## **Press release**

## Istanbul: SNHR Participates in SAMS 18th Annual International Conference

"Challenges of Delivering Medical Relief in a Protracted Conflict: Effects on the Vulnerable Population and Medical Neutrality"



Wednesday, July 4, 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.



ISTANBUL, June 28-30, 2018 – SNHR participated in the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) 18th Annual International Conference that was held under the name, "Challenges of Delivering Medical Relief in a Protracted Conflict: Effects on the Vulnerable Population and Medical Neutrality." The conference was attended by a wide range of workers in the fields of medicine, relief, and human rights on the regional and international level.

Held over the course of three days, the conference involved panels and detailed briefings that touched on the reality of medical efforts in Syria, and the most notable challenges in that context in light of the continued targeting of medical facilities and personnel. The conference was attended by numerous doctors and medical personnel who came from Syria, and the Eastern Ghouta region, to talk about their first-hand experiences amid the Syrian regime's siege and bombing on the medical facilities at which they worked.

Additionally, some portions of the conference tackled the human rights and legal aspects with the participation of the director of Human Rights Watch, which also saw a presentation by Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, entitled, "Bombing Medical Facilities with Chemical Weapons are Compound Crimes" where Abdul Ghany touched upon four main points that outlined the context and toll of using chemical weapons in Syria, as well as the UN reports and the gross violations of human rights, while also talking about the backing provided by Russia to the Syrian regime with respect to chemical weapons use. Lastly, Abdul Ghany talked about the Syrian regime's chemical attacks during President Obama's term and President Trump's term respectively, as well as the French initiative. Abdul Ghany stressed that at the time of the presentation the Syrian regime had targeted medical facilities in Syria in three chemical attacks, describing these incidents as compound crimes.

SNHR's participation in SAMS 18th Annual International Conference is part of its advocacy and connection efforts, as well as its strive to directly listen to victims, eyewitnesses, and medical personnel.





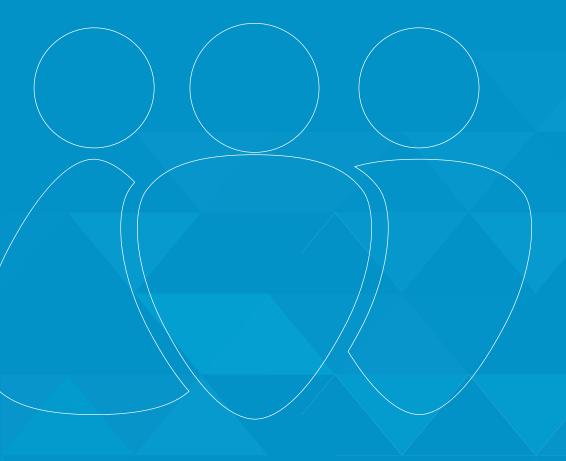












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