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Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC)

THE 21st ANNUAL REPORT
On Human Rights in Syria 2022

January 2022 - December 2022

January 2023

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Introduction

The popular Syrian uprising against the Bashar Al-Assad regime closed on its eleventh year in 2022, without sighting a trace of light at the end of the tunnel that may alleviate the agony of the Syrian people, and enable them to gain their freedom, integrity and dignity.

In 2011, the Assad regime chose to use excessive violence to brutally crush peaceful protests demanding justice and freedom. The regime's destructive response towards the peaceful demonstrations caused massive devastation in Syria at all levels, almost entirely crumbling the state's central government turning into various sections of which the Assad regime only controls one part with the foreign intervention of Iran and Russia. The USA intervened at the head of the 'International Coalition' to fight ISIS and aid the separatist Syrian Democratic Forces, Turkey also intervened to defend its national security, following the influx of millions of refugees and the emergence of a separatist entity on its southern borders.

Throughout the bleak and miserable decade, the regime wreaked havoc on a massive scale and caused the destruction of ancient areas in major cities and towns, whilst being responsible for the largest and worst displacement movement in the history of Syria. The displacement had affected half of the country's population, leaving an entire generation out of the educational process, and destroying about 50% of the country's hospitals which entailed the spread of diseases and epidemics.

The situation in 2022 was not much different from previous years. As Assad regime prisons, in addition to that of the Autonomous Administration, and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham remain crowded with the forcibly disappeared. Names of torture victims are constantly being leaked, and new methods of torture are being uncovered, such as the "Salt Chambers in Sednaya Prison," which were revealed with the release of those who have suffered the agonies of the appalling experience.

Reports of horrific mass massacres committed by members of the Assad regime in previous years were also uncovered, including the "Tadamon Massacre," which took place in the neighbourhood from which it derives its name in Damascus. The Assad regime announced a meagre law in "forbidding and criminalising torture," which did not find any credit or impact for it, nor for its implementation, neither before nor after its issuance.

In 2022, Russian air forces continued to bomb the towns of northern Syria, whilst the artillery of the regime and Iranian-backed militias aggravated and increased the plight of the displaced and pushed for more displacement, to seize their towns to enforce their demographic change plan.

Israel repeatedly bombed Iranian and other strategic targets of the regime, in addition to vital and civilian installations such as Damascus and Aleppo airports, causing many civilian casualties.

In late November, the Turkish Air Force launched a large-scale military operation against the areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces, following the bombing of Istiklal Street in Istanbul, which the Turkish government blamed on the separatist forces in eastern Syria, causing damage to hospitals, schools and civilian casualties.

The assassinations did not stop, particularly in north western Syria, where security chaos prevailed. Assassinations in Daraa governorate which is primarily under the control of the Syrian regime also increased, with the largest number of victims being former leaders of the "Free Army" who had made settlements, retiring and declining their previous stances and opposition.

In 2022, the refugee crisis in neighbouring countries overshadowed other events, negatively exploited by political parties as a political and electoral card on one hand, and as a sectarian, economic and racism card on the other. All these distressing factors accumulated to further the frustration of Syrian refugees and worsen their plight under the name of "voluntary return," in which the Turkish government partially and forcibly implemented to return Syrian refugees in Turkey to assigned Syrian territories. These refugees were subjected to racist campaigns, random deportation to northern Syria, separation of families, and pressure to sign voluntary return documents. Then the Turkish president announced of an official plan to return a million Syrians to northern Syria.

In Lebanon, politicians raced to exaggerate in presenting the situation, inflating the number of refugees to attract more international aid, whilst simultaneously participating in campaigns of hatred and provocation against refugees, assaulting them and handing some of them over to the Syrian regime. Then an official announcement was made of a plan to return 15,000 Syrians per month, of which a few hundred returned, before the plan was temporarily derailed due to the spiralling deterioration in Lebanese common affairs and condition in addition to the stifling economic crisis. This also came after the protest of the United Nations and major international human rights organisations which reiterated that Syria remains an unsafe country for the return of refugees.

The Geneva negotiating process stopped in 2022 following the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis and the dispute between Russia and USA, in addition to the track not being a fair representation of the cause of freedom and justice in Syria. On the other hand, the Astana track presented nothing but more violations to its provisions on the Russian side, causing massacres, grabbing land and displacing the population.

The pace of financial and moral corruption increased in the areas of the regime as the quantities of drug smuggling to neighbouring countries amplified causing the international community to confiscate Captagon

shipments, so that laws were issued against prominent bodies and ruling members of the regime who are responsible for the manufacturing and smuggling of drugs.

The economic system in Syria collapsed almost entirely with 80% of the Syrian people classified below the poverty line. The exchange rate of the Syrian pound against foreign currencies also collapsed, with prices rocketing dramatically, causing energy sources to be scarce and cut off, which increased fuel prices in a drastic manner, further exacerbating the impact of total deterioration on lives and work of residents in Syria.

Some Arab regimes normalised their relations with the regime in Damascus, and attempts were made to bring it back into the fold of the Arab League, under the pretext of preserving the unity of Syria's land and people, restructuring and rebuilding what was destroyed, and returning the refugees and displaced persons to their lands; whilst ignoring the magnitude of the historical catastrophe that the regime caused. However, the attempts to bring the Assad regime into the Arab League Summit were unsuccessful, as other governments stood against its return, considering him responsible for the disaster.

At the beginning of the year, ISIS tried to prove its presence by attacking Al-Sina'a (Ghweran) prison, run by the Syrian Democratic Forces in Al-Hasakah governorate, which led to hundreds of deaths on both sides before controlling the situation. In July, the organisation's leader was killed in an American operation near Afrin. Nevertheless, the elements of the organisation continued to carry out hit and run operations in the Syrian Desert and in the north against the regime, the SDF, and the national army, wherever possible.

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham tried to expand its domain by taking advantage of the request for help from the opposition Al-Hamzat faction, after the Third Corps besieged their headquarters, due to Al-Hamzat's leader's involvement in the assassination of a civilian activist, but the Turkish refusal of the presence of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in its areas of control made it withdraw while secretly retaining centres of power.

In Autumn of 2022, Turkey's Foreign Minister surprised the international community with statements about a meeting with his Syrian counterpart in Belgrade. More statements and meetings followed until the end of the year, leading to a Russian-sponsored meeting between the defence ministers and security officials of the two countries.

These rapid developments caused a severe shock to the refugees and opponents of the Assad regime, especially if the result came against the sacrifices that had been made, and contrary to aspirations for a transition to a Syria free of human rights violations, dictatorship, sectarian factionalism, and corruption.

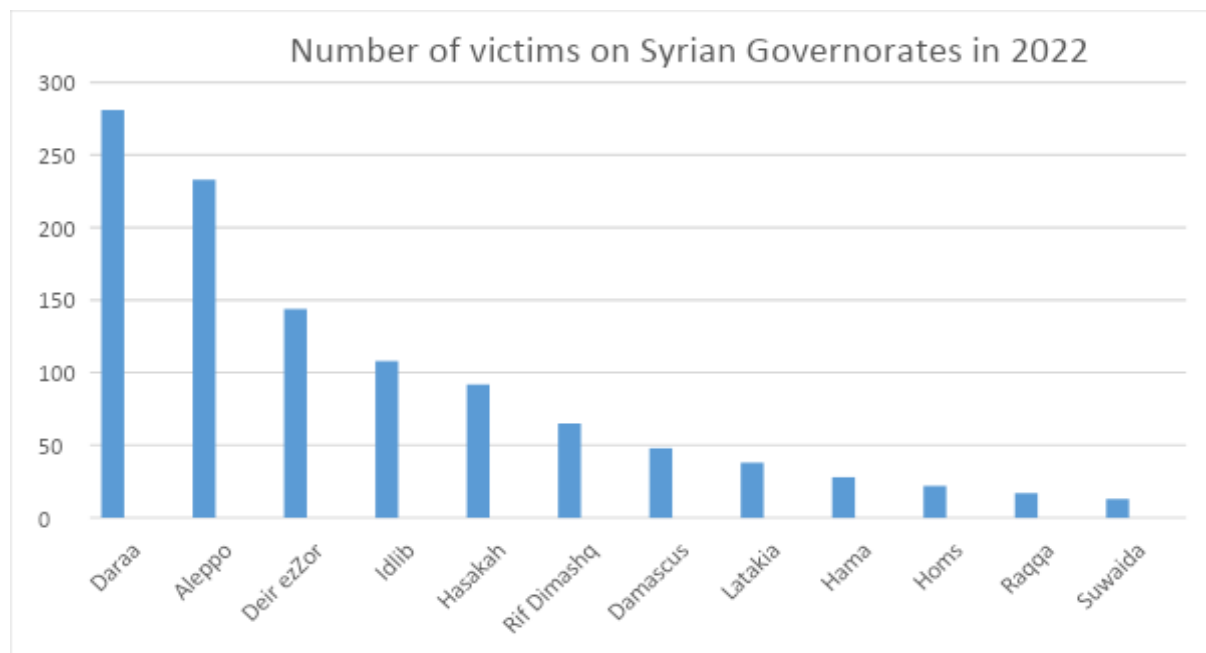
Syrian Human Rights Committee

December 31, 2022

Genocide

Human rights violations continued in Syria for the eleventh year in a row by all parties controlling the Syrian territory, albeit at a decreasing rate. The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the killing of (1133) people in 2022, compared to (1237) in the year 2021 and (1750) for the year 2020.

Daraa governorate topped the rest of the governorates in terms of the number of victims, with (281) people killed compared to last year in which (255) people were killed, followed by Aleppo governorate with (233) persons killed, compared to last year in which (214) persons were killed. Deir ez-Zor ranked third with (144) victims, then Idlib with (108) victims, Al-Hasakah with (92) victims, then Damascus countryside (Rif Dimashq) with (65) persons, (48) persons in the city of Damascus, (38) persons in Latakia, then Hama with (28) persons, Homs with (22) persons, Raqqa with (17) persons and finally As-Suwaida with (13) people killed. No victims were reported in the governorates of Tartous and Quneitra, and (47) Syrians drowned in the Syrian coast in September.



Hostilities in 2022 centred primarily in two areas, one in northern Syria, which witnessed ground and air bombardment from time to time by Syrian regime forces, its Russian backers and Iranian militias on the one hand, and the bombing carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in areas outside the control of the regime on the other hand. The second other area was in the governorate of Daraa, between both regime forces and groups, whether they engaged in reconciliation with the regime or remained in opposition to it.

