

91 Medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent personnel Documented killed in Syria, and 198 Attacks on Their Related Facilities in 2018

One Civil Defense Worker
Documented Killed, and 11 Attacks
on Vital Medical, Civil Defense
facilities in December

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, January 6, 2019

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

Since the popular uprising for Democracy began in March 2011, medical facilities and personnel have been deliberately targeted in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, which established special protection for medical facilities and their personnel, in addition to general protection for civilians and civilian facilities.

Despite this legal protection, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, and pharmacies have been bombed, and hundreds of medical personnel have been arrested while some have been tortured to death. Additionally, medical teams and their vehicles have become a target, with saving the wounded now branded as a dangerous profession that might lead to death.

The Syrian regime has been, and still is, the main and primary perpetrator of crimes against medical personnel and their facilities, as its forces have raided hospitals and abducted some of the wounded, as well as targeting hospitals and other medical facilities using shells, missiles, and barrel bombs. Meanwhile, the facilities of the Civil Defense rescue workers (also known as White Helmets) have been bombed repeatedly and civil defense personnel have suffered many casualties. Even bearing the insignia of international humanitarian organizations didn't ensure safety from attacks that targeted their facilities and killed their personnel, despite the fact these are neutral, impartial entities.

We also recorded the use of the the double-strike method¹ by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in many attacks, with the victims in most cases being paramedics and civil defense rescue workers.

¹ A policy adopted by the Syrian and Russian regimes in which they bomb the same site again a few minutes after an initial attack in order to inflict as many losses as possible in the ranks of civil defense personnel, medical teams, and doctors.



Whilst we have documented similar violations by the other parties to the conflict, these have occurred to a far lesser extent and in far smaller numbers. ISIS members raided makeshift hospitals and dispensaries and abducted some of the wounded, doctors, and paramedics. Also, ISIS barred some doctors from practicing under their harsh discriminatory laws while the Coalition forces (international coalition and SDF) have also targeted a number of hospitals and medical facilities.

[A report](#) by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) shows that Syria was the worst in the world in 2017 in terms of the number of attacks against health workers, with a total of 252 incidents, an average of almost five attacks per week. According to the report, 79 health care workers were killed or injured in the conflict this year, while 41 health facilities were damaged or destroyed.

Violations against medical and civil defense personnel don't only impact these individuals and their families, but also adversely affect the lives of people in need of medical care services, treatment, and rescue. Consequently, these violations result in the deaths of many of the wounded and those trapped beneath the rubble of bombed homes.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:

“Attacks on medical and civil defense centers, as well as medical and civil defense personnel, are considered a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes, given the indiscriminate, and in many cases, deliberate, targeting of protected objects. All of this has 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.”

Methodology

This report outlines the death toll among medical personnel, civil defense personnel, and Red Crescent personnel who were killed by the parties to the conflict in December, and in attacks on their vital facilities, as well as highlighting the most notable of these incidents.

According to SNHR's methodology, the term “medical personnel” includes all individuals actively involved in medical fields, including doctors, paramedics, pharmacists, medical laboratory scientists, and management officials, in addition to workers who operate and transport medical equipment. Secondly, the term “vital medical facilities” refers to hospitals, medical points, dispensaries, makeshift hospitals, and ambulances.



This report draws, firstly, upon the daily, ongoing documentation and monitoring efforts by SNHR team, and, secondly, on accounts from survivors, eyewitnesses, and local media workers who we spoke with via phone or social media. We have also analyzed a large number of videos and photographs that were posted online or which we received from local activists via e-mail, Skype, and social media. Videos posted by local activists show massive destruction of vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities. We have retained copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report on a secret online database, as well as backup copies on hard drives. For more information, please see our methodology for [documenting victims](#) and for [classifying vital civilian facilities](#).

This report also documents a number of bombings for which we haven't been able to accurately identify the group responsible due to the difficulties in identifying the perpetrator in these attacks.

