

# No less than 136 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in January 2018

Including 107 at the hands of  
Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Friday, February 9, 2018

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. Introduction

Article 52 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 defines Civilian Objects as: **“....all objects which are not military objectives” with Military Objects being: “military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.”**

Civilian objects include medical facilities, educational facilities, infrastructures, places of worship, and other facilities that are used for civilian purposes.

Since March 2011, Syrian regime forces, and then Syrian-Russian alliance forces, have trumped all parties in targeting vital civilian facilities – especially in the areas under the control of armed opposition, and to a lesser degree in ISIS-held areas. We have recorded repeated attacks on thousands of vital facilities, which proves that these facilities were deliberately destroyed and corrupted. We have also recorded hundreds of massacres that resulted from attacks on such objects.



Certainly, other parties committed similar violations, but to varying degrees, and never to the extent of the crimes by the Syrian-Russian-Iranian forces.

The attacks we have recorded include deliberate bombardments that targeted civilian objects, lootings, and attacks that involve disabling these objects and undermining their purpose in serving civilians despite the lack of any pressing military necessity or these objects being used for combat purposes by a party which would have justified targeting them by the other parties to the conflict.

In light of the prolonged duration of the conflict and these facilities being continually targeted, as well as the ongoing demographic changes, a need rose for alternating the functions of some facilities (for example, many schools have been turned into IDPs shelters). We have also noticed that some facilities moved between multiple buildings and areas more than once in order to evade bombardment, while others were moved to secure sites such as caves.

SNHR has dedicated a periodic monthly report to monitor attacks on vital civilian facilities. In addition, SNHR has released extensive reports and researches on vital facilities that have been destroyed by the parties to the conflict.

## **Methodology**

The report monitors the attacks on vital civilian facilities that we were able to document in January, except for attacks on medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and international humanitarian insignia which were documented in a separate report.

This report draws upon, firstly, the daily, ongoing documentation and monitoring efforts by SNHR team, and, secondly, on accounts from survivors, eyewitnesses, and local media workers that we've talked to via phone or social media. We have also analyzed a large number of the videos and pictures that were posted online or we received from local activists via e-mail, Skype, and social media. Videos posted by local activists have shown wide destruction in vital civilian facilities. We have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report in a secret online database, as well as backup copies on hard drives. For more information, please see our methodology for [classifying vital civilian facilities](#).

This report contains a number of attacks that were perpetrated by an air force. However, we weren't able to accurately determine the party responsible for those attacks – the Syrian regime or Russian forces. Therefore, we assigned responsibility, in these attacks, to the Syrian/Russian regime forces.



This report documents also a number of massacres that were the result of bombings that we couldn't identify the groups behind them in light of the difficulties in identifying the responsible party for such bombings.

This report contains a number of attacks by artillery and mortar shells that we couldn't accurately determine who fired them, as we weren't able to visit the site or obtain evidences to help properly identify the source of these shells.

This report contains one account that we've collected through speaking directly to eyewitnesses, and not are cited from any open sources. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided without offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR tried to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violation as much as possible, and gave insurances to conceal the identify of any witness who preferred to use an alias.

Most of the attacks we have documented targeted civilian areas, as our investigations have proven, where no military bases or armories were found during or before the attacks. The attacking forces didn't take into consideration the principle of proportionality. We also didn't record that the attacking forces put out warnings for civilians prior to the attack as the international humanitarian law requires.

The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report. We add these evidences and clues to our data archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, they don't necessarily qualify as crimes.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't cover the social, economic, and mental ramifications.



