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1,264 Civilian Deaths, Including 242 Children and 118 Women, as well as 86 Deaths due to Torture, Documented in Syria in 2024

503 Civilians Deaths; Including 96
Children and 49 Women, as well as Four
Deaths due to Torture, Including One
Woman and One Child; Documented in
December 2024

Thursday 02 January 2025

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 December 2024, as well as all the others documented in the whole of 2024. 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.

The fatalities recorded in this report are limited to civilian deaths that have been documented in the last month, as well as the whole of 2024. Some of these deaths may have taken place months or years ago 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 also took into consideration the major developments that took place on December 8, 2024, in regard to areas of control and power in Syria, with the fall of the Assad regime.

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 DECEMBER 2024

In December 2024, we documented the killing of 503 civilians, including 96 children and 49 women as well as four deaths due to torture, including of one child and one woman, in Syria. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

A. Assad regime forces

In the 11 days between November 27 and the Assad regime's collapse on December 8, 2024, regime forces killed 356 civilians, including 92 children and 40 women (adult female). This death toll accounts for about 44 percent of all the month's civilian deaths. These victims were killed by Assad regime forces in various Syrian governorates, but mostly in Aleppo governorate, followed by Idlib governorate. Towards the end of November 2024, Assad regime forces intensified their military operations in northwestern Syria, which was followed by other offensives on the governorates captured by the Military Operations Command, which saw intensified airstrikes. These attacks resulted in the deaths of six medical personnel, five media workers, and three Civil Defense Personnel, as well as 13 massacres. Assad's forces also used barrel bombs, cluster munitions, and incendiary munitions, which led to additional civilian casualties.

- On Monday, December 2, 2024, [two siblings, identified as Safaa \(girl\) and Abdul Qader \(boy\) Hassan al-Hussein](#) from Latmin village in northern rural Hama governorate, were killed in an airstrike by fixed-wing Assad regime forces warplanes which fired missiles at Khan Sheikhoun city in southern rural Idlib governorate. The area targeted was under the control of the new Syrian authorities at the time of the incident.
- On Monday, December 2, 2024, fixed-wing Assad regime forces warplanes fired multiple missiles at Wadi Arab Talhdya Camp in southern Harbnoush town in northern Idlib governorate. [The attack resulted in a massacre](#), in which seven children and one woman were killed, and 12 others were injured. In addition, dozens of tents were heavily damaged in the attack. The area targeted was under the control of the new Syrian authorities at the time of the incident.

B. Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

In December 2024, the SDF killed 108 civilians, including seven children and four women, accounting for about 21 percent of all victims killed during the month. These victims were killed by the SDF in various Syrian governorates: 100 civilians were killed in Aleppo governorate, five in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, two in Raqqqa governorate, and one in Hasaka governorate.

- Between Saturday, November 30, 2024, and Monday December 2, 2024, [we documented the killing of at least 63 civilians](#), including one child and two women, as well as two workers with the International Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD), by SDF gunfire. The area was under the control of the new Syrian authorities at the time of the incident.

- On Tuesday, December 17, 2024, SDF personnel used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets at al-Haj Husseni village to the south of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, [killing one local boy, identified as 10-year-old Farhan Mahmoud al-Hajji](#). The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) at the time of the incident.

C. Other parties

In December 2024, we documented the killing of 151 civilians, including 20 children and 13 women, at the hands of other parties, who were responsible for about 30 percent of all the month's documented civilian deaths. The governorates of Hama and Aleppo saw the largest number of deaths at the hands of other parties this month, accounting for 50 percent of the total, [followed by Daraa with 13 percent](#). [These deaths were divided as follows:](#)

■ Landmines of unidentified source:

In December 2024, 45 civilians, including six children and four women, were killed by the explosions of landmines of unidentified source. In total, 134 civilians, including 30 children and 20 women, were killed by landmine explosions in 2024.

On Friday, December 13, 2024, a man, identified as [Walid Khalil Ousi](#) was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source in Ein al-Ashra village in the Jabal al-Akrad district. The area was under the control of the new Syrian authorities at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, December 24, 2024, Lieutenant [Sami Faruq al-Sami and Assistant Tareq Mohammad Taleb](#), members of the Civilian Police affiliated with the al-Bab Security Directorate, were killed, and other civilian injured, by the explosion of landmines of unidentified source in Tal Rhal village in a rural area near al-Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

■ Gunfire of unidentified source

In December 2024, gunfire of unidentified source killed 45 civilians, including three children and four women, accounting for about 30 percent of all the victims killed by other parties this month. Most of these victims were killed in Daraa governorate. We also documented the killing of eight civilians, including three children and four women, by stray bullets from celebratory gunfire during celebration of the fall of the Assad regime.

- On Tuesday, December 2, 2024, three judges; identified as [Munther Dergham Hassan, Mohammad Suleiman Hammoud, and Yousef Ghannoum](#) who worked at the Property Court in Hama city; were shot dead by unidentified gunmen who opened fire at their car on Hama-Misyaf Road near the al-Rabe'a village crossroads in western rural Hama governorate. The area was under the new Syrian authorities' control.

■ Bombings by unidentified parties:

In December 2024, five civilians, including two children, were killed by the explosion of war remnants of unidentified source and bombings by unidentified parties.

On Tuesday, December 24, 2024, an improvised explosive device (IED) planted in a car by unidentified parties was detonated in front of the former Recruitment Building in al-Tajnid Street in Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. [The bombing killed two local men, identified as Mohammad Jumaa al-Hawwar and Bashar Shukri al-Saleh](#), and injured eight others. A number of cars were also damaged in the explosion. The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

■ Israeli attacks:

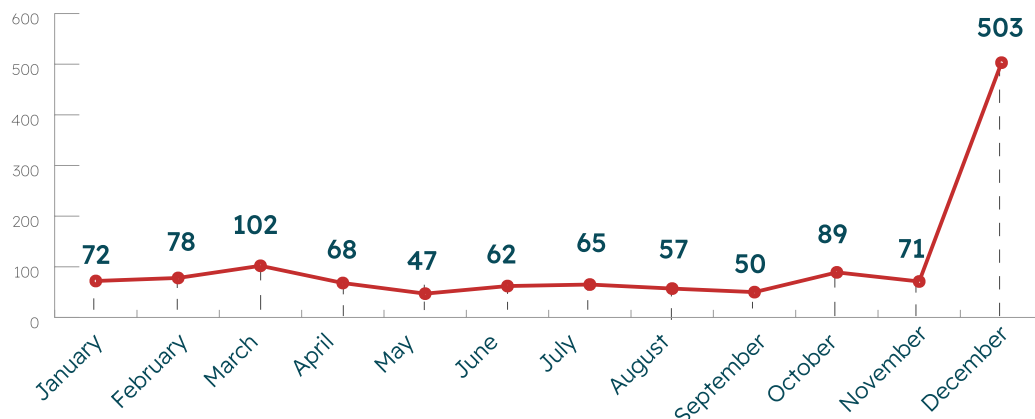
In December 2024, [eight civilians were killed](#) in Israeli attacks in Syria. On Sunday, December 8, 2024, a man, identified as Nezar Salim al-Halabi from Hazm village in northern rural Suwayda, was killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a military site formerly used by Assad regime forces, located on the road connecting Suwayda city and Qanawat. Nezar, a civilian, was present at the targeted site. The area was under the control of the new Syrian authorities.