Our investigations confirm that most of the attacks we have documented targeted individuals or facilities in civilian areas where no military bases or armories were located before or during the attacks, in which the perpetrators failed to take into account the principle of proportionality. We were also unable to find any record of the perpetrators issuing any warnings to civilians in these areas prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

The type and level of evidence available varies from one case to another. In light of the aforementioned challenges, the legal definition of many of the incidents documented may be subject to change based on any new evidence or clues which emerge after this report is released. We shall update our data archive with any such evidence and information as soon as any such evidence or information becomes available. It should also be noted that while many incidents don't constitute a violation of international humanitarian law under the terms of such legislation, they involved collateral damage, so we have recorded and archived these incidents to document what happened historically and to preserve these as part of the national record, even if these specific incidents 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 include the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



II. December Outline

December saw the death on one member of the Civil Defense personnel, as was the case in the preceding months in the second half of 2018, this period saw the lowest documented death toll amongst medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent personnel, since the outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011. Meanwhile, 11 attacks on medical facilities and Civil Defense facilities were documented in December, seven of which were perpetrated by Syrian Regime forces, all in Hama governorate.

The first third of 2018 was the most dangerous period for medical and Civil Defense personnel, and related facilities, due to the military escalation by Syrian-Russian forces on the three de-escalation zones (specifically areas in the north of Homs governorate, parts of Daraa and Quneitra governorates, and the Eastern Ghouta in Damascus Suburbs governorate) which resulted in agreements under which the residents of those areas were forcibly displaced.

The first third of 2018 saw the killing of many workers in the health sector; these fatalities accounted for 68 percent of the total death toll in 2018, with 66 percent of the attacks documented being against health or rescue-related facilities. The last eight months of the year marked an increase in the frequency of bombings near medical facilities and Civil Defense facilities - mostly in the north of Syria - in addition to kidnappings of medical personnel due to the security chaos in those areas.

The Syrian-Russian alliance was once again far ahead of any other perpetrators in terms of violations committed against health sector workers and facilities in 2018, being responsible for inflicting 74 percent of the death toll among health sector workers, and perpetrating 81 percent of the total attacks documented against vital medical and rescue facilities.

III. Executive Summary

A. Record of Most Notable Violations in 2018:

- Acts of killing:

SNHR documented 91 Medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent personnel killed, distributed as follows:

53 Medical personnel

37 Civil Defense personnel

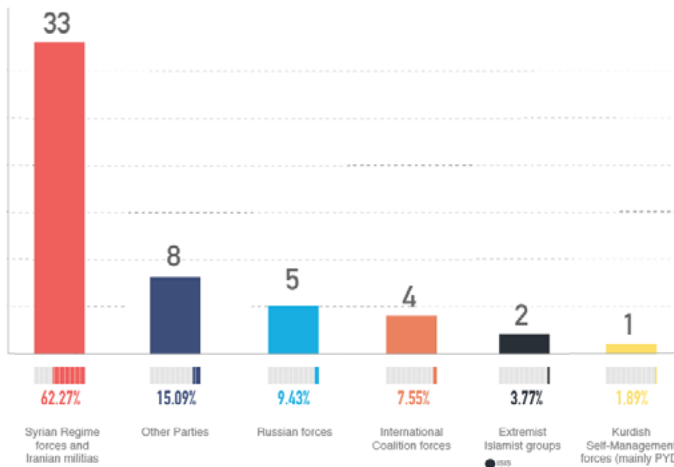
One Red Crescent staff member, killed by Syrian Regime forces



Death toll of medical personnel distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



Distributed as follows:



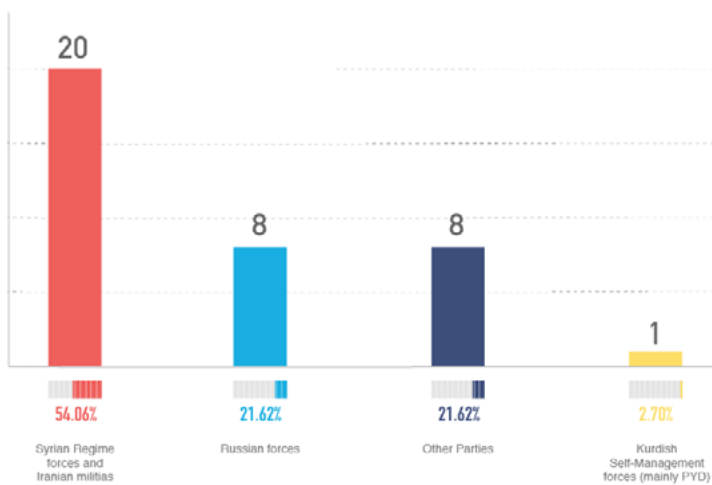
53
medical personnel
were killed
at the hands of
the main parties to
the conflict in Syria in
2018

