

# 276 Civilians, including Six Medical Personnel and Two Media Workers, Documented Killed in Syria in February 2020

SNHR Documented 10 Massacres  
and 18 Persons Who Died due to  
Torture

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, March 1, 2020

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.

## Contents

- I. Introduction and Methodology
- II. Death Toll of Civilian Victims Documented in February
- III. Death Toll of Victims Who Died due to Torture, and Victims amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Documented in February
- IV. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented by SNHR in February
- V. Conclusions and Recommendations

### I. Introduction and Methodology

The documentation process to register victims killed in Syria is one of the most important roles performed by the Syrian Network for Human Rights since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of fathers, mothers, brothers, friends, etc. These violations have become so widespread primarily through Syrian regime forces' and affiliated militias' systematic killing of civilians using every kind of weapon. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then progressed to also deploying warplanes and helicopter gunships which have deployed barrel bombs, in addition to Scud missiles and chemical weapons.

The entry of several parties into the Syrian conflict has increased the importance and complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

Since 2011, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has created complex electronic programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender and the location where each was killed, the governorate from which each victim originally came, and the party responsible for the killing, and to make comparisons between these parties, and identify the governorates which lost the largest proportion of residents.



Since 2011, we have also deemed it appropriate to highlight the death toll among women and children due to the vulnerability of these groups, their central role in the community, and because they give a strong indication of the targeting of civilians. We later added other groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, relief and civil defense personnel.

Given the importance and sensitivity surrounding the murder of Syrian citizens, the Syrian Network for Human Rights has never stopped issuing daily death toll of victims for nearly eight years, or publishing monthly reports documenting the death toll of victims Syria lost each month, in addition to issuing an annual report, as well as dozens of other reports documenting massacres committed on Syrian soil. Also, SNHR periodically sends a special form to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

## **Methodology**

This report records the death toll of victims killed by the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria in February 2020, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst media and medical personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres which the SNHR was able to document that were committed by the main perpetrator parties to the conflict over the past month.

We should note that in this context we use the term “massacre” to refer to any attack that resulted in the deaths of five or more peaceful individuals in the same incident.

The report also includes an outline of the most notable incidents during this period. Finally, we maintain the full details of every incident on the SNHR database.

The report catalogues the death toll of victims perpetrated by each of the main perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for particular attacks to one specific party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and US-led coalition, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we are able to likely establish which one of the parties was responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.



In addition, in cases where we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties because of the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons, the incident is categorized among 'other parties' until we have sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

The perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria are:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)
- Russian forces
- ISIS
- Extremist Islamist groups
- Factions of the Armed Opposition
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic forces (the Democratic Union Party)
- US-led coalition

B. Other parties

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, and also by the governorate from which they originally came. This report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by the governorate they originally came from.

In relation to victims amongst armed forces, these are divided into two categories:

- Victims from the armed opposition: We face additional difficulties in assessing these casualties as many of these victims are killed on battlefronts rather than in cities or other urban settlements. We are also often unable to obtain information on the victims such as names, photographs and other important personal details due to the reluctance of armed opposition forces to reveal such sensitive information for security concerns among other reasons. Therefore, the actual number of victims is far higher than the number documented.

- Victims from Syrian Regime force, extremist Islamist groups, and Kurdish Democratic Union Party forces: It is almost impossible to access information about this category of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher than usual due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation, since these parties don't publish, reveal, or document information about their casualties. From our perspective and given these facts, it is rational to conclude that the statistics published by some groups concerning casualties amongst this category of victims are fabricated rather than being based on any actual data.



In this report, we record only the toll of civilian casualties - with the exception of the death toll among victims who died due to torture, which includes armed combatants as well as civilians - whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. Some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link<sup>1</sup> .

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death. The Syrian Network for Human Rights also provides [a special form](#) that can be filled in with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on this information and verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

SNHR has analyzed videos and photographs that our team documented, which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, the sites of attacks, and bodies of the victims and the injured, whilst other photos may show the bodies of victims killed under torture, and of victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database and in hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source.

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<sup>1</sup> "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <[http://sn4hr.org/public\\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\\_Methodology\\_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf)>



We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups.

