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Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in October 2023

No Fewer than 85 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in October, Including 78 by the Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces in Northwestern Syria

Monday 06 November 2023

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 at the forefront of the violations which the Syrian people have endured for over a decade. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for approximately the first seven months of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, perpetrating their own share of human rights violations against Syrians. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has been documenting human rights violations to the best of our abilities since the earliest days of the uprising in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, as the numbers of human rights violations rose sharply, our team was confronted by the need to issue periodic monthly reports, in order to highlight the continued suffering of the Syrian people. At that stage, we began releasing eight reports each month, and, in tandem with this, created a large and still growing database which now houses the details of hundreds of thousands of incidents sorted into the various categories of violations that have emerged during our documentation work.

By the end of 2018, however, the level of violence had fallen to some degree, which prompted another change in our reporting strategy. At this point, we opted for releasing one monthly report summarizing the most notable human rights violations in Syria that we were able to document in the previous month. As such, this latest report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in October 2023. In this report, we summarize the civilian deaths we have documented in this period at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces, as well as providing details of the numbers of arrests and enforced disappearances. The report also sheds light on the use of unlawful weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and incendiary ammunition), as well as attacks on civilian objects documented by SNHR's team during last month. For a detailed explanation of our [methodology](#), please visit the following link.

This report includes one first-hand account, which we selected from among the many accounts we collected through directly talking with eyewitnesses, rather than from any second-hand sources. As in all of our interviews, we explained the purpose of the interview beforehand to the interviewee, who gave us permission to use the information they provided in the service of this report, without offering or promising any incentives. We have also tried, insofar as possible, to spare the interviewee the agony of recalling the traumatic violations that occurred, and, as always, provided assurances that we will protect the confidentiality of any eyewitness who requests the use of a pseudonym.

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 of these events.



II. Brief Summary of Octobers Most Notable Developments

Bombings and military operations

October saw a further escalation by Syrian regime forces, with a sharply increased numbers of ground attacks. Some of these attacks were indiscriminate, while others deliberately targeted certain objects. Similarly, some of the attacks targeted heavily populated civilian areas located far from the dividing lines with armed opposition factions, while other attacked areas close to the dividing lines. The attacks were concentrated in Idlib city, and a number of areas in western, southern, eastern, and northern rural Idlib, as well as areas in western rural Aleppo governorate and the Sahl al-Ghab in western Hama governorate. We recorded the use of cluster munitions and [incendiary ammunitions](#) in some of these attacks targeting civilian areas far from the frontlines. Overall, the attacks carried out by Syrian regime forces in the month of October killed dozens of civilians, including children and women, as well as damaging numerous civilian entities, including educational and medical facilities and villages. On October 5, Syrian regime forces committed [a massacre](#), in which they fired two heat-seeking rockets at a house inhabited by a family of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in al-Wasata village in western Aleppo, killing five family members, all civilians, including three women. On October 6, [six civilians, including one child, were killed](#), while another 28 were injured in rocket attacks by regime forces who used rocket launchers to target Termanein town in northern Idlib, with some of these rockets carrying cluster submunitions. On October 7, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to carry out a number of attacks targeting Ariha city in southern Idlib, which killed [two civilians, one of them a child](#), in addition to damaging many civilian facilities, including the Abu Hanifa al-Shaybani Mosque, and the two schools of al-Thawra and Abdul Hamind Ghnimi. Subsequent rocket attacks on October 8 targeted Idlib city, killing six civilians in total, [including two children and two women](#), as well as damaging many civilian facilities, most notably [the University Hospital and the National Hospital](#), which are located next to each other. On October 22, regime forces committed another massacre, in which six children were killed, when regime artillery forces fired a shell at a tent outside which children were playing, on the northwestern outskirts of Qarqour village in Sahl al-Ghab in western Hama. On October 26, we released [a report](#) proving the Syrian regime's responsibility for the attack. The Syrian regime's vicious escalation continued on October 30, when a targeted rocket struck a car on an agricultural road between Taftanaz and Binnish in eastern Idlib, [killing a nurse, and injuring a doctor as well as the driver](#), all of whom were among the medical staff at the Medical Complex in Binnish city.



👁 Bodies of victims killed in a massacre by Syrian regime forces who fired two heat-seeking rockets at a house, killing an IDP family, in al-Wasata village in western rural Aleppo - October 5, 2023 © SNHR

Visual analysis

of the strike site of an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces on Qarqour village in western rural Hama governorate that resulted in a massacre, in which six civilians were killed on October 22, 2023

Qarqour village map location



Aerial photo of Qarqour village

(was captured in September 2023)



2- Photo of the site targeted following the attack



3- Another photo that was captured from a video



4-The shell's strike site (photo is exclusive to SNHR)



- Strike site of a shell in Qarqour village in western Hama. The shell was fired by Syrian regime forces and resulted in a massacre.
- tree fence □ house 1 □ house 2

As documented by SNHR

October 26, 2023

Russian forces also intensified their airstrikes on northwestern Syria in October. Those attacks were mostly concentrated in civilian areas in western and southern Idlib governorate. On October 6, for instance, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian carried out multiple airstrikes targeting areas in the vicinity of Jisr al-Shoghour city in western rural Idlib. Some of these airstrikes targeted houses in Jafatlek Haj Hammoud village, [killing one child](#) and injuring two others. On October 13, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired multiple missiles at Bazza village in Jabal al-Arba'ien area in southern Idlib, killing two civilians ([a man and his wife](#)). On October 24, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian bombed [an IDP camp](#) on the southwestern outskirts of al-Hamama village in western Idlib, killing six civilians from the same family, including two children and three women. One of the women killed was pregnant when she died along with her unborn child.

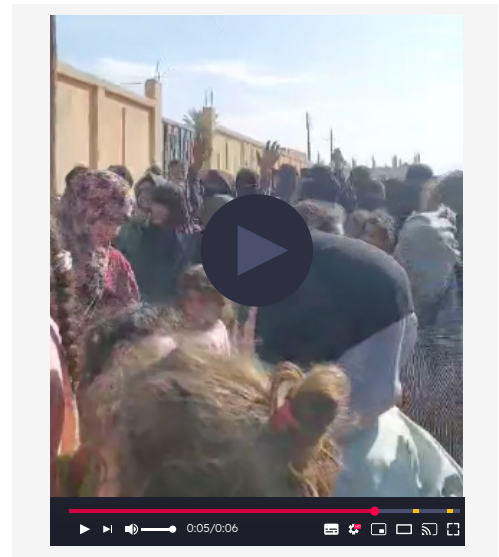


👁 Destruction and damage in Jafatlek Haj Hammoud village in western rural Idlib, following an airstrike by fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian - October 6, 2023 © SNHR

Elsewhere, the civilian peaceful demonstrations in regime-held areas continued in October for the third consecutive month, mostly in the governorate of Suwayda. The protestors condemned Bashar Assad for the dire state of the country, and called for the downfall of the regime. These protests come at a time of multiple, unprecedented and increasingly dire economic, living, and human rights crises in Syria. For instance, a Syrian state employee currently earns an average monthly salary of no more than approximately \$10, which is a natural outcome of the Syrian regime's oppressive policies since March 2011. The protestors also called for releasing those arrested for taking part in or supporting the demonstrations.