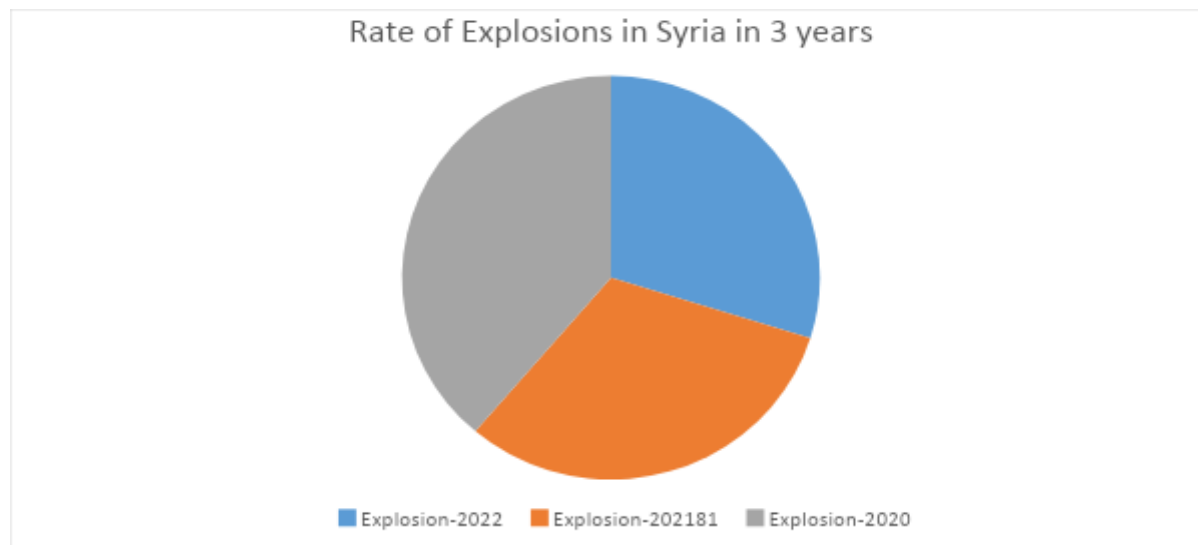
The statistics compiled by the Syrian Human Rights Committee show the regime being responsible for the killing of (208) people, whilst the Syrian Democratic Forces, which consist mainly of the Kurdish component close to

the PKK with the alliance of some Arab Bedouin tribes, are documented responsible for the killing of (87) people. ISIS are documented for the responsibility of killing (69) people, and the responsibility of the armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham For the killing of (39) people. Russian forces are documented responsible for the killing of (19) whilst International Coalition are documented as responsible for the killing of (13) people. The Turkish Gendarmerie are documented responsible for the killing of (7) people and finally Iranian militias are documented responsible for the killing of (7) people.

By analysing the numbers received, it is clear that all known actors active on the ground are responsible for at least (35.6%) of the victims, while the parties behind the killing of the rest of the victims who fell as a result of assassinations, explosions and landmines remain unknown.

Explosions

Explosions from unknown sources remain prominent in Syrian territories, with a decrease of an estimated half of what was witnessed in the past year. The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the occurrence of (77) explosions this year, compared to 81 explosions for the year 2021 and 100 explosions for the year 2020. Similar to the past year, most of the explosions were concentrated in the Aleppo countryside, especially in the regions of Afrin, al-Bab and Jarablus.



A thoroughly systematic analysis of the available data leads us to confirm that more than one party is behind the explosions that have rocked the region. At the forefront are the Syrian Democratic Forces, in which investigations reveal that many explosive mechanisms came from the areas under their control. The organisation did not hesitate to send its members to detonate explosives in the busiest streets of Istanbul on 13th November 2022. Closely followed by SDF, is the Syrian regime, which is keen on destabilising the region by all means and methods, in addition to sporadic

actions of retaliatory nature. Armed factions of the National Army and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham proved no exception.

Destabilising security and stability in north-western Syria is a goal pursued and shared by both the Syrian regime and the Syrian Democratic Forces. As such, it should be noted that the explosions are regular and dispersed over a large area, as well as the frequent loss of life and property in areas outside of their control.

Assassinations

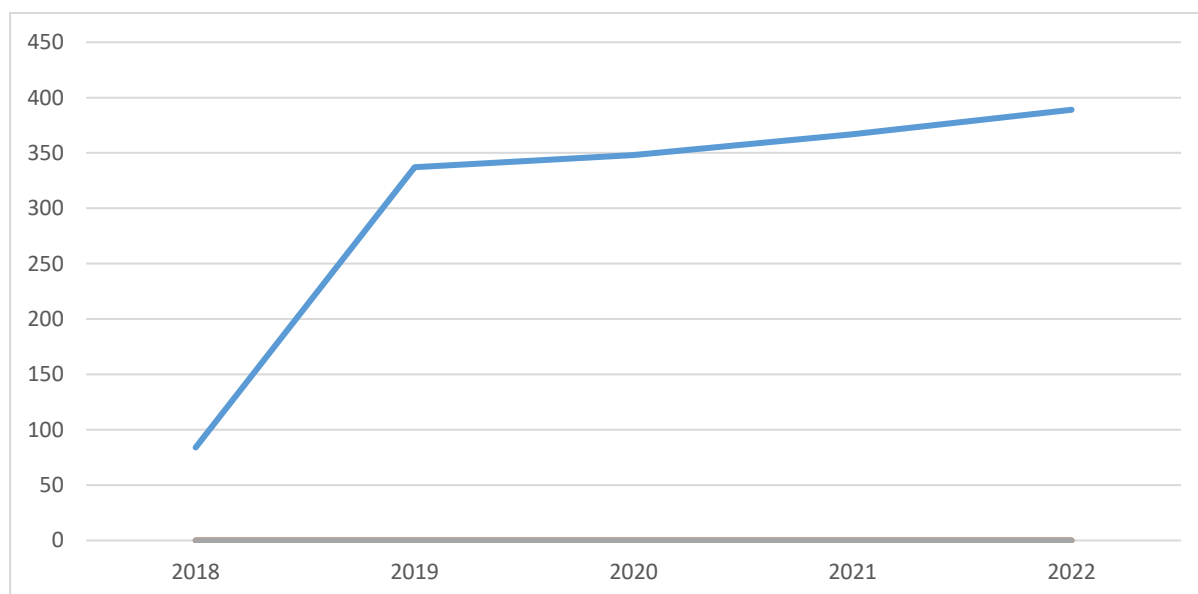
The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the assassination of (389) people in 2022, compared to the assassination of (367) people in 2021, (348) in 2020, (337) in 2019 and (84) people in 2018.

The main reason for the high increase in the numbers of assassination victims is attributed to the dwindling in the quantity and intensity of the combats and hostilities on the one hand, and to the multiplicity of the fighting actors.

The Syrian regime remains in control of various security networks in the region, as well as the Syrian Democratic Forces which are active in the areas in which the Turkish Army expelled them from, in addition to the various armed factions, including Tahir al-Sham; as the assassination of media activist Muhammad Abdel-Latif Abu Granum and his pregnant wife were conducted on the orders Al-Hamza faction's leadership.

The involvement of various factions in the neutralisation of their critics through assassination has been clearly documented. Such cases are grounds for investigations to be opened on the previous assassinations of media activists who were killed under mysterious circumstances.

Assassinations Rate in 5 years in Syria



Additionally, ISIS and other extremist organisations also remain involved in assassinations whenever they have the opportunity, and considering the

security chaos, criminal and revenge acts that are widespread in the region.

Targeting of markets

The targeting of markets has decreased significantly compared to previous years. The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the targeting of (7) markets and a commercial centre in 2022, compared to the targeting of 20 in 2021, 31 in 2020, and 40 in 2019.

All the targeted markets were in north-western and eastern Syria, in areas outside the Assad regime's control, most notably in Al-Bab, Afrin, Termanin, Afes, Ras Al-Ain, Tal Abyad, among others. It is also noteworthy that the Syrian regime and Syrian Democratic Forces are the main perpetrators in bombing the markets.

Landmines

Landmines continue to claim the lives of civilians in Syria. The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the death of (119) persons due to landmine explosions in 2022, compared to 169 in 2021, 135 in 2020, and 290 in 2019.

Aleppo governorate remains the most targeted region by landmines. It is worth noting that the Syrian regime, ISIS, and the Syrian Democratic Forces are the main players who use this type of deadly weapon, which mostly kills civilians.

Last October, the Syrian Civil Defence (the White Helmets) officially joined the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) supported by the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, to ban landmines and cluster munitions.

The organisation stated that the step of joining the coalition came within the framework of its efforts to remove the remnants of war in Syria. It provided data for the 2022 Cluster Munition Monitor report on north-western Syria, in which it stated that in 2021, Syria recorded the largest number of victims hit by cluster munition remnants recorded in any country in the world, as the number of cluster munition victims reached 37 persons, and children constituted two-thirds of cluster munition victims in 2021.

Targeting the service sector

The service sector continued to be targeted in 2022, but at much lower levels than in previous years, with (14) incidents documented.

The targeted facilities include electricity substations, fuel stations, a communication tower, a football field, and a poultry farm, in addition to the assassination of working figures serving in this sector. Most of the actors on the scene were involved in the bombardment of the sector, as Russian warplanes, the Syrian regime, the Syrian Democratic Forces, and some armed opposition factions participated in the targeting. The weapons used included artillery shells, rockets, explosions, firearms, and explosive devices. Turkish aircraft also participated in targeting this sector in the

areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces in November, after the bombing of Istiklal Street in Istanbul.

Documented Massacres 2022

Date	Incident	Vic-tims	Area	Prov-ince	Actor	Weapon
20/01/2022	Artillery bom-bardment on vital areas	7	Afrin	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery bombard-ment
02/02/2022	Unknown at-tack on popu-lar market	8	Al Bab	Aleppo	Unknown	Artillery bombard-ment
03/02/2022	Airdrops by Apache heli-copters and bombard-ment with heavy ma-chine guns	13	Atmeh	Idlib	International coalition	Heavy ma-chine guns
12/02/2022	Bombard-ment on Maar al-Na'san vil-lage	6	Maar al-Na'san village	Idlib	Syrian re-gime	Artillery bombard-ment
27/04/2022	An armed at-tack, believed by ISIS, on a house in the village of Fanjin	7	Fanjin	Deir ez-Zor	ISIS	Gun ma-chines
11/06/2022	A landmine of unknown origin ex-ploded near a truck carrying workers har-vesting agri-cultural crops	7	Deir al-Adas	Daraa	Unknown	Landmine
22/07/2022	Warplanes believed to be Russian bombed a farm inhab-ited by dis-placed per-sons and ci-vilians	7	Al-Judai-dah	Daraa	Russian war-planes	Air missiles

Date	Incident	Vic-tims	Area	Prov-ince	Actor	Weapon
19/08/2022	Rocket bom-bardment of a popular market in the city of Al-Bab from the ar-eas of the re-gime and SDF	15	Al Bab	Aleppo	Syrian re-gime + SDF	Artillery bombard-ment
08/09/2022	Russian war-planes bombed the village of Haf-sarga	7	Hafsarja	Idlib	Russian war-planes	Air missiles
06/11/2022	Rockets fell on a moun-tainous area crowded with camps for the displaced, es-pecially Maram camp	9	Maram Camp	Idlib	Syrian re-gime	Rockets
22/11/2022	Artillery bom-bardment of the Turkish market in Azaz	5	Azaz	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery bombard-ment

Documented Explosions in 2022

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Gover-norate	Weapon
07/01/2022	An unidentified explo-sion inside a shop	Two peo-ple killed	Taybat-al-Imam	Hama	Gunfire
13/01/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin ex-ploded in a military vehicle	one per-son killed	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
13/01/2022	Unidentified suicide bombing in front of the bus departure centre	Two peo-ple killed & medium damages	Al Bab	Aleppo	suicide bombing

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Gover-norate	Weapon
13/01/2022	A bomb was thrown by an unknown person on a house in Al-Mahatta neighbourhood	Nothing reported	Ras ul Ain	Hasakah	hand gre-nade
22/01/2022	Hilkou checkpoint was targeted with a hand grenade	Nothing reported	Qamishli	Hasakah	hand gre-nade
24/01/2022	An unknown source explosion inside a delivery van	material damages	Al Bab	Aleppo	Explosive device
25/01/2022	An explosion inside a building materials factory on the Qabasin-Al-Bab Road	A child killed	Rajo	Aleppo	Explosive device
25/01/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded near Al-Jazeera Junction	Nothing reported	Raqqa	Raqqa	Explosive device
30/01/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in a car	child injured	Rajo	Aleppo	Explosive device
04/02/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the village of Bir Marghar	Three children killed	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Explosive device
12/02/2022	An explosion of unknown origin in the town of al-Sousa	Child killed	al-Sousa	Deir ez-Zor	Explosive device
14/02/2022	An explosion of unknown origin between the villages of Kemar and Soghonaka	An elderly man killed	Kemar	Aleppo	Explosive device
15/02/2022	An explosive device exploded in a garbage container in the city centre of Azaz	Three people injured	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
18/02/2022	Explosion of an explosive device of unknown origin	One person killed	Al Bab	Aleppo	Explosive device

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Governorate	Weapon
22/02/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in the city centre of Azaz	one person killed	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
01/03/2022	An explosive device exploded in a civilian passenger bus on the road between Jasim and Inkhil	Four people injured	Jasem	Daraa	Explosive device
21/03/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in a car on Al-Bazar Street in Jarabulus	One person injured	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Explosive device
29/03/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in a car in the town of Mahajjah, killing its owner, Doctor Thaer Al-Balkhi	one person killed	Mahajjah	Daraa	Explosive device
31/03/2022	An explosion of unknown origin in the city of Ain al-Arab (Kobani)	Two people killed	Ain al-Arab	Aleppo	Explosion
10/04/2022	An unknown car bomb exploded at the entrance to the city of Al-Bab	one person killed	Al Bab	Aleppo	Car bomb
22/04/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the city of Al-Bab	one person killed	Al Bab	Aleppo	Explosive device
25/04/2022	An explosive device planted in a garbage container exploded in the city of Al-Bab	Nothing reported	Al Bab	Aleppo	Explosive device
27/04/2022	Explosion of an explosive device	Two people injured	Afrin	Aleppo	Explosive device
01/05/2022	A car bomb of unknown origin exploded in the city of Jarabulus	one person killed	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Explosive device

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Governorate	Weapon
24/05/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the village of Al-Hamran	Two people injured	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Explosive device
28/05/2022	A motorcycle exploded in the city of Afrin	Three people injured	Afrin	Aleppo	Explosive bike
29/05/2022	An unknown source explosion targeted a civilian car in Al-Hweish near Ras Al-Ain, killing its driver	one person killed	Al-Hweish	Hasakah	Explosive device
31/05/2022	A car exploded in front of the General Command of the Internal Security Forces of the SDF in Al-Hasakah, and a fire broke out in the fuel tank	material damages	Hasakah	Hasakah	Car bomb
01/06/2022	An explosion in an ammunition depot for a faction of the armed opposition near the camps for the displaced	A girl killed & material damage	Babsak	Idlib	Explosion
06/06/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the city centre	One person injured	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
07/06/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the city centre	One person injured	Afrin	Aleppo	Explosive device
27/06/2022	A car bomb of unknown origin exploded in the village of Thalja, in the city of Jarabulus	Three people injured	Thaljeh	Aleppo	Car bomb
27/06/2022	A car bomb of unknown origin exploded at the Tal Ali crossing in Jarabulus	Two people injured	Tal Ali crossing	Aleppo	Car bomb

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Governorate	Weapon
02/07/2022	Nadim Muhammad Jo died of his wounds due to an explosion the day before in the village of Al-Ghaydah	one person killed	Al-Ghaydah	Homs	Explosive device
05/07/2022	An explosive device exploded in a car in the city of Afrin	Two people injured	Afrin	Aleppo	Explosive device
07/07/2022	An explosive device exploded on the northern al-Muhallaq road in the city of Azaz	Two people injured	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
17/07/2022	An explosive device exploded in Tafas, killing a woman	A woman killed	Tafas	Daraa	Explosive device
19/07/2022	Explosion of an explosive device in Ras al-Ain	Two people injured	Ras al-Ain	Hasakah	Explosive device
26/07/2022	Two explosive devices exploded in an hour in the village of Al-Shuaib in the Ghandoura area	Nothing reported	Al-Shuaib-Al-Ghandoura	Aleppo	Explosive device
09/09/2022	A motorcycle explosion of unknown origin, south of the city of Jarabulus	Two people killed	Jarabulus	Aleppo	motorbike explosion
11/09/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in a car in the Noor Aleppo camp in the town of Qah	Nothing reported	Qah	Aleppo	Explosive device
12/09/2022	A motorcycle of unknown origin exploded in the Washkani camp for the displaced, near Al-Halakha	one person killed	Washman	Halakha	motorbike explosion
22/09/2022	A motorcycle bomb exploded in a popular market in Afrin	Four people injured	Afrin	Aleppo	motorbike explosion

Date	Explosion	Damage	Area	Governorate	Weapon
07/10/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded in a car carrying two civilians	Two people injured	Azaz	Aleppo	Explosive device
17/10/2022	An explosive device attached to the bottom of a civilian car exploded	one person killed	Talbisah	Homs	Explosive device
15/11/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded near a highway	Two people killed	Aloush village	Aleppo	Explosive device
05/12/2022	A car bomb of unknown origin exploded on Al-Quwatli Street	One person injured	Qamishli	Halakha	Explosive device
18/12/2022	An explosive device of unknown origin exploded on the road between Busra al-Harir and Nahata	One person injured	Busra al-Harir	Daraa	Explosive device

Markets and Commercial & Industrial Centres in 2022

Date	Incident	Damage	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
02/02/2022	An unknown source attack on a popular market in the city of Al-Bab	Significant material damage	Al Bab	Aleppo	Unknown	Unknown
16/02/2022	Artillery shelling by the regime and Russia at the fuel market near Termanin, which led to fires and great damage	Significant material damage	Termanin	Idlib	Russian forces	Artillery shells
27/02/2022	The bombing of the regime on the main market in Afes	Significant material damage	Afes	Idlib	Syrian regime	Artillery shells

Date	Incident	Damage	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
01/06/2022	Artillery shelling of the SDF on the market of the city of Tal Abyad, causing great damage to the shops	Significant material damage	Tal Abiadh	Raqqa	SDF	Artillery shells
19/07/2022	Artillery shelling of the Syrian Democratic Forces on the market of the city of Tal Abyad, causing great damage to the shops	medium material damage	Ras al-Ain	Halakha	Unknown	Explosive device
19/08/2022	Rocket bombardment from the areas of the regime and the SDF on a popular market in the city of Al-Bab, which caused material damage to the shops	significant material damage	Al Bab	Aleppo	Syrian regime	Rockets
22/09/2022	A motorcycle bomb exploded in the popular market in Afrin	significant material damage	Afrin	Aleppo	Unknown	Motorcycle bomb

Targeting the service sector in 2022

Date	Incident	Damage	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
03/01/2022	Russian aircrafts bombed a poultry farm	significant material damage	Kafr Takharim	Idlib	Russian aircrafts	Missile bombing
03/01/2022	The Tal Tamr power station is out of service due to the shelling between the SDF on the one hand and the National and Turkish Army on the other	Out of service and major damage	Tal Tamr	Hadsakah	SDF, Turkish & National Army	Artillery bombing
13/01/2022	An explosion at the gas station north of Idlib	Two children were killed, severely damaged, and out of service	Idlib	Idlib	Unknown	Explosion
24/03/2022	Ali Mahmoud Muhammad al-Atma, head of the al-Sanamayn city council, was shot dead	one person killed	al-Sanamayn	Daraa	Unknown	Gunfire
06/04/2022	The vicinity of the power station in the town of Tal Tamr was bombed	Significant material damage & out of service	Tal Tamr	Hadsakah	National Army	Artillery bombing
26/04/2022	Bombing the football stadium on the outskirts of Marea	Medium damage	Marea	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery bombing
12/05/2022	Warplanes bombed a poultry farm near the village of Mantaf	Major damage and out of service	Manataf	Idlib	Russian aircrafts	Missile bombing

Date	Incident	Damage	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
27/05/2022	The bombing of the communications tower in Rasin district in Al-Halakha countryside by the National Army	Nothing reported	Abu Ras	Hadsakah	National Army	Artillery bombing
27/09/2022	Abd al-Qadir Mahmoud al-Zoubi, head of the municipal council of the town of al-Mu-sayfirah, was killed by direct gunfire	Abd al-Qadir Mahmoud al-Zoubi killed	al-Mu-saiferah	Daraa	Unknown	Gunfire
17/10/2022	The mayor of Talbiseh, Muhammad Ahmad Rahal, was killed when an explosive device attached to the bottom of his car exploded	Muhammad Ahmad Rahal was killed	Talbisah	Homs	Unknown	Explosive device
12/11/2022	The killing of Nabil Qassem Al-Hariri, head of the local council in the town of Alma	Nabil Qassem Al-Hariri was killed	Alma	Daraa	Unknown	Gunfire
21/11/2022	Bombing the communication network with missiles on the hill of Jishan village	Major damage and out of service	Gishan village/ Kobani	Aleppo	Turkish aircraft	Air missile
21/11/2022	Bombing of the Tigris oil field with missiles near the village of Al-Awda	Major damage	Al-Awda	Halakha	Turkish aircraft	Air missile
11/12/2022	The bombing of the communication tower in the	Internet and communication	Saluk	Raqqa	Turkish aircraft	Air missile

Date	Incident	Damage	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
	village of Saluk in Tal Abyad	tions outages, and the tower is out of service				
22/12/2022	The bombing of the Water Directorate in the village of Sheikh Fawqani, Ain al-Arab	Three workers injured	Shoyukh Fawkani	Aleppo	Turkish artillery	Artillery missiles
22/12/2022	The arrest of Muhammad Hasnawi Al-Jadoua, deputy notable of the Tribal Council	Muhammad Hasnawi Al-Jadoua arrested	Halakha	Halakha	SDF	Arrest

Medical and emergency sector

The intensity of targeting the medical and emergency sector decreased in 2022, with regards to individuals, facilities and vehicles, compared to previous years. This is largely due to the cessation of hostilities.

