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# Extrajudicial Killing Claims the Lives of 104 Civilians, Including 21 Children, Seven Women, and 13 Victims Due to Torture, in Syria in April 2021

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11 Victims, Including Seven Children,  
Who Died as a Result of Mine Explosions

Saturday 1 May 2021

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:

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

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

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

This report records the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by SNHR as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in April 2021, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst media, medical and Civil Defense personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces which the SNHR was able to document in this period.

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

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

The report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks.

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

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

### A. The main parties:

- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)<sup>1</sup>
- Russian forces
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham<sup>2</sup>
- The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army
- Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party)

<sup>1</sup> We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in turn under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria. Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

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

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link<sup>3</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. Our team follows up on incidents and related reports in a variety of ways in the effort to verify information and collect as much relevant evidence and data as possible. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location immediately. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily violation incidents. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, as we try to reach them promptly, and secondarily on the accounts of those who witnessed or photographed the violation in question, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets; third, by talking with medical personnel who treated the individuals injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

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

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

Also, there is great difficulty in determining which party was responsible for planting landmines, due to the multiplicity of forces controlling the areas in which these explosions occurred, and therefore we do not attribute the vast majority of deaths caused by landmines to a specific party. None of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have revealed maps of the places where they planted landmines. We have recorded continuing deaths due to landmines despite repeated appeals by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, and urgent requests for the essential intervention of international teams to help uncover the locations where landmines are deployed and to put pressure on the controlling forces in Syria to determine their locations of deployment in order to reduce the number of casualties among civilians resulting from them.

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<sup>3</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)>

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

## II. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in April:

April saw continuing civilian deaths as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria, with SNHR documenting the deaths of 11 victims, including seven children, bringing the civilian death toll caused by landmines since the beginning of 2021 to 96, including 35 children; SNHR has recorded many landmine explosions that resulted in civilian casualties in several areas under the various different forces currently in control. This indicates that none of the controlling forces have made any significant efforts towards clearing landmines, or trying to determine their locations and fence them off, or to warn the local population about them.

On Saturday, April 10, 2021, [a landmine planted](#) by an unknown party in al Mray'iya village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which is controlled by Syrian regime forces, exploded, resulting in the death of an engineer, Muhammad Ahmad al Bada'i, who was from al Mray'iya village.

On Sunday, April 11, 2021, [a landmine planted](#) by an unknown party in Joudi Mazen village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, exploded, resulting in the deaths of two children, Athad Ibrahim Hussein and Delyar Hammou Hussein, aged 12 and 11 respectively, while other children were injured, when the landmine exploded near an area where they were playing. The village is controlled by Syrian National Army forces.

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, [a landmine exploded](#) in farmland near al Jebbin village in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, resulting in the death of Hayel Khelif al Ali while he was working on the farmland. The village is controlled by Syrian regime forces.

Remote/suicide [bombings continued](#) in April, resulting in civilian casualties; on Friday, April 23, 2021, two sibling children died, due to wounds inflicted by the explosion of an IED planted by an unknown party in al Sweisa village in the suburbs of Quneitra governorate, which is controlled by the Syrian regime.

In April, we documented many cases of the discovery of bodies of civilians murdered by unknown persons.

On Sunday, April 11, 2021, the body of a 28-year-old man, Naser Najjar, from Kafr Amma village in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, bearing signs of a gunshot wound, was discovered by local families at al Shahbaa sport playground in east of al Atareb city in the western suburbs of the governorate, which is under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

On Wednesday, April 23, 2021, [the body of Muhammad Hamad al Ayed](#), from Theyban town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was discovered by local families in his home in al Nashwa al Sharqiya neighborhood in Hasaka city, bearing signs of torture and gunshot wounds. The neighborhood is controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces.

During this month, we also documented one massacre at the hands of Syrian regime forces, which resulted in the deaths of seven civilians, including three children and two women.