This report contains two accounts that we've collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, none of which are cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, and to provide assurances that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

Our investigations confirm that all of the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks, and in which the perpetrators failed to issue any warnings to civilians 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 information which emerge after this report is released. We shall update our data archive with any such items of evidence and information as soon as they become available. Meanwhile, although many incidents don't technically 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, although we don't qualify these specific incidents 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 any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



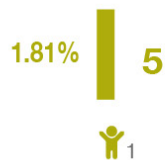
## II. Death Toll of Civilian Victims Documented in February

SNHR documented in February 2020 the deaths of 276 civilians, including 66 children and 43 women (adult female).

The death toll we documented in February was distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

### SNHR SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان 276 civilians were killed in Syria in February 2020

The main parties



- Syrian Regime forces and Iranian militias
- Russian forces
- ISIS
- SDF (mainly PYD)
- Other Parties

21.74% Other Parties 60 11 Children 5 Women

- Women (adult female)
- Children

Unknown- source landmines	2	Fires of unknown source	39	Explosion whose perpetrators have not yet identified	13
Killings by unknown persons	4	Drowning	1	Jordanian border guards	1



## **A. The main parties:**

### **- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**

We documented the deaths of 104 civilians at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, including 25 children and eight women (adult female).

### **- Russian forces:**

We documented the deaths of 106 civilians, including 29 children and 30 women, as a result of bombardment by forces which we believe were Russian.

### **- ISIS:**

We documented the deaths of one civilian at the hands of ISIS.

### **- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):**

SNHR documented the deaths of five civilians, including one child.

## **B. Other parties:**

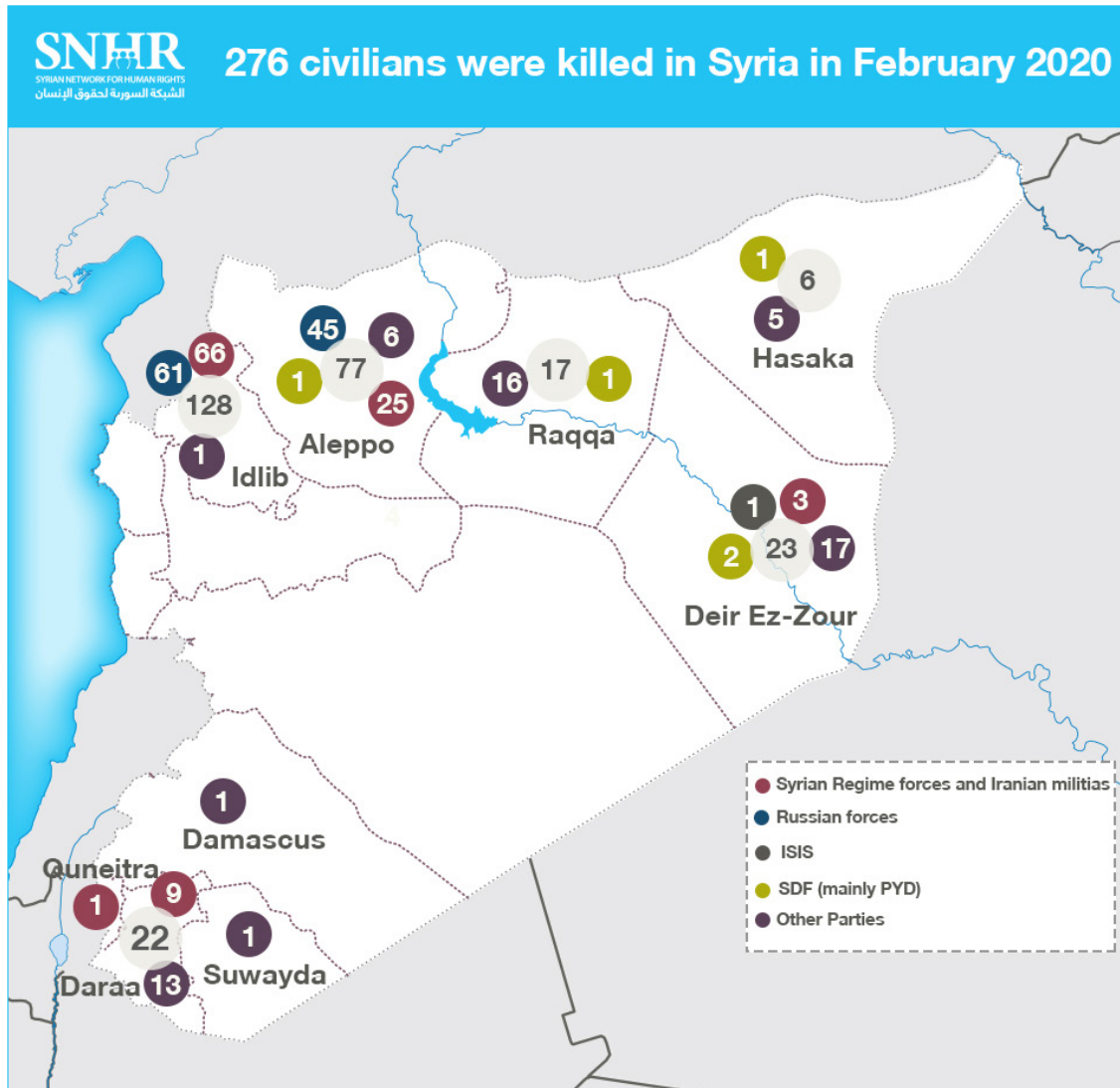
We documented the deaths of 60 civilians, including 11 children and five women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown origin: Two civilians.
- Fires of unknown source: 39 civilians, including five children.
- Jordanian border guards: One child.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 13 civilians, including two children and four women.
- Killings by unknown persons: Four civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Drowning: One child.





