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The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March 2022

The International Community Must Isolate the Syrian Regime, a Perpetrator of Crimes against Humanity, and Stop Attempts to Normalize Relations with It

Thursday 7 April 2022

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 analyzes in Syria.

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I. Introduction and Methodology

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

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

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria, which SNHR documented in March 2022, and catalogues the death toll of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights attacks on civilian objects, which SNHR's team was able to document during this period. To find out more about our working [methodology](#) in documenting and archiving data, please visit the following link that explains this in detail.

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

II. Summary of the Most Notable Events in March:

In regard to bombardment and military operations:

The military campaign, initially launched by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the Idlib region in northwest Syria in mid-2021, continued in March, although the frequency of attacks this month was the lowest since the start of the campaign. The artillery bombardment by Syrian regime forces in March focused on the villages and towns in the Jabal al Zaweya region near the line of contact with the Armed Opposition factions in Kafr Aweed and Sfuhun in the southern suburbs of Idlib. The bombardment also targeted the towns of the western suburbs of Aleppo with artillery. We also documented Syrian regime forces targeting some roads near the contact lines using anti-armor missiles.

March witnessed a decrease in the frequency of Russian overflights in northwestern Syria compared to previous months since the beginning of this campaign in mid-2021. On March 14, we recorded flights in the Idlib region, during which air-to-air missiles were launched in the area. Russian warplanes also launched missile raids in the vicinity of Ma'aret al Na'san village in the northern suburbs of Idlib, on locations close to the contact lines between Syrian regime forces and the Armed Opposition factions, on March 28.

On March 30, the Russian Army TV channel, Zvezda, [broadcast](#) a video which it claimed showed a training exercise carried out by members of the Syrian regime's Tiger Division's '25th Special Mission Forces Division', under the supervision of the Russian forces, providing training in parachute-jumping operations. The video, after the second minute, clearly shows the use of tents bearing the logo of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by members of this division during these exercises. We at the Syrian Network for Human Rights have emphasized in several reports the need to prevent the Syrian regime from exploiting the aid provided by international organizations and distributing it according to its whims.

In areas of the northwestern and eastern Aleppo suburbs, we documented that Syrian Democratic Forces continued to launch ground attacks on the area throughout March, especially on Izaz city. One of the attacks on the city [on March 23](#) resulted in the death of a civilian and the injury of five others, in addition to causing further significant material damage, while one of the ground attacks on the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate caused significant material damage [to the tents of a random IDP camp](#) west of Jarablus city, on March 1.

Also in March, intermittent clashes using light and medium weapons continued between Syrian National Army forces and Syrian Democratic Forces in the villages of the Ein Eisa district in the northern suburbs of Raqqqa, which are under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, with both sides using heavy weapons to bombard each other's areas, without any resulting change in the distribution of zones of control. We note that this area has witnessed clashes between the two parties since 2019.

In terms of bombings in March, we documented [the explosion of improvised explosive devices \(IEDs\) in the governorates of Raqqa and Hasaka](#), which caused damage to vital civilian facilities.

March also saw an increase in the civilian death toll due to explosions caused by landmines and [munitions remnants](#) in various governorates and regions of Syria, being concentrated especially in the governorates of Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zour, as well as in the governorates of Raqqa, Hama, Daraa, and Hasaka; most of the victims were children. [SNHR documented the deaths of 14 civilians, including 12 children and one woman, resulting from landmine explosions in March, bringing the total death toll since the beginning of 2022 to 38 civilians, including 20 children and two women.](#)

March also witnessed [killings of civilians in various governorates, mostly in Daraa governorate, by gunmen whom SNHR has been unable to identify](#). Among the killings we documented in March, we recorded the killing of two heads of municipalities in Daraa governorate on [March 17 and 24](#), and the killing of [a nurse](#) in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate on March 24. [On March 22](#), gunmen who we believe belong to ISIS killed a dignitary of the Dawaghna Clan in Deir Ez-Zour governorate in Jazrat al Boushams village in the west of the governorate.

On March 6, [SANA news agency](#) reported that 13 Syrian regime soldiers were killed when the bus they were traveling in in the Badiya (desert area) around Tadmur city in the suburbs of Homs was attacked by “various types of weapons”. The attack was attributed to “terrorist groups from ISIS.”

On March 7, the Israeli Air Force launched air raids on some locations in the Harasta suburb of Damascus Suburbs governorate, killing two people, and causing material damage to the industrial zone, according to the Syrian regime's [SANA news agency](#). Subsequently, on March 8, [the Iranian Fars News Agency](#) published a statement in which it said that the Israeli bombing on March 7 in the Damascus Suburbs had caused the death of two officers in Iran's so-called Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

On March 29, a report in [The Times of Israel](#) quoted an Israeli Air Force official who stated that the Israeli forces had fired 586 different munitions at targets in Syria during the previous year, 2021.

In regard to arrests and enforced disappearances:

Syrian regime forces continued in March to persecute and arrest individuals who had concluded settlements of their security status with the Syrian regime in areas that had previously concluded settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in Damascus Suburbs, Daraa, and Aleppo governorates, with most occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests and at checkpoints. We documented arrests by Syrian regime forces in Homs city in connection with residents' involvement in activities commemorating the anniversary of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria.

We documented random incidents of arrests of citizens in Damascus Suburbs governorate and Hama city, with most of these occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests, which we believe were based on malicious security reports issued due to the targeted individuals' opposition to the Syrian regime, including citizens who were arrested under the pretext of having failed to perform their reserve military service. In addition, we recorded random arrests targeting a number of merchants and returning civilians, all refugees and IDPs, after they returned to their original areas, now back under the control of Syrian regime forces; many of these detainees' families told us that the aim of the arrests was extortion and obtaining ransom money in exchange for their loved ones' release.