III. CIVILIAN DEATH TOLL

A. 2024

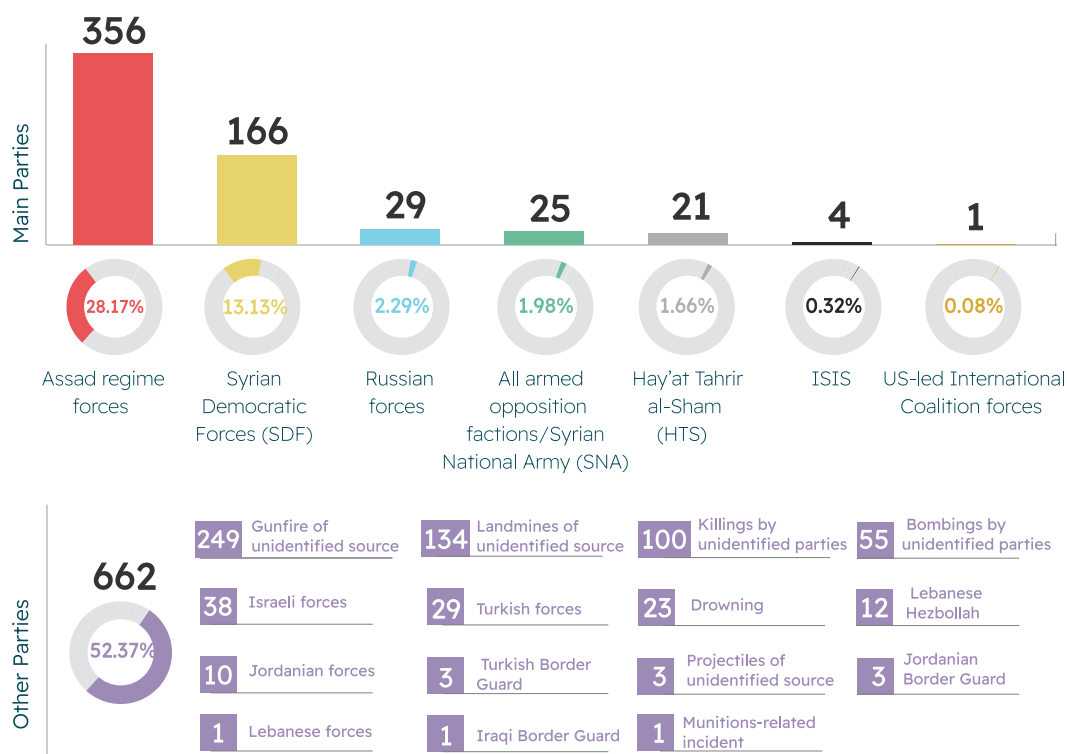
In 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 1,264 civilians, including 242 children and 118 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Civilian deaths documented in 2024 are distributed by month as follows:

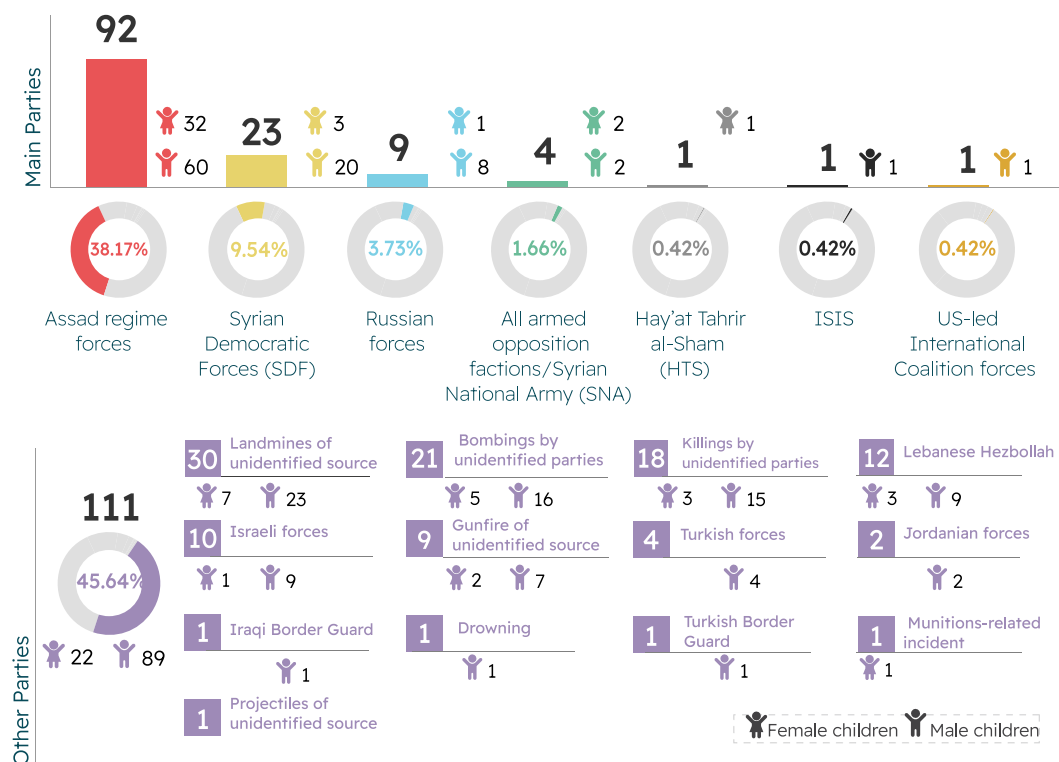


As the graph shows, December saw the highest documented monthly number of deaths in 2024, accounting for about 40 percent of the total, followed by March with about eight percent. Conversely, May saw the lowest documented number of monthly civilian deaths this year, with about four percent.

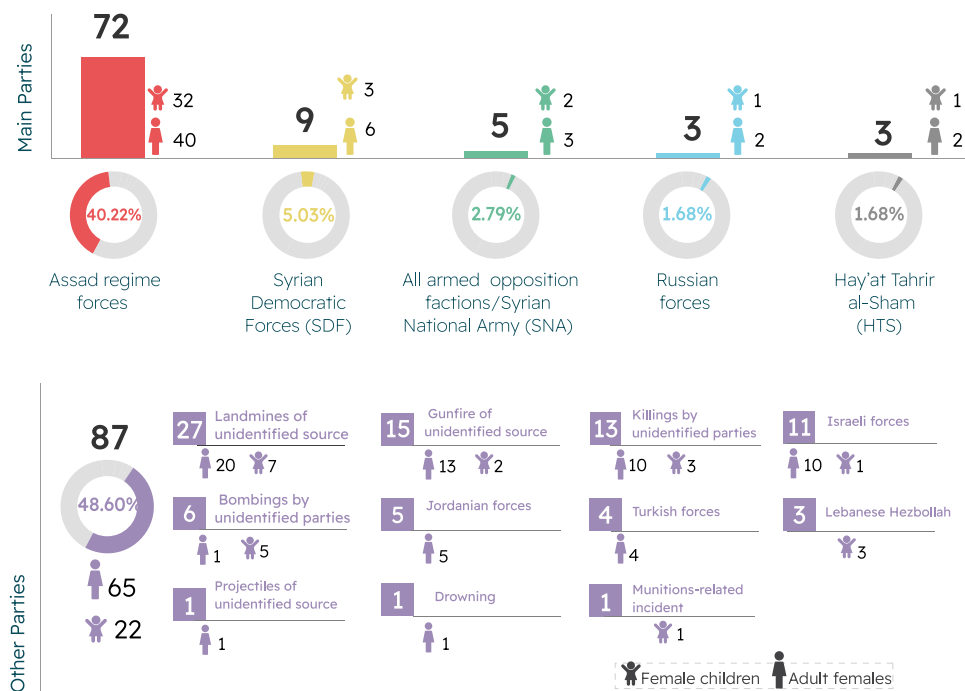
Civilian deaths documented in 2024 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