The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the main perpetrator parties documented in February 2020 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



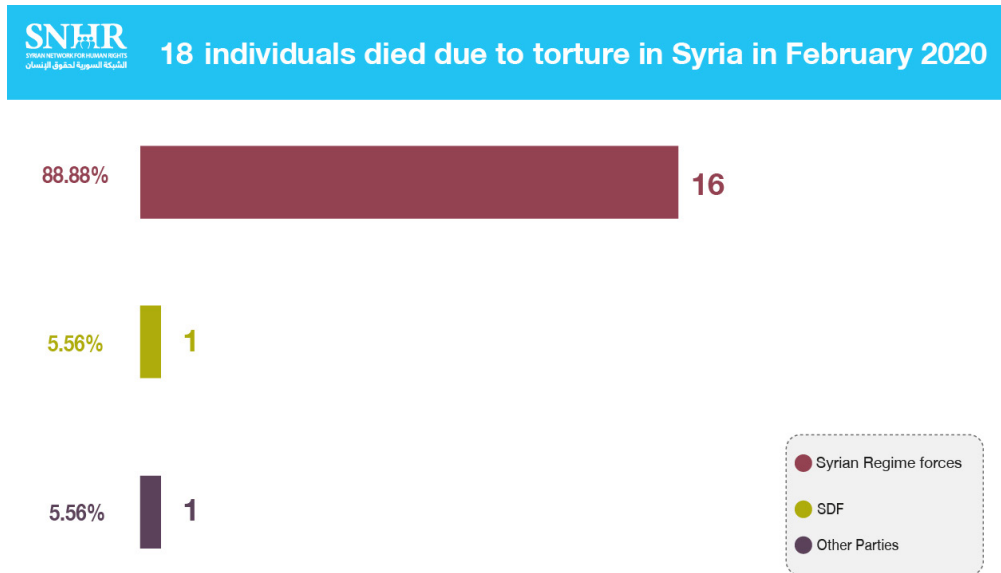
The map above shows that the highest death toll documented in February was in Idlib governorate, followed by Aleppo governorate. We note that highest percentage of fatalities in both governorates were documented killed by Syrian-Russian alliance forces.



### III. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Documented in February

#### A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

SNHR documented the deaths of 18 individuals due to torture in February 2020, distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:



#### 1. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 16.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** One.

#### 2. Other parties: One.

#### The most notable cases are:

Duraid Mustafa Haj Ibrahim, born in 1992, a student at the History Department at the faculty of Arts in Aleppo University. Duraid, who came from Jarjanaz town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, was arrested in 2013 by Syrian Regime forces at the Immigration and Passport Department in Idlib city. On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, his family learnt that he had been registered in the Civil Registry department as having died on Wednesday, December 10, 2014. SNHR believes that it is probable that he died due to torture in one of the Syrian regime's detention centers.