In northeastern Syria, we documented that many civilians were [shot dead](#) by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) personnel in their territories during October. One of these incidents took place on October 12, when a child was shot dead and his father was injured by an SDF patrol who opened fire indiscriminately in Abu Hamam town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour.

Meanwhile, clashes between Deir Ez-Zour Military Council and the SDF in Deir Ez-Zour also continued in October, with the fighting ongoing since it first broke out on August 27. However, these clashes grew less intense in October, with rounds becoming more sporadic and geographically limited in eastern Deir Ez-Zour. Moreover, civilians held demonstrations in some of the areas that saw clashes, with the protesters demanding that the SDF leave the schools that they have been using as military enclaves since the clashes started and that the schools be reopened for education. On October 29, [four civilians](#) were killed in an attack by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), commonly known as a drone, of an unknown source that targeted a house in Abu Hardoub town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour. As we have noted, this drone attack took place in tandem with clashes between the SDF and local Arab tribal fighters in the area.



Protests in front of a school in Abu Hamam town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour, with two SDF fighters seen stationed on the rooftop, over the school being turned into a military enclave - October 8, 2023

In October, we also documented that some SDF-controlled areas were targeted in Turkish airstrikes, most of which were carried out using drones. Commenting on these attacks, the [Turkish Foreign Minister noted](#) that they had targeted some SDF military sites and enclaves. Some of these attacks resulted in damage to a number of civilian facilities, mostly power and oil stations.

October also saw two civilians, one of them a child, [killed by landmine explosions](#). This brings the total number of victims killed by landmines since the beginning of 2023 to 101, including 25 children and eight women. On October 7, [a child](#) was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source on the bank of the Euphrates River in al-Tayyan town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour.

On the subject of bombings, we recorded in October a number of bombings and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) attacks, as well as explosions of war remnants left by previous bombardments across Syria. On October 5, an explosion of unidentified source occurred at the Syrian regime's Military Academy in Homs governorate during a graduation ceremony attended by hundreds of graduating students and their families. In total, 84 individuals, including three children and 29 women, were killed, with 28 of the victims being military servicemen, according to SNHR's documentation.

On October 6, an IED of unidentified source was detonated on the road between Daraa al-Balad area and al-Shayyah area in southern Daraa city, [killing three civilians, including a child](#).

October also saw more [assassinations of civilians](#) at the hands of unidentified assailants across Syria, mostly in the governorates of Aleppo, Daraa, and Deir Ez-Zour.

On October 2, the Israeli Air Force carried out an attack targeting multiple regime military points in the vicinity of Deir Ez-Zour according to [the Syrian regime's Syrian Arab News Agency \(SANA\)](#). The Israeli Air Force carried out four airstrikes in October, according to pro-regime media outlets, this time targeting Aleppo International Airport. Those attacks took place on October 12, [October 14](#), October 22, and [October 25](#), with other two attacks on Damascus International Airport on [October 12](#) and [October 22](#). These attacks killed one civilian, an employee at Damascus Airport, and temporarily put the two airports out of commission. Moreover, SANA [reported](#) on October 25 that an Israeli airstrike targeted regime military sites in rural Daraa, killing and injuring a number of military servicemen. According to the same agency, the Israel Air Force also [carried out an attack](#) on two regime military sites in rural Daraa in the early hours of October 30.

Living and Security Conditions

In October, economic, living, services, and security conditions continued to deteriorate across all sectors in areas under Syrian regime control, with a particularly sharp decline seen in the services sector. Regarding the power crisis specifically, the regime government is still implementing a rationing policy.

Meanwhile, civilians in regime areas are still grappling with price increases for all types of goods, particularly for [foodstuff](#), [vegetables](#), [red meats](#), and [chicken](#). On [October 17](#), the Syrian regime government's Cabinet dictated that the guide price for a kilo of wheat would be set at 4,200 Syrian Pounds (SYP) for the 2023-2024 agricultural season. Fuel prices, meanwhile, fluctuated throughout October. [On October 16](#), one liter of octane 95 fuel went down to 12,000 SYP per liter, according to the official price gazette issued by the Syrian regime's Ministry of Interior Trade and Consumer Protection, a notable fall from the 14,660 SYP the same amount cost in September. Free diesel prices also fell, from 13,290 SYP per liter in September to 11,985 SYP in October. However, [on October 29](#), the ministry announced a decision to re-increase the prices again. According to a new price gazette, one liter of octane 95 fuel costs 12,720 SYP, one liter of subsidized diesel costs 12,430 SYP, one ton of fuel costs 7,928,250 SYP, and one ton of liquefied gas, known as 'dukma', costs 10,682,350 SYP. This volatility in fuel prices led to price increases for all kinds of goods, due to the increase in manufacturing and transportation costs, further crippling public life in regime-controlled areas. As the winter season looms, the pro-regime al-Watan Newspaper reported that [a home heater](#) would cost 1-8 million SYP, a problem exacerbated by the scarcity of firewood, and the [poor government distribution](#) of subsidized heating diesel for households.

In October, the Central Bank of Syria announced, in its [official market gazette](#), that the exchange rate for the US dollar (USD) would be increased from 8.542 SYP per dollar to 11,557 per dollar, with a price of 12,500 SYP for one USD quoted in [the exchange gazette](#). [According to the website sp-today.com](#), in the last week of October one USD was valued at 13,650 SYP, up from 13,330 at the end of September. Naturally, the plunging value of the Syrian Pound caused further price rises, and the absence of many goods from supermarket shelves.

In **northwestern Syria**, meanwhile, civilians' already severe suffering continues to worsen under deteriorating economic and living conditions in parallel with rising prices for food and grocery supplies, all intensified by the people's waning purchasing power due to widespread unemployment and poverty, especially in those areas housing internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, with wages for those in work in these areas also continuing to decline. Further exacerbating the dire living situation was the declining value of the Turkish Lira (TRY), which has plummeted to a rate of 27 TRY to 1 USD. Regarding services, many areas suffered water outages, as the fragile mains water network was adversely affected by frequent power outages. The intensified bombardment by Syrian-Russian alliance forces that targeted populated civilian areas and service facilities, resulting in the displacement of tens of thousands of families, further exacerbated the suffering of people in these areas on all levels.

