

# 16 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed

19 Incidents of Attack on Vital  
Medical and Civil Defense  
Facilities in March 2017

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



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### I. Introduction and Methodology

SNHR's high-level methodology for documentation relies on survivors and families' direct accounts in addition to the process of verifying and analyzing pictures, videos, and some medical records. However, we can't claim that we have documented all cases in light of the ban and pursuit by Syrian regime forces and some of the other armed groups.

To read more about SNHR methodology for documenting victims, please see the following [URL](#).

The consistent bombing and targeting of medical facilities and civil defense centers by Syrian regime forces since 2011, and the killing and arrest of medics and civil defense personnel at the hands of different conflict parties, especially Syrian regime forces, indicates a systematic policy that only aims to shed more blood and deepen the suffering of the injured – civilians and armed.

#### **Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:**

“The Russian attacks on medical and civil defense centers as well as medical and civil defense personnel are considered a blatant violation of the international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes considering the chaotic, and in many cases, deliberate, targeting of protected objects. All of this have only deepened the suffering of the wounded and injured and is one of the main reasons behind the displacement of the Syrian people as it sends a very clear message: there is no safe area, or a red line, including hospitals, you either flee or perish.”

This report only represents the bare minimum, which we were able to document, of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred. Additionally, the report doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



## II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented in the month of March 2017 the following main violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities:

### A. Acts of killing

We documented the killing of 16 medical and civil defense personnel, including one woman (Adult female), as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias):** killed 11 medical personnel as follows:

- One doctor
- Five paramedics
- One Red Crescent personnel
- Four civil defense personnel

- **Russian forces:** killed two medical personnel, including one woman, as follows:

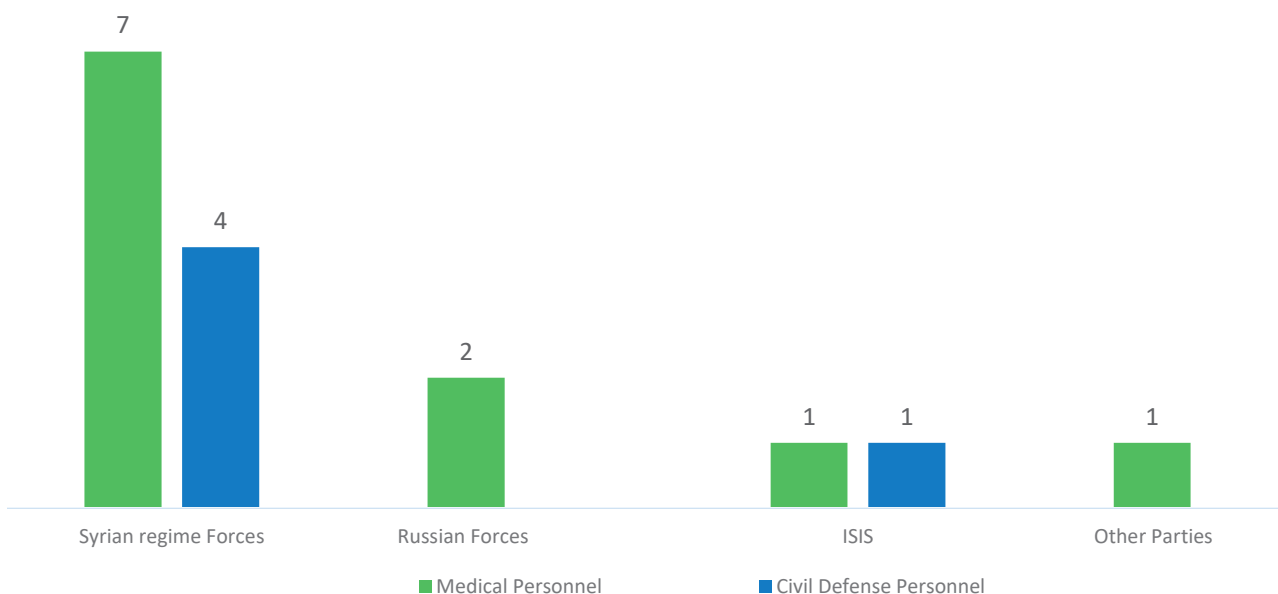
- One paramedic
- One female pharmacist

- **Extremist Islamic groups:**

- **ISIS:** killed one doctor and one civil defense personnel

- **Other parties:** killed one medical personnel

Medical and civil defense personnel killed in the month of March are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



## B. Targeting of vital medical and civil defense facilities

SNHR documented 19 incidents of attack on vital medical facilities and facilities for the civil defense facilities and Red Crescent, as follows:

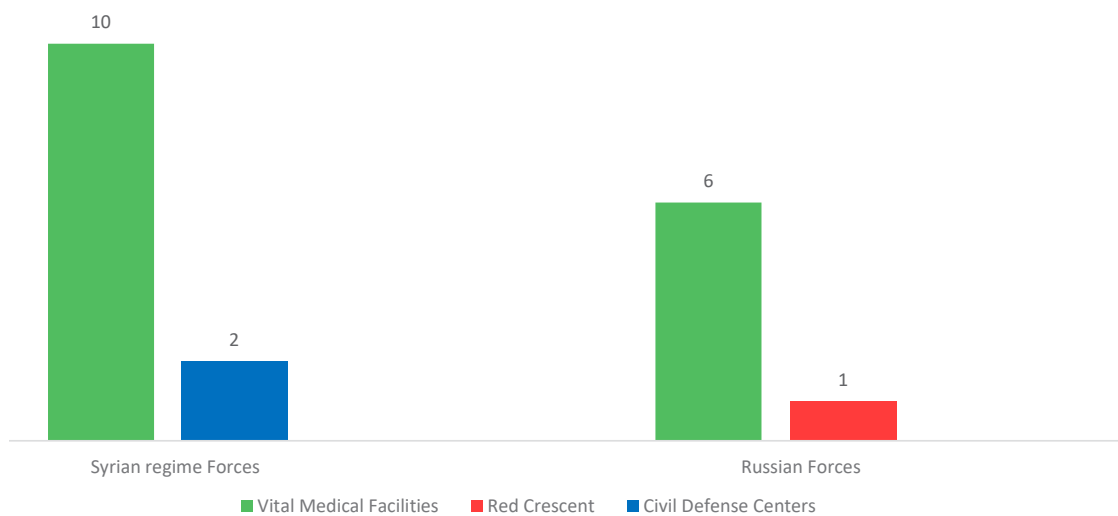
- **Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, foreign Shiite militias):** we recorded 12 incidents as follows:

- Seven medical facilities
- Three ambulances
- Two civil defense centers

- **Russian forces:** seven incidents, as follows

- Six medical facilities
- One Red Crescent facility

Incidents of attack on vital medical and civil defense facilities are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



## III. Details

### A. Acts of killing

#### 1- Syrian regime forces

**Mohammad Yousef al Zou'bi**, a leadership figure at the [Palestinian Red Crescent](#) – Syrian branch, and a medical staffer at [Yafa hospital](#). From al Yarmouk camp in southern Damascus city, [Palestinian – Syrian](#). He was arrested by Syrian regime forces in February 2017, and was released on Sunday, March 5, 2017 from Palestine branch, which is affiliated to the Military Security branch in Damascus city. He died on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at a hospital in Damascus city after his health deteriorated on account of the torture and negligent health care during his detention.



**Abdul Rahman Nisan, known as “Abu Anas”**, paramedic, from Hamouriya town in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, works with [al Ihiya' Medical Network](#). He was killed on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired missiles at this place of work in Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city.

**Ibrahim Darkazli, known as “Abu Mostafa”**, paramedic, from Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city, works with al Ihiya' Medical Network. He was killed on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired missiles at this place of work in Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city.

**Abdul Qader al Hori, known as “Abu Maher”**, paramedic, from Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city, works with al Ihiya' Medical Network. He was killed on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired missiles at this place of work in Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city.

**Mahmoud Mohammad Tinawi, known as “Abu Mohammad”**, paramedic, from Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city, works with with al Ihiya' Medical Network. He was killed on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired missiles at this place of work in Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city.

**Yazan Muhi al Din, known as “Abu Jawad”**, paramedic, from Zamalka town in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, works with al Ihiya' Medical Network. He was killed on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired missiles at this place of work in Joubar neighborhood in eastern Damascus city.

**Abdullah Hussein al Sarhan**, head of the civil defense in [Daraa governorate](#), from the IDPs camp in Daraa city, born in 1977, has a license in Islamic inheritance jurisprudence (Al Mwarith), married and a father of four kids. He was killed on Monday, March 20, 2017 by an explosive device, planted by Syrian regime forces, detonated on Gharz – al Souamea' road in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate as his car passed over the device.



Abdullah al Sarhan



**Ryad Eliwi**, a member of center 114, which is affiliated to the [civil defense](#), in Damascus suburbs governorate, where he is from. He was killed on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces that [fired](#) a number of shell that fell on the outskirts of al Mohammadiya town in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate.



**Ali Ahmad al Darwish**, an orthopedic surgeon, from Kafr Zita city in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, born on April 10, 1977, works at al [Latamna surgical hospital](#), has a degree in medicine from Aleppo University, married and a father of three. He was killed on Saturday, March 25, 2017, after Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) loaded with a poison gas on al Latamna surgical hospital in al Latamna town in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate.



**Alaa Mansour Irshidat Abazid**, a member of the rescue team at center 14, which is affiliated with the civil defense, from Daraa al Balad area in the middle of Daraa city, married and has a kid. He was killed on Monday, March 27, 2017, in a shelling by a Syrian regime forces rocket launcher that fired a surface-to-surface rocket at al Shayyah area in southern Daraa city as he was tending to wounded from a previous shelling. It should be noted that Alaa is one of Daraa Children who were arrested by Syrian regime forces on Sunday, March 27, 2011 over the expressions they wrote on school walls in Daraa city. Alaa was released on Sunday, March 20, 2011 after he was tortured and his fingernails were removed.



**Samir Mohammad Akram al Ghoush**, a member of center 103, which is affiliated to the civil defense, from Zamalka town in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, born on January 8, 1967, married and a father of four boys. He died on Thursday, March 30, 2017 of wounds sustained in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that bombed Zamalka town with missiles on Wednesday, March 29, 2017.



## **2- Russian forces**

**Amer al Bayyoush (Al Qanbar)**, nurse, from Kafr Nabbol city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1960, works at Ma'aret al No'man National Hospital, married and has kids. He was killed on Sunday, March 5, 2017 in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian which fired a missile at his house in al Wata area in southern Kafr Nabbol city.

Amer al Bayyoush (Al Qanbar)



**Khadouj Ahmad Abdul Ghafour**, a pharmacist, from Sarmada city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, married and has kids. She was killed on Thursday, March 16, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian which fired a number of missiles at her house, which is located on the road between al Jina village and Ibin Sam'an town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

## **3- Extremist Islamic groups**

### **- ISIS**

**Hamdou Hussein al Qablawi**, [a member of the civil defense](#), from al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1987, he is a leader of team at the civil defense center in al Bab city, married. He was killed on Saturday, March 11, 2017, by a landmine that was implanted by ISIS before they withdrew from al Bab city.





**Mohammad Haj Qasem**, a general surgeon, from Maskana town in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1958, has a degree in medicine from Aleppo University, married and has kids. He was killed on Saturday, March 18, 2017, by a landmine implanted by ISIS in al Mansoura town in the western suburbs of al Raqqa as he was fleeing Maskana area towards the areas controlled by the Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)



Mohammad Haj Qasem

#### **4- Other parties**

**Mohammad Ghaith Mu’taz Shehada**, a first-year student at the faculty of dentistry in the Private Syrian University, from Damascus city. He was killed on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in a suicidal bombing, as the bomber blew an explosive belt he was wearing inside “Abu Ahmad” park in al Rabwa area in northwestern Damascus city. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify the group behind the bombing.

Mohammad Ghaith Shehada



Mohammad Ghaith Shehada

### **B. Targeting vital medical facilities and civil defense facilities**

#### **1- Syrian regime forces**

##### **- Vital medical facilities**

##### **- Medical centers**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, Syrian regime forces fired a number of “Pheel” rockets at the only [medical point](#) in Tishreen neighborhood in northeastern Damascus city. The medical point building was partially destroyed, and its cladding materials and equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the point was rendered out of commission. On Wednesday, March 29, 2017, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident. Tishreen neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Monday, March 6, 2017, the fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party) carried out a number of missile airstrikes on Kafr Zita specialized hospital in western Kafr Zita city in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The hospital building and its equipment were moderately damaged. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired missiles, fol-





lowed by Syrian regime helicopters dropping a number of [barrel bombs](#) on Kafr Zita specialized hospital in western [Kafr Zita city](#) in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The hospital building was heavily destroyed, and its equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the hospital was [rendered out of commission](#). It should be noted that the hospital was targeted by the fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party) on the day before. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Saturday, March 25, 2017, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas on [al Latamna surgical hospital](#) in al Latamna town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, a hole was created in the roof of the hospital entrance due to the bombing, and the hospital building and equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Saturday, March 25, 2017, the fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at a building housing a medical point, which occupies the basement of the building, in Helfaya city in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The building's higher floor was [heavily destroyed](#), and the medical point was heavily damaged. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, around 13:30 PM, a Syrian regime rocket launcher fired a rocket at a [medical point](#) affiliated to the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) in [Kafr Nbouda town](#) in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The point building, its equipment, and cladding materials were heavily damaged. As a result, the point was rendered out of commission. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions.





Damages caused by rockets launcher by Syrian regime rocket launchers that shelled the medical point in Kafr Nbouda town in Hama, March 28, 2017

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near [the dispensary building](#) -adjacent to the automatic bakery- in Helfaya city in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The building and its cladding materials were moderately damaged. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

#### **- Ambulances**

Sunday, March 19, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missile near two ambulances belonging to the medical office in Joubar neighborhood in northeastern Damascus city, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the two ambulances were heavily damaged, and were rendered out of commission. The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Monday, March 20, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a missile near an ambulance belonging to the medical point in Joubar neighborhood in northeastern Damascus city. The ambulance was heavily damaged, and was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions.

#### **- Civil defense centers**

Friday, March 24, 2017, around 10:30, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of gas cylinders near the old civil defense center -currently occupies a first-response medical point- in the middle of Jesr al Shoghour city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The center building was slightly damaged. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Friday, March 24, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired two missiles near an ambulance belonging to the civil defense center in al Rastan city in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate. The ambulance motor was moderately damaged, and its front glass windows were shattered. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.



Damages caused by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes bombing an ambulance belonging to the civil defense center in al Rastan city in Homs, March 24, 2017

## **2- Russian forces**

### **- Vital medical facilities**

#### **- Medical centers**

Thursday, March 9, 2017, around 11:10, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near the Syrian University's hospital in western al Der al Sharqi village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital building was moderately damaged. It is worth nothing that the hospital has been out of commission since it was bombed by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian on Monday, February 27, 2017. The village is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near al Zera'a hospital in western Idlib city. The missile fell about 50 meters away from the hospital where we didn't record any damages to the hospital building. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Tuesday, March 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near Sham Humanitarian Network hospital in western Kafr Nabbol city -on the road leading to Hzarin village- in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missile fell 50 meters away from the hospital, where no damages were recorded to the hospital building. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Friday, March 24, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired four “C8” missile near Sham surgical hospital in Hass village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. No damages were recorded to the hospital building. The village is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Saturday noon, March 25, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian carried out three consecutive missile airstrikes near Kafr Nabbol [surgical hospital](#) (Formerly al Orient hospital) which is located in northern [Kafr Nabbol city](#) in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital’s fuel tank and two generators were moderately damaged. As a result of the heavy bombing, the hospital announced that it is no longer in commission. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



The gas tank room and the generator burning after a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian in Kafr Nabbol city in Idlib, March 25, 2017

Wednesday noon, March 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired missiles at the health center in al Mahdoum village in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The center building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the center was rendered out of commission. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions.



## **International humanitarian insignia**

### **- Red Crescent**

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, around 19:50, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian used incendiary weapon near the Syrian Arab Red Crescent branch, about 50 meters from the branch- in the western neighborhood of Ariha city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Fires broke out in the area, but no damages were recorded to the branch building. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

## **IV. Conclusions and Recommendation**

### **Legal conclusions**

1- The incidents mentioned in this report are considered, beyond any doubt, violations of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, these incidents are violations of Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.

2- We can confirm that most of the incidents included in this report have targeted armless civilians. Therefore, Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled.

Also, Russian forces, ISIS, and other parties (which includes parties that we weren't able to identify as well as Turkish, Lebanese, and Jordanian forces) have committed acts that amount to war crimes through the crime of extrajudicial killing or targeting vital civilian facilities.

3- The attacks mentioned in this report are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at populated areas rather than a specific military object.

4- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.



## Recommendations

### The Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps as it has been more than two years since Resolution 2139 was adopted and no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombardment operations have been made. All the conflict parties must respect these steps and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in committing war crimes have been proven.
- Instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being destroyed, stolen, and ruined.
- Expand the sanctions to include the Syrian and Iranian regimes and all of their pillars who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.

### The International Community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killings and siege and enhance the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must 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 were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Statute must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must 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 utilizing the principle of the universal jurisdiction.





## **Medical organizations around the world**

There is a severe shortage in medical manpower in Syria because of the ceaseless killing of medical personnel. Firstly, Syrian doctors must come back to Syria to compensate for the severe shortage in medical personnel. Also, international organizations can send volunteers to safe areas where wounded are sent for treatment. We have recorded many cases where wounded died due to lack of medical resources.

## **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

Our most sincere thanks go to the victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report.





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