Duraid Mustafa Haj Ibrahim



الجمهورية العربية السورية  
وزارة الداخلية والشؤون المدنية

بيان وفاة

رقم: ١٠٠٤٥٢٤ ١٧-٠٢-٢٠٢٠

اسم المتوفي وتسميته الرقم الوطني	اسم والدة الرقم الوطني	اسم الأب الرقم الوطني	اسم الأم وتسميتها الرقم الوطني	تاريخ ولادة المولود	محل الولادة	الجنس	الجنسية	تاريخ الوفاة	الأمانة	محل القيد	رقم القيد	متسلسل الاسم
دورايد الحاج ابراهيم ٧٠٩٠٠٥٣١٩٦	مسطفى ٧٠٢٠٠٣٩٠٩٨	عبد ٧٠٩٠٠٥٣١٩٥	عبد ٧٠٩٠٠٥٣١٩٥	١٩٩٢/٦/٦ اليوم الأول من شهر حزيران لعام ١٤١٣ وسنة ١٤١٣ وسنة ١٤١٣ وسنة	دمشق	ذكر	سوري	٢٠١٥/١٢/١٠ اليوم العاشر من شهر كانون الأول لعام اثنين وأربعة عشر	معرفة الدمعان	قرية جرحناز	٧٠	٢٣

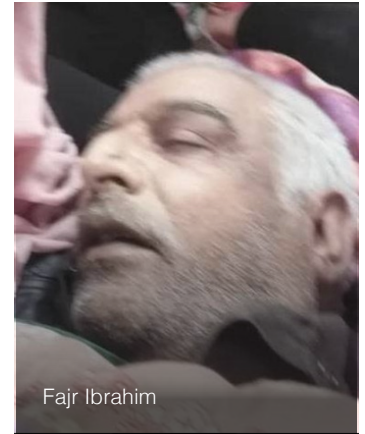
رقم الوفاة: ١/٣١٠  
تاريخ الوفاة: ٢٠١٩/٢/٢٠

اسم المستخرج: معتمد زينة  
مركز الاستخراج: مركز خدمة المواطن في محافظة ريف دمشق-جديدة عرطوز-الاتصالات

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Death certificate of Duraid Mustafa Haj Ibrahim

Fajr Ibrahim, a teacher of physical education from al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of Raqqa governorate, was arrested in February 2019 by Syrian Democratic Forces in al Tabaqa city. On Wednesday, January 29 2020, SNHR received information confirming his death due to medical negligence in an SDF detention center in Raqqa city. His corpse was handed over to his family.



## **B. Death toll of medical personnel**

**SNHR documented in February the deaths of six medical personnel, distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:**

### 1. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One.
- **Russian forces:** Four.

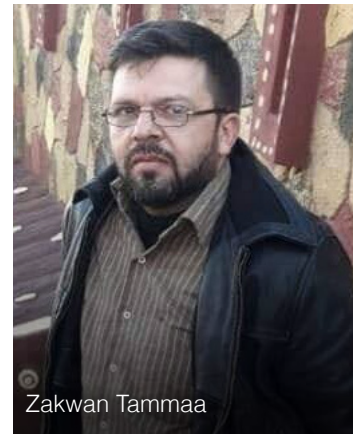
### 2. Other parties:

- **Gunshots by unknown persons:** One.



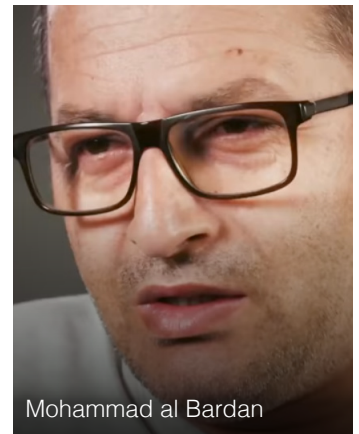
The most notable cases are:

[Zakwan Tammaa](#), from Ariha city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, was an anesthesia technician and the administrative director at al Shami Hospital known as Ariha Surgical Hospital, north of Ariha city. Zakwan, who was born on June 15, 1977, died on Saturday, February 1, 2020, of wounds sustained on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, in the blasts from three airstrikes launched by fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, when they used missiles against al Shami Hospital and the surrounding area in Ariha city.



Zakwan Tammaa

[Mohammad Abdul Rahim al Bardan](#), a gynecologist, from Tafas city in the western suburbs of Daraa governorate, [was killed](#) on Saturday, February 1, 2020, when unknown gunmen shot him in front of his clinic in Tafas city. SNHR is still trying to contact with witnesses to the incident to obtain more details.



