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I. The Idea and Establishment:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), an independent human rights organization, monitors and documents human rights violations in Syria, mobilizing efforts and capabilities towards limiting such violations, contributing to the protection of victims’ rights, exposing the perpetrators of violations in preparation for holding them accountable, raising awareness amongst Syrians of their civil and political rights, promoting the optimal conditions for human rights, advancing transitional justice, supporting democratic change, achieving justice and peace in Syria, and saving and cataloguing the history of events.

SNHR was founded in June 2011, as a result of the systematic increase in human rights violations in Syria, at the initiative of Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, who is the CEO, and in cooperation and coordination with a number of activists. It has continued to expand in the years since then, with the current SNHR team consisting of 48 people, including staff members and volunteers, who are located in Syria, neighboring countries and nations of asylum, with SNHR now licensed in the United States of America, France, and Turkey. The SNHR’s structure consists of seven main sections, in addition to the administrative supporting sections.

The SNHR has worked to monitor and document human rights violations in Syria on a continuous daily basis since 2011, documenting more than twenty-five types of violations perpetrated in Syria, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, displacement and forced displacement, and the use of prohibited munitions and other highly destructive munitions, as well as other violations.

The SNHR has established databases to archive and catalogue incidents of violations, with SNHR working to continuously develop these databases, taking into account the latest developments in Syria and their context, with the databases used to document the largest possible amount of data regarding many types of gross violations of human rights, using a working methodology developed specifically to be compatible with the nature of the non-international armed conflict in Syria and according to universal human rights standards, declarations, covenants, and conventions issued by the United Nations. SNHR reflects what it documents on its databases through the materials it continuously issues, including various human rights reports, whether these are periodic reports (daily/ monthly/ annual) concerning the human rights situation in Syria, or statistical or thematic reports dealing with research, statistics and analysis with one or more types of human rights violations. SNHR also publishes charts and interactive maps on its official website concerning specific statistics, as well as analyses of the reality of one or more violations that are practiced on Syrian soil, in addition to many daily news articles on human rights violations in Syria.

The database includes hundreds of thousands of incidents that have been documented over a period of nearly 12 years, including data of victims who were killed, data of detainees and forcibly disappeared persons, and incidents of bombing vital facilities, including details such as photos, videos, testimonies, documents, and others.

It should also be noted that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights as a primary source in all of its statistics on the analysis of victims of the conflict in Syria. SNHR also works in cooperation with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) and has signed data-sharing agreements with the Independent International and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the internal United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that occurred in northwest Syria, as well as with other UN bodies and international organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in addition to signing memoranda of understanding with many distinguished international and regional bodies and institutions, including United States governments, the German Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Medi), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD), Syrian Memory Institution (SMI), Harvard University, and Amnesty International.
The SNHR is one of the most important data sources for the Syria situation reports issued by the foreign ministries of many countries worldwide and by the European Union, with a large number of Arab and international news agencies relying on the SNHR’s reports and statistics for their coverage and reports on Syria.

The SNHR is a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the International Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Every Casualty Counts (ECC), and a founding member of the Global Alliance on War, Conflict & Health. network.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) also supports advocacy efforts for victims of human rights violations in Syria through holding bilateral or group meetings with international decision-makers and politicians, United Nations agencies and committees, human rights international organizations and bodies, and with human rights defenders around the world. In addition to these activities, SNHR also participates in organizing advocacy events to mobilize capabilities and efforts within the framework of curbing human rights violations in Syria, advancing transitional justice, supporting democratic change, and achieving justice and peace in Syria.

As of June 2022, SNHR has issued approximately 1,230 reports and approximately 330 statements, in addition to thousands of news articles, in which it addressed multiple types of the most notable human rights violations. Since its establishment, the SNHR has also organized and participated in some 69 important events on human rights in Syria, with the participation of international actors and victims.

The SNHR has also provided training to a wide range of Syrian media workers, in addition to a number of political offices of factions of the Syrian opposition, as well as to human rights activists from other Arab countries suffering from conflicts.
II. Monitoring, Documenting and Archiving the Data of Violations:

i. The Types of Violations the SNHR Records in Syria:

1. Violations Related to the Treatment of Civilians and Hors De Combat Fighters

- Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killings
- Arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and enforced disappearance
- Torture in detention centers
- Violations of children’s rights
- Violations of women’s rights
- Summary trial procedure
- Sexual violence

2. Violations Concerning the Conduct of Hostilities

a. Military operations and unlawful attacks:

- Artillery and aerial attacks
- Mines
- Suicide/ forced suicide bombings
- Sniper attacks
- Siege and threats of military operations

b. Specifically protected individuals and objects:

- Medical sector
- Educational sector
- Media workers
- Attacks on vital civilian facilities

c. Use of prohibited weapons

- Cluster munitions
- Barrel bombs
- Chemical weapons
- Incendiary weapons
- Nail missiles
3. Violations of the Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IPDs)

- Displacement and forced displacement
- Confiscating property and legalizing property looting

4. Assigning individual responsibility

- Documenting the names of those involved in perpetrating violations
- Monitoring entities and individuals violating European and US sanctions

ii. The Parties Documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights as Committing Violations in Syria:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)
- ISIS
- Turkistan Islamic Party
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces
- Turkish forces
- Russian forces
- Hay’at Tahrir al Sham
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army
- US-led coalition forces

B. The main parties:

- Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify
- Border guards of neighboring countries
- Shells whose source we have been unable to identify
- Lebanese forces
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify
- Drowning
- Killings by persons we have been unable to identify
- Messing around with weapons
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify
III. The Syrian Network for Human Rights Publications:

A. Daily Publications:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) issues publications on its website on a daily basis, including the daily death toll report and news reports on incidents of violations that it can verify.