## II. Summary of January

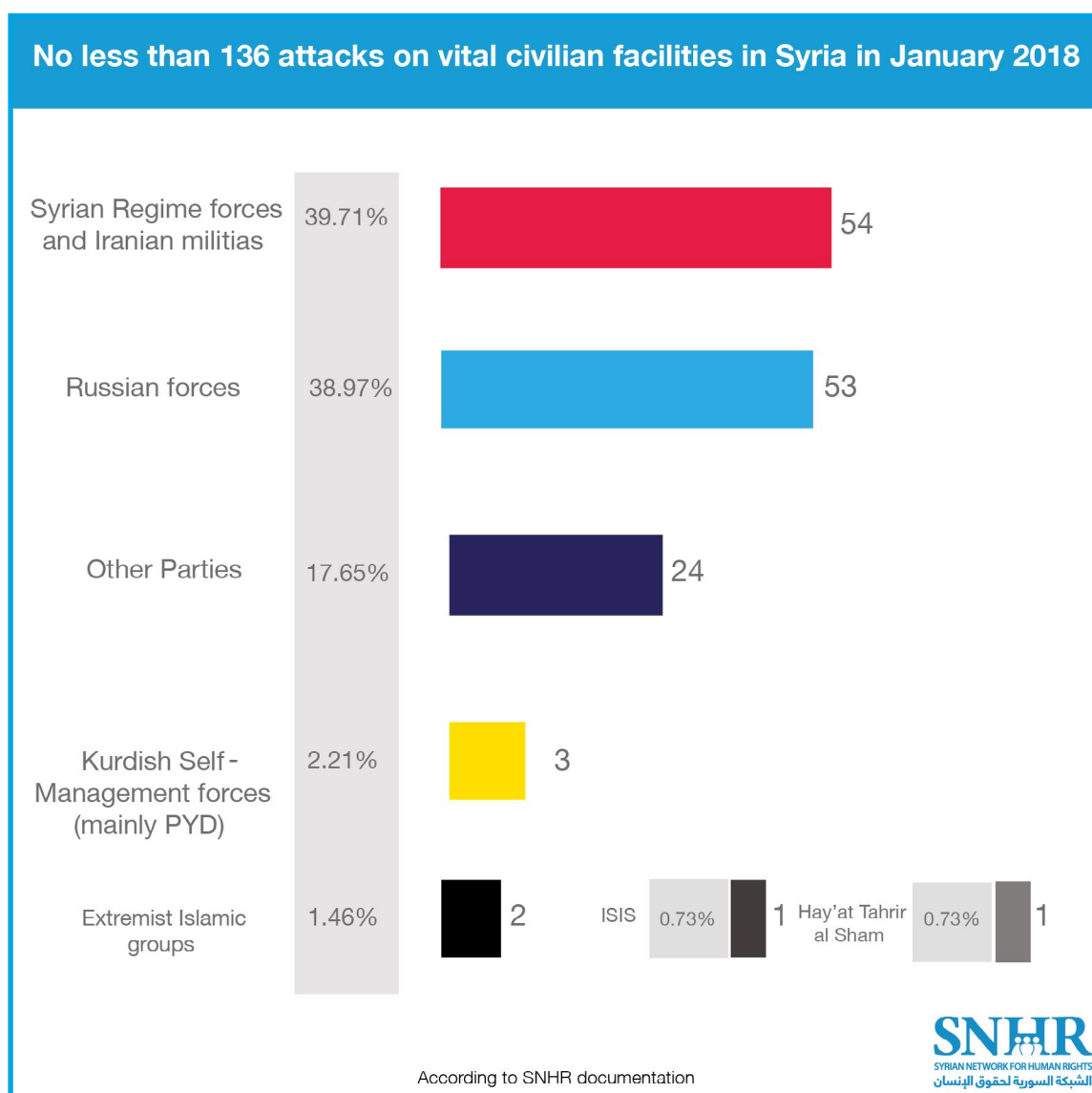
The ongoing Syrian-Russian alliance forces' offensive on de-escalation zones in Idlib governorate and Eastern Ghouta, in Damascus suburbs, have been in parallel with an unprecedented rise in attacks on vital civilian facilities since the establishment of the de-escalation zones with the end of the fourth rounds of talks at Astana (May 3-4, 2017).

Syrian-Russian alliance forces carried out 107 attacks on vital civilian facilities in January, including 61 attacks in Idlib governorate, 31 in Eastern Ghouta, Damascus governorate, and 11 in Hama governorate.

Moreover, the attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces for this month targeted the most vital facilities to civilians, as we've recorded 20 attacks on mosques, 18 on schools, 16 on medical facilities, 14 on markets, and 13 on civil defense facilities.