Mohammad al Bardan

Ibrahim al Saedou, a pharmacist and the director of the dispensary in Ma'aret al Na'san village in the northeastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, worked in Taftanaz Hospital in Taftanaz town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. He was killed on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, when fixed-wing Syrian-Russian alliance warplanes fired missiles at Ma'aret al Na'san village, while he was in the village.



Ibrahim al Saedou





### **C. Death toll of media workers**

**SNHR documented in February the deaths of two media workers, distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:**

1. The main parties:

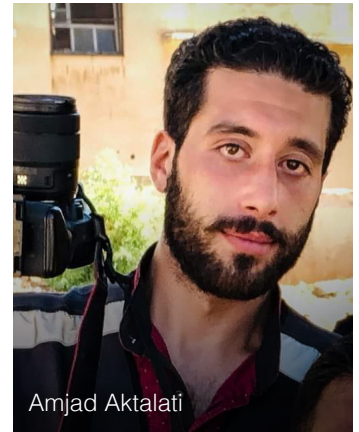
- **Russian forces:** One.
- **Syrian/Russian attack:** One.

On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at around 07:00, media activist Amjad Mohammad Anas Aktalati, was killed when fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of missiles targeting al Midan neighborhood in Ariha city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

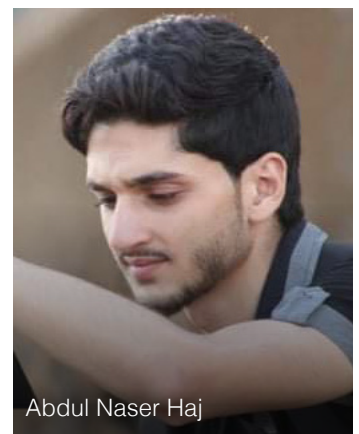
Amjad, a photographer at the General Media Center, was a married father of three from Ariha city. Born in 1992, he was a third-year student at the Faculty of Education - Department of Psychology - University of Damascus.

The SNHR contacted the media worker, Anas Tracy<sup>2</sup>, a friend of Amjad, who told us: **“When I heard about the news of Amjad’s death, I contacted one of the Civil Defense personnel who was at the site of Amjad’s death, who told me that the Russian warplanes launched several missile airstrikes targeting the al Midan neighborhood in Ariha city, one of which targeted the house of Fadi Rahal, a friend of Amjad, in whose house Amjad spent the night, which resulted in the death of Amjad and his friend Fadi.”** Anas added that the bodies of the two martyrs were not retrieved until the next day because of the intense shelling that day and the great destruction in the area.

On Thursday, February 20, 2020, media activist [Abdul Naser Haj Hamdan](#), was killed due to being [hit in the pelvis](#) by [several pieces](#) of shrapnel, as a result of a Syrian/Russian air attack (we were unable to determine the responsible party up until the time of preparing this report) which fired a missile that landed near him, while he was covering the clashes between Syrian Regime forces and factions of the Armed Opposition on the battlefield of Ma'aret al Na'san village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate.



Amjad Aktalati



Abdul Naser Haj

<sup>2</sup> Via WhatsApp on February 18, 2020



Abdul Naser, a photographer from Binnesh city in the northern suburbs of Idlib governo-  
rate, was working with the media office of Binnesh city. Born in 2000, he was a single, sec-  
ond-year student at the Faculty of Administrative Sciences at the University of Idlib.

Thaer Haj Hamdan<sup>3</sup> , Abdul Naser's brother, told the SNHR that he had contacted a friend  
of Abdul Naser who was with him when he was injured, who told him: **“As Abdul Naser  
was covering the clashes, Russian warplanes launched several raids on the Ma’aret  
al Na’san battlefield, then a missile landed near Abdul Naser, which caused him a se-  
vere injury to the pelvis, so he was immediately taken to Binnesh Surgical Hospital,  
where he was underwent surgery, then he was transferred to the Central Hospital of  
Idlib city, but he died shortly after his arrival.”**

#### **D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel**

**SNHR didn't document any death incident among Civil Defense personnel in February  
2020.**

### **IV. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented by SNHR in February**

**SNHR documented at least 10 massacres in February 2020, distributed according to  
the perpetrator parties as follows:**

#### 1. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** Two.
- **Russian forces:** Six.

#### 2. Other parties:

- **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** One.
- **Gunshots by unknown persons:** One.

