNHR documented four deaths due to torture, including of one child, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. This brings the total number of victims documented as dying due to torture since the beginning of 2024, up until the end of October, to 79.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in 2024 so far are distributed by month as follows:



Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 62 percent of all deaths due to torture recorded to date in 2024. In other words, more than half of all victims who died due to torture in 2024 have died at the hands of regime forces. The month of May saw the highest documented monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting for about 19 percent of the total so far this year.

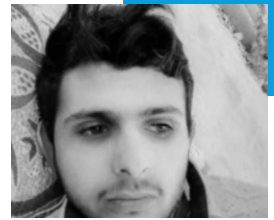
Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in October 2024 are distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: Four individuals, including one child.

Below are the most notable cases:

[Mahmoud Khaled al-Iliwi](#) from Tal Karsyan village in eastern rural Idlib governorate, born in 2005, was arrested along with his father, Khaled, on Friday, October 11, 2024, in Khan Sheikhoun city in southern rural Idlib governorate. The two men were then taken to the Hama city branch of the Syrian regime's Military Security Intelligence Directorate.



↑ Mahmoud Khaled al-Iliwi

According to intelligence received by SNHR from local activists in Idlib governorate, Mahmoud and his father Khaled had been living as refugees in Lebanon since 2013, working as agricultural laborers there. Due to the intensifying Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon since September 23, 2024, the two decided to flee back to Syria via the irregular crossings in Homs city and return to their hometown in Idlib in northern Syria, in an area free of regime control.

The father and son were arrested by regime forces on the grounds of entering the country irregularly, and of Mahmoud's evasion of mandatory military service.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, the Military Security Directorate branch released Khaled, then returned his son's body to him after Mahmoud died in the same facility. SNHR can confirm that Mahmoud was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in the Military Security Intelligence Directorate branch in Hama city.

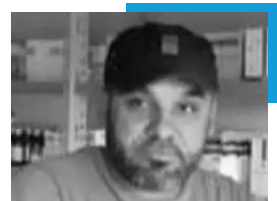
V. DEATHS AMONG MEDICAL PERSONNEL

In October 2024, we documented the killing of two medical workers at the hands the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. They are distributed as follows:

Othe parties: Two

- Gunfire of unidentified source: One
- Israeli forces: One

On Friday, October 25, 2024, the body of pharmacist [Ibeid Saleh al-Khalaf](#) was found bearing gunshot wounds by local people at the side of the public thoroughfare in al-Baghouz town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate. Ibeid's body was found after he had gone missing one day earlier. The area is under the control of the SDF.



↑ Ibeid Saleh al-Khalaf

VI. MASSACRES

In October 2024, SNHR documented four massacres at the hands of Syrian regime forces, bringing the total number of massacres perpetrated since the start of the year to 15.

The massacres carried out in October 2024 have been attributed to the relevant parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties:

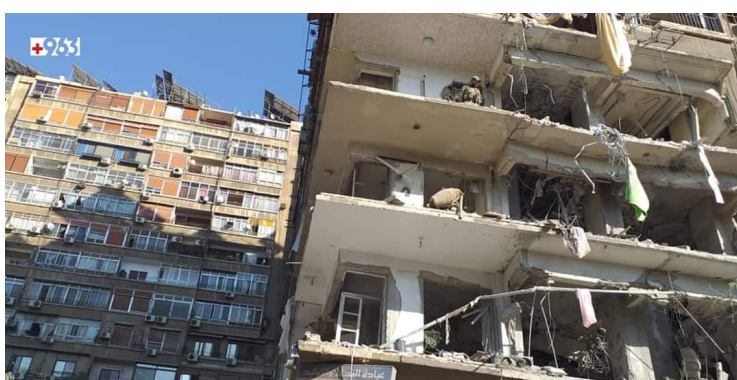
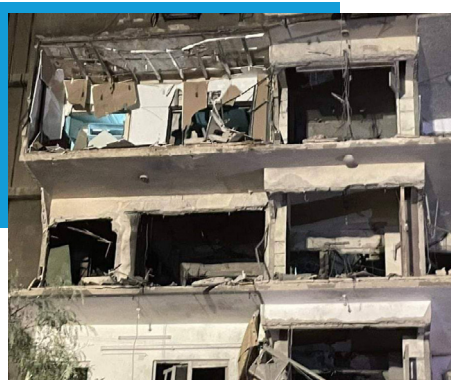
- Russian forces: One massacre.