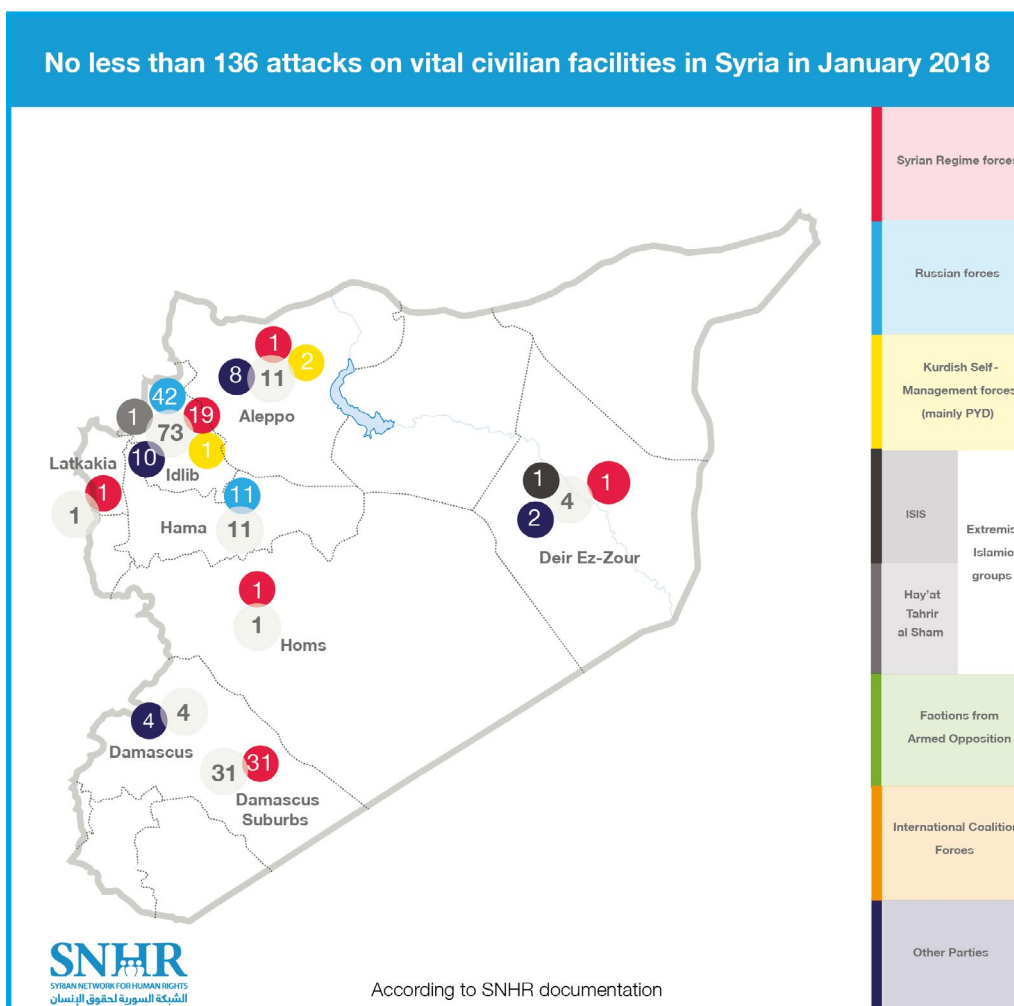
## III. Executive Summary

Through daily documentation and monitoring, we, at SNHR, have recorded no less than 136 attacks on vital civilian facilities in January 2018, distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



- A. Syrian regime forces: 54
- B. Russian forces: 53
- C. Extremist Islamic groups:
  - ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): 1
  - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and factions from the armed opposition): 1
- D. Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party): 3
- E. Other parties: 24

**Attacks on vital civilian facilities were distributed across governorates as follows:**



Most notable facilities that were attacked on January 2018:

34 infrastructures, 30 vital medical facilities, 24 vital educational facilities, 25 places of worship, 14 communal facilities, six refugee camps, two vital cultural facilities, and one international humanitarian insignia.



Distribution of Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities by the Perpetrator Party in January 2018						
Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	Extremist Islamic Groups		Kurdish Self-Management Forces	Other Parties
			ISIS	Hay'at Tahrir al Sham		
Targeted Facility						
Place of Worship						
Mosques	11	9	1			2
Churches and Monasteries						2
Vital Educational Facilities						
Schools	10	8				2
Kindergartens						1
Universities		1		1		
Institutes	1					
Vital Medical Facilities						
Medical Facilities	8	8			2	3
Ambulances	2	5				2
Vital Cultural Facilities						
Archeological Sites						1
Museums		1				
Communal Facilities						
Markets	12	2				
International Humanitarian Insignia						
Red Crescent						1
Infrastructures						
Civil Defense Facilities	6	7				1
Water Systems		2				
Official Headquarters	3	2				6
Transportation Systems						1
Bakeries		1				
Grain Silos		1				
Industrial Facilities	1	2				1
Refugee Camps						
Refugee Camps		4			1	1
Total	54	53	1	1	3	24



## IV. Details of Most Notable Incidents in January

This report outlines the most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities. We have the details of the complete incidents stored in SNHR's database.

