

# On the Anniversary of the Ghouta Massacre, SNHR Outlines Data on 221 Incidents of Chemical Weapon Use by the Syrian Regime and ISIS

The Syrian Regime Has Carried out 216 Chemical Attacks, including 183 Attacks after the Attack on Ghouta

# 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.



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## I. Methodology and Outlining Data Documenting 221 Incident of Chemical Weapon Use in Detail

As five years have passed since the most heinous chemical attack the Syrian people has ever known, the pain, even after five years, is still deeply rooted not only because the criminal is still ruling Syria, but also because he followed his crime with hundreds of other attacks. We, at SNHR, have taken it upon ourselves to record all the incidents where we believe chemical weapons were used from the very first chemical attack against the residents of al Bayyada neighborhood, Homs city on December 23, 2012 until the most recent attack on Douma city, Damascus suburbs, on April 7, 2018, over the course of our accumulative work throughout the past years. SNHR's database contains the details of all the incidents we were able to document, such as the time and place of the attack, weather conditions, victim toll, both deaths and injuries, and the type of weapon used, as well as contacting eyewitnesses and survivors and their contact information, in addition to a large archive of pictures and videos that we have received, examined, and verified, and other evidences. We haven't been able, however, to conduct special analysis such as analyzing soil and blood samples while we managed to analyze the course of the attack and draw out an understanding of the form and pattern of the attack based on accounts, as well as pictures and videos. We have also charted out vertical and horizontal designs that show the locations where the shell landed and their impact, as well as other details. The following URL contains reports documenting 221 attacks using chemical weapons by the Syrian regime, who was responsible for 216 attacks, and ISIS, who was responsible for five attacks. These reports contain the all the details we mentioned.

<https://goo.gl/kesA6b>



**After 221 Chemical Attacks, it's Time to Correct the Travesties with Regard to the Chemical Weapons Matter in Syria**  
June 25, 2018

**Additional Evidences and Investigations Prove that the Syrian Regime was Probably Implicated in Attacking Douma City Using Chemical Weapons**  
A 10-page report by SNHR, April 2018

**The Syrian Regime Uses Chemical Weapons against the Residents of Douma City, 55 Individuals Killed and about 1,000 Injured**

**The First Anniversary of Khan Sheikhoun Chemical Attack**

**Syrian Regime Forces Use Chemical Weapons Again Despite Security Council Resolution 2401**

**Syrian Regime's Chemical Terrorism Hits Syrians for the 211th Time**  
February 13, 2018  
After Diminishing the American Red Line, the Syrian Regime Diminishes France's Initiative SNHR said in its report, which was released today, that the Syrian regime...

**Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect: UN Security Council Vetoes...**  
November 18, 2017  
By: Picture-alliance/Zuma Press. Yesterday, 16 November, for the tenth time since Syria's civil war began, Russia vetoed a draft resolution at the UN Security Council...

**Syrian Regime Has Carried Out 207 Attacks Using Chemical Weapons, 174...**  
August 21, 2017  
Attempting to Rehabilitate the Criminal is a Direct Involvement in the Crime Today. The Syrian people remembers one of the most atrocious incidents in modern...

**Following the Steps of the Syrian Government: ISIL Violates UN Security...**  
September 16, 2015  
130 violations by Syrian government forces and 2 violations by ISIL. Introduction: In this report we record, and for the first time, ISIL's use...

**Toxic Gases in Syria: Unlimited Security Council Breaches**  
August 18, 2015  
125 Breaches of UNSC Resolution 2118, including 56 Breaches of Resolution 2209. Introduction and Methodology: On 21 August 2013, the Syrian government committed a...

**Commemoration of Chemical War Victims in Syria**  
April 29, 2015  
A One Sided War The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued 21 reports about the use of poisoned gases in Syria, the first was...

**The Syrian Regime Has Used Chemical Weapons Five Times after Khan...**  
August 14, 2017  
All Attacks were in Damascus and Eastern Ghouta SNHR has released its 27th report on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The report documents...

**Russian Forces Have, most likely, Supported the Syrian Regime Forces in...**  
May 29, 2017  
"We were Gasping for Air" SNHR has released a report entitled: "Russian Forces Have, most likely, Supported the Syrian Regime Forces in Khan Sheikhoun Chemical..."

**Following Khan Sheikhoun, the Syrian Regime Carries Out yet another Chemical...**  
April 9, 2017  
The Syrian Regime Must be Stopped from Perpetrating any more Massacres with any kinds of Weapons No more than 72 hours have passed since the...

