

Press Release

SNHR Signs Memorandum of Understanding with International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), Beginning with Data-Sharing

SNHR

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.



Geneva - February 26, 2019: The Syrian Network for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with 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) was established by the UN General Assembly resolution 71/248 of December 21, 2016.

Immediately after signing the new agreement, Fadel Abdul Ghany, the Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, handed over the first installment of a large number of incidents extracted from the SNHR database to the Mechanism. Further installments will continue to be delivered in the coming weeks.

The Memorandum of Understanding is articulated around the sharing of data and evidence of human rights violations documented by the SNHR since March 2011, with documentation still ongoing, to support the mandate of the Mechanism in the analysis and investigation of violations perpetrated which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Mechanism's mandate, as stated in paragraph 4 of resolution 71/248, is "to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyze evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, and to prepare files in order to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings, in accordance with international law standards, in national, regional or international courts or tribunals that have or may in the future have jurisdiction over these crimes, in accordance with international law"

The SNHR urges all Syrian human rights organizations that work in documenting and monitoring human rights violations to coordinate in sharing data and evidence with the International Impartial and Independent mechanism (IIIM). We emphasize that international organizations are in constant need of indispensably valuable partnership and coordination with locally active human rights organizations.



The SNHR, which supported the original decision to establish the Mechanism, have already held several bilateral meetings with its president and with several of its investigators working in a variety of jurisdictions, and will continue to support its work, which we believe is effective in serving the path of accountability and justice in Syria.

Since 2011, the SNHR has provided the United Nations with data on incidents of human rights violations in Syria. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights adopted the SNHR's database as one of the most prominent sources of data on Syria in all its analysis released on the death toll in Syria, which continued until the last analysis was issued in April 2014. The SNHR has been actively cooperating with and supporting the work of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for nearly eight years, and continues doing so to this day. We also submit a monthly report on the most prominent human rights violations in Syria to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The SNHR has also been providing the Working Group on Enforced Disappearance with forms on a weekly basis for several years, which we also continue doing to date, as shown in the annex to their periodic report on Syria, in addition to submitting reports to a number of special rapporteurs, such as the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings and the Special Rapporteur on torture. The SNHR believes that all this is an integral part of its duty to defend human rights in Syria and to achieve the objectives of the motto it has always championed: "No justice without accountability".





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