We also documented arrests targeting civilians in Damascus city over exchanging foreign currency (US dollars). A number of detainees' relatives told us that Syrian regime forces arrested them because they obtained money transfers from their relatives abroad.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in March, with the number detained increasing this month as SDF personnel continued carrying out campaigns of mass raids and detentions, targeting civilians on the pretext of fighting ISIS cells, with some of these campaigns backed by US-led coalition helicopters. We also documented detentions targeting civilians, including teachers and students. These arrests were concentrated in Hasaka city. In addition to these cases, we documented the detention of a university student on charges of dealing with Syrian regime forces; she was subsequently released as a result of civil protests against her arrest. We also recorded detentions carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces [on March 25](#) in connection with an anti-SDF demonstration in Darnaj village in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, criticizing the living and service conditions in the areas under SDF control. The arrests were accompanied by the burning of some civilian homes in the village.

We also recorded Syrian Democratic Forces kidnapping children with the aim of taking them to its training and recruitment camps and forcibly conscripting them, preventing their families from communicating with them, and failing to disclose their fate.

March also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham detaining civilians, including media activists and politicians, with these arrests concentrated in Idlib governorate; most of these arrests occurred due to the detainees expressing opinions critical of the HTS's management of areas under its control. These detentions were carried out arbitrarily in the form of raids in which HTS members stormed their victims' homes, often breaking down the doors, or by abducting their victims while they were traveling or passing through temporary checkpoints. We also documented Hay'at Tahrir al Sham personnel detaining humanitarian organizations' staff members after they were summoned to the Organizations Management Center in al Ma'mal al Azraq, 'the Blue Laboratory', north of Sarmada city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate.

Meanwhile, all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army also continued carrying out arbitrary detentions and kidnappings in March, most of which were carried out on a mass scale, targeting individuals coming from areas controlled by the Syrian regime. In addition, we documented detentions, including of women, carried out under an ethnic pretext, with these incidents being concentrated in areas under all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army's control in Aleppo governorate. Most of these arrests occurred without judicial authorization and without the participation of the police force, which is the legitimate administrative authority responsible for arrests and detentions through the judiciary, with these arrests also carried out without presenting any clear charges against those being detained. In addition to these cases, we documented raids and detentions carried out by Syrian National Army personnel, targeting civilians, including women, over their participation in celebrations marking Nowruz. These operations were concentrated in some villages nearby Afrin city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate. We also recorded the detention of a civilian by a faction of the Syrian National Army in Sheikh Hadid town, north of Aleppo governorate, who was subsequently released after being severely beaten.

Regarding living conditions:

The living and economic situation in all regions of Syria continues to deteriorate constantly at all levels. The Syrian pound has witnessed a [sharp decline](#) in its value against the US dollar, with the exchange rate of one dollar reaching 3,975 Syrian pounds for purchase on March 16, a decrease of around 300 pounds per dollar compared to the exchange rate in February 2022, which contributed to increasing the suffering of civilians in the areas under the control of Syrian regime forces. The pro-Syrian regime [al Watan](#) newspaper reported on March 2, "Vegetable oil of all kinds has been lost in groceries and markets in an unjustified manner in recent days, and the price of a liter of vegetable oil has risen from 7,800 a week ago to reach 12,000 Syrian pounds yesterday, with no availability in the market." The same newspaper reported on March 22 that the prices of vegetables had reached "[unprecedented](#)" levels, in addition to reporting [an increase in the prices of animal products](#) by 35%.

On March 2, the Office of the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General published a [statement](#) revealing that Syria ranks amongst the most food-insecure countries globally, with over half the population being severely food insecure. A quarter of children under 5 face stunted growth in parts of Syria.

In northwestern Syria, the suffering of residents in the region has increased further due to the depreciation of the Turkish lira - used for trading there - against the dollar, with the prices of some consumer goods such as sunflower oil, sugar, and flour reaching record levels that exceed the purchasing power of citizens, in light of the spread of unemployment in general and the lack of job opportunities and low wages for workers, as the average wages for workers in Idlib amounted to 30 Turkish Lira per day, which is not enough to purchase even a quarter of the family's daily needs.

HTS personnel at checkpoints are also restricting people in the area from crossing at the Deir Ballout¹ and al Ghazawiya² crossings, conducting searches of those coming from the western and northern suburbs of Aleppo to Idlib suburbs, and preventing the entry of foodstuffs, gas, and fuel, even measuring the volume of fuel in car tanks and preventing the entry of cars with full fuel tanks, as well as restricting civilians' movements and delaying their crossing for hours, causing queues of cars extending a few kilometers. Activists from the region told us that the smuggling of sugar from the northern suburbs of Aleppo to the suburbs of Idlib has been active in March, in light of the fact that Hay'at Tahrir al Sham did not allow sugar to be brought to Idlib suburbs except for two days throughout this month. HTS' security personnel are also pursuing children and women in the area separating Deir Ballout of the Afrin region in the suburbs of Aleppo, and Atama village in the northern suburbs of Idlib, who have been driven to smuggling fuel in plastic jugs of approximately 5 or 10 liters, to sell them in Idlib suburbs to benefit from the price difference between the two areas, with the HTS personnel assaulting them and confiscating the fuel.