B. Reports:

The SNHR issues monthly and annual reports on the most notable violations and the human rights situation in Syria. It also issues brief and statistical reports that deal with one or several types of violations, as well as providing an analysis of statistics based on the information documented on the SNHR database. The SNHR also issues thematic reports. These thematic reports deal with a specific issue, or a specific incident, and expand on previous documentation and analysis, assembling the largest possible amount of evidence and data about the subject, with these reports being often used to provide information on important topics requiring greater investigation, clarification and advocacy. The SNHR also issues joint reports in cooperation with other organizations and bodies.
C. Statements:
The SNHR issues statements with the aim of exposing a specific violation urgently, or advocating for a specific case. It also issues joint statements with other organizations and bodies with the aim of advocating on behalf of many causes.

D. Interactive Map:
The SNHR’s IT team has created a program providing an interactive way for users to see information on victims of extrajudicial killings in Syria according to the SNHR database, through which it is possible to view statistics on the victims of extrajudicial killings in each governorate separately, according to the perpetrator parties responsible, with the periodically updated interactive map displaying these statistics in a cumulative manner, along with the death toll for each year.

E. Visual Releases:
The SNHR issues visual and audiovisual materials, which shed light on the prominent events and the most important points included in the SNHR’s reports, with the aim of simplifying the information and making it available to the largest possible proportion of Syrian society. These releases vary, with their content including infographics, maps, videos, and visual guides.
IV. Cooperation Agreements for Data-Sharing and Affiliation with International Alliances:

To date, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has signed about 31 agreements and memoranda of understanding to share data on human rights violations in Syria with many regional and international institutions and bodies working in the field of human rights or active in the Syrian case, including:


Affiliation with Specialized Alliances:
The SNHR is a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the International Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Every Casualty Counts (ECC), and a founding member of the Global Alliance on War, Conflict & Health.
Several United Nations agencies rely on the data provided by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), and it has been a primary source on the violations that occurred in Syria for them, as well as for many states around the world, including foreign ministries, in the situation reports issued by those states, in addition to a wide range of human rights and research institutions, civil society organizations and political institutions. The following are the most prominent of these bodies:

**United Nations Bodies:**
- OCHA
- United Nations Human Rights Council
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)
- Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health
- Special Rapporteur on arbitrary detention
- Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

**International Organizations:**
- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor
- Reporters Without Borders
- The Syria Campaign
- British Medical Journal
- Center for Defending Freedom of Journalism
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
- European Asylum Support Office
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med)
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)
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- Reporters Without Borders
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**Research Institutions:**
- The Global Public Policy Institute
- The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
- Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG)
- Oxford Research Group
- Harvard University
- Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies
- Jusoor for Studies
- Omran for Strategic Studies
- German Federal Foreign Office
- The High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces
- National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces
- The Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in the Middle East and North Africa
- The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor
- Center for Defending Freedom of Journalism
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

**Political Institutions:**
- US Department of State
- British Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- German Federal Foreign Office
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

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- The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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- The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
VI. Advocacy Events:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) regularly participates in international and UN events, as well as organizing side events on the sidelines of international events.

As part of its endeavors to share and transfer the extensive experience it has gained, the SNHR has provided training to large numbers of Syrian media activists, as well as to human rights activists in Syria and other countries, in addition to providing training on international humanitarian law to a number of political offices of factions of the Syrian opposition.
VII. Taking Part in the Judicial Accountability Process:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights’ (SNHR) documentary work generally falls within the framework of criminal and non-criminal accountability, such as imposing economic sanctions and taking political decisions to make efforts to stop crimes against humanity and achieve a political transition towards democracy and human rights. All of the aforementioned, including the memoranda of understanding, cooperation and data-sharing agreements, contribute to the accountability process, with examples of this being:

1. The memoranda of understanding we signed in October 2019 with the Government of the United States of America provided for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR on human rights violations in Syria and on those 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 these violations on the lists of economic and political sanctions.

2. By sharing data with the Independent International and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM), which in turn shares it with public prosecutors in Europe.

3. We contributed to in a lawsuit filed before the French Public Prosecution regarding the Syrian regime’s use of barrel bombs in Daraa.

4. We also contributed to the case against Anwar R. by providing data, based on the SNHR database of victims of torture, to the German Public Prosecutor through our partner organization, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR). In order to ensure that the charge of enforced disappearance is included, the SNHR has provided data on some of the individuals who were forcibly disappeared in the al Khatib branch during the period of the defendant A.R.’s tenure in the investigation department there.

5. We participated in the lawsuit filed against Dr. Alaa M. by submitting data based on the contents of the SNHR database regarding victims of detention/torture, to the German Public Prosecutor through the ECCHR.

6. Other judicial files are being compiled that cannot be disclosed.
VIII. Official Social Media Platforms:

The primary focus of our social media platforms, (most of which have been legally verified and are available in English and Arabic) is to reflect and promote the SNHR’s publications on various themes, with the aim of reaching multiple segments of local, regional and international communities, thus expanding the scope of our advocacy efforts and mobilizing support. This includes our commemorative efforts, publishing visual artworks designed by our team members commemorating prominent massacres, as well as portraits of the forcibly disappeared on the anniversaries of their disappearance.
IX. Cooperation with the Media:

The SNHR cooperates with a wide range of media outlets with the aim of advocating for victims and raising awareness of the human rights situation in Syria. SNHR data and reports have been quoted in hundreds of local, Arab and international media outlets, the most notable of which are: