

Press release

SNHR Signs an Agreement with the New York Times to Contribute to Numerous Investigations into Russian Forces' Violations in Syria

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday, November 29, 2019

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.

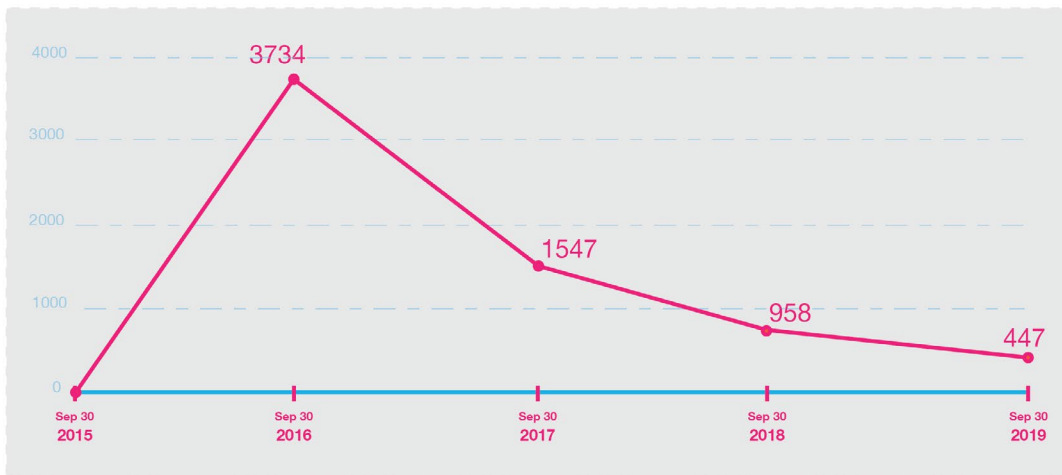
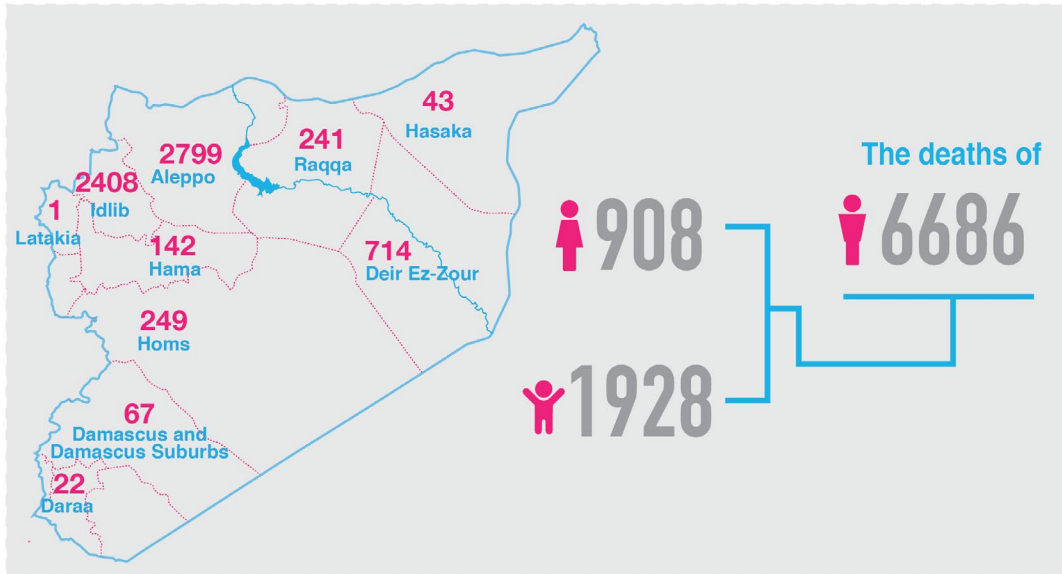


The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) and The New York Times Company, the legal representative of the New York Times, in October 2019 signed an agreement under which SNHR will share information and data it documented on violations by Russian forces in Syria; the New York Times is engaged in a number of focused investigations into attacks on civilian centers that have caused the death of a number of civilian victims, specifically carried out by Russian forces, sometimes by indiscriminate bombardment, and sometimes by deliberate, coordinates-based and intelligence-based bombing, which constitute war crimes.

SNHR's main objective of this expansive project is to prevent the Russian government from blaming full responsibility for the killings and bombing of civilian centers on the Syrian regime, and to make clear that Russian forces are actively and heavily involved in hundreds of violations, many of which constitute war crimes.

Since the Russian intervention in Syria began on September 30, 2015, the SNHR has dedicated a special database to recording and archiving violations in which we believe Russian forces are involved. We have documented hundreds of violations committed by Russian forces, as we explained in our [latest report](#), issued on the fourth anniversary of the Russian forces intervention in Syria, as summarized by the following infographic:





It supported the Syrian regime in at least **three chemical attacks**

Approximately **3.3 million** individuals have been forcibly displaced as a result of the military operations by Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces



September 30, 2015 - September 30, 2019



This agreement is the latest of a large number of agreements signed by the SNHR over the last eight years of its work, in order to share data and thus contribute to investigative processes, 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 most prominent of these agreements was with a number of UN bodies; the SNHR has also signed an agreement with the US government in order to contribute to its internal investigations with the purpose of proving the involvement of the perpetrators of crimes, so as to prevent their rehabilitation, and to ensure that they are placed on the lists of official sanctions; SNHR is also discussing similar agreements with other governments.

Since 2011, the SNHR has provided several United Nations bodies with data on incidents of violations, with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reliant on this data as one of the most prominent sources of information in all its analyses on Syria, including in calculating the death toll of victims in Syria, which continued until its last analysis issued in April 2014. The SNHR has also been actively cooperating with and supporting the work of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry for nearly eight years, with this cooperation continuing up to the present day. In addition, we submit a monthly report on the most notable human rights violations in Syria to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and to UNICEF. The SNHR has also provided the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances with forms on a weekly basis for several years, with this cooperation continuing to the present day, as is shown in the appendix of the working group's annual report on Syria, as well as providing data to a number of special rapporteurs such as the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on torture.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights will continue to build alliances in order to expose and detail the crimes and atrocities perpetrated by offenders in Syria, prevent their rehabilitation, and disclose the involvement of their allies, as well as to pave the way for their prosecution, and finally to provide the definitive true account of human rights violations in Syria and prevent the Russian, Iranian and the Syrian regime's research centers and organs from presenting their false narrative of events in Syria in order to preserve our history and collective memory, and to protect the dignity and rights of the victims.





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