242 children killed by the main active parties in Syria in 2024, Distributed as follows:



179 females killed by the main active parties in Syria in 2024, Distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

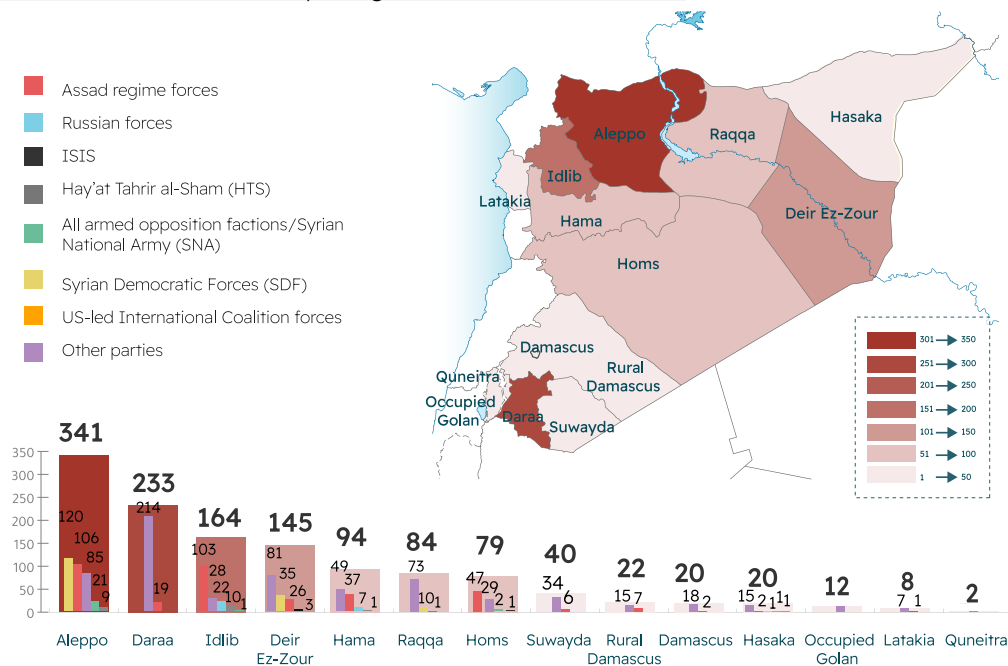
- **Assad regime forces:**
We documented the killing of **356 civilians**, including 92 children and 40 women (adult female) by Assad regime forces.
- **Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of 29 civilians, including nine children and two women by Russian forces.
- **ISIS:**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including one child, by ISIS.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of 21 civilians, including one child and two women, by HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of 25 civilians, including four children and three women by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of 166 civilians, including 23 children and six women by the SDF.
- **US-led International Coalition forces:**
We documented the killing of one child by US-led International Coalition forces.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of **662 civilians**, including 111 children and 65 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Projectiles of unidentified source:** Three civilians, including one child and one woman.
- **Landmines of unidentified sources:** 134 civilians, including 30 children and 20 women.
- **Gunfire of unidentified source:** 249 civilians, including nine children and 13 women.
- **Bombings by unidentified parties:** 55 civilians, including 21 children and one woman.
- **Killings by unidentified parties:** 100 civilians, including 18 children and 10 women.
- **Lebanese Hezbollah:** 12 children.
- **Munitions-related incidents:** One child.
- **Drowning:** 23 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- **Israeli forces:** 38 civilians, including 10 children and 10 women.
- **Turkish forces:** 29 civilians, including four children and four women.
- **Jordanian border guard:** Three civilians.
- **Jordanian forces:** 10 civilians, including two children and five women.
- **Turkish border guard:** Three civilians, including one child.
- **Lebanese forces:** One civilian.
- **Iraqi border guard:** One child.

Civilian deaths documented in 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

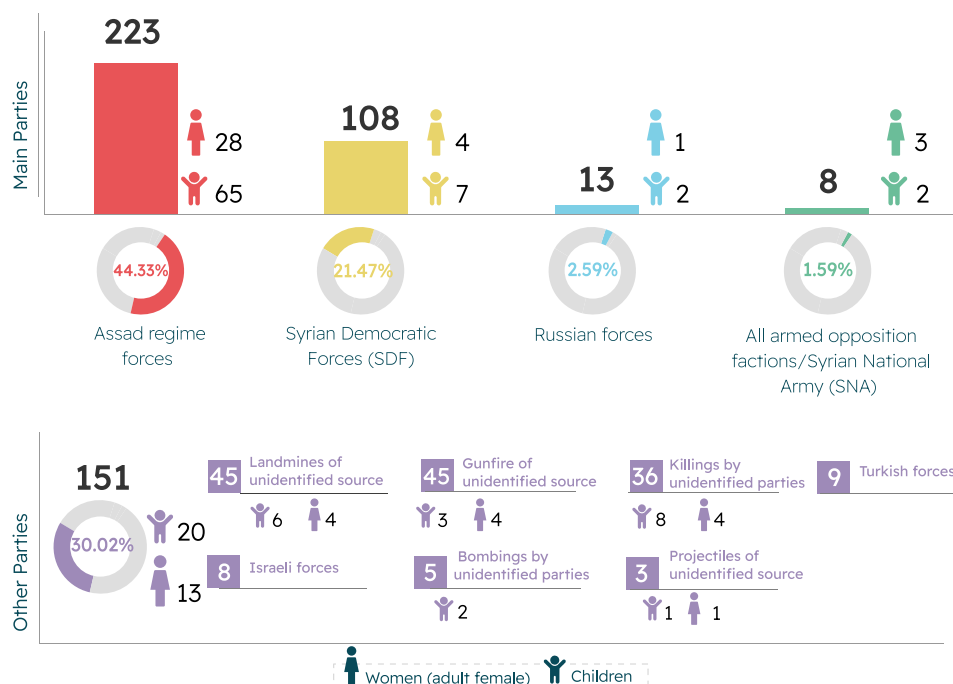


As the graph shows, Aleppo governorate saw the highest number of victims, accounting for 27 percent of all civilian deaths in 2024. Daraa governorate came second, with about 18 percent, followed by Idlib governorate with 13 percent, then Deir Ez-Zour governorate with about 11 percent. Most of the victims killed in these governorates were killed by other parties.

