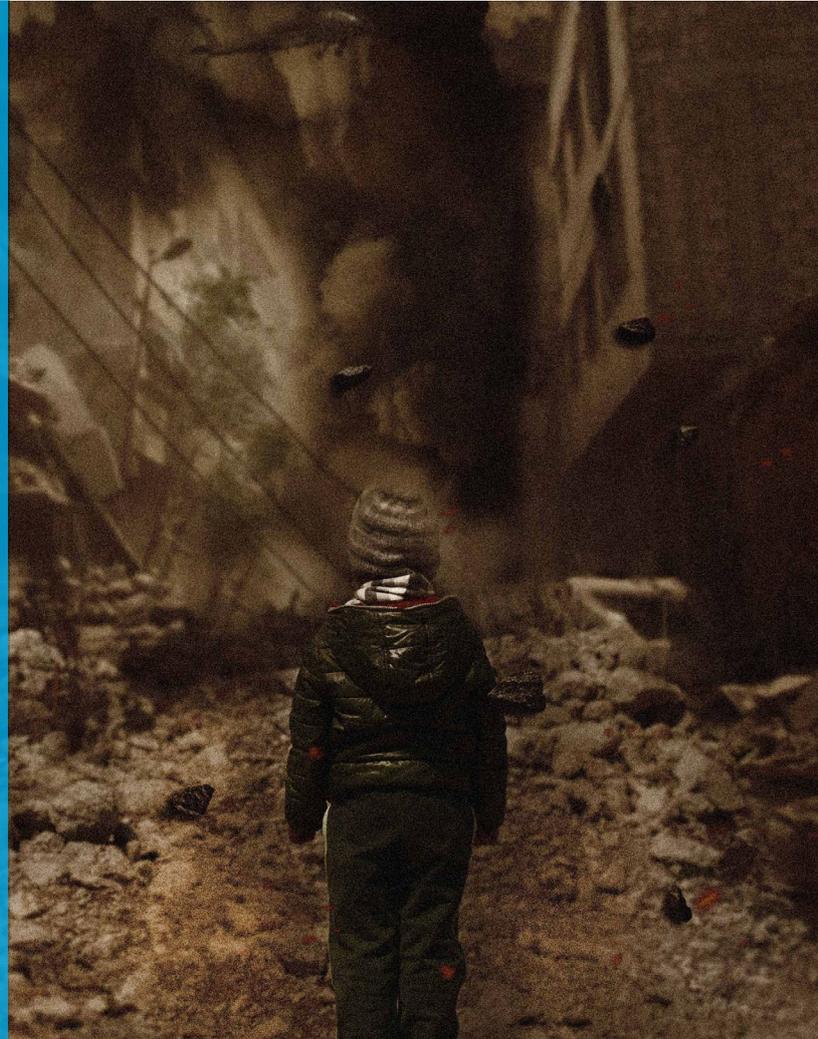


## 91 Civilians, Including 28 Children, Two Women, and Seven Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Including One Child, Were Documented Killed in Syria in August 2022

The Syrian Regime Continues to Kill Syrian Citizens without Registering Their Death in the State Civil Registry Departments



Thursday 01 September 2022

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.

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## I. Background and Methodology

This report records the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in August 2022, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces which the SNHR team was able to document in this period.

We should note that in this context, we use the term “massacre” to refer to any attack that resulted in the deaths of five or more peaceful individuals in the same incident.

The report also includes an outline of the most notable incidents during this period. Finally, we maintain the full details of every incident on the SNHR database.

The documentation process to register victims killed in Syria has been one of the most important roles performed by SNHR since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily through Syrian regime forces’ and affiliated militias’ systematic killing of civilians, with these forces being almost the sole perpetrators of killings from the aforementioned date up to the beginning of 2012. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which have deployed barrel bombs, in addition to Scud missiles and chemical weapons.

