

The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in February 2019



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, March 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.

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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 at the top of the list of violations suffered by the 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 continued to document every incident that its team members were able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our issuance 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 February 2019, and catalogues the record of civilian victims who were killed by the main parties to the conflict during this month, 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 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 analyzed 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 "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf> accessed date: 28 February 2019



This report contains one account that we've collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, none of which are cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, providing assurances that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

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. February Outline

February saw a military escalation against the fourth de-escalation zone, where Syrian Regime ground forces bombed civilian areas and the regime also used its air force to bomb some areas for the first time since the Sochi Agreement came into effect on September 17, 2018. These attacks left dozens of civilians dead and inflicted several massacres, as well as displacing hundreds of civilians in the northern and western suburbs of Hama and the southern and north-eastern suburbs of Idlib.

We observed a decrease in the frequency of the military operations launched by Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces with air support from the International Coalition forces under the pretext of eliminating ISIS in al Baghouz town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. Also, we recorded that hundreds of civilians and dozens of families belonging to elements of ISIS left al Baghouz, heading to areas under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces.

Forced displacements in northern and eastern Syria caused a humanitarian crisis due to an increase in the number of IDPs, both to formal camps or to more secure agricultural areas, as relief organizations were unable to cover their needs.

We observed that Syrian Regime forces continued with their campaigns of persecution and arrest of people whose security situations had previously been settled with Syrian Regime forces, with the regime also releasing a number of detainees whose sentences had expired or who were included in an exchange agreement between the regime and the Free National Army.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces carried out arrests targeting IDPs residing in areas under their control, mainly the inhabitants of refugee camps. We recorded several incidents where Syrian Democratic Forces arrested many members of the same family.



During the same period, the arrests by factions of the Armed Opposition were concentrated in Afrin area in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, targeting mainly civilian residents and displaced persons.

We also observed that Hay'at Tahrir al Sham continued with their campaigns of persecution and arrest of members of the Armed Opposition factions and activists in civil society organizations and local councils.

According to our monitoring and documentation, the attacks on vital civilian facilities documented last month were concentrated in the fourth de-escalation zone, where bombings carried out by Syrian Regime forces inflicted at least 19 attacks on vital civilian facilities, seven of them on schools, and six on mosques. The security chaos taking place in the north of Syria has been the cause of many attacks carried out by unknown gunmen or caused by bombings by thus far unidentified perpetrators.

We also recorded in February the use of cluster munitions by Syrian Regime forces several times in Idlib governorate for the first time since the Sochi Agreement entered into force.

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

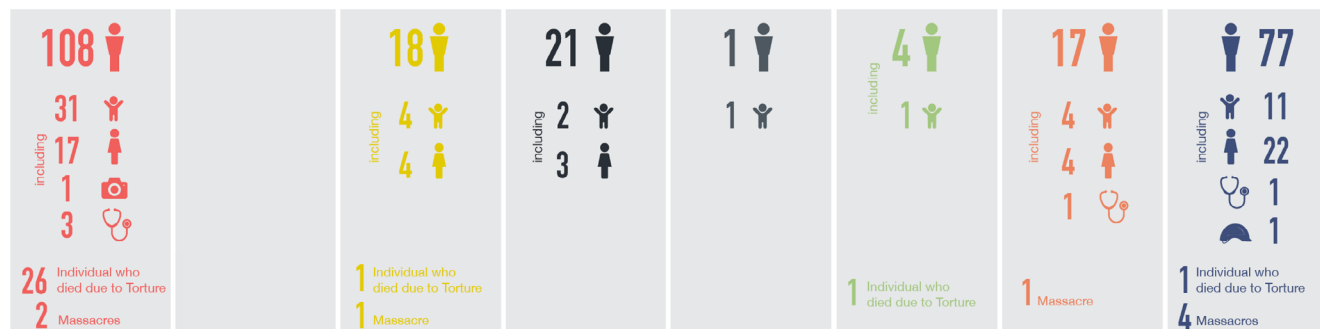
This report reviews the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in February 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.



Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in February 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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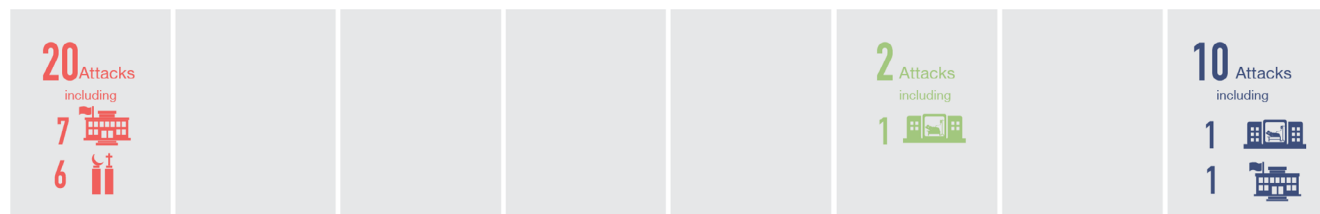
Extrajudicial Killing



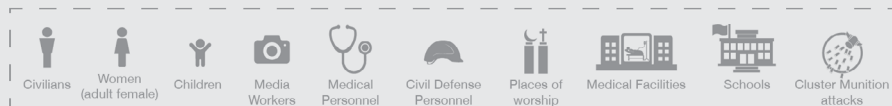
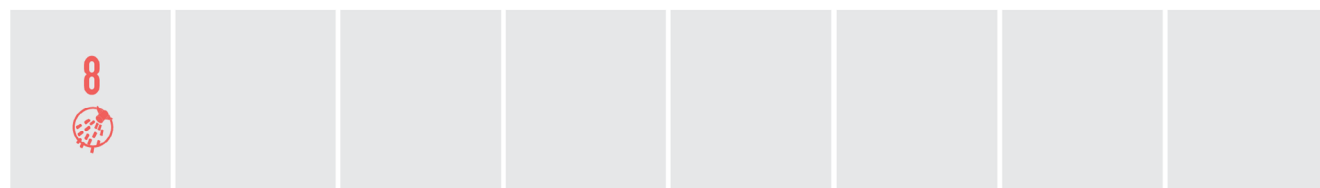
Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



Record of Indiscriminate Attacks and Attacks Using Outlawed Weapons



As documented by SNHR

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A. Extrajudicial killing:

SNHR documented in February 2019 the deaths of 246 civilians, including 54 children and 50 women (adult female), with the highest rate of killings being carried out at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, including six medical and Civil Defense personnel, and one media worker. We also documented the deaths of 29 individuals who died due to torture, and at least eight massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in February 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):** 108, including 31 children and 17 women.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 22, including three children and three women, divided into:
 - ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): 21, including two children and three women.
 - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): One child.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** Three, including one child.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** 18, including four children and four women.
- **International coalition forces:** 17, including four children and four women.
- **Other parties:** 77, including 11 children and 22 women

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

SNHR documented at least 347 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 18 children and 21 women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria in February 2019. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian Regime forces in the governorates of Aleppo and Damascus Suburbs. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances we documented in February 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:** 251, including 11 children, and 19 women.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 36, including one child.
 - ISIS: Five
 - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: 31, including one child.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 22, including two children and one woman.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 38, including four children and one woman.



C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR recorded at least 32 attacks on vital civilian facilities in February, 63 percent of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian Regime forces.

Among these attacks, eight were on schools, two were on medical centers and six others were on places of worship.

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

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):** 20
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** Two
- **Other parties:** 10

Record of attacks on vital civilian facilities are distributed by the Perpetrator Party as follows:

Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	Factions of the Armed Opposition	Other Parties
Attacked Facility			
Places of Worship			
Mosques	6		
Vital Educational Facilities			
Schools	7		1
Institutes			1
Vital Medical Facilities			
Medical Facilities		1	1
Ambulances			2
Vital Cultural Facilities			
Archeological Sites	1		
Communal Facilities			
Markets	2		1
Infrastructure			
Power Stations and Energy Sources		1	
Civil Defense Centers	1		3
Water Systems	1		
Official Headquarters			1
Bakeries	2		
Total	20	2	10



The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities:

On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, Syrian Regime forces stationed in the Bridij Military Camp in the western suburbs of Hama governorate used a missile launcher to shell [al Farooq Mosque](#) in al Janoubi neighborhood in Kafr Nbouda town in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The missiles hit the mosque's mihrab [an ornamental alcove indicating the qiblah, showing in which direction worshippers should pray], causing partial destruction of the building and moderately damaging the furnishings. The town was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



Destruction inflicted in shelling by Syrian Regime forces using a missile launcher on al Farooq Mosque in Kafr Nbouda town, Hama – February 5, 2019

On Saturday, February 16, 2019, a number of missiles landed at the [Misayaf National Hospital](#) in [Misayaf](#) city in the western suburbs of Hama governorate. We believe that the source of the missiles was [a missile](#) launcher stationed in an area controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition. The attack caused moderate material damage to the hospital's garage and claddings. The city was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, February 17, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to shell the Martyr Omar [al Ulwan School](#) in [Babolin village](#) in Idlib governorate's southern suburbs, causing severe material damage to the perimeter fence. The 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, February 18, 2019, a car bomb parked on the right-hand side of a street in al Qosour neighborhood in the center of Idlib exploded. About ten minutes later, as local people and rescue teams rushed to save the wounded and retrieve the dead victims' bodies, another car bomb parked on the opposite side of the street exploded, which caused moderate material damages to [two ambulances](#) belonging to the Syria Relief and Development Organization (SRD), and to [two ambulances](#) and one [rescue](#) vehicle belonging to the Civil Defense; the vehicles were being used at the time to aid the victims of the first explosion. We have been unable to determine who carried out the bombing up to the time of the preparation of this report, given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of bombings. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a shell at [al Rawda bakery](#) in the center of Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, igniting a fire in the fuel tanks on the [bakery's roof](#), as well as causing [severe material](#) damage to [the building](#), putting it out of service. 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.





Fire caused by Syrian Regime artillery forces' shelling of al Rawda automatic bakery in Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib – February 19, 2019

On Thursday, February 21, 2019, Syria Regime artillery forces [fired a shell](#) at [Abu Bakr al Siddiq Mosque](#) in Hraitan town in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, [partially destroying](#) the building and caused [moderate material](#) damage to its [furnishings](#). The town was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction inflicted in shelling by Syrian Regime artillery forces of Abu Bakr al Siddiq Mosque in Hraitan town, Aleppo – February 21, 2019



On Friday, February 22, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used missile launchers to shell near the ancient [citadel of Ma'aret al Nu'man](#) in the northwestern neighborhood of Ma'aret al Nu'man city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing a massacre, although no material damage was recorded in the citadel. 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.

On Tuesday, January 29, 2019, a landmine exploded near the [National Hospital](#) in al Thanka-na neighborhood in the center of Raqqa city, causing moderate material damage to the hospital's perimeter fence. We were unable to determine who carried out the bombing up to the time of the preparation of this report, given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of bombings. The city was under the control of Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

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

SNHR documented in February at least eight cluster munitions attacks, all of which were carried out in Idlib governorate by Syrian Regime forces using missile launchers.

These attacks resulted in the deaths of five civilians, including a child and a woman, and injured at least seven others.

The following are the most prominent incidents of cluster munition attacks that we were able to document in February:

On Thursday, February 7, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used [a missile](#) launcher to fire four Uragan missiles loaded with [cluster munitions](#), which targeted al Tah village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

The SNHR contacted the media activist Hamoud Sultan , who told us: **“The targeting happened at noon on Thursday, February 7th, with four missiles fired from the Syrian Regime forces’ camp in al Tama village near Abu Dali village. One of the missiles landed on my house and another on an agricultural field. The village is almost emptied of the population who were displaced as a result of the recent attacks by the regime forces.”** Hamoud added that the missiles caused a series of small consecutive explosions, and confirmed that the targeted area is free of any military presence of Armed Opposition fighters.

² We contacted him via WhatsApp on February 7, 2019



On Saturday, February 16, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used missile launcher to fire a number of 9m55k missiles loaded with 9n235 cluster submunitions, which targeted the outskirts of Ma'ar Shamarin village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.



Remnants of 9n235 cluster submunitions used in a ground attack by Syrian Regime forces on Ma'ar Shamarin village, Idlib – February 16, 2019

On Monday, February 25, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to fire a number of Uragan missiles loaded with [cluster munitions](#), which targeted Khan al Sebel village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the death of one civilian, named as Abdul Hakim Satouf, and injuring two others. The area was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

IV. Attachments

[246 Civilians, Including One Media Worker and Six Medical and Civil Defense Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in February 2019](#)

[At least 347 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in February 2019](#)



V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. The 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 attacks that are considered as a violation of 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 states 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 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 their 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 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.
- We 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 lifting sieges, as well as 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 government.



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.



- All forms of support, military and all others, should be ceased until the SDF commits itself to complying with the previous recommendations. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that these can be used in perpetrating war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.
- 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.

Acknowledgments

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