

The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in February 2022

More Sanctions Must Be Imposed on the Syrian Regime and Its Russian Ally Due to Their Continued Perpetration of Atrocious Violations in Syria

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

Content

I. Introduction and Methodology.....	2
II. Summary of the Most Notable Events in February.....	3
III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in February.....	18
IV. Attachments:.....	22
V. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	23

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 Syrian Network for Human Rights (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, which SNHR documented in February 2022, and catalogues the death toll of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights attacks on civilian objects, which SNHR's team was able to document during this period. To find out more about our working [methodology](#) in documenting and archiving data, please visit the following link that explains this in detail.

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. Summary of the Most Notable Events in February

In regard to bombardment and military operations:

The military campaign launched by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in Idlib region in northwest Syria since mid-2021 continued throughout February, while SNHR also documented a significant decrease in the intensity of Syrian regime forces' ground attacks in Jabal al Zaweya area with the attacks during this period being limited to attacks targeting the front lines in the vicinity of the southern villages in Jabal al Zaweya. [The villages](#) of the [northern suburbs](#) of Idlib were also subjected to several ground attacks, one of which was carried out on Ma'aret al Na'san village in the northeastern suburbs of Idlib on February 12, resulting in [a massacre, killing six civilians from one family](#).

On February 3 and 6, Russian warplanes launched missile strikes on the outskirts of Kafr Shlaya village in the southern suburbs of Idlib, targeting agricultural lands and an uninhabited poultry farm, without resulting in any casualties. We recorded Russian warplanes flying over the areas of the eastern suburbs of Aleppo at midnight on February 23. These warplanes fired an air-to-air missile that caused powerful explosions in the sky, in parallel with the firing of light bombs.

In February, we monitored field activity by Russian forces at the points where they are stationed. On February 1, [the Russian Sputnik news agency](#) reported that Russian forces' trainers conducted training for the Syrian regime forces' air defense units. This training was conducted on the air defense missile system, including shoulder-fired missiles. On February 21, Russian state-owned [Zvezda TV](#) published a report on Russian military trainers providing training "to overcome minefields and shoot light and heavy weapons" to Syrian regime military soldiers and officers.

We also monitored the deployment of massive military reinforcements by the Russian forces stationed in Syria to participate in the military maneuvers conducted by the Russian forces. On February 4, [the Russian Sputnik news agency](#) quoted the press office of the Russian Ministry of Defense as stating that 6 large landing ships had arrived at the "logistical center of the Russian Navy in the port of Tartus in Syria." On February 15, [the same agency](#) quoted [the Russian Ministry of Defense](#) as saying that "MiG-31K fighters and Tu-22M3 launchers carrying hypersonic (Khanjar) missiles arrived at the Russian Hmeimim Airbase in Syria as part of naval exercises." On the same day, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced, in a statement on its official website, that Sergei Shoigu, the Russian Defense Minister, had arrived in Syria, where he met with the Syrian regime's president in Damascus and inspected the military maneuvers taking place in the Mediterranean from the "logistical center of the Russian Navy in Tartus."

On February 18, the [Russian RIA Novosti news agency](#) quoted a Russian military source as saying that the Russian forces had used a new version of the Lancet-3 suicide drones capable of carrying a large warhead in Syria. The agency added that the drone operates with a guided missile mechanism, noting that this drone had been used in Syria on a number of occasions against several targets.

In the areas of the northwestern and eastern suburbs of Aleppo, we documented an escalation in February in the frequency of missile shelling, originating from the areas under the control of Syrian regime forces and the Kurdish Self-Management forces north of Aleppo, targeting the main cities in the area. On February 2, al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo was subjected to a ground attack, whose perpetrators we have so far been unable to identify, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for the attack being Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces, since the shelling emanated from an area controlled by them. This attack resulted in a [massacre](#) of eight civilians, and injured more than 20 others, as well as causing significant material damage to vital civilian facilities.

[Izaz city](#) in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate was subjected to ground bombardment by Syrian Democratic Forces several times targeting vital civilian areas. The bombing of the city [on February 15](#) resulted in the deaths of three civilians and the injury of seven others, including a child, in addition to inflicting moderate material damage on vital civilian facilities.

Also in February, intermittent clashes using light and medium weapons continued between Syrian National Army forces and Syrian Democratic Forces in the villages of the Ein Eisa district in the northern suburbs of Raqqa, which are under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, with both sides using heavy weapons to bombard each other's areas, without any resulting change in the distribution of zones of control. We note that this area has witnessed clashes between the two parties since 2019.

In terms of bombings, we documented an escalation in the intensity of bombings in the areas of the suburbs of Aleppo using explosive devices, in the areas controlled by Syrian National Army forces in the northern and eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The bombings, which targeted leaders of the Syrian National Army, killed a number of them. Ras al Ein city in Hasaka suburbs also witnessed several bombings using explosive devices that caused material damage to infrastructure there, as well as in the villages and towns of the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, where most of the bombings targeted Syrian Democratic Forces patrols.

February also saw a significant increase in the civilian death toll due to explosions caused by land-mines and munitions remnants in various governorates and regions of Syria. [SNHR documented the deaths](#) of 16 [civilians](#), including [five children](#), resulting from landmine explosions in February, bringing the total death toll since the beginning of 2022 to 20 civilians, including eight children.

February also witnessed killings of civilians in various governorates by gunmen whom SNHR has been unable to identify. Among the killings we documented in February, we recorded the death of a [former media activist](#) in Talbisa city in the Homs suburbs on February 26. We also recorded the death of a [nurse](#) in Daraa on February 15. The villages and towns of the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour also witnessed killings by gunmen who we believe are affiliated with ISIS.