B. December 2024

In December 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 503 civilians, including 96 children and 49 women, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Civilian deaths documented in December 2024 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:



A. Main parties:

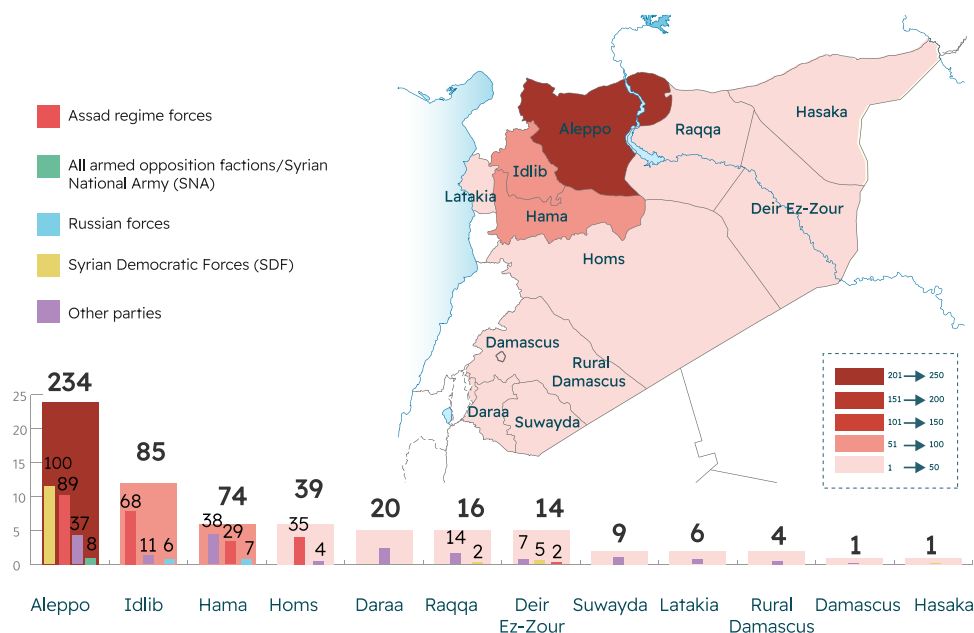
- Assad regime forces:**
 We documented the killing of 223 civilians, including 65 children and 28 women, by Assad regime forces.
- Russian forces:**
 We documented the killing of 13 civilians, including two children and one woman, by Russian forces.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
 We documented the killing of eight civilians, including two children and three women, by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
 We documented the killing of 108 civilians, including seven children and four women, by the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 151 civilians, including 20 children and 13 women, by other parties, distributed as follows::

- Projectiles of unidentified source: Three civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 45 civilians, including three children and four women.
- Landmines of unidentified sources: 45 civilians, including six children and four women.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 36 civilians, including eight children and four women.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: five civilians, including two children.
- Turkish forces: Nine civilians.
- Israeli forces: Eight civilians.

Civilian deaths documented in December 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



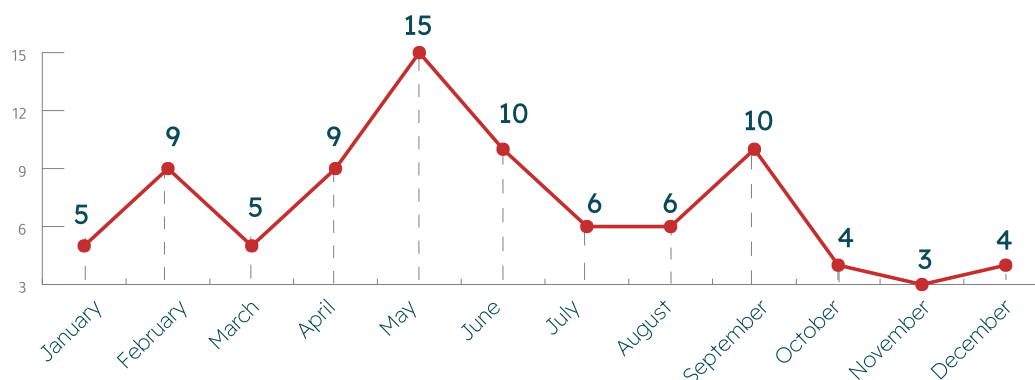
As the chart shows, Hama governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths documented this month, accounting for about 46 percent of the total, followed by Idlib governorate with 17 percent, then Hama governorate with 15 percent. About 44 percent of all victims killed this month were killed by Assad regime forces.

IV. DEATHS DUE TO TORTURE

A. 2024

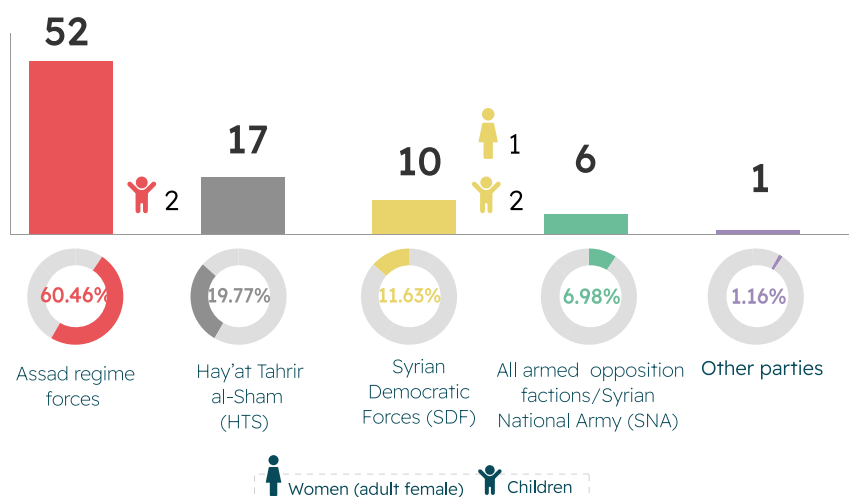
In 2024, SNHR documented 86 deaths due to torture, including of four children and one woman, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. .

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in 2024 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, the month of May saw the highest documented monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting for about 17 percent of the year's total. Meanwhile, Assad regime forces were responsible for 60 percent of all deaths due to torture documented in 2024.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in November 2024 are distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: 52 civilians, including two children.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): 17 civilians.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): Six civilians.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): 10 civilians, including two children and one woman.

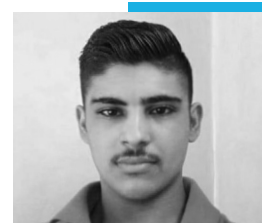
B. Other parties:

- Other parties: One civilian.

Below are the most notable cases:

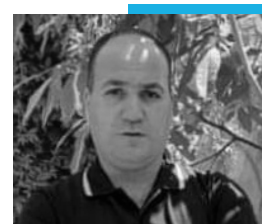
Bashar Mohammad al-Salama, a boy originally from al-Qouriya city in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour, was 15 years old when he was arrested by SDF personnel in 2017 in Hasaka city, where he was living at the time. Bashar has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since with the SDF denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him.

On Monday, February 19, 2024, Bashar's family received the news from an SDF-affiliated intermediary that he had died in an SDF detention center. We are still investigating and collecting information about Bashar's death. However, SNHR can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture in the SDF detention center. SNHR can also confirm that the SDF has yet to return his body to his family.



