

Nine Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed, and 43 Incidents of Attack on their Vital Facilities in September 2017

Syrian Regime Forces Top all
other Parties in Terms of Killing
Medical Personnel

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, October 7, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Executive Summary
- III. Details
- IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Introduction

The consistent bombing and targeting of medical facilities and civil defense centers by Syrian regime forces since 2011, and the killing and arrest of medics and civil defense personnel at the hands of different conflict parties, especially Syrian regime forces, indicates a systematic policy that only aims to shed more blood and deepen the suffering of the injured – civilians and armed.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:

“Attacks on medical and civil defense centers as well as medical and civil defense personnel are considered a blatant violation of the international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes given the chaotic, and in many cases, deliberate, targeting of protected objects. All of this have only deepened the suffering of the wounded and injured and is one of the main reasons behind the displacement of the Syrian people as it sends a very clear message: there is no safe area, or a red line, including hospitals, you either flee or perish.”

The fourth round of negotiations was held in Astana city, Kazakhstan’s capital, on 3 and 4 of May 2017. Russian, Turkish, and Iranian representatives attended as the sponsoring states of Ankara Ceasefire Agreement. The three states agreed on establishing four de-escalation zones, wherein the agreement is to commence on May 6, 2017. The agreement outlined four major areas for the de-escalation in Idlib governorate and the surrounding areas (parts of Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia governorates), northern Homs governorate, Eastern Ghouta, and parts of Daraa and al Quneitra governorates in the southern parts of Syria. It was provided that a special committee would accurately assign the borders of said zones at a later date. The agreement provided for a cessation of combat operations, passage of humanitarian aids, and for IDPs to go back to their areas.



Following an extensive round of talks between Russia, USA, and Jordan that commenced in May 2017 in Amman, Jordan's capital, the American and Russian presidents announced, on the sidelines of the 2017 G20 summit in Hamburg, that a ceasefire agreement has been reached in southwestern Syria – Daraa, Quneitra, and Suwayda governorates. The agreement went into force at 12:00 on Sunday July 9, 2017, and provided for the passage of humanitarian aids in addition to a ceasefire between the conflicting parties (Syrian regime forces and their allies on one side, and armed opposition factions on the other side). Also, the agreement specifies that maintaining security in this region is the Russian forces' responsibility in coordination with the Americans and Jordanians.

In addition, there have been a number of other local agreements in July and August 2017, such as Eastern Ghouta agreement between armed opposition factions, on one side, and officials from the Russian side, while a similar agreement was struck with the opposition in northern suburbs of Homs. However, [the texts of these agreements](#) haven't been made public on Russian government's websites, and the same for armed opposition factions who didn't publicize these agreements, except for Failaq al Rahman who published the text of the agreement on their official website. At the end of the agreement, according to the copy on Failaq al Rahman's website, a signature by a Russian sponsor was shown but without an explicit name, which was a grave mistake, as apparently all of this helps the sponsoring Russian side to easily dissolve from these agreements with no subsequent political or legal obligations and repercussions.

On Saturday, July 22, 2017, Russian Ministry of Defense announced that a de-escalation agreement has been signed in Eastern Ghouta following a round of talks between Russian military officials, on one side, and Jaish al Islam faction, on the other side, in Egypt's capital Cairo. The agreement was to come into effect at 12:00 of the same day. On Wednesday, August 16, 2017, a Failaq al Rahman representative and a Russian representative signed an agreement in Geneva city that established Failaq al Rahman's inclusion in the de-escalation zone in Eastern Ghouta. The agreement was to come into effect at 21:00 of Friday, August 18, 2017.

On Monday, July 31, 2017, another de-escalation agreement was signed in Egypt's capital Cairo for northern Homs suburbs and southern Hama suburbs following a round of talks between armed opposition factions in the area and the Syrian regime represented by the Russian government as a sponsoring party, as the agreement was to commence at 12:00 on Thursday, August 3, 2017. Following the agreement's commencement, two meetings were held between a committee representing the military and civilian activities in northern



suburbs of Homs and southern suburbs of Hama, on one side, and a Russian representative, on the other side, in a tent that was built for the meeting in a neutral area - near the al Dar al Kabira crossing in al Dar al Kabira village, northern suburbs of Homs governorate. The meeting was held to further discuss the provisions of Cairo's de-escalation agreement, as some armed opposition factions weren't fully in agreement with the de-escalation. Most notably, the two most recent agreements provided for a full cessation of hostilities between the conflicting parties in the relevant areas -with the exclusion of the areas in which ISIS and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham are present- and for humanitarian aids to enter these areas and for detainees to be released as per the demands of each party as to which detainees are to be released.

