



## Statement

### **German Foreign Ministry's 2020 Report Describes Syria as an Unsafe Country, with the SNHR Being One of Its Most Prominent Sources**

In December 2020, the German Foreign Ministry released its annual Syria situation report. The German Foreign Ministry does not issue the full text of the report to the public. We have reviewed articles citing the report in several German newspapers, including the [Der Tagesspiegel](#), which stated that, according to the report's findings, serious violations of human rights are still part of daily life in Syria. The foremost of those violations are arbitrary arrests, mass torture and executions.

The report was based on several key sources, most notably:

1. United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI).
2. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR).
3. Human Rights Watch.

The report notes that: “By August 2020, the number of missing persons in Syria had reached 148,000 persons according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the number of missing persons had increased by 4,000 compared to 2019, and the Syrian regime is responsible for 90% of cases.” The report also affirms that: “Between 14,000 and 17,000 persons have died due to torture.” The report adds: “According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights’ data (the SNHR is a Syrian non-governmental organization, and is considered a reliable source by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs): 1,412 cases of arbitrary arrest occurred between January and October of 2020, including 36 children and 31 women.”

Based on data from key sources and many others, the report concluded three main findings:

1. Syria entirely remains unsafe for the return of refugees.
2. A safe return for any category of people to any area in Syria cannot be guaranteed or verified.
3. Even with areas in Syria where combat operations are no longer taking place, and where public life can be involved, the overall security situation remains volatile and the humanitarian and economic situation in Syria remains very bad.

A spokeswoman for the German Foreign Ministry [described](#) the conditions in Syria as catastrophic, stressing that Syrians continue to be exposed to dangers when they return to Syria and that the Syrian regime continues to act ruthlessly.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights thanks the German Foreign Ministry's diligent and conscientious team for this report, which has reached objective conclusions based on professionally documented facts, stressing that all the documented evidence constitutes the bare minimum number of the violations occurring in Syria as many cases remain undocumented.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights hopes that the report issued by the German Foreign Ministry will help stop the deportations announced by the German Ministry of the Interior, which target nearly 90 Syrians in Germany, who are deemed as posing a danger or threat to German security, asking that they face trial for the charges against them in German courts, with those convicted of crimes imprisoned in German prisons.

Finally, the Syrian Network for Human Rights stresses its willingness to contribute to all international reports on the human rights situation in Syria and the developments that occur in an objective and transparent manner, placing its database and the extensive information it contains, compiled over the past nine years at the service of all who wish to show the true extent of human rights violations perpetrated against the Syrian citizens and state. We do so in the hope that this will provide a service in documenting the history and chronicling events in Syria objectively, helping to thwart the vigorous and relentless efforts of the perpetrators of violations, foremost among which are the Syrian regime, Russia and Iran, to change or 'rewrite' the true history of events, and to deny or attempt to justify heinous violations. We also stress that we will continue to make the greatest possible effort to document violations and incidents objectively and credibly to achieve the goal of protecting civilians in Syria, holding all perpetrators accountable, and helping to start the country along the path of positive change towards democracy and respect for human rights, in keeping with our motto: **"No Justice without Accountability"**.