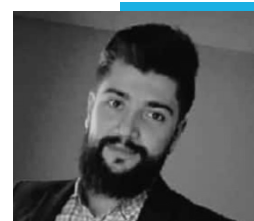
↑ ⓘ Bashar Mohammad al-Salama, a boy

Abdou al-Sheikh Qwyeder, from Irbeen city in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Rural Damascus governorate, was arrested in August 2024 by Assad regime forces in a raid on his family's home in Irbeen. He has been forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Assad regime denying having detained him, while refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Assad regime forces informed his family that he had died in a detention center, returning his body to the family at Tishreen Military Hospital in Damascus city. We can confirm that Abdou was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence.



↑ ⓘ Abdou al-Sheikh Qwyeder

Abdul Ghany Mustafa Munir, an architect born in 1991 from Aleppo city, was arrested on Saturday, August 17, 2024, by Assad regime forces in Tadeef city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate as he was trying to cross into areas then under Assad regime forces' control in Aleppo city. He was taken to a detention center in Aleppo city.



↑ ⓘ Abdul Ghany Mustafa Munir

According to intelligence received by SNHR from people close to the victim, Abdul Ghany had been a refugee in Türkiye where he had been working in construction. He was forcibly repatriated to northwestern Syria in April 2024. During his stay in Izaz city in Aleppo governorate, a city that was under the control of the SNA, Abdul Ghany's family made arrangements to settle his security status with the Assad regime and paid the required fees to relieve him from mandatory military service. Nonetheless, Abdul Ghany was arrested by the Assad regime forces on his way back to Aleppo city. He has been classified as a forcibly disappeared person ever since.

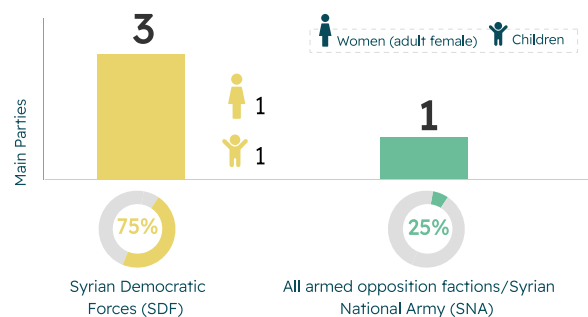
On Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Abdul Ghany's family received a notice from Assad regime forces that Abdul Ghany had died inside the Assad regime's Military Security Intelligence branch in Aleppo city. His body was returned to the family the next day, bearing signs of torture. SNHR can confirm that Abdul Ghany was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence inside the Military Security Intelligence branch in Aleppo city.

B. December 2024

In December 2024, SNHR documented four deaths due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in December 2024 are distributed as follows:

- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One civilian
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Three civilians, including one child and one woman.



Below are the most notable cases:

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, SDF personnel arrested a man, identified as Abdul Qader Hussein al-Azzou al-Abrash, his son Ibrahim, and his sister Fadila, in a raid on their house in Um Zalila village to the west of Deir Hafer town in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. After arresting them, the SDF personnel executed them in front of their house by shooting them at close range without any identified cause. Having killed the family, the SDF personnel proceeded to remove their bodies and throw them into a canal near the village. Horrified locals arrived at the scene after the SDF members had fled the area and retrieved the victims' bodies from the water. The three victims were from al-Sfeira city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate.

V. DEATHS AMONG MEDICAL PERSONNEL

A. 2024

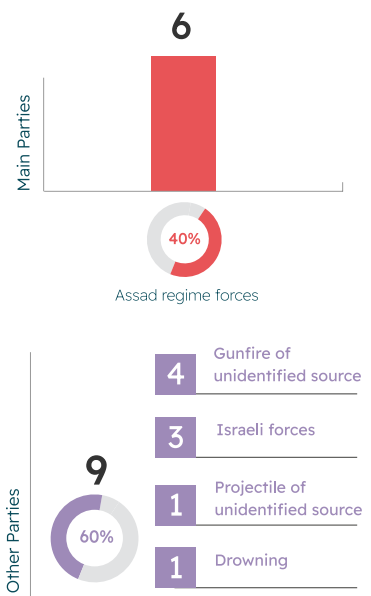
In 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 15 medical personnel, including one woman, distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: six medical personnel.

B. Other parties: Nine Medical Personnel

- Projectiles of unidentified source: One medical worker.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: Four medical personnel
- Israeli forces: Three medical personnel, including one woman.
- Drowning: One media worker.



Below are the most notable cases:

On Wednesday, July 3, a surgeon, identified as Muntaser Abdul Hakim al-Falah, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in al-Sanamayn city in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Assad regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ Surgeon Muntaser Abdul Hakim al-Falah

On Friday, September 20, Zakariya Hekmet al-Akhan, a specialist nurse who was the head nurse at al-Hekma Specialist Hospital for Ophthalmology, was killed in an artillery attack by Assad regime forces who fired multiple shells targeting Taftanaz city in northern rural Idlib governorate. The shells struck a public street and residential houses, partially destroying a number of houses at the targeted location. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the attack.



↑ Zakariya Hekmet al-Akhan, a nurse



On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, pharmacist Alaa al-Din Fawwaz al-Asafra, from al-Karak al-Sharqi in eastern rural Daraa, drowned while travelling on a migration route, when the boat he was in capsized two hours after it set off from the Libyan coasts, travelling towards Italy.



↑ Alaa al-Din Fawwaz al-Asafra

B. December 2024

In December 2024, we documented the killing of six medical personnel, distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: Four medical personnel

B. Other parties:

- Projectiles of unidentified source: One medical worker.
- Israeli forces: One medical worker.

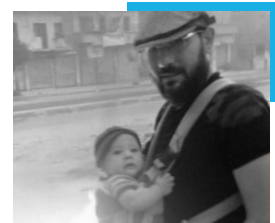
Below are the most notable cases:

On Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Mohannad Ali Jakish, a volunteer with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) from al-Salamiya city in eastern rural Hama, was killed in airstrikes by fixed-wing Israeli forces warplanes which targeted several sites then controlled by the Assad regime – most notably al-Dabbousiya Crossing, Qammar Bridge, and al-Joubaniya Bridge- in western rural Homs. The airstrikes also resulted in extensive destruction and injured several people, in addition to damaging an SARC ambulance located at al-Dabbousiya Crossing.



↑  Mohannad Ali Jakish

On Saturday, November 30, 2024, Dr. Hosam al-Ali, from Raqqqa governorate, was killed in an airstrike by fixed-wing Assad regime warplanes (Sukhoi 24) which fired multiple missiles at al-Bassel Roundabout on the western outskirts of Aleppo city. The attack targeted a large gathering of civilians and civilian cars at the roundabout, resulting in a massacre, in which 62 civilians, including eight children and six women, were killed. Dr. Hosam, who held a Master's degree in Pharmacy, was a former member of the Syrian Vaccination Team. He had held a logistical position in Aleppo governorate since 2019, and was the head of the Technical, Medical and Scholastic Institute at the International University of Science and Renaissance in Aleppo at the time of his death. Dr. Hosam was killed while on a medical mission in Aleppo city to assist fellow medical personnel there.