B. Other parties: Three massacres.

- Israeli forces: One massacre.
- Turkish forces: Two massacres.

Below are the most notable massacres:

On the evening of Tuesday, October 8, at around 20:15 local time, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Israeli fired multiple missiles, estimated to number three in all, at al-Sheikh Saed district in Damascus city's al-Mazza neighborhood. The attack targeted a residential building in an area known locally as the '14 Buildings', killing at least eight civilians, including four children (three girls and one boy) and three women, including a doctor, and inflicting injuries of varying severity on 11 others. [The attack also heavily damaged the buildings and nearby civilian properties.](#)

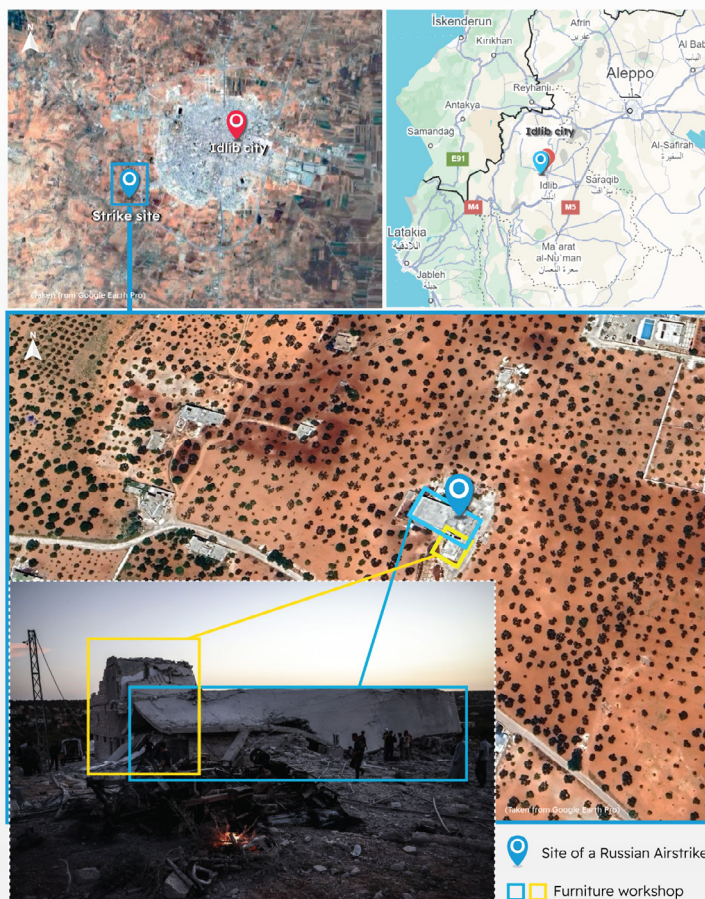


A residential building destroyed in an attack by Israeli forces on al-Mazza neighborhood in Damascus, which resulted in a massacre - October 8, 2024

The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident. According to intelligence obtained by SNHR, in addition to the photos and video we received and information from open sources, the area is of a civilian character. We have yet to confirm that there were any Iranian fighters, commanders, or other military personnel associated with Iran, or any military equipment in the area at the time of the attack.



On the evening of Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at around 17:00 local time, fixed-wing (Su-34) warplanes, believed to be Russian,¹ carried out two airstrikes, firing at least four missiles in all, [that targeted a furniture workshop](#)² where dozens of civilian workers were present, located on agricultural land around Ein Sheeb on the western outskirts of Idlib city. [The attack killed 11 civilians, including four children, and injured 31 others, including children, to varying degrees.](#) The [airstrikes also inflicted massive destruction on the workshop building and the surrounding areas.](#) The area targeted was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.



By: SNHR



Map showing the strike site of an aerial Russian attack on the outskirts of Idlib city. The attack resulted in a massacre, where 11 civilians, including four children, were killed, while 31 others were injured - October 16, 2024 ©SNHR

1. According to SNHR's team of monitors, the warplanes took off from Hmeimim Airbase in rural Latakia. This is a Russian airbase.
2. The workshop owners are using a building which was formerly part of a chicken farm, located in agricultural land on the western outskirts of Idlib city as their manufacturing facility.



Photo: Moaid Ismaeil

A victim's body being retrieved by rescue workers. He was one of the victims of a massacre inflicted in an airstrike by Russian forces on a furniture workshop located on the western outskirts of Idlib city - October 16, 2024

SNHR spoke with Ammar J'ili,³ the head of furniture upholstery in the workshop bombed by Russian forces on October 16, 2024, who was also wounded in the attack. He told us that, earlier that day, at around 10:00, fixed-wing warplanes had carried out airstrikes on rural regions of Idlib, one of which was an area in western Idlib, with that attack taking place while he was in the upholstery work area of the two-story workshop, located on Ein Sheeb Road in western Idlib city, which employs 50 workers in all. Talking about the later attack, he recalled,

“At exactly 17:00, there was a sudden and very strong explosion. The explosion’s sound was incredibly loud, and the ceiling fell on top of us instantly. There were 12 people working in our work area. In a matter of seconds, the place went dark and there was dust everywhere. I could not see people around me. There was a hole where one of the walls fell on the work area next to us, which four others and I used to get out of the debris. Even though we were on the first floor, we were three meters off the ground. I crawled out, since the building was heavily destroyed. The dust was initially everywhere, and there was a car on fire nearby. I heard many people screaming from underneath the debris. One of the people who was able to get out was injured. I helped those trapped to leave the area. As I was about to return to the workshop, someone called out to me and told me that I was injured, with blood on my clothes. At the time, I did not know, and I felt no pain. I headed for the hospital with the injured people, with many fragments having hit my body. Injured victims started coming into the hospital one by one. There were about 30 people injured, and most of them were children who worked at the workshop under supervisors, just to make ends meet. Of the young men who were with me at the workshop, two were killed and their bodies were pulled out, and the rest were injured. One of those injured was a young boy named Khaled Akram Balsha who was rescued after six hours. We heard no warplane sounds before the bombardment. Before when we heard warplanes, we would scatter and take shelter under olive trees, since the workshop area had been bombed before in February, and one of the workers was killed in that attack. I can confirm that the workshop is a civilian facility. Most of us working there are displaced. There are no military points or features, and the workshop is visible to Russian warplanes from the woods, with vehicles carrying mattresses and materials. All of this suggests that this was a civilian workshop.”

3. Via WhatsApp on October 18, 2024.



↑ © One of the children injured in an aerial attack by Russian forces on a furniture workshop on the western outskirts of Idlib city, which inflicted a massacre - October 16, 2024

SNHR also spoke with media worker Ahmad Ghajar⁴ from Idlib city. He told us that, on October 16, 2024, at exactly 17:00, when he was in the western area of Idlib city, he heard a massive explosion that shook Idlib city. When he went to see what had happened, he saw smoke rising over the west side of Idlib city, after initially believing from the noise of the blast that the bombing had targeted the city center. He then headed to the bombing site which was three kilometers away. He recalled,