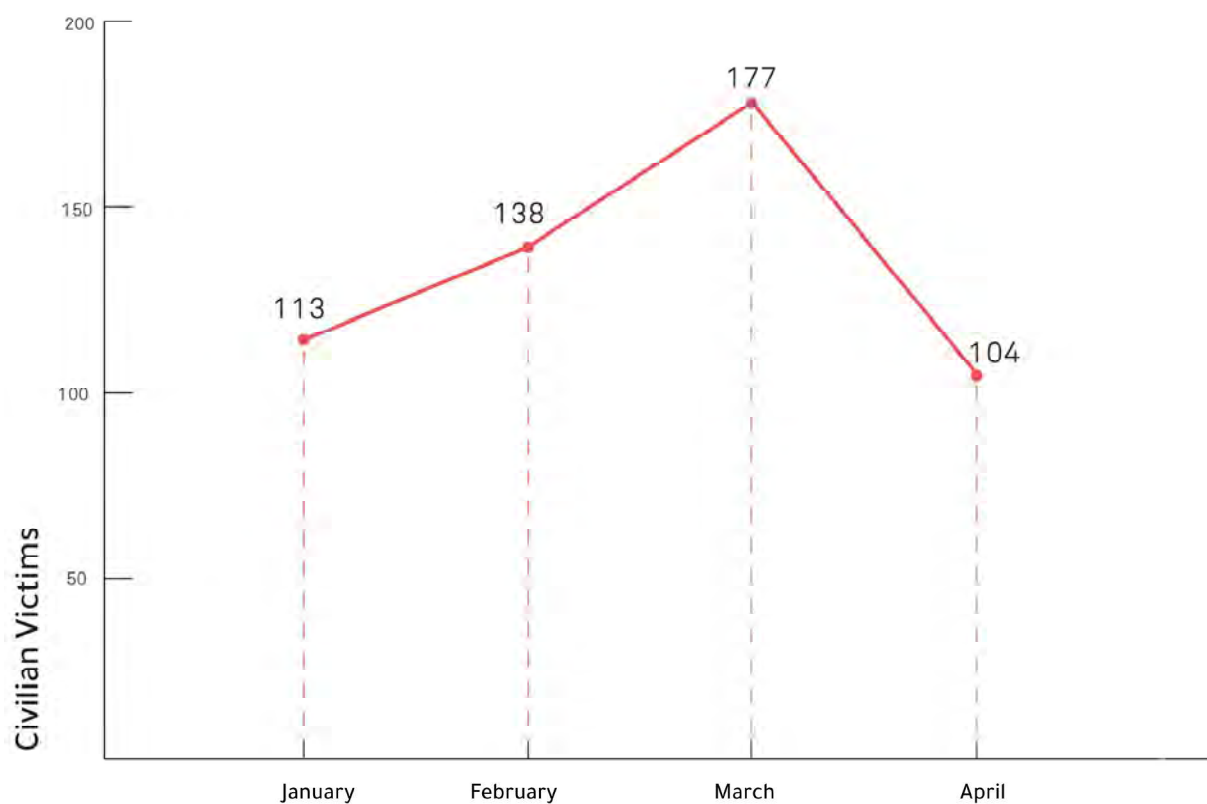
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<sup>3</sup> A camp located east of Hasaka city, near the Iraqi-Syrian border, which houses nearly 60,000 people

### III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims:

In April, 2021, SNHR documented the deaths of 104 civilians, including 21 children and seven women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented death toll of civilian victims since the beginning of 2021 up to May 2021 to 532.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2021 was distributed as follows:



We notice a significant decrease in the number of deaths in April compared to the previous two months, with most of the victims who were documented killed in April being killed at the hands of other parties.

The death toll we documented in April 2021 was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:



#### A. The main parties:

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

We documented the deaths of 18 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including five children and three women.

##### - Russian forces:

We documented the deaths of one civilian at the hands of Russian forces.

##### - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:

We documented the deaths of two civilians at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

##### - The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:

We documented the death of two civilians at the hands of the Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army.

