

Statement



**The Syrian Regime Has Killed At Least
3,207 Palestinians, 497 of them Under Torture,
Arresting
and Forcibly Disappearing 2,721 More From March
2011 to the Present**

**Hamas Should Demand That the Syrian Regime
Release Palestinian Detainees, Stop Their Torture,
and Compensate the Victims**

On 19 October 2022, a [delegation of the Islamic Resistance Movement \(Hamas \) headed by the movement's leader, Khalil al-Hayya, visited Syria with the aim of restoring relations with the Syrian regime](#), and met with the regime's head, Bashar al-Assad.

As documented in [several reports of the United Nations Independent Investigation Commission on Syria, as well as reports](#) of international organizations such as [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#), the Syrian regime, guided by its various senior officials, led by Bashar al-Assad, is involved in committing violations against the Syrian people, some of which amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. This is also confirmed by the Syrian Network for Human Rights' (SNHR) data. Meanwhile, the reports of the [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons also confirm](#) the regime's involvement in the use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people.

The Syrian regime continues to commit egregious violations against the Syrian people, with at least 96,000 [Syrian citizens still forcibly disappeared in regime detention centers where those still alive are](#) subjected to brutal methods of torture. The regime has not issued any information on the fate of any of the disappeared nor has it been held to account in any way for these or thousands of other violations it has committed over the past 12 years. The restoration by any party of any form of relations with the Syrian regime is considered to be a form of support for it, an amnesty for the violations that it has committed, and an encouragement to continue with and commit more of them. Therefore, according to international law, such normalization of relations is a form of involvement in and contribution to these crimes.

While the Hamas movement may not care about international law, nor about the horrific violations inflicted on the Syrian people, some of which amount to crimes against humanity, we at SNHR can use this occasion to remind Hamas of the same horrific violations inflicted on Palestinians in Syria, with [the Syrian Human Rights Network issuing a report on July 29, 2020](#) about the most prominent violations against Palestinians in Syria by the Syrian regime and its allies.

The following are the most prominent violations inflicted by the Syrian regime against Palestinians in Syria as documented in the Syrian Network for Human Rights' database:

One: Extrajudicial killings: From March 2011 to October 2022, the Syrian regime is documented as having killed 3,207 Palestinians, including 352 children, 312 women and 497 people who died as a result of torture.

Two: Arbitrary detention or enforced disappearance: From March 2011 until October 2022, the Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the cases of at least 2,721 Palestinian refugees, including 28 women and 21 children, who are still under detention or enforced disappearance by the Syrian regime forces, distributed according to the Syrian governorates as follows: Damascus: 868, Rural Damascus: 438, Lattakia: 326, Aleppo: 315, Homs: 293, Daraa: 289, Hama: 189, Tartus:3

Three: The sieges and bombardments carried out by the Syrian regime forces on the Yarmouk Camp contributed to the displacement of the neighborhood's residents, the vast majority of whom are Palestinians. Syrian regime forces also practiced extensive looting of the property and lands of Palestinians in Syria. All "laws and decrees" established by the regime to legitimize its theft of Syrians' lands and properties also apply to Palestinians, which is an obstacle to any form of safe and voluntary return for the camp's surviving residents.

UNRWA statistics indicate that the conflict caused by the Syrian regime has left 91% of the 438,000 Palestinian refugees' resident in Syria living in absolute poverty¹, causing the displacement of 280,000 Palestinian refugees inside Syria, while some 120,000 others have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

¹"2021 Emergency Appeal for Syria Regional Crisis", United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 11/February/ 2021, ([accessed 09-10-2022](#)).

Recommendations to Hamas as well as to the Palestinian Authority:

- Seek to hold the Syrian regime accountable for its violations against Palestinians in Syria through various means, including the international criminal courts.
- Request that the Syrian regime open investigations into the violations inflicted upon Palestinians in Syria, asking that it hold the perpetrators of these violations accountable in Syria, and compensate the victims and their families materially and morally.
- Demand that the Syrian regime release the 2,721 Palestinians still known to be imprisoned or forcibly disappeared in its prisons, and compensate them for their years of arbitrary detention - the Syrian Network for Human Rights is ready to contribute to sharing the data on these victims in order to contribute to securing their release.
- Demand that the Syrian regime stop the torture of Palestinian detainees, which has led to the death of at least 497 under torture, with 49 of these victims appearing in the Caesar photographs, which provides further confirmation of their killing by Syrian regime forces. There is no evidence to suggest that the regime has ended its torture of the remaining Palestinian detainees to date.