### **A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)**

#### **Places of worship**

##### - Mosques

Saturday, January 6, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian/Russian regime forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated in order to identify the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at [“al Tuffahiya village” mosque](#) and its vicinity in Jabal al Akrad, northern suburbs of Latakia governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed and its cladding materials were heavily damaged, while the village's houses in the vicinity of the mosque were heavily destroyed. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at [al Eman Mosque](#) in parallel with a shelling by their rocket launchers. The mosque building- which is located in al Mal'ab neighborhood, western Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus suburbs governorate- was heavily destroyed and its furniture was heavily damaged, as the mosque was rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Sunday, January 21, 2018, pro-Syrian regime forces militias defiled [Khaled ben al Walid Mosque](#) in [Buqrus Tehtani](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, as they looted part of [the mosque furniture](#) while burning another part, where the mosque was rendered out of commission. Buqrus Tehtani village was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



Damages after Syrian regime forces burned the furniture in Khaled ben al Walid Mosque, Buqrus Tehtani village, Deir Ez-Zour – January 21, 2018





Monday, January 22, 2018, around 12:00, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [a missile](#) at [the Grand Mosque](#) in the middle of Irbeen city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. [The mosque building](#) was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture and [cladding materials](#) were [heavily damaged](#) as [the mosque](#) was [rendered temporarily out of commission](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a missile near [Aisha Mosque](#) in al Janoubi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. the mosque building and its furniture were moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **Vital educational facilities**

### - Schools

Saturday, January 6, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian/Russian regime forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated in order to identify the perpetrator party) fired a number of [missiles](#) at [Irbeen High School](#) for Girls in [Irbeen](#) city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. [The school building](#) was [heavily destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Monday, January 29, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles (small missiles) near [Abu Bakr al Siddeeq School](#) in the middle of Kafranbel city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The school building was moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### - Institutes

Sunday, January 7, 2018, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb, “an explosive container”, near the Teacher Training Institute in al Janoubi neighborhood, [Jarjanaz town](#), eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The institute building was partially destroyed and its furniture was moderately damaged. The town was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



## Communal facilities

### - Markets

Tuesday, January 2, 2018, Syrian regime forces rocket launchers, stationing in Jourin village, [Sahl al Ghab](#), northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate, fired a number of rockets at [the vegetable market](#) in Jisr al Shoghour city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. About 20 civilians were wounded in the shelling. Additionally, a number of shops and market facilities were moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party at the time of the incident.

Sunday, January 7, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired five missiles at the main market in the center of [Abu al Thohour](#) town, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of shops were partially destroyed, while the market facilities were heavily damaged. The town was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday afternoon, January 8, 2018, Syrian regime forces artillery fired three shells, which were most likely fired from al Mleiha city, at the main market in the center of Saqba city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The shelling resulted in casualties. In addition, about four shops were moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Msallam Abdul Basitt<sup>2</sup>, a photographer, said that approximately three shells landed where he was: **“One of the shells landed on the building that contains al Zahra Hospital and caused slight damages. The second one landed in the local market in the public street before al Mahata Square towards al Jam’iya Square.”** Msallam added that as soon as he got to the site, he saw paramedics pulling out Abu Saleh al Qouatli from his shop after a shell landed in front of him: **“The destruction wasn’t excessive. Only shop fronts were damaged.”**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of [missiles](#) at the local market in Irbeen city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, a number of shops were [heavily destroyed](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, around 14:00, Syrian regime forces artillery fired [a number of shells](#) at [a local market](#) in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, a number of shops were moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

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<sup>1</sup> We contacted him via Facebook on January 9, 2018





Damages in the aftermath of a shelling by Syrian regime forces on a local market in Douma city, Damascus suburbs – January 20, 2018

Tuesday, January 20, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [three missiles](#) at [al Hal market](#) in the middle of [Ariha](#) city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in [a massacre](#). Additionally, a number of shops and [market facilities](#) were heavily damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on al Hal market in Ariha city, Idlib – January 30, 2018





## Infrastructures

### - Official headquarters

Saturday, January 13, 2018, around 17:20, Syrian regime forces [rocket launchers](#) fired a number of surface-to-surface rockets at [a car garage](#) belonging to the local council in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The garage building was heavily destroyed, as the garage was rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

The local council released [a statement](#) on January 20, 2018, in which they condemned the incident



Damages in the aftermath of a shelling by Syrian regime forces on a car garage belonging to the local council in Douma city, Damascus suburbs – January 13, 2018

### - Industrial facilities

Sunday, January 28, 2018, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a number of [barrel bombs](#) on [a grain silo](#) in al Gharbi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The silo building was heavily destroyed and its equipment was heavily damaged, as the silo was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that the same silo was targeted with missiles by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