**Waiting for the Second Ghouta Attack**  
April 20, 2015  
87 violations of Security Council Resolution 2118 including 15 Violation of Resolution 2209 Introduction: Through many studies and reports issued by SNHR after Security Council resolutions...

**Inhalation of Death**  
March 22, 2015  
Government Forces' Use of Poison Gases and Disrespect for the Security Council Executive Summary: Since 23 December, 2012, when government forces targeted Al-Bayyada neighborhood in...

**Resolution 2118 was violated 71 Times at Least**  
March 7, 2015  
"The Implementation of Resolutions is more important than Adopting it" Over the course of our work at SNHR in documenting the Syrian government's violations of...

**No less than Nine Chemical Attacks since the Beginning of 2017**  
April 5, 2017  
The Syrian Regime has Breached Security Council Resolutions 167 Times in its 4th report which was published on October 21, 2016, the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative...

**Despite the U.N. Confirming its Responsibility, the Syrian Regime Uses Chemical...**  
February 20, 2017  
No less than 20 Chemical Attacks after the New Joint Investigative Mechanism's Report, and 158 Breaches of Security Council Resolution 2118 SNHR Calls for the...

**The Syrian Regime Uses Chemical Weapons again in Hama Governorate**  
October 9, 2016  
138 Uses of Chemical Attacks after Security Council Resolution 2118 On Saturday 1 October 2016 at approximately 19:30, a government forces helicopter dropped two barrel...

**50 Documented Violations of the UN Security Council Resolution 2118 through...**  
November 10, 2014  
What is Behind the Red Line? First: abstract In its continuous work on documenting Syrian regime's violations of UN Security Council Resolution 2118 - adopted...

**There Is No Red Line**  
August 7, 2014  
The Syrian government has signed on 14 September, 2013 the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty. On 28 September, 2013 the Resolution 2118 was issued which...

**The Syrian Regime Violated Resolution 2118**  
June 15, 2014  
The Syrian government has signed the CWC on 14 September, 2013. On 28 September, 2013, the Security Council passed Resolution 2118 which includes in...

**The Syrian Regime Uses Chemical Weapons again and Insults the Security...**  
September 8, 2016  
137 Uses of Chemical Weapons after Security Council Resolution 2118 On Monday 6 September 2016 around 1:30 PM, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb...

**139 Chemical attacks in Syria after Security Council Resolution 2118**  
August 21, 2016  
139 Violations of the Security Council Resolution and the Criminal is still in Power The report: "139 Violations of the Security Council Resolution and the..."

**The Syrian Regime Uses Toxic Gases Again and Violates UNSC Resolutions...**  
February 16, 2016  
"Russia's Inadequate Assurance" SNHR issued its 24th documentation report about the use of chemical gases in Syria by government forces mainly. The report stated that...

**The Syrian Government and poison gas attacks from 2012 until 2014**  
April 30, 2014  
SNHR's reports and researches team has documented the use of poison gases by the government forces in 28 different occasions before the Eastern and...

**Government Forces Use Strange Kinds of Poisonous Gases The Committee on...**  
April 10, 2014  
Since our team wasn't able to visit the location of the incident and considering the network's limited capacities and present circumstances, we used in...

**After joining chemical weapon convention in September 2013, Syrian Government use...**  
January 17, 2014  
The city is located in Damascus countryside about 8 kilometers west of Damascus. It is too near of Maza Damascene neighborhood and Moz'zamia city...

**Syrian regime shelled again the capital Damascus with chemical weapons**  
August 28, 2013  
Last report issued by SNHR about using chemical weapon by Syrian regime in 5/8/2013, we documented 28 attacks led to 83 victims, and almost...

**The second largest chemical weapons attack**  
August 26, 2013  
Last report issued by SNHR about using chemical weapon by Syrian regime in 5/8/2013, we documented 28 attacks led to 83 victims, and almost...

**Comprehensive report of using chemical weapons by Syrian government's 28 times...**  
August 5, 2013  
Syrian Network for Human Rights' team conducted separate investigation for each case of using chemical weapons by Syrian Armed Forces inside Syrian territories. The team...

**Comprehensive report of using chemical weapons by Syrian governments 25...**  
July 7, 2013  
Syrian Network for Human Rights' team conducted separate investigation for each case of using chemical weapons by Syrian Armed Forces inside Syrian territories. The team...

**A Comprehensive Report on the Use of Chemical Weapons by the...**  
June 18, 2013  
18 Times in Five Syrian Governorates Production and use of chemical and biological weapons, in all of its forms and kinds, are prohibited according to...