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

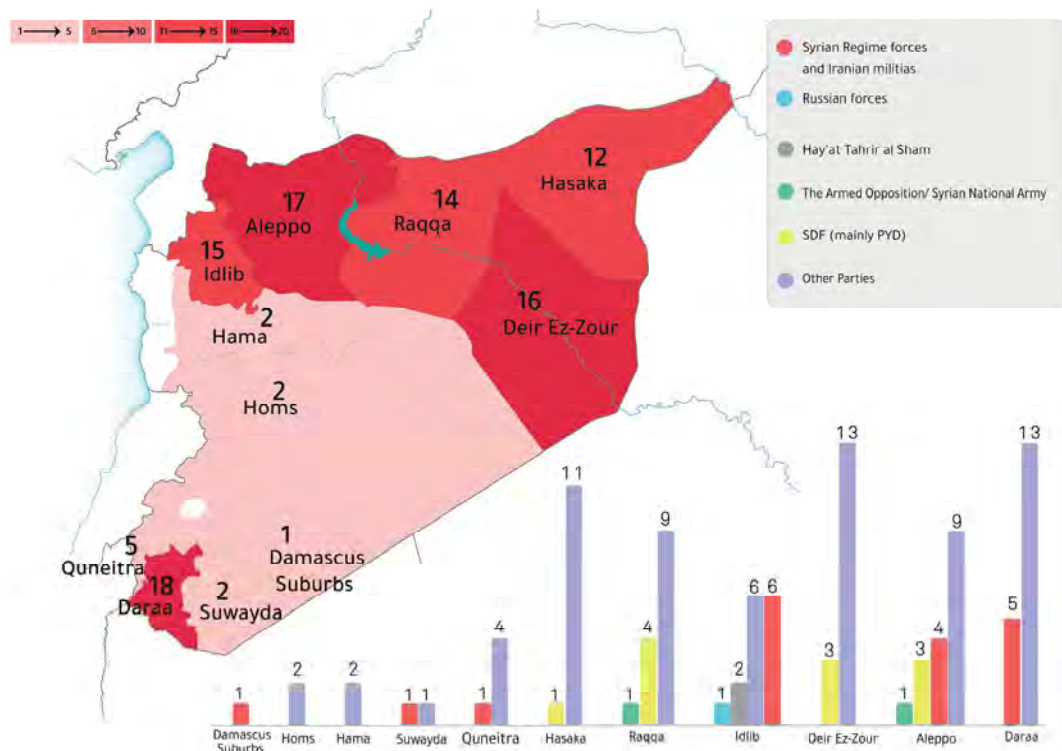
We documented the deaths of 11 civilians, including two children, at the hands of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

## B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 70 civilians, including 14 children and four women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown source: 13 civilians, including seven children.
- Gunfire of unknown source: 33 civilians, including one child and two women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 10 civilians, including six children.
- Killings by unknown persons: 11 civilians, including one woman.
- Turkish border guards: Two civilians, including one woman.
- Jordanian border guards: One civilian.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in April 2021 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



