

The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in August 2019

The Displacement of Approximately 100,000 More Civilians from Northeastern Syria in August



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Tuesday, September 3, 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.

Contents

- I. Introduction and Methodology
- II. August Outline
- III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in August
- IV. Attachments
- V. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Introduction and Methodology

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture and enforced disappearances are the violations most frequently perpetrated against Syrian citizens. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, also violating the rights of Syrian citizens. The SNHR has continued to document every incident that its team members are able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our publication of periodic monthly reports recording and highlighting the continued suffering of the Syrian people, which subsequently grew to eight reports on different issues issued at the beginning of each month. In the course of our work, SNHR has compiled a massive database cataloguing hundreds of thousands of incidents, each of which involves a pattern of violations that we have been able to document.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in August 2019, and catalogues the record of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the main parties to the conflict during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights indiscriminate attacks and the use of outlawed weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, incendiary weapons) and attacks on civilian objects.



The report also includes documentation of violations distributed according to the perpetrator parties responsible for each one. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for specific attacks to one particular party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and International Coalition forces, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we are able to likely establish which one of the parties was likely responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of relations with various sources that have been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly, although this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks involved, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources to carry out this work. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death.

SNHR also analyzes videos and photographs that our team has documented, or which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, sites of attacks, and the bodies of the deceased victims and the injured, the scale of destruction, and the remnants of the incendiary and cluster munitions and other munitions used, whilst other photos may show victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential



electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about our methodology. ¹

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

II. August Outline

Since August 5, following the end of the ceasefire announced by the Syrian regime on August 2, there has been an unprecedented increase in the frequency of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces' bombardment on the fourth de-escalation zone, which resulted in the alliance forces taking control of areas larger than those they previously took control of since the start of their military campaign on the area on April 26, 2019, as well as causing the displacement of at least 100,000 more civilians towards the far north of Syria.

On August 30, the Russian regime declared a full ceasefire starting at 6 am the following day (Damascus time), but it was not complied with, with SNHR documenting at least six breaches on the first day of the agreement's coming into force.

After the two agreements entered into force, we monitored immediate an reverse in displacement due to the dreadful living conditions of IDPs in the places where they had been displaced to however, they were then displaced yet again due to renewed shelling on their areas when the ceasefire agreement ceased.

Assassinations and bombings have also continued to result in civilian deaths in most of the areas outside the control of Syrian Regime forces. In August, we recorded an increase in the rates of these in eastern Syria, with looting and theft spreading in all areas under the control of Syrian Regime forces. For the second consecutive month, there was also an increase in the death rates due to drowning in bodies of water due to high temperatures and lack of sanitary facilities in many areas.



In August, Syrian Regime forces continued to persecute, arrest and prosecute people in the areas that had signed settlement agreements with the Syrian Regime. These arrests, which have been concentrated in Douma city in Damascus Suburbs governorate, have also targeted IDPs and returning refugees. We issued [a report](#) on the threat posed by the Syrian regime to returning refugees, and the most notable documented violations in this regard. Syrian Democratic Forces also continued their policy of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance of political activists and members of civil society organizations opposing their policies, with these arrests concentrated in Raqqa governorate. August also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and factions of the Armed Opposition carrying out arrests targeting critics of their respective policies in areas under their control in Idlib governorate and the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

Also in August, we recorded the Syrian-Russian alliance forces continuing to lead all the other parties to the conflict in terms of attacks documented this month on vital civilian facilities, being responsible for 54 of 62 incidents, all of which took place in the fourth de-escalation zone. We also recorded repeated incidents of bombardment by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on facilities even after these had already been put out of service. The vital civilian facilities most frequently targeted for attack in August were places of worship, on which we documented 28 attacks, followed by schools with ten attacks, and medical facilities with five attacks.

August also saw a marked decrease in terms of the use of cluster munitions and incendiary weapons in attacks that we were able to document compared to the previous month, July. Meanwhile, the Syrian regime continued to use nail-filled missiles on the fourth de-escalation zone, injuring many civilians.

In August, we recorded the highest level since the beginning of 2019 in terms of the use of barrel bombs, which became a standard strategic weapon of the Syrian regime. We have repeatedly recorded the Syrian regime using barrel bombs in the context of military ground advances, and have issued [a report](#) on the most notable types of weapons used by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in their recent military campaign in northwestern Syria.