The entry of several other parties into the Syrian conflict has further increased the importance and complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the eleventh consecutive year, as it has continuously since the outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011, resulting in casualty numbers that are among the largest worldwide; this underlines the fact that Syria is still the most dangerous nation in the world for civilians, and remains an exceptionally insecure and perilous environment wholly unsuitable for the return of refugees.

The report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for the attack in some incidents of ground bombardment, especially those in which the source of the bombardment is an area adjacent to the control of another party among the controlling forces, continuing our investigations until we are able to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

In addition, in cases where we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties because of the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons, the incident is categorized among 'other parties' until we have sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

The parties to the conflict who this report documents as committing extrajudicial killings are:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)<sup>1</sup>
- Syrian Democratic Forces

B. Other parties

We at the SNHR are keen to accurately attribute incidents to those responsible, but we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility that we carry out, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in [detailed reports](#).

As for the anonymous victims whose names we haven't yet been able to determine or on whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a private archive until any information indicating these victims' identity has been found which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, and also by the governorate from which they originally came. This report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by the governorate they originally came from.

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<sup>1</sup> We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in reality under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians, whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link<sup>2</sup>.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides a [special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

We note that the death toll of victims detailed on SNHR's database includes extrajudicial killings by the controlling forces which occurred as a violation of either international human rights law or international humanitarian law or both, but does not include cases of natural deaths or those which occurred because of disputes between members of society or other such issues.

This report contains one account that we've obtained through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, which is not cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, and reassures all interviewees that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

Our investigations confirm that all of the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks, and in which the perpetrators failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

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.

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<sup>2</sup> The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights: SNHR. <<[http://sn4hr.org/public\\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\\_Methodology\\_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf)>>

## II. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Death Records of the Civil Registry

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular rising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead within the competent official state departments, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime brutally controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to any of the families of its victims, whether they were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. The Syrian regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the Syrian regime's forcing victims' families to make false statements s blackmailing them into signing reports prepared by the security services stating that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the Syrian regime, killed their loved ones by withholding death certificates until they sign these false statements. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any judicial investigations into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to hold to account even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

**In order to obtain a death certificate, the Syrian regime relies on three things:**

- The regime prepares a medical report in which it gives a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claims falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar' and from any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement of the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of death and those responsible for it.

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document **three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed**, which we detailed in a report we issued on August 19, 2022, entitled 'The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'.

We note that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their name to that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, meaning that he or she was a dissident who opposed the Syrian regime, or of their loved one being registered as a 'terrorist' if s/he is wanted by the security services; additionally, many victims' families have been forcibly displaced outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

On August 10, 2022, the Minister of Justice in the Syrian regime government issued Circular No. 22 specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths within Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted to and approved by the relevant judges in proceedings related to registering the death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also imposed security clearance on judicial authorities to register death cases, increasing the security services' intrusion. We issued a report in which we reviewed our analysis of the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

### III. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in August

August saw an increase in the number of documented deaths compared to the total documented in July, with SNHR documenting a total of 91 civilians killed, including 28 children and two women. Most of the victims were killed by other parties. The Syrian regime was documented as killing 14 of these civilians, including seven victims due to torture, one of whom was a child; among the victims was a returnee from Lebanon, identified as [Kayed Fayez Rashq](#), a 48-year-old man from Fleita village in western Damascus suburbs governorate, who had been living in an IDP camp in Arsal in Lebanon, before returning to his village after agreeing to a security settlement with the Syrian regime. On Saturday, August 13, 2022, Kayed was shot and killed by members of the Syrian regime army's 4th Division as he passed through a checkpoint in al Mashkouna region near Fleita village. This incident proves once again, as we've stressed in previous reports, that Syria is a completely unsafe country for the return of refugees.