As documented by SNHR

Death toll of Civil Defense personnel in 2018 distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



Distributed as follows:



37
Civil Defense personnel
were killed
at the hands of
the main parties to
the conflict in Syria in
2018

As documented by SNHR



- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

54, including five women (adult female), distributed as follows:

- Two doctors.
- 11 nurses, including four women.
- Six paramedics.
- 20 Civil Defense personnel.
- One Red Crescent staff member.
- 14 medical personnel, including one woman.

- Russian forces: 13, including two women, distributed as follows:

- Three doctors, including one woman.
- One paramedic.
- Eight Civil Defense personnel.
- One medical worker (woman)

- Extremist Islamist groups:

ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): Two doctors, including one woman.

- Self-Management Forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party): Two, distributed as follows:

- One pharmacist.
- One Civil Defense rescue worker.

- International Coalition forces: four, including one woman, distributed as follows:

- Three nurses, including one woman.
- One paramedic.

- Other parties: 16, including two women, distributed as follows:

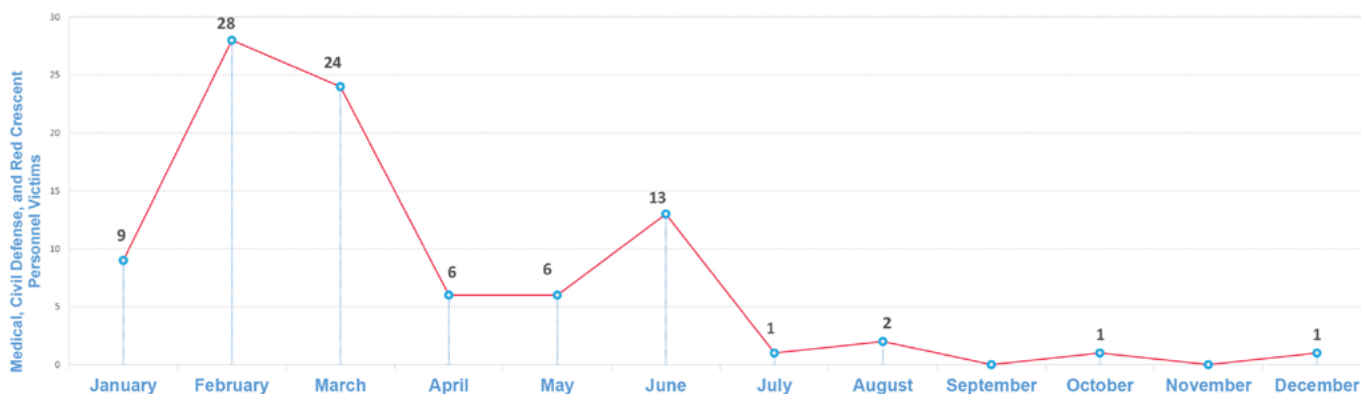
- Three doctors, including one woman.
- One nurse.
- One paramedic.
- One pharmacist (woman)
- Eight Civil Defense personnel.
- Two medical personnel



Death toll of medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent personnel in 2018 distributed by month as follows:



91 medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent personnel were killed in Syria in 2018



