



Press Release

SNHR Signs a Data-Sharing Agreement with Amnesty International Allowing the Sharing of Data

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amnesty International, providing for the establishment of a coordination and cooperation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR on its database.

This agreement allows all Amnesty International researchers to request detailed, documented data from SNHR's records, compiled and updated daily, which provide an accurate and detailed picture of the context, dynamics, and evolution of events, as well as providing insight into the scale of some violations.

[Amnesty International](#), an international non-governmental organization, founded in 1961, focuses on human rights. The organization says it is a global movement of more than 10 million people. The organization's stated mission is to campaign for "a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments."

Through this agreement, the SNHR aims to employ the data it has collected in the service of international human rights reports, which gives it more space for dissemination, advocacy, and access to decision-makers, contributes to reporting the suffering of the victims, and exposes the perpetrators of violations on a wider, more comprehensive scale.

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 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. This MoU stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and incidences of violence affecting aid workers. This effectively assists 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 and other bodies for data-sharing, most notably: [The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#) and [the Global Public Policy Institute \(GPPi\)](#), the New York Times, Harvard University, 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 seeks to expand partnerships with active Syrian organizations, international organizations, and research centers, in order to use the data SNHR has compiled over nearly 12 years in the service of reports and research papers on Syria. This falls within the framework of advocating and defending the rights of victims and leads to the synergy of evidence and data, which enhances the possibility of building judicial cases in the context of exposing the perpetrators of violations and holding individual perpetrators accountable.