On February 3, the US-led Coalition forces carried out a helicopter landing operation on a house in Atama village in the northern suburbs of Idlib. The operation, according to a statement published by [the official website of the White House](#), quoting US President Joe Biden, targeted Abu Ibrahim al Hashimi al Qurayshi, the leader of ISIS, leading to his death. We note that the incident also resulted in [the deaths of six children and three women](#). On February 14, we issued a [statement](#) regarding ISIS' responsibility for endangering civilians' lives by its members' living in civilian-populated areas, which poses a danger to civilians, further stressing that this does not absolve any attacking party of its responsibilities in accordance with international law.

On February 9, the Israeli Air Force launched raids on some positions in the vicinity of Damascus city, followed by firing surface-to-surface missiles targeting the same area, killing a member from Syrian regime forces. The attacks also caused damage to civilian homes in Qedsayya city, north-west of Damascus city, according to the Syrian regime's [SANA news agency](#). On February 16, Israeli forces launched a missile attack using several surface-to-surface missiles targeting some points around [Zakya town, south of Damascus](#), also according to SANA. The same forces launched two successive attacks using surface-to-surface missiles, with the first attack launched against some locations in [Quneitra governorate on February 23](#); according to photos [published by SANA](#), the attack caused material damage. As for the second attack, it targeted some points in the vicinity of Damascus city on February 24, killing three Syrian regime soldiers, according to SANA.

In regard to arrests, enforced disappearances and torture:

Syrian regime forces continued in February to persecute and arrest individuals who had concluded settlements of their security status with the Syrian regime in areas that had previously concluded settlement agreements with the regime; these arrests have been concentrated in Damascus Suburbs, Daraa, and Deir Ez-Zour governorates, with most occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests and at checkpoints. We documented arrests carried out by Syrian regime forces in Tartus governorate targeting civilians in connection with their criticism of the deteriorating living conditions and corruption in the regime-held areas on social media networks.

We documented random incidents of arrests of citizens in Damascus Suburbs governorate, with most occurring during campaigns of mass raids and arrests. Among these were citizens who were arrested under the pretext of having failed to perform their reserve military service. In addition, we recorded arrests of citizens, including women, in Latakia city, carried out by the Criminal Security Branch on charges of reporting news to foreign media outlets. We also documented arrests targeting a number of returning civilians, all refugees and IDPs, after they returned to their original areas, now back under the control of Syrian regime forces, and while they were trying to enter Syrian territory through illegal crossings.

We recorded an increase in the number of victims documented in February as having been killed under torture. The reason behind the high death toll recorded this month is that the Syrian regime informed 56 families from Deir al Asafeir town in Damascus Suburbs governorate that their loved ones who had earlier been arrested by the Syrian regime had died in custody. The families were notified of their deaths through the Civil Registry Department. In many reports, we have detailed the phenomenon of the Syrian regime informing detainees' families that their loved ones died in regime custody. We at the SNHR believe that the regime's method of notifying detainees' families of their loved ones' death is an additional condemnation of the regime, whose personnel first arrest these individuals, then forcibly disappear them, due to the regime's denial of their detention and of any knowledge of them before its eventual notification of their loved ones' deaths. We believe that the cause of the detainees' deaths was torture exacerbated by lack of healthcare. The SNHR's records of enforced disappearance cases show that these individuals, all of whom were arrested in 2018, died under torture in Seydnaya Military Prison. We will issue a detailed report on this incident soon.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces continued enforcing the group's policies of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in February, with the number detained increasing this month as SDF personnel continued carrying out campaigns of mass raids and detentions, targeting civilians on the pretext of fighting ISIS cells, with some of these campaigns backed by US-led coalition

helicopters. We also documented detentions targeting teachers, allegedly for calling on students to protest against the poor living conditions and services in areas under SDF control, with these arrests concentrated in Raqqa governorate. In addition to these cases, we documented detentions targeting media workers in Hasaka governorate over their criticism of the SDF's policies.

We also recorded Syrian Democratic Forces kidnapping children with the aim of taking them to its training and recruitment camps and forcibly conscripting them, preventing their families from communicating with them, and failing to disclose their fate.

February also saw Hay'at Tahrir al Sham detaining civilians, including media activists and politicians, with these arrests concentrated in Idlib governorate; most of these arrests occurred due to the detainees expressing opinions critical of the HTS's management of areas under its control. These detentions were carried out arbitrarily in the form of raids in which HTS members stormed their victims' homes, often breaking down the doors, or by abducting their victims while they were traveling or passing through temporary checkpoints. We also documented Hay'at Tahrir al Sham personnel detaining civilians over their participation in popular protests against HTS over an earlier incident in which an HTS member [shot an IDP woman](#) in the head on February 10, leaving her seriously injured, near an HTS checkpoint between Deir Ballout area of Afrin city in the northwestern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and Atama area in the suburbs of Idlib governorate. We note that the woman [died](#) of her injury on February 27.

Meanwhile, all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army also continued carrying out arbitrary detentions and kidnappings in February, most of which were carried out on a mass scale, targeting individuals coming from areas controlled by the Syrian regime. In addition, we documented detentions carried out under an ethnic pretext, with these incidents being concentrated in areas under all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army's control in Aleppo governorate. Most of these arrests occurred without judicial authorization and without the participation of the police force, which is the legitimate administrative authority responsible for arrests and detentions through the judiciary, with these arrests also carried out without presenting any clear charges against those being detained. In addition to these cases, we also documented raids and detentions carried out by Syrian National Army personnel, targeting civilians, including women, on charges of collaborating with Syrian Democratic Forces. These operations were concentrated in some villages near Afrin city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

We also documented the death of Abdul Razzaq Tarrad al Abeid, an IDP who lived in Jalma village of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, who was arrested by personnel from Failaq al Sham, a faction of the Syrian National Army, at midnight on February 24 from his home in Jalma village. On February 25, the family of the victim, Abdul Razzaq, was informed by a member of Failaq al Sham of Abdul Razzaq's death, with his body being released to his family at Afrin city's Military Hospital. The SNHR issued a [statement](#) on the incident.