The residents of both regular and randomly constructed camps in north-western Syria continue to suffer from terrible living conditions due to a poor response by international humanitarian organizations. Al Hawl Camp, located southeast of Hasaka city, which is the largest such camp in the eastern region, holding some 70,000 people, mostly women and children, continues to suffer from dreadful humanitarian conditions, and almost daily arrests by members of the Syrian Democratic Forces who control the camp.



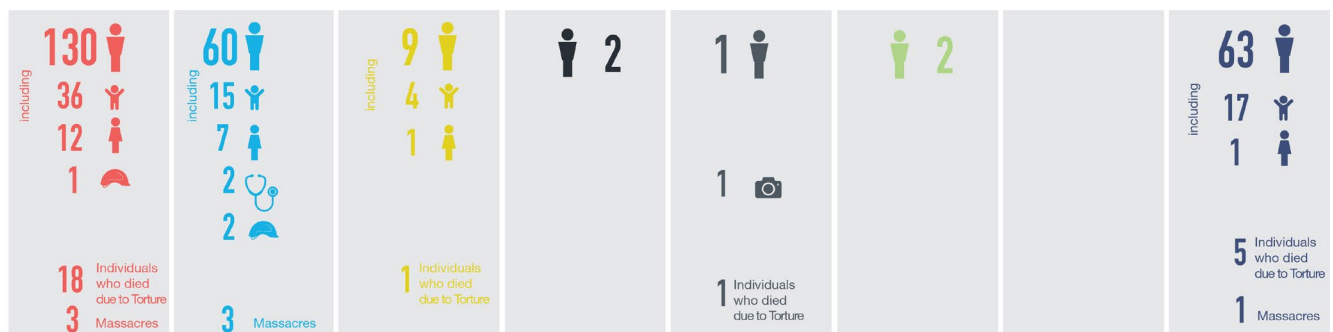
III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in August

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in August 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.

Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in August 2019

| Syrian Regime forces | Russian forces | SDF (mainly PYD) | Extremist Islamist groups ISIS | Hay'at Tahrir al Sham | Factions of the Armed Opposition | International Coalition forces | Other parties |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
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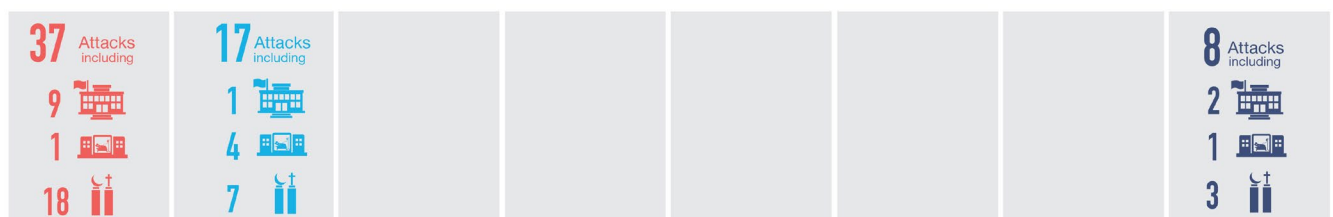
Extrajudicial Killing



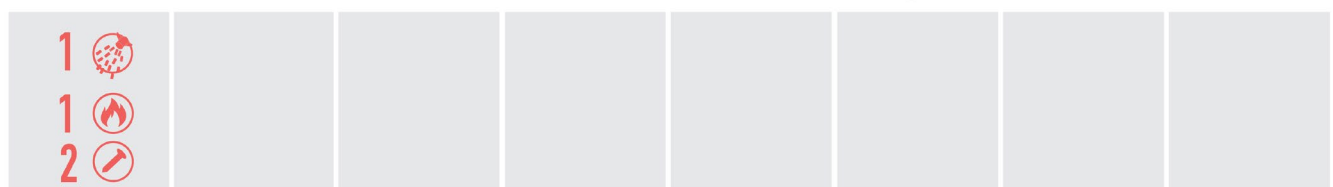
Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



Record of Indiscriminate Attacks and Attacks Using Outlawed Weapons



At least 1167 barrel bombs were dropped by the Syrian Regime air force, resulting in the deaths of 22 civilians, including 3 children and 3 women (adult female)



As documented by SNHR

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A. Extrajudicial killing:

In August 2019, SNHR documented the deaths of 267 civilians, including 72 children and 21 women (adult female), including two medical personnel, one media worker, and three Civil Defense personnel, with the highest rate of killings being carried out at the hands of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces. We also documented the deaths of 25 individuals due to torture, and at least seven massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in August at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**

130 civilians, including 36 children and 12 women.