“The place that was bombed was a furniture workshop, a two-story building which had been used as a chicken farm in the past. There were about 40 workers at the workshop at the time of the bombing. Before the bombing, there were warplanes flying over the area, and they were clearly Russian warplanes. With time, we have come to be able to identify Russian warplanes from their shape and model, in addition to the announcements made by the observatories when warplanes take off from Russian airbases. The missiles struck almost all at once, we heard one explosion. My brother-in-law was working at the place targeted. I tried to call him, and he did not answer, so I rushed there to the site. I was one of the first people to arrive and I saw a number of workers who’d survived. Some of them were injured, and others were covered in dust after they got out from underneath the debris. I saw that the bombing was mostly on the east side of the workshop building, which was completely destroyed. The other side of the building was still standing. I started looking and shouting my brother-in-law’s name. As I was doing that, I saw someone dead under the debris, and I saw two craters from two missiles. The surrounding area looked different from the scattered shrapnel and the huge pressure, so much so that I saw about 50 trees blown down. I aided an injured young man who was between the olive trees, as Civil Defense teams were waiting for the warplanes to leave to enter the site. I headed for the hospitals and found my relative at the University’s Hospital .” Ahmad said that he returned to the bombing site about an hour later and found the Civil Defense (White Helmets) rescue worker teams working on retrieving the bodies of the dead victims and evacuating the wounded. The rescue efforts lasted for seven hours due to the massive extent of the destruction, with 10 dead, including four children. He added, **“When I returned again to the site, there were five identified martyrs. The Civil Defense teams were then able to pull out five others. There were over 30 injured people, who were mostly children working as upholsters and at the workshop. There were also amputations among the injured and some with big bruises. Some were injured by the large pieces of shrapnel from the building blocks that collapsed. My brother-in-law told me that the workers were scared because of the bombing that had targeted the surrounding areas the day before, and that is why the number of workers was less than usual. He told me he did not hear the sound of warplanes or bombing, and then suddenly they found themselves under the rubble. Most of the victims were on the ground floor, since the second floor collapsed onto the first after the bombing.”** Ahmad confirmed to us that the targeted site is a civilian area with no military points or equipment.

4. Via WhatsApp on October 16, 2024.

Massacres from the History of the Popular Uprising for Democracy in Syria

In this month: October

- ▶ On Thursday, October 16, 2014, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired four thermobaric missiles at Jisreen town in Rural Damascus governorate, killing **23 civilians**, including three children and two women, and injuring 35 others. Two buildings were also completely destroyed in the attack.
- ▶ On the morning of Tuesday, October 31, 2017, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a shell that hit and exploded in an area in front of Mohammad Nasser Ash'oush Elementary School in the centre of Jisreen town in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Rural Damascus governorate while students were leaving school to go home. The attack killed **seven individuals** instantly, including six children from among the school students, and injured about 20 others. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Friday, October 19, 2018, at around 12:00 (during the Friday Prayers), fixed-wing US-led International Coalition warplanes fired missiles at al-Mustafa Mosque, which was renamed by ISIS as Ammar bin Yasser Mosque and is known locally as al-Ali al-Dagher Mosque, in the al-Boubadran neighborhood of Deir Ez-Zour city. **Sixteen civilians**, five of them children, were killed in the attack.
- ▶ On Thursday, October 24, 2019, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to target al-Hal Market in the center of al-Janoudiya town, administratively a part of Jisr al-Shoghour city in western rural Idlib governorate. The attack killed **eight civilians** instantly. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

November 2024

As documented by SNHR



VII. ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES

In October 2024, SNHR documented no fewer than 10 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including three attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces.

Of the 10 attacks documented by SNHR, one targeted an educational facility (school), one targeted a medical facility, and two targeted places of worship.

The massacres carried out in October 2024 have been attributed to the relevant parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