In the areas controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces in northeastern Syria, the region is still witnessing rises in the prices of basic foodstuffs, especially bread, due to the sudden increase in the price of flour by about 30% from its price at the beginning of 2022, reaching 120,000 Syrian pounds/50 kg, which contributed to an increase in the demand for public bakeries despite the poor quality of the loaf material and the lack of the allocated quantity, as bread is distributed twice a week, with the individual share being three loaves per week.

The areas controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces in Deir Ez-Zour witnessed strike action by teachers in the last third of March due to the lack of salaries, the spread of corruption in the SDF's Education Committee, and its failure to rehabilitate school buildings and provide them with the essential requirements of the educational process. The education sector is witnessing a noticeable deterioration, with the spread of nepotism and increasing emigration among young teachers due to the forced conscription imposed by Syrian Democratic Forces on them.

On March 2, the [Reach](#) Initiative published its report on the periodic Urban Household Assessment in Hasaka governorate. The report revealed that more than 90% of families in Hasaka governorate suffer from problems in obtaining adequate food, due to their lack of money to meet those needs, in light of the high prices in a way that exceeds the purchasing power of civilians and the sharp drop in wages. The report added that 56% of families that experienced difficulties in securing food have reduced the number of meals eaten per day, while adults in 43% of families restricted their food consumption so that young children could eat adequately.

¹ This crossing links the Idlib areas in the northern and northwestern suburbs of Aleppo, which are under the joint control of the armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, and the areas of control of the Syrian National Army forces in the suburbs of Aleppo.

² This crossing links Darat Ezza city in the western suburbs of Aleppo, which is under the joint control of the armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, with the Afrin area in the western suburbs of Aleppo, which is under the control of the Syrian National Army forces.

In regard to the COVID-19 pandemic:

In areas under the control of Syrian regime forces, the Syrian regime government's [Ministry of Health](#) officially announced 1,113 cases of COVID-19 infection and 65 deaths in March, bringing the official total announced to 55,688 cases of infection with 3,075 deaths, as of March 30.

In northwestern Syria, more infections and deaths due to coronavirus were recorded in March, with [the Early Warning Alert and Response Network \(EWARN\)](#) announcing the documentation of 5,860 infections and 58 deaths related to COVID-19 as of March 30; this brought the total number of infections and deaths announced by EWARN to 102,566 cases of infection and 2,446 deaths.

[The Self-Management's Health Authority](#) in northern and eastern Syria announced that it had documented a total of 165 cases of infection and 18 deaths in March. This brought the total number of infections and deaths as of March 27 to 38,559 cases of infection, including 1,570 deaths.

In regard to asylum, displacement and forced displacement:

The northwestern region of Syria saw heavy winds and a severe storm during the first days of March that blew down, severely damaged or destroyed a number of tents. On March 4, Mark Cutts, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, posted photos on his Twitter account showing [tents](#) damaged by the wind. The area also witnessed snowfall on March 13, which increased the already immense suffering of IDPs in the camps in light of the shortage and high prices of heating materials (wood, pistachio shells and hazelnuts). In March, we recorded [fires continuing to outbreak in the IDP camps](#) in the northern suburbs of Idlib due to improper use of heaters.

On March 21, [the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) issued a report on the situation in northwestern Syria in the previous month, February. The report, which documented the recent displacement of 9,484 more people, indicated that the primary reason for their displacement was the deterioration of the economic situation. The report added, "[Strong winds and rain between 21 - 26 February affected 73 displacement sites, destroyed 1,090 tents and partially damaged 1,447 tents.](#)" The report also indicated that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in northwestern Syria increased from 3.4 million in 2021 to 4.1 million in 2022.

In the camps of northeastern Syria, the situation is still catastrophic, most notably in al Hawl Camp in the suburbs of Hasaka, which continues to witness killings and raids by Syrian Democratic Forces. In March, the camp witnessed two fires, the first [on March 5](#) due to the use of a gas heater, which burnt five tents in the camp's fifth sector, with the second blaze, whose precise cause we have been unable to identify, [on March 18](#), resulting in the deaths of two young girls, sisters. [On March 28](#), we documented the deaths of two more children and a woman residing in the camp, in crossfire during a shootout between Syrian Democratic Forces personnel and gunmen, whose identity we were unable to identify, inside the camp. We also documented on March 25 [the death of an IDP child](#) in Ya'rub IDP camp northwest of Raqqa city, as a result of the severe cold and the lack of healthcare in the camp.

On March 14, the [Syrian Democratic Forces](#)' Self-Management authority handed over two women and their two children from families affiliated with ISIS in al Qameshli city in the northeastern suburbs of Hasaka to the Kingdom of Sweden.

On March 24, [the UN](#) Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, briefed the UN Security Council during a session in which he discussed the political, humanitarian and security developments in Syria, expressing concern about the deteriorating security situation in al Hawl camp and calling for the full repatriation of third-country nationals from camps in northeastern Syria, referring to al Hawl and al Rouj camps.

On March 30, the [German Foreign Ministry published a press release](#) in which it said that the German authorities had repatriated 27 children and 10 women, who hold German citizenship, from al Rouj camp in Hasaka city in northeastern Syria.

In al Rukban camp, the prices of basic foodstuffs witnessed a sharp increase and many basic staple goods have disappeared from the camp's shops, such as flour, rice, oil, sugar and bulgur, while fuel prices have increased in an unprecedented way and supplies of many medicines have also been lost inside the camp. Due to the unavailability of flour and the rise in fuel prices, [the only bakery inside the camp stopped producing bread](#), and due to the deteriorating living conditions, [the people of the camp organized protest vigils](#) calling on the international community and humanitarian organizations to intervene and secure the needs of the camp's residents.