Since the agreements' commencement in the included areas, we have noticed a relatively good drop in the rates of killing in relation to the past months since March 2011. Nonetheless, breaches didn't stop, mainly by the Syrian regime, who is seemingly the party that would be most affected should the ceasefire go on, and in particular extrajudicial killing crimes and, more horrendously, deaths due to torture. This strongly asserts that there is a ceasefire of some sort on the table, but the crimes that the international community -especially the sponsoring parties- won't see are still going on as nothing had happened.

With the end of the sixth round of talks in the Kazakhstani capital, Astana, which were held over the course of two days (September 14-15, 2017), a de-escalation zone was [established](#) in Idlib governorate and the surrounding areas, as military forces were to be deployed (Russian, Turkish, and Iranian) to monitor the agreement, with the passage of humanitarian aids.

On September 19, Syrian-Russian alliance started a heavy offensive against Idlib governorate in response to Hay'at Tahrir al Sham's "Ya Ebadallah Uthbotou" battle. Supported by some opposition faction (The Islamic Turkistani Party, Jaish al Izza, and Jaish al Nukhba), Hay'at Tahrir al Sham started this battle in northeastern Hama governorate, as they took over some villages, but Syrian regime forces, backed by Russian forces, managed to re-seize the same areas on the same day. We have released a [report](#) documenting the most notable violations of the first week of that offensive. Subsequently, these forces expanded the offensive to include the suburbs of Aleppo and Hama governorates and Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs.



Syrian regime forces never stopped killing medical and civil defense personnel despite the de-escalation agreements, topping all other parties in this regard in the months of September. Additionally, Russian forces were responsible for killing medical and civil defense personnel for the first time in two months. Furthermore, we have documented incidents of killing medical and civil defense personnel at the hands of international coalition forces for the second month in a row. We also recorded that Russian forces surpassed all other parties in attacking medical and civil defense facilities for the second month in a row.

Methodology

SNHR's high-level methodology for documentation relies on survivors and families' direct accounts in addition to the process of verifying and analyzing pictures, videos, and some medical records. However, we can't claim that we have documented all cases in light of the ban and pursuit by Syrian regime forces and some of the other armed groups.

The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report. We add these evidences and clues to our data archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, they don't necessarily qualify as crimes.

Please see the methodology adopted by SNHR in [victim documentation](#) and [classifying civilian vital facilities](#)

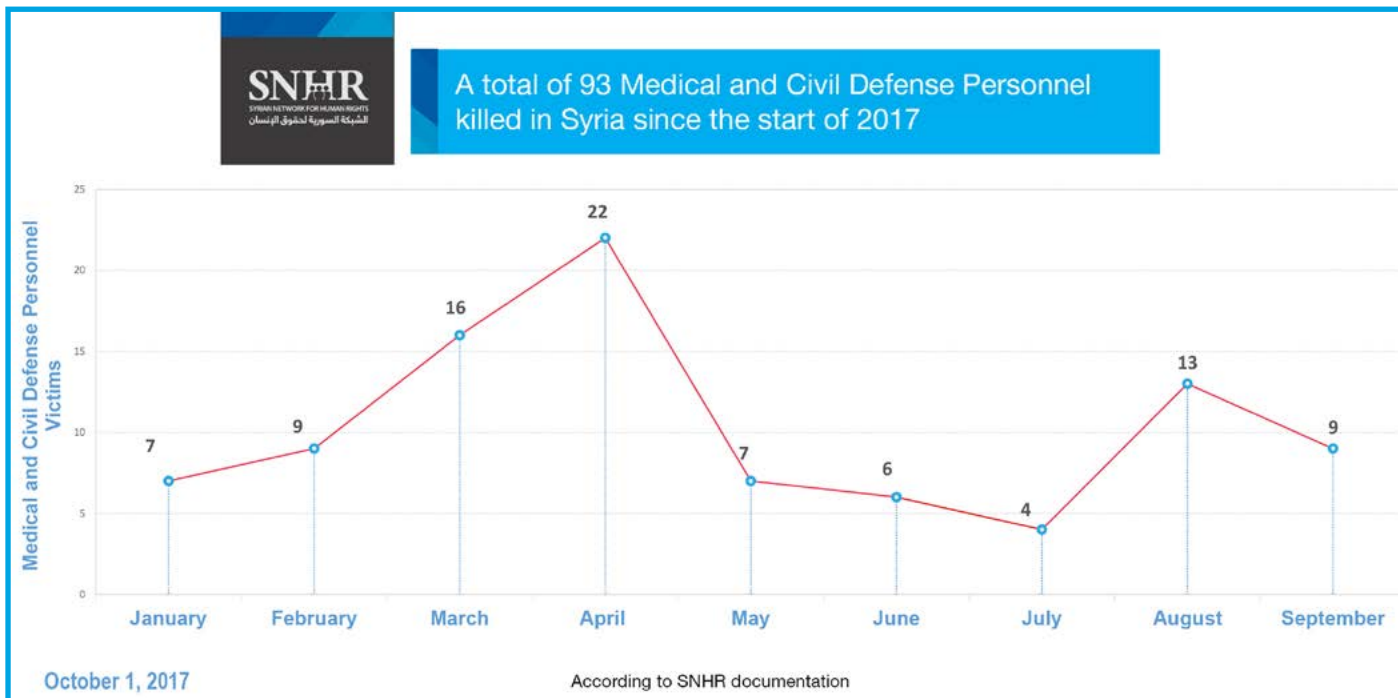
This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