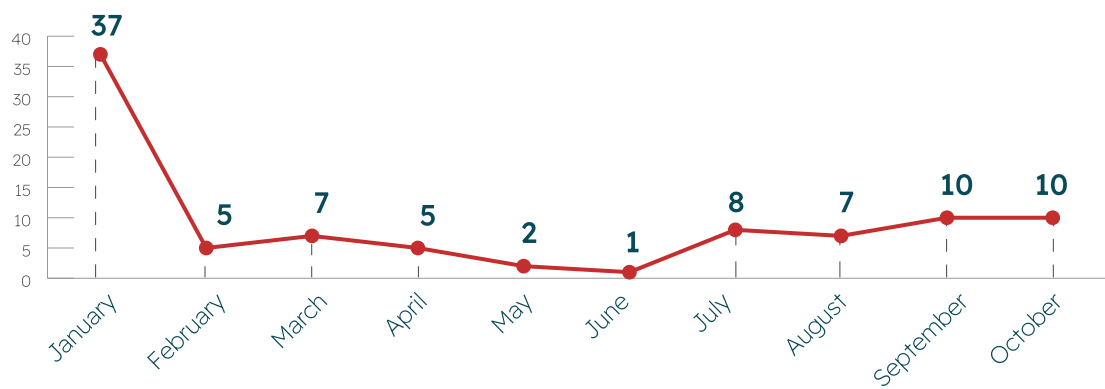
A. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: Two attacks.
- Russian forces: One attack.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One attack.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): One attack:

B. Other parties: Three massacres.

- Israeli forces: Two attacks
- Turkish forces: Two attacks
- Projectiles of unidentified source: One attack. We suspect it was fired either by Syrian regime forces or SDF. Investigations are still ongoing to accurately identify the perpetrator.

Since the start of 2024 up until the end of October, 92 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:

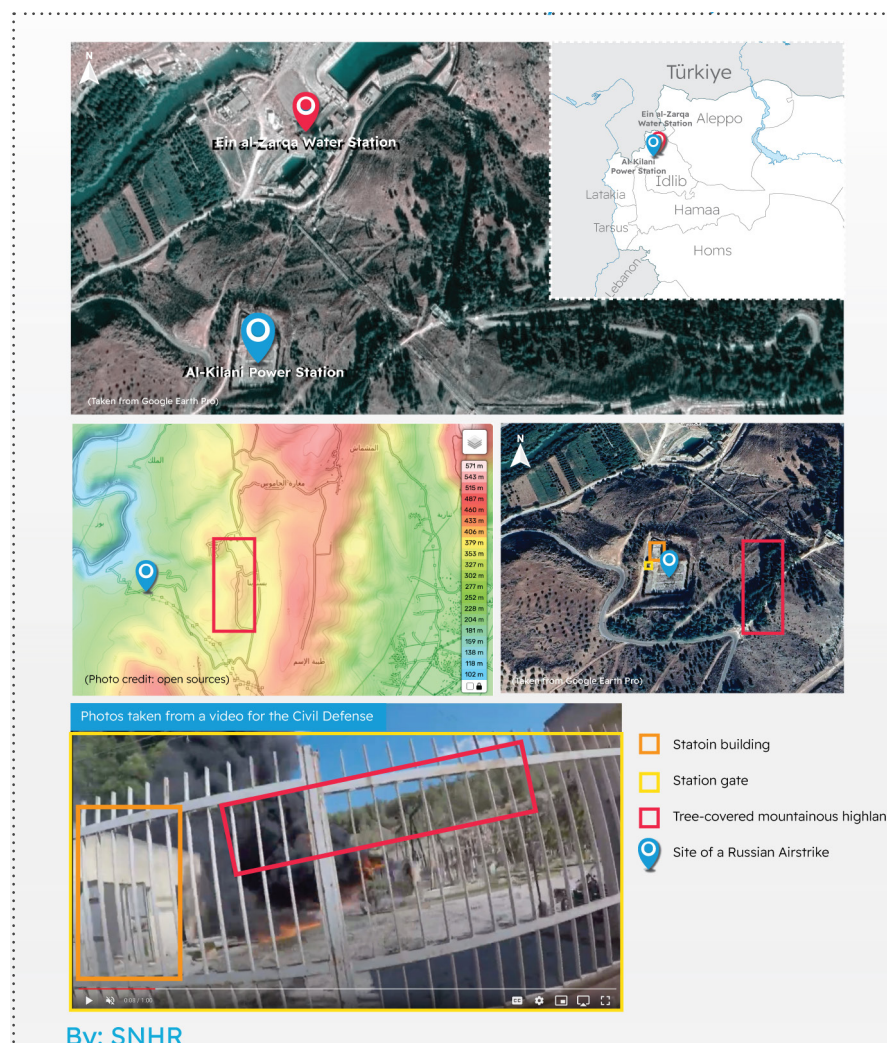


As the chart shows, 10 attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria were recorded in October, making it one of the highest monthly rates so far this year. October’s attacks accounted for about 11 percent of all attacks in 2024 so date, with the same number of attacks recorded in the previous month, September.