- **Russian forces:** 60 civilians, including 15 children and seven women.

- **Extremist Islamist groups:** Three civilians, divided between:

- o ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): Two

- o Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): One

- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** Two

- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** Nine civilians, including four children and one woman.

- **Other parties:** 63 civilians, including 17 children and one woman.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

SNHR documented in August 2019 at least 569 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 30 children and 25 women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Damascus Suburbs governorate, followed by Damascus governorate then Aleppo governorate. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in August 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

These arrests are distributed according to the main perpetrator parties, as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 269, including nine children and 11 women.

- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 23, all at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 48, including two children and two women.

- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 229, including 19 children and 12 women.



C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented in August at least 62 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, 54 of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian-Russian alliance forces, all in the fourth de-escalation zone.

Among these attacks, 12 were on schools, six were on medical facilities and 28 others were on places of worship.

These attacks are distributed according to the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 37
- **Russian forces:** 17
- **Other parties:** Eight

The record of attacks documented in August on vital civilian facilities is distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

| Perpetrator Party | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Attacked Facility | Syrian Regime Forces | Russian Forces | Other Parties |
| Places of Worship | | | |
| Mosques | 18 | 7 | 3 |
| Vital Educational Facilities | | | |
| Schools | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| Nurseries | 1 | - | - |
| Vital Medical Facilities | | | |
| Medical Facilities | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Ambulances | - | 1 | - |
| Vital Cultural Facilities | | | |
| Archeological sites | - | 1 | - |
| Communal Facilities | | | |
| Markets | 3 | - | 1 |
| Infrastructure | | | |
| Civil Defense centers | 2 | 2 | - |
| Water facilities and related resources | 1 | - | - |
| Official Headquarters | 1 | - | 1 |
| Bakeries | 1 | - | - |
| Refugee Camps | | | |
| Refugee camps | - | 1 | - |
| Total | 37 | 17 | 8 |

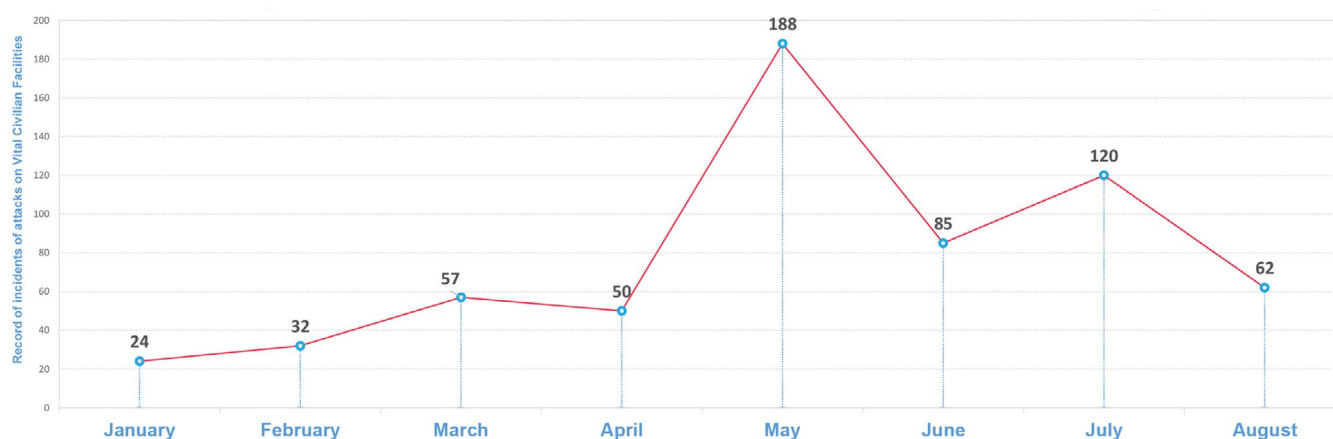


Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented since the start of 2019 up to the start of September of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 618 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



At least 618 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria in 2019

From January to September



As documented by SNHR

The previous chart shows that May saw the highest number of incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities. We note that the military escalation by Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the fourth de-escalation zone began on April 26, 2019.