II. Executive Summary

A. Victims among medical personnel and civil defense personnel since the start 2017

SNHR has documented the killing of 93 medical personnel and civil defense personnel at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria between the start of 2017 and October of the same year.



B. Toll of Violations in August 2017

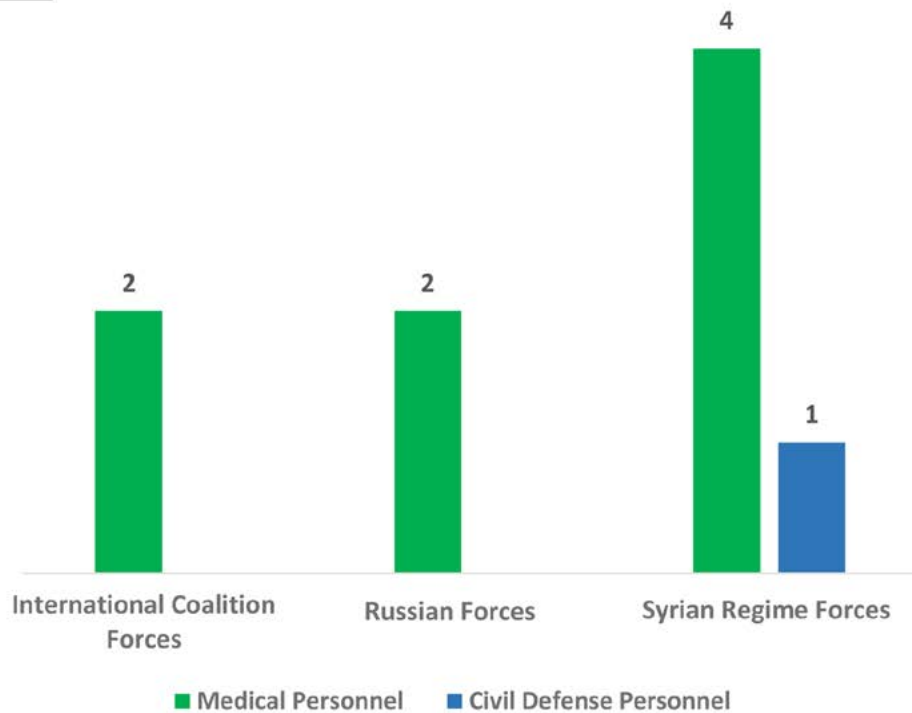
SNHR has documented in the month of September 2017 the following main violations against medical personnel, civil defense personnel, and their respective facilities:

- Acts of killing

We documented the killing of nine medical and civil defense personnel



A total of 9 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed in Syria in September 2017



According to SNHR documentation

As follows:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): killed five medical and civil defense personnel, divided into:

- Two nurses
- Two medical personnel
- One civil defense personnel

- Russian forces: killed two medical personnel – one of whom was a woman (adult female), divided into:

- One pharmacist
- One medical personnel (woman)

- International coalition forces: killed two medical personnel, divided into:

- One doctor
- One pharmacist



- Targeting vital medical and civil defense facilities

SNHR has documented 43 incidents of attack on vital medical facilities and civil defense facilities, as follows