Meanwhile, we documented the deaths of 73 civilians at the hands of other parties, including 24 civilians killed in gunfire by parties which we have not yet been able to identify; the largest number of these victims were killed in Daraa governorate, which saw the deaths of 11 civilians due to gunfire by parties that we have not yet been able to identify. August also saw the continuation of civilian casualties killed or wounded as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria; we documented the deaths of 11 civilians, including five children, as a result of landmine explosions in August, bringing the death toll resulting from the explosion of landmines since the beginning of 2022 to 101 civilians, including 50 children and nine women.

On Wednesday, August 24, 2022, the explosion of a landmine planted by a party which we have not yet been able to identify in farmland in San village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulted in [the deaths of](#) three civilians while they were harvesting the figs crop there. The victims have been identified as Abdul Rahman al Abdullah and his son Sanad, from Abo Ruwail village in the south of Aleppo governorate, and Zakwan Khalil from Qaminas village in Idlib governorate. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, August 16, 2022, the explosion of a landmine planted by a party that we have not yet been able to identify in farmland between Kansafra village and al Fatira village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulted in [the deaths of](#) two civilians while they were harvesting the figs crop there. The victims have been identified as Muhammad Omar Khalil and Saddam Dani, from Kansafra village in southern Idlib governorate. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, August 21, 2022, Tayseer Ahmad al Nezami, a 48-year-old civilian from Taseel town in western Daraa governorate, who owned a gas station and who had agreed a security settlement with the Syrian regime forces, [was shot dead](#) by unidentified gunmen in the town, which was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

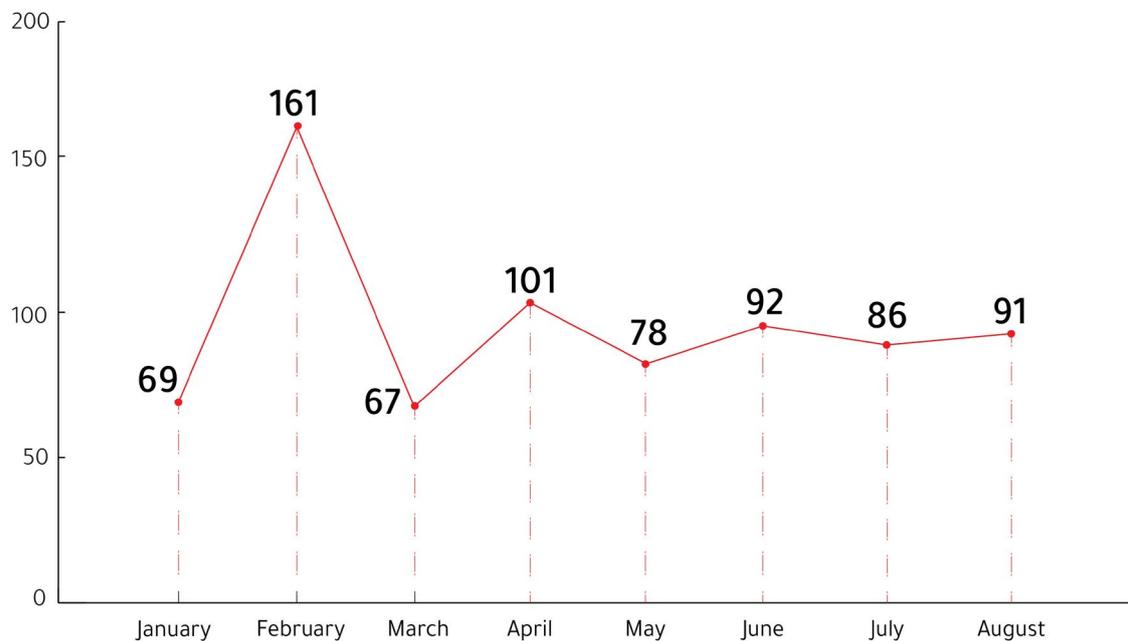
On Thursday, August 25, 2022, Hussein al Dallo from Abo Ouja village in eastern Hama governorate, [died](#) in a Turkish hospital due to injuries sustained the day before in the explosion of remnants of a previous shelling from an unknown source, which took place while he was working gathering metal scrap to be melted down at a workshop near Ma'aret Misreen town in northern Idlib governorate. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