↑  Hosam al-Ali

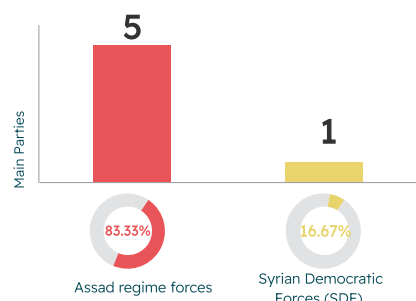
VI. VICTIMS AMONG MEDIA WORKERS

A. 2024

In 2024, SNHR documented the killing of six media workers, all of whom were killed in December. They are distributed as follows:

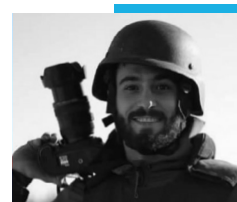
A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: Five media workers.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): One media worker.



Below are the most notable cases:

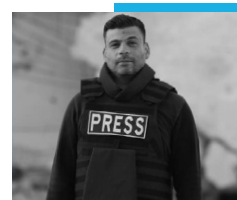
On Saturday, November 30, 2024, [Mustafa al-Kurdi](#), a 25-year-old media worker who was commonly known as Mustafa al-Sarut, was shot and killed by Assad regime forces who opened fire at the car he was travelling in with fellow media worker Milad Fadel, who works for the Al-Jazeera Channel. The Assad regime detachment responsible for the shooting was hiding in al-Furqan neighborhood in Aleppo city.



↑ Mustafa al-Kurdi

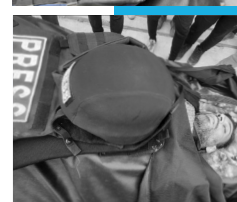
Al-Kurdi, originally from Tareeq al-Bab neighborhood in Aleppo city, was of Kurdish descent. He worked as a reporter for Focus Aleppo and a photojournalist for the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT).

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, media worker Anas Kharboutli, a photojournalist for Germany's Deutsche Press Agency (DPA), was killed on in an airstrike by a fixed-wing Assad regime forces warplane, which targeted a group of media workers in the city of Morek in northern rural Hama. The attack occurred while the media workers were covering the ongoing air and ground assaults on towns in the area, coinciding with fierce clashes between Bashar Assad's regime forces and opposition factions participating in Operation Deter Aggression in northern Hama city. The area targeted was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.



↑ Anas Kharboutli

Anas Kharboutli, originally from the town of Kafr Batna in Rural Damascus, was renowned for his on-the-ground reporting in Syria. In 2020, he was awarded the Bayeux Calvados-Normandy's Young Reporter of the Year in France, which he received in recognition of his work documenting military attacks in Idlib governorate, including Assad regime and allied Russian and Iranian forces' targeting of hospitals, residential neighborhoods, and markets. His coverage also highlighted the plight of civilians forced to flee their homes to farms and camps.



Kharboutli was nominated for the award by the DPA, for whom he had worked as a photojournalist since he was forcibly displaced from Eastern Ghouta in March 2018. Before this, he had been a student at Damascus University's Department of Energy Engineering, but had felt compelled to drop out of university in 2011 to engage in media work following the outbreak of the pro-democracy uprising.

VII. VICTIMS AMONG CIVIL DEFENSE PERSONNEL

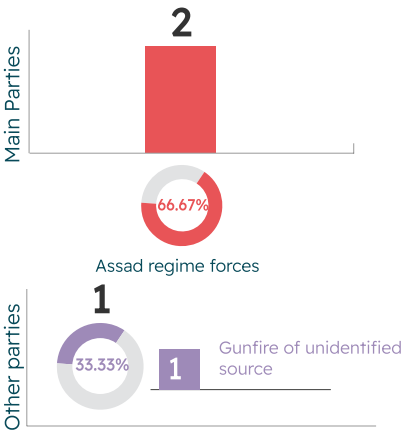
In 2024, SNHR documented the killing of three Civil Defense personnel who were all killed in December. These were distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: Two Civil Defense Personnel

B. Other parties:

- Gunfire of unidentified source: One Civil Defense worker



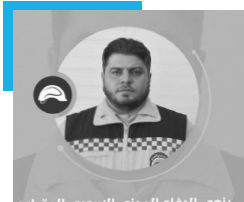
Below are the most notable cases:

On Thursday, November 28, 2024, firefighter Zuhair al-Sheikh Ahmad, a member of Aleppo’s Firefighting Team, originally from Abin town in western rural Aleppo, was killed in an artillery attack (heavy machine gun 23) by an Assad regime detachment stationed in the Military college in Aleppo which targeted nightshift workers at a carton factory in Mnyan village in southwestern Aleppo city. Three civilians were also killed in the attack.



↑ 👁 Zuhair al-Sheikh Ahmad

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, Mohammad Zahra, a member of the former regime’s Syrian Civil Defense Forces (not to be confused with the Syria Civil Defense, known as the White Helmets), was shot dead by unidentified gunmen, while he was travelling back to his home city of al-Qaryatein in southeastern rural Homs to check on his family. Mohammad was found dead on a public road near the city. We not been able to identify who killed him as of this writing.

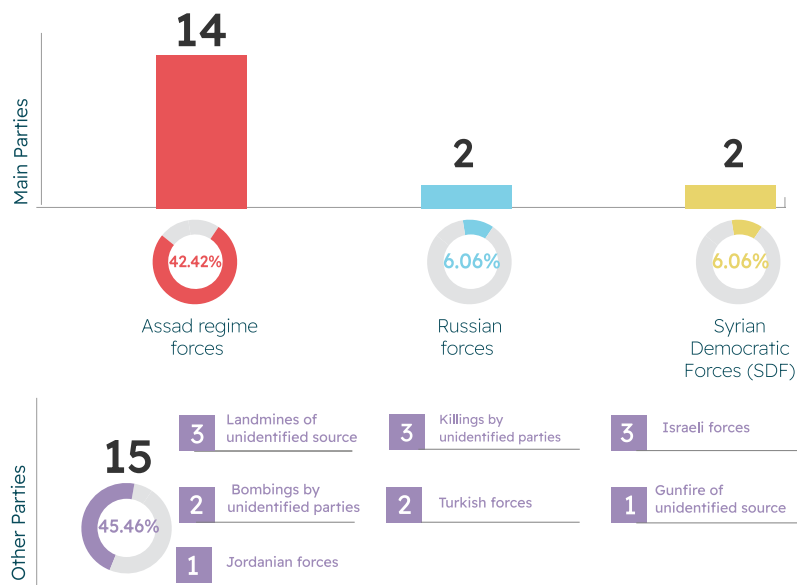


↑ 👁 Mohammad Zahra

VIII. MASSACRES

A. 2024

SNHR documented **33 massacres in 2024**, distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

- Assad regime forces: 14 massacres.
- Russian forces: Two massacres.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Two massacres

B. Other parties:

- Killings by unidentified parties: Three massacres.
- Landmines of unidentified source: Three massacres.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: One massacre.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Two massacres.
- Israeli forces: Three massacres.
- Turkish forces: Two massacres.
- Jordanian forces: One massacre.