As for asylum, on March 3,800 Iraqi refugees left Syria to return to their country after the approval of the Iraqi government. According to [Agence France-Presse](#), the refugees, who used to live in villages close to the border with Iraq, have left Iraq with the expansion of ISIS' control in Iraq, and some of them had taken refuge before that.

On March 15, [the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) said in a statement that Syria is still considered the largest displacement crisis in the world with more than 13 million people having either fled the country or been displaced within its borders. The statement added, "Today, most Syrian refugees in the region live in poverty. Prospects are dire for the most vulnerable among them, such as single mothers, children living without a caregiver, and people with disabilities." The statement indicated that the situation is particularly dire in Lebanon, where over 90 percent of Syrians live in extreme poverty.

On March 16, [Human Rights Watch](#) said that the Danish authorities mismatched treatment of Syrian and Ukrainian refugees, and called on the Danish government to treat all refugees equally. "Denmark should use this moment to rein back some of its most restrictive asylum policies, [and] reinstate temporary protection for all Syrian refugees," the organization added.

On March 16, [the General Directorate of Lebanese Civil Defense said](#) that one person died and two others were injured as a result of a fire that broke out in a camp for displaced Syrians in the village of al Marj in the western Bekaa region in Lebanon.

On March 18, [Reuters](#) quoted a Tunisian civil protection official as saying that at least 12 migrants died when a vessel carrying them sank off the coast of Tunisia while they were trying to cross to Italy. The agency added, quoting Tunisian authorities, that the 12 bodies that were recovered were mostly those of Syrian migrants. Reuters re-published an update on the news [on March 22, in which it quoted the International Organization for Migration](#) that the death toll from a migrant shipwreck had risen to 25, and indicated that the boat was carrying 60 people, most of them Syrians and Tunisians.

On the political and human rights level:

On March 3, the US Department of State website published a joint [statement](#) issued with representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq and representatives of the European Union and the Arab League, following their meeting to discuss the situation in Syria. The statement expressed their commitment to the pursuit of a political resolution to the Syrian crisis in accordance with UNSCR 2254 that will protect the rights and dignity of all Syrians. The statement also stressed ensuring humanitarian access, and continuing to press for accountability, especially for the most serious crimes perpetrated in Syria, including the use of chemical weapons, as well as to press for the release of the arbitrarily detained and a full accounting of the missing.

On March 3, the Jordanian [al Mamlaka](#) TV website said that the Jordanian border guards, in cooperation with the Narcotics Control Department, thwarted an attempt to smuggle and infiltrate several vehicles and people from the Syrian territory, and had clashed with the smugglers, while large quantities of narcotics were found after searching the area. On March 27, the [Jordanian al Ghad newspaper](#) quoted a military source in the Jordanian Armed Forces as having thwarted “an attempt to smuggle large quantities of narcotics, coming from Syrian territory to Jordanian territory,” and added that “1,021,851 Captagon pills and 35 hashish palms, as well as a number of weapons and ammunition were found.”

On March 8, the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor issued a [press statement](#) calling for an impartial and independent investigation into the deaths in prisons belonging to the Syrian Democratic Forces. The statement said that the Monitor had received information that two detainees had died within less than one month. The statement pointed out that the regular recurrence of cases of torture inside SDF prisons “exposes a systematic policy aimed at inflicting physical and psychological harm on detainees to intimidate activists and political opponents.”

On March 9, [the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria](#) (COI) issued its latest report on human rights violations in Syria for the period from July 1 to December 31, 2021, in which it reviewed the grave violations of human rights throughout Syria and focused on the military operations practiced by all parties and the continuation of detentions and enforced disappearances against Syrians. The report discussed the conditions of IDPs, stating that these had reached 7 million in total during this period. On the humanitarian situation in Syria, the report said that Syrians are suffering from extreme poverty, adding that nearly 90% of the population now lives below the poverty line. SNHR welcomes the findings of the report and confirms that it intersects to a large extent with what SNHR has documented. We also support the continuity of the COI's work due to the continued perpetration of egregious violations by all parties to the conflict, and we stress that cooperation and coordination has continued between us and the COI for eleven years.

On March 9, the United Nations Human Rights Council published a [press statement](#) commenting on the latest report issued by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, which said, **"The Commission expressed concern by recent reporting on systemic failures in investigations into possible war crimes and other incidents causing civilian harm in Syria in 2018-2019 by the United States-led coalition."**

The statement added that there were hundreds of reports of civilian casualties, which were allegedly initially dismissed by US forces. The statement urged the United States, and all other parties, to conduct credible, independent and impartial investigations into incidents entailing civilian casualties in which their forces are implicated to ensure those responsible for violations are held accountable and to ensure non-repetition, and to make their findings public.

On March 10, [Asharq al Awsat newspaper](#) quoted Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League, as saying that there was no consensus among Arab countries on the issue of renewing Syria's membership of the Arab League, during a press conference following [the meeting of the 157th session of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level on March 9](#), during which an agreement was reached on the date of the next Arab summit in Algeria, to be held on the first and second days of November 2022. The host country, Algeria, [had expressed](#) on several occasions its determination to continue its efforts to search for an Arab consensus to ensure Syria's return to the Arab League. On March 29, we issued a [report](#) condemning Algeria's attempts to perpetuate impunity and support for the Syrian regime, calling on Algeria to respect the rights of the victims who were killed and displaced by the Syrian regime, to stop promoting the Syrian regime, and to apologize to the victims for voting against their rights nine times in the UN Human Rights Council.