We also documented a massacre that occurred on August 19, 2022, in al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which was hit by six missiles fired from missile launchers, with one of the missiles hitting al Khamis Local Market. SNHR has so far been unable to identify the perpetrators, though we believe that the missiles were fired either by Syrian regime forces or by the Syrian Democratic Forces, since the shelling came from an area jointly controlled by both. Investigations are underway to determine the party responsible for the attack, which caused a massacre of 15 civilians, including six children, and wounded over 30 others, including at least 11 children. The SNHR will issue a detailed report on this incident.

## IV. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

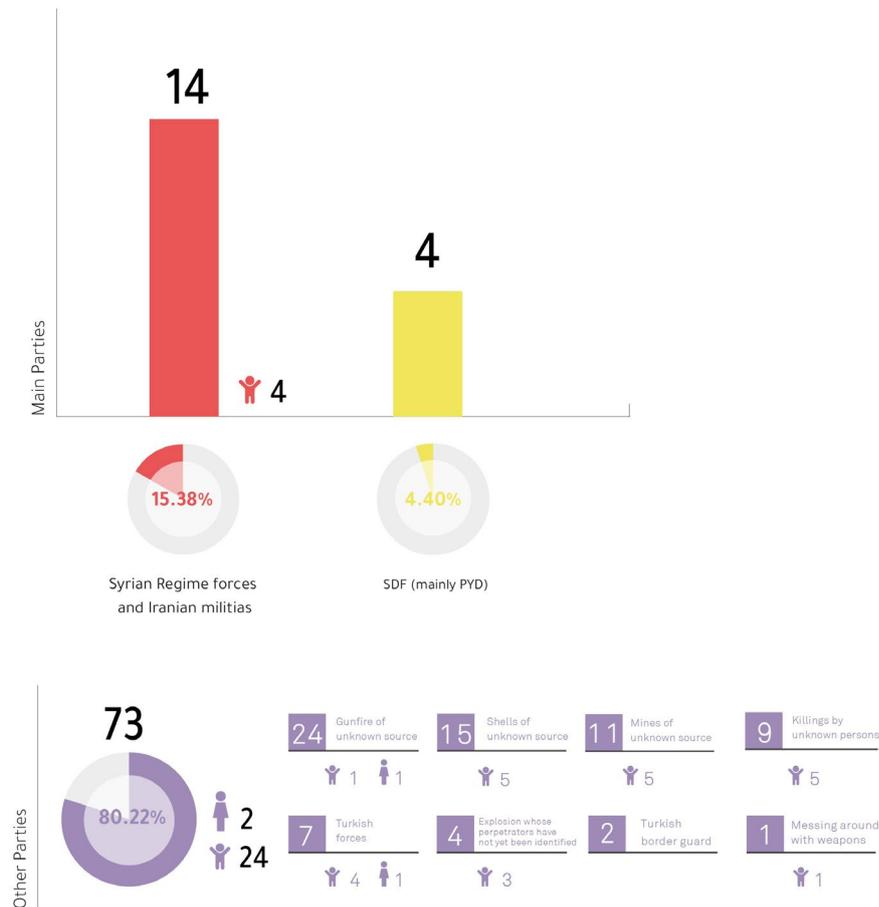
In August, SNHR documented the deaths of 91 civilians, including 28 children and two women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented civilian death toll since the beginning of 2022 up to September 2022 to 745.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 was distributed as follows:



February saw the largest number of deaths in 2022, accounting for approximately 22% of the total death toll documented since the beginning of the year, followed by April with approximately 13%, then June and August with approximately 12% each.

The death toll we documented in August 2022 was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:



#### A. The main parties:

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

We documented the deaths of 14 civilians, including four children, at the hands of Syrian regime forces.