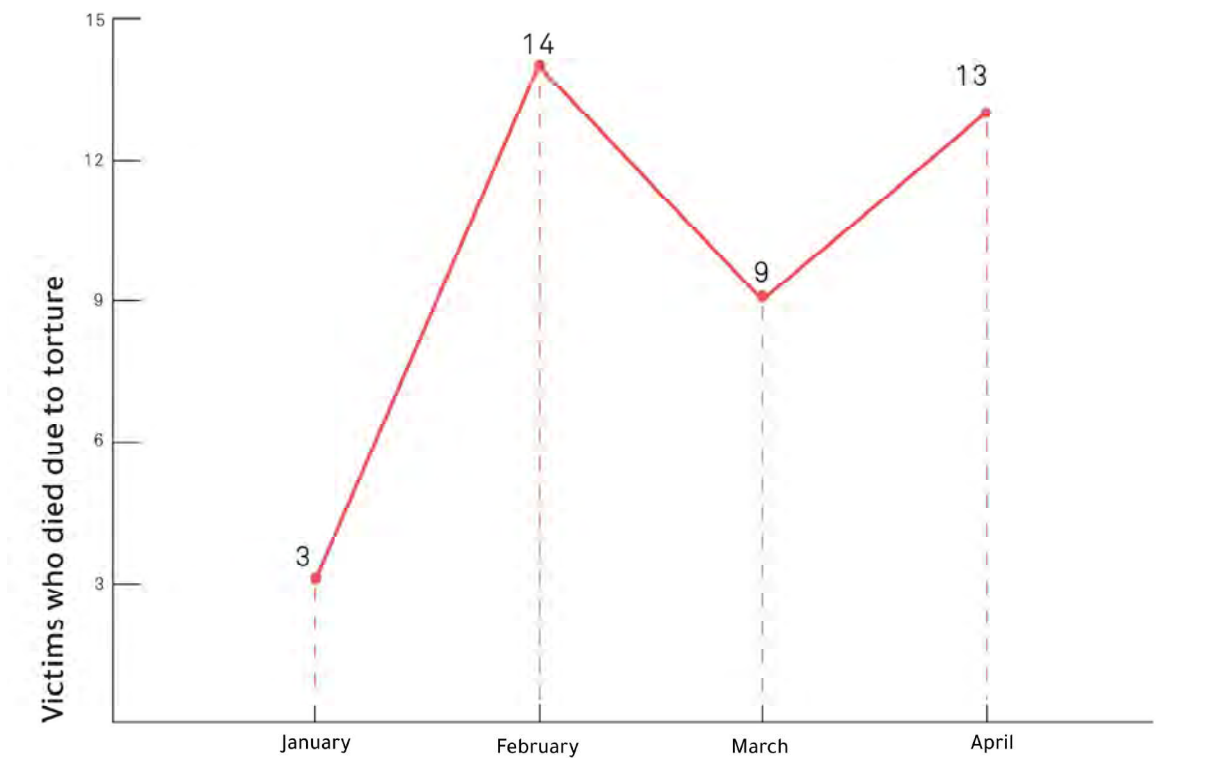
The death toll of victims killed at the hands of other parties documented in April constituted approximately 67% of the total death toll, while approximately 53% of the victims killed at the hands of other parties were in the governorates of Daraa, Deir Ez-Zour and Hasaka, and died as a result of the explosion of landmines, remote/suicide bombings, or gunshots by unknown persons.

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

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

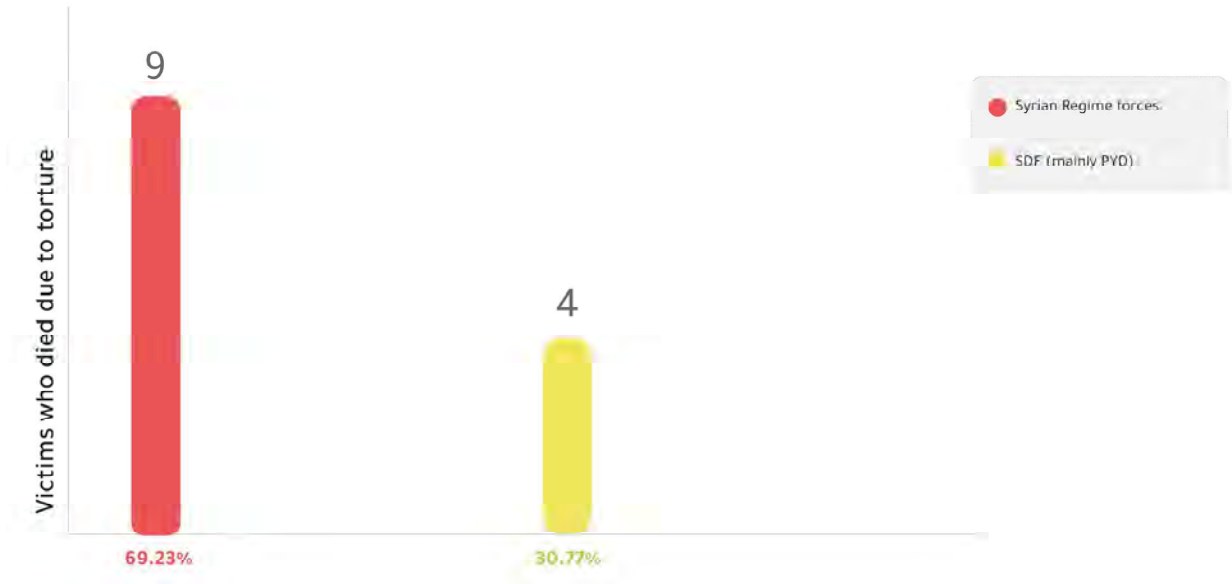
SNHR documented in April 2021 the deaths of 13 victims due to torture, bringing the death toll of victims who died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2021 up to May 2021 to 39.