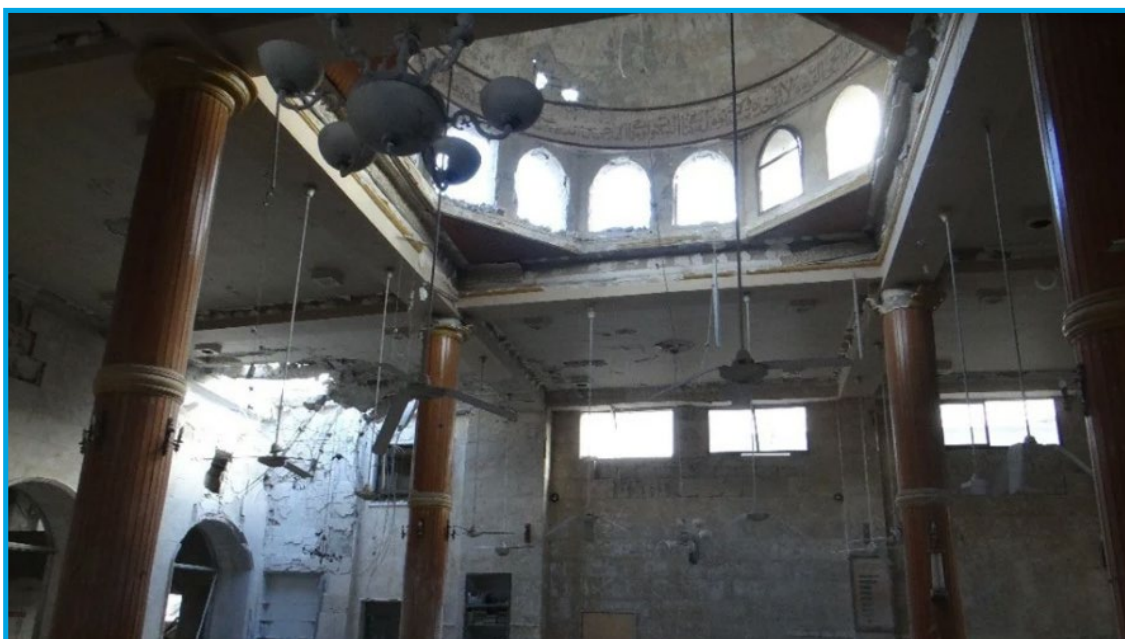
Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on the grain silo in Saraqeb city, Idlib – January 28, 2018

## **B. Russian forces**

### **Places of worship**

#### **- Mosques**

Tuesday morning, January 2, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe were [Russian](#) fired [two missiles](#) at [Oways al Qarni Mosque](#) in [al Kurnish Street](#), eastern Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The mosque building](#) was [heavily destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#), as the mosque was [rendered out of commission](#). It should be noted that [a military base](#) for Hay'at Tahrir al Sham is located 100 meters away from the mosque. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on Oways al Qarni Mosque in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, Idlib – January 2, 2018



Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near Tal [al Touqan al Kabir Mosque](#) in the middle of Tal al Touqan village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The mosque building was partially destroyed, and its furniture and cladding materials were moderately damaged. The village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on Tal al Touqan al Kabir Mosque, Tal al Touqan village, Idlib – January 3, 2018

Friday, January 12, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at [Aisha Um al Mu'mineen Mosque](#) in [al Habeit](#) village. The bombing caused a fire in the mosque and heavily damaged the building and furniture. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Sunday, January 21, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian carried out [a machine gun airstrike](#), using small missile, on [al Huda Mosque](#) in al Gharbi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The mosque minaret was destroyed and its building was moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.







Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on al Huda Mosque in Saraqeb city, Idlib – January 21, 2018

Monday, January 29, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) at al [Ouda prayer place](#) (a small mosque) in the middle of Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The mosque](#) was destroyed [almost completely](#) and was rendered [out of commission](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **Vital educational facilities**

### - Schools

Tuesday, January 2, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired one missile at Qatra Elementary School in Qatra village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the school building was partially destroyed and its furniture was moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Friday, January 12, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at [Khaled al Mousa High School](#) on the northeastern outskirts of al Habeit village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The missiles](#) penetrated the upper floors and exploded in the lower floors of the [school building](#). As a result, fires broke out in the school, and the building and furniture were heavily damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Fires and destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on Khaled al Mousa High School in al Habeit village, Idlib – January 12, 2018