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities that were documented in August:

On Thursday, August 1, 2019, fixed-wing (MiG-23) Syrian regime warplanes, which took off from Hama Airbase at around 10:30, fired a missile at the Martyr Ahmad al Alloush School known as al Reifiya School in Kafranbel city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the [school building](#), as well as [causing moderate material damage](#) to [its furniture](#). Kafranbel city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Destruction caused by an air attack by the Syrian regime on the Martyr Ahmad al Alloush School in Kafranbel city, Idlib – August 1, 2019

On Monday, August 5, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes launched two consecutive raids using machineguns on a Civil Defense rescue vehicle in Morek town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, igniting fire in the vehicle, as well as causing significant [material damage](#) to it, putting it out of service. Morek town, which was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident, is under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the preparation of the report.



The burning of a Civil Defense rescue vehicle as a result of an air attack by the Syrian regime on Morek town, Hama – August 5, 2019



On Wednesday, August 7, 2019, a car bomb exploded near the [Khawla Bint al Azwar High School](#) in al Nihya Street in the middle of al Qahtaniya town, which is administratively a part of al Qameshli city, in the northeastern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, resulting in casualties, in addition to causing moderate material damage to the school's building. We were unable to identify the responsible party up to the time of preparing this report, given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of such bombings. The town was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of missiles at an emergency medical point belonging to the Hama Ambulatory system- supported by Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)- in Bseqa village in the northwest of Ma'aret Harma village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bombardment resulted in the deaths of two medical personnel, and caused significant destruction of the facility and [an ambulance belonging to it](#) which was nearby at the time. Bseqa village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), which supported the medical facility, issued [a statement](#) condemning the attack on it.



Destruction of an ambulance belonging to a medical point caused by an air attack by forces we believe were Russian on Bseqa village, Idlib – August 14, 2019



On Friday, August 16, 2019, at around 19:20, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, took off from Hmeimim Airbase in the suburbs of Latakia governorate before firing a number of missiles at al Rahma IDPs residential village, consisted of buildings for IDPs run by al Wafaa Association for Relief and Development, to the east of Hass village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in a massacre, in addition to causing fires and [extensive destruction](#) of the [residential buildings](#) housing IDPs. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at a Civil Defense fire truck from the Ma'aret al Numan Center, while its crew were extinguishing fires that broke out due to a previous bombing by the same warplanes to the south of Ma'aret al Numan city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. As a result, the fire truck structure [was burned](#), in addition to [causing severe material damage](#) to it, putting it [out of service](#). Ma'aret al Numan city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damage caused to a Civil Defense fire truck by an air attack by forces we believe were Russian on Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib – August 17, 2019



On Sunday, August 18, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a missile at the Omar Bin Abdul Aziz Mosque in al Deir al Sharqi village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the mosque's building](#), as well as causing moderate material damage to its furniture. Al Deir al Sharqi was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Monday, August 19, 2019, unidentified gunmen used IEDs to blow up al Salam Field Hospital in al Sheikh Hamad village, which is administratively a part of Markada town in the southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, completely destroying the hospital building and putting it out of service. We were unable to identify the responsible party up to the time of preparing this report, given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of such bombings. Al Sheikh Hamad village was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