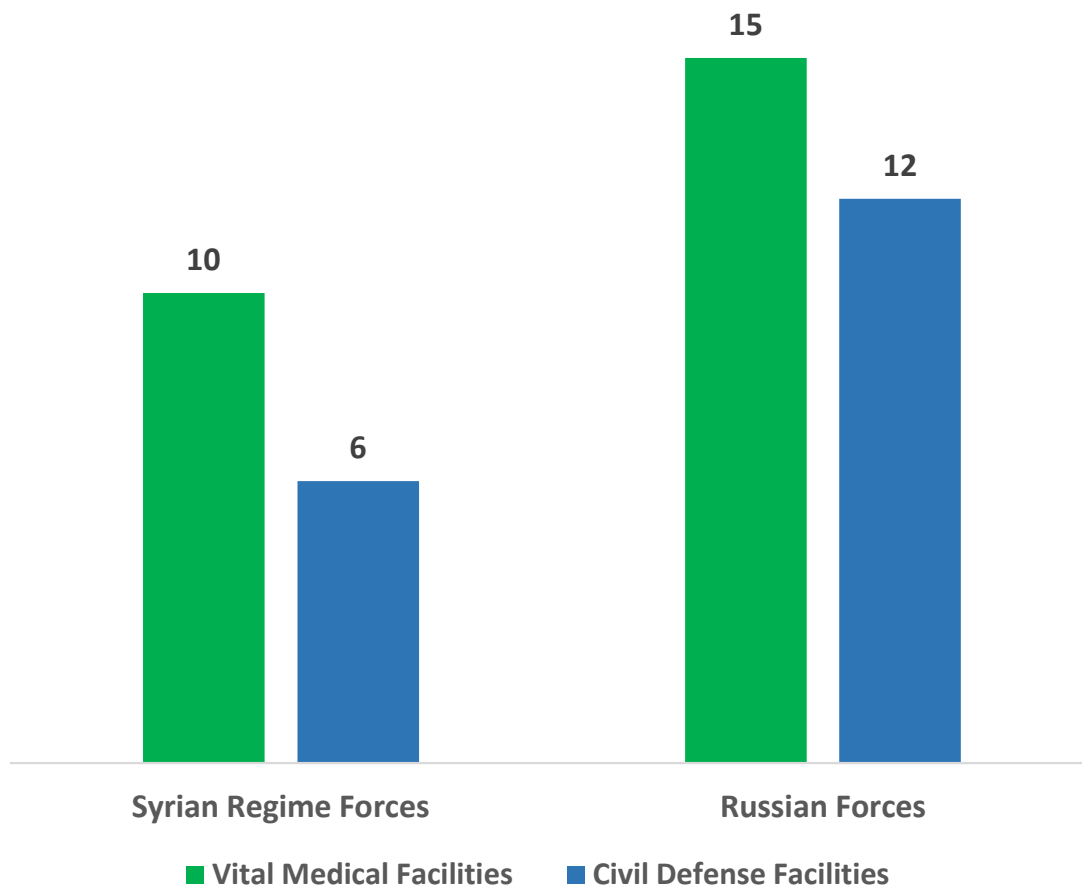
- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 16 incidents of attack, as follows:

- Five medical facilities
- Five ambulances
- Six civil defense facilities

- Russian forces: 27 incidents of attack, as follows:

- 11 medical facilities
- Four ambulances
- 12 civil defense facilities

Distribution of Incidents of Attack on Vital Medical and Civil Defense Facilities by the Parties to the Conflict in September 2017



III. Details

A. Acts of killing

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

Mahmoud Ismail Qdadou, [head of the civil defense](#) in Damascus suburbs governorate, from [Harasta city](#), Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate. Born in 1989, married and a father of two daughters. He was killed on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, around 13:00, in an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces that fired a mortar shell at his car in Misraba town, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate, as he was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling.



Feras Abdul Latif al Ar'our (known as Abu Samer), nurse, from [Taybat al Imam city](#), northern suburbs of Hama governorate, works with Shamuna Aiding Network. He was killed on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that targeted the ambulance he was in with missile near Atshan village, northeastern suburbs of Hama governorate.

Abdullah Mahmoud Hamada, [paramedic](#), from Deir Sal-man town, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate, works with the Center for Instential and Infectious Diseases which is affiliated to Inqath Group for Medical Aid and Development in Eastern Ghouta. He was killed on Monday, September 25, 2017, by a gunshot by Syrian regime forces in Kafr Batna town, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate.