Regarding living conditions:

The living and economic situation in all regions of Syria continues to deteriorate continuously. In the areas under the control of Syrian regime forces, Hussein Arnous, [Prime Minister of the Syrian regime's government](#), told the pro-regime al Watan newspaper in an interview published on February 10 that "The state is no longer able to continue providing the same pattern support of that was prevalent." commenting on the decision of the Syrian regime's government on February 5 to lift the subsidies provided by the government to some groups in society, according to the decision to "[restructure support.](#)"

The first third of February saw several demonstrations in [Suwayda city](#) in protest against the deteriorating economic situation and the Syrian regime government's decisions to lift subsidies. The demonstrators chanted slogans against the Syrian regime and demanded justice and equality.

Regarding the prices of various commodities and materials, the markets in Syrian regime-controlled areas witnessed a remarkable increase in prices of all commodities. According the pro-Syrian regime al Watan newspaper on February 14, [prices are rising on a daily basis](#), especially those of food, supplies and detergents. The newspaper also reported on February 15 that the prices of vegetables and fruits witnessed unprecedented increases in some markets, so that people were forced to buy vegetables by each individual item instead of the kilo. The newspaper estimated the increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits by monitoring prices in Homs city, [equivalent to an increase of 40% of their prices](#) during the previous month. In the same context, the pro-Syrian regime [Tishreen](#) newspaper reported on February 27 that the markets in Daraa city are also witnessing a new spike in prices, with the rate of hikes reaching prices nearly a fifth higher than previously.

In terms of medicines, the Syrian regime-controlled areas are still witnessing a crisis in the availability of medicines and a continuous increase in their prices. [Tishreen newspaper](#) reported on February 19 that many patients suffer from the problem of losing some medicines, which, if available at all, can only be obtained at very high prices on the black market. On February 23, [al Watan newspaper](#) reported that the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Affairs in the Syrian regime's Ministry of Health announced an increase in the prices of antibiotic drugs, with the rate of increase ranging between 30% to 40%, according to Jihad Wadhehi, a member of the Pharmacists Syndicate quoted by the newspaper.

On February 25, Joyce Msuya, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said during [her briefing](#) to the Security Council on the situation in Syria, that Syria now ranks among the 10 most food insecure countries globally, adding that a "staggering 12 million people are considered to be food insecure in Syria." and further indicating that the economic situation in Syria is deteriorating more and more.

In northwestern Syria, despite the relative stability in the exchange rate of the Turkish lira - which is used for trading in the region - against the dollar, the markets are still witnessing increases in the prices of foodstuffs and supplies, with the prices of some materials having reached record levels that exceed the purchasing power of civilians, in light of the spread of unemployment in general, the lack of job opportunities and low wages for workers.

Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, which controls Bab al Hawa border crossing with Turkey, monopolizes the entry of foodstuffs and all materials brought into the areas under HTS' control through HTS-affiliated merchants and economic figures, with the group controlling the prices of basic materials, the most important of which are fuel, gas, sugar, foodstuffs, vegetables, and eggs, for HTS' benefit, which negatively affected civilians and led to the loss of some materials, such as sugar, due to monopoly and storage. The people of the area also continued to suffer due to the lack of bread, with its prices rising to an extent that exceeds the purchasing power of a large group of the people living in the area, especially those living in the camps.

HTS personnel at checkpoints are also restricting people crossing the Deir Ballout¹ and al Ghazawiya² crossings, searching those coming from the western and northern suburbs of Aleppo to Idlib suburbs, preventing the entry of foodstuffs, gas, and fuel, measuring the volume of fuel in car tanks and preventing the entry of cars with full fuel tanks, as well as restricting civilians and delaying their crossing for hours, causing queues of cars extending a few kilometers. HTS' security personnel are also pursuing children and women in the area separating Deir Ballout of the Afrin region in the suburbs of Aleppo, and Atama village in the northern suburbs of Idlib, who have been driven to smuggling fuel in plastic jugs of approximately 5 or 10 liters, to sell them in Idlib suburbs to benefit from the price difference between the two areas, with the HTS personnel assaulting them and confiscating the fuel.

In February, we documented several cases of suicide by hanging or using Aluminum Phosphide tablets in Afrin suburbs in Aleppo and Idlib suburbs, mostly among children and young men, for reasons that we could not ascertain, although we believe that the deteriorating economic conditions and family disintegration are among the main reasons.

The areas controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces are also still witnessing increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs, in addition to bread shortages, which exacerbates the deterioration of the already poor living conditions there. Several demonstrations took place in the cities, towns, and villages of Deir Ez-Zour suburbs throughout the month, calling for an improvement in the living situation and the release of detainees. The deteriorating economic situation has reflected on the security situation as well. [The Associated Press](#) reported in an article published on February 22 that many residents of Raqqa city are trying to leave the city due to the economic collapse, unem-

¹ This crossing links the Idlib areas in the northern and northwestern suburbs of Aleppo, which are under the joint control of the armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, and the areas of control of the Syrian National Army forces in the suburbs of Aleppo.

² This crossing links Darat Ezza city in the western suburbs of Aleppo, which is under the joint control of the armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, with the Afrin area in the western suburbs of Aleppo, which is under the control of the Syrian National Army forces.

ployment, and the presence of criminal gangs in the city, in addition to fears that ISIS will return to the city. The agency quoted an official in the local council of Raqqa city who said that at least 3,000 people had left Raqqa city for Turkey in 2021.