The death toll of victims whom SNHR documented their death due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2021 was distributed as follows:



The last three months have seen an increase in the death toll of the victims documented as dying due to torture in Syria, compared to January 2021, with the percentage of victims whose deaths we documented due to torture in the detention centers of the Syrian regime since the beginning of the year accounting for approximately 73% of the total death toll of torture victims.

The death toll of victims whom SNHR documented their death due to torture in April was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:



**Syrian regime forces:** Nine.

**Syrian Democratic Forces:** Four.

**The most notable cases are:**

Nayef Hammad Saeed, a Palestinian with Jordanian nationality, born in 1948, who had been living in the Daraa Palestinian Refugee Camp, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 1995, and sentenced to life imprisonment by 'al Midan' Field Military Court (a political security court that lacks the most basic principles of fair trials) for alleged possession of secret documents and confidential information, supposedly to ensure the safety of the state, in accordance with Article 272 of the Syrian Penal Code.

Nayef was transferred between several prisons during the period of his detention, including Seydnaya Military Prison, the last of which was Adra Central Prison, where he was prevented from contacting his family, while he suffered from the deterioration of his health throughout the time of his imprisonment. He was denied essential medical care, up until the evening of Saturday, April 10, 2021, when police from Adra Central Prison took him to the Ibn al Nafees Hospital in Damascus city, where he was declared dead on arrival. According to the Association of the Detainees and The Missing in Sednaya Prison (ADMSP), the main reason behind his death was neglect of health care during the 26-year period of his detention.

Ayesh Helal al Fa'ouri, a 65-year-old maths teacher from al Sheikh Maskin city in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 2018. Almost since that time, he has been classified as forcibly disappeared, with the Syrian regime denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Monday, April 19, 2021, Syrian regime forces informed his family of his death, handing them his body the next day. SNHR data from numerous sources confirms that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating that he most probably died due to torture in one of the regime's detention centers.

[Khaled Khalaf Saleh al Ramadan](#), from Mouhasan city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel in October 2018. Almost since that time, he has been classified as forcibly disappeared, with the SDF denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Sunday, April 4, 2021, his family was informed by a former detainee released earlier from an SDF detention center in Hasaka governorate that Khaled had died there due to torture and the deterioration of his health conditions.

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

SNHR didn't document any deaths among medical personnel in April 2021.

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

SNHR didn't document any deaths among media workers in April 2021.

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

SNHR didn't document any deaths among Civil Defense personnel in April 2021.

## **V. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented in April:**

SNHR documented one massacre in April, perpetrated at the hands of Syrian regime forces, bringing the total number of massacres since the beginning of 2021 to at least eight, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

#### **A. The main parties:**

- Syrian regime forces: Two.

#### **B. Other parties:**

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

- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: Three.
- Landmines of unknown source: Two.
- Killings by unknown persons: One.

The massacres documented in April at the hands of Syrian regime forces resulted in the deaths of seven civilians, including three children and two women (adult female).

On Thursday, April 8, 2021, Syrian regime artillery forces, stationed in Shellef Castle in the northern suburbs of Latakia, fired an MD-type anti-tank guided missile, targeting a car in which a number of civilians were traveling whilst it was at the intersection of al Najeyya village in the western suburbs of Idlib, resulting in the deaths of [seven civilians](#), including [three children](#) (two females and one male) and two women. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## VI. The Syrian Regime Bears Primary Responsibility for the Deaths of Syrian Citizens Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