**Using Chemical Weapons by Syrian Government's 14 Times in 5 Provinces**  
June 15, 2013  
Syrian Network for Human Rights' team conducted separate investigation for each case of using chemical weapons by Syrian Armed Forces inside Syrian territories. The team...

**Comprehensive Report on Syrian Regime Use of Chemical Weapons by SNHR...**  
May 14, 2013  
Syrian Network for Human Rights' team conducted separate investigation for each case of using chemical weapons by Syrian Armed Forces inside Syrian territories. The team...



## II. The Syrian Regime's Use of Chemical Weapons in light of Security Council Resolutions

SNHR has documented no less than 216 attacks carried out by the Syrian regime from the first documented use of chemical weapons in Syria on December 23, 2012, until August 21, 2018. These attacks are distributed in light of Security Council Resolutions on chemical weapons as follows:

1. Before Security Council Resolution 2118, adopted on September 27, 2013: 33 attacks
2. After Security Council Resolution 2118, adopted on September 27, 2013 until August 21, 2018: 183 attacks
3. After Security Council Resolution 2209, adopted on March 6, 2015: 114 attacks
4. After Security Council Resolution 2235, adopted on August 7, 2015, which established the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM): 58 attacks

Those attacks resulted in the killing of no less than 1,461 individuals, recorded by name and details in our lists. Death toll is distributed as follows:

- 1,397 civilians, including 185 children and 252 women (adult female)
- 57 armed opposition fighters
- Seven captives from Syrian regime forces who were being kept at an opposition prison.

In addition, no less than 9,753 individuals were injured.





# Use of chemical weapons in Syria on the 5th anniversary of the Ghouta Attack

The Syrian regime carried out

# 216

attacks using chemical weapons from its first documented use on December 23, 2012 until August 21, 2018



33

Before

Security Council Resolution 2118, adopted on September 27, 2013

183

After

No less than

# 1461

individuals

including

185  children

and

252  women (adult female)

were killed



August 21, 2013

the largest chemical attack in the two, eastern and western, Ghoutas of Damascus



1127

individuals

including

 201

 107

The attack resulted in the death of

91

civilians

including

 23

 32

April 4, 2017

Khan Sheikhoun Chemical Attack



April 7, 2018

Douma Chemical Attack



41

civilians

including

 15

 12

The attack resulted in the death of

As documented by SNHR

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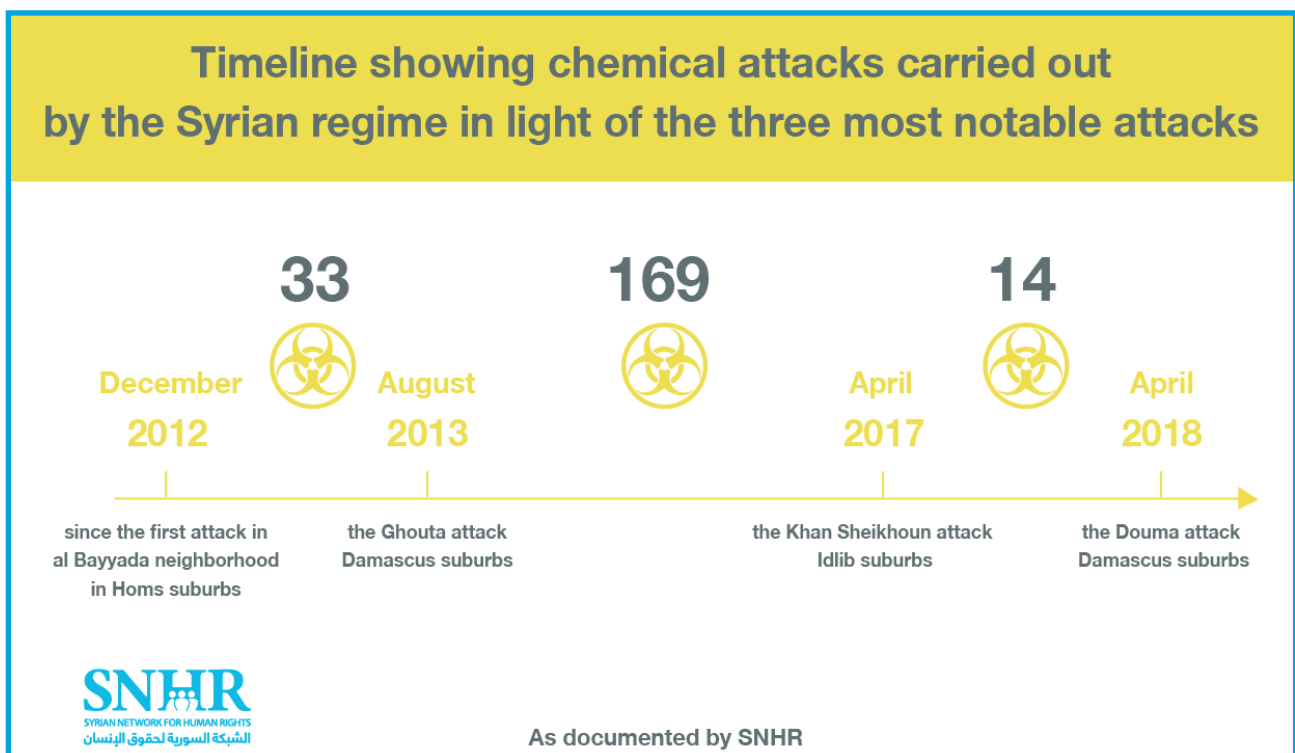


As an inevitable outcome of the sense of immunity afforded by the international community's leniency towards the Syrian regime's violations, the Syrian regime carried out its second-largest chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate nearly three years after the Ghouta attack in yet another failure by the international community to commit to implementing its resolutions. The US military<sup>1</sup> strike that targeted al Shayrat Airbase<sup>2</sup> wasn't enough to deter the Syrian regime from repeating its chemical attacks on many occasions, the most recent of which was the two attacks on Douma in April 2018, which were also followed by a shy American-French-British response that was limited to targeting facilities used to develop the Syrian regime's chemical program even though those facilities should have been out of order a long time ago since the Syrian regime has, supposedly, surrendered its chemical stockpile as per Resolution 2118.

According to SNHR's database, the Syrian regime has carried out

- 169 chemical attacks between the Ghouta attack, Damascus suburbs governorate, in August 2013 and the attack on Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib governorate, in April 2017
- 14 chemical attacks between the attack on Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib governorate, April 2017, and the two attacks on Douma city, Damascus suburbs governorate, in April 2018.

These figures raise doubts over the credibility of the Syrian regime's claims that it had surrendered its chemical stockpile. The OPCW has noted in its [most recent report](#) that the Syrian regime's statements on chemical weapons are still incomplete and contain a number of inconsistencies and irregularities.



<sup>1</sup> On Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 04:00 Damascus time

<sup>2</sup> A Syrian regime military airbase located in eastern suburbs Homs suburbs. It was the airbase from which the warplanes that carried out Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack on April 4, 2017, took off



### III. The Incident of Chemical Weapon Use against Civilians in Ghouta may Have Taken the Form of Extermination

On the anniversary of the Ghouta massacre, it is important that SNHR stresses some important points that we have noted in some of our reports, particularly what the Syrian regime planned in its vicious attack on Ghouta. We are going to include an account for one of the survivors – SNHR field-researcher Dani Qappani. It is always worth reminding the international community that they are dealing with one of the most brutal and bloodthirsty regimes who is willing to carry out the largest exterminations against residents. Syrian regime forces have fired missiles loaded with poison gases on populated residential areas after midnight, a time when residents are asleep which minimizes survival chances and results in the death, and extermination, of as many residents as possible. Temperature estimations indicated low temperatures on the night of August 21, 2013, that averaged between 02:00 and 05:00 which means that air will be still, so heavy poison gases won't scatter away and remain close to the ground, also leading to the death of as many residents as possible. We believe that those intentions were deliberate and planned in this specific manner. The Syrian regime aimed to create a shocking sense of extermination in order to submit the Syrian people into surrendering once and for all so they chose to go back to the degrading family rule for the rest of their days.

For those reasons, and others such as the hefty number of missiles used, around 13 missiles, to bomb Eastern Ghouta and Western Ghouta (Mu'damiyet al Sham) which were launched from special launchers, as well as the large amounts of sarin used. All of this resulted in this appalling number of deaths and injuries, as we have recorded with names and details, that no less than 1,127 individuals were killed, including 107 children and 201 women (adult female), while about 5,935 were injured.