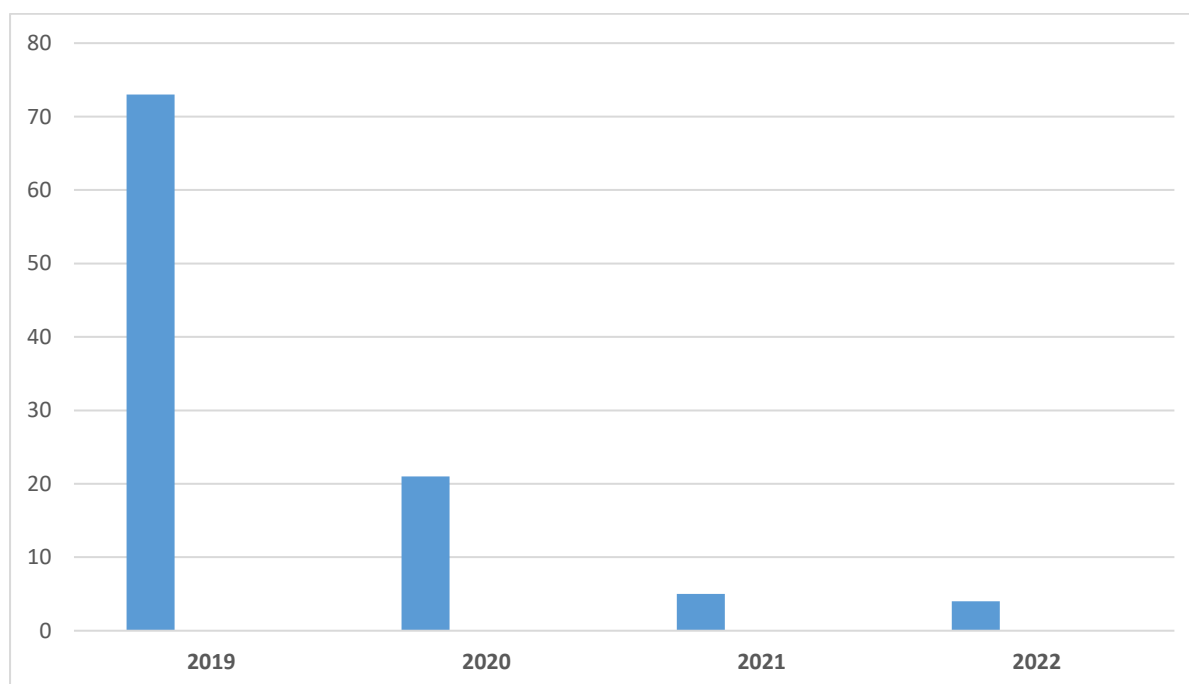
The Syrian Human Rights Committee documented the targeting of (2) medical units this year, compared to the targeting of (5) hospitals and health centres in 2011, (21) hospitals and health centres in 2020, and (73) hospitals and health centres in 2019.

SHRC further documented the killing of (2) doctors, (4) nurses, a civil defence volunteer, the head of a relief agency, in addition to the injury of (3) civil defence volunteers. Two (2) doctors, a pharmacist and a nurse were detained, and the World Health Organisation office was targeted by the 'Revolutionary Youth Organisation' which is part of the Syrian Democratic Forces. Additionally, the vehicles of the civil defence team in Jarablus were targeted, causing them great material damage.

Syrian regime forces, the Syrian Democratic Forces and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham successively attacked and arrested medical and emergency personnel, as indicated in the tables below.

A report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the beginning of the year indicated that 12.2 million Syrians need health assistance, including four million displaced persons, 1.33 million children under the age of five, and 3.38 women at fertility age. It further documented that half a million elderly people in-need comprehensive health services.

Hospitals & Health Centers targeted in 4 Years



Whilst the fragile health system in Syria is under pressure from several simultaneous emergencies due to the ongoing insecurity and COVID-19 pandemic, large parts of the country have been facing a major cholera outbreak since August, including the north-eastern and western regions of Syria. The cause of the outbreak was initially linked to water pollution near the Euphrates River and the acute shortage of potable water in northern Syria. Since, the epidemic has spread throughout the country, bringing the death toll to 97 cases as of 16 December 2022. Doctors without Borders reported on 20 October that 26% of those infected with cholera were children under the age of five.

The tables below show the documented cases of violations against the medical and emergency sectors.

1. Targeting members of the emergency rescue sector in 2022

Deaths

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
11/01/2022	Doctor Abdul Muti Ahmed Al-Abd	Unidentified persons shot him near his clinic	al-Tayannah	Deir ez-Zor	unidentified	Gunfire
11/01/2022	Nurse Basem Mohamed Mohamed, Kurdish Red Crescent volunteer	Unidentified gunmen shot him in al-Hol camp	Al-Hol camp	Hasakah	unidentified	Gunfire
28/01/2022	Civil Defence member Ammar Al-Amin	He died after the factory building collapsed while he was working to put out the fire	Jarabulus	Aleppo	collapsed building	Fire
15/02/2022	Nurse Wassim Muhammad Al-Hamad and another person	They were shot by armed men	al-Ghariya al-Sharqiya	Daraa	unidentified	Gunfire
24/03/2022	Anaesthesia nurse Abdul Hamid Al-Ani	He was shot by armed men	Abu Har-dob	Deir ez-Zor	unidentified	Gunfire

29/03/2022	Dr. Thaer Al-Balkhi	An explosive device exploded in his car	Mahajjah	Daraa	unidentified	Explosive device
16/05/2022	Amer Alfin, director of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation	An explosive device exploded in his car	al Bab	Aleppo	unidentified	Explosive device

Injuries

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
18/04/2022	Three civil defence personnel were wounded	The SDF bombed the civil defence team while they were inspecting the area of its artillery shelling	Jarabulus	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells

2. Targeting the human elements in the medical sector

Arrest

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
07/06/2022	Paediatrician Mohamed Al-Abdo	He was arrested by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham	al-Dana	Idlib	HTS	Arrest
20/08/2022	Pharmacist Muhannad Ahmed Al-Haish	He was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces	al-Ma'amel	Deir ez-Zor	SDF	Arrest
23/08/2022	Doctor Moaz Al-Saran	He was arrested by the Syrian regime	Deir ez-Zor	Deir ez-Zor	Syrian regime	Arrest
14/09/2022	Nurse Abdul Hamid Atta Al-Jassem	He was arrested by the Syrian regime	Hata	Deir ez-Zor	Syrian regime	Arrest

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
13/11/2022	Doctor Mo-hamad al-Husain	He was arrested by SDF	al-Tayana	Deir ez-Zor	SDF	Arrest

3. Targeting hospitals and medical centres

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
08/09/2022	Marayan medical point was targeted with Kras-nopol shelling	Major damage and out of service	Marayan	Idlib	Russian aircraft	Air missiles
20/11/2022	The bombing of the Children's Hospital in Kobani / Ain Al-Arab	Major damage and out of service	Kobani / Ain Al-Arab	Aleppo	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles
23/11/2022	Targeting the health center in the town of Karamog, near Kobani	Major damage and out of service	Karamog	Aleppo	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles

4. Targeting Vehicles

Date	Victim	Incident	Area	Province	Actor	Weapon
18/04/2022	The SDF bombed the civil defence team while they were inspecting the area of its artillery shelling	Significant material damage to the civil defence vehicle and its out of service	Jarabulus	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells

Media and press

Syria is considered one of the worst countries in the world regarding freedom of press and media. In 2022, it ranked 171 out of 180 countries by Reporters Without Borders, which also ranked it first in the Arab world and sixth in the world in terms of the number of detained journalists.

Journalists, correspondents, and media activists suffer from an extremely hostile environment created by all parties that control various areas in the country.

The Syrian regime continues to detain hundreds of media professionals who have been forcibly disappeared for many years. The deteriorating situation was exacerbated further by Law No. 20/2022: 'Reorganising the criminal legal rules for information crime,' which was issued in 2022 and entails a complete restriction on use of social media whilst imposing imprisonment penalties and large fines for violations.

In 2022, the Syrian Democratic Forces and its apparatus extended their violations against media freedom by arresting journalists and shutting down press outlets critical of its policies in areas under its control.

The involvement of factions within the National Army in the killing of a media activist was documented, suggesting the possibility of their involvement in other incidents that were not disclosed at the time.

Territory controlled by Tahrir al-Sham are ruled with an iron security fist, suppressing all media freedom, whilst supporting the brutal actions of various factions within the National Army, such as the latter's involvement in the killing of media activist Muhammad Abdel Latif Abu Ghanoum and his pregnant wife.

It is worth noting that Turkish warplanes entered the line of killing and wounding media personnel while bombing sites controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee defines "media" as everyone who works in a registered media institution, and whose work in journalism is considered their main source of livelihood, whether it is direct journalism or supportive journalism, such as photographers. The description of "media activist" is adopted for those who work in an unregistered media organisation, such as Facebook pages, or who do not depend on their media work as a primary source of livelihood.

This definition is applied by SHRC - and by most institutions working in the field of documentation - in a similar manner, as it is not possible in the Syrian case to accurately ascertain whether the media work carried out by the activist is their main source of livelihood or not, and whether media institutions inside Syria are officially registered or not.

SHRC further classifies media workers for any armed party as media activists, unless evidence shows that they have participated in armed actions.

The documentation of the Syrian Human Rights Committee shows that all parties in their areas of control have been involved in various forms of violations of media freedom.

SHRC documented the killing of (5) media professionals and the arrest of (9) journalists during the year 2022, with the Syrian Democratic Forces and the Autonomous Administration being involved in a considerable number of arrests, which amounted (7) in total, followed by Hay'at Tahrir Al Sham with (2) documented arrests.

The tables below document the most prominent cases in which journalists were killed, injured, assaulted or arrested in 2022.



