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The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in May 2020

A Comprehensive Deterioration in the Syrian Economy, with No Solution Except to Impose a Political Transition Within a Strict Timetable Not Exceeding Six Months



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

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



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I. Introduction and Methodology

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture and enforced disappearances are the violations most frequently perpetrated against Syrian citizens. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, also violating the rights of Syrian citizens. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has continued to document every incident that its team members are able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our publication of periodic monthly reports recording and highlighting the continued suffering of the Syrian people, which subsequently grew to eight reports on different issues issued at the beginning of each month. In the course of our work, SNHR has compiled a massive database cataloguing hundreds of thousands of incidents, each of which involves a pattern of violations that we have been able to document.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in May 2020, and catalogues the record of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the main perpetrator parties during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights indiscriminate attacks and the use of outlawed weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, incendiary weapons) and attacks on civilian objects.



The report also includes documentation of violations distributed according to the perpetrator parties responsible for each one. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for specific attacks to one particular party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and the US-led coalition, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we are able to likely establish which one of the parties was likely responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of relations with various sources that have been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly, although this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks involved, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources to carry out this work. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents and examined the deceased victims' bodies and identified the cause of death. SNHR also analyzes videos and photographs that our team has documented, or which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, sites of attacks, and the bodies of the deceased victims and the injured, the scale of destruction, and the remnants of the incendiary and cluster munitions and other munitions used, whilst other photos may show victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about our methodology¹.

¹ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <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. May Outline

May saw several countries controlling the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and beginning to ease the strict measures introduced in previous months in order to allow the gradual return of normal life; however, the situation was different in Syria, which announced in May the highest number of infections and deaths to date due to the virus, [announcing](#) on May 31 that the number of infections reached 122, of whom five had died. By comparing these numbers with what was announced at the beginning of May, it becomes clear that 64% of the infection cases and 40% of the deaths announced since March 22 were recorded in May; according to these statistics issued by the Syrian regime (which we believe are massively underestimated due to the weakness of the checking and controlling operations), it would normally be assumed that tougher measures would be taken. Instead, the Syrian regime announced the easing of procedures, and a near-complete return to normalcy as it allowed [transportation to work](#) and [lifted the night-time curfew](#) that was imposed, in addition to the [resumption of the Syrian league football fixtures](#). The Syrian Network for Human Rights has documented several instances of public overcrowding in situations that make social isolation impossible, whether [in markets](#) or in [public transportation](#) and other situations, in light of the absence of any precautionary measures. The Syrian regime bears responsibility for infections and deaths due to this chaotic and wildly irresponsible decision.

The Syrian regime has continued to adopt the same customarily negligent and disastrous administrative approach it has taken towards management of the Syrian state in recent years in its reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may lead to widespread deaths among Syrian citizens. We must always remember that, among the gravest crimes for which the Syrian regime and its Russian ally are responsible, are the destruction and bombing of most medical facilities in Syria and the killing of hundreds of medical personnel, as the SNHR's database attests, as well as remembering that dozens of these desperately needed medical staff are still classified as forcibly disappeared persons.

The Syrian regime's failure to release arbitrarily detained persons, especially those held without charges, and the elderly, is clear evidence of the regime's primary responsibility in the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it controls and manages state institutions, and has completely failed to protect Syrian civilians, instead harnessing the state's capabilities to protect the ruling family and to continue their totalitarian rule.



As for the areas outside the control of Syrian Regime forces in northwest Syria, especially in the IDP camps and shelter centers, the congested conditions there encourage the spread of the pandemic in the event of its emergence there, with these massively overcrowded camps lacking the most basic means for residents to follow the essential precautionary measures, as these areas are crammed with civilians, hindering the achievement of any social distancing (which requires a space of 1 - 1.5 m between people). The camps also lack adequate water and hygiene resources, in addition to residents being forced to share sanitary facilities for each sector in the camp, which lack the necessary hygiene measures to limit the spread of the pandemic. In the absence of any precautionary measures, the situation becomes predisposing to the spread the pandemic in case it emerges there, especially as it suffers from inadequate medical capabilities due to the lack of beds and equipment that could contribute to meeting the needs of all citizens there. We monitored crowds in the [markets](#) and mosques, and [play grounds](#), indicating a lack of awareness and societal commitment to the threat of the pandemic. We released [a report](#) on the most notable challenges for medical personnel, IDPs, detainees and the needy in Syria amid the spread of the COVID-19.