Thursday, January 25, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a missile](#) at [Hitteen School](#) for Elementary Education in Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The mosque landed near the bathrooms in the school. As a result, the building was partially destroyed and a fire broke out inside. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

#### - Universities

Sunday, January 21, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of [missiles](#) at [Ebla Private University](#), which [is located](#) on the [international highway Aleppo-Damascus](#) near Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). A number of students were wounded. In addition, [the university building](#) was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture and [cladding materials](#) were [heavily damaged](#). The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **Vital cultural facilities**

#### - Museums

Tuesday, January 2, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles at [Ma'aret al Nu'man Archeological Museum](#) (known as Khan Murad Basha), which is located at the end of [the main street](#) in the middle of Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of





Idlib governorate. [A number of rooms](#), inside the museum, were destroyed as well as some of the exhibits (a number of mosaics and relics). It is worth noting that [a part of the museum building had been destroyed](#) in a previous bombing. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on Ma'aret al Nu'man Archeological Museum (known as Khan Murad Basha) in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, Idlib – January 2, 2018

## Communal facilities

### - Markets

Monday, January 29, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-25) we believe were Russian carried out a machine gun airstrike, [using small missiles](#), on the [new potato market](#) in northern Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in [a massacre](#). Additionally, a number of market facilities were [heavily destroyed](#). It should be noted that [the market](#) occupies what was formerly al Wes Factory. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on the new potato market in Saraqeb city, Idlib – January 29, 2018

## Infrastructures

### - Water systems

Monday, January 15, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile loaded with cluster submunitions near the main water tank in southern al Ghadfa village, which is administratively a part of Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. No damages were recorded to the tank structure. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### - Official headquarters

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near [Ma'aret al Nu'man's local council](#), which is located in [al Shamali neighborhood](#), [Ma'aret al Nu'man](#) city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The building and its cladding materials were [moderately damaged](#). IT should be noted that the local council occupies the former [finance building](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### - Bakeries

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian used [incendiary weapons](#) to target the bakery affiliated to the Local Bread Council, which is located next to the local council's garage, in al Shamali neighborhood in [Saraqeb](#) city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A fire broke out in the bakery, and the building and equipment were moder-



ately damaged. It should be noted that the bakery occupies a part of the previous start center for pedestrian buses (New Idlib Garages). The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Fires in the aftermath of a Russian air attack using incendiary weapons on the bakery affiliated to the Local Bread Council in Saraqeb city, Idlib – January 1, 2018

#### - Grain silos

Friday, January 26, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the grain silos that are located on the international highway Aleppo – Damascus to the north of Mardikh village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The silos buildings were slightly damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

#### - Industrial facilities

Sunday, January 21, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the [grain mills](#) in al Gharbi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bill building was [partially destroyed](#) and its equipment was moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



## **Refugee camps**

Monday, January 15, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe were Russian fired three missiles at [Hafsa Um al Mu'mineen Camp](#) in southwestern Ma'saran village, which is administratively a part of Ma'aret al Nu'man city, eastern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). A number of tents were [moderately damaged](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, January 18, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) at an IDP shelter in eastern [Ma'ar Debsa](#) village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of IDPs were wounded. Additionally, the shelter was partially destroyed. It should be noted that the shelter occupies a previous chicken farm. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **C. Extremist Islamic groups**

### **- ISIS**

#### **Places of worship**

##### - Mosques

Thursday, December 28, 2017, ISIS used IEDs to bomb the minaret of [Aisha Um al Mu'mineen Mosque](#) in Ghranij city, which is administratively a part of al Shaytat area, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The minaret was completely destroyed and the mosque building was heavily damaged, as the mosque was rendered out of commission. On Monday, January 15, 2018, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

### **- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham**

#### **Vital educational facilities**

##### - Universities

Saturday, January 6, 2018, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham fighters, along with al Inqath Government representatives shut down a building that houses the faculties of information engineering, literature, and media, affiliated to Free Aleppo University in al Dana city, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Teaching was suspended in those faculties. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





## **D. Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)**

### **Refugee camps**

Friday, January 26, 2018, Self-Management forces artillery (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party), which was stationed in Ifreen city, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, fired a number of shells near al Jazira IDPs Camp, which is located near Atama Crossing on the Syrian-Turkish borders (as part of Atama Camps Assembly) in northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of tents were slightly damaged. The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **E. Other parties**

### **Places of worship**

#### - Mosques

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, about 17:00, an IED exploded inside a car near al Fateh Mosque in the middle of [Manbej](#) city, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The bombing was about 10 meters away from the mosque whose building and cladding materials were heavily damaged. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to identify the group behind the bombing in light of the considerable difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombings. The area was under the control of Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party) at the time of the incident.