##### - Syrian Democratic Forces:

We documented the deaths of four civilians at the hands of all Syrian Democratic Forces.

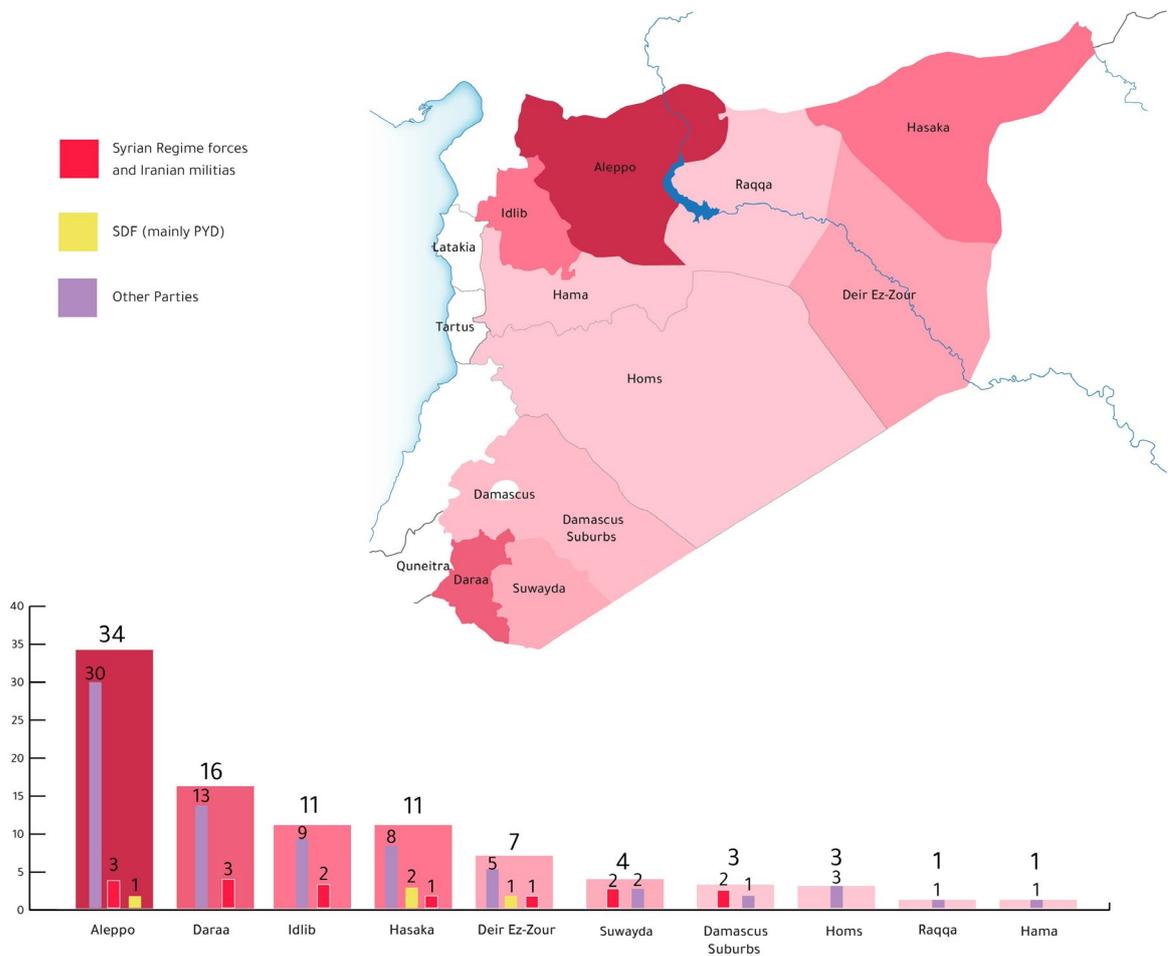
#### B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 73 civilians, including 24 children and two women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have been unable to identify: 15 civilians, including five children.
- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 11 civilians, including five children.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 24 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Four civilians, including three children.

- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: Nine civilians, including five children.
- Messing around with weapons: One child.
- Turkish border guards: Two civilians.
- Turkish forces: Seven civilians, including four children and one woman.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in August 2022 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



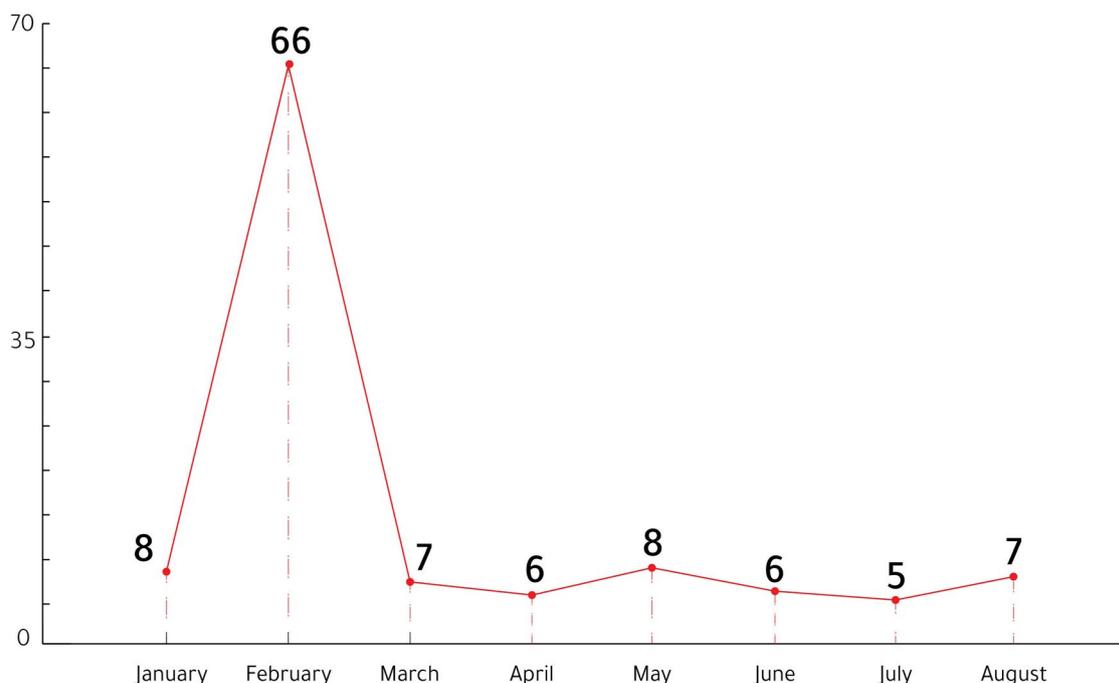
Aleppo governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented killed in August compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 37% of the total death toll, followed by Daraa governorate with approximately 18%, then Idlib and Hasaka governorates with approximately 12% each, with most of the victims in all the governorates killed at the hands of other parties.

## V. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel

### A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

SNHR documented in August 2022 the deaths of seven victims due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the death toll of victims documented as dying due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 up to September 2022 to 113.

The death toll of victims whose death due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have been documented by SNHR since the beginning of 2022 is distributed as follows:



The percentage of the victims documented as being killed under torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces in August was approximately 89%, compared to the total number of other victims documented as being killed under torture at the hands of all parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in the same period. Meanwhile, February saw the largest number of victims killed under torture since the beginning of 2022, accounting for approximately 58% of the total to date, meaning that more than half of the victims killed under torture so far in 2022 died in February.