This report does not include all deaths, including those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as we mainly document extrajudicial killings, but there is no doubt that the negligence shown by the Syrian regime and its disastrous mismanagement of the Syrian state in recent years are the primary factors behind the massive numbers of deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks and illnesses, as seen in the regime's neglect of public healthcare and indifference towards citizens' wellbeing, with the state's only genuine protection reserved for the ruling family, its entourage and the regime elite. It should always be remembered that the Syrian regime and its Russian ally have repeatedly been documented as having targeted, bombed and destroyed most medical facilities in Syria, and killed hundreds of medical personnel, according to the SNHR's database, with dozens of these lifesaving medics still classified as having been forcibly disappeared at the regime's hands. The Syrian regime's Ministry of Health [has announced](#) the deaths of 1,548 cases in Syria due to the COVID-19 as of April 26, 2021; while this is an alarmingly high number, we believe that this statistic is inaccurate and that the number of deaths is actually far higher due to the regime's weak medical capabilities, as there is no medical examination to confirm or deny the patient's infection with COVID-19, confirming the occurrence of a large number of deaths due to COVID-19 without the cause being disclosed. Concern over a probable regime cover-up of the real COVID-19 death toll is exacerbated by the absence of any transparency in the various government ministries, and in view of the security services' control over any data issued by these ministries, as is usually the case with totalitarian regimes.

The regime's failure to release arbitrarily detained individuals, particularly the elderly and individuals detained with no charges, most notably [around 3,329 medical personnel](#), whose cases we discussed in a special detailed report, provides further clear evidence of the Syrian regime's primary responsibility for the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Syria. The regime, which controls and manages state institutions, has completely failed to provide even the most rudimentary protection to Syrian civilians, but has instead exploited the state institutions to protect and benefit the ruling family in order to ensure their continued rule, even if 13 million Syrian citizens are displaced from their homes to achieve this, with most of those displaced unable to return home since their homes have been ransacked and subjected to widespread looting and destruction by regime forces and affiliated militias.

## VII. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue:

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

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

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

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

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to governments of states, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the path of justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

## VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations:

### Conclusions:

- The evidence we collected indicates that the attacks documented were directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes ranging from extrajudicial killings to detention, torture and enforced disappearance. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of Syrians were killed as a result of landmines, and none of the perpetrator forces in the Syrian conflict have revealed maps of the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- The Syrian 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 attack carried out by the Syrian regime on April 8 that resulted in a massacre of civilians, is a violation of the Turkish-Russian ceasefire agreement, which entered into force on March 6, 2020.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.

- The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army has 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 four Geneva Convention (articles 27, 31, 32).
- Remote or suicide bombings are inaccurate and unguided explosions that clearly violate the principle of distinction between civilian and military objectives, and the principles of precautions and proportionality in attacks. Civilian and military commanders bear criminal responsibility according to the principle of command responsibility. The controlling forces also bear the responsibility to protect civilians in the areas under their control, to open investigations into the bombing incidents and to reveal their findings to the public.
- The controlling forces bear the responsibility to determine the identity of the perpetrators of the killings of all the civilians whose bodies have been found, and to open investigations into all the incidents included in the report.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **UN 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, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states' veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- The Security Council should 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 clear the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The Security Council should 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 follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.
- There will be no stability in Syria without first achieving a political transition towards democracy and human rights in the country within a specific timetable, and this will only be achieved through the imposition of various pressures, mainly on the Syrian regime and its allies, because it will not give up power voluntarily.

#### **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. By failing to do so, 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.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Pressure the Syrian regime and its allies to compensate the displaced victims, to repair homes and vital facilities, support the political transition process, and put pressure on all the parties obliging them to implement the political transition within a period of time not exceeding six months, so that millions of displaced people can have a safe and stable return to their homes.

#### **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 and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.
- Work on preparing a special report on the use of landmines in Syria and the risks they pose to civilians, and identify the most prominent locations where landmines were planted.

#### **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.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.

#### **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, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.

#### **The Syrian regime**

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

#### **The Russian regime**

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.

- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 84,000 people disappeared by the Syrian regime.

#### **Syrian Democratic Forces:**

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

#### **The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army:**

- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

#### **Humanitarian organizations:**

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

## **Acknowledgment**

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