Below are the most notable attacks documented in October

In the early afternoon of Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at around 13:13, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-34) believed to be Russian fired three missiles (over two rounds) targeting [al-Kilani Power Station](#) located in Ein al-Zarqa in western rural Idlib governorate. Two workers at the power station were slightly injured in the raid, [which destroyed two main transformers and ignited a fire](#), as well as damaging cables, wires, towers, and equipment. In addition, the control room and main breakers were destroyed, [while the power station building, and perimeter fence were heavily damaged](#). The area targeted was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

Al-Kilani Power Station is one of the most vitally important power sources in western rural Idlib, supplying energy to the Ein al-Zarqa Water Station that supplies drinking water to over 20 areas in the al-Jabal al-Wastani and Sahl al-Rouj regions. The Ein al-Zarqa Station also feeds irrigation water to the al-Bal'a Dam in Sahl al-Rouj region. The attack has put the al-Kilani Power Station out of commission, depriving thousands of civilians of electricity and water, and cutting off the supply of irrigation water to the agricultural lands in Sahl al-Rouj, with devastating consequences for the locals and their agricultural lands.



SNHR spoke to Ahmad Awad⁵, an employee at al-Kilani Power Station. He told us that he was at the station at the moment of the attack on October 15, 2024, in Ein al-Zarqa area in rural Idlib. He said,

“At around 13:15, I was sitting on a chair in a room by the station entrance. Suddenly, I heard the sound of missiles heading towards where I was. I immediately laid on the floor and put my hands over my head. The glass and other objects in the room started falling on me. The explosion caused by the missiles was very, very strong. When I stood and tried to recompose myself, I felt dizziness from the sound of the explosion. I headed out of the room and saw fog that was so heavy that I could not see anything from the station. I first opened the door to the station, stepped back, and then laid down and started crawling into the station. I was searching there until three of my friends, who were inside at the time of the bombing, came out. I thanked God that they were okay and headed immediately towards the nearest place with an internet connection to notify the station’s management of what happened. I finally arrived at a house in the vicinity of the site. After I had told the management about what happened, I headed back. I was about 200 meters from the station when I saw a colleague of mine at the station’s door calling my name, thinking I was still inside. When I heard someone from far away shouting at him to tell him there was a warplane flying around, I started shouting too to get his attention. He moved away from the station and took shelter only moments before another round of missiles struck the station.” We asked Ahmad about the details of the bombing and the damage inflicted, and the cause of the station’s destruction, and he told us, “The bombing was by Russian warplanes over two airstrikes. The two strikes directly hit the station. The two airstrikes were separated by about 10-12 minutes. I knew that they were Russian warplanes because when I asked people who were in the area and saw what happened, they told me the warplanes were white-colored, and the [Syrian] regime does not possess such warplanes. There was also the aftermath of the bombing of the burning of trees and rocks in the vicinity of the station. I also learned that the observatories announced that Russian warplanes were bombing the place. The bombing injured two workers who sustained mild to normal injuries, while the station was burnt and destroyed completely. Nothing was left - no trees, no electricity, no life. It will take a long time to repair and restore the station to order. The station being put out of commission deprived thousands of people of drinking water in a number of villages, since the water station and an irrigation water station no longer have electricity, which means that no water is being supplied to all of the agricultural lands in Sahl al-Rouj. The missiles that hit the station exploded and the shrapnel scattered all over the walls and over long distances. I saw the remnants of the missiles. They were quite big and five to eight centimeters thick. I held one of the pieces of remnants and felt how heavy it was, and I could not ascertain its original color after it had exploded and burned. I can confirm that the station had no military supplies or equipment.”