#### - Churches and monasteries

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, [a rocket shell landed](#) on Sayda al Nayyah Cathedral, known as [al Zaytoun Church](#), in Bab Sharqi neighborhood, eastern Damascus city. The church building and its cladding materials were moderately damaged. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to identify the party behind the shelling. Bab Sharqi neighborhood was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.





Damages after a rocket shell of unknown source landed on Sayda al Nayyah Cathedral, known as al Zaytoun Church, in Bab Sharqi neighborhood, Damascus – January 9, 2018

## **Vital educational facilities**

### - Schools

Thursday evening, January 25, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Turkish fired a [number of missiles](#), in parallel with a mortar shelling by an artillery we believe was stationed in a Turkish forces-held area, at [Rajo](#) al Qadima School in Rajo town, which is administratively a part of Ifreen city, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The school building and fence were [partially destroyed](#). The town was under the control of Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) at the time of the incident.

### - Kindergartens

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, around 11:30, an artillery shelling landed in Wahat al Atfal kindergarten in al [Shahba neighborhood](#), western Aleppo city, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the kindergarten building was partially destroyed. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify the party behind the shelling. The neighborhood was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



## **Vital cultural facilities**

### - Archeological sites

Friday, January 26, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe were Turkish fired a missile at [Ein Dara](#) archeological site in Ein Dara city, which [is administratively](#) a part of Ifreen city, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The ancient temple's square was [partially destroyed](#). The city was under the control of Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) at the time of the incident.

## **Infrastructures**

### - Official headquarters

Sunday, January 7, 2018, clashes between ISIS and the Kurdish-majority SDF, which involved light and medium weapons, in the vicinity of the phone exchange in Ghranij city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, caused heavy damages to the telephone exchange which was rendered out of commission. As of this writing, we haven't been able to determine which of the two parties was responsible for the damages. Parts of Ghranij city were under the control of ISIS, while other parts were under the control of the Kurdish-majority SDF at the time of the incident.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, an IED exploded in front of the Local Administration and Services Ministry building, which is affiliated with al Inqath Government, where the government occupies the previous central bank building. The bombing took place in Karajat al Bolman building, eastern Idlib city. The Ministry building entrance was slightly damaged. Another IED exploded in the same site after residents gathered, which resulted in casualties. In addition, the ministry building was further damaged. we haven't been able to identify the group behind the bombing in light of the considerable difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombing. Idlib city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### - Transportation systems

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, a number of mortar shells landed on [Damascus International Airport](#) in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The Airport building was moderately damaged. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify the group behind the shelling. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



### - Industrial facilities

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, an IED exploded in the industrial district in al Dana city, norther suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. In addition, a number of [industrial shops](#) were [moderately damaged](#). we haven't been able to identify the group behind the bombing in light of the considerable difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombing. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **Refugee camps**

Sunday, January 21, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Turkish fired a missile at an IDP shelter in Anabka village, which is administratively a part of Ifreen city, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The bombing resulted in a massacre. In addition, the shelter building was heavily destroyed. It should be noted that the shelter occupies a previous chicken farm. The area was under the control of Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

## **V. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Syrian regime and Russian forces**

- Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased.
- We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted civilian objects. Therefore, Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces have violated Articles 52,53,54,55, and 56 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.
- The attacks mentioned in this report that were carried out by the Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces, are considered a violation of the rules of the customary international humanitarian law (rules 7 through 10).
- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks, as well as the repeated targeting, must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

### **The Coalition (international coalition and SDF)**

The attacks by Coalition forces have caused significant damages to civilian facilities. In most cases, these attacks have also resulted in losses that involved casualties or injuries. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.





## Other forces

ISIS..... have carried out attacks that targeted civilian objects, which also resulted, in some cases, in loss of lives. These violations might qualify as war crimes. However, these violations don't qualify as crimes against humanity, as with the Syrian regime and pro-regime forces who carry out unlawful attacks in a systematic and widespread manner.

## Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps after resolution 2139 and 2254 have been adopted, and no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombing have been made. All parties to the conflict should respect these steps, and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who were directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.
- List the militias who are fighting on the side of the Syrian government and had committed wide massacres - such as Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite groups, the National Defense Army, and Shabiha, on the international list of terrorist groups.
- Abstain from considering the Syrian government an official side after it perpetrated crimes against humanity with regard to the relief aspect, and stop giving it the largest portion of financial and other aids as they are being delivered to the people who support the Syrian government instead of people who are truly in-need.