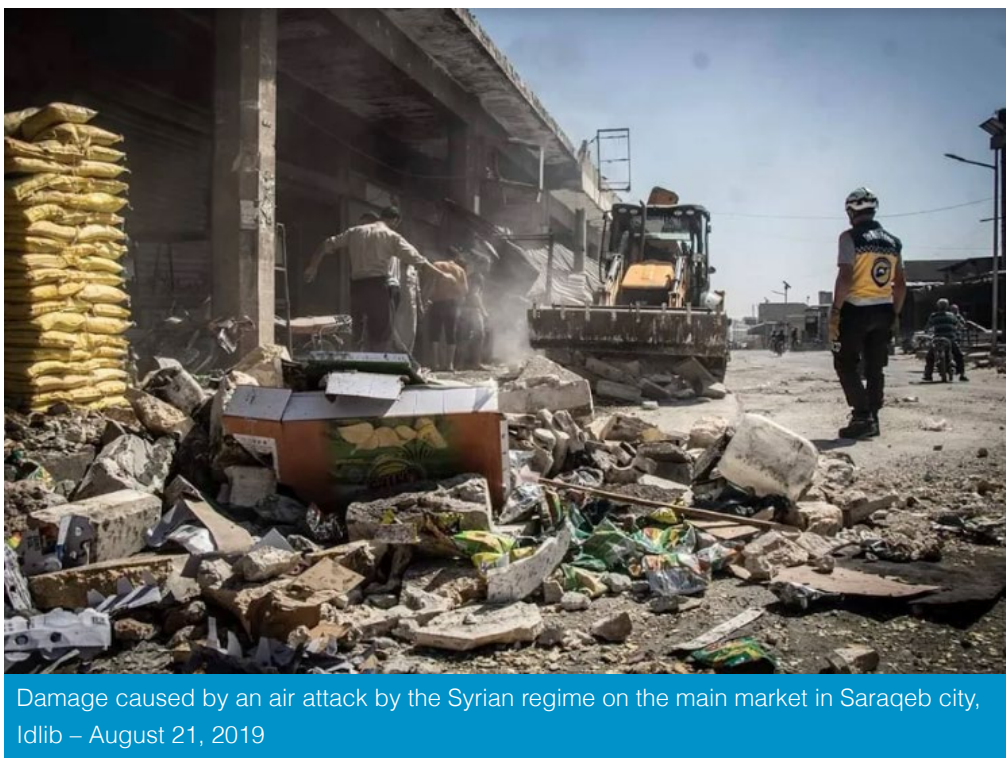


On Wednesday, August 21, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of missiles near al Rahma Surgical Hospital, established in a fortified location to the east of Talmennes town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles fell 50 meters from the hospital. A few minutes later, the same warplanes returned and repeated their bombardment, using a missile that hit the hospital building directly, resulting in [casualties](#), in addition to [causing significant destruction to the hospital's building, and inflicting severe material damage](#) to the hospital's furniture. Talmennes town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





On Wednesday, August 21, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at the main market in Saraqeb city in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, partially destroying a number of shops, and causing [moderate material](#) damage to the [market's facilities](#). Saraqeb city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Monday, August 26, 2019, fixed-wing (Su-22) Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at al Rahman Mosque in al Fattira village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the mosque building](#), and causing [moderate material](#) damage to its furniture. Al Fattira village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Monday, August 26, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at the Ihsem Middle School for Girls in Ihsem town in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying the school building](#), and [causing significant](#) material damage to its furniture. Ihsem town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



D. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:

SNHR documented at least one cluster munitions attack in August carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Idlib governorate.

We also recorded at least one incendiary weapons attack in August carried out by Syrian Regime forces using a missile launcher that targeted a civilian area away from frontlines.



The Syrian Regime's air force, including fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, also dropped at least 1,167 barrel bombs on the governorates of Idlib, Hama and Latakia during August, distributed as follows:

- Hama governorate: 448

- Idlib governorate: 622

- Latakia governorate: 97

These attacks resulted in the deaths of 22 civilians, including three children and three women, as well as damaging at least nine vital civilian facilities, including three schools and six places of worship.

We also documented Syrian Regime forces using nail-filled missiles in at least two attacks, resulting in the injury of many civilians.

The following are the most notable indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons that we were able to document in August:

On Monday, August 5, 2019, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Morek town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate. One of the barrel bombs fell on a house, resulting in the [deaths of](#) four civilians, [most of whom](#) were members of the same family. We note that the victims had earlier returned from their places of displacement to their hometown after the ceasefire agreement announced by the Russian regime took effect on August 2, 2019. Morek town, which was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident, is under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of preparing this report.

On, Monday, August 12, 2019, fixed-wing (L-39) Syrian regime warplanes launched an air raid using heavy machine guns and nail missiles targeting Heesh village in the southern suburbs of Idlib, [injuring](#) a number of civilians, [including a child](#). The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the attack.





Nail missiles used by Syrian Regime forces in an air attack on Heesh village, Idlib – August 12, 2019

On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired two RBK250-275 bombs loaded with AO-1 SCh [cluster munitions targeting](#) Ma'aret al Numan city in the southern suburbs of Idlib. The bombardment caused damage to a number of properties. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



AO-1 SCh cluster munition used by Syrian regime forces in an air attack on Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib – August 14, 2019



On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Jarjanaz town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Some of these barrel bombs fell on [al Da'wa Mosque](#), [significantly destroying the mosque building](#), and causing severe material damage to its furniture. Other barrel bombs fell near [al Rawda Mosque](#), causing [moderate material damage](#) to its building and furniture. Jarjanaz town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to fire a number of missiles targeting the outskirts of Bdama town in western suburbs of Idlib, some of which were loaded with incendiary materials, [causing fires in agricultural lands](#). The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the attack.



Photo showing an unexploded barrel bomb, containing explosive hoses, dropped by Syrian regime helicopter on Jarjanaz town, Idlib – August 20, 2019

IV. Attachments

[267 Civilians, including One Media Worker and Five Medical and Civil Defense Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in August 2019](#)

[At least 569 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in August 2019, including 362 cases of enforced disappearance](#)



V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime, or by Russian or International Coalition forces prior to any attack in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the alliance of International Coalition forces and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.



- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:

Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing and by lifting sieges, as well as by increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.



- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League’s plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan’s plan have proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

OHCHR

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.
- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

The United Nations special envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia’s attempts to divert and distort it, and empower the Constitutional Commission prior to the establishment of a transitional governing body.



The Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Reveal the fate of some 82,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

The Russian regime

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the safe disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 82,000 people forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.

The Coalition (international coalition forces and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those affected.



- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that the SDF violates the rules of international humanitarian law can be seen as a contribution to these violations.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

Armed Opposition factions

- Armed Opposition factions must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Pledge to cease any arbitrary arrests, and investigate incidents that have resulted in violations of international humanitarian law.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

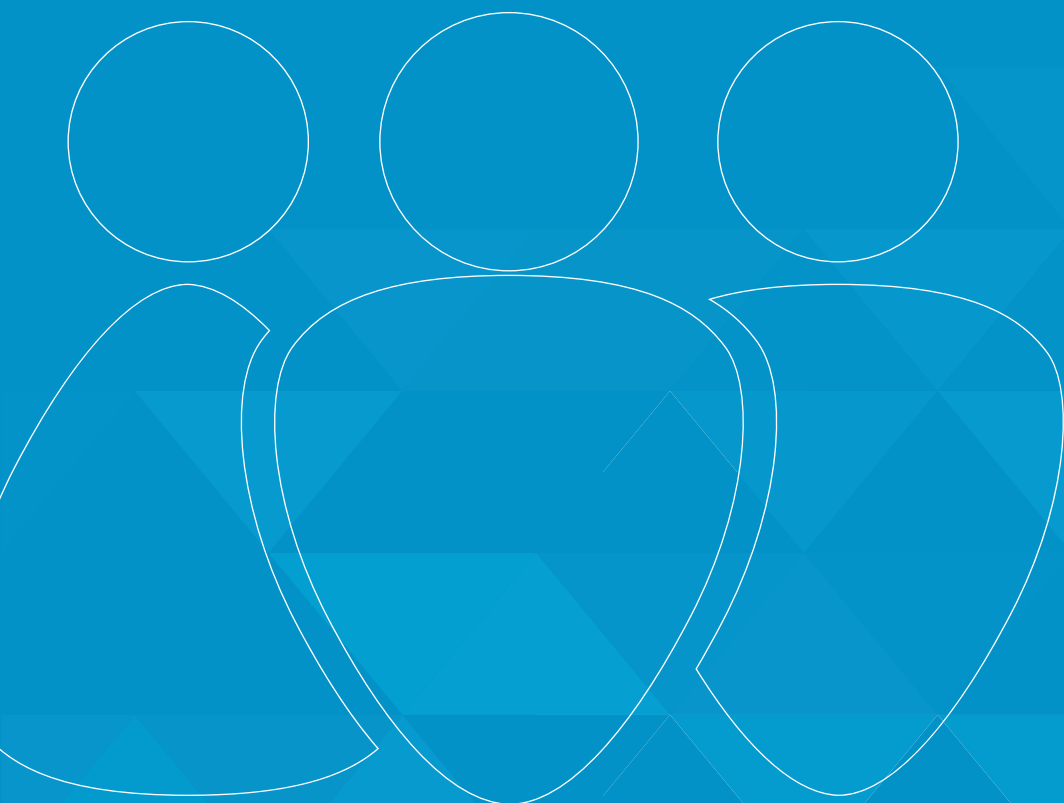
Humanitarian Organizations:

Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.

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We thank all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.





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