In regard to the COVID-19 pandemic:

February saw a remarkable increase in documented COVID-19 infections across Syria, seeing the highest monthly number of infections recorded since November 2021.

In areas under the control of Syrian regime forces, the Syrian regime government's [Ministry of Health](#) officially announced 3,173 cases of COVID-19 infection and 86 deaths in February, bringing the official total announced to 54,575 cases of infection with 3,075 deaths, as of February 28.

In northwestern Syria, more infections and deaths due to coronavirus were recorded in February, with [the Early Warning Alert and Response Network \(EWARN\)](#) announcing the documentation of 3,633 infections and 25 deaths related to COVID-19 as of February 27; this brought the total number of infections and deaths announced by EWARN in February, to 96,706 cases of infection and 2,388 deaths.

[The Self-Management's Health Authority](#) in northern and eastern Syria announced that it had documented a total of 916 cases of infection and 27 deaths in February. This brought the total number of infections and deaths as of February 27 to 38,394 cases of infection, including 1,552 deaths.

In regard to asylum, displacement and forced displacement:

The northwestern region of Syria is still experiencing the catastrophic effects of the rain and snowstorms and bad weather that prevailed in January. On February 1, [Agence France-Presse \(AFP\)](#) quoted Patrick Nicholson, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' spokesman, as stating that children are at severe risk from the cold. They live in worn-out tents and there is a lack of winter clothes and fuel, he explained, warning that the problem is getting worse due to the economic crisis, lack of resources to provide winter aid and increased needs. On February 5, Mark Cutts, UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, said in an interview with the British [Sky News TV](#), that the international community is not doing enough to help the Syrian people, adding that 3,000 tents were badly damaged or completely destroyed due to bad weather conditions, which prompted people to use plastic as a source of heating, which poses a risk of injury, especially to children, with respiratory diseases who could be seriously affected by the toxic gases emitted from burning plastic materials. On February 10, [the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) issued an update on the humanitarian situation in northwestern Syria, in which it said that more than 250,000 people have been affected by severe weather conditions in hundreds of sites in the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib, northwest Syria, since January 18. The report added that some 10,000 tents housing IDPs have been destroyed or damaged by the severe winter weather.

In February, we recorded the outbreak of [several fires](#) in [the IDP camps](#) in the areas of the northern and western suburbs of Idlib and northern suburbs of Aleppo due to the use of heaters and unconventional cooking methods in canvas tents, with the fires causing material damage, without recording any human casualties.

Regarding the IDPs from Hasaka city who were displaced as a result of the events at Ghwayran prison in January, [the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) issued a report on February 10 in which it said that an estimated 45,000 people were displaced from their homes as a result of the hostilities in Hasaka city. On February 14, [the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) published a status report on the situation in the governorate, in which it said that by February 8, nearly 90% of the people who had been forced to leave their homes as a result of the military operation in the vicinity of Ghwayran prison had returned to their homes in the neighborhoods of Ghwayran and al Zohour, and that nearly 400 families have been unable to return due to the destruction of their homes, in addition to the absence of public services in the area.

In the camps of northeastern Syria, the situation is still catastrophic, most notably in al Hawl Camp in the eastern suburbs of Hasaka. On February 7, a child was killed and three other children and two women were injured by gunfire by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel in the migrant sector of the camp, following an altercation between migrant women wives of ISIS members, and Syrian Democratic Forces personnel, after a fire, whose cause we have been unable to ascertain, broke out in the sector, burning six tents, without causing any injuries. On February 7, [the Associated Press](#) reported that [a child was killed](#) and others were injured as a result of shooting by guards inside al Hawl Camp, after several women detainees in the camp attempted to kidnap one of the camp guards. On February 8, [Amnesty International](#) issued a statement on the incident, saying that the killing of the child in al Hawl Camp reminds the world of the horrific conditions experienced by tens of thousands of children detained there for years. The statement noted that the suffering of these children is a result of the shameful international failure to take measures to ensure their safety.

On February 17, a fire, whose cause we have been unable to ascertain, broke out in a tent in the sixth sector of al Hawl Camp, which is designated for displaced Syrians. As a result, a woman died and her child sustained moderate burns, after which he was transferred to a hospital in Hasaka city.

In another context, [the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) published a statement on February 3 calling on Tunisia to urgently repatriate six women and girls aged between 3 and 22, who are being held in inhumane conditions in al Hawl and Amarnah camps in northeastern Syria. The statement added these young women and their children should be considered first and foremost as victims and treated as such. Instead, the statement said, they have been abandoned by their own country in response to their mothers' alleged links or affiliation to a designated terrorist group. The statement also added that these detainees' medical situation is of great concern,

with three of the girls reportedly wounded by grenades before their capture in 2019.

On February 3, [the Associated Press](#) reported that the Dutch authorities are repatriating five women from Syria who are suspected of terror offenses, along with their 11 children. The agency added, quoting the Dutch justice and foreign ministers, that once they arrive, the women will be arrested so that they can be prosecuted while their children will be cared for by a child welfare organization.

On February 10, [the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) called on Canada to urgently repatriate a Canadian woman detained in al Rouj Camp in northeastern Syria. The statement indicated that the woman, who is suffering life threatening illnesses, is being held at a camp under conditions meeting the definition of the threshold of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

On February 17, the [Australian SBS TV](#) website reported that Senator Kristina Keneally, in the Australian Senate, said that the Australian authorities must abide by their international obligations regarding the repatriation of children detained in the camps in northeastern Syria and that the Australian authorities' ignoring the issue of these children puts their lives at risk. The website quoted relief groups as reporting that there are more than 40 children of Australian nationality in camps in northeastern Syria.