On October 3, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [revealed](#) that the first radiotherapy machine used to treat cancerous tumors has been delivered to northwestern Syria through "advocacy efforts led by the UN and our health partners, with support from the Government of Türkiye." The machine arrived in Afrin's largest hospital, with the announcement further revealing that it can provide more than 40 radiotherapy sessions a day. According to the OCHA, the hospital is making the necessary operational and safety arrangements to open a radiotherapy center, which, once ready, will meet the medical needs of about one-third of cancer cases in northwestern Syria, which saw an increase in the aftermath of the February 6 Earthquakes.

The situation in northeastern Syria remains similarly dire, with worsening living and security conditions. Prices of food, fuel and other essential commodities in the region continue to rise due to the controlling forces' failure to regulate the market. The situation further deteriorated on the heels of the clashes in September, which continued, though more sporadically, in October. Overall, these clashes made it even more difficult for civilians in these areas to secure water and day-to-day needs such as food and medication. In October, Hasaka governorate saw a water and power crisis resulting from some of the stations being rendered inoperative by the Turkish airstrikes on the area.

Forced displacement

The suffering of **IDPs in northwestern Syria** also continued to worsen in October in relation to both living conditions and the ongoing humanitarian crisis, with the humanitarian needs of millions of IDPs reaching unprecedented levels. The crisis is further intensified by the ever-increasing prices, especially of food supplies, on one hand, and by widespread unemployment and virtually non-existent purchasing power among residents of the area on the other. [On October 2](#), the camps of al-Zammar, Shahranaz, and Boustan Joum'a, all located near Armanaz town in western Idlib, were affected by the heavy rains across northwestern Syria, where rainwater channels formed in the area. In total, 40 tents were flooded. The damage caused by the heavy rainfall extended to other IDPs camps in Idlib and Aleppo. Moreover, the intensified and indiscriminate bombardments in northwestern Syria throughout October by Syrian-Russian alliance forces struck a number of IDPs camps and reception centers, forcing their already traumatized and dispossessed inhabitants to flee again.

Relatedly, we recorded massive displacement waves in northwestern Syria in October, with tens of thousands of families, mostly from areas in Idlib governorate, fleeing the intensified attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces. According to an [OCHA report released on October 27](#), the attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on northwestern Syria have led to the displacement of 120,000 people since October 5. The report adds that, as of October 18, about 60,000 people of the 120,000 had returned to their original or former residences.



👁 Intensified ground attacks by Syrian regime forces on Ariha city in Idlib forced some of the residents to flee temporarily - October 7, 2023 © SNHR

On October 3, the OCHA [released an infographic](#) outlining and tracking the movement of the aid convoys that entered northwestern Syria via border crossings with Türkiye between September 1-30m 2023. As the chart shows, 102 trucks carrying food and medical supplies entered the region. Of those, 65 trucks entered northwestern Syria via the Bab al-Hawa crossing in northern Idlib, while the other 37 trucks entered via the Bab al-Salama crossing in northern Aleppo. This follows the [OCHA's announcements](#) on September 19 that humanitarian assistance delivery via Bab al-Hawa was to be resumed following its suspension since July 10, as the Security Council had failed to renew the mandate of the resolution providing for delivering cross-border humanitarian assistance to northwestern Syria. On October 31, the OCHA [released](#) a similar infographic outlining and tracking the movement of 155 trucks carrying relief aid to northwestern Syria between October 1-31, 2023.

On refugees and asylum seekers, On October 14, Jordanian media outlets reported on a fire of unknown case that [broke out](#) in Zaatari Refugee Camp in Mafraq governorate in northern Jordan. The fire injured one individual and destroyed four shops in the camp. On October 28, [another fire](#), also of unidentified causes, broke out, injuring one individual and destroying three caravans.

Political and human rights situation

On October 5, Geir O. Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy to Syria, released [a statement](#) expressing his grave concern at the escalating violence in Syria.

On October 6, the spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, released [a statement](#) expressing the Secretary-General's deep concern over the attack that took place on October 5 during a graduation ceremony at the Military Academy in Homs, which resulted in a number of casualties, including civilians. The statement adds that Mr. Guterres was "alarmed over reports of retaliatory shelling on multiple locations in north-west Syria and emerging reports of heavy casualties." Moreover, the statement notes that the UN The Secretary-General strongly condemns all acts of violence in Syria, calling on parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international law. The statement also stresses that a ceasefire is essential for a political process as part of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254.

On October 6, Adam Abdelmoula, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, and Muhannad Hadi, the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis released [a joint statement](#) expressing their concern at the renewed wave of hostilities in northern Syria. As the statement further revealed, on October 5, "reports of multiple attacks were received on several sites in northern Syria. Multiple reports of civilian deaths and injuries, including women and children, have also been received. Significant damage to critical civilian infrastructure occurred in Aleppo, Idleb, Homs, Tal Tamer, Qamishli and Al Hasakeh." The two UN diplomats also urged all parties to spare civilians and civilian sites, including homes and essential infrastructure.

On October 11, Mathew Miller, a spokesperson for the US Department of State, [noted](#) that the US is still concerned about military activity in northern Syria and how this impacts the civilian population and infrastructure, as well as being concerned at its impact on the effectiveness of US operations to ensure the lasting defeat of ISIS.

On October 12, the White House announced on [its official website](#) that US President Joe Biden has renewed the national emergency status regarding the threat posed by the situation in Syria to US national security and US foreign policy. Under the state of national emergency, a US demonstration can seize the assets and impose sanction on those whose involvement in the continuation of instability in Syria is proven, which includes denial of an entry visa to the US or any financial loans.

On October 13, [the Jordanian Anti-Narcotics Department](#) reported that the Jordanian Border Guard had thwarted an attempt in the eastern military area to smuggle large quantities of narcotics from Syria, after detecting an attempt by a group of smugglers to cross from Syria into Jordan illegally. On October 16, the same agency [said](#) that the Jordanian Border Guard had thwarted an attempt to smuggle large quantities of narcotics in the northern military area from Syria the previous day, explaining that this was the result of an inspection during which the Jordanian Border Guard found narcotics hidden inside a plastic shell.