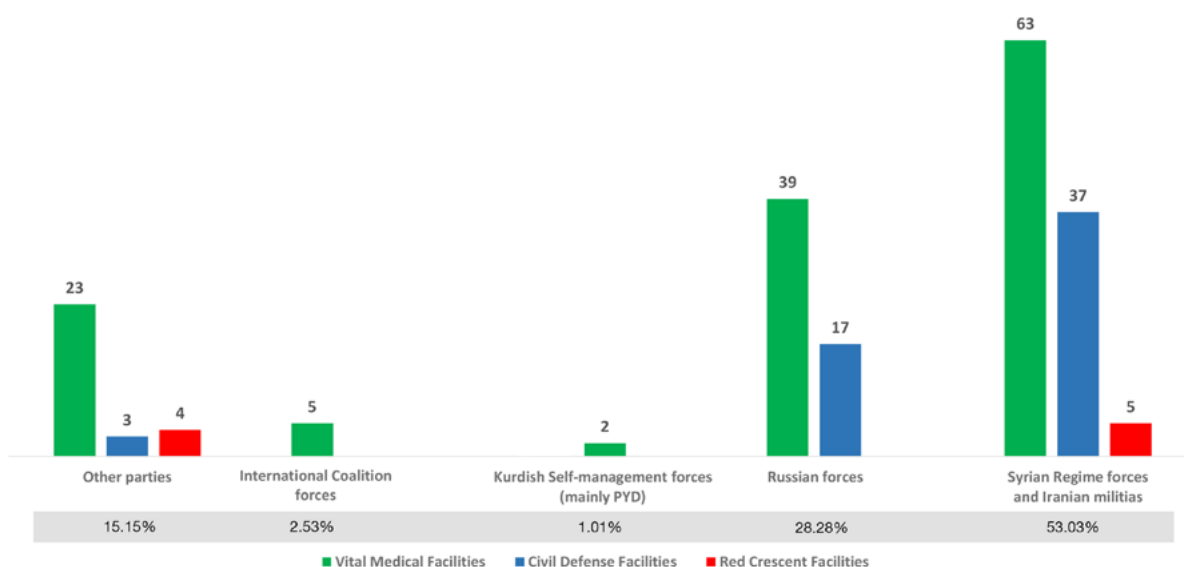
As documented by SNHR

- Attacks on vital medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent facilities:

SNHR documented 198 attacks on vital medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent facilities in 2018, distributed by perpetrator party as follows:



198 attacks on vital medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent facilities in Syria in 2018



As documented by SNHR



- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

105 attacks, distributed as follows:

- 60 medical facilities.
- Three ambulances.
- 37 Civil Defense facilities.
- Five Red Crescent facilities.

- Russian forces: 56 attacks, distributed as follows:

- 25 medical facilities.
- 14 ambulances.
- 17 Civil Defense facilities.

- Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party): Two attacks on medical facilities.

- International Coalition forces: Five attacks on medical facilities.

- Other parties: 30 attacks, distributed as follows:

- 16 medical facilities.
- Seven ambulances.
- Three Civil Defense facilities.
- Four Red Crescent facilities.

B. Most notable violations in December:

In December 2018, SNHR documented the following main violations against medical and Civil Defense personnel and their related facilities:

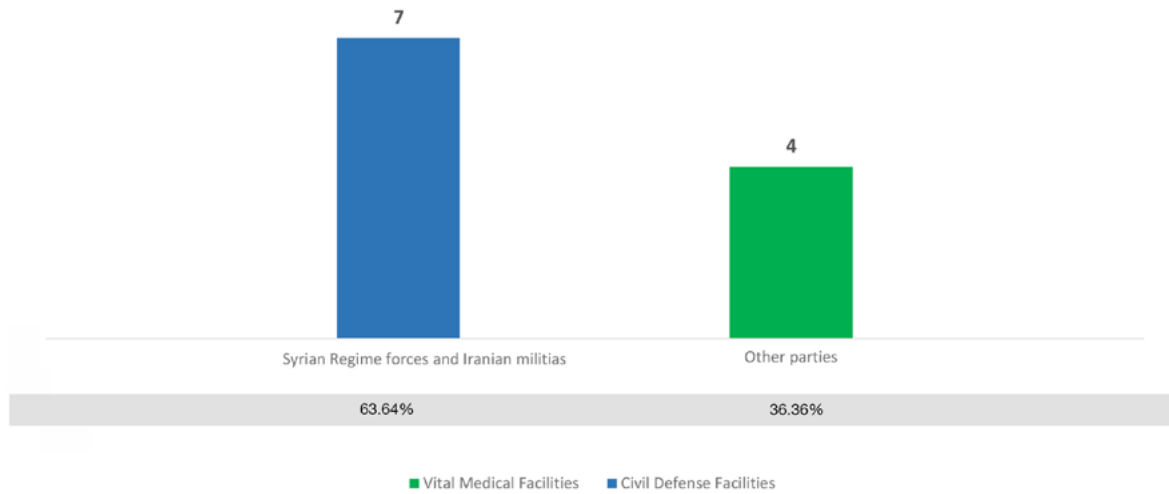
- Acts of killing

We documented the death of one Civil Defense rescue worker at the hands of other parties.

- Attacks on vital medical and Civil Defense facilities:

SNHR documented 11 attacks on vital medical and Civil Defense facilities in December 2018. Attacks were distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:





As documented by SNHR

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):

Seven attacks on Civil Defense facilities and vehicles.

- Other parties: Four attacks on vital medical facilities, distributed as follows:

- Two medical facilities
- One ambulance

IV. Most Notable incidents in December

A. Acts of killing

- Other parties:

[Mohammad Rahhal](#), a member of the Jandarjis Civil Defense Center from Damascus Suburbs governorate, was born in 1986, and was married with a child. On Tuesday, December 4, 2018, he died of wounds sustained on Sunday, December 2, 2018, in the explosion of an IED affixed to a motorcycle in a street in Jandarjis town of Afrin city, in northern suburbs of Aleppo. We were unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks.



Mohammad Rahhal

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) issued a statement mourning Mohammad via their official account on 'Twitter'.



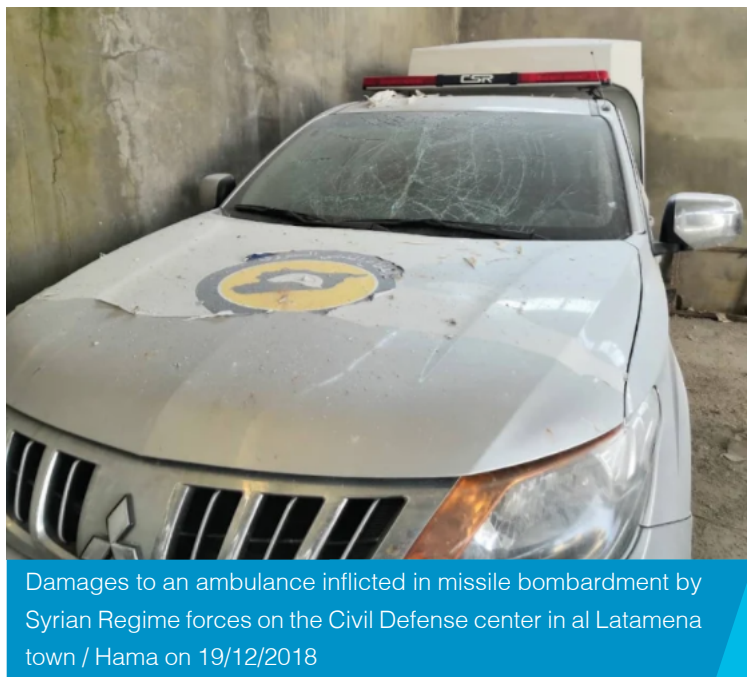
B. Attacks on vital medical facilities and Civil Defense facilities

- Syrian regime forces

Civil Defense facilities:

On Wednesday, December 19, 2018, Syrian Regime artillery forces, stationed in the south of Helfaya town in Hama governorate's northwestern suburbs, fired two shells that landed in front of the Civil Defense center in [al Latamena](#) town in Hama governorate's northern suburbs, which caused disproportionate damages to three of the Civil Defense rescue workers' vehicles ([an ambulance](#), a rescue vehicle and [a Truck](#)). The town was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) tweeted the news of the attack on their center in al Latamena on their official 'Twitter' account.