In May, Syrian markets saw an unprecedented rise in consumer prices following the severe additional collapse in the value of the Syrian pound, which came in conjunction with the arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic crisis, as well as the Lebanese banks crisis, and the Syrian regime's hostilities with Rami Makhlouf, who is considered one of the wealthiest Syrian regime beneficiaries. All these factors caused an additional rise in unemployment rates, which affected the daily paid workers and various groups in Syrian society. Unless the 13 million Syrians who are currently displaced, are able to return, the destruction of cities and looting of property are ended and the corruption networks are cut off, we will witness an additional decline in the Syrian economy, with the only possible practicable escape from this catastrophic situation being through a political solution implemented according to a strict timetable not to exceed six months, as the Syrian state can no longer bear any further burdens.

As a result of the ceasefire which came into effect on March 6, following consultations between the Turkish and Russian Presidents, the SNHR documented in May the cessation of air strikes by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces for the third consecutive month, while recording some ground attacks albeit at a lower rate than previous months, with most of these taking place in areas whose inhabitants had previously been displaced. It seems that the pandemic is apparently affecting the military capabilities of the Syrian regime's army and affiliated Iranian militias, constituting another factor which has contributed to a reduction in the rate of their killing of Syrian civilians.



We have also documented the continuation of the Syrian Regime forces and affiliated militias' [pillaging and looting of civilians' property](#) in the areas where the regime has taken control in the Idlib region in northwest Syria

Also in May, the Afrin region in northwest Syria saw clashes between factions of the Syrian National Army, as well as clashes between these factions and civilians, which resulted in civilian casualties.

May also saw the continuation of explosions in most of the areas outside the control of Syrian Regime forces, in particular in the Afrin region in northwest Syria, in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, in Ras al Ein area in the northwestern suburbs of Hasaka, and in Tal Abyad area in the northern suburbs of Raqqa, all of which caused large numbers of human casualties; it is difficult for us to identify the perpetrators of the bombings.

In May, we recorded incidents of explosions of landmines planted in agricultural lands, as happened in the areas under the control of Syrian Regime forces in Hama suburbs, resulting in the deaths of many civilians. Assassinations also continued in May, most of which were in Daraa governorate, mostly targeting former fighters who had concluded settlements with the Syrian regime.

In May, we also recorded several incidents of clashes between civilians in light of the insecurity witnessed in most areas outside the control of Syrian Regime forces, which resulted in civilian casualties, especially in northwest Syria and in Deir Ez-Zour suburbs, the most prominent of which was an incident of fighting between the al Bouferyo clan and the al Bakir clan in Mashekh village, which is administratively a part of al Bseira district in the northern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, which resulted in the deaths of at least 12 victims.

Coinciding with the harvest season in May, we recorded [incidents](#) of fires breaking out, for unknown reasons, in agricultural fields and orchards, which devoured hundreds of hectares of crops in most areas in Syria; most of these blazes were concentrated in areas under the control of Syrian Regime forces, who did not conduct any investigation to reveal the cause of the fires, which were ruinous for landowners and property owners.

In May, Syrian Regime forces continued to pursue and arrest individuals who had settled their security situation in areas that have signed settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs and Daraa. We recorded arrests and raids carried out by the regime forces in Deir Ez-Zour governorate with the aim of forced conscription, with most occurring in mass campaigns of raids and arrests.