Media tools destroyed by different authorities in Syria

Documenting violations against media professionals during 2022

1. The killing of media professionals

Date	Incident	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
26/02/2022	The body of the former media activist, Mahmoud Bakour, was found in his house in the city of Talbiseh, showing traces of gunshot wounds	Talbiseh	Homs	Unidentified	Gunfire
16/08/2022	The family of media activist Ahmed Tayseer Issa Al-Khatib learned of his death under torture in Sednaya prison, and he was arrested at the end of 2018.	Daraa	Daraa	Syrian regime	under torture
07/10/2022	Media activist Muhammad Abdul Latif Abu Ghanoum and his pregnant wife were shot dead in the city of Al-Bab in Aleppo governorate	Al Bab	Aleppo	Al-Hamza faction/ National Army	Gunfire
05/11/2022	Journalist Atef Shelbi al-Saadi died of his wounds on the Sadd road while he was treating the wounded as a result of the clashes between ISIS elements and the Russian-backed Eighth Brigade.	Daraa al-Balad	Daraa	ISIS-Syrian regime	Gunfire
17/11/2022	Journalist Essam Abdullah, reporter of Hower Agency, was killed in the Turkish bombing of Al-Malikiyah/Derik	Malikiyah Derik	Hasakah	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles

26/02/2022	The body of the former media activist, Mahmoud Bakour, was found in his house in the city of Talbiseh, showing traces of gunshot wounds	Talbiseh	Homs	Unidentified	Gunfire
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Injured and Assaulted Journalists

Date	Incident	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
02/02/2022	Attacking the Rudaw Network team and preventing it from media coverage	North east	Hasakah	SDF	Beating tools
05/02/2022	Beating of the photographer, Issa Hassan Khalaf, while he was practicing his profession	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF	Beating tools
05/02/2022	Vivian Fattah, a journalist, was beaten and imprisoned for an hour while she was at work	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF	Beating tools
22/11/2022	The journalist, Muhammad Jarada, was injured while covering the events in Ayn al-Arab / Kobani	Ain Al-Arab Kobani	Aleppo	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles
22/11/2022	Beating of the journalist, Abdul Basit Muhammad Ahmed, while he was carrying out his work	Ras al-Ain	Hasakah	SDF	Beating tools

Media Workers Arrests

Date	Incident	Area	Governorate	Actor
05/02/2022	Journalist Bauer Maarouf was detained and his house was raided because of his work, then he was released later on 9/2/2022	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF
05/02/2022	Journalist Sabri Fakhri was arrested and his house was raided because of his work	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF
14/02/2022	It was confirmed that the media activist, Muhammad Al-Ismael, was arrested by members of Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham on 14/1/2022 and taken to an unknown destination.	Idlib	Idlib	Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham

Date	Incident	Area	Governorate	Actor
19/02/2022	SDF arrested Ahmed Sofi, a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, and took him to an unknown destination	al-Malikiya	Hasakah	SDF
19/02/2022	Journalist Dara Abdo was arrested and his house was raided because of his work	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF
16/05/2022	SDF raided the house of journalist Wissam Al-Ahmad, arrested him and took him to an unknown destination	Raqqa	Raqqa	SDF
02/08/2022	SDF arrested the journalist, Idris Farman, the correspondent of the Kurdish Rudaw channel, from his workplace in Qamishli	Qamishli	Hasakah	SDF
23/08/2022	SDF arrested the journalist, Ali Karim Al-Mahan, after he was summoned to their General Security headquarters in the Al-Ma'amel area in the countryside of Deir ez-Zorr	al-Ma'amel	Deir ez-Zor	SDF
14/11/2022	Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham arrested Youssef Nizar, an activist in the popular movement	kelly	Idlib	Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham



Classroom in Northern Syria

Education and educational institutions

Education remains one of the most affected sectors in Syria, consequently the deterioration of the sector has had a negative impact on an entire generation that has been deprived of education entirely, or that is deprived of a stable and formal education.

The reasons behind this are primarily due to the strategies of the Syrian regime and its allies, Russian warplanes and Iran sponsored militia whose forces have accelerated the pace of destroying infrastructure and superstructures in areas out of the regime's control; killing and displacing the population, as well as arresting and killing many members of the educational staff without discrimination.

Statistics indicate that approximately 40% of boys and girls of elementary school age have left school in areas outside of regime control in northwest Syria. This is primarily due to demographic displacement and, or, the children's need to work to meet the needs of their families, who have lost breadwinners as a result of the massacres and bombardment of the regime and its allies.

The situation is not better in areas controlled by the Syrian regime, given the widespread poverty, decline in income and purchasing value of the Syrian currency, the dropping out of many children from the educational process, and the overall impact of completely and, or, partially destroyed areas on the child's psyche.

According to international estimates, there are more than 2.5 million Syrian children inside and outside of Syria who are not affiliated to any educational institution.

The majority of those deprived of an education reside in areas that have witnessed opposition movements to the Syrian regime, the majority of which are Sunni Arabs from particular governorates. As such, the graveness in the aforementioned numbers lies almost exclusively in the delayed development, economic and social, of certain population groups and geographical areas, which will further exacerbate the poor distribution of resources, including state positions and jobs in the private sectors.

The Syrian regime remains the worst in the world regarding the systematic targeting of educational buildings. The number of schools that have been totally or partially destroyed, according to UNICEF statistics, has exceeded 4,000 schools and educational centres since the start of the uprising in 2011.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee has documented the targeting of (9) schools and educational centres in 2022, compared to (11) in 2011. However, this year the targeting of buildings were not monopolised by the Syrian regime, but were primarily caused by the Syrian Democratic Forces alongside the regime and some factions of the National Army, in addition to the International Coalition and Turkish warplanes.

Reports state that (75) schools in areas outside of the regime's control in northwest Syria have been placed back into service, with some necessary supplies provided.

The areas under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces in north-eastern Syria are witnessing a politicisation and Kurdisation of the educational process, excluding a curriculum inclusive of a national culture. Furthermore, SDF has adopted a policy of closing schools and institutes that do not follow its curriculum, forcing students to either drop out of school or move to schools located in regime-held territory, which only those with high incomes can afford.

This is in addition to SDF's policy of kidnapping students and enrolling them in their militia staff, which deprives them of the right to education. Many teachers and students who have objected to the policies of the Autonomous Administration or protested against the low standard of living have been arrested, with the fate of some of them still unknown.

Targeting school buildings in 2022

Date	Educational Institution	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
20/01/2022	The bombing of al-Itihad al-Arabi School in the city of Afrin	major damages	Afrin	Aleppo	SDF	Missiles
21/01/2022	Several areas were bombed in the vicinity of the Institute of Technical Observers, near the Faculty of Economics in the Ghweran neighbourhood	major damages	Hasakah	Hasakah	International coalition	Missiles
18/04/2022	SDF forces seized the Al-Furat School in the village of Mazraat Al-Yarmouk and turned it into a military barracks	takeover by force	Mazraat al-Yarmouk	Hasakah	SDF	takeover by force

Date	Educational Institution	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
03/08/2022	Al-Andalus School for Basic Education in the city of Azaz was bombed	major damages	Azaz	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells
19/08/2022	Bombing of an elementary school in al-Bab with missiles	major damages	Al Bab	Aleppo	SDF	Missiles
10/10/2022	The seizure of an elementary school in the village of Al-Ta-yana	Seizure by force	al-Ta-yana	Deir ez-Zor	SDF	takeover by force
13/10/2022	A shell fell near a school for special need and Handi-capped persons	Medium damages	Al Bab	Aleppo	Armed factions	Artillery shells
04/11/2022	Artillery bombardment of Ma'arbelet Elementary School	major damages	Ma'ar-belet village	Idlib	Syrian regime	Artillery shells
20/11/2022	The bombing of the Holy Quran School in the village of Ain Al-Arab / Kobani	major damages and out of service	Ain Al-Arab Kobani	Aleppo	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles

Targeting the Educational & Academic Staff during 2022

Date	Targeted staff	Type	Area	Governorate	Actor
13/02/2022	Three teachers were arrested accused to incite to protest against living and service conditions	Teachers arrest	Raqqa	Raqqa	SDF
27/03/2022	Six teachers arrested	Teachers arrest	Raqqa	Raqqa	SDF

Date	Targeted staff	Type	Area	Governorate	Actor
01/05/2022	An explosive device exploded in Jarabulus, killing university doctor Zakary Hamid	Killing of University professor	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Unidentified
22/06/2022	The school boy, Ahmed Haitham Jafo, was arrested after leaving school	school boy arrest	Sheikh Maqsood neighbourhood	Aleppo	SDF
11/07/2022	Teacher, Nazlia Sheikho Farhad, was arrested from her home	Teachers arrest	Sheikh Maqsood neighbourhood	Aleppo	SDF
20/08/2022	Arrest of the university student at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kalamoon, Abdel-Fattah Dwaihi, at a checkpoint in Tabqa	University student arrest	Tabqah	Raqqqa	SDF
21/08/2022	Ibrahim Ahmed Omar Al-Omar, a university student at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Aleppo, was arrested at a checkpoint in Tabqa	University student arrest	Tabqah	Raqqqa	SDF
28/08/2022	The family of the student, Hussein Hafserjawi, from Ghadlab learned that he died under torture in 2014 in the prisons of the regime, and he was forcibly disappeared.	Death under torture	Idlib	Idlib	Syrian regime
12/11/2022	Abdul Aziz Ali Al-Naes, a student at Aleppo Free University was arrested	University student arrest	Barad village	Aleppo	National army

Religious Places

The targeting of mosques and religious centres throughout the country continued to decline with the decline in air and artillery shelling. This year SHRC documented the targeting of (3) mosques, one of which was bombed from the positions of the and SDF, the second by Turkish aircraft on SDF positions, and the third by direct provocation from Iranian militias in the city of Aleppo, compared to (10) mosques in 2021, all of which were deliberately bombarded from the positions of the regime and its supporters, (45) mosques in 2020, and (162) mosques in 2019.

An unidentified attack took place during the opening of the Hagia Sophia Church in al-Suqaylabiyah, in the countryside of Hama, which was built with Russian assistance, and two people were killed in the attack.

There was no report of targeting centres of any other religious sect throughout the country, while news was reported of the restoration of some churches in the areas of the regime, and the building of Shiite hussainiyas in them, where, for example, several hussainiyas were built and expanded in the village of Hatla alone in Deir ez-Zor governorate.

Targeting mosques during Friday and congregational prayers, killing the largest number of worshipers, and destroying mosques was a systematic policy of the Syrian regime and its regional and international supporters. It completely or partially destroyed the equivalent of 73% of Syria's mosques, according to one of the statistics. The international coalition forces, the Syrian Democratic Forces, and ISIS participated in this violation.

The UNESCO had classified many Syrian mosques as a historical heritage that witnessed many human civilizations, but the regime targeted them indiscriminately until the number of completely or partially destroyed mosques exceeded 1,000 mosques, some of which were targeted several times, and the sanctities were insulted as copies of the Noble Qur'an were torn, and the sanctity of the mihrabs (niches) was also violated.

This year, the assassinations and arbitrary arrests of imams and scholars continued in the regime's areas, and to a lesser extent in the areas of influence of the SDF and the National Army factions. The assassination of (2) imams was documented in Daraa governorate, where the people of the region confirm the involvement of the regime's apparatus in liquidating them for their opposition of the regime, while a third imam died under torture in the prisons of Tahrir Al-Sham. The regime apparatus, the SDF, and some factions of the National Army alternatively participated in detaining and torturing imams who expressed opinions against their policies.

Targeting houses of worship in 2022

Date	Mosque	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
18/01/2022	Al-Nour Mosque	Major damages	Jarabulus	Aleppo	Unidentified	Artillery bombardment
23/07/2022	al-Siddiq Mosque	Major damages and out of service	Al-Jamiliyah neighbourhood	Aleppo	Iranian militia	Fire
24/07/2022	Attack on the Aya Sophia Church during its opening ceremony	Two people killed	Suqaylabiyah	Hama	Unidentified	gunfire
01/12/2022	Al-Turwaziya Mosque	Major damages and out of service	Al-Turwaziya	Raqqa	Turkish aircraft	Air missiles

Targeting imams of mosques in 2022

Date	Imam	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
16/02/2022	Imam Faisal Juma was killed on 2/2/2022, detained since 2019	Imam killed	Idlib	Idlib	Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham	Under torture
17/02/2022	Raiding the house of Imam Yusuf Abdul Aziz and arresting him	Imam arrest	Afrin	Aleppo	National Army	Arrest in unidentified place
21/06/2022	Arrest of the village imam, Abd al-Rahim Mulla Saleh	Imam arrest	Tal Awdeh	Hasakah	SDF	Arrest in unidentified place
23/09/2022	Imam Sheikh Mutaz Abu Hamdan was killed	Imam killed	Tafas	Daraa	Unidentified	Assassination

Date	Imam	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
23/10/2022	Imam Adel Hamad Al-Suwai	Imam arrest	soosah	Deir ez-Zor	Syrian regime	Arrest in unidentified place
14/12/2022	Sheikh Mo-hamad Atta Al-Sa'adi was killed	Imam killed	Kafr Shams	Daraa	Unidentified	Assassination



A mosque destroyed by Russian warplanes

Detention and Torture

The Syrian Regime

Tracking the violations related to detention and torture in Syria is a very complicated matter. Not even any high-level official in the regime can give a correct number to those detained by the Syrian regime's security apparatuses and militias and the horrific torture and violations that detainees are afflicted to, due to the lack of centralization of the security apparatuses, the number of affiliated and supporting militias, the various prisons owned by each of them, the total impunity granted them, and the chaos covering their actions. Nonetheless, the severity of detentions from has lessened from the early years, though terrifying news is still spreading of the new means and way of torture thought up the regime's minds.

A quick glance at the security apparatuses of the Syrian regime shows that they divided into: a Military Intelligence Division which has twenty branches; Political Security Division which has four branches in addition to the branches of the governorates; State Security Administration which has six branches in addition to the branches of the governorates; the Air Force Intelligence Directorate whose branches are centred in Damascus and which has the worst reputation and performance; the Criminal Intelligence Directorate, and the Customs Directorate (the Secret Office). This is in addition to the branches of the army and especially the Fourth Division, and what is called the Army of National Defence, and its affiliated foreign militias.

The Regime's "People's Assembly of Syria" on February 28 produced Law No. 16 for 2022 which prohibited and criminalized torture. The law led to a wave of anger and sarcasm from the extreme contradiction with the regime's practices. Article One of the law defines torture as "Any action or inaction that results in pain or severe torture physically or mentally... it also includes actions caused by a person or group for personal, material or political aims or for revenge." Article Two of the law legislates a series of punishments according to level of criminal act during torture, which oscillate between execution and short-term imprisonment to prison for life.

The law however did not affect the regime's practices on the ground. It did not stop torture, nor lessen its severity, nor prevent those ordering and executing torture at least since the beginning of protests in 2011. Many in the international and rights spheres considered an attempt from the Assad regime to deceive the international community and whitewash its crimes and clean its reputation. The initial estimates are that approximately a fourth of a million people have been detained since the beginning of the revolution in 2011, many of whom are feared to have killed.

Detainees who have been released have confirmed for the first time the presence of salt rooms in the Sednaya prison to prevent decomposition of the corpses of those tortured and killed in the prison. Two previous detainees have narrated that they were detained in two rooms of salt containing the corpses of detainees which caused them to fear that they would meet a similar fate.

Light has been shone for the first time on the massacre of the Al-Tadamun neighbourhood in Damascus, committed in 2013, which caused a great uproar among human rights groups, following a report in the British newspaper The Guardian on April 27, which revealed that regime soldiers on April 16, 2013 arrested and tortured 41 citizens, who were then herded into a pit prepared beforehand and gunned them to death.

The discovery of this horrific mass crime furthered pains and fears among the families of the forcibly disappeared that their loved ones met a similar fate from the regime's soldiers and militias, especially given the presence of similar narratives.

One of the Syrians who spent 11 years in the regime's prisons and exited them halfway through this year narrated his trials, saying "I was imprisoned in 2011 by the Military Security in Homs, and was transferred to several investigation centres. However, the worst place I faced torture in was the Military Security branch in Homs. I saw people who had been detained for five or six years there who had been investigated and left in prison to the point that some wished for death to be rid of the torture." He followed by saying "In the military security branch, the one responsible for torture was nicknamed Abu Al-Alamin, would use a staff with nails in it to hit people on their backs and heads. I saw one person whose head was injured, and his feet were bloody from infections.

Another detainee described the most difficult forms of torture as the "Flying Carpet" and then "Al-Shabeh,": "In "Al-Shabeh," your hands are tied behind you and you can't move them, and you are hit with skewers of steel. As for the Flying Carpet, it is a form of breaking your back while your feet are hit with pipes. In the Military Security branch, there were people who had al-shabeh done to them, who had been hit on their head and died, and had been thrown in a cell for a whole day because they had been thought to only have lost consciousness. When they don't regain consciousness, the detainees would inform the prison guards that the person had died, so they would take his corpse. One of those people's name is Omar Al-Shinaq, he was hit on his head by an investigator and died."

One of the released detainees in a testimony said that Branch 215 in the Al-Mezzeh district of Damascus is considered a human slaughterhouse based on his suffering while being detained there. Daily ten to twenty detainees would pass away under torture, the majority of whom would die

as a result of not being given treatment inside the branch and the sick and injured not being released for treatment outside the branch due to torture.

One of the service employees in one of the detaining centres in the Damascus countryside narrated that the corpses would be either buried in mass graves prepared beforehand or would be cremated and the ashes disposed of.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee confirmed 102 deceased from torture in the regime's prisons.

The Autonomous Administration

The Autonomous Administration in North Syria is almost the other face of the regime in its practice of detainment and torture. Its apparatuses which follow the ideology of Marxism use extremely cruel means of torture. Its campaigns against media and freedom of expression activists and those protesting its abusive policies, and especially the enforced militarization of young men and women in its ranks, in addition to accusing the Arab majority of being double agents for Turkey or the National Army.

In the regions under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces there are 49 prisons and detainment centres, 38 of which are informal, eight central prisons and three of which belong to the international coalition. The Military Intelligence detention centre in Raqqah is considered the worst, which residents in Raqqah and Deir ez-Zor are referred to while being investigated. There they are subjected to the most severe forms of torture and forced confessions according to the testimonies of previous detainees.

Some examples confirmed by the Syrian Human Rights Committee were the death of Tariq Sayyid Ahmed aged 30 under torture in the SDF's prisons on 20/4/2022 seven months after his detainment; the death of Mustafa Al-Hamdo under torture in the Alaya prison on 5/3/2022; the death of Yusuf Muhammad Al-Salamah Al-Rashid as a result of torture on 20/2/2022; Humud Ibrahim Al-Shalash aged 31 at the end of February; and Jasim Muhmmad Khatabb Al-Badawi aged 48 under torture, who was imprisoned on 8/10 and killed on 11/10/2022, that is three days after his detainment, among many others. Noticeably, the names of all those subjected to detainment and barbaric torture are from the Arab majority in the SDF's regions which enjoys support and direct coverage from the international coalition led by the United States of America.

Under the excuse of the War on Terror and ISIS, the Syrian Democratic Forces (the military wing of the Autonomous Administration) commits terrorist acts no different from those done by the regime, whereas some regime forces commit acts of detainment and torture based on sect, some of the SDF soldiers commit the same acts but on an ethnic basis against

the Arab majority, taking advantage of the international support for the war against ISIS.

One of the witnesses for the SHRC testified that soldiers from the SDF raided his shop and pointed their weapons towards him and his customers and ordered them to raise their arms and detained all those present in the shop at that moment. They then stepped over his goods before leading them to the detainment centre where they were investigated and tortured.

A university professor said to the Syrian Committee "While driving my personal car in the Al-Hasakah region last June, I was stopped at a checkpoint and threatened at gunpoint by soldiers to exit my car. They detained me and investigated me under the accusation of sympathising with ISIS. After a week, of detainment it became clear to them that I was an Assyrian Christian, so they set me free. When I requested for them to return my car, they denied any knowledge of it. To this day I do not know anything about where the car is."

Hay'et Tahrir Al-Sham

The means of detainment and torture among Hayet Tahrir Al-Sham do not differ much from the two aforementioned. Abu Al-Alaa Al-Shami, one of the founders of the group and one of its enemies today, narrates in his book "Speech of Prisons" published this spring, in which he collected testimonies from previous detainees in the groups' prisons and published them through social media. He says "The ordeal begins when Al-Jolani decides to silence somebody who tried to advise him and was in favour of reform. He orders his spies to follow the man carefully. Then he is detained by officials and bound and tied. They drag him to the world of disappearances which begins by dressing him in a prison uniform, a finely tailored blue suit used by previous detainees. He is then thrown into a solitary confinement cell or an overcrowded dormitory in preparation for the investigation which relies on means of torture."

Then the author recounts the means of torture he could observe, such as the well-known "tire" and being lashed in it sixty times or more, sometimes for hours. Al-Shabeh is done in front, behind or on the side, and maybe by hanging him on a pulley. Another means it to beat him on his feet with a plastic belt filled with silicone or a seatbelt with fifty lashes or more, and the wooden "flying carpet," and an electrical seat the group bought from the regional market in 2018. Or the detainee is restricted with his hands clamped behind his back in a particular and severely painful manner. The "coffin" which the author says he did not find among the means of torture to be known by previous tyrannical regimes, is a steel box with a door, upright like a closet, two meters high, 40 centimetres in width and 25 centimetres deep approximately. Behind the door is a thick iron plate as well, held in place by springs which can be moved manually from the front of the door. If a prisoner is put inside, the prison guard moves the manuals

driven into the iron plate to squeeze the detainee's body who can only breathe from a small hole.

In an interview conducted by the Syria channel with Isam Al-Khatib, the previous head of the military court of Hayet Tahrir Al-Sham, on March 15, 2022, he said "Hayet Tahrir Al-Sham under the leadership of Muhammad Al-Jolani commits serious violations against detainees, who are detained under the simplest accusations, and makes the judiciary a toy in the hands of the ruler. In some cases, a person is called back for a security matter, is arrested, as the judiciary is also a means to settle scores." Hayet Tahrir Al-Sham also prohibits the most basic legal rights, such as having a lawyer appointed, the right to know the details of the case, the right to know the proceedings of the case. Investigators are given free range for mental and physical torture, and the period for trial and investigation is not determined, refusing to place law for trial fees. There is no organized law, nor any law to determine the period of detention and judgement. There are several confirmed cases of death under torture, without the high officials of the group taking any procedures to stop the torture or murder in prisons. Likewise, any person who criticizes the group's leader, Muhammad Al-Jolani, is detained and has charges fabricated against him."

The Syrian Human Rights Committee confirmed the detainment of the civil activist Muhammad Ismail in January 2022, and then released while keeping his mobile phone. He was then called to pick it up and was detained a second time.

In mid-February, the family of sheikh Ahmed Al-Khalouf were informed of his passing away under torture in the Tahrir Al Sham's prisons three years after his detainment despite his old age and religious status, as he was the imam of a masjid in Marshamsha in Ma'arat Al-Numan region of the Idlib countryside.

In June, Ahmed Ammar Hamoush, a resident of Haranabush, was detained. Despite the protests of the residents of the village over the absence of any charge against him, he has still not been released.

The family of the Kurdish youth Jawan Abd Al-Hanan confirmed his death in Hayet Tahrir Al-Sham's detainment centres. He had been detained by the group since November 2020, who refused his family access to see him or communicate with him during this period.

The National Army

Incidents of detainment and torture were also repeated among the factions of the National Army in Northwest Syria. On February 25, the Faylaq al-Sham faction of the Syrian National Army, admitted the responsibility of its security council, for the killing of of the civilian "Abd Al-Razzaq Tarad Al-Obeid" under torture. The faction surrendered the responsible soldiers to the military court of the national army.

A girl imprisoned with her brother narrates “I was imprisoned with my brother and six others by the Turkish gendarmerie during our attempt to cross the borders with a fake picture in June... After several days we were handed over to the National Army factions. There we were subjected to investigation and the two youth who were with us were subjected to severe beatings, while we women were cursed at. After ten days we were freed in exchange for a ransom of 330 thousand Syrian liras for me and my brother.”

On December 22, the lawyer for the detainee Luqman Hmaid Hamas entered the military hospital in Afrin, only to be informed of his passing away several days after his detainment. The effects of torture were visible on his body. Luqman had been detained several times before this and released in exchange for bail. He mentioned that the charge against him was cooperation with the Syrian Democratic Forces.



Al-Tadhamun Neighbourhood Massacre 2013

Refugees and Displaced

First: Internal Displacement

The waves of destructive violence begun by the Syrian regime and its Russian and Iranian supporters led to the destruction of wide parts of long-inhabited cities, especially in the countryside of Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. This led to the displacement of half of the Syrian population to places they believed to be safer than inside Syria or its neighbouring countries. However, the partial ceasing of combat in spring 2020 as a result of the de-escalation agreement did not positively affect Syrian refugees. Rather, the situation for refugees continues to grow more complex, and there is nothing in the observable future that would indicate a solution for the return of millions of Syrians to their homes despite the great noise being made on the subject and its marketing with the intention of eliciting aid at time and what is termed reconstruction other times. This is especially the case as most Syrians have lost their homes to systematic destruction, or had them seized by unjust laws passed by the Syrian regime and handing them over to its militias or foreign militias, using illegal slogans like “a homogenous Syria” or what Bashar Al-Assad in one his speeches expressed as “the people who do not defend their homeland, who have no homeland and deserve no homeland.”

Internally displaced Syrians, who number seven million people, are distributed over three main areas: Northwest Syria, Northeast, and the regions controlled by the regime in Central and Southern Syria.

The number of internally displaced in the Northwest is estimated to be around 2.8 million, eighty percent of whom are women and children, among whom are 50 thousand who have disabilities caused by the random bombing and destruction of the regime and its supporters.

According to the most recent statistics of the “Coordinators of Humanitarian Response in Syria,” in middle of this year is that the number of residents in camps in the north of the country reached one million and 44 thousand internally displaced, living in 1,489 camps, 452 of which are informal camps that do not receive any international aid. These camps lack basic infrastructure in terms of sewage and healthy water and roads, and every winter the same suffering of its residents due to rains that flood their tents or winds that knock them over is repeated.

In the Northeast controlled by the “Syrian Democratic Forces” approximately a million internally displaced reside in homes, schools and camps, such as the camps of Al-Hawl, Al-Arisha, Roj, Nowroz and Sariyah Kaniyah.

There are no precise statistics on the numbers and distribution of the internally displaced in the regions under the regime’s control. However,

estimates point to Latakia as being at the forefront of regions welcoming the internally displaced, followed by Tartus and Aleppo.

The displaced in the regions under the regime's control suffer from difficult living conditions in light of the lack of any employment opportunities, the retreat of the Syrian lira's purchasing power and exchange rate with foreign currencies, and the cutting of electricity for 18 to 20 hours a day, in addition to the rising rents.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warned that this winter will be the most difficult of all the past years, and that many of the displaced families will not have any alternative other than choosing between food and warmth. However, many of the residents of camps in Northwest Syria will find neither warm refuge in the rickety tents, nor any food due to the lack of aid.

The rain accompanied by strong winds at the beginning of this year caused great damage to the camps in the north of Syria, and damaged nearly 537 camps and destroyed 3,187 tents. So too was the summer severe as the temperatures reached unusual levels, leading to harmful insects and the spread of diseases, especially dermatological, and to the deaths of many children from the spread of cholera and coronavirus.

The international aid directed to the regions outside the Assad regime's control are subjected to international agreements. Russia is insisting that the regions under the Assad regime's control obtain the largest share of international aid, contrary to the agreement in 2014 according to Security Council Decision 2156. It is also insisting for Damascus to be the primary gateway for the entrance and spread of aid instead of the agreed upon crossings in the aforementioned agreement, meaning the control of the regime over international aid.

Many reports have cast doubt on the transparency of United Nations mechanisms in the Assad regime-controlled areas and the lack of consistency in its policies. Numerous reports have been related about the corruption of its means of financing aid purchases in Syria as it grants tens of purchases to producers with documented personal ties with Bashar Al-Assad and the militias that kill and displace Syrian citizens, whereas North Syria which has seen more destruction only obtains 10% of this aid.

Al-Hol Camp:

The Al-Hol camp represents a unique case of international failure. Its residents include nearly 62 thousand displaced from 51 nationalities, 80% of whom are women and children of members of ISIS, who were killed, detained or disappeared in the war waged by the international coalition against the group in its defeat in 2021.

A UN publication in June last year as a result of an international delegation to the camp described it as "a collection of miserable and sprawling tents

under the hot sun, and a forced residence for tens of thousands of people for many years to this day.”

The camp lies to the south of Al-Hol town in the Al-Hasakah governorate in North Syria, and is controlled by the “Syrian Democratic Forces” supported by America. The refugees hail from many nations, chief of which are Syria and Iraq.

Many nations have refused to repatriate their citizens from the camp’s residents, whereas reports say that it has become a wellspring of extremism and a ticking time bomb to create an extremist ISIS army so long as nations do not rush to repatriate the children and re-integrate them into society.

Violence and cases of murder against unknown victims are widespread in the camp. Whereas sources from those controlling the camp-prison attribute the cases of murder to the ISIS brides without presenting evidence of that, other sources from within the camp have pointed to the large involvement of the SDF themselves in eliminating those they describe as troublemakers or those who worked with them in smuggling drugs or people and then become a burden.

Jens Laerke, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Spokesperson, in a media conference in the United Nations headquarters in Geneva on January 22 stated “We feel greatly concerned regarding the deteriorating situation in the Al-Hol camp in North Syria. Between 1 to 16 January, the United Nations met reports of the killing of 12 Syrians and Iraqis among the camp’s residents, one of whom was an Iraqi woman. Another person was heavily injured in a violent attack.”

Some statistics point to the murder of 24 people in the two months of May/June.

On November 15, the bodies of two girls under the age of 15 were discovered in a sewage ditch on site of the Al-Hol Camp with visible stab wounds. Reports received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner have indicated that the two girls were raped several days prior.

On August 30, Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, stated “This year alone, at least 26 murders have been reported in Al-Hol camp, 20 of which were women, with developing reports on sexual violence carried out by some guards of the camp. Additionally, I would like to report the rising number of cases of sexual exploitation.”

In November, the headless body of a woman was discovered. Despite the numerous killings and horrific crimes occurring in the camp, neither the Syrian Democratic Forces, nor their ally countries expressed any responsibility towards these events, rather it is “extremist” forces within the camps that are blamed with no effort to reveal their exact identities.

Al Rukban Camp

The population of Al-Rukban camp decreased to about eight thousand from its original size of over seventy-five thousand refugees due to the siege of the camp.

The Al Rukban camp is located in an arid desert area in the Homs Governorate on the Jordanian border. It is also close to the Al-Tanf base which is located on Line 55 established by the United States in 2014 whilst confronting ISIS. While the American presence failed to provide any assistance to the camp residents, the Jordanian authorities have also refrained from providing assistance since the 2016 suicide attacks which claimed the lives of some of its soldiers. Furthermore, the Syrian regime besieged the camp and prevented the delivery of humanitarian and food aid.

The relentless siege forced many of the displaced in the camp to return to regime-controlled areas. Some of them were arrested, tortured and killed, and the majority of the youth were conscripted into the regime's military to fight against opposition factions. The remaining displaced refused to return to the regime-held areas out fear of what would befall them, especially given their knowledge of the fate of those who had chosen to return and the youth in particular.

The displaced individuals in the camp suffer from very harsh living conditions, a lack of medical facilities, sanitary drinking water and the absence of basic foodstuffs resulting in many deaths, especially among the elderly and young children who are at the most risk of poor medical care and malnutrition.

The regional and international responses to the conditions of Al Rukban camp reflect a state of moral failure and abandonment of humanitarian responsibility.

The suffering of the displaced in the camps in 2022

Date	Incident	Damages	Area	Gover-norate	Actor	Weapon
01/03/2022	A random camp was bombed on a random camp for the displaced	Significant material damage to many tents	Jarabulus	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells
13/03/2022	A displaced child died due to the cold and lack of health	A displaced child killed	Yarup Camp	Raqqqa		Lack of care

Date	Incident	Damages	Area	Gover-norate	Actor	Weapon
	care in Yarub camp					
09/04/2022	Gunmen shot a displaced Iraqi in Al-Hol camp	Iraqi dis-place died	Al-Hol camp	Hasakah	Unidenti-fied	Gunfire
22/04/2022	Gunmen shot a displaced Iraqi in Al-Hol camp	Iraqi dis-place died	Al-Hol camp	Hasakah	Unidenti-fied	Gunfire
01/06/2022	An ammuni-tion depot of an armed fac-tion exploded near displaced camps	A child was killed, a number of tents were burned, and material damage was caused	Babaska	Idlib	Armed factions	Explosion
24/07/2022	The Kuwait Rahma camp for the dis-placed was bombed with artillery shells	A displaced person was killed and material damage was caused	Afrin	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells
25/07/2022	Bombing dis-placed peo-ple's places on the outskirts of Azaz	Displaced woman Az-iza al-Mo-hamad was killed	Azaz	Aleppo	SDF	Artillery shells
10/10/2022	The bombing of Al-Bar camp for the dis-placed near the village of Kafr Karmin	Medium damage to tents	Kafr Kar-min	Aleppo	Syrian re-gime	Artillery shells
29/10/2022	Artillery bom-bardment of the Kuwait Rahma camp	Medium damage to tents	Afrin	Aleppo	Syrian re-gime	Artillery shells
29/10/2022	Artillery bom-bardment of	Displaced woman was killed	Afrin	Aleppo	Syrian re-gime	Artillery shells

Date	Incident	Damages	Area	Governorate	Actor	Weapon
	the Kuwait Rahma camp					
04/11/2022	Targeting the vicinity of Kuwait Rahma camp	Medium damage to tents	Afrin	Aleppo	Syrian regime	Artillery shells
06/11/2022	Rockets fall crowded in camps for the displaced (mostly on Maram camp)	9 displaced people were killed and significant material damage	Maram Camp	Idlib	Syrian regime	Missiles

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:

Turkey

Turkey hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees, as the number of those who obtained the temporary protection card (Kimlik) has reached 3 million 604 thousand and 414 people, according to the latest census of the Turkish General Directorate of Immigration on August 18.

Those refugees are distributed over several states, the foremost of which is Istanbul, which includes 550,000 refugees, followed by Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Hatay. At the end of last year, 193 thousand of them obtained Turkish citizenships.

Syrians and others coming from non-European nations do not obtain full refugee status. Rather, Syrian refugees are registered under the "temporary protection" regime, which the Turkish authorities say automatically applies to all Syrians applying for refuge.

The Turkish temporary protection regime enables Syrian refugees to access essential services, including education and healthcare. However, it generally forces them to reside in the region they were registered in, and the refugees have to apply for permission to travel between regions.

The temporary protection regime in Turkey faces many problems and obstacles, the most prominent of which are the rising rents, racism, discrimination and bullying, and the problems of integrating Syrian students into public education. There are also projects of what has been termed voluntary return which has been partially carried out in a coercive manner, or projects to return them to other than their areas of origin. The opposition uses the issue of Syrian refugees as an electoral card against

the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, fuelling racism, and its senior officials have threatened to return the refugees soon after winning the elections, which will take place in the summer of 2023. This has led to events that have killed many Syrians. Likewise, influential officials in the regions controlled by the opposition have used their influence to abuse refugees and allowed racist crimes to go unpunished and deported some of them to North Syria, despite possessing temporary protection cards (kimlik).

The Syrian Human Rights Committee has received many reports indicating abusive practices by Turkish police and security officers that have affected many Syrian refugees under the temporary residence campaign, which range from home and street arrests, beating and torture to deportation to Northern Syria. Some of the deportees included unaccompanied children.

The arrest of activist Ghada Hamdoun, the mother of lawyer Salah El-Din - a kimlik holder - was held hostage until he surrendered himself after denying the charges against him. He was then immediately deported to northern Syria, perhaps setting a dangerous precedent in violating Turkish and international human rights law, and a contradiction of the moral values espoused by the Justice and Development Government.

The Turkish government's intention to resettle one million refugees who hold temporary residency in northern Syria has raised concerns among Syrians who wish to return to their own cities and villages, and do not wish to be settled in places far from their original homeland where they share a family, community, local history and culture.

The statements of the Turkish Foreign Minister and then President Erdogan regarding his call to communicate with Bashar al-Assad's regime, which began with a meeting between defence ministers and officials with Russian sponsorship, also raised the fears of Syrians in Turkey over their fate. Many of them, including those with Turkish citizenship, are trying to find an alternative place of residence.

Jordan:

Jordan ranks second in the number of Syrian refugees, amounting to 1.3 million, including 676, 787 refugees who hold refugee status registered in the lists of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 20% of them reside in camps, most notably Zaatari and Azraq, and the rest are distributed over the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Ramtha and Zarqa.

80% of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line, while 60% of Syrian families suffer from extreme poverty.

The Jordanian government seeks to help Syrian refugees by granting them work permits in specific occupations for expatriate workers. According to the media spokesman for the Ministry of Labour, 60,000 work permits were

recently issued for Syrian refugees since the beginning of this year. Syrian refugees obtained 338,736 work permits in specific professions since 2016 until December 14th of this year. Work permits over these years were distributed to Syrian refugees as follows: 310,709 work permits for males, and 28,027 work permits for females.

Despite the difficult living conditions that beset Syrian refugees in Jordan, the United Nations considers Jordan an ideal host, as it has provided security and safety for those in dire need. The Jordanian government's normalization of relations with the Bashar al-Assad regime did not affect the status of refugees, and the voices of some opposition elites calling for the return of Syrian refugees remains limited compared to Lebanon and Turkey. This year, 3,325 refugees returned from Jordan, which is considered a modest number due to the Syrians' lack of feeling safe and the regime's arrest and subjugation of a number of returnees to interrogation, torture and detention. Indeed, the regime went as far as to detain Jordanian citizens in the first hours of opening the "Jabir crossing" between the two countries.

Lebanon:

Lebanon ranks third in countries which Syrians have sought refuge in to escape violence. UN statistics indicate that there are 880,000 Syrian refugees "registered" on its lists who have lived in Lebanon up to 2022. Meanwhile, the Lebanese government estimates that there are 500 thousand others residing in the country illegally.

According to United Nations statistics, "90% of Syrian families in Lebanon live in a miserable state of extreme poverty in light of the economic collapse and severe economic crisis that Lebanon is going through, and the failure to provide them with a safe return."

The Lebanese government did not recognize the presence of the Syrians in it as refugees. Rather, it classified them as displaced persons, although Lebanon hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees in the world compared to its population, as it holds one refugee for every four Lebanese.

The Lebanese government does not provide any support to Syrian refugees, but rather pursues them and burdens them with residency renewal fees, and prohibits them from residing in camps. Lebanese officials claim that Syrian refugees are the reason for the suffocating economic crisis the country is experiencing, due to the inability of its economy and infrastructure to handle the large number of displaced people. They ignore the presence of 400,000 Syrian workers who receive low wages in all manual and technical jobs helping Lebanon to stand on its feet, in addition to the generous aid that the Lebanese government receives from international organizations to host Syrian refugees. Syrians in Lebanon have faced years of severe restrictions, including the burning of their camps

more than once, the launching of bitter campaigns against them, and their deprivation from any enjoyment of person, nutritional or medical security, in addition to the repercussions of this on ties with broad segments of Syrian society, which is the closest society to Lebanon and its people. Despite this, the Lebanese government prepared a plan to deport 15,000 refugees per month to Syria, without considering the security consequences that await them.

The Lebanese government denies that the intervention of Lebanon's Hezbollah, an armed group loyal to Bashar al-Assad and its involvement in the Syrian violence and control over part of Syrian territory, is one of the reasons for Syrians' flight and refuge in Lebanon. In short, of all the countries that has received Syrian refugees, Lebanon is the worst in its failures in the field of human rights

Refugees around the World:

Syrian refugees are displaced around the world in other countries such as Iraq, where the Kurdistan region of Iraq hosts 90% of the approximately 364,000 Syrian refugees, as well as Egypt which hosts 160,000 Syrians. The number of Syrian refugees in Germany has reached about 800,000 according to the latest statistics of the German Federal Statistical Office, and Sweden has about 190,000 Syrian refugees.

The Commission has received documented reports on the mistreatment of Syrian refugees by both the Belarusian and Polish authorities. Belarusian President Lukashenko unleashed waves of Syrians who wanted to move to Europe from his country. This has been described as a retaliatory move against the European Union, which imposed sanctions on his regime after he was accused of rigging the 2020 elections. The Belarusian border guards pushed refugees into the swampy forests on the Polish border leaving refugees at risk of the severe weather and living conditions, which resulted in the refugees being endlessly pushed back and forth between Belarusian guards and the Polish border guards. The European Union's position in this matter demonstrates the height of moral failure and irresponsibility.

Furthermore, there were also documented reports of serious violations committed by the Greek authorities in which Syrian refugees witnessed countless violations by Greek authorities while trying to cross borders towards European countries for asylum. Greek forces utilized excessive force, live ammunition and illegal detention against asylum seekers, in addition to expulsion towards Turkish territory.

Within one week, the Syrian Committee for Human Rights was able to observe two serious violations committed by Greek authorities against Syrian refugees. On September 13, 2022, SHRC issued a report after reviewing video evidence that revealed that Greek authorities had allocated a large warehouse near the Turkish border on the Evros River and turned

it into a secret prison in which migrants and refugees from Turkey, especially Syrians heading to Europe were detained, tortured and robbed.

The Danish authorities informed hundreds of Syrian refugees of the cancellation of their residence permits or the rejection of their applications following the Danish government's announcement that the city of Damascus had become safe and refugees would be safe to return. Denmark is the first European country to send letters threatening Syrian children that they would be forcibly returned to Syria unless they chose to leave voluntarily.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee has documented dozens of cases of the Swedish Social Services Authority known for abducting Syrian refugee children from their families for unjustified reasons or without reason. The government body however has denied this and claimed them to be false allegations. This has caused great pain for many Syrian families who fled from the hell of war and violence to meet the even worst fate of their children being kidnapped and not being permitted to even visit them or see them. This body is ripping them of their upbringing according to double standards and raising them with different religious and cultures values from their original environment without their parents' permission.

The year 2022 saw disastrous violations in dealing with the plight of Syrian refugees, whether in neighbouring countries, or throughout the rest of the world, including in the European Union. At the same time that Ukrainian refugees who had blue eyes and a shared culture were welcomed, abhorrent racism and hate speech among some Eastern European heads of states were made against Syrian refugees.



Displaced girl in her tent, Northern Syria