On October 23, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) published [a global study](#) conducted by Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, on the impact of counterterrorism on civil society. The study also shed light on the systematic violations of human rights as relates to practices of detention in the course of countering terrorism. In this context, “Ní Aoláin highlighted ongoing egregious violations of the rights of the child in multiple closed camps, prisons and detention facilities [in northeastern Syria]”. The study also shed light on “practices of enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, and incommunicado detention for men, women and children in detention facilities in Northeast Syria”, stressing that “the scale, scope and extent of these practices may reach the threshold for crimes against humanity under international law.” Another finding highlighted was the mass arbitrary separation of pre-pubescent and adolescent boys from their mothers, which also takes place inside camps, with these practices described as “egregious and harmful,” particularly due to “the trauma and violence these boys have experienced over the course of their young lives...” Moreover, Ms. Ní Aoláin stressed that **“Northeast Syria is the largest detention site for children on the grounds of terrorism in the world.”** The study further reveals that around 5,000 men and 700 children are being held inside the Panorama (Sina’a) Prison, where **“extreme violations of human rights and humanitarian law including rampant starvation and tuberculosis”** are taking place. It should be noted that the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is in regular communication with the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, with the group regularly briefing the rapporteur on cases of arbitrary arrest, [enforced or involuntary disappearance](#), in keeping with certain parameters that primarily require contacting the victims and their families to build comprehensive files on each case.

On October 24, [Paulo Pinheiro](#), the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI), stressed in his briefing to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that Syria is currently experiencing the largest escalation of hostilities in four years. In October, Mr. Pinheiro added in his briefing, in “just four days of ground shelling over greater Idlib some two hundred civilians were killed and injured” while medical facilities, schools, and markets have all been affected again, with tens of thousands displaced once more. Furthermore, the briefing sheds light on the attacks by Turkish forces on the SDF-held Hasaka governorate, which rendered power and water stations out of commission. Mr Pinheiro also condemned the **“longstanding lack of respect for fundamental international humanitarian law norms in Syria,”** which he said “not only kills and maims victims on all sides in Syria, [but] has undermined and eroded the very essence of the international protection system...” Elsewhere in the briefing, the COI Chair briefed the UNGA on the report submitted by the COI to the Human Rights Council in September, in which the COI stressed that Syria is still the world’s largest refugee crisis, with over seven million Syrians having fled the country, while over six million are internally displaced. The living conditions in Syria, he further stressed, are deteriorating at an alarming rate, with over 90 percent of the population living under the poverty line.

On October 26, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released [a report](#) stressing that the aerial drone attacks by Turkish forces on SDF-held areas between October 5-10, has further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis for millions of individuals, due to damaging vital infrastructure and causing water and power outages in those areas. **“According to the autonomous administration, damage to infrastructure caused by attacks that took place between October 5 and 10 impacted an estimated 4.3 million people in northeast Syria with at least 18 water pumping stations and 11 power stations rendered non-operational.”** The report adds.

On October 27, OCHA released [a report](#) stressing that casualty numbers are continuously rising in northwestern Syria as the bombardment and aerial attacks on Idlib and western rural Aleppo have continued since October 5, with over 2,300 sites affected by the attacks since then. It should be noted that SNHR recorded the killing of no fewer than 62 civilians; including 24 children, 13 women (adult female), and three humanitarian workers, between October 5-25, 2023, by the attacks carried out by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on areas in the governorates of Idlib, Aleppo, and Hama in northwestern Syria.

On October 30, Edem Wosornu, OCHA Director of Operations and Advocacy, stressed, in [a briefing](#) before the UN Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria, that northwestern Syria is seeing the largest escalation of hostilities since 2019, with over 120,000 people displaced in Idlib and western Aleppo between October 5-18, on top of the 2.9 IDPs living in northwestern Syria. Ms. Wosornu added that “he hostilities also damaged critical infrastructure and service... Attacks, including airstrikes and artillery shelling have continued on a near-daily basis, with reports of more people being killed and injured in the past week.”

On October 30, Geir O. Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy to Syria, [warned](#), in an address before the Security Council, of a potential wider escalation in the Syrian conflict with the recent surge of violence. Mr. Pedersen also mentioned the recent clashes in the occupied Golan Heights and the airstrikes by Israel on several targets in Syria, including the Aleppo and Damascus airports. He also stressed that, irrespective of the recent developments in the region, Syria is seeing the worst escalation of violence in three years, which have resulted in the killing and displacement of civilians, as well as the extensive destruction of infrastructure. He also underlined that Syria and Syrians, as well as the region as a whole, are not in a position to bear any further escalation in the conflict in Syria, whether this is the result of internal or external dynamics, underscoring a “difficult truth” that, at this stage, the failure to make any progress towards a political resolution to the Syrian conflict means that any existing stability is fragile, and whenever it collapses, it could very probably unleash more violence and instability.”

On October 30, Linda Thomas Greenfield, the US Ambassador to the UN, [said](#), in her briefing to the UN Security Council, that the Syrian regime has allowed Iran and its militias, including Hezbollah, to use its airports for military purposes, putting civilian passengers at risk. “The protection of civilians must be at the forefront,” she remarked. She continued, “We are outraged by the relentless attacks carried out by the Assad regime, and by Russian attacks in northern Syria,” which killed dozens of civilians and damaged the infrastructure. The US diplomat also added that, in the previous week alone, Syrian regime forces or their Russian allies had bombed an IDP camp, killing innocent children, while underlining that the Syrian regime and Russia did not even attempt to give a plausible explanation for the atrocities that they have been perpetrating, as their strategy has, for years, been to “deny, deflect, and disinform.”

Accountability and advocacy

On October 8, Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued [a press release](#) entitled, “Syria: World Court Begins Watershed Torture Case”, in which it noted that the hearings to be held by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on October 10-11 on the state-sponsored torture that’s taken place in Syria since 2011 are “critically important for advancing justice.” Elsewhere in the statement, the group stressed that the ICJ case should push governments to reevaluate their decision to normalize relations with Syria without addressing torture and other violations.

On October 10, SNHR released a report entitled, ‘[The Syrian Regime is Accused of Killing 15,051 Individuals, Including 190 Children and 94 Women, Under Torture in Its Detention Centers Since March 2011, While Nearly 136,000 Remain Forcibly Disappeared](#)’, in which the group noted that the case brought by Canada and The Netherlands against the Syrian Regime before the ICJ is a serious step on the long overdue path of accountability. SNHR also called on the Canadian and Dutch governments to call on the ICJ to impose the harshest possible provisional measures to the full extent of the law, including calling on the Syrian regime to end torture and killings under torture, to repeal all sentences issued against arbitrarily arrested detainees since these are based on confession extracted under the duress of torture, and to improve imprisonment conditions since most deaths occur due to poor health conditions.