On February 24, [the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) issued a statement saying that France's failure to repatriate French children who have been held in Syrian camps in life-threatening conditions for years violates their right to life, as well as their right to be free from inhuman and degrading treatment. The statement added that the committee came to these findings after considering the cases of 49 French children, some of whom were born in Syria, who are detained in al Rouj, Ein Eisa, and al Hawl camps. The statement indicated that at least 62 children have reportedly died in the camps as a result of these conditions since the beginning of 2021.

Regarding the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, [the Norwegian Refugee Council](#) said on February 8 that Syrian refugees in many parts of Lebanon are facing evictions from their homes, unable to pay the rent and are resorting to desperate measures to cope with the severe winter conditions amidst soaring fuel and food prices and the result of the difficult living and economic situation. On February 22, the [Lebanese MTV website](#) reported that a fire broke out in a camp for Syrian refugees in the town of Qab Elias in the Zahle district of eastern Lebanon, causing the burning of a number of tents, and a number of camp residents suffocated.

On the political and human rights level:

On January 31, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said in a [press conference](#) that the United States still believes that the time is not right for any normalization of relations with the Syrian regime, adding that now is the time to hold this regime accountable for the atrocities it has committed.

On February 1, the Fact-Finding Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Syria issued [a report](#) regarding a chemical weapons attack in Kafr Zita city in the northern suburbs of Hama on October 1, 2016. The report stated that Kafr Zita city had been under the control of armed opposition factions since mid-2012, until March 23, 2019. The report indicated that the area was witnessing military operations and air and missile bombing campaigns by Syrian regime forces at that time. The report concluded that all the information obtained and analyzed by the Fact-Finding Mission provides reasonable grounds to believe that a chlorine cylinder was used as a weapon in Wadi al Anz near al Maghara Hospital, which was built inside a natural cave in the aforementioned place. The cylinder ruptured as a result of mechanical force and released a toxic irritant substance that affects the respiratory system and mucous membranes."

On February 1, the [Jordanian Customs](#) agency said in a statement on its official website that the Customs cadres working in the Jaber Customs Center on the Syrian-Jordanian border managed to thwart an attempt to smuggle 200,000 Captagon pills. The statement added that the shipment came from a "neighboring Arab country." On February 11, the official website of [the Jordanian Army General Command](#) published a statement about thwarting an attempt to smuggle a large amount of narcotic pills in addition to quantities of ammunition coming from Syrian territory, on the same day. According to the statement, the quantities amounted to "9,343,000 Captagon pills, 38,900 Tramadol pills, 7,096 hashish palms, 199 BKC ammunition, 63 Kalashnikov ammunition and 2 mechanic weapons." In the same context, [France 24 TV website](#) reported on February 17 that the Jordanian army said that "attempts to smuggle drugs across the Syrian-Jordanian borders have become organized and use drones and are protected by armed groups." The website quoted Colonel Mustafa al Hiyari, director of military information for the Jordanian army, as saying that "Some border detachments affiliated with the Syrian army cooperated with smugglers and provided them with protection and facilities."

On February 3, UNICEF published a [press statement](#) issued by Bertrand Bainvel, acting UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, in which he said that UNICEF confirmed that at least six children were killed and one girl was badly injured in Atama town in the northwest of Syria. He pointed out that since 2021 began, violence has heavily escalated in and around Idlib, home to 1.2 million children in need of assistance. He added that last year, nearly 70 per cent of grave violations recorded against children in Syria occurred in the northwest.

On February 4, Human Rights Watch said [in a report](#) that the Syrian Democratic Forces should ensure the humane treatment of all evacuees from Ghwayran prison, including children, of whom the organization said that 400 children are of Syrian nationality. The report indicated that the airstrikes launched by the US-led Coalition forces during the operation caused severe damage to the prison building.

On February 6, UNICEF said [in a statement](#) that the organization met on February 5 with some of the children who are still detained in Ghwayran prison in Hasaka, northeastern Syria, where conditions in the prison are still wholly unstable. The statement added, "Children should never be in detention due to association with armed groups. Children associated with and recruited by armed groups should always be treated as victims of conflict."

On February 6, [the New York Times](#) published a feature article in which it said that children in Ghwayran prison in northeastern Syria, which was attacked by ISIS last January, suffer from hunger, thirst, and a lack of healthcare, according to Viktor Nylund, UNICEF Syria Representative, who visited the prison on February 5. [A photo](#) obtained by the newspaper from UNICEF showed two teenagers sitting barefoot on a filthy cement floor in a dark room with high windows from which little light enters. The number of children held in each cell was estimated to be approximately 30. The report added that the place still smells of smoke from the fires that broke out as a result of the military operation that took place in the prison in January 2022.

On February 8, [Anadolu News Agency](#) quoted a statement from the World Health Organization, in which it said that the organization had received reports that some hospitals in northwestern Syria would be forced to stop working due to a lack of funding and resources. The organization added that it was seeking to find funding for 18 hospitals in and around Idlib governorate after international organizations recently cut off support for them.

On February 8, [Foreign Policy](#) current affairs magazine published a feature article in which it said that the United States of America had concluded an agreement with Russia to ease political pressure on the Syrian regime at the United Nations, by reducing Security Council sessions on the Syrian regime's chemical weapons, in exchange for allowing cross-border aid to flow to the northwest

Syria and enhanced Security Council sessions on humanitarian relief and political transition. The feature article quoted Gregory Koblentz, an expert on Syria's chemical weapons program, as saying that now is not the time to scale back efforts to hold the Syrian regime accountable for its use of chemical weapons and its continued refusal to allow international inspectors to verify the destruction of the regime's remaining chemical weapons.