## International community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killing and siege and raise the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be activated 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 tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan have been drought out as well as the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations should be taken and the norm of the "Responsibility to



Protect”, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Renew the 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 work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

## **OHCHR**

The OHCHR should submit a report the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents included in this report and the incidents that preceded, given that they are a glaring mark in a string of daily sporadic violations of a smaller scope. Also, the OHCHR should work on implementing the recommendations in this report.

## **Commission of Inquiry (COI)**

Launch investigations on the cases included in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

## **International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)**

Address the cases mentioned in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

## **European Union and United States of America**

Support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 71/248, adopted on December 21, 2016. And establish local tribunals that enjoy a universal jurisdiction, and address the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

## **The Russian regime**

- Launch investigations regarding the incidents that resulted in civilian casualties, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all affected facilities and centers, and reconstruct and rehabilitate them. Also, compensate all the victims’ families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as the all the wounded.



- Immediately cease bombing hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect the customary international law.

### **The Coalition (international coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states of the coalition have to unequivocally and truly acknowledge that some of the bombardment operations have targeted civilian objects, while some attacks resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Instead of denying, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and those who were affected.
- The SDF-supporting states should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns that are under their control.
- All forms of support, weapons and otherwise, should be ceased until SDF commit to the previous recommendations. This is primarily the supporting states' responsibility. Providing SDF with weapons and support while knowing that they can be used in war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.

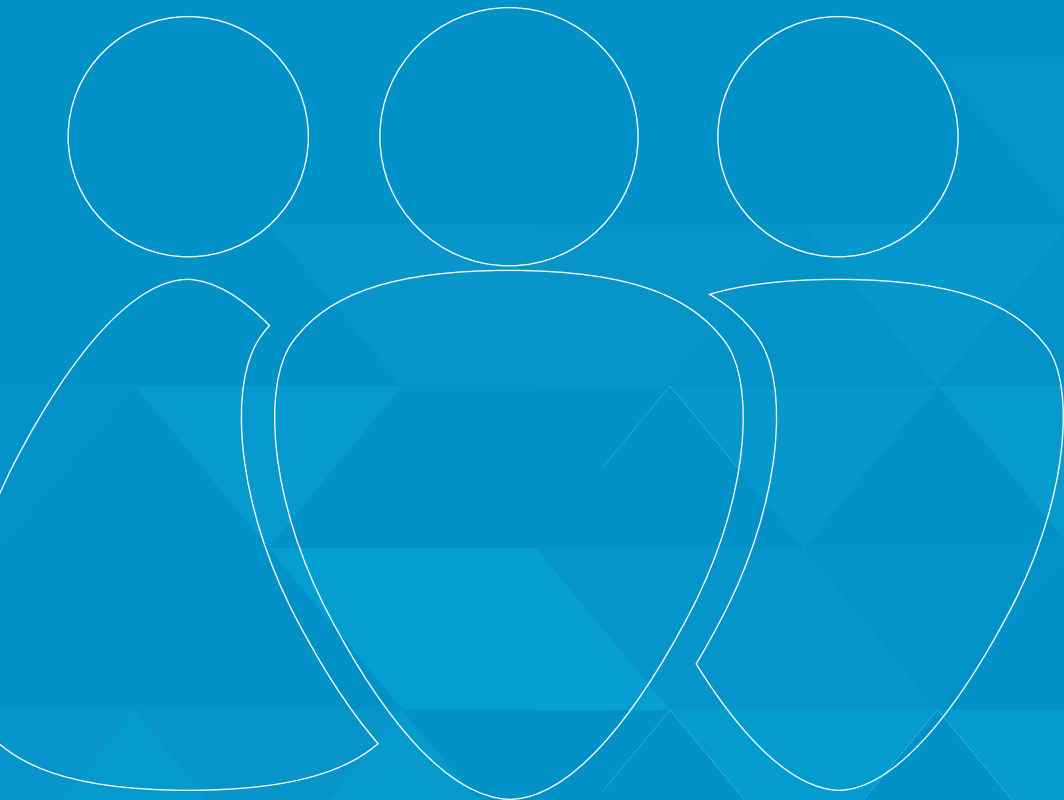
### **Armed opposition factions**

Ensure the protection of civilians and civilian objects in all of their areas of control. Also, armed opposition factions should launch investigations on the incidents included in this report.

### **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

We would like to thank and extend our most heartfelt condolences to all the residents and local activists who contributed effectively to this report.





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