Dani Qappani, member of SNHR in Damascus suburbs governorate, was in Mu'damiyet al Sham at the time of the attack in August 2013, **“al Mu'damiya town was attack three hours after the towns of Eastern Ghouta were targeted with poison gases. It was near- ing 05:30 when I started hearing a whistle-like sound. I was able to identify the source of the sound, which was heard for a second time, from the rooftop of the building I was in. It was coming from the direction of Mount Qasioun.”**

**“We heard the sound for a third time, but there was no explosion sounds afterwards as usual in the case of the missiles used by the Syrian regime. A few minutes later, the whole city started weeping and screaming for help.”**



**“Three missiles targeted the city. The first one landed on al Rawda Mosque as the worshippers were at al Fajr Prayer. The second one was near the square by the café, while the third one landed near the town hall building. This was one of the most crowded areas.”**

**“I headed for the makeshift hospital. As I neared the hospital, I was increasingly feeling tired and having troubles seeing, as well as breathing difficulties. The effects of the gas were starting to show. At the hospital, the scene was indescribable. Naked bodies being sprayed with water and foam is coming out of their mouths. Doctors and paramedics were in complete shock. They only had water and some bronchodilators to treat hundreds of cases.”**

**“Whoever remained alive had to come and help. They had to come and try to save lives. I started by trying to resuscitate an elder the foam had covered his mouth. I pressed on his chest to resuscitate his heart but it was to no avail. There was a little girl who was a relative of mine next to me and I tried to resuscitate her but I couldn’t either. At this point the symptoms were more visible on me. I had troubles breathing and my vision was seriously blurred. I washed my face with water and doctors injected me with atropine.”** Dani added that the number of victims and injured were more than the hospital’s capacity, which is why paramedics started to get the injured out onto the streets to breathe fresh air outside the hospital’s rooms, but a missile bombing started targeting the vicinity of the hospital, **“Two hours after the attack, a new concussions of rocket and artillery attacks and airstrikes started. I counted 50 airstrikes on multiple areas in the city including the vicinity of the makeshift hospital. We had to transfer the injured to the nearby houses. Syrian regime forces were trying to storm the city, and the raids started from the side of Al Arba’in Highway which is near the al Ferqa al Rabe’a (4th Division) headquarters.”**

Dani’s two siblings helped aiding the wounded. They were also injured after inhaling gases from the clothes of the injured, **“My family told me that both my brothers were injured. My mother told me they were laying idly on the ground. I headed home under the bombing with atropine shots. My heart broke looking at them. Their eyes were frozen and the pupils were extremely constriction.”**

Dani told us that he counted no less than 65 deaths, while 1,500 at least were injured. He noted that a number of the injured had their pulse rate drop to the point that paramedics thought they had died, **“There were nine of my relatives whom we thought that we lost. They regained consciousnesses a few hours after the attack. The effects of the injuries remained on them for two weeks. It has been five years since the attack, yet our hearts are still bleeding from that day.”**





#### **IV. Conclusions and Recommendations, the Victims are still Waiting for the Criminal to be Held Accountable, A Demand that Will Stand no Matter How Much Time Passes**

On June 28, 2018, the OPCW member states meeting at the Hague agreed to give the organization the authority to identify the perpetrators of chemical attacks in Syria after the OPCW's mandate was limited to determining whether there have been chemical attacks or not without pinpointing responsibility. This decision comes as a pivotal step towards holding the criminals who used chemical gases against civilians accountable, especially after Russia had ended the mandate of the JIM on November 17, 2017, as it was the one charged with this task.

The Syrian regime has, through the use of chemical weapons, violated the customary international humanitarian law, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons regardless of the circumstances. Secondly, the Syrian regime has, beyond any doubt, violated the CWC, to which the Syrian government had acceded in September 2013. The CWC prohibits the use of poison gases and provides for their destruction. Thirdly, the Syrian regime has violated all relevant Security Council Resolutions – particularly 2118, in 2013, 2209, in 2015, and 2235, in 2015. Also, the use of chemical weapons constitutes a war crime according to the International Criminal Court's Rome Statute. The Syrian regime's systematic and widespread use of chemical weapons has reached a point where it constitutes crimes against humanity. In addition, the Russian government has ratified the CWC which strictly prohibits any form of assistance or encouragement on the contribution to any prohibited activity by any member state. However, a number of evidences suggest that Russian forces were involved in providing a preliminary and subsequent assistance to Syrian regime forces in a number of attacks. Further, Russia has used 12 vetoes during the Syrian crisis in favor of the Syrian regime, including six vetoes on the chemical weapons issue in particular which led to the Security Council's complete and utter failure in protecting the international law and the international order.

The international community should form a humanitarian, civilized alliance that aims to protect the Syrian civilians from chemical weapons and all the patterns of killing that they have experienced over the course of the last eight years. Also, victims should be compensated, and the most pressing compensation process is holding the Syrian regime accountable for the crimes against humanity it committed against the Syrian people. Only then, this alliance can lead a political process that aims to achieve a fair stability.





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