We also recorded arrests targeting those who illegally returned from Lebanon to their cities, who have been charged with terrorism. For this, we always recommend that refugees or IDPs should not return to the Syrian regime-controlled areas because there are no real guarantees that the regime will not subject them to arrest, torture, enforced disappearance, or forced conscription. We also recorded arrests of civilians, including children, women, and elderly people by Syrian Regime forces as they were passing through regime checkpoints whilst moving between or traveling to areas outside the Syrian regime's control.

Meanwhile, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance throughout the month of May, targeting activists and members of civil society groups who oppose their policies. These arrests were concentrated in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Raqqa. Also in May, SNHR documented Syrian Democratic Forces carrying out arrests targeting civilians, including children, with the aim of forced conscription, during which the detainees' family members were beaten. Syrian Democratic Forces also targeted several families for arrest, as well as targeting several members of the same families, including elderly people, without providing clear charges, taking these detained to an undisclosed location.

In addition to these incidents, May also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham arresting activists working with civil society groups, as well as other civilians and clergymen, with most of these arrests occurring due to the publication of reports on social media accounts criticizing the HTS's management of areas under its control. These arrests were carried out arbitrarily in the form of raids in which HTS members stormed their victims' homes, often breaking down the doors, or by kidnapping their victims while they were travelling or passing through temporary checkpoints.

Factions of the Armed Opposition also continued carrying out arrests and kidnappings in May, most of which occurred on a mass scale, in many cases targeting several members of the same families, including women, in the territories under these forces' control; we also recorded arrests carried out within an ethnic context, with these incidents being concentrated in areas under their control in Aleppo, Raqqa and Hasaka governorates. Most of these arrests occurred without judicial authorization and without the participation of the police force, which is the legitimate administrative authority responsible for arrests and detentions through the judiciary, as well as being carried out without presenting any clear charges against those being detained.



The recent ceasefire that entered into force on March 6, 2020, which halted the air strikes of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces, contributed to the return of approximately 280,000 IDPs, approximately 170,000 of whom returned in May, to their homes in areas outside the control of the Syrian regime, according to the SNHR's estimates, after they were reassured that the Syrian regime would not mobilize to control these areas - at least at this stage. While we expected a wider return of IDPs, we have only seen a limited return of IDPs due to the widespread lack of confidence in the settlement agreements, which have been frequently and repeatedly violated, as well as due to the destruction and collapse of homes. Some days ago, we issued [a report](#) on the displacement caused by Syrian Regime forces and allies following the advance made on the ground in its recent military campaign against the Idlib region in northwest Syria, and the devastation that accompanied it, with the report detailing the devastation in the cities of Ma'aret al Numan and Saraqeb as examples by analyzing satellite imagery the SNHR obtained.