On February 10, the [American al Hurra TV website](#) published a joint investigation about the United Nations' efforts to cover up the killing of two humanitarian workers, both part of a relief convoy between the cities of Aleppo and Homs in 2016, who were killed at the hands of Syrian regime forces. The investigation stated that Stephen O'Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations at the time, and Jan Egeland, UN Senior Advisor to the UN Special Envoy for Syria at the time, did not announce the content of an internal message to the organization saying that the strikes by Syrian regime forces had caused the deaths of two relief workers in 2016. The investigation also indicated that the United Nations, in June 2021, after sending press inquiries, removed a video of a press conference held in Geneva on April 28, 2016, from its website. The video had indicated the killing of a person during a relief mission.

On February 10, [the Guardian newspaper](#) published an interview with Marat Gabidullin, a former member of the Russian Wagner militia, who previously fought in the ranks of the Russian militia alongside the Russian forces in Syria. The newspaper quoted the fighter, who is about to publish a book about his experience fighting in Syria, as saying that dozens of Wagner militia members had fought and been killed in Syria since the conflict began in 2011, and added that the ambiguous situation imposed by the Russian authorities on the militia's activities put its members in a position to act outside the law and commit crimes.

On February 14, [the Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)³ published a research paper on UN aid in Syria, in which it was revealed that the Syrian regime used international aid as a political tool to pressure the areas outside its control and also to support its supporters. The research added that, according to several high-ranking UN officials, for the first time in Syria, the United Nations allowed "[government-affiliated](#)" agencies to provide UN aid individually, as most of the work of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations is carried out by the Syrian Red Crescent and the Syrian Trust for Development affiliated with Asma al Assad, the wife of the Syrian regime's president. In addition, most of the managers in non-governmental and charitable organizations in areas under the Syrian regime's control are close to the regime, making it difficult to monitor the activities of these organizations.

³ Studies institute based in Washington, DC, USA. The center was founded at Georgetown University in 1962

On February 22, [the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) issued a report on the general humanitarian needs in Syria for the year 2022. The report stated that the number of internally displaced people in Syria is now estimated at 6.9 million, including 2 million residing in camps, which are estimated to number 1,760. The report added that about 14.6 million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Syria this year, an increase estimated by the report by 1.2 million people, equivalent to an increase of 9% over the previous year 2021.

On February 22, [Human Rights Watch](#) said in a press release that "Canada is effectively preventing a Canadian woman and a young Canadian child detained in northeast Syria from coming home for life-saving medical care, despite a Canadian policy allowing them to do so." The statement called on Canada and other countries that have citizens in camps in northeastern Syria, to work to urgently take measures to safely repatriate them. On February 24, [The Associated Press](#) quoted Sabrina Williams, spokesperson for Canada's Ministry of Global Affairs, as saying that the Canadian government's ability to provide consular assistance in Syria is "extremely limited."

On February 25, Geir O. Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, said during [his briefing](#) to the Security Council on the situation in Syria, that the date of the seventh round of the Constitutional Committee meetings in Geneva had been set for March 21.

On February 28, Izumi Nakamitsu, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, said during [her briefing](#) to a Security Council session on Syria that, "Any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and the absence of accountability for the past use of such weapons remains a blight on the conscience of the international community." She added that for almost 10 months, the OPCW has attempted to schedule talks in Damascus, however, the Syrian regime's continued refusal to issue an entry visa for one member has prevented discussions there.

On the course of advocacy and the pursuit of accountability:

On February 9, the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice published a [joint statement](#) saying that the French Government has presented a bill to authorize the approval of the international judicial cooperation agreement between the French Government and the United Nations Organization, represented by the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria. The statement added that the French National Assembly has passed by the bill. The statement indicated that there are more than 40 proceedings under way in French courts to prosecute the most serious crimes committed in Syria.

On February 15, the SNHR held an online event for two newly released SNHR reports on the Most Notable Violations by [Hay'at Tahrir al Sham](#) and [ISIS](#), with the participation of Mr. Ibrahim Olabi, a lawyer (barrister) at Guernica 37 in London, Mr. Hossam Jazmati, a Syrian writer and researcher,

whose work focuses on analysis of jihadist movements, and Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, SNHR's Director. The event was moderated by the Syrian journalist Nour H. Murad. On February 17, the SNHR issued a [statement](#) on the event, which summarized the main points that were discussed in it.

On February 16, [the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center \(IHRDC\)](#) published a statement in which it reported that the IHRDC has submitted a request to Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the opening of a Preliminary Examination to examine the role of Iran and the armed groups in Syria which it controls, supports and backs in crimes committed during the conflict in Syria. The statement said that the request was submitted in accordance with Article 15 of the ICC's Rome Statute, alleging that the perpetrators include figures from Iran's regime and its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). According to the statement, the request includes the evidence of Syrian victims directly affected and forced to flee into Jordan by these crimes.

On February 17, the official website of the [Australian Ministry of the Interior](#) published a press statement in which it announced the proscription of eight more terrorist organizations, amongst which are Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Guardians of Religion 'Hurras al Din' faction. The statement added that "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham is a successor of Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, also known as Jabhat al-Nusra, [which has been listed under the Criminal Code by the Government since 2013](#)."