Khalil Mayyasa (known as Abu Mahmoud), [a medical staffer](#), from Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate, works as head of the of the vocational rehabilitation department at al Takhassusi Center for the Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injuries, married and has kids. He was killed on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes who fired a missile at al Takhassusi Center for the Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injuries in the middle of Douma city.

Adnan Abd Rabbo, nurse, from Beit Sawa, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate, 25-year-old, works at "[Beit Sawa town](#)" medical complex. He was killed on Friday, September 29, 2017, by shrapnel in his abdomen. The shrapnel was from an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces who fired a number of shells at Beit Sawa town, as he was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling.



Adnan Abd Rabbo

- Russian forces

Fathiya Khaled al Arous, a medical staffer, from al Tah village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, member of the sanitary crew at al Rahman Charity Hospital in al Tah village. She was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian who fired a missile at al Rahman Charity Hospital, known as the Maternity Hospital, in northwestern al Tah village.

Hamza Sadeq, a student at the faculty of pharmacy, from Jesr al Shoghour city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate, 20-year-old. He died on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, of wounds sustained on Monday, September 25, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian who fired missiles at Bdama town, western suburbs of Idlib governorate.



Hamza Sadeq



- International coalition forces

Mohammad Yousef Deeb al Boushi, physicist, physician, from al Bab city, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, he displaced to Raqqa city, born in 1988. He was killed on Thursday, August 31, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes who fired missiles at Raqqa city. On Sunday, September 3, 2017, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident.



Eissa Jasem al Helal, pharmacist, from Raqqa city, lives in al Mansour Street in Raqqa city, born in 1980, married. He was killed on Saturday, September 2, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes who fired missiles at a residential building to the south of al Na'im Circle in the middle of Raqqa city.

B. Targeting medical and civil defense facilities

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

Vital medical facilities

- Medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Monday, September 11, 2017, around 12:00, Syrian regime artillery fired three mortar shells at the aiding center which is affiliated to the medical office in the middle of [Madyara](#) village, Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the center building was partially destroyed and its equipment, as well as an ambulance, were moderately damaged, as the center was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, around 12:00, Syrian regime forces artillery [fired](#) two shells at al [Fateh Hospital](#) in [Kafr Batna town](#), Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate. [The hospital](#) building was [partially destroyed](#), and its equipment and cladding materials were moderately damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Tuesday, September 19, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near the building of Shamuna Aiding Network in Ma'ar Zita village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, with no damages recorded to the building. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, around 10:50, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of hospitals at al Rahma Hospital that is adjacent to the civil defense in east of [Khan Sheikhoun](#) city, southern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). The missiles landed on the hospital's [external extension](#) which was [partially destroyed](#). Additionally, an ambulance belonging to the hospital was [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Tuesday afternoon, September 26, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces [warplanes](#) fired a missile at al Takhassusi Center for the Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injuries in the middle of [Douma city](#), Eastern Ghouta, east of [Damascus suburbs](#) governorate, which resulted in casualties, including one of the center's staffers. Additionally, the center building was [heavily destroyed](#), and its furniture and equipment were [heavily damaged](#), as the center was [rendered out of commission](#). It should be noted that this center is one of its kind in the area. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing on al Takhassusi Center for the Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injuries by Syrian regime forces in Douma city, Damascus suburbs – September 26, 2017