The massacres perpetrated by Syrian Regime forces in February were distributed accord-  
ing to areas of control as follows:

- Areas under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al  
Sham: One.
- Areas under control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: One.

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<sup>3</sup> We contacted him via his personal account on Facebook on February 24, 2020



According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacres documented this month resulted in the deaths of 94 civilians, including 36 children (27 males and nine females) and 16 women (adult female). This means that 56 percent of all the victims were women and children, a very high proportion, and a clear indication that civilian residents were specifically targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres was distributed by the perpetrator parties as follows:

1. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 23 civilians, including 11 children (10 males and one female).
- **Russian forces:** 57 civilians, including 22 children (14 males and eight females) and 16 women.

2. Other parties:

14 civilians, including three male children, were killed by other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** Five civilians.
- **Gunshots by unknown persons:** Nine civilians, including three children.

The most notable cases are:

On Wednesday, January 29, 2020, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at the main street, located between al Gharbi Mosque and Nouri Hamesho Mosque, in the middle of [Kafr Lata](#) village in Jabal al Arba'in area in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in [the deaths](#) of [19 civilians](#) including [four children](#) (three males and one female) and [two women](#), in addition to injuring 30 others. Kafr Lata village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 3, 2020, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a missile at a microbus carrying IDPs from Shamikou area in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate while it was passing through Jam'iyet al Rahhal area in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate heading towards safer areas, resulting in [the deaths](#) of [nine civilians](#) at [one time](#), including [five children](#) (four males and one female) and two women. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Victims of a massacre perpetrated in an air attack we believe was Russian on a bus carrying IDPs in Jam'iyet al Rahhal area, Aleppo – February 3, 2020

On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at around 20:00, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at a house in [Jedraya](#) village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in [the deaths](#) of [six civilians](#) from [one family](#), including a female child and four women, all of whom were IDPs from al Kammari village in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. Jedraya village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Victims from one family killed in a massacre perpetrated in an air attack we believe was Russian on Jedraya village, Idlib – February 5, 2020





On Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at around 12:10, fixed-wing Syrian regime (MiG-23) war-planes fired a number of missiles at Idlib city, two of which fell in an area crowded with civilians in the industrial zone to the east of the city, with [the impact site of one missile](#) being approximately 50 meters from [the other missile](#), [resulting](#) in [the deaths](#) of [12 civilians](#), including [seven male children](#), and [injuring](#) around [33 others](#). Idlib 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 Friday, February 21, 2020, unknown gunmen attacked a group of shepherds in the Badiya of Ghanem al Ali village, which is administratively a part of al Sabkha town in the eastern suburbs of Raqqa governorate, shooting at them using machineguns, resulting in the deaths of nine shepherds, including three male children. The area was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

## V. Conclusions and Recommendations

### **Conclusions:**

- The evidence we collected indicates that the attacks documented were directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes ranging from extrajudicial killings to detention, torture and enforced disappearance. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.



- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the alliance of US-led coalition and the Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the deaths of many civilians.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mentality intended to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the four Geneva Convention (articles 27, 31, 32).
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian regime, or by Russian or US-led coalition forces prior to any attack in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- These attacks, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.



## **Recommendations:**

### **Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly states that “ all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- 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 repeatedly proven.
- The Security Council should ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions in Syria, similar to the prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and expose its involvement in this regard.
- The Security Council should request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons camps, and follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

### **International Community**

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing, and by lifting sieges, as well as through increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ doctrine 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 proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. By failing to do so, the Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.



- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

## **OHCHR**

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.
- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and providing humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

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

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

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

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

## **The United Nations special envoy to Syria**

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Revive the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.

## **The Syrian regime**

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end use of prohibited weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.



- Reveal the fate of some 83,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

### **The Russian regime**

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the victims' families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 83,000 people disappeared by the Syrian regime.

### **The Coalition (Us-led coalition and Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those 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 under their control.



- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that the SDF violates the rules of international humanitarian law can be seen as a contribution to these violations.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF members, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.

### **Armed Opposition factions**

- Armed Opposition factions must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Pledge to cease any arbitrary arrests and investigate incidents that have resulted in violations of international humanitarian law.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

### **Humanitarian organizations:**

Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.

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