The death toll of victims whose deaths due to torture were documented by SNHR at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in August was distributed as follows:

**Syrian regime forces:** Seven, including one child.

The most notable cases are:

Saleh Ahmad Saleh, a boy born in 2008, from al Qameshli city in northern Hasaka governorate, resident in al Ashrafiya neighborhood in Aleppo city, was brutally assaulted by police personnel from al Aziziya Neighborhood Police Station in Aleppo city, which is controlled by Syrian regime forces, on Saturday, August 13, 2022. The assault took place between al Ashrafiya neighborhood and Masaken al Sabeel in Aleppo city, with police first savagely assaulting the child before arbitrarily arresting him.



Saleh Ahmad Saleh

SNHR received information from witnesses who stated that detectives at al Aziziya Police Station accused the boy of theft. The arrest was carried out without any legal or judicial warrant being issued by a court/public prosecutor, while the child's family wasn't informed of his arrest, and he wasn't allowed to contact them or a lawyer.

The next day, August 14, 2022, the child's family received notification from al Aziziya Neighborhood Police Station personnel ordering his father to go to the police station; on his arrival, they informed him that his son had died in custody, claiming that he had committed suicide by hanging himself, and told him to take his son's body without even providing him with any forensic report. The child's father refused to take his son's body away until after a forensic report was issued. The boy's family received his body from the Forensic Department in Aleppo city on August 15, 2022, with the regime's forensic pathologists predictably supporting the police's claim that the child had 'committed suicide'.

On August 18, 2022, SNHR obtained photos and videos, clearly showing the lethally brutal torture that the child Saleh Ahmad Saleh had been subjected to in custody.

Saeed Yahya Jaber al Hamad from al Masrab village, which is administratively a part of al Tebni county in the western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 2018 in Damascus city and has been forcibly disappeared ever since, with the regime denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, a Syrian regime military officer notified Saeed's family of his death in a regime detention center. SNHR's data from numerous sources confirms that Saeed was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating that he probably died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR confirms that Syrian regime forces have failed to hand over Saeed's body to his family.



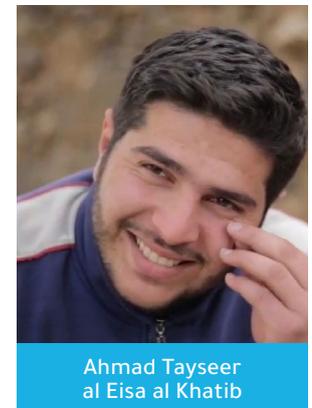
### **B. Death toll of medical personnel**

SNHR didn't document any deaths among medical personnel in August 2022.

### **C. Death toll of media workers**

SNHR documented the death of one media worker in August, the first media worker killed in 2022.

Ahmad Tayseer al Eisa al Khatib, a 27-year-old media activist and student at the Faculty of Mass Communication at Damascus University, from al Jiza town in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in late 2018, while he was passing through one of the regime's checkpoints as he was heading from Damascus city to Daraa city, despite having previously settled his security status. Since then, he has been classified as forcibly disappeared, with the Syrian regime denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Tuesday, August 16, 2022, his family learnt that he had died in Seydnaya Military Prison in Damascus Suburbs governorate. SNHR's data from numerous sources confirms that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating that he probably died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR confirms that Syrian regime forces have failed to hand over Ahmad's body to his family.



### **D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel**

SNHR didn't document any deaths among Civil Defense personnel in August 2022.

## VI. Record of Most Notable Massacres

**SNHR documented one massacre in August 2022, perpetrated by other parties**, bringing the total number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2022 to at least nine, 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.
- **ISIS:** One.

### B. Other parties:

We documented six massacres at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Three.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: One.
- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: One.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: One.

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacre documented in August resulted in the deaths of 15 civilians, including six children.

On Friday, August 19, 2022, at around 10:40 a.m., a missile launcher, positioned in an area controlled jointly by Syrian regime forces and Syrian Democratic Forces, fired around six missiles, targeting al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo; according to information received by SNHR, the missile launcher was located in Sha'ala village, to the west of al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo. Sha'ala village is under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, with regime forces and Iranian militias also spread in the Sha'ala radar facility. One of the missiles landed in the middle of a public street housing the 'al Khamis Local [Market](#)' in the eastern neighborhood of al Bab city, which was crowded with civilians and vendors' stalls at the time. That missile landed directly in front of the 'Falafel Abu al Khair' shop, while the other missiles hit locations adjacent to [the market](#), including the 'Erzurum' School, al Yamani neighborhood, and a students' housing building for female students. The SNHR has so far been unable to identify the perpetrators of the shelling which [resulted in a massacre](#), though we believe that the missiles were fired either by Syrian regime forces or by the Syrian Democratic Forces, since the shelling came from an area jointly controlled by both. Investigations are underway to determine the party responsible for the attack, with SNHR documenting [the resulting deaths](#) of 15 civilians, including six children, and the injury of over 30 others, including at least 11 children.



We spoke with Sharif Damkhali<sup>3</sup>, a media activist, who recalled what happened on August 19, 2022:

“When the shelling began, I went directly to the place of the bombing. On my way to the place, I saw victims being taken by civilians to al Fateh Hospital for Gynecology and to al Majed Hospital. I also saw women and men crying for their children. I saw a woman crying and looking for her child, who was about 500 meters from her and she didn’t know if he was injured or killed, and she just saw that they were trying to hospitalize him. When I arrived at the market where the missile that caused the massacre fell, I saw widespread destruction there. The missile landed in a sensitive place near the “Bastaat” area, where vegetables, bread, and some grocery items were sold, in addition to the Falafel Abu al Khair restaurant, the location where the missile fired from the launcher hit. Civil Defense personnel went to retrieve the victims. I also saw police officers who contributed to taking the victims to the hospital and helping them as well. The areas on which the missiles fell are very close together. On Saturday, August 20, 2022, al Bab city witnessed a general strike, in which most of the shops were closed to mourn the lives of the victims, in addition to a demonstration in solidarity with the victims and their families.”

<sup>3</sup> We contacted him via WhatsApp on August 20, 2022.

## VII. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue

Since 2011, the SNHR has created complex electronic programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, method of killing used, type of weapon used, and perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which the incident of death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the loss suffered by the people of that governorate, and enables us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates its comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, and several backup copies being stored in different locations.

Since 2011, we have also been exceptionally concerned about incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly a statistic recorded on our database that does not include either, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, relief and Civil Defense personnel.

For nearly 11 years, we have issued [daily death tolls of victims](#), as well as [daily news reports](#) on killing incidents. We also issue a [monthly report](#) detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died [due to torture](#), in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports [documenting the total death toll](#) or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a [monthly report](#) and special and periodic reports documenting the [massacres](#) committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically sends a special form to the United Nations [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. The SNHR also has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) project. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to governments of states, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the path of justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

## VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions:

- The evidence we collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in 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.
- A large proportion of Syrians were killed as a result of landmines, and none of the perpetrator forces in the Syrian conflict have revealed maps of the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva VI Convention, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

## Recommendations:

### UN Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, "...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment."
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Members of the Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request all relevant United Nations agencies to make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow-up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

### International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied 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' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proved equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now spanned a decade in Syria.
- 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.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a time period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely and settled return to their homes.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be unsafe, and put pressure to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

#### **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 violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed more light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

#### **Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)**

- Launch extensive 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.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public opinion and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

#### **International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)**

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and provide an exchange of experiences with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

### **The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria**

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes, the 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 transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security-military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the party responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

### **The Syrian regime**

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

### **The Russian regime**

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the 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 allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

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

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

### **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army**

- 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.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that took place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

### **Humanitarian organizations**

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, primarily widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

### **Acknowledgment**

We thank all family members and friends of the victims, along with the eyewitnesses and local activists, whose contributions have enriched this report.



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