

**Press release**

## **SNHR Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes in the AWSD Project**



**SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان**

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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.



Friday, February 21, 2020: The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) project, with the MoU stipulating the building of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. This will effectively assist in the study, analysis and description of aid work in Syria, providing comparisons with the rest of the world based on the AWSDB's findings.

The AWSDB, which became publicly available online in 2009, is the most comprehensive global database of the major incidents of violence recorded against aid workers since 1997 to date. It is accredited by the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and numerous humanitarian NGOs around the world. The AWSDB records the number of aid workers affected, the institutional affiliation of victims, type of staff (national or international), the methods and means of violence used, the date and specific location of each incident, and many other details, with the aim of assessing the impact of attacks on humanitarian support. For more details, please see [the link](#).

The SNHR has been carrying out continuous monitoring and documentation of the violations which aid workers in Syria have been subjected to for several years, summarizing its documented incidents of violations against them both in regular updates and monthly reports, as well as in extensive dedicated reports on specific issues in this context, and finally within daily news bulletins. During this time, we have built up a detailed database that includes details of aid worker victims, the targeting and bombing of aid centers and aid convoys, and the arrests and enforced disappearances these personnel are subjected to. The Syrian Network for Human Rights fully supports the work of the Aid Worker Security Database, and confirms that these investigations are an essential part of the process of holding those involved in violations against aid workers in accountable and ensuring that they're prosecuted, as well as ensuring that they do not enjoy impunity, and exposing their crimes and violations against the provisions of customary international humanitarian law.



### Multiple memoranda of understanding:

The SNHR has already signed a number of memoranda of understanding with various United Nations bodies, the most prominent of which is the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible, according to international law, for the most serious crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. The IIIM, which was established by UN General Assembly resolution 71/248 of December 21, 2016, has received a large quantity of data extracted from the SNHR database.

In October 2019, the SNHR and the Government of the United States of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR on human rights violations in Syria and on the individuals involved in such violations in order to participate in the investigations carried out by the Government of the United States of America into some of these violations, and to place the greatest possible number of those involved in these violations on the lists of economic and political sanctions; this will constitute a major impediment to any effort to rehabilitate the Syrian regime and all its organs, and serve as an important form of accountability that was previously unavailable.

In addition, the SNHR has signed a wide range of bilateral agreements with a number of research centers for the purpose of data-sharing, most notably: [the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#) and [the Global Public Policy Institute \(GPPI\)](#), with our policy providing that we should not share any data without first co-signing a formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding detailing the criteria for the use of this data; the general terms for data-sharing can be found on [our website](#).



The Syrian Network for Human Rights places all its capabilities and data at the disposal of any legitimate international, judicial or economic body in order to contribute to the imposition of any form of accountability and punishment against the Syrian regime and its allies, and for use against all perpetrators of violations in Syria, calling on all the countries of the world to do everything in their power to ensure that no government or regime is able to violate the Geneva Conventions and that every effort is made to hold those which do so accountable; such efforts would also contribute significantly to deterring any other regimes from considering following the example of the Syrian regime by allying with Russia or China to provide it with protection in the UN Security Council and thus being granted impunity to continue to commit crimes indefinitely.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights will continue to document the violations and expose the perpetrators as much as possible, classifying this work as an integral part of its duty to defend human rights in Syria and a way to honor the maxim which it has always upheld: “No Justice without Accountability”.





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