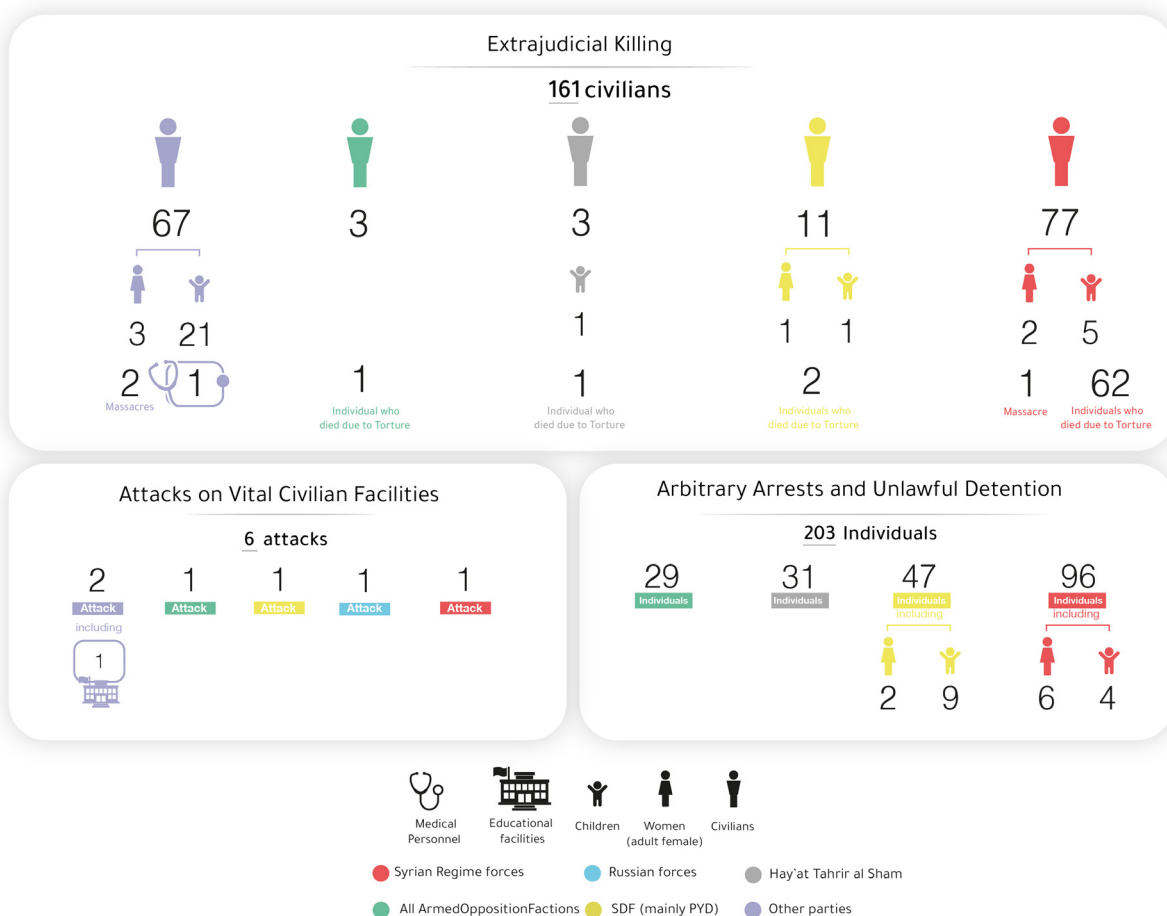
On February 17, [Le Parisien newspaper](#) reported that the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office had opened a preliminary examination into the accusation of complicity in war crimes against the SOS Chrétiens d'Orient association, following the publication of an investigation conducted by the investigative website Mediapart, which revealed that the association had established partnerships with a number of militias affiliated with the Syrian regime which are accused of committing war crimes in Syria. The newspaper added that some of the organization's partners are heads of militias loyal to the Syrian regime that have bombed civilians, looted villages, recruited children and trained them to fight.

On February 21, [the Council of the European Union](#) issued a statement announcing the inclusion of five individuals from the family of Muhammad Makhoulf, the uncle of Syrian regime president Bashar al Assad, on the European sanctions list. The statement indicated that Muhammad Makhoulf was on the sanctions list from August 1, 2011, until he passed away on September 12, 2020, and all his heirs have also been included on the sanctions list because his inherited assets will support the activities of the Syrian regime, which contributes to the repression of civilians. The list of names provided included his two wives and three of his daughters.

On February 21, [Reporters Without Borders \(RSF\)](#) called on the French judicial authorities to complete their war crimes investigation into the Syrian army's shelling of a media center in Homs city on February 22, 2012, in which French photographer Rémi Ochlik was killed, along with US reporter Marie Colvin, and a French reporter was injured. The statement added that the French authorities have yet to bring any charges regarding this incident.

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

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in February 2022 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.



A. Extrajudicial killing:

In February 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 161 civilians, including 28 children and six women (adult female), the largest percentage of whom were killed at the hands of Syrian regime forces; among the victims was one medical worker. We also documented 66 individuals who died due to torture. We also recorded at least three massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in February at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)⁴:** 77 civilians, including five children and two women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham⁵:** Three civilians, including one child.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** Three civilians.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** 11 civilians, including one child and one woman.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 67 civilians, including 21 children and three women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians.
- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 16 civilians, including five children and one woman.
- Gunfire by parties we have been unable to identify: 19 civilians.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Four civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 17 civilians, including 13 children and two women.
- Turkish border guards: Three civilians, including two children.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

In February 2022, SNHR documented at least 203 cases of arbitrary arrests, including 13 children and 11 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The largest number of arbitrary arrests was carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Damascus Suburbs, Daraa, then Damascus. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances which we documented in February at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The record of cases of arbitrary arrests was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 96, including four children and six women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** 31.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 29, including three women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 47, including nine children and two women.

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

In February 2022, SNHR documented at least six incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities.

Among these attacks, we documented one on a school, and two on markets.

These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** One.
- **Russian forces:** One.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** One.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** One.

