



Press Release

SNHR Signs a Data-Sharing Agreement with Harvard University Allowing the Sharing of Data with Ph.D. Researchers

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Harvard University, providing the sharing of information and data documented by SNHR on its database, which has been built up over nearly 12 years.

This agreement allows Ph.D. researchers at Harvard University to obtain data compiled daily, which provides an accurate picture of the evolution of the armed conflict in Syria. Through sharing this data, SNHR aims to contribute to a research project that seeks to study the impact of peace conferences on conflict dynamics in Syria.

[Harvard University](#) is a private research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Founded in 1636, Harvard University devotes its resources and capabilities to excellence in teaching, learning, and research, and to developing leaders who make a difference globally. Harvard University is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States and among the most prestigious in the world.

Multiple Memoranda of Understanding:

This new memorandum of understanding is the latest in a series of memoranda of understanding signed by the SNHR with several bodies, most notably: United Nations bodies, including the [International Impartial and Independent Mechanism \(IIIM\), to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible, according to international law, for the most serious crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.](#)

The IIIM has received a large quantity of data extracted from the SNHR database.

In January 2020, SNHR also signed a Principles of Cooperation agreement with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) [Investigation and Identification Team \(IIT\)](#), enabling SNHR to contribute to the investigations into the incidents that the team is currently conducting and will conduct in the future, since the SNHR possesses an extensive database documenting the use of chemical weapons in Syria since the first use of this weapon documented by SNHR in December 2012.

In October 2019, the SNHR signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the United States of America](#), providing for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR concerning human rights violations in Syria and on the individuals involved in such violations in order to participate in the investigations carried out by the Government of the United States of America into some of these violations, and to place the greatest possible number of those involved in perpetrating these violations on the lists of economic and political sanctions; this will constitute a major impediment to any effort to rehabilitate the Syrian regime and all its organs and serve as an important form of accountability that was previously unavailable.

[In February 2020, the SNHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding](#) with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its [Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSD\)](#) project, accredited by the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and numerous humanitarian NGOs around the world. The AWSD is the most comprehensive global database of the major incidents of violence recorded against aid workers since 1997 to date. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and incidences of violence affecting aid workers. This will effectively assist in the study, analysis, and description of aid work in Syria, providing comparisons with similar work carried out in other nations worldwide based on the AWSD's findings.

In addition, the SNHR has signed a wide range of bilateral agreements with a number of research centers for data-sharing, most notably: [The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#) and [the Global Public Policy Institute \(GPPi\)](#), the New York Times, and others.

Our policy stipulates that we should not share any data without first co-signing a formal agreement or memorandum of understanding detailing the criteria for using this data; SNHR's general terms for data-sharing can be found on [our website](#).

The SNHR will continue to build partnerships with various parties and bodies in a way that contributes to presenting a true and accurate picture of events in Syria and supporting the victims' and survivors' accounts concerning the events and facts with documented data in a manner that refutes the false narratives provided by the perpetrators of violations, primarily the Syrian regime and its Russian and Iranian allies, and prevents their distortion of history.

