

Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November 2022

Syrian regime forces use cluster munitions to
bomb IDP camps in Idlib

Monday 05 December 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 analyzes in Syria.



Content:

I. Introduction and Methodology2

II. Brief on November’s Most Notable Developments3

III. Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November13

IV. Attachment19

V. Conclusions and Recommendations20

I. Introduction and methodology:

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances are at the forefront of the violations which the Syrian people have endured for over a decade. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, perpetrating their share of human rights violations against Syrians. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has been documenting human rights violations, to the best of our abilities, since the earliest days in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, as the numbers of human rights violations rose sharply, our team was confronted with the need to release periodic monthly reports, in order to highlight the continued suffering of the Syrian people. We started releasing eight reports each month, and, in tandem with this, created a large database containing hundreds of thousands of incidents sorted into the various categories of violations that emerged during our documentation work.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

As such, this report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria for November 2022. In the report we summarize the civilian deaths we've documented in the past month at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling parties, as well as providing details of the numbers of arrests and enforced disappearances. The report also sheds light on indiscriminate attacks, the use of prohibited weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and incendiary weapons), and the attacks on vital facilities that our team was able to document this month. For a detailed explanation of our [methodology](#), please visit the following link.

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.

II. Brief on November's Most Notable Developments

Bombings and military operations

In November, Syrian regime forces continued with their artillery attacks targeting Idlib in northwestern Syria. The bombardment seems to have been concentrated on the villages and towns of Jabal al-Zawiya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, and Sahl al-Ghab in western Hama governorate. These areas are all close to the dividing lines with armed opposition factions. In addition, Syrian regime forces carried out ground-based attacks that mostly targeted civilians harvesting olives around the towns and villages of the southern suburbs of Idlib, which are relatively far from the dividing lines. One of these attacks, on November 6, [killed one civilian](#) in Kafrlata village in southern Idlib, while another attack on November 14 [killed a civilian](#) and injured another, when regime artillery forces fired multiple shells that landed near civilians harvesting olives on the outskirts of Ma'rbleit village in southern Idlib.

On November 6, Syrian regime forces used missiles loaded with cluster munitions in an attack that targeted a gathering of densely populated IDP camps in a hilly area of western Idlib. The attack resulted in a [massacre](#), in which nine civilians were killed, including four children, two women, and an unborn baby. Additionally, the bombardment caused heavy damage to dozens of IDPs' tents in the area, with IDPs forced to flee these camps for safer areas in fear of other attacks, returning a few days later. On November 8, the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#) released a statement expressing its grave concern about the "series of deadly ground-based strikes and airstrikes that struck several camps for internally displaced persons in Idlib." On November 23, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released [a report](#) on the incident, in which it confirmed that "Attacks by the Syrian-Russian military alliance on November 6, 2022, used banned cluster munitions on four camps for internally displaced people." The attack was also condemned by [Turkey](#), [Germany](#), [France](#), and [the US](#). SNHR team is preparing a detailed report on the incident to be released in December.

In November, Russian forces carried out more aerial attacks on northwestern Syria, targeting military areas for Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). The attacks were concentrated on the areas around the Bab al-Hawa Crossing in northern Idlib, as well as on the villages and towns of Idlib's southern and western suburbs.

Furthermore, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) continued its military escalation in northern and eastern suburbs of Aleppo, carrying out a number of ground-based attacks. One of these attacks, on November 22, resulted in a massacre, in which [five civilians, including one child](#), were killed in artillery bombardment that saw the SDF using multiple rockets to target a market in the middle of Izaz city in northern Aleppo.



Damage caused by bombardment by SDF rocket launchers that targeted a popular market
in Izaz city in northern suburbs of Aleppo - November 22, 2022

Clashes between Daraa residents and gunmen, believed to be ISIS affiliates, went on in the first half of the month after erupting on October 30. Those clashes, which broke out in Daraa city's Tareeq al-Sad neighborhood, resulted in [the death](#) of [multiple civilians](#), with dozens of families fleeing the neighborhood for nearby ones, while other local residents fled to the western suburbs of Daraa governorate.

From November 19-24, SDF-controlled territories saw aerial attacks by Turkish drones and fixed-wing warplanes that used missiles to target multiple SDF military sites in al-Hasaka, while other attacks targeted oil refineries and oilfields in al-Malekiya and al-Qameshli areas. In addition, the Suwaydiya Gas Plant in Hasaka suburbs, Syria's second largest gas plant, which is operated by the SDF, was also targeted on November 23, with the attack putting the plant out of commission. Moreover, one of the airstrikes on al-Malekiya town in the northern suburbs of Hasaka, on November 20, killed a reporter, Îsam Ebdella. On November 25, the [Reporters Without Borders](#) organization released a statement addressing the incident.

In the same period, Turkish forces carried out aerial and ground-based attacks targeting other SDF-held areas, including al-Shahba area in the northern suburbs of Aleppo and the areas of Manbej and Ein al-Arab in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The escalation comes as part of the 'Claw-Sword' military operation unveiled by the Turkish Minister of Defense Hulusi Akar in a statement published on November 20 on the [Turkish Ministry of Defense's](#) website.

November also saw IED bombings and the explosion of weapon remnants from previous bombardment in the governorates of Daraa and Aleppo. On November 15, an IED exploded near a public road in al-Alloush village, which is administratively affiliated with Manbej city in eastern Aleppo, [killing two civilians](#).

Meanwhile, landmines continue to [claim civilian lives across Syria](#). November saw six civilian deaths, including one child, caused by landmines, raising the civilian death toll from landmines since the beginning of the year to 122 civilians, including 62 children and six women.

In addition, November saw [new assassinations of civilians](#) by parties who we have not yet been able to identify. The assassinations took place in different areas across Syria, mostly in the governorates of Daraa, Hama, Deir Ez-Zour, and Aleppo. On November 15, [the decapitated bodies of two Egyptian girls](#) were found in al-Hul IDP Camp. On November 18, Volker Türk, UN Human Rights Chief, released [a statement](#) condemning the killing of the two girls, noting that the UN Human Rights Office has verified the killing of no fewer than 42 individuals in al-Hul Camp since the start of the year.

On November 13, the Syrian regime's [Syrian Arab News Agency \(SANA\)](#) reported that Israeli warplanes had targeted al-Shayrat Military Airbase in Homs suburbs, killing two regime soldiers, with the attack also "injuring three others and causing material damages." On November 19, [SANA](#) reported another Israeli airstrike that used missiles to target locations in central and coastal regions of Syria, killing four regime soldiers.

Living Conditions

[Syria's economic, service, and living conditions continued their ongoing decline throughout November in all regions of the country](#) as civilians desperately grapple with the winter and freezing weather conditions. We documented rising rates of emigration, usually occurring through illegal means, as people search for more safe and stable places to live.

Meanwhile, the Syrian regime-held areas are still suffering from exponential inflation. On November 27, [SANA](#) reported that the Syrian regime's Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection had raised the retail price of 1kg of sugar from 3,800 S.P. to 4,600 S.P. (approximately US \$7.10 - \$8.60).

The living conditions in northwestern Syria have not been very different, with civilians there still grappling with dire and steadily worsening economic and living conditions, not the least of which are the price increases for all foodstuff and staple goods, some of which are not even available in markets due to their high prices, particularly sugar which usually sells out as soon as it becomes available for sale. As the currency's purchasing power continues waning, unemployment and poverty levels are steadily rising, especially in areas housing IDP camps. Furthermore, wages are falling, while the service and health sectors are enduring a funding crisis amid an increasing failure to respond to the humanitarian needs. November saw an almost complete lack of fuel in the markets in Idlib suburbs, as fuel imports coming from Turkey stopped, with the supply coming from SDF areas to Syrian National Army (SNA) areas failing to meet the needs of civilians.

In November, SNA forces continued their restrictive policies on the owners of olive orchards in the area of Afrin and its suburbs, most of whose owners are of Kurdish ethnicity. SNA forces have been imposing fees and royalties on olive orchards and olive oil presses. We also documented more olive trees and forested areas being cut down by SNA factions to provide firewood, a policy that has been implemented by the armed opposition in those areas for years.

In northeastern Syria, the living conditions are also still worsening Syria. Prices of foodstuff, basic supplies, and fuel are increasing in tandem with growing unemployment rates amid a lack of security and rampant mismanagement and corruption, all while the service sectors are failing to meet the needs of the civilians, particularly in drinking water, power, and agricultural sector supplies. Meanwhile, the controlling forces in those regions have made no noteworthy efforts to improve the quality of drinking water despite the rising numbers of cholera cases, with water still being pumped directly from the Euphrates River without any purification processes since most of the water treatment stations have been put out of commission both for technical reasons and due to the lack of fuel needed to operate them.

Cholera breakout

On November 9, UNICEF released [a situation report](#) on the cholera epidemic in Syria, which revealed that 92 deaths and 35,569 suspected cases of cholera had been detected between August 25 and November 9, 2022 according to the latest surveillance data from the World Health Organization (WHO). The report highlighted a rapid increase in cholera cases, both confirmed and suspected, adding that while all 14 governorates of Syria have recorded confirmed cases, those areas that depend on the Euphrates River for their water and sewage needs remain among the worst affected.

On November 10, [Al Hurra TV Channel's website](#) cited a statement from Dr. Shereen al-Nasiri, an official with the WHO's department of infection control and prevention at the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, saying that there are five challenges facing the WHO in its efforts to address the cholera outbreak in Syria.

According to the latest figures released by the Syrian regime (November 26), a total of 1,529 cholera cases and 49 deaths from cholera have been recorded in Syria. [SANA](#) reported that cholera cases are distributed as follows: "933 in Aleppo, 228 in Deir Ez-Zour, 88 in Hasaka, 89 in Latakia, 54 in Raqqa, 33 in Hama, 26 in Suwayda, 25 in Homs, 20 in Damascus, 15 in Damascus suburbs, 10 in Tartus, five in Daraa, and three in Quneitra" while reporting the distribution of deaths from cholera as follows: "40 in Aleppo, four in Hasaka, two in Deir Ez-Zour, and one in each of Damascus, Homs, and Hama."

In northwestern Syria, the [Early Warning Responses and Network Program \(EWARN\)](#) noted that as of November 27, northwestern Syria has seen 418 cholera cases and 12 deaths from cholera.

Enforced displacement

IDPs in the northwestern region of Syria are still facing grueling living and humanitarian conditions, especially with a worsening economic situation and mounting needs, all made worse by an unprecedented decline in support from relief organizations, an almost complete absence of new job opportunities, and the continuing freefall of the currency's purchasing power especially in areas of IDP camps. Adding to their woes, IDPs camps were also affected by the heavily rainfall in the last week of November, with some roads leading to the camps being cut off because of the surging rainwater levels. Rainwater also gathered between tents in light of the poor water disposal infrastructure, further increasing the suffering of the IDPs there.

In northeastern Syria, the suffering of the IDPs also increased due to the cholera outbreak amid a severe shortage in drinking water and the declining presence of relief organizations that should provide support for the IDPs and improve food security and healthcare for the families.

In relation to foreign states repatriating their nationals from the camps of northeastern Syria, the Netherlands' [Telegraaf](#) newspaper reported November 1 that Amsterdam will be repatriating 12 women and 28 children from its nationals held in the camps of northeastern Syria.

On November 25, the [Azertag, Azerbaijan's official news agency](#), reported that Azerbaijani authorities have repatriated 16 Azerbaijani individuals - 13 children and three women - who were held in Syria camps.

Meanwhile, Danish news website [The Local](#) reported on November 15 that Syrian refugees whose residency is set to be cancelled will still be at risk should they be returned to their country. Citing sources from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and other humanitarian organization, the article reported that Danish immigration authorities are failing to factor in the reports on the violations against the Syrian refugees who return to Syria when making decisions about renewing Syrian refugees' residencies.

Political and human rights situation

On November 1, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released [a report](#) in which it revealed that the SDF destroyed or damaged a total of 140 civilian buildings housing 147 families in northeastern Syria in January and February 2022. The destruction happened as the SDF were trying to capture escaping detainees' families from al-Sena'a prison and ISIS fighters who attacked the prison, which is located in the Ghwayran neighborhood of Hasaka city. According to eyewitnesses, The report cited accounts from eyewitnesses, who said that the SDF had used bulldozers to demolish houses in the neighborhoods of Ghwayran Sharqi and al-Zohour in eastern Hasaka.

On November 3, [Agence France-Presse \(AFP\)](#) published an investigative report on the thriving captagon manufacturing and trading industry in Syria. A stimulant drug, captagon now is Syria's biggest export, the report noted, with the country providing over 80 percent of the global supply. The report estimated that the captagon trade is now worth at least three times Syria's national budget. The investigation added that, according to dozens of sources, Maher al-Assad's Ferqa Rabe'a (4th Division) is heavily involved in the captagon trade, with its elite division playing an influential role in guarding, facilitating, and operating captagon manufacturing rings in the cities of Homs and Latakia. The drugs are subsequently moved to 'state-owned ports' for shipment.

On November 7, the [Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\)](#) organization released a report entitled, "Between two fires: Danger and desperation in Syria's Al-Hol camp" in which it stressed that what started as a humanitarian camp established for the purpose of providing a safe and temporary shelter, as well as securing humanitarian needs, for civilians fleeing the ravages of the conflict in Syria and Iraq has turned into a mass open prison, most of whose inmates are children, with many being born and raised there and deprived of a normal childhood. The report notes that 79 children below the age of 16 died in the camp in 2021, accounting for 35 percent of all deaths in the camp that year.

On November 7, [HRW](#) noted that the parties to the conflict in Syria are only aggravating the cholera epidemic, adding that "Turkish authorities are exacerbating an acute water crisis that is believed to have given rise to the deadly cholera outbreak spreading across Syria and into nearby countries..." In a statement, the group also stressed that the conflict that has now been going on for over 10 years has destroyed the country's civilian infrastructure and services, including "healthcare facilities, water and sanitation systems, and electricity grids."

On November 7, Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, reported in [a briefing](#) held during a UN Security Council meeting on chemical weapons in Syria that the Syrian regime must fully and urgently cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to settle all outstanding issues regarding the regime's declaration on chemical weapons. Nakamitsu also stressed that all those who have used chemical weapons must be identified and held accountable. Furthermore, she called on the Security Council members to "unite on this issue to bring justice to the victims."

On November 10, Alena Douhan, UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, released [a statement](#) following the conclusion of a 12-day visit to Syria that began on October 30, in which she called for lifting the sanctions imposed on the Syrian regime. In the statement, Douhan asserted that referencing positive objectives is no justification for unilateral sanctions, as “the international community has an obligation of solidarity and assistance to the Syrian people.” On a related note, SNHR released [a report](#) on November 8 addressing Douhan’s visit, in which it stressed that the UN Special Rapporteur should demand that the Syrian regime ends its violations and crimes against humanity as a precondition for lifting sanctions, which the SNHR report emphasized were imposed in the first place because of the violations committed by the regime, some of which even qualify as crimes against humanity.

On November 10, the [Save the Children](#) organization reported that child malnutrition rates have increased by 150 percent in northeastern Syria in the last six months. In its statement, Save the Children revealed that the number of child malnutrition cases documented had increased fourfold in that period alone, jumping from 256 to over 1,000 children who were examined in 19 nutrition centers in camps and communities across northeastern Syria. In addition, the organization noted that food prices had risen sharply by approximately 800 percent between 2019 and 2021 and were continuing to rise in 2022, while average family income had not increased. This steep price rise puts an ever-increasing number of people at the risk of facing hunger.

On November 16, the [Third Committee of the UN General Assembly](#) adopted Resolution A/C.377-L.36 regarding the human rights situation in Syria. The resolution welcomed the UN Secretary-General’s proposal to establish a special international body concerned with determining the fate of the missing in Syria. [A total of 90 states voted in favor of the draft resolution](#), while 68 abstained from voting, and 14 states voted against, namely: Russia, Iran, China, Algeria, Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, Belarus, Eritria, Ethiopia, Cuba, Bolivia, North Korea, and the Syrian regime. As the pattern shows, these oppressive states that support the Syrian regime which has committed multiple crimes against humanity, have consistently voted in its favor in UN votes.

Voting Started		11/16/2022		3:50:38 PM	
Item 68 (c) draft resolution A/C.3/77/L.36/Rev.1					
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic					
AFGHANISTAN	✗ CAMEROON	✗ FINLAND	✗ KUWAIT	✗ NEPAL	✗ SAUDI ARABIA
✗ ALBANIA	✗ CANADA	✗ FRANCE	✗ KYRGYZSTAN	✗ NETHERLANDS	✗ SENEGAL
✗ ALGERIA	✗ CENTRAL AFR REP...	✗ GABON	✗ LAO PDR	✗ NEW ZEALAND	✗ SERBIA
✗ ANDORRA	✗ CHAD	✗ GAMBIA	✗ LATVIA	✗ NICARAGUA	✗ SEYCHELLES
✗ ANGOLA	✗ CHILE	✗ GEORGIA	✗ LEBANON	✗ NIGER	✗ SIERRA LEONE
✗ ANTIGUA-BARBUDA	✗ CHINA	✗ GERMANY	✗ LESOTHO	✗ NIGERIA	✗ SINGAPORE
✗ ARGENTINA	✗ COLOMBIA	✗ GHANA	✗ LIBERIA	✗ NORTH MACEDONIA	✗ SLOVAKIA
✗ ARMENIA	✗ COMOROS	✗ GREECE	✗ LIBYA	✗ NORWAY	✗ SLOVENIA
✗ AUSTRALIA	✗ CONGO	✗ GRENADA	✗ LIECHTENSTEIN	✗ OMAN	✗ SOLOMON ISLANDS
✗ AUSTRIA	✗ COSTA RICA	✗ GUATEMALA	✗ LITHUANIA	✗ PAKISTAN	✗ SOMALIA
✗ AZERBAIJAN	✗ COTE D'IVOIRE	✗ GUINEA	✗ LUXEMBOURG	✗ PALAU	✗ SOUTH AFRICA
✗ BAHAMAS	✗ CROATIA	✗ GUINEA-BISSAU	✗ MADAGASCAR	✗ PANAMA	✗ SOUTH SUDAN
✗ BAHRAIN	✗ CUBA	✗ GUYANA	✗ MALAWI	✗ PAPUA NEW GUINEA	✗ SPAIN
✗ BANGLADESH	✗ CYPRUS	✗ HAITI	✗ MALAYSIA	✗ PARAGUAY	✗ SRI LANKA
✗ BARBADOS	✗ CZECHIA	✗ HONDURAS	✗ MALDIVES	✗ PERU	✗ SUDAN
✗ BELARUS	✗ DEM PR OF KOREA	✗ HUNGARY	✗ MALI	✗ PHILIPPINES	✗ SURINAME
✗ BELGIUM	✗ DEM REP OF THE CO...	✗ ICELAND	✗ MALTA	✗ POLAND	✗ SWEDEN
✗ BELIZE	✗ DENMARK	✗ INDIA	✗ MARSHALL ISLANDS	✗ PORTUGAL	✗ SWITZERLAND
✗ BENIN	✗ DJIBOUTI	✗ INDONESIA	✗ MAURITANIA	✗ QATAR	✗ SYRIAN ARAB REP...
✗ BHUTAN	✗ DOMINICA	✗ IRAN (ISLAMIC REP...)	✗ MAURITIUS	✗ REP OF KOREA	✗ TAIKISTAN
✗ BOLIVIA	✗ DOMINICAN REP...	✗ IRAQ	✗ MEXICO	✗ REP OF MOLDOVA	✗ THAILAND
✗ BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	✗ ECUADOR	✗ IRELAND	✗ MICRONESIA (FS)	✗ ROMANIA	✗ TIMOR-LESTE
✗ BOTSWANA	✗ EGYPT	✗ ISRAEL	✗ MONACO	✗ RUSSIAN FED...	✗ TOGO
✗ BRAZIL	✗ EL SALVADOR	✗ ITALY	✗ MONGOLIA	✗ RWANDA	✗ TONGA
✗ BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	✗ EQUATORIAL GUINEA	✗ JAMAICA	✗ MONTENEGRO	✗ SAINT KITTS-NEVIS	✗ TRINIDAD-TOBAGO
✗ BULGARIA	✗ ERITREA	✗ JAPAN	✗ MOROCCO	✗ SAINT LUCIA	✗ TUNISIA
✗ BURKINA FASO	✗ ESTONIA	✗ JORDAN	✗ MOZAMBIQUE	✗ SAINT VINCENT-GRE...	✗ TURKMENISTAN
✗ BURUNDI	✗ ESWATINI	✗ KAZAKHSTAN	✗ MYANMAR	✗ SAMOA	✗ TUVALU
✗ CABO VERDE	✗ ETHIOPIA	✗ KENYA	✗ NAMIBIA	✗ SAN MARINO	✗ TÜRKIYE
✗ CAMBODIA	✗ FIJI	✗ KIRIBATI	✗ NAURU	✗ SAO TOME-PRINCIPE	✗ UGANDA
✗	IN FAVOUR: 90	✗	AGAINST: 14	✗	ABSTENTION: 68
Vote outcome on the draft resolution in the UN General Assembly - November 16, 2022					

On November 16, [Jordan's Anti-Narcotics Department](#) revealed that Jordanian authorities had thwarted an attempt to smuggle large quantities of narcotics from Syria. The Department added that a total of 1,208 kg of cannabis and 1,192,000 captagon pills had been seized in the operation.

On November 22, the Netherland-based [PAX for Peace](#)¹ group released a report in which it stressed that Syria has become a "Laboratory of Drone Warfare". The report revealed that at least six different states have used Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones, in Syria, while other Syrian and non-Syrian armed groups, including Hezbollah and the Iran-supported Iraqi militias, are all operating drones. A total of 39 types of drones have been seen in use in Syria, the report adds.

On November 22, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released [a press release](#) warning of the catastrophic risks faced by vulnerable Syrians due to the harsh winter conditions across the country. The statement underlined that the 2022 Syria Humanitarian Plan for the year 2022 remains underfunded as the year comes to a close, with only 42 percent of the required funding having been secured, adding that "6 million people across the country are in need of winter assistance, of whom 2.5 million people are in the north-west." Moreover, the statement noted that millions of families across Syria are living in perilous conditions, especially those living in dire conditions in IDP camps with limited or no access to heating, healthcare services, or a clean water supply.

On November 23, the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) published a report which revealed that over 5,000 people have died on immigration routes around the world since 2014. According to the report, Syria was the third-top country of origin for the migrants who have died since 2014. A total of 1,118 Syrians have been documented as losing their lives on immigration routes, in addition to 264 Syrians who died as they were attempting to cross into Turkey.

On November 22-23, the 19th round of the Astana talks was held in the Kazakhstani capital, with representatives of the three guarantor states (Turkey, Russian, Iran) in attendance, as well as a delegation from the Syrian regime and another from the Syrian opposition. The Kazakhstani Ministry of Foreign Affairs published [a closing statement](#) stressing that the guarantor states are convinced the solution to the crisis in Syria could not be a military one, while affirming their commitment to advancing a viable political process in line with Security Council Resolution 2254. The statement also emphasized that the Constitutional Committee should proceed with its activities with no bureaucratic or logistical hinderance. The statement further specified that the 20th meeting will be held in the first half of 2023.

¹ PAX is the Netherlands' largest peace organization. According to the organization's website, It "works to protect civilians against acts of war, to end armed violence and to build inclusive peace."

On November 30, the OCHA posted [a tweet](#) confirming that the 9th cross-line convoy was underway in line with Security Council Resolutions 2585 and 2642 which both call for cross-line and cross-border humanitarian aid delivery. The 16-truck convoy, which carried, food baskets, medications, non-food supplies, special supplies, children's food supplies, education equipment, and health supplies, was the fourth one to be deployed since Security Council Resolution 2642 was adopted in July 2022.

On November 30, HRW and Amnesty International release [a joint statement](#) with the UN Member states calling for the establishment of an "international, independent entity" concerned with tracing and identifying those who have gone missing or been forcibly disappeared since the start of the Syrian uprising in 2011. The statement stressed that the government of the Syrian regime "has been responsible for the vast majority of those disappearances which frequently result in deaths in custody and extrajudicial executions." The statement added that SNHR estimates that roughly 111,000 people are still disappeared, with most of these believed to be in the hands of Syrian regime forces.

Accountability and advocacy

On November 14, the Council of the European Union published [a statement](#), in which it revealed that it has added MHD Nazier Houranieh & Sons (MHD), as well as the company's co-owners, Shadi & Mohammad Nathir Houranieh, who hold Canadian passports, to the European sanctions listings related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The statement noted that this entity supplies the regime's Syrian Studies and Research Center (SSRC) with materials used to produce chemical weapons delivery systems.

On November 20, which marks World Children's Day, [SNHR](#) released its 11th annual report on violations against children in Syria. The report documented the killing of no fewer than 29,894 children in Syria since March 2011, further noting that 5,162 of the children documented arrested since then are still detained and/or forcibly disappeared. The report added that the Syrian regime's continued bombardment has either partially or completely destroyed no fewer than 1,190 schools and 30 kindergartens. The report also sheds light on the SDF's widespread conscription of children. The report calls on the international community to provide protection and assistance for the forcibly displaced children, both domestically and abroad, especially for girls whose special needs, particularly for protection, must be met.

On November 25, which marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, [SNHR](#) released its 11th report on violations against females in Syria. The report documented the killing of no fewer than 28,761 females since March 2011, including 94 females who died due to torture, while 11,141 females are still detained/arrested. Furthermore, the report documents 11,526 incidents of sexual violence against women, most of which were at the hands of the Syrian regime.

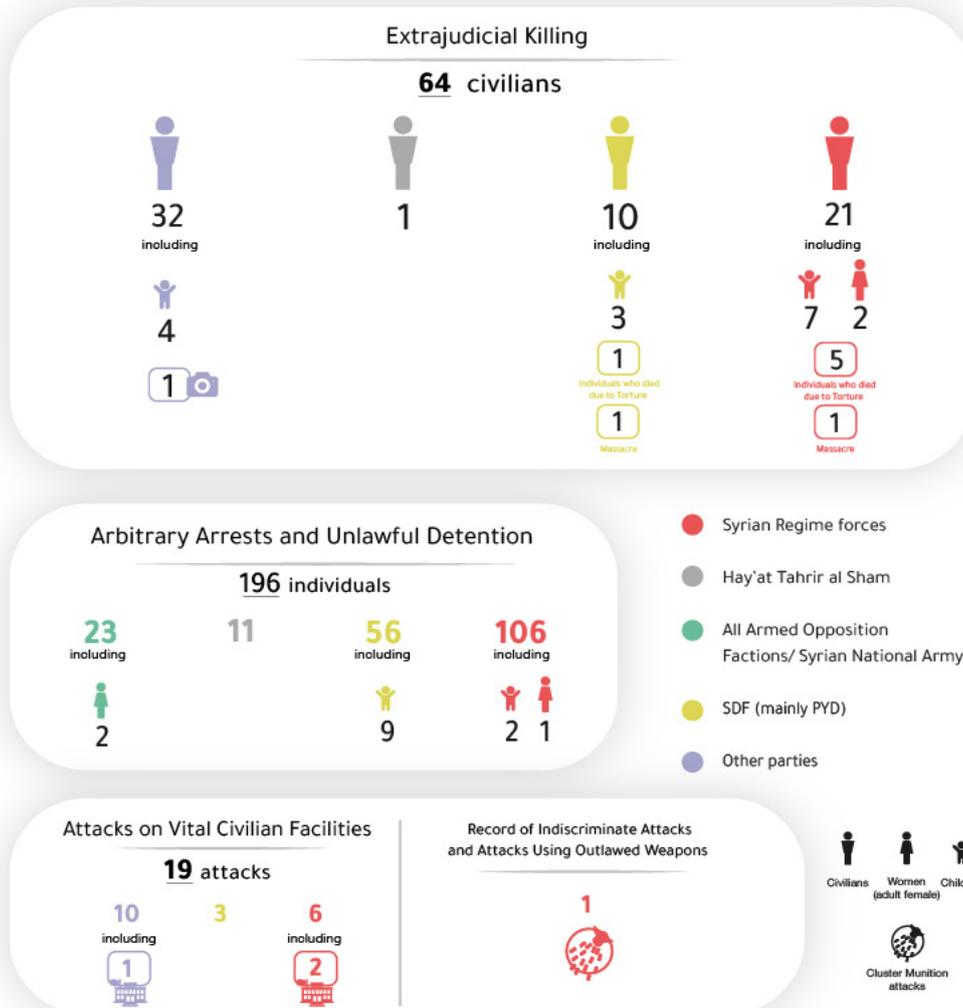
On November 26, SