

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	2116
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Syrian Network for Human Rights
Titel:	236 Civilian Deaths, Including 32 Children and 18 Women, as well as One Woman's Death due to Torture, Documented in Syria in January 2025, 21 Civilians Were Killed by SDF
Udgivet:	1. februar 2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	20. juni 2025

Monthly Report (Civilian Deaths)

**236 Civilian Deaths, Including
32 Children and 18 Women, as
well as One Woman's Death
due to Torture, Documented
in Syria in January 2025, 21
Civilians Were Killed by SDF**

Landmine and Cluster Bomblet Explosions Killed
71 Civilians, Including Seven Children and Three
Women, in January

Saturday 01 February 2025

236





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

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I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths documented by the **Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)** as having been perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during the month of **January 2025**. The report sheds light particularly on deaths due to torture, victims among medical personnel, victims among media workers, victims among Civil Defense personnel, and massacres by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database. In addition, the report outlines the attacks on civilian objects that we have been able to document this past month.

The fatalities recorded in this report are limited to civilian deaths that have been documented in the preceding month. Some of these deaths may have taken place months or years previously and only been documented in this period, in which case we list the date on which the death was officially documented, as well as the estimated date of death. We've also taken into consideration the effects of the historic events of December 8, 2024, and the fall of the Assad regime on areas of control and power in Syria. Despite the Assad regime's downfall, however, fatalities are still being documented at its hands in various forms; most notably:

- Pro-Assad militias have been killing civilians or Syrian security forces personnel.
- Civilians have been killed by the explosion of cluster bomblets or landmines previously planted by the defunct Assad regime's forces.
- Deaths of victims from wounds sustained in earlier attacks by the defunct Assad regime's forces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

II. BRIEF ON THE MOST NOTABLE KILLINGS IN JANUARY 2025

A. Assad regime forces

Even though the Assad regime fell on December 8, 2024, we are still documenting violations for which Assad regime forces or pro-Assad militias were responsible. These take the form of the explosions of war remnant or cluster bomblets left by previous attacks by Assad regime forces, or civilians dying of their wounds that they sustained in Assad regime attacks. Furthermore, pro-Assad militias are still committing killings. In January 2025, we documented the killing of three children by the explosion of cluster bomblets in the two governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Aleppo.

- A boy, identified as [Mohammad Ahmad Mousab al-Sayied Eisa](#) from Idlib city died on Thursday, January 16, 2025, of wounds he sustained on December 2, 2024, when fixed-wing Assad regime warplanes bombed Idlib city. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.
- On Monday, January 13, 2025, [two boys](#), identified as Abdullah and Mahmoud al-Fayyad from Ayyash village in western rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, were killed by the explosion of a cluster bomblet left from a previous attack by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in Ayyash village. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.

B. Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

In January 2025, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) killed 21 civilians, including seven children and six women, with one woman dying due to torture. Civilians killed by SDF in January 2025 accounted for about nine percent of the total. The SDF killed 19 civilians in Aleppo governorate and two in Deir Ez-Zour. Furthermore, we recorded the SDF's use of incendiary ammunitions to target civilian houses in Tal Arsh village to the east of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo. Our data suggests that the SDF used such rockets for the first time in an attack that killed two girls, causing fires, as well as burning the victims' bodies in a distinctive way, in contrast to a conventional rocket attack.

- On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, the SDF used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets containing incendiary warheads at Tal Arsh village to the east of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. [The attack killed two young sisters from the village](#), identified as 14-year-old Hanan and 13-year-old Hayat Farouq al-Mughir al-Shlash. The area targeted is under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA).
- On Saturday, January 4, 2025, a girl, identified as six-year-old [Ranim al-Haytham](#) from Deir Hafer town in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, was shot and killed by an SDF sniper while returning with her father to their home in the town. The area is under the SNA's control.
- On Monday, January 27, 2025, SDF personnel used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets at Rasm al-Harmal village, administratively a part of Deir Hafer city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, [killing three civilians](#), including two women, and injuring others. The area targeted is under the SNA's control.

C. Syrian National Army (SNA).

In January 2025, Syrian National Army (SNA) killed four civilians, including two children and one woman, in the governorates of Aleppo and Raqqqa. On Sunday, January 26, 2025, an SNA artillery detachment which was stationed in Slouk town in northern Raqqqa governorate fired multiple shells at al-Jammas village, administratively part of the Ein Eisa subdistrict of northern Raqqqa governorate. The attack killed one girl and one infant boy, identified respectively as Asia Hamad al-Hussein and Abdul Rahman Ismail al-Hussein, and injured a woman. The area targeted is under the SDF's control.

D. US-led International Coalition forces

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, a drone, believed to be operated by the US-led International Coalition forces, fired three rockets targeting a motorbike on the al-Qal'a-Sarmada road in western Sarmada city in northern rural Idlib governorate. The attack killed one boy, identified as 17-year-old [Hammoud Nayef al-Iliwi](#) from al-Ankawi village in western rural Hama governorate, who was walking by the motorbike at the time. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

C. Other parties

In January 2025, we documented the killing of 201 civilians, including 18 children and 11 women, at the hands of other parties. The victims killed by other parties accounted for about 85 percent of this month's total. Most of the 201 victims were killed in the two governorates of Aleppo and Hama which accounted for 42 percent of the total. These deaths are distributed as follows:

Landmines

A total of 68 civilians, including four children and three women, were killed by the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. These deaths can be broken down into two subcategories:

- Victims who were killed while disarming landmines: 19 victims.
 - Victims who were killed in landmine explosions: 49 civilians, including four children and three women.
- On Friday, January 3, 2025, a woman, identified as [Shawwaqa Hassan al-Shakhtour](#) from Sbaikhan town in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source in the badiya or 'desert area' surrounding Sbaikhan town. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.
 - On Thursday, January 16, 2025, a man, identified as [Ali Abdul Razzaq Wannous](#) from Ma'rin village in the rural areas of Jabla city in rural Latakia governorate, was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while disarming landmines in Jabal al-Akrad district in northern rural Latakia governorate. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

Gunfire of unidentified source

In January 2025, a total of 62 civilians, including five children, were killed by gunfire of unidentified source, which accounted for about 31 percent of all victims killed by other parties. Gunfire of unidentified source also resulted in a massacre, in which five civilians, including one child, were killed. These deaths can be broken down into two subcategories:

- Victims who were killed by gunfire shot by unidentified parties: 57 civilians, including three children.
 - Victims who were killed by stray bullets/bullets shot in celebration: Five civilians, including two children.
- On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, [a man, his son, and his nephew](#), identified respectively as Ammar Azzdin, Mousa Izzdin, and Mohammad Eisa Hosam al-Din from Ein al-Sharqiya town in the rural areas of Jabla city in southern rural Latakia governorate, were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen while working on agricultural land near Ein al-Sharqiya town. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.
 - On Friday, January 17, 2025, a boy, identified as [Jad al-Saleh](#) from al-Shaddadi city in southern rural Hasaka governorate, was killed by gunfire of unidentified source while in his family's house in Hasaka city. The area is under the SDF's control.

Killings by unidentified parties

In January 2025, a total of 19 civilians were killed by unidentified parties. On Saturday, January 4, 2025, unidentified assailants raided a house in Jub al-Jandali neighborhood in Homs city, and used sharp tools to assault [two women and one man](#), identified respectively as Yasmin Ahmad al-Yousef, Dalal Mustafa Qa'ir, and Ali al-Ahmad. The two women died of their wounds the same day, while Ali died of his wounds four days later, on January 8, 2025. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.

Explosions of unidentified source

In January 2025, a total of five civilians were killed by the explosion of war remnants and bombings by unidentified parties. On Monday, January 27, 2025, a man, identified as [Mohammad Mustafa Kernazi](#) from Hama city's al-Mazareb al-Qadima neighborhood, was killed by the explosion of a war remnant of unidentified source. The remnant exploded after Mohammad found it and picked it up near al-Jub Roundabout in Hama city's al-Arba'in neighborhood. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.

Munitions-related incidents

In January 2025, a total of 13 civilians, including three children and two women, were killed in munitions-related incidents. On Sunday, January 12, 2025, [a woman, identified as 25-year-old Qamar Redwan Khalaf, her son, identified as 12-year-old Khaled Munqeth al-Farra, and her nephew, identified as 19-year-old Adnan Ammar Khalaf](#), were killed while others were injured by the explosion of a hand grenade that blew up while it was being tampered with inside a house in Abu al-Feda subdistrict in Hama city, after Khaled found it in a park. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

Turkish forces

In January 2025, attacks by Turkish forces and Turkish drones killed 20 civilians, including two children and four women. Three victims (a man and two children) were killed by a shell fired by a Turkish artillery forces, while the remaining 17 civilians, including four women, were all killed in drone attacks by Turkish forces. It should be noted in this context that the SDF have been stationing their forces in civilian areas, which threatens civilians' lives. This, however, in no way exonerates the attacking Turkish forces of their responsibility in taking the utmost cautionary measures to avoid civilian casualties, and respecting the principle of proportionality between the anticipated military advantage and civilian losses.

- On Saturday, January 11, 2025, three civilians (a man and two of his children) were killed, while his wife and four of their other children were injured, in an artillery attack by Turkish forces who fired multiple shells targeting a site near the family's home in Tal al-Banat/al-Masrab village to the south of Ein al-Arab city in eastern rural Aleppo. Our intelligence suggests that the artillery attack targeted an SDF outpost near civilians' homes. The massive pressure generated by the shells' landing also brought down the family's house's ceiling. The area targeted is under the SDF's control.
- Meanwhile, 17 Kurdish civilians, including four women, were killed in drone attacks by Turkish forces that targeted a group of cars in the Tishreen Dam area in southeastern Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate since January 15, 2025. Through its community offices, the SDF forced civilians to join a march towards the Tishreen Dam in a rural area near Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo and, once they arrived at the dam, to hold a sit-in there. As a part of this coerced protest, the SDF mobilized primarily Kurdish employees and civilians and threatened to deprive them of fuel and bread if they didn't cooperate. The SDF warned these civilians that the SNA's potential advance would force them to leave their villages, and thus they would have to block this advance by holding a protest at the Tishreen Dam. The area, which is under the SDF's control, is on a dividing line with the area under the SNA's control.
- On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Manija [Hajou Haydar](#), who served as the Co-President of the Democratic Union Party in al-Qameshli, was killed in a drone attack by Turkish forces that targeted a group of cars also in the Tishreen Dam area. The SDF has been using civilians and local communities as human shields to block any advance by of the SNA. Manija Haydar came from al-Qameshli city in northeastern Hasaka governorate.

Israeli attacks

In January 2025, Israeli attacks killed one civilian. On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Israeli forces carried out a drone attack that targeted a detachment of the Military Operations Command, which is affiliated with the current transitional authorities in Syria, near Ghadr al-Bustan village in southern rural Quneitra. The attack killed the [mukhtar](#) (headman) of the village, identified as Abdou al-Kuma, and slightly injured a boy and a man. The victim and the injured individuals were present to greet the incoming detachment. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES

In January, SNHR documented at least **14 attacks on vital civilian facilities**. Six of these attacks were the result of bombings by unidentified parties, which were concentrated in Aleppo governorate.

Of these attacks, two targeted educational facilities and two targeted medical facilities.

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, unidentified individuals desecrated the shrine of Salman al-Rawwas, a revered Alawite spiritual figure, in Mjaidel village in western rural Homs governorate. The shrine's building and contents were moderately damaged in the attack. SNHR is still trying to locate eyewitnesses to obtain more information about the incident. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.

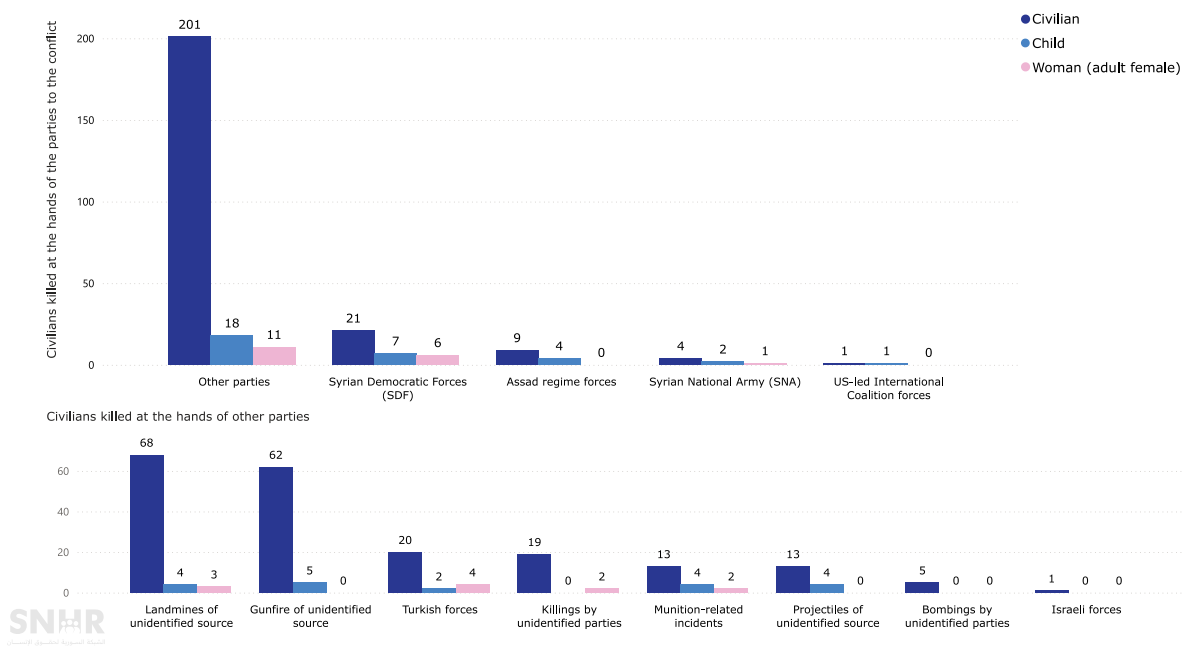


↑ ⓘ A religious shrine was desecrated by unidentified individuals in Mjaidel village in Homs – January 23, 2025

III. CIVILIAN DEATH TOLL

In January 2025, SNHR documented the killing of **236 civilians**, including **32 children** and **18 women**, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Civilian deaths documented in January 2025 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:



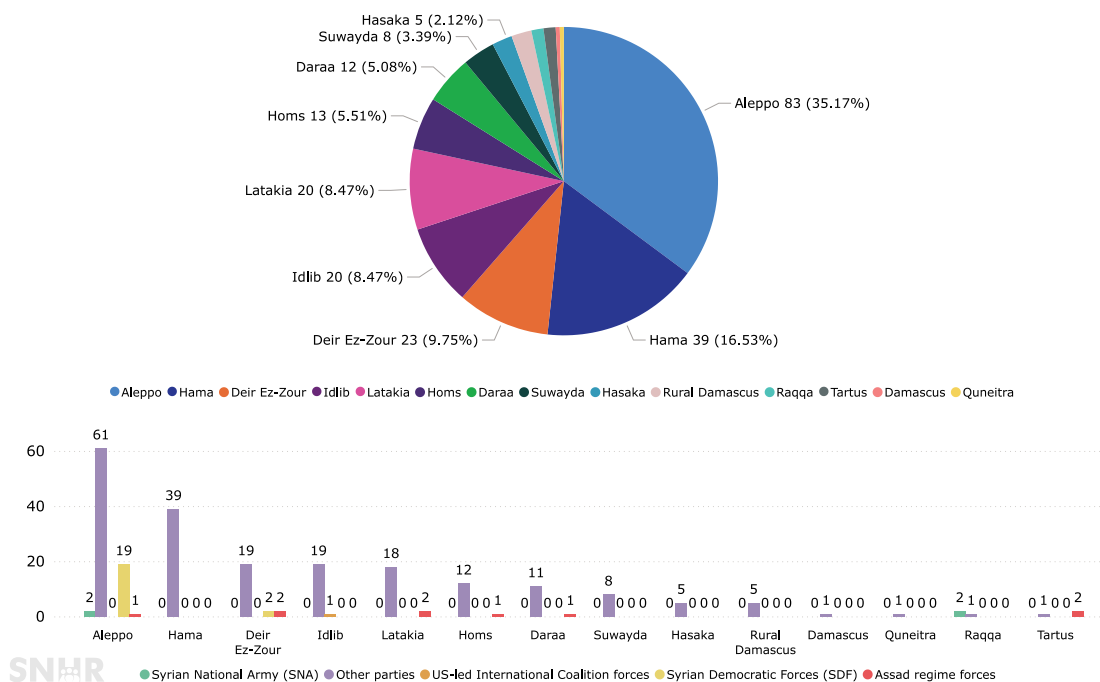
A. Main parties:

- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of 21 civilians, including seven children and six women, by the SDF.
- **Assad regime forces¹:**
We documented the killing of nine civilians, including four children by forces loyal to the former Assad regime.
- **Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including two children and one woman by the SNA.
- **US-led International Coalition forces:**
We documented the killing of one child by the US-led International Coalition forces.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 201 civilians, including 18 children and 11 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Projectiles of unidentified source: 13 civilians, including four children.
- Landmines of unidentified sources: 68 civilians, including four children and three women.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 62 civilians, including five children.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Five civilians.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 19 civilians, including two women.
- Munitions-related incidents: 13 civilians, including three children and two women.
- Turkish forces: 20 civilians, including two children and four women.
- Israeli forces: One civilian



1. These figures refer to the civilians killed by cluster bomblets and war remnants left from previous attacks carried out by Assad regime forces, those who died of wounds sustained in attacks by the Assad regime, and the killings still being carried out by pro-Assad militias.

As the chart shows, Aleppo governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths documented this month, accounting for about 35 percent of the total, followed by Hama governorate with about 16 percent, then Deir ez-Zour governorate with about 10 percent.

IV. DEATHS DUE TO TORTURE

In January 2025, SNHR documented the death of one woman due to torture at the hands of the SDF.

- On Saturday, January 4, 2025, SDF personnel returned the body of a woman, identified as 50-year-old Hwyla Khadr al-Gharir, to her family. Her body exhibited signs of torture, indicating that she died under torture. An SDF representative contacted Hwyla's family on January 4 to notify them that her body was at al-Qameshli Hospital. Hwyla had been arrested in October 2024 from her house in al-Hasin village by a SDF patrol which was looking for her son who worked as a personal attendant with a former SDF commander known as al-Umda, 'the Mayor'. After her arrest, Hwyla was taken to the Alaya detention center in al-Qameshli city in northern Hasaka in an attempt to pressure her son into surrendering himself. According to sources close to her, the SDF falsely levied drug-dealing charges against her to justify her arrest. It should be noted that tribal figures tried to intervene to secure her release in exchange for sums of money, but all of their attempts were unsuccessful. The area is under the control of SDF.

V. DEATHS AMONG MEDICAL PERSONNEL

In January 2025, we documented the killing of four medical personnel, distributed as follows:

Main parties:

- **Killings by unidentified parties:** One medical worker.
- **Turkish forces:** Three medical workers.

Below are the most notable cases:

- On Sunday, January 12, 2025, the body of a pharmacist, identified as Qusay Hamza Abboud was found bearing multiple gunshot wounds by local residents. Qusay had been killed by an unidentified armed group while he and a friend of his, identified as Yazan Ali Saleh, were guarding agricultural land in al-Sen area, near Qarfis village in southern rural Latakia governorate. The area is under the control of the current transitional authorities in Syria.



↑ Qusay Hamza Abboud

- On Saturday, January 18, 2025, Omar Hassan, a paramedic with the Kurdish Autonomous Administration's Health Directorate from Ein al-Arab city/Koubani in eastern rural Aleppo, died in Ein al-Arab city of wounds sustained in a drone attack by Turkish forces carried out three days earlier on January 15, 2025. At the time, the drone targeted a gathering of cars in Tishreen Dam area in southeastern Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo. The SDF has been using civilians, Autonomous Administration personnel, and entire communities as human shields to block the SNA's advance. The area is under the SDF's control.



↑ Omar Hassan

VI. VICTIMS AMONG MEDIA WORKERS

In January 2025, SNHR documented the killing of one media worker by unidentified parties.

- On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, the body of a man, identified as Ibrahim Ajaj from Hama city's al-Arba'in neighborhood, was found on the outskirts of Hama city; he had been abducted by an unidentified armed group the day before, January 21, while returning home. Ajaj worked as a sports photojournalist covering football matches between two local teams, al-Nawa'ir and al-Tali'a, in Hama city, as well as working with the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA). The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.



↑ Ibrahim Ajaj

VII. VICTIMS AMONG CIVIL DEFENSE PERSONNEL (WHITE HELMETS)

In January 2025, SNHR documented the killing of one Civil Defense worker by gunfire of unidentified source.

- On Friday, January 3, 2025, Subhi al-Wawi, a volunteer with the Syrian Civil Defense from Baqqeen town in northern Rural Damascus governorate, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen while doing humanitarian work in Damascus city. The area is now under the control of the transitional authorities in Syria.



↑ The Syrian Civil Defense issued a statement mourning the killing of Subhi al-Wawi



↑ Subhi al-Wawi

VIII. MASSACRES

In January 2025, SNHR documented two massacres by other parties. These are distributed as follows:

Main parties: Two massacres.

- **Projectiles of unidentified source:** One massacre.
- **Gunfire of unidentified source:** One massacre.

A total of 15 civilians, including five children, were killed in the massacres committed in January 2025.

Below are the most notable cases:

- On Thursday, On January 28, 2025, a rocket shell of unidentified source struck a popular market in Sarin town to the south of Ein al-Arab city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The rocket landed in front of a motorbike repair shop in the market, killing 10 civilians, including four children, and injuring seven others, including three children. Several shops were also completely destroyed in the attack. The area targeted is under the control of SDF.



IX. ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES

In January 2025, SNHR documented at least 14 attacks on vital civilian facilities. Six of these attacks were bombings by unidentified perpetrators, mostly in Aleppo governorate.

Of these 14 attacks, two targeted educational facilities (schools) and two targeted medical facilities.

These attacks are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Syrian National Army (SNA): One attack.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Four attacks.

B. Other parties:

Were responsible for nine attacks, distributed as follows:

- Explosions of unidentified cause: One attack.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Six attacks.
- Attacks by unidentified parties: One attack.
- Turkish forces: One attack.

Below are the most notable cases:

■ On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, a drone believed to be operated by Turkish forces carried out an attack on a gathering of SDF vehicles near Tishreen Dam in the rural areas of Manbij city in eastern Aleppo governorate. The attack resulted in casualties, including the death of an ambulance driver, in addition to partially damaging an ambulance that was at the site targeted. The area was under the SDF's control at the time of the incident.



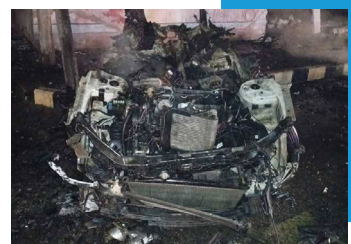
↑ Ambulance damaged in a drone Turkish attack that targeted a gathering of cars near Tishreen Dam in eastern rural Aleppo – January 15, 2025

■ On Thursday, January 23, 2025, SDF used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets at al-Tanak Camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Jarablos city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The attack resulted in casualties, in addition to inflicting [heavy damage on a number of IDP housing units and camp facilities](#). The area was under the SNA's control at the time of the incident.



↑ Extensive damage caused by an SDF attack on al-Tanak IDP Camp in Jarablos city in Aleppo – January 23, 2025

■ On Thursday, January 23, 2025, a car bomb of unidentified source was detonated near the educational complex on Manbij-Aleppo road in Manbij's western neighborhood in western rural Aleppo governorate. The bombing, which took place by the western corner of the complex's perimeter fence, resulted in casualties, in addition to partially destroying the perimeter fencing. SNHR is still trying to locate eyewitnesses to obtain more information about the incident. Manbij city was under the SNA's control at the time of the incident.



↑ Destruction caused by a car bomb near the educational complex in Manbij city in Aleppo – January 23, 2025

X. THE ASSAD REGIME FAILED TO REGISTER THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THE CITIZENS IT KILLED FROM MARCH 2011 UNTIL ITS DOWNFALL IN THE CIVIL REGISTRY'S RECORDS

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, disappeared, or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they were never officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authorities, chief among which is the Civil Registry Department, prior to the Assad regime's downfall. Instead, the Assad regime used the issuance of death certificates, which were not made available to victims' families or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared, as an instrument of control, whether the victims were killed by the Assad regime or other parties. In fact, the Assad regime only allowed death certificates to be issued for those who met the narrow criteria set by the regime itself and its security services.

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

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

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

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

It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families faced immense difficulties in obtaining death certificates for their loved ones from the Assad regime, for fear of linking their names with those of individuals detained by the Assad regime and killed under torture, which implied that their deceased family members had been dissidents who had opposed the Assad regime, or had been registered as 'terrorists' if they had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families live outside the areas controlled by the Assad regime after they had been forcibly displaced.

XI. WHAT IS SNHR DOING ABOUT THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING ISSUE?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which our team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and the one from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered among the population of each governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the rates of violence documented in relation to each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, along with several backup copies.

We have also been exceptionally concerned with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community during this period, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian categories which played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, and humanitarian aid workers, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For almost 14 years, we have issued daily report on the death toll. We also issue monthly, biannual, and annual reports. In addition, we've published dozens of special reports documenting deaths at the hands of all, or certain parties to the conflict, including reports documenting massacre documented in Syria.

For more clarity and transparency, we have also turned the victims' database into interactive maps and charts that can be accessed on our website, which categorize the victims according to governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. We also provide charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, with special focus on children and women.

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

The UN has relied on SNHR for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources on Syria. SNHR has also signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\) project](#), which stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous UN bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to help achieve justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous regional and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

XII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

1. **Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** The evidence collected by SNHR indicates that most of the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities.
2. **Landmines:** A large proportion of the Syrians killed died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines have been planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
3. **Indiscriminate bombing by SDF:** The indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the SDF are clearly violations of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
4. **Remote bombings:** The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva IV Convention on Civilians of 1949, Articles 27, 31, and 32..
5. Turkish forces have failed to respect the principle of proportionality, as prescribed in international law, in their attacks on SDF sites, which resulted in civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the SDF has violated international humanitarian law by stationing its personnel in civilian areas.
6. **Failure to protect civilians**

All parties to the conflict in Syria systematically failed to take the necessary measures to protect civilians in the areas under their control. This constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law, particularly Rule 87 of the customary rules of international humanitarian law, which requires protection of civilian residents against the threats of military operations, particularly for women and children.

Recommendations

New Syrian government

1. Cooperate with international mechanisms

- Issue official invitations to independent UN and international mechanisms, including:
 - » International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)
 - » Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
 - » International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).
 - » International Red Cross
- Enable these organizations to have unrestricted access to detention centers and crime scenes.

2. Protect evidence and crime locations

- Take urgent measures to safeguard evidence, including documenting mass graves and detention facilities and preventing any tampering or trespassing.
- Register and clearly mark important sites to ensure they can serve as legal evidence in the future.

3. Address the issue of missing persons and arbitrary arrests

- Cooperate with international institutions to determine the fate of missing persons and facilitate access to detention centers.
- Release all remaining detainees still being held unlawfully, provide them with medical and psychological care, and ensure they are reunited with their families.
- Establish a national system to monitor the conditions of former detainees and support their rehabilitation.

4. Promote justice and accountability

- Collect evidence related to violations, including official record documents and crime scenes.
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and grant the court retroactive jurisdiction.
- Adopt comprehensive transitional justice policies, including holding perpetrators accountable, compensating victims, and ensuring transparency and credibility.

5. Protect civilians and cultural sites

- Ensure the safety of civilians and minorities and protect their fundamental rights to live securely.
- Prioritize the removal of mines and remnants of war, allocate the necessary funding, and raise awareness of related risks.
- Protect cultural and heritage sites from looting or destruction.

6. Governance reform

- Build an inclusive governance structure representing all components of Syrian society, including women and minorities, as well as civil society organizations.
- Document and safeguard abandoned properties to ensure their rightful owners receive compensation in the future.
- Improve essential services and ensure they're accessible to all citizens, including those with disabilities.

7. Prevent further violations

- Ensure respect for fundamental rights and freedoms for all without discrimination.
- Reform the judiciary and security apparatus in accordance with international human rights standards.

8. Support affected populations and rehabilitation

- Provide psychological and social support to families of missing persons and conflict victims.
- Develop comprehensive programs for the rehabilitation of survivors and released detainees.

UN Security Council and the international community

1. Refer crimes to the ICC

- Refer the Syrian dossier to the ICC or establish a special tribunal to prosecute those involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Pressure international actors, including the Russian government, to hand over individuals responsible for crimes, including Bashar Assad and his family, to international courts.

2. Freeze and confiscate the former regime's funds

- Freeze the financial assets of the former regime and its affiliates and allocate them to support transitional justice efforts and humanitarian aid.

3. Enhance humanitarian efforts

- Urge UN agencies to intensify the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, in affected areas and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.
- Ensure humanitarian aid reaches northeastern Syria, in coordination with local authorities, to meet the needs of IDPs and facilities detaining individuals accused of formerly belonging to or being affiliated with ISIS.
- Guarantee that aid provided to the current or future government promotes respect for human rights and creates conditions for free and fair elections.

4. Remove mines and war remnants

- Allocate funding from the UN fund to support landmine removal efforts in affected areas to reduce long-term risks and ensure a safe environment for civilians.

5. Support the missing persons issue and national reconciliation

- Provide resources to strengthen the efforts of the ICMP, including training local staff and using advanced technologies to identify missing persons.
- Support initiatives contributing to national reconciliation and offer psychological and social support to families of missing persons.

6. Lift sanctions to ensure they don't adversely affect humanitarian operations

- Review economic sanctions imposed on Syria to ensure they do not adversely affect humanitarian operations while maintaining sanctions targeting designated terrorist groups.

7. Ensure protection of Syrian refugees

- Urge host countries to refrain from forcibly deporting refugees or pressuring them to return.
- Work to create conditions within Syria for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees in accordance with international standards, prioritizing infrastructure improvement and security stability.

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

1. Submit reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN on documented violations in this and previous reports, highlighting that killing is still going on in Syria.

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

1. Open comprehensive investigations into the violations mentioned in this and previous reports. SNHR is willing to collaborate in such endeavors and share more evidence.
2. Work to identify individuals responsible for war crimes and publish their names to expose them internationally and halt political and economic dealings with them.

International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

1. Collect further evidence of the crimes documented in this report and share expertise with Syrian organizations working on documentation and data collection.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

1. Establish an internal committee to investigate violations committed by the SDF, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims.
2. Refrain from positioning military forces in civilian areas, which poses a threat to their lives.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by SDF personnel in civilian areas.

All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA)

1. Protect civilians in all areas under their control.
2. Launch investigations into human rights violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and disclose the investigation results to the local community.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by the factions in civilian areas.

Turkish forces

Launch investigations into the incidents documented in this report, compensate the victims, and respect the principles of international law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.

Humanitarian organizations

1. Develop urgent plans to provide decent shelter for IDPs, particularly widows and orphans.
2. Intensify efforts to remove landmines alongside relief operations.
3. Equip vital facilities, such as medical facilities and schools, with ambulances marked with clear, recognizable signs visible from long distances.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SNHR wishes to thank the victims' families and friends, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and invaluable contributions to this report.



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No justice without accountability

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February, 2025