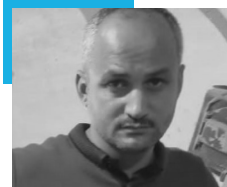
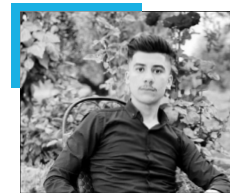
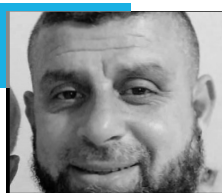
Below are the most notable massacres:

On Friday, August 9, at around 02:00 local time, Assad regime troops, stationed in al-Boulayl town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, used rocket launchers and heavy artillery to fire artillery shells targeting the two villages of al-Dahla and Jedid Bakkara. One of the shells struck a house in al-Dahla village, killing five civilians from the same family, including two girls and two women, and injuring one other civilian; the family were targeted as they slept on the rooftop of their house.

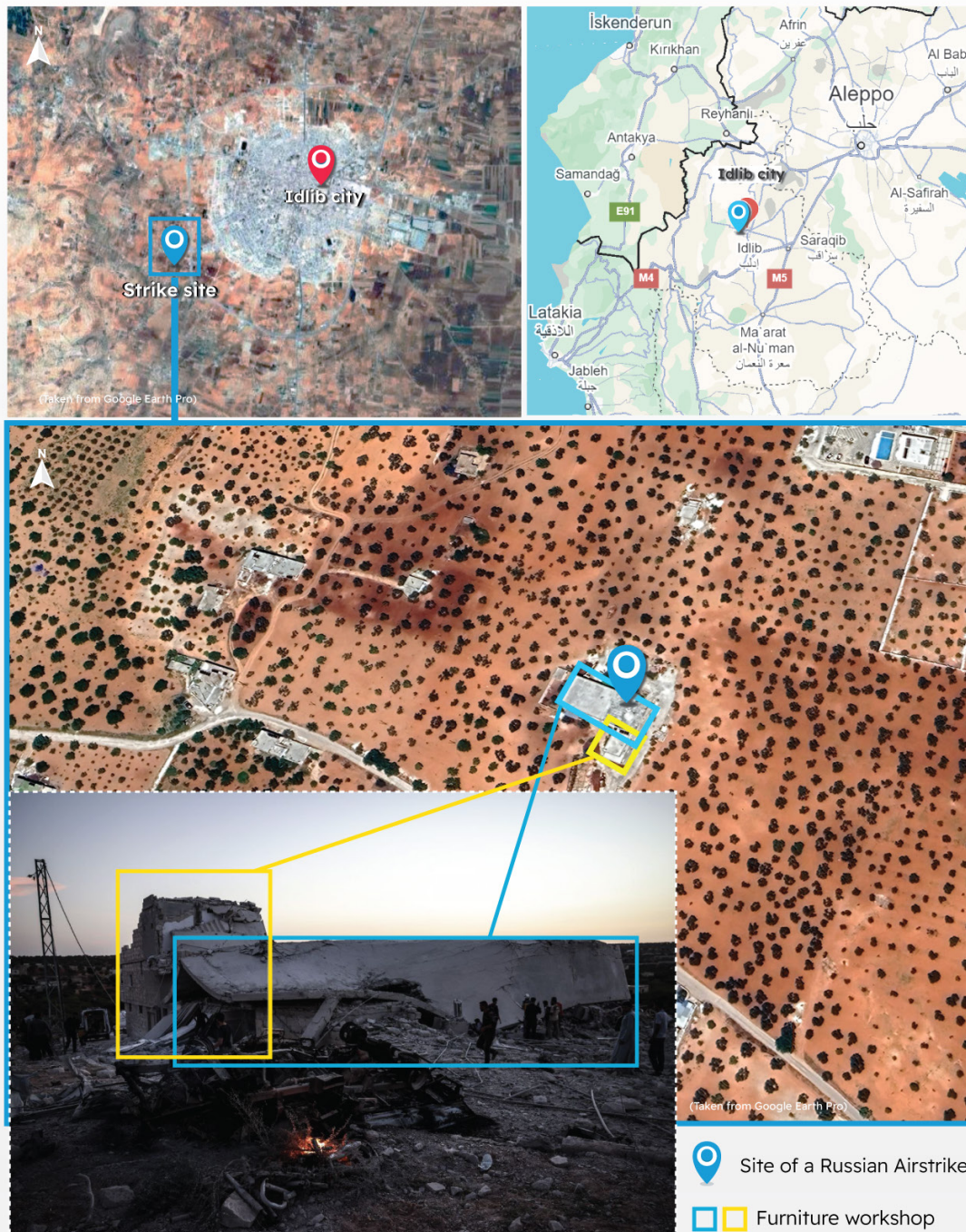


At around 06:00, Assad regime forces resumed their artillery and rocket attacks on the same village, with another shell striking another house in the village, killing six civilians from two families, who were gathered there. Four of the six victims killed were children, one of them an infant, and the other two victims were women, while four others were injured. The two villages of al-Dahla and Jedid Bakkara were under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at around 17:00 local time, fixed-wing (Su-34) warplanes, believed to be Russian, carried out two airstrikes, firing at least four missiles in all, [that targeted a furniture workshop](#) where dozens of civilian employees were present, which was located on agricultural land around Ein Sheeb on the western outskirts of Idlib city. [The attack killed 11 civilians, including four children, and injured 31 others, including children, to varying degrees. The airstrikes also inflicted massive destruction on the workshop building and the surrounding area.](#) The area targeted was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



Map showing the strike site of an aerial Russian attack on the outskirts of Idlib city. The attack resulted in a massacre, where 11 civilians, including four children, were killed, while 31 others were injured – October 16, 2024



By: SNHR

23 October 2024



Ph: Moaid Ismaeil

↑ A victim's body being recovered by rescue workers. He was one of the victims of a massacre inflicted in an airstrike by Russian forces on a furniture workshop located on the western outskirts of Idlib city – October 16, 2024

SNHR spoke with Ammar J'ili, the head of furniture upholstery in the workshop bombed by Russian forces on October 16, 2024, who was also wounded in the attack. He told us that, earlier that day, at around 10:00, fixed-wing warplanes had carried out airstrikes on rural regions of Idlib, one of which was the area on Ein Sheeb Road in western Idlib city where the workshop was located, with the attack taking place while he was in the upholstery work area of the two-story workshop, which employed 50 staff. Talking about the attack later that day, he recalled,

“At exactly 17:00, there was a sudden and very strong explosion. The explosion’s sound was incredibly loud, and the ceiling fell on top of us instantly. There were 12 people working in our work area. In a matter of seconds, the place went dark and there was dust everywhere. I could not see people around me. There was a hole where one of the walls fell on the work area next to us, which four others and I used to get out of the debris. Even though we were on the first floor, we were three meters off the ground. I crawled out, since the building was totally destroyed. The dust was initially everywhere, and there was a car on fire nearby. I heard many people screaming from underneath the debris. One of the people who was able to get out was injured. I helped those trapped to leave the area. As I was about to return to the workshop, someone called out to me and told me that I was injured, with blood on my clothes. At the time, I did not know, and I felt no pain. I headed for the hospital with the injured people, with many fragments having hit my body. Injured victims started coming into the hospital one by one. There were about 30 people injured, and most of them were children who worked at the workshop under supervisors, just to make ends meet. Of the young men who were with me at the workshop, two were killed and their bodies were pulled out, and the others were injured. One of those injured was a young boy named Khaled Akram Balsha who was rescued after six hours. We heard no warplane sounds before the bombardment. Previously, when we heard warplanes, we would scatter and take shelter under olive trees, since the workshop area had been bombed before in February, and one of the workers was killed in that attack. I can confirm that the workshop is a civilian facility. Most of us working there are displaced. There are no military points or features, and the workshop is visible to Russian warplanes from the woods, with vehicles carrying mattresses and materials. All of this suggests that this was a civilian workshop.”