On October 10, the ICJ [held](#) its first public hearing session on the case of the Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, brought by Canada and the Netherlands as State Parties to the Convention (formally named the Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic). At the request of the two countries, the session focused on imposing what are known as provisional measures on the Syrian regime to compel it to immediately cease torture against potential victims, while the trial of the Syrian regime for the alleged violation of the Convention Against Torture proceeds. The Syrian regime was notably absent from the hearing, despite the fact that the session had been deferred by three months from its original date in July of this year at the request of the Syrian regime itself. Teresa Crockett, the Canada’s Deputy Director of the Accountability, Human Rights, and United Nations Law Division of Global Affairs Canada, pointed out that during the three-month delay period granted to the Syrian regime at its request, SNHR has documented no fewer than 15 cases of death due to torture at the regime’s hands.

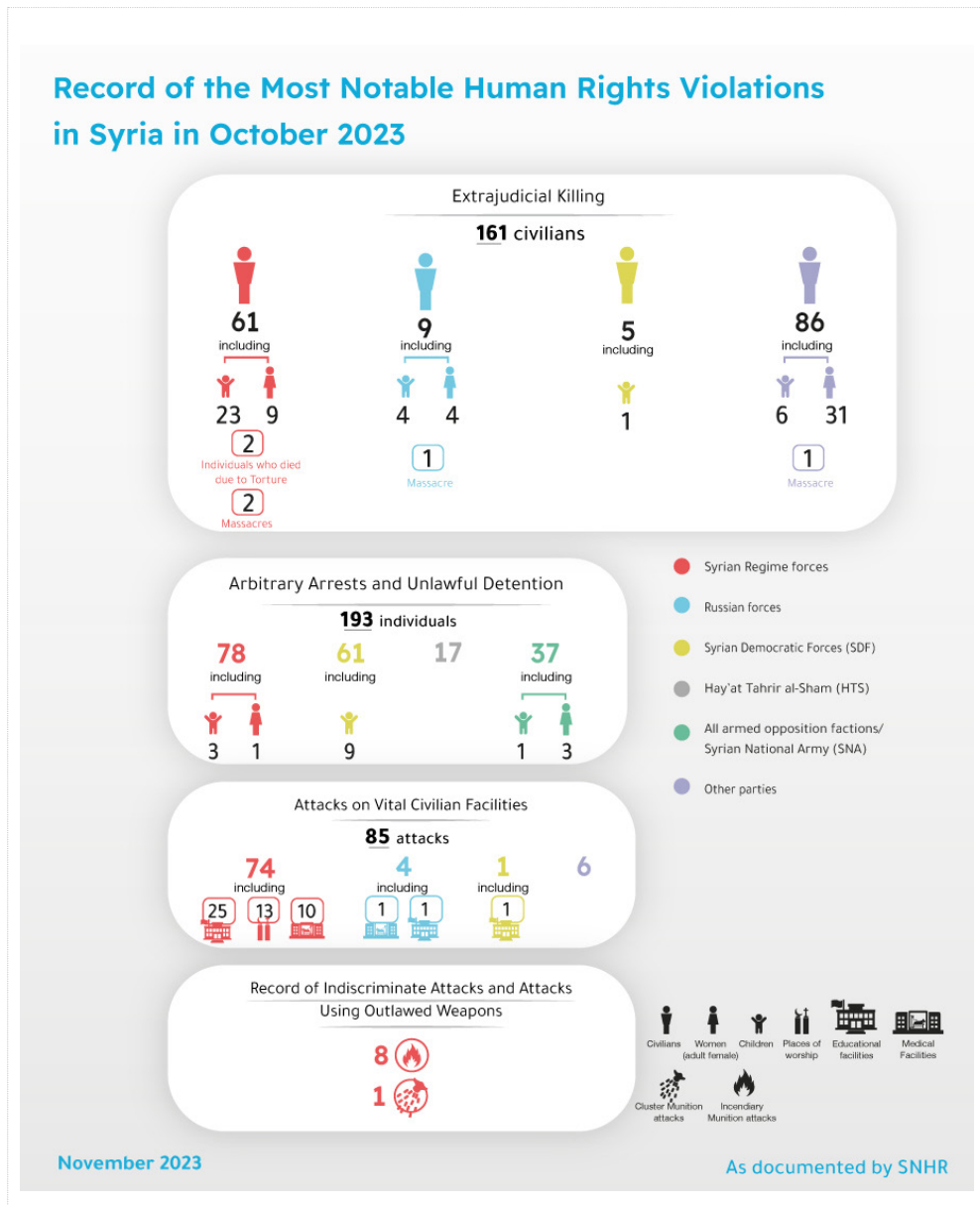
On October 11, SNHR released [a statement](#) noting that it is a principal source in the case brought by the Dutch/Canadian prosecutors before the ICJ against the Syrian regime for violating the UN Convention Against Torture with 14 citations. The statement revealed that, according to the [court session’s transcript](#), the case draws upon a number of UN sources, as well as on data provided by SNHR, which was cited as a source 14 times, while the COI was cited 24 times.

On October 18, French examining magistrates with the country's War Crimes Unit' [issued](#) international arrest warrants for four senior officers from the Syrian regime's military forces - Lieutenant General Fahed Jassem al-Fraij, Lieutenant General Ali Abdallah Ayoub, Brigadier General Ahmad Balloul, and Brigadier General Ali Safetli - over their complicity in a war crime in the form of "Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities" and "Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives." These charges refer to the officers' involvement in bombardment of the Tareeq al-Sad neighborhood in Daraa city by Syrian regime air force helicopters using barrel bombs on June 7, 2017, which killed Salah Abou Nabbout, a French citizen and French language teacher. One of the barrel bombs struck Salah's house in the neighborhood which was then being used as a school by a humanitarian organization. On October 23, SNHR released [a statement](#) welcoming the French Judiciary's Issuance of these arrest warrants, while also noting that it had provided the examining magistrates with large quantities of data and evidence on the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs.

On October 19, SNHR held an international panel discussion on housing, land, and property (HLP) rights in Syria, to mark the release of its extensive report entitled, 'The Mechanisms by Which the Syrian Regime Has Used Laws to Expropriate Tens of Thousands of Homes, Properties and Areas of Land in Homs Governorate'. The event, which [was held in Paris, France](#), featured Brigitte Curmi, France's Ambassador for Syria; Stefan Schneck, Germany's Special Envoy for Syria; Anna Burt, the Syria Lead of the UK Mission in Geneva; Fadel Abdul Ghany, SNHR Executive Director; and Marie Forestier, Senior Syria Advisor at the European Institute of Peace (EIP). Commenting on this issue, the representatives of France and the UK asserted that returning properties to their rightful owners is essential for a safe and voluntary return for refugees. On October 20, SNHR released [a statement](#) on this event.

III. Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in October

This report summarizes the most notable human rights violations committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria that were documented by SNHR in October 2023.