On March 10, Izumi Nakamitsu, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, said during [her briefing](#) to a Security Council session on Syria, that she regretted that the OPCW Technical Secretariat was still not in a position to conduct the twenty-fifth round of consultations in Damascus due to the "continued refusal" by the Syrian regime to issue an entry visa for one member of the DAT. She added that the OPCW Secretariat "has not yet received the requested declaration ... on all undeclared types and quantities of nerve agents produced and/or weaponised at a former chemical weapons production facility (CWPF) that was declared by the Syrian Arab Republic as never having been used to produce and/or weaponize chemical warfare agents."

On March 11, Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said in a [statement](#) on the eleventh anniversary of the outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria, that the destruction that Syrians have endured is so extensive and deadly that it has few equals in modern history, and that there must be no impunity in Syria. He added, "We must ensure greater humanitarian access to address needs of people throughout the country." He also called on the UN Security Council to maintain consensus on renewing resolution 2585 (2021) in July - on the cross-border aid delivery- describing it as a moral and humanitarian imperative.

On March 14, [UNICEF](#) issued a report on violations against children in Syria over the past 11 years. The report documented that 6,833 children have been killed between 2011 and 2021, and that a further 6.5 million children currently need humanitarian assistance inside Syria, adding that the total number of displaced children in Syria now stands at more than 3.2 million, constituting nearly half of all displaced people inside Syria, in addition to 2.8 million children registered as refugees in neighboring countries. In terms of education, the report said that about 2.45 million children are going without education inside Syria with 40% of these children being girls. The report indicated that 1 in 3 schools are not suitable for use, either because they were destroyed or damaged, because they've been used to shelter displaced families, or because they were used for military purposes.

On March 15, the [International Rescue Committee](#) issued a press statement in which it said that after 11 years of conflict in Syria, the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people have reached record levels, with the Coronavirus pandemic increasing their suffering, as more than 60% of the population - that is, approximately 12 million - are at risk of hunger.

On March 15, [Oxfam](#)³ said that 11 years after the Syrian conflict began, six in ten Syrians do not know where their next meal is coming from. The organization added, **"Syrians are more afraid of dying of hunger than of war."** The organization warned that reliance on imports from Russia are exacerbating food shortages and causing food prices to soar. The organization reported that of 300 Syrians it had spoken with in government-held areas of the country, nearly 90 percent of these said they could only afford to eat bread, rice, and, occasionally, some vegetables.

³ Oxfam International was formed in 1995 by a group of independent non-governmental organizations. They joined together as a confederation to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice.

On March 15, [Save the Children](#) reported that children in Syria are still living in catastrophic conditions, as they live in unsanitary and unsafe camps, and are subjected to bombing and air raids, as well as facing hunger, disease and malnutrition. The organization added that there are 6.5 million children in need of humanitarian assistance, 2.5 million children without education, and nearly 800,000 children suffering from malnutrition.

On March 15, [UNICEF](#) issued a statement saying, "Violence, displacement, and lack of access to essential services continue to obstruct children's lives." adding that about 900 children were killed or injured in Syria in 2021. The organization added that the total number of killed and injured children in Syria since the beginning of the popular uprising has reached about 13,000, indicating that landmines, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance were the leading cause of these child casualties in 2021.

On March 15, [Human Rights Watch](#) released an audio archive of interviews with Syrian survivors, journalists, lawyers, and activists, focusing in particular on the trial that took place in Koblenz, Germany, in which Anwar R., a former officer in the Syrian regime's intelligence, was convicted of crimes against humanity, where he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The organization added that another trial is still underway in the German city of Frankfurt against a Syrian doctor accused of crimes against humanity, confirming that efforts for justice in Syria are gaining momentum.

On March 15, the United States Department of State issued a [joint press statement](#) with France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the beginning of the popular uprising in Syria. The statement said that it is past time for the regime and its enablers, including Russia and Iran, to halt their ruthless attack on the Syrian people. The statement added that at the present time neither refugees nor displaced Syrians can yet return home in line with UN standards, and without fear of violence, arbitrary arrest, and torture, stressing that the participating countries affirmed that they do not support any efforts to normalize relations with the Assad regime and will not normalize relations themselves, nor lift sanctions or fund reconstruction until there is irreversible progress towards a political solution under Security Council Resolution 2254.

On March 16, [The New York Times](#) published an investigation in which it reported that according to interviews conducted by the newspaper during the past months with four Syrians who worked in or near secret mass graves, in addition to examining satellite images, two separate sites were verified, each of which could contain thousands of bodies, adding that these sites could contain strong evidence of war crimes committed by Syrian regime forces, including systematic torture and killing of detainees. One of the satellite images reported by the newspaper showed "digging in the form of trenches believed to be mass graves in an area of 10 acres, in the city of al Qtayfa city in Damascus Suburbs, between 2014 and 2016. Pictures of the same site in 2019 show new activity, but that activity does not include digging or new trenches."

On March 16, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued a [statement](#) on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the start of the popular uprising in Syria. The statement said that the Syrian people remain a priority for the European Union, and added that the international community must keep up the search for a durable and comprehensible political solution in Syria. The statement also insisted upon "no normalisation with the Syrian regime, no reconstruction and no lifting of sanctions until a political solution in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254 is firmly underway."

Regarding the continuous Russian efforts to promote the Syrian regime, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on March 17, during a [press conference](#) with Abdullah bin Zayed, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs in Abu Dhabi, "We are convinced of the importance of revitalizing efforts to return Syria to the embrace of the Arab League."