↑ One of the children injured in an aerial attack by Russian forces on a furniture workshop on the western outskirts of Idlib city, which inflicted a massacre – October 16, 2024

SNHR also spoke with media worker Ahmad Ghajar from Idlib city. He told us that, on October 16, 2024, at exactly 17:00, while he was in the western part of Idlib city, he heard a massive explosion that shook the whole city. When he went to see what had happened, he saw smoke rising over the west of Idlib city, although he'd initially believed, from the noise of the blast, that the bombing had targeted the city center. He then headed to the bombsite which was three kilometers away. He recalled,

“The place that was bombed was a furniture workshop, a two-story building which had been used as a chicken farm in the past. There were about 40 workers at the workshop at the time of the bombing. Before the bombing, there were warplanes flying over the area, and they were clearly Russian warplanes. With time, we have come to be able to identify Russian warplanes from their shape and model, in addition to the announcements made by the observatories when warplanes take off from Russian airbases. The missiles struck almost all at once; we heard one explosion. My brother-in-law was working at the targeted place. I tried to call him, and he didn't answer, so I rushed there to the site. I was one of the first people to arrive and I saw a number of workers who'd survived. Some of them were injured, and others were covered in dust after they got out from underneath the debris. I saw that the bombing was mostly on the east side of the workshop building, which was completely destroyed. The other side of the building was still standing. I started looking and shouting my brother-in-law's name. As I was doing that, I saw someone dead under the debris, and I saw two craters from two missiles. The surrounding area looked different from the scattered shrapnel and the huge pressure, so much so that I saw about 50 trees blown down. I aided an injured young man who was between the olive trees, as Civil Defense teams were waiting for the warplanes to leave to enter the site. I headed for the hospitals and found my relative at the University's Hospital.” Ahmad said that he returned to the bombing site about an hour later and found the Civil Defense (White Helmets) rescue worker teams working to retrieve the bodies of the victims who'd been killed and evacuate the wounded. The rescue efforts lasted for seven hours due to the massive extent of the destruction, with 10 people, four of them children, killed in the attack. He added, **“When I returned again to the site, there were five identified martyrs. The Civil Defense teams were then able to pull out five others. There were over 30 injured people, who were mostly children working as upholsters and at the workshop. There were also amputations among the injured, and some had big bruises. Some had been injured by the large pieces of debris from the building blocks that collapsed. My brother-in-law told me that the workers were scared because of the bombing that had targeted the surrounding areas the day before, and that is why the number of workers was less than usual. He told me he had not heard the sound of warplanes or bombing, and then suddenly they found themselves under the rubble. Most of the victims were on the ground floor, since the second floor collapsed onto the first after the bombing.”** Ahmad confirmed to us that the targeted site was a civilian area where no military points or equipment were located.

On Thursday, November 14, 2024, five civilians - three children and two women - were killed, and others injured, in an airstrike by fixed-wing Israeli warplanes that targeted a building in al-Mazza neighborhood (known as Villat Gharbiya) in Damascus governorate. Additionally, a number of private properties and buildings, including those targeted, along with some adjacent buildings, were heavily damaged. The area was under the control of Assad regime forces at the time of the incident.



B. December 2024

In December 2024, SNHR documented 15 massacres, out of a total of 33 massacres committed in the year 2024.

The massacres documented as having taken place in December 2024 have been attributed to the relevant parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties: 13 massacres

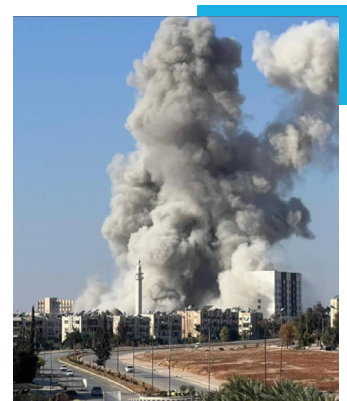
- Assad regime forces: 12 massacres
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): One massacre.

B. Other parties: Two massacres.

- Landmines of unidentified source: One massacre.
- Killings by unidentified parties: One massacre.

Below are the most notable massacres:

On Saturday, November 30, 2024, [62 civilians](#) were killed, including eight children, six women, and two medical workers, while over 70 others were [injured](#), [in airstrikes](#) by fixed-wing Assad regime forces warplanes (Sukhoi 24) that fired multiple missiles [at al-Bassel Roundabout](#) on the western outskirts of Aleppo city targeting a large gathering of civilians and cars at the roundabout. Most of these civilians had entered the city after the new Syrian authorities had liberated it.



↑ Assad regime warplanes bombed al-Bassel Roundabout – November 30, 2024

On Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 14:09 local time, [12 civilians were killed](#), including three media workers and two medical workers, while 23 others were injured, including paramedics, [in an airstrike by fixed-wing Assad regime warplanes \(Sukhoi 24\)](#) which fired two missiles targeting the front entrance to Aleppo University's Hospital in Aleppo city, situated beside the main entrance to Aleppo University, a lively, strategic, and usually crowded area. The bombing also partially destroyed the area in front of the hospital compound, as well as moderately damaging a number of sections of the hospital itself.

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 11:10, Assad regime forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on civilians' homes in al-Arba'in neighborhood on the northeastern outskirts of Hama city, killing five civilians, including three women. The attack also completely destroyed a number of houses. The first attack took place in Hama city in tandem with clashes between Assad regime forces and armed opposition factions alongside HTS.

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, a landmine (war remnant) exploded in a car near Abu Laffa village in eastern rural Hama, killing six civilians, including two women and three children from the same family.

IX. 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. 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 Assad 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 if they wish 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.

X. 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 personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For 13 years, we have issued daily report on the death toll. We also issue monthly, biannual, and annual reports. In addition, we published dozens of special reports documenting deaths by 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 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.

XI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

1. **Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** The evidence collected by SNHR indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities. Assad regime forces and their allies committed various crimes incorporating extrajudicial killing, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. These attacks bear all the elements of war crimes, including carrying out attacks against civilians.
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. **Extrajudicial killings by the various parties to the conflict:** We documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.
6. **Violations by armed opposition factions:** All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA) violated UN Security Council resolution 2139 by carrying out attacks that resulted in civilian deaths and injuries, in the form of collateral damage. This constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law.
7. **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)

- Establish an internal committee to investigate violations committed by the SDF, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims.
- Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by SDF forces 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.

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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