On Monday, December 24, 2018, at around 15:30, Syrian Regime artillery forces [fired shells](#), as well as simultaneously using [missile](#) launchers to fire missiles, at the area near the [Civil Defense center](#) in [Morek](#) town in Hama governorate northern suburbs, which caused moderate material destruction to the group's headquarters there, in addition to severely damaging two of their vehicles (an ambulance and a rescue vehicle). The town was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) reported the news of the attack on the Morek center via their official account on Twitter.





- Other parties:

Vital medical facilities:

- Medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, an IED placed inside a car exploded near al Ahli Hospital in the center of Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in casualties, in addition to moderate damage to the façade of the hospital building and to an ambulance belonging to the hospital. We were unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. The city was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, an IED placed inside a car exploded near a medical dispensary belonging to al Ahli Hospital – both buildings are within the same compound - in the center of Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The attack resulted in casualties, in addition to severely damaging the hospital building, fixtures and equipment, putting it out of service. We were unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. The city was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



- Ambulances:

In addition to the attack against an ambulance mentioned in the 'medical facilities' section above, the SNHR documented the following incident:

On Thursday, December 6, 2018, an IED placed inside a car exploded within the perimeter of [al Quds Hospital](#) in al Dana city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which caused minor damages= to an ambulance belonging to Sham Hospital Ambulance System. We were unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. The city was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

V. Most Notable Incidents in 2018:

A. Acts of killing:

- Syrian Regime forces:

[Mohannad Ismail al Marzouq](#), an anesthesiologist, worked in the hospital of al Shefouniya town in the Eastern Ghouta in the east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, was killed on Monday, February 19, 2018, in aerial bombardment of the hospital in al Shefouniya town by fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian/Russian forces (this incident is still under verification to identify which of these actors was responsible).

Yousef al Hammouri, Mohammad al Awwa, and Wasim al Najjar, members of the '300' Civil Defense Center in Douma city, were killed on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, as a result of targeted artillery shelling by the Syrian Regime artillery forces who fired a number of shells near the Civil Defense team as they were inspecting a previously bombed site in Douma city in the Eastern Ghouta in the east of Damascus Suburbs governorate.



Yousef al Hammouri - Mohammad al Awwa - Wasim al Najjar



Dhaifullah al Khaswani, a nurse, came from Sheikh Maskin city in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate. On Friday, March 15, 2013, he [was arrested](#) by Syrian Regime forces when passing through one of the regime's [checkpoints](#) in ataman town in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate. On Thursday, August, 30, 2018, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a detention center.

- Russian forces:

Derar Bsirini, Ahmad Abdul Hamid Khattab and Mustafa Bakkour, were members of the Idlib governorate's [Civil Defense team](#) at the Khan Sheikhoun Center, from Khan Sheikhoun city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. They were killed on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in bombardment by fixed-wing warplanes, that we believe were Russian, with the planes firing a number of missiles at the Civil Defense center in the east of Khan Sheikhoun city. The Civil Defense in Idlib city released [a statement](#) to mourn the three members.



- International Coalition forces:

Basma Mohammad, was a married nurse, from Tal Abyad city in the northern suburbs of Raqqa governorate. On Friday, January 26, 2018, she was killed, along with her young daughter Sajeda al Ali, in bombardment by fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes, with the planes firing missiles on al Sh'afa city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

- Other parties:

Hassan Haj Hasan, an anesthesiologist and [a professor](#) at the [Institute of Health](#) Technology in Damascus city, was married with children. On Friday, February 23, 2018, he was killed in Rekn al Din neighborhood in Damascus city by an explosion. We have been unable to identify either the device or weapon used or the source of the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian Regime forces.



Ali Hussein al Ahmad, Ragheb Mohammad Khair al Bakr, Zakariya Shaban al Saeed, Mohammad Mahmoud al Mustafa, and Ahmad Abdul Jawad al Issa, were members of the Civil Defense team at the al Hader Center in Tal Hadya in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. On Saturday, May 26, 2018, they were shot dead by gunmen who attacked the center. The attack also resulted in the injury of another team member [Ibrahim](#) Mohammad Ahmadiya, who died as a result of his wounds on Sunday, January 3, 2018. We have been unable to identify who was responsible for the attack up to the time of the preparing of this report.

[Ali](#), from [Homs city](#), was 30 years old.

[Ragheb](#), from [Kosniya village](#) in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was 36 years old.

[Zakariya](#), from Aleppo city, was 29 years old.

[Mohammad](#), from [al Zeyara town](#) in the western suburbs of Hama governorate, was 32 years old.

Ahmad, from Um al Karamil village in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was 37 years old.

[Ahmad al Omar](#), a second-year Dentistry student from Ma'ar Shamarin village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, worked in the operations administration section of the 'Free' Hama Health Directorate. On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, he was killed in an explosion of an IED near his car on the outskirts of al Fu'a village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. We have been unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. On Sunday, December 2, 2018, we contacted activists from the area who confirmed the incident.



Ahmad al Omar

B. Attacks on vital medical and Civil Defense facilities:

- Syrian Regime forces:

On Tuesday, February 6, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian Regime forces warplanes fired [missiles](#) at the 'Save a Soul' center for [psychological treatment](#), in Kafr Batna in the Eastern Ghouta in the east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, which caused [partial destruction](#) to the center building, and [severely its equipment](#) and cladding, putting the center out of service. We note that the center was the only one for psychiatric illnesses in the Eastern Ghouta. The town was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



On Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at around 16:00, fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian-Russian forces (still under verification to identify the actor) fired missiles at Jiza Hospital, a medical facility supported by the Syrian American Medical Association (SAMS), in al [Jiza](#) town in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The attack resulted in the death of paramedic Mohammad al Fahd, and the injury of three members of the medical staff, in addition to severely damaging the hospital building, putting it out of service. The town, which was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, is under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the preparation of this report.

The Syrian American Medical Association released [a statement](#) to condemn the attack on the hospital

On Saturday, September 8, 2018, Syrian Regime helicopters dropped two [barrel bombs](#) in front of [the entrance](#) to Nabd [al Hayat Hospital](#) (formerly Sham [Surgical Hospital](#)), an underground facility supported by the [Syrian Relief and Development Organization](#) (SRD), in the south of [Hass](#) village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The attack caused severe damage to [the hospital](#) building and [its equipment](#), in addition to setting the hospital's electric generators on fire. The village was under the control of Armed Opposition faction at the time of the incident.



Damages inflicted in bombardment by Syrian Regime helicopters of the Nabd al Hayat Hospital in Hass village/ Idlib/ September 8, 2018



- Russian forces:

On Monday, February 5, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes, which we believe [were Russian](#), fired a missile at the [Kafranbel Surgical Hospital](#), in the north of [Kafranbel](#) city, which is located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The [missile](#) landed in the center of [the hospital](#) building, which caused [significant](#) destruction to [the building](#), and [severely damaging](#) the [hospital's equipment](#) and an ambulance, putting the hospital out of service. The city was under the joint control of Factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired three [missiles](#) at the [building housing](#) the [Civil Defense management](#) center for the northern sector in Kafr Zita, in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, causing severe destruction to the building, and severely damaging its equipment, furnishings and fittings, temporarily putting it out of service. The city was under the control of an Armed Opposition faction at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of Russian air strikes on the building of command of the north sector of the Civil Defense in Kafr Zita/ Hama/ April 7, 2018.



- International coalition forces

On Friday, February 2, 2018, fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at [the makeshift hospital](#) in al Bahra village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, resulting in a massacre, whose victims included three nurses amongst the hospital's medical personnel. The attack also inflicted significant destruction to the hospital building, and severely damaged the medical equipment, putting the hospital out of service. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, November 29, 2018, fixed-wing international coalition warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Yarmouk Women's Hospital](#) in the 'Twenty-Four' neighborhood in [al Sh'afa](#) city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, resulting in a massacre, in addition to completely destroying the hospital building, putting the hospital out of service. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

- Other parties

On Thursday noon, April 12, 2018, three IEDs placed inside a car exploded near the Izaz Dispensary in the center of [Izaz](#) city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, causing significant destruction to the façade of the building and its cladding. We have been unable to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. The city was under the control of Factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, a bomb affixed to a motorcycle exploded in front of a house seized earlier by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham for use as a headquarters, located behind the headquarters of the Syrian Red Crescent – formerly the Carlton Hotel building – in the south of Idlib city. This was followed by an explosion from a car bomb five minutes later at the same location, which resulted in a massacre, in addition to causing moderate damages to the Red Crescent headquarters' building and furnishings. We have been unable to identify the party behind the two explosions up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for such attacks. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2018, gunmen broke into al Sahel Specialist Hospital, located between Ein al Bayda and Kherbet al Jouz areas near the Syrian-Turkish border in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The gunmen kidnapped a doctor, as well as seizing a car belonging to the hospital. We note that al Sahel [Health Directorate](#) announced the suspension of work at the hospital in protest at the attack. We have been unable to identify the party behind these incidents up to the time of the preparation of this report. The area was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The incidents mentioned in this report are considered, beyond any doubt, to constitute violations of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased. Also, these incidents are violations of Article 7 and 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.
- The attacks mentioned in this report constitute violations of Security Council resolution 2286 which states that attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment should be ceased, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities.
- We can confirm that most of the incidents included in this report have targeted unarmed civilians. Therefore, Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations, which were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict, constitute war crimes, fulfilling all the criteria for this definition. Also, Russian forces, ISIS, factions of the Armed Opposition, Self-Management forces, international coalition forces, and other parties have committed acts that amount to war crimes through the crime of extrajudicial killing or targeting vital civilian facilities.
- The attacks listed in this report are considered to be violations of customary international humanitarian law, with the bombardment targeting populated areas rather than any military-related target.
- Aerial bombardment has caused immense collateral damage, including loss of lives, injuries, and severe damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was extremely excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

Recommendations

Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following the adoption of resolutions 2139 and 2254, with no pledges to stop the indiscriminate bombing yet issued. All parties to the conflict should 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 responsible for related crimes should be held accountable, including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who are directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.



- Include the militias fighting on the side of the Syrian government, who are responsible for widespread 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 treating the Syrian government as a legitimate official entity after it perpetrated crimes against humanity with regard to the safety of civilians, health and rescue workers or humanitarian personnel, and stop giving it the largest portion of financial and other aid as this is being delivered to government loyalists as a reward for their loyalty rather than to people who are truly in-need.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its resulting utter incapability, 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 which they continue to endure and to increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be implemented in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League’s plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan’s plan have been exhausted and proved fruitless, along with 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 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 enact the principle of universal jurisdiction.



OHCHR

The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents included in this report and the massacres that preceded them, since the failure to act in the face of these crimes is a glaring failure, one of a string of daily sporadic violations of a smaller scope. Also, the OHCHR should work to implement the recommendations in this report.

Commission of Inquiry (COI)

Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidence and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

Address the cases mentioned in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidence 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 universal jurisdiction, and address the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

Syrian regime

- Stop treating the Syrian state as a private family property.
- Cease the terrorization of the Syrian people through killing the teams that provide medical, aid, and rescue services.
- Cease the bombing of hospitals and protected objects, as well as civilian areas, and respect customary humanitarian law.
- Assume responsibility for restitution for all the legal and material repercussions, and compensate victims and their families from the Syrian state's resources.

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 individuals involved accountable.
- Compensate all affected facilities and centers, and reconstruct and rehabilitate them. Also, compensate all the families of victims killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.



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

The Coalition (international coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and genuinely acknowledge that some of their bombardment operations have resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Denying this fact will undermine trust in these governments, with all these incidents well documented and explicitly exposed in residents' and survivors' accounts. Rather than issuing denials, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and those who were affected.
- 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 that are under their control.
- All forms of support to the SDF, military and other forms, should be ceased until the SDF commits itself to adhering to the previous recommendations. This is primarily the supporting states' responsibility. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that these can be used in war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.

Factions of the Armed Opposition

Ensure the protection of vital medical facilities and civil defense facilities and their related personnel in all areas, and launch investigations into the incidents included in this report.

Medical organizations around the world

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

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our most sincere thanks and condolences to the residents and local activists who effectively contributed to this report.





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