A. Extrajudicial killing

In October, SNHR documented the death of 161 civilians, including 34 children and 44 women (adult female), most of whom were killed by other parties. Also among these victims were two individuals who died due to torture. Meanwhile, we recorded no fewer than four massacres this month. On November 1, we released a report detailing the civilian victims documented killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in October 2023.

Civilian deaths recorded in October were distributed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**¹ 61 civilians, including 23 children and nine women.
- **Russian forces:** Nine civilians, including four children and four women
- **SDF:** Five civilians, including one child.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 86 civilians in October, including six children and 31 women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify:** Two civilians, including a child.
- **Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify:** 18 civilians.
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify:** 60 civilians, including four children and 29 women.
- **Killings by parties we have been unable to identify:** Six civilians, including one child and two women.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance

In October 2023, SNHR documented at least 193 arbitrary arrests carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, with those detained including 13 children and four women (adult female). Most of these arrests were carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Rural Damascus “Rif Dimshaq”, and then Damascus. We issued a report on November 2 detailing the arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in October 2023 by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

Cases of arbitrary arrests were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 78 individuals, including three children and one woman.
- **HTS²:** 17 individuals.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/SNA:** 37 individuals, including one child and three women.
- **SDF:** 61 individuals, including nine children.

1. We generally use the term ‘the Syrian regime’ rather than ‘the Syrian government’, because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is that of a totalitarian dictatorship where power is concentrated in the hands of a small circle of individuals, namely the President of the Republic and the heads of the regime’s security apparatus. As a result, 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, with no real decision-making power or active role of their own. Syria is under autocratic/family rule, with no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade merely for show. The Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he supposedly presides. The Minister of Justice cannot even summon a low-ranking security office, let alone a security branch head. Syria is ruled by the president assisted by the heads of the security branches.

We are aware that the United Nations and its agencies use the term ‘the Syrian government’, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

2. Was designated as a terrorist group by the UN.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

SNHR documented at least 85 attacks on vital civilian facilities during October 2023, 74 of which were perpetrated by Syrian regime forces. Those attacks were concentrated in the two governorates of Idlib and Aleppo.

Of these attacks, 27 targeted educational facilities, 11 targeted medical facilities, and 13 targeted places of worship.

The attacks on vital civilian facilities recorded in October 2023 were distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties

- **Syrian regime forces:** 74 attacks.
- **Russian forces:** Four attacks.
- **SDF:** One attack.

B. Other parties

Other parties were responsible for six attacks, as follows:

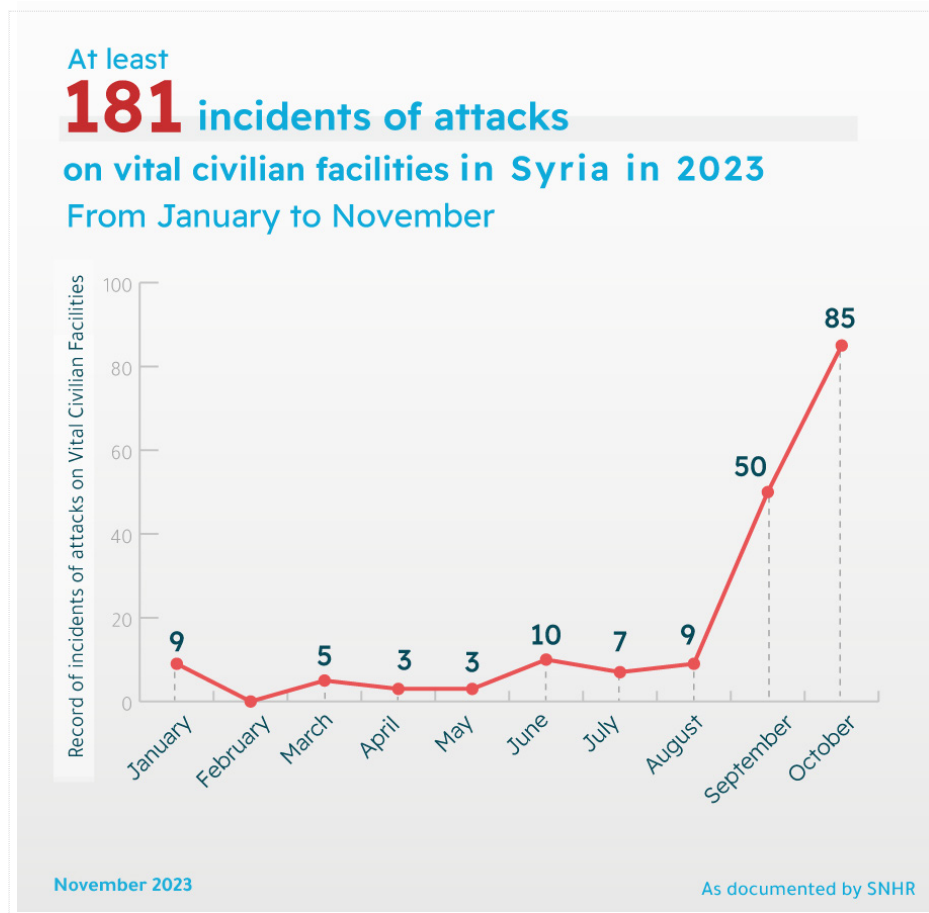
- **Attacks by parties we have not yet been able to identify:** One attack.
- **Turkish forces:** Five attacks.

Attacks on vital civilian facilities during October 2023 are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

Perpetrator Party	Main Parties			Other Parties	
	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	SDF	Attacks by Unidentified Parties	Turkish Forces
Attacked Facility					
Places of Worship					
Mosques	13				
Vital Educational Facilities					
Schools	22	1	1		
Educational Institutes	2				
Kindergartens	1				
Vital Medical Facilities					
Medical Facilities	10	1			
Communal Facilities					
Parks	1				
Markets	7				
Infrastructures					
Power Stations	1				3
Civil Defense Centers	5				
Water Stations	1				2
Official Service Headquarters	4				
Domesticated Anima Farms		1			
International Headquarters & Organizations				1	
IDPs Camps/Gatherings					
Regular Camps	3	1			
Irregular Camps	1				
Reception Centers	3				
Total	74	4	1	1	5

We have documented 181 attacks on vital civilian facilities at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria to date since the beginning of 2023 up until November.

Those attacks are distributed by month as follows:



As shown on the graph, October saw the largest number of attacks on vital civilian facilities in one month so far this year, accounting for about 47 percent of all attacks on vital civilian facilities recorded so far in 2023. According to SNHR's database, Syrian regime forces were responsible for 130 attacks out of 181 attacks recorded since the beginning of 2023 up until November. In other words, Syrian regime forces alone are responsible for approximately 72 percent of all attacks on vital civilian facilities recorded in 2023 to date.