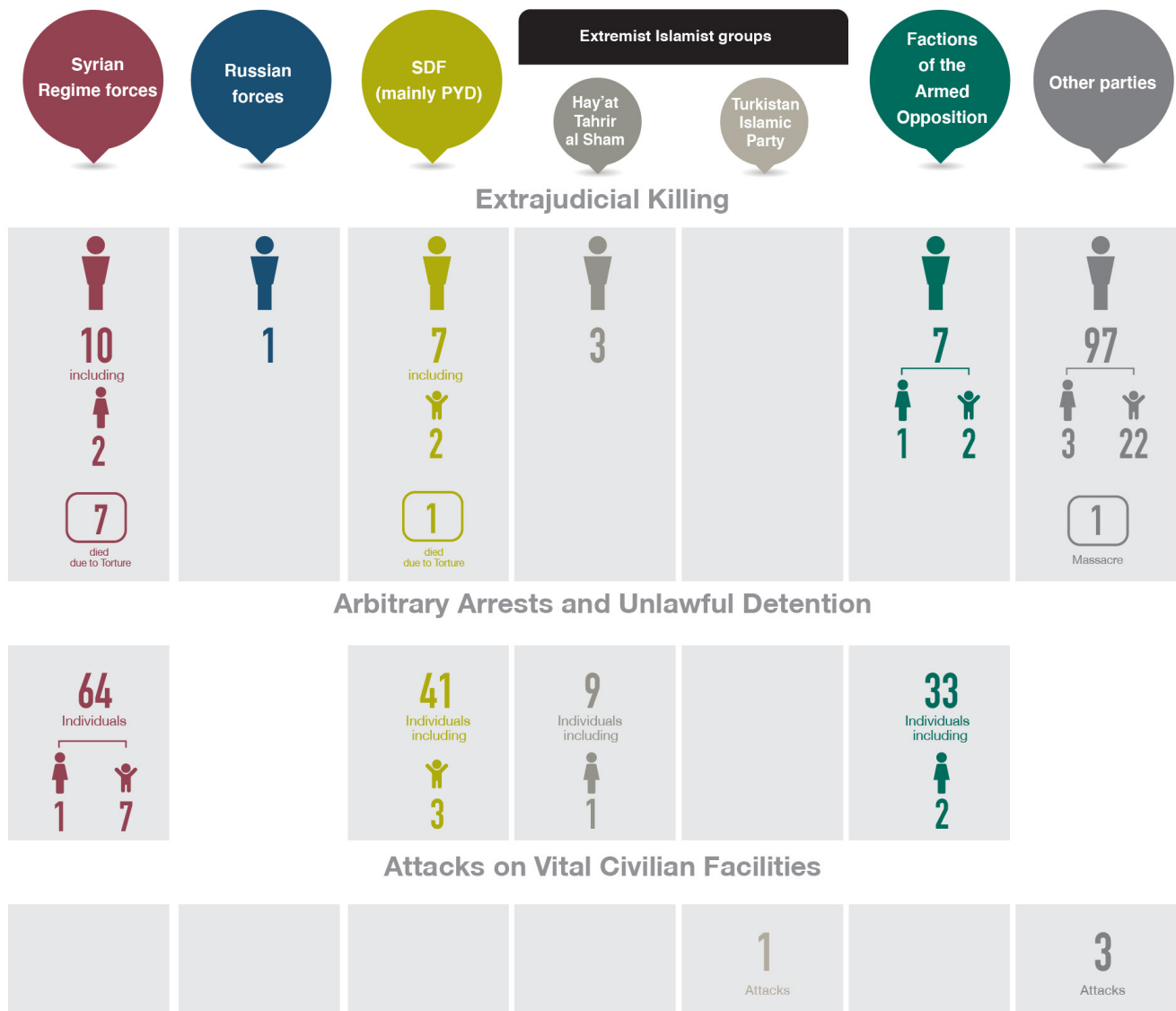
Camps in northwest Syria continue to suffer from the deteriorating humanitarian situation. We have recorded several incidents of fires breaking out in camps, whether due to misuse of [cooking facilities](#) or electrical [short circuits](#). The strong winds that struck the area also damaged [dozens of tents](#) inside the camps, as well as causing a number of [casualties](#). In addition, we recorded casualties among the residents of the random camps caused by [venomous animals](#), with these camps lacking fences to protect the residents living in them from potentially lethal attacks by these creatures.

III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in May

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in May 2020 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.



Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in May 2020



SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Civilians
Women (adult female)
Children



A. Extrajudicial killing:

In May 2020, SNHR documented the deaths of 125 civilians, including 26 children and six women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom killed by other parties; among the victims were eight individuals who died due to torture. We also recorded at least one massacre. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in May at the hands of the perpetrator parties in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

A. The main parties:

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

10 civilians, including two women.

- **Russian forces:** One civilian.

- **Extremist Islamist groups:**

o Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of **factions of the Armed Opposition**): Three civilians.

- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** Seven civilians, including two children and one woman.

- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** Seven civilians, including two children.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 97 civilians, including 22 children and three women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown origin: Four civilians, including one child.
- Fires of unknown source: 29 civilians, including four children.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 55 civilians, including 15 children and three women.
- Killings by unknown persons: Nine civilians, including two children.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

In May 2020, SNHR documented at least 147 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 10 children and four women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Damascus Suburbs governorate, followed by Daraa governorate. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in May 2020 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

These arrests are distributed according to the main perpetrator parties, as follows:



- **Syrian Regime forces:** 64, including seven children and one woman.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:**
 - o Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: Nine, including one woman.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 33, including two women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 41, including three children.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented at least four incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in May. Among these attacks, we documented three on markets.

These attacks are distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Extremist Islamist groups:**
- **Turkistan Islamic Party:** One.

B. Other parties:

- **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** Three.

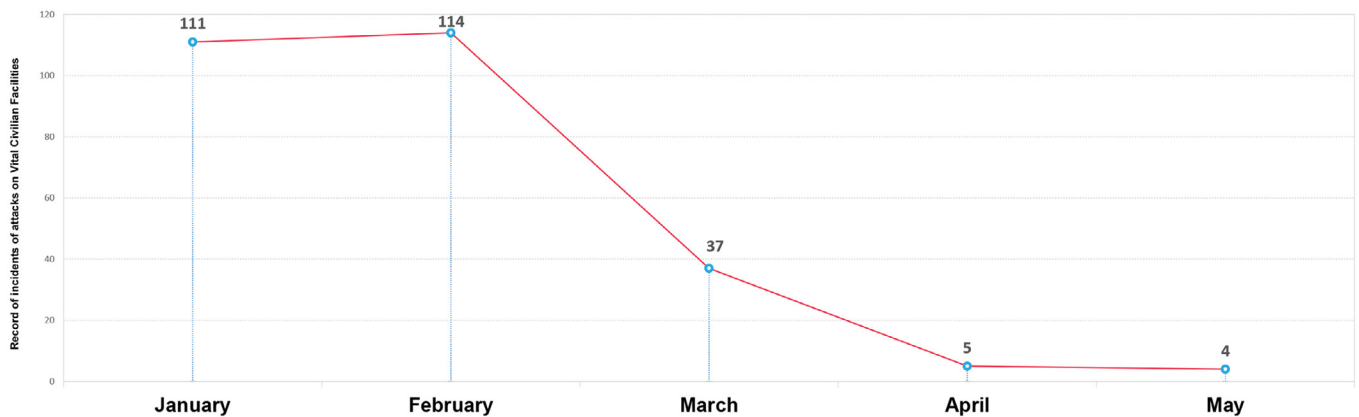
The record of attacks documented in May on vital civilian facilities is distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

Attacked Facility	Perpetrator Party	
	Extremist Islamist groups	Other parties
	Turkistan Islamic Party	Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified
Communal Facilities		
Markets	–	3
Infrastructure		
Power stations and energy facilities	1	–
Total	1	3

Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2020 up to the start of June of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 271 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



At least 271 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria in 2020 From January to June



The previous chart shows the decline in the number of the attacks on vital civilian facilities in May, which is the lowest level documented since the internal conflict in Syria turned into a non-international armed conflict; this reduction in attacks is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the capabilities of the Syrian regime's army and affiliated Iranian militias, in conjunction with the Russian-Turkish ceasefire agreement that came into effect on March 6, 2020, which led to a decline in air and ground bombings.

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities in May:

On Tuesday afternoon, April 28, 2020, [a car bomb planted by unknown individuals exploded](#) at the entrance to a local market in a public thoroughfare, known as Rajou Street, in the center of [Afrin](#) city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, with fires resulting from the explosion spreading across a large area due to the presence of a truck loaded with fuel at the site of the explosion. We documented, [resulting in a massacre, in addition](#) to causing significant [material damage](#) to [a number](#) of [shops](#) and [market facilities](#). The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses or survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Afrin city was under the control of Armed Opposition factions supported by Turkish forces at the time of the incident.