Damage and destruction inflicted by an air raid by Russian forces targeting al-Kilani Power Station in Ein al-Zarqa area in Idlib - October 15, 2024

5. Via WhatsApp on October 18, 2024.

On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, The SDF used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets targeting the vicinity of al-Mahsanli School for Elementary Education in [al-Mahsanli village](#), administratively a part of Jarablos city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. One rocket at least landed within the school by its fence during school hours, [injuring four school students](#) and two teachers. In addition, [the school's perimeter fence and building were slightly damaged](#). The area targeted was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.



Damage caused by a ground attack by the SDF on al-Mahsanli School for Elementary Education in al-Mahsanli village in Aleppo - October 16, 2024

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a shell at [al-Zubair bin al-Awwam Mosque](#) in Afis village in eastern rural Idlib governorate. [The mosque's perimeter fence was partially destroyed, while the windows and doors were moderately damaged](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the attack.



Damage caused by a ground attack by Syrian regime forces on al-Zubair bin al-Awwam Mosque in Afis village in Idlib - October 19, 2024

On Thursday, October 24, 2024, the Yad al-Awn Camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), which is located within an area known as Harsh al-Khaldiya near Tranda village in Jabal al-Ahlam to the southeast of Afrin city in northern rural Aleppo governorate, was targeted by unidentified forces using a rocket launcher. While we have not yet been able to conclusively identify the source of the attack, we suspect it was either perpetrated by regime forces or the SDF since the rockets originated from the direction of areas under both forces' control.

The attack caused [heavy damage](#) to two of the cement-built IDP housing units, as well as to the IDPs' other possessions. The area targeted was under the SNA's control at the time of the incident.

VIII. THE SYRIAN REGIME HAS FAILED TO REGISTER THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THE CITIZENS IT KILLED SINCE MARCH 2011 IN THE CIVIL REGISTRY'S RECORDS

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, disappeared, or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authority, chief among which is the **Civil Registry Department**. The Syrian regime uses the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to **victims' families or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared**, as an instrument of control whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or other parties. In fact, the regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime itself and its security services.

In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, which state falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, with the families compelled to sign these statements if they wish to obtain death certificates. The Syrian regime has not only failed to **launch any investigations** into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to **hold to account** even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

In order for deceased victims' family members to obtain death certificates, the Syrian regime requires three things:

- Forged medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in regime detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from "war projectiles."
- Statements from the local neighborhood head man or 'Mukhtar' and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed, which we detailed in a report we issued on **August 19, 2022**, entitled ['The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'](#).

It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families **face immense difficulties in obtaining death certificates** for their loved ones from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their names with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been **a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime**, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families **live outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime**.

On August 10, 2022, the Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice issued Circular No. 22 specifying the procedures required for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that **five items of evidence** must be readily available. The circular also adds the requirement of **obtaining a security clearance** document from the relevant authorities in order to register deaths, and thereby increasing the security services' intrusion into the judicial process. We issued [a report in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations](#) contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

IX. 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 death, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. 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 violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to the 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, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian categories which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as **media, medical, and humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers**.

For 13 years, we have issued **daily report on the death toll**. We also issue monthly, biannual, and annual reports. In addition, we published dozens of special reports documenting deaths by all, or certain parties to the conflict, including reports documenting **massacre** documented in Syria.

For more clarity and transparency, we have also turned the victims' database **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 \(AWSD\)](#) 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 achieve justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous regional and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

1. **Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** The evidence collected by SNHR indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities. **Syrian-Russian alliance forces** have committed various crimes incorporating extrajudicial killing, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. These attacks bear all the elements of war crimes, including carrying out **attacks against civilians**.
2. **Landmines:** A large proportion of the Syrians killed have died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict 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. **International law violations:** The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions **2139** and **2042** on the release of detainees, as well as resolution **2254** on a political resolution, all without any accountability.
4. **Indiscriminate bombing by SDF:** The indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the SDF is a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to **war crimes**.
5. **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.
6. **Extrajudicial killings by the various parties to the conflict:** We have documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