On March 18, the Syrian regime's President, Bashar al Assad, and an accompanying delegation went to the United Arab Emirates on an official visit, the first of its kind since the suspension of Syria's membership in the Arab League in November 2011. There, he was [received by](#) Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, [also meeting with](#) Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. Commenting on that visit, the [Associated Press](#) reported on March 19, a statement by U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price, in which he said, "Washington was profoundly disappointed and troubled by this apparent attempt to legitimize Bashar Al-Assad, who remains responsible and accountable for the death and suffering of countless Syrians, the displacement of more than half of the pre-war Syrian population, and the arbitrary detention and disappearance of over 150,000 Syrian men, women and children." Jonathan Hargreaves, the United Kingdom's Special Representative for Syria, also posted a tweet on his [Twitter](#) account on March 20, in which he said, "The UK remains opposed to any normalisation of relations with the Syrian regime. The UK also stresses the importance of further international steps to hold the Assad regime to account for its numerous crimes."

On March 18, Paulo Pinheiro, [Chair of the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria](#), said during the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council that in Syria, "People across the country, regardless of who is in control, live in fear of being arrested for expressing their opinion, belonging to a dissenting political party, reporting for the media or defending human rights," adding that parts of the country are still witnessing frontline fighting and bombardment, while violence against civilians is increasing across the country.

From March 21-25, [the seventh round](#) of the meetings of the Syrian Constitutional Committee was held in Geneva, within the framework of the political solution in Syria in accordance with UN Resolution 2254, under the supervision of Geir Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy for Syria. The latest round did not make any tangible progress towards this objective. The UN Envoy issued a [press statement](#) on March 25, commenting on the conclusion of the session, in which he stated that at the end of the session the delegations were expected to submit revisions to reflect the content of the discussions during the previous days. All delegations offered at least some revisions to some of the texts presented.

On March 22, [the Guardian](#) published an investigative report in which it revealed that, according to secret official documents seen by the newspaper, the Syrian regime is systematically using a complex network of shell companies to avoid international sanctions, with these documents showing clear links between the owners of the shell companies and the President of the Syrian regime, Bashar al Assad, and members of his economic elite, including individuals on the international sanctions list. The newspaper reported added that this complexity in the corporate ownership structure is a deliberate ploy to camouflage the role those companies play in strengthening the financial resources of the Syrian regime, making it difficult for foreign powers to effectively impose sanctions on the inner circle of the Syrian regime.

On March 23, [Save the Children](#) asserted that the process of repatriating foreign children from camps in northeastern Syria to their countries of origin must be accelerated, because if the repatriations continue at the current rate, many of these children will remain stranded for a long period of up to 30 years. The organization added to it is necessary to secure the safe and voluntary return of 18,000 Iraqi children also from these camps, in addition to the presence of more than 7,300 minors from 60 countries from all over the world living in al Hawl and al Rouj camps.

On March 23, [the Guardian](#) published an investigation into the Syrian government's massive program of demolitions, under the pretext of removing mines, in al Qaboun neighborhood in Damascus. The newspaper said that the almost complete demolition of the neighborhood would not leave anything for the refugees to find upon their return. The newspaper added that al Qaboun neighborhood is paying the price for resisting the Syrian regime, and for remaining outside its control until 2017.

On March 29, [Amnesty International](#) released its annual report on the human rights situation for the year 2021-22 in 154 countries around the world; on Syria, the report said, "Parties to the conflict continued to commit with impunity serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and other gross human rights abuses." The report added that "Syrian regime forces continue to arbitrarily detain tens of thousands of people, including peaceful activists, humanitarian workers, lawyers and journalists, subjecting many to enforced disappearance. Regarding the unlawful attacks, the report notes that in early 2021, Syrian regime forces, supported by Russian forces, intensified aerial and ground attacks on north-west Syria. The attacks targeted "civilians and civilian infrastructure including hospitals on the UN deconfliction list, residential buildings and markets, killing and injuring several civilians."

On March 30, [SANA](#) reported that the President of the Syrian regime, Bashar al Assad, issued Law No. 16 of 2022 to criminalize torture, with this legislation approved by the Syrian regime's People's Assembly on March 28. According to Article 2 of the law, "The penalty shall be at least six years if torture is committed by an employee or under his supervision and with his consent, with the intention of obtaining a confession or a confession about a crime or information." According to Article 4 of the law, "It is prohibited for any party or authority to issue orders for torture, and in applying the provisions of this law, any orders issued in this regard are not considered as a justification for torture."

We at the Syrian Network for Human Rights emphasize that the Syrian regime has not previously held any perpetrators of crimes and violations accountable, but rather has passed laws specifically to protect these perpetrators, as the Syrian regime is the biggest violator of the Syrian constitution and Syrian laws. Meanwhile, we documented at least 72 methods of torture used by the Syrian regime in its detention centers, as well as documenting the deaths of 14,449 civilians due to torture in the regime's detention centers, including 174 children and 74 women, from March 2011 until March 2022. In its [monthly arrest report](#), issued on April 5, the Syrian Network for Human Rights went into detail on this issue, highlighting the main points that express the fundamental flaw in the text of the law itself, and the repressive laws in force on which the Syrian regime is based, and which will ensure that the criminalization law is merely empty verbiage, ink on paper. Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, confirmed in a [recorded speech](#) that the Syrian regime is accused of committing crimes of torture that amount to crimes against humanity, which wholly undermines its legislation criminalizing torture.

On March 30, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published a [tweet](#) on its official account on Twitter, in which it said that the third United Nations cross-line humanitarian aid convoy entered through the Saraqeb crossing from Aleppo to northwest Syria, in line with Security Council Resolution 2585.