Most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in October:

On the noon of Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb [al-Masjid al-Kabir](#), the 'Grand' or 'Old' Mosque in the main market in the middle of Sarmin city in eastern rural Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the mosque building and moderately damaging its interior furnishings](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, October 5, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb the [Hussein Haj Abboud School for Elementary Education](#) in western Sarmin city in eastern rural Idlib governorate, [partially destroying a number of classrooms, the school perimeter fence, and the schoolyard, while also heavily damaging the schools interior furnishings](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.



👁 Destruction and damage at the Hussein Haj Abboud School for Elementary Education in Sarmin city in eastern rural Idlib governorate following a regime rocket attack - October 5, 2023 © SNHR

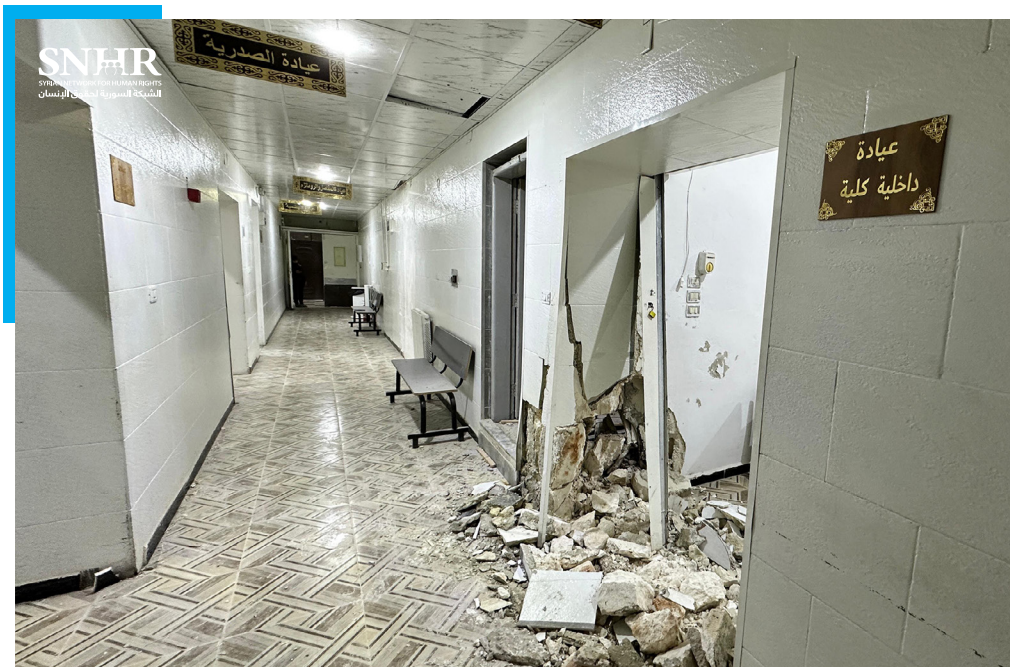
On Thursday, October 5, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb the Civil Defense (White Helmets) center in northeastern Ariha city in southern rural Idlib governorate. One of the rockets struck the ambulance entrance at the Civil Defense center, inflicting some damaging to the [center's yard](#) and to three vehicles (an ambulance, a vehicle used to transport kidney dialysis patients, and a fire extinguisher attachment vehicle), to varying degrees. It should be noted that the Civil Defense uses the garage building as its center in Ariha city. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the attack. The Civil Defense (White Helmets) tweeted about the attack on its [official X \(formerly Twitter\) account](#).

On Thursday, October 5, 2023, a drone believed to be remotely operated by Turkish forces fired rockets at a power station on the al-Hezam al-Shamali road in al-Qameshli city in northern rural Hasaka governorate, moderately damaging the station and rendering it temporarily out of commission. It should be noted that the station supplies electricity to about half of al-Qameshli city's neighborhoods. The city was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb al-Tawwama al-Sharqiya School in al-Tawwama village in western rural Aleppo governorate, [partially destroying the school building and slightly damaging its perimeter fence and interior furnishings](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb the dispensary in Sarmin city in eastern rural Idlib governorate, [partially destroying its perimeter fence and moderately damaging its interior furnishings](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

At around noon on Sunday, October 8, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb a hospital building comprising six stories aboveground, and two underground (basement) levels, known as the University Hospital building, which houses the University Hospital, Ibn Sina Hospital, and the Maternity Hospital, as well as a center for heart surgery. [The rocket struck the building's perimeter fence at the ambulance entrance, partially destroying it, as well as heavily damaging the building itself. Other rockets directly struck the building of the National Hospital](#), located near the University's Hospital building, which consists of two aboveground stories and a lobby. The building, whose top floor also houses the central aid network, was partially destroyed, with its equipment damaged to varying degrees. Idlib city was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the attack.

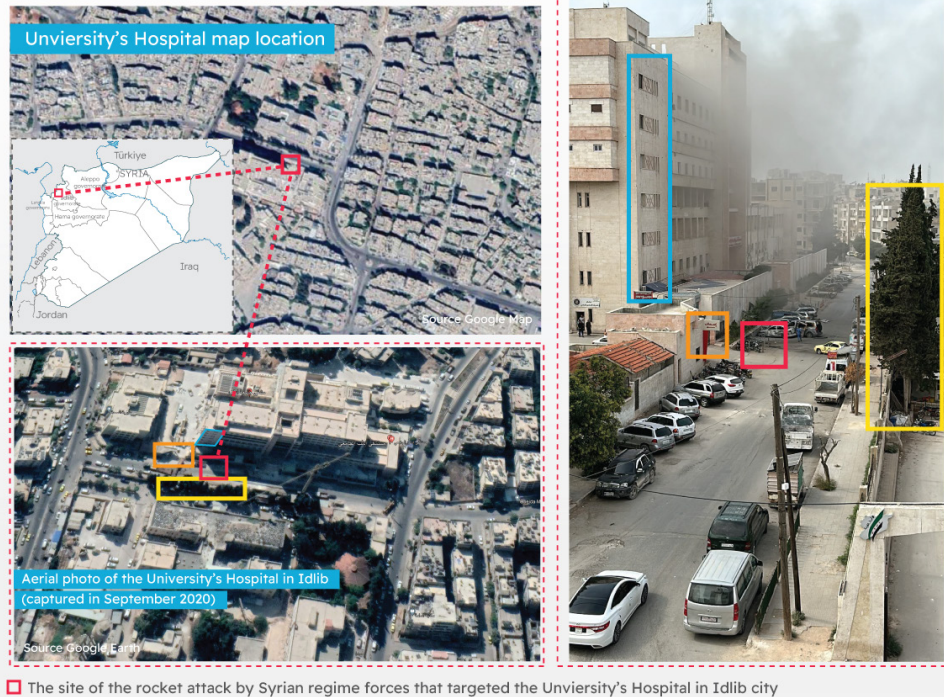


👁 Destruction at the National Hospital in Idlib city caused by a ground attack by the Syrian regime
- October 8, 2023 © SNHR

Visual analysis

of a rocket attack by Syrian regime forces that targeted the University's Hospital in the center of Idlib city on October 8, 2023

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



13 October 2023

By: SNHR

SNHR spoke with Abdullah Hallaq,³ a medical staff member at the National Hospital in Idlib city. Abdullah told us that he heard an explosion while he was in the break room, with the blast being caused by a rocket that landed in front of the University Hospital's entrance. He continued:

"A second rocket struck the clinics corridor in the National Hospital some meters away from where we were. The rocket penetrated the wall of the hospital and landed on the first floor. Patients started screaming, and we rushed to evacuate the hospital. We carried seven patients who were in the clinics wing outside, and then the medical staff came out. After we made sure the attack had ended, about half an hour later, we evacuated the wounded and went down to the basement in fear of another attack."

Abdullah said that they did not hear the sound of the rocket, and were surprised by the explosion, which he described as "very strong". Abdullah also noted that he noticed that the remnants that fell in the hospital came from a rocket. He added:

"A young man who was in his car in front of the University Hospital died while waiting for a relative who was a patient. The destruction amounted to a hole in the wall and [another] in the floor. The worst damage was in the clinics wing, since the rocket landed in a bathroom and a washroom near the nephrology clinic."

3. Via WhatsApp on October 9, 2023.

At around dawn on Sunday, October 15, 2023, Syrian regime artillery forces fired multiple shells at al-Hejra Mosque in [al-Abzemou town](#) in western rural Aleppo governorate, [partially destroying the mosque's roof and one wall, and moderately damaging its interior furnishings](#). The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS.

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired a missile that landed near al-Quneitra Elementary Education in al-Quneitra village in western rural Idlib governorate, [slightly damaging the school's building and perimeter fence](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire a rocket at [al-Amin Medical Center](#), which consists of three buildings, in northwestern Ariha city in southern rural Idlib governorate. The rocket struck a building currently under construction behind the center's main building, [partially destroying it](#). Ariha city was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident. It should be noted that al-Amin Medical Center is located in the building that formerly housed the Agriculture Directorate in Ariha, and is operated by al-Amin Center for Humanitarian Assistance.

On Monday, October 23, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb Mustafa Omar Mustafa High School for boys in the al-Sharqi neighborhood in al-Tawwama village in western rural Hama governorate, [partially destroying the school's perimeter fence and moderately damaging its interior furnishings](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 12:15 local time, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired a number of missiles at [al-Masbah IDPs Camp](#), also known as Ahl Saraqeb IDPs Camp, located on agricultural land on the southwestern outskirts of al-Hamama village, which is administratively a part of Jisr al-Shoghour city in western rural Idlib governorate. [The attack resulted in a massacre, and heavily damaged seven IDPs tents, as well as the camp's facilities](#). The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



👁 Damage in al-Masbah IDPs Camp on the outskirts of al-Hamama village in Idlib following a Russian airstrike - October 24, 2023 © SNHR

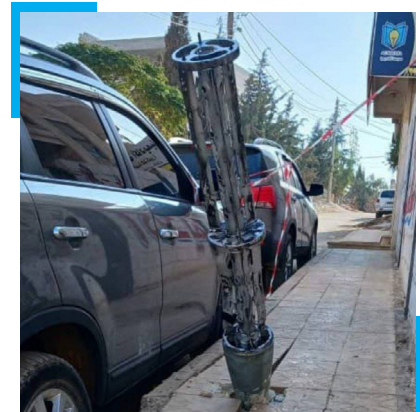
D. Indiscriminate attacks and attacks using prohibited weapons

In October, SNHR documented one attack in which Syrian regime forces used cluster munitions. The attack in question, a ground attack, targeted a location in Idlib governorate, killing one civilian, and injuring another eight.

We also recorded eight attacks by Syrian regime forces using incendiary munitions. Those attacks, which took place in populated civilian areas away from the frontlines, injured three civilians and damaged numerous properties.

Below are an outline of some of the indiscriminate attacks and the attacks involving the use of prohibited weapons which we were able to document in October:

On Friday, October 6, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire a number of [9m55k rockets carrying cluster submunitions](#) at [Termanein town](#) in northern Idlib governorate. The rockets exploded in the sky, with one of them, as we recorded, striking the town's southeastern neighborhood, killing one civilian and injuring another eight. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



Remnants of cluster submunition container fired by Syrian regime forces at Termanein town in Idlib - October 6, 2023

On Sunday, October 8, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets carrying incendiary ammunition at [al-Abzemou](#) town in western rural Aleppo governorate, injuring three civilians, and causing multiple fires. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



Syrian regime forces fire rockets carrying incendiary munitions at al-Abzemou town in Aleppo / October 8, 2023

On the night of Saturday, October 28, 2023, Syrian regime forces used [a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets carrying incendiary munitions at Kafr Nouran village](#) in western rural Aleppo governorate, causing a number of fires in homes and agricultural fields. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



👁️ *A ground attack by Syrian regime forces that used rockets carrying incendiary munitions on Kafr Nouran village in Aleppo - October 28, 2023*

IV. Attachments

1. [161 Civilians, Including 34 Children, 44 Women, and Two Individuals Who Died due to Torture, Documented Killed in Syria in October 2023](#)
2. [At Least 193 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in October 2023, Including 13 Children and Four Women](#)

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- SNHR notes that, for the past 12 years, the Syrian regime has been involved in the most horrific types of violations against the Syrian people, some of which amount to crimes against humanity. Since the Syrian regime continues to commit such violations up to the present day, as documented in the numerous reports we have released, any normalization of relations with the regime or efforts to rehabilitate it are acts of support for a criminal entity involved in crimes against humanity, which constitute a violation of international law.
- 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 regime 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 as required under 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 such 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/SNA have 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, have caused massive collateral damage involving 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 munitions 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 (ICR2P) 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 (R2P)', 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.

UN Human Rights Office

- 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 for 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.

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.

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/SNA

- The Armed Opposition/SNA 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.

Acknowledgment

Our most sincere gratitude to the victims' families and friends, and the eyewitnesses and local activists for their significant contribution to this report.



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