On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, local activists published photos showing the complete collapse of the main cooling tower in the Zeyzoun Thermal station, located in Zeyzoun village in Sahl al Ghab area in the western suburbs of Hama governorate, as [a result of the dismantling and looting operations carried out](#) by traders [under the supervision](#) of the Turkistan Islamic Party, with the traders dismantling the station's parts, and stealing and selling them over the past two years under the name of "spoils: al Ghana'en". The Turkistan Islamic Party commissioned investors and traders with this task, then sharing the resulting profits from these crimes with them. The Syrian Network for Human Rights has been unable to ascertain the main reason for the fall of the tower up to the moment of preparing this report. The Zeyzoun Thermal station was under the control of the Turkistan Islamic Party at the time of the incident.

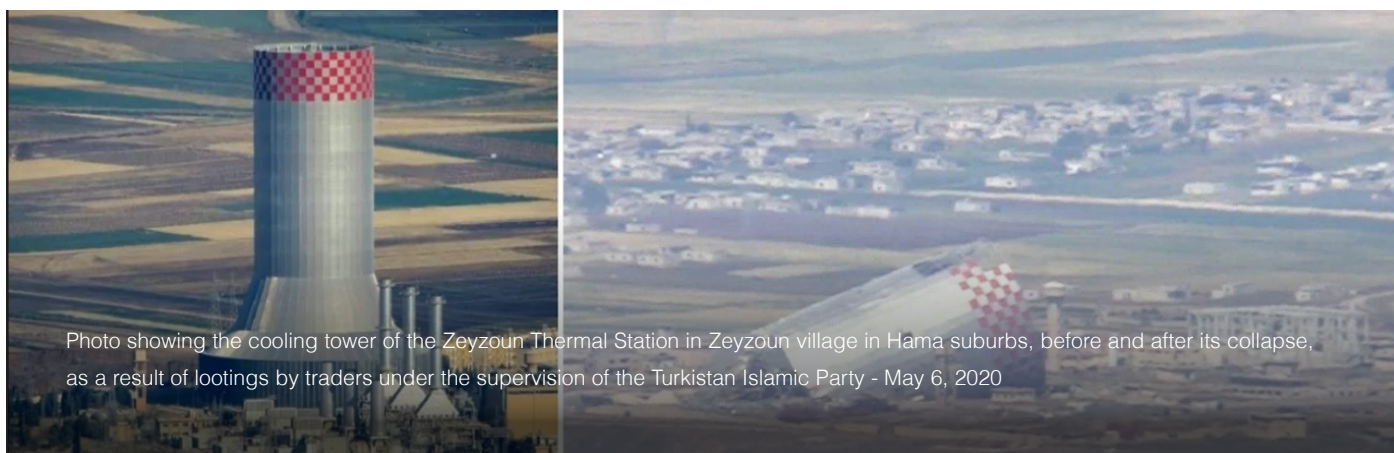


Photo showing the cooling tower of the Zeyzoun Thermal Station in Zeyzoun village in Hama suburbs, before and after its collapse, as a result of lootings by traders under the supervision of the Turkistan Islamic Party - May 6, 2020

D. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights was unable to document any indiscriminate attacks or attacks using outlawed weapons in May.

IV. Attachments

[125 Civilians Documented Killed in Syria in May 2020, including Eight Who Died Due to Torture, and One Massacre](#)

[At least 147 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in May 2020, including 10 Children and 4 Women](#)



V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused 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.
- 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, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime or Russian forces prior to any attack in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the alliance of US-led coalition and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).



Recommendations:

UN Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “ all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on 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 by 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’ 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 have proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.



- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

OHCHR

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.
- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

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

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

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

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence 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, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.



- Reveal the fate of some 83,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

The Russian regime

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in 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 to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the safe disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 83,000 people forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.

The Coalition (US-led coalition and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those affected.
- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.



- 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. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that the SDF violates the rules of international humanitarian law can be seen as a contribution to these violations.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

Armed Opposition factions

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

Humanitarian Organizations:

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

Acknowledgments

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.





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