On the course of advocacy and the pursuit of accountability:

On March 1, the US Embassy in Damascus published a [tweet](#) on its official account on Twitter, in which it said, "For 11 years, Bashar al-Assad has detained, tortured, and committed crimes against Syrians but impunity will end," announcing March as a "March To Accountability," and emphasized that it would highlight how Syrians and the international community are pursuing accountability for these crimes. In one of the tweets it posted over the month, it touched on the death toll of civilians at the hands of Russian forces, which was documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights.

On March 7, the US Department of State published a [press release](#) announcing the placement of the "Katibat al Tawhid wal Jihad" on the Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). The statement said that Katibat al Tawhid wal Jihad operates primarily in Idlib governorate, alongside Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, and added that it "cooperates with other designated terrorist groups". In addition to engaging in terrorist activities in Syria, it added, Katibat al Tawhi'd wal Jihad has also been responsible for conducting external attacks."



A tweet published by the US Embassy in Damascus on April 10, referring to the civilian death toll at the hands of Russian forces, based on the Syrian Network for Human Rights database

On March 8, the Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a [report](#) on International Women's Day entitled "On International Women's Day: Multiple Violations Committed by Various Parties to the Conflict in Syria." The report documented the deaths of at least 16,228 women (adult female) at the hands of the conflict parties and the controlling forces in Syria, from March 2011 to March 2022. The report added that at least 9,774 women are still detained or forcibly disappeared in Syria, while 93 women have died due to torture, noting that the oppression of women in the different groups' areas of control perpetuates a state of lack of development, equality, and security.

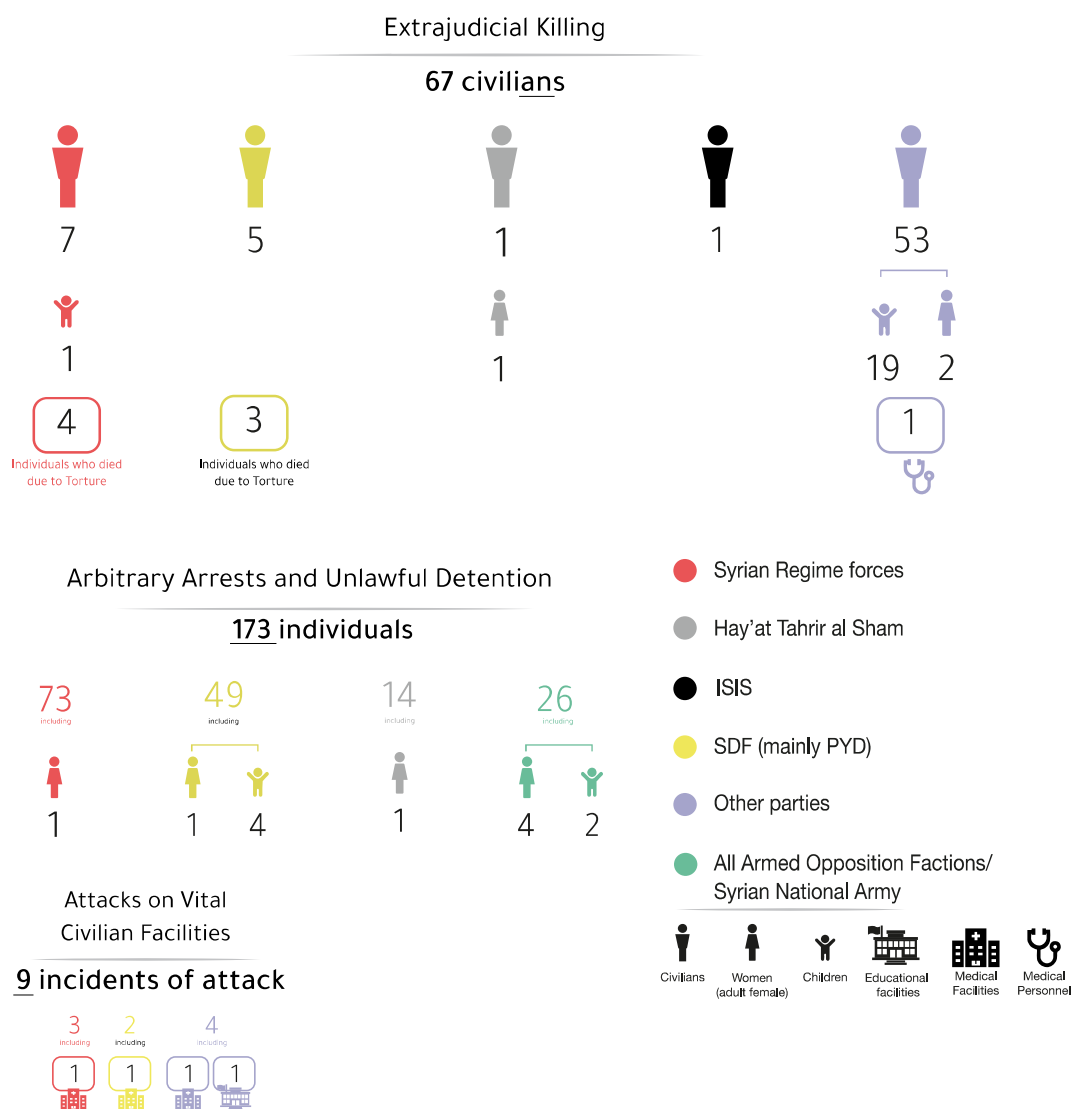
On March 15, the Syrian Network for Human Rights issued [a report marking the eleventh anniversary of the start of the popular uprising in Syria](#), which documented, from March 2011 to March 2022, the deaths of at least 228,647 Syrian civilians, including 14,664 by torture, with 151,462 arbitrarily detained/forcibly disappeared. The report added that more than half of the Syrian people are either internally displaced or refugees, stressing that Syria is neither safe for its residents nor for the return of refugees, as returning refugees are subjected to the same types of violations suffered by the residents in Syria, where the report documented from the beginning of 2014 until March 2022, at least 2,346 cases of arbitrary arrest, including 249 children and 194 women (adult female), against refugees who returned from countries of asylum or residence to their areas of residence in Syria, all of whom were arrested by Syrian regime forces.

On March 17, the Syrian Network for Human Rights held an online event marking the eleventh anniversary of the start of the popular uprising in Syria, entitled 'Seeking Safety: Forced Displacement in the Syria Conflict,' with the participation of ambassadors and diplomats from US, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and a researcher from Human Rights Watch, along with a Syrian survivor and a displaced person. The diplomats and ambassadors from the participating countries stressed the importance of holding the Syrian regime to account, citing its involvement in atrocious violations and of preventing its return to the international arena. On March 21, we issued a [statement](#) about the event.

In March, the Syrian Network for Human Rights briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, as well as briefing the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on two cases of enforced disappearance.

III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March:

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in March 2022 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.



A. Extrajudicial killing:

In March 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 67 civilians, including 20 children and three women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom were killed at the hands of other parties; among the victims was one medical worker. We also documented seven individuals who died due to torture. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in March at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. The main parties:

Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)⁴: Seven civilians, including one child.

ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State')⁵: One civilian.

Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: One woman.

Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party): Five civilians.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 53 civilians, including 19 children and two women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 18 civilians, including 12 children and one woman.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 24 civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: Eight civilians, including six children and one woman.
- Turkish border guards: Three civilians.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

In March 2022, SNHR documented at least 173 cases of arbitrary arrests, including four children and five women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The largest number of arbitrary arrests was carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs then Daraa. We issued a report on the fifth of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in March at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 73 including one woman.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** 14, including one woman.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 37, including two women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 49, including four children and one woman.

⁴ We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in turn under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria. Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

⁵The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

In March 2022, SNHR documented at least nine incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities. Among these attacks, we documented one on an educational facility, and three on medical facilities. These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: Three.
- Syrian Democratic Forces: Two.

B. Other parties:

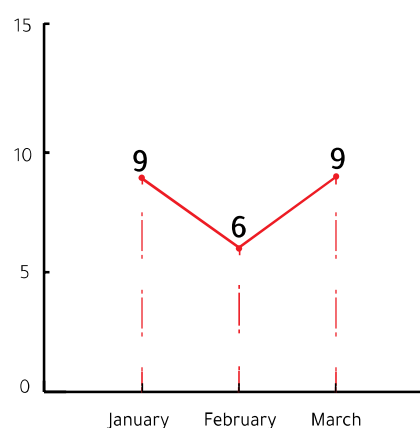
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Four.

The record of attacks on vital civil facilities documented in March 2022 was distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

	Syrian regime forces	Syrian Democratic Forces	Other parties Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify
Vital Educational Facilities			
Schools	1		1
Vital Medical Facilities			
Medical Facilities	1	1	1
Communal Facilities			
Markets			2
Infrastructure	1		
Official Headquarters			
IDP camps			
IDP camps		1	
Total:	3	2	4

The record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2022 up to April of the same year at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria has now reached 24 in total, distributed monthly as follows:

The previous chart shows that the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities in January and March was the highest to date this year, with each of these months accounting for 37.5% of the total record of attacks on vital facilities since the beginning of 2022.



The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in March:

On Sunday, February 27, 2022, Syrian regime artillery forces fired [two shells](#) at the [main market](#) in the center of [Afes](#) village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [resulting in casualties](#), in addition to causing [the partial destruction](#) of several shops. The Syrian Network for Human Rights indicates that the [market](#) was almost empty, after the displacement of most of the village's residents due to its proximity to the contact lines with Syrian regime forces. The village was under the joint control of the Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces used a missile launcher to bomb a [random IDP camp](#) in al Qrunful neighborhood located on the western outskirts of Jarablus city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. As a result, several tents sustained significant material damage. The area was under the control of Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, an improvised explosive device, whose source we were unable to identify, exploded near the [National Hospital](#) on February 23 Street in the center of Raqqqa city, causing minor material damage to the hospital wall. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses from that incident to obtain more details. Raqqqa city was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Monday, March 14, 2022, an improvised explosive device from an unknown source exploded at a vegetable market in al Arid Street in the center of [al Tabaga](#) city in the western suburbs of Raqqa governorate. Three shops sustained moderate material damage in the explosion. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses from that incident to obtain more details. The city was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, an improvised explosive device, whose source we were unable to identify, exploded in a market in [the Ghuwairan neighborhood](#) of Hasaka city. The explosion took place in the market street, injuring two children, in addition to causing moderate material damage to several shops. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses from that incident to obtain more details. Ghuwairan neighborhood was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

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

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

IV. Attachments:

1. [67 Civilians, Including 20 Children, Three Women, and Seven Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Were Killed in Syria in March 2022](#)
2. [At Least 173 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in Syria in March 2022, Including Four Children and Five Women](#)

V. Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime or Russian forces prior to

any attack under the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.

- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks lead to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva IV Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:

UN Security Council:

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that "all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such."
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states' veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians' lives and to save the Syrian people's heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions and landmines in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.

- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced person camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

International Community:

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing and by lifting sieges, as well as by increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan have proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI):

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM):

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

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria:

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.

The Syrian regime:

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

The Russian regime:

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.

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

- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:

- The Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Organizations:

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.
- Provide protected facilities and vehicles, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with distinctive signs that can be distinguished from long distances.

Acknowledgments:

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



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