- Ambulances

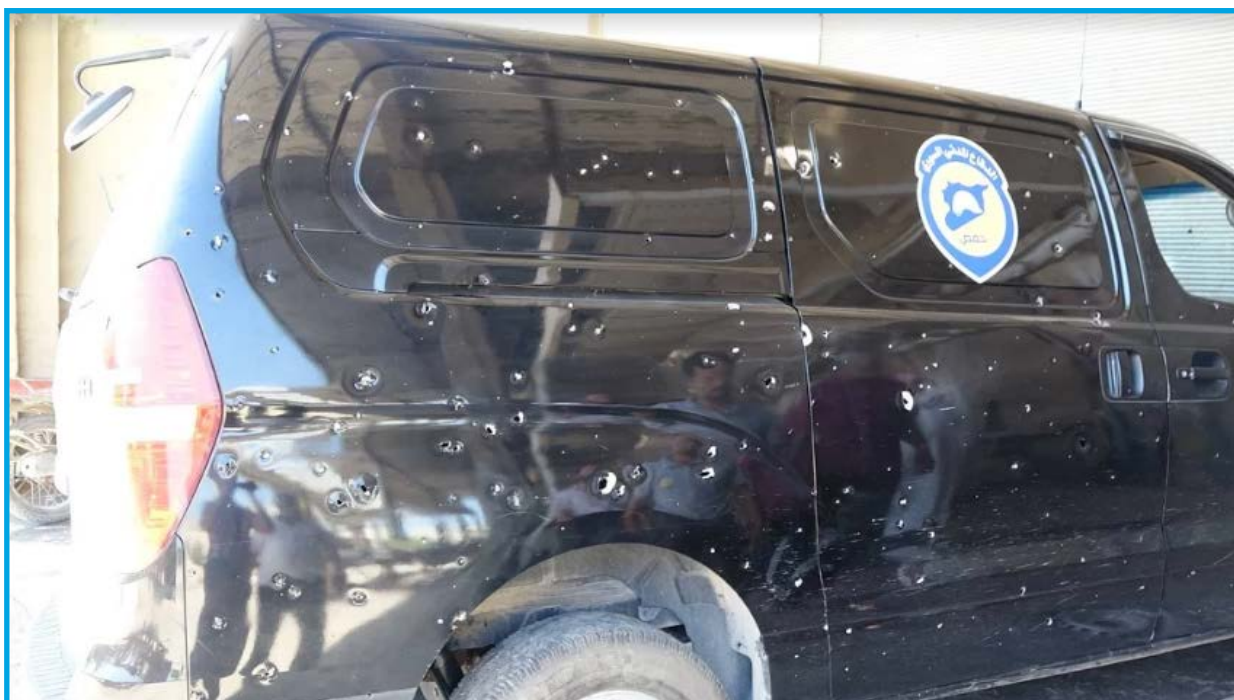
Besides the two attacks on ambulances that were documented in the medical facilities section above, SNHR documented the following attacks:

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at an ambulance belonging to Shamuna Medical Network near [Atshan](#) village, northeastern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of two individuals – one of whom is a nurse. Additionally, the ambulance was heavily damaged. The village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Saturday afternoon, September 23, 2017, Syrian regime forces artillery fired [a mortar shell](#) near [two ambulances](#) -belonging to the medical office of [Joubar](#)- on the outskirts of Joubar neighborhood, east of Damascus city. The two ambulances were [heavily damaged](#), as they were [rendered out of commission](#). The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Civil defense facilities

Friday, September 8, 2017, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a mortar shell near an ambulance belonging to the civil defense in [al Rastan](#) city, northern suburbs of [Homs governorate](#). One of the civil defense [members were wounded](#). Additionally, the ambulance structure was moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



The damage in the aftermath of a shelling by Syrian regime forces near an ambulance for the civil defense in al Rastan city, Homs suburbs – September 8, 2017



Monday, September 11, 2017, around 12:00, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a mortar shell near an ambulance belonging to center 90, which is affiliated to the civil defense, in the middle of [Madyara village](#), Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus suburbs governorate. A number of the glass windows on the ambulance was shattered and its structure was moderately damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



The damage in the aftermath of a shelling by Syrian regime forces near an ambulance for the civil defense in Madyara village, Damascus suburbs – September 11, 2017

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, around 11:20, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near the civil defense team as he was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling in western [al Habeit](#) village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, injuring five civil defense members. Additionally, an ambulance belonging to the team was moderately damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday morning, September 19, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near the civil defense center in [al Taman'a](#) town, southern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). The center building and an ambulance belonging to the center were moderately damaged. The town was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





The damage in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on the civil defense center in al Taman'a town, Idlib suburbs – September 19, 2017

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, around 10:50, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near the civil defense that is adjacent to al Rahma Hospital, east of Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, with no damages recorded to the fortified center. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

- Russian forces

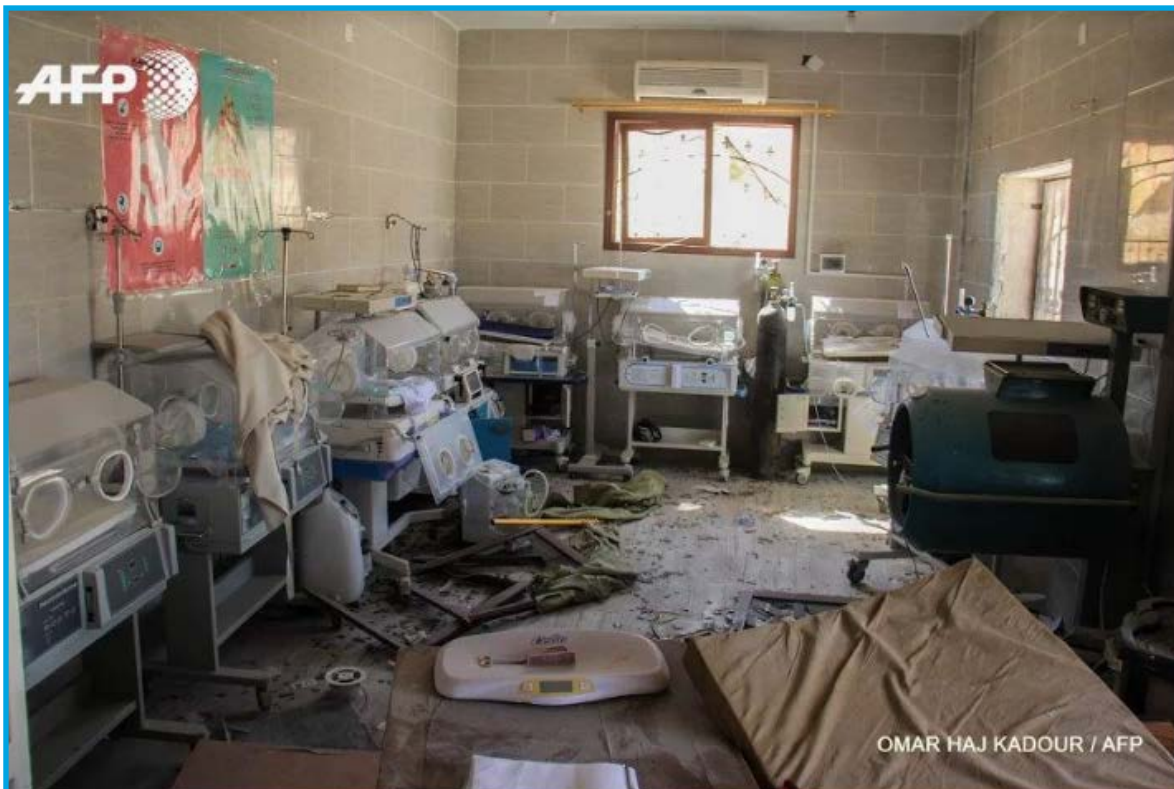
Vital medical facilities

- Medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, around 10:40, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired four missiles near [Kafr Nobbol](#) Surgical Hospital that is located in northern Kafr Nobbol city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Three missiles landed in the vicinity of the hospital about 200 meters away from it, while the [fourth missile](#) landed at the entrance of the hospital, as its main gate and furniture were [slightly damaged](#). Additionally, an ambulance belonging to the hospital was [moderately damaged](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Tuesday morning, September 19, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile at al Rahman [Charity Hospital](#), known as the [Maternity Hospital](#), in northwestern [al Tah village](#), southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of a woman who works [at the hospital](#). Additionally, [the hospital building](#) and [equipment](#) were partially destroyed, and [a fire broke](#) out in the east wing of the hospital (the garage, radiology room, and the pharmacy). Also, [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital was [moderately damaged](#), and was rendered out of commission. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on al Rahman Charity Hospital in al Tah village, Idlib suburbs – September 19, 2017

Thursday, September 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile near Sham Surgical Hospital in [Hass](#) village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital building and its equipment were slightly damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Thursday, September 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile near al Rahma Hospital that is adjacent to the civil defense center in eastern Khan Shikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, with no damages recorded to the hospital. It should be noted that fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes targeted the same hospital with missiles two days before this attack. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 22, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile at Sham Surgical Hospital in Hass village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missile landed in the hospital's consumables warehouse, as the hospital building and its equipment were moderately damaged and the warehouse building was partially destroyed. It should be noted that the hospital was damaged in a bombing by the same warplanes who targeted it with a missile one day before this attack. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 22, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired five missiles near al Rahma Hospital that is adjacent to the civil defense center in eastern Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital building was rifted, and the external generator was burnt. It should be noted that this was the third attack on this hospital by the Syrian-Russian alliance in one week. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday, September 25, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles near the kidney hospital that is located in al Janoubi neighborhood in Jisr al Shoghour city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missile landed 50 meters away from the hospital, with no damages recorded to the hospital. The city was under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, September 26, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at Sham Central Hospital that is affiliated with Free [Hama Health Administration](#) in western [Kafr Nabbol city](#), southern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). The hospital building was [heavily destroyed](#), and its equipment as well as [two ambulances](#) were heavily damaged, as the hospital was [rendered out of commission](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on Sham Central Hospital in Kafr Nabbol city, Idlib suburbs – September 26, 2017

Wednesday, September 27, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a [number of missiles](#) near the First-Aid Center -known as the health center- which is affiliated to the Syrian Relief and Development Organization (SRD) in [al Bashiriya](#) village, western suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#). The missiles landed on a house that is adjacent to the center, as the center and its equipment were [moderately damaged](#), while the house was heavily destroyed. It should be noted that the center uses the ground floor of al Bashiriya Mosque as a headquarter. The village was under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party at the time of the incident.





The damage in aftermath of a bombing on the First-Aid Center in al Bashiriya village, Idlib suburbs – September 27, 2017

Wednesday, September 27, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile at al Amal Hospital, known formerly as al Rih al Mursala Hospital, in [Darat Ezza](#) city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The front side of the hospital, as well as its furniture, was moderately damaged, as the hospital was rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile near Thawrat al Karama Hospital in [Rif al Muhandiseen al Thani area](#), western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The missile landed 10 meters away from the hospital, with no damages recorded to the building. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Civil defense centers

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, around 10:40, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired [three missiles](#) near the civil defense center that is located in northern Kafr Nabbol city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The center was [partially destroyed](#), and three vehicles belonging to the center (a fire truck, a service vehicle, and a rescue vehicle) were moderately damaged. It is worth noting that the civil defense uses a part of al Ma'lwmatiya School as a headquarter in Kafr Nabbol city. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile near the civil defense center that is adjacent to al Rahma Hospital, eastern Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The center building was moderately damaged. It should be noted that fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a missile near the hospital two days before this attack with no damages recorded to the center. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 22, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired five missiles at the civil defense center that is adjacent to [al Rahma Hospital](#), eastern Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The center building](#) was [heavily destroyed](#), and its equipment and [three vehicles](#) belonging to the center (two ambulances and evacuation vehicle) were damaged to [various degrees](#), as the center was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that this was the third attack by the Syrian-Russian alliance on the same center in one week. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Russian forces on the civil defense center in Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib suburbs – September 22, 2017

Saturday, September 23, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles near the civil defense team of “Sarageb city” center as the team was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling on a military base located in eastern [Mardikh](#) village, eastern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#), as four civil defense members were wounded. Additionally, a service vehicle belonging to the center were heavily damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday, September 25, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles near the [civil defense team](#) as they were tending to the wounded from a previous shelling in the middle of [Jisr al Shoghour city](#), western suburbs of Idlib governorate. An ambulance and a rubble-removing vehicle belonging to the team were moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of Hay’at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party at the time of the incident.



IV. Conclusions and Recommendation

Legal conclusions

1- The incidents mentioned in this report are considered, beyond any doubt, violations of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, these incidents are violations of Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.

2- We can confirm that most of the incidents included in this report have targeted armless civilians. Therefore, Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled. Also, Russian forces and international coalition forces have both committed acts that amount to war crimes through the crime of extrajudicial killing or targeting vital civilian facilities.

3- The attacks mentioned in this report are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at populated areas rather than a specific military object.

4- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps as it has been more than two years since Resolution 2139 was adopted and no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombardment operations have been made. All the conflict parties must respect these steps and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in committing war crimes have been proven.
- Instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being destroyed, stolen, and ruined.
- Expand the sanctions to include the Syrian and Iranian regimes and all of their pillars who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.



The International Community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killings and siege and enhance the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated 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 tens 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 were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Statute must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew the 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 work on utilizing the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

The sponsoring Russian side

- The Syrian regime has to be stopped from dooming the de-escalation agreements. Otherwise, it will only be seen as an exchange of roles between the Russian regime, on one side, and the Syrian/Russian alliance on the other side.
- Start making progress in the detainees issue by revealing the fates of 76,000 forcibly-disappeared persons at the hands of the Syrian regime.

Medical organizations around the world

There is a severe shortage in medical manpower in Syria because of the ceaseless killing of medical personnel. Firstly, Syrian doctors must come back to Syria to compensate for the severe shortage in medical personnel. Also, international organizations can send volunteers to safe areas where wounded are sent for treatment. We have recorded many cases where wounded died due to lack of medical resources.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our most sincere thanks go to the victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report.





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