7. **No warnings before attacks:** We have documented no warnings being given by Syrian regime forces, Russian forces, or US-led International Coalition forces before carrying out any of their attacks, as required by international humanitarian law, showing an utter disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
8. **Violations as part of a systematic policy:** It is clear from the volume of violations, their repeated nature, and the excessive level of force used, and the indiscriminate manner of the bombardment that these attacks must be a part of a **systematic policy** and the result of orders from the higher echelons of power, carried out in accordance with a state policy.
9. **Violations by armed opposition factions:** All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army have violated Security Council resolution **2139** through attacks that resulted in civilian casualties, which constitute violations of customary international humanitarian law.

Recommendations

UN Security Council

- The UN Security Council should **take additional steps** following the adoption of Resolution **2254**, which clearly demands that all parties should, “...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** in order to hold to account all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Members of the UN Security Council must stop using their **veto powers** to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations, many of which constitute **crimes against humanity and war crimes**.
- **Establish security and peace** in Syria and implement the ‘**Responsibility to Protect**’ principle (**R2P**) in order to protect Syrians’ lives and heritage.
- Request that all relevant UN agencies make greater efforts to provide **humanitarian aid**, including food and medical aid, in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in IDPs camps.
- Seriously work to **achieve a political transition** under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council resolution 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and enable the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate funds from the **UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)** for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

International Community

- In light of the **deadlock within the UN Security Council**, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form **alliances** to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts.
- Steps must also be taken to invoke **the principle of universal jurisdiction** in national courts to hold perpetrators accountable in fair trials.
- The ‘**Responsibility to Protect**’ principle (**R2P**) norm must be involved after all political channels had been exhausted. Action must be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to protect civilians.

- Refer the situation in Syria to the ICC or swiftly **establish a special tribunal** tasked with trying crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the **UN General Assembly** and the UN Human Rights Council, through the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create **maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions** across Syria. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support **political transition** in Syria and oblige parties to complete said political transition within a period of no more than **six months** in order to ensure the safe return of millions of displaced people.
- Prevent and end any and all **refoulment** of Syrian refugees until the situation in Syria is safe, and focus on bringing about a political transition that would automatically ensure their return.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Submit a report to the **UN Human Rights Council** and other organs of the UN on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and shed greater light on the issue of the **continuing killing** in Syria.

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

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

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

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

UN Special Envoy for Syria

- Condemn the **perpetrators of crimes**, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the **peace process** so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it.
- Call for rapid implementation of **democratic political change** that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of **transitional justice**.
- Acknowledge that there is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing and military attacks, and hold those who obstruct the political process explicitly responsible.

Syrian regime

- Stop **indiscriminate bombardment** and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the **acts of torture** that have caused the deaths of tens of thousands of victims.
- Ensure compliance with **UN Security Council resolutions** and customary international law.
- Provide **detailed maps** of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas.

Russian regime

- Completely cease the **bombing of hospitals** and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- Reconstruct, rehabilitate, and provide **compensation** for the facilities that have been damaged and compensate the families of victims.
- Apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all **indiscriminate attacks** and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks to facilitate the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

US-led International Coalition and SDF

- Suspend all forms of **support** for the SDF until the group commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law.
- Form a special committee to investigate **violations** by the SDF, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and all others affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF has **planted landmines**, especially in civilian sites or near residential communities.

All armed opposition factions/SNA

- Ensure **the protection of civilians**, and take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the **human rights violations** that have taken place, hold those responsible accountable, and make the findings of these investigations public for the local communities.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where armed opposition factions factions/SNA **planted landmines**.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure **adequate reception centers** for IDPs, particularly widows and orphans.
- Intensify efforts towards carrying out **landmine clearance operations** in parallel with relief operations.
- Clearly mark protected **vital facilities** and equipment, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with identifiable symbols that can be seen and distinguished from afar.

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No justice without accountability

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