B. Other parties:

Other parties perpetrated two incidents, distributed as follows:

- **Shelling whose source we have not been able to identify:** One attack which is still under investigation, with the primary parties suspected of responsibility for this attack is either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces.
- **Turkish forces:** One.

The record of attacks on vital civil facilities documented in February 2022 was distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

Perpetrator Party Attacked Facility	Syrian regime forces	Russian forces	Syrian Democratic Forces	All Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army	Other parties	
					Shelling whose source we have not been able to identify	Turkish forces
Vital Educational Facilities						
Schools						1
Communal Facilities						
Markets	1				1	
Parks				1		
Infrastructure						
Official Headquarters			1			
Livestock farms		1				
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1

The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in February:

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate was attacked with a number of missiles whose source SNHR has been so far unable to identify, although we believe the perpetrators to be either Syrian regime forces or Syrian Democratic Forces as the attack originated from an area under their control. Investigations are ongoing to identify the responsible party.

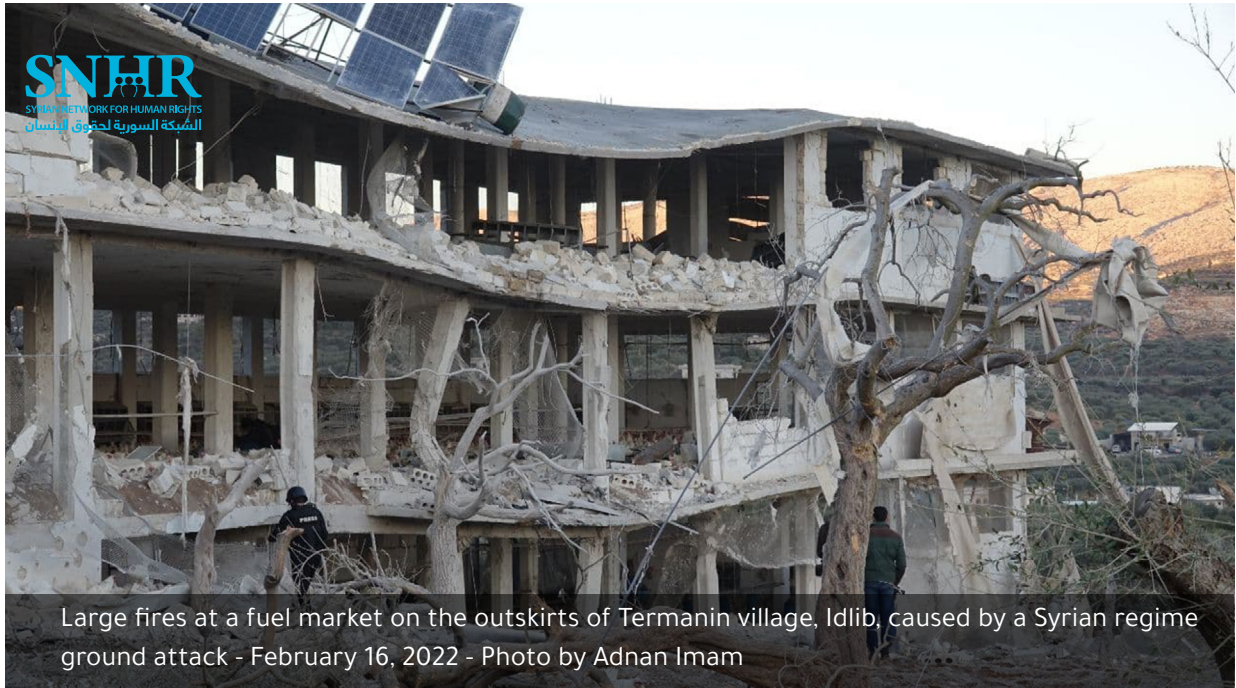
One of the missiles fell on al Novotel market, a [local market](#), resulting in a massacre, and causing various material damage to a number of shops. Al Bab city was under the control of the Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.



On Thursday, February 3, 2022, warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at a poultry farm located on the outskirts of Kafr Shlaya village in Jabal al Zaweya area in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, [partially destroying](#) the farm [structure](#). SNHR notes that the farm was empty at the time of the bombing. Kafr Shlaya village was under the joint control of Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Syrian Democratic Forces used a missile launcher to fire several missiles at Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, with one of the missiles hitting [the Ottoman Nation Park](#), injuring many civilians and [causing moderate](#) material [damage](#) to the park. The city was under the control of the Syrian National Army forces at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at around 10:15 local time, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at and around a [fuel market](#) controlled by the Watad Fuel Company, run by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, with the fuel being stored in tanks and ground-level warehouses. [The shelling](#) resulted in [casualties](#), with a [huge fire](#) also [breaking out](#) in [the market](#), causing [significant material](#) damage to installations. The area was under the joint control of Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Large fires at a fuel market on the outskirts of Termanin village, Idlib, caused by a Syrian regime ground attack - February 16, 2022 - Photo by Adnan Imam

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

The Syrian Network for Human Rights was unable to document any indiscriminate attacks or attacks using outlawed weapons in February.

IV. Attachments:

(1) [161 Civilians, Including 28 Children, Six Women, and 66 Victims Due to Torture, Documented Killed in Syria in February 2022](#)

(2) [At Least 203 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in Syria in February 2022, Including 13 Children and 11 Women](#)

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, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. 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 Russian forces prior to any attack under 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 lead 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 Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army 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 IV Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:**UN 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, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states’ veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions and landmines 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 person 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.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (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 and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.

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.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.

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, empowering the Constitutional Committee 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.
- 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 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.

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

- 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.
- 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.

All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army

- The Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army 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.
- 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.
- Provide protected facilities and vehicles, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with distinctive signs that can be distinguished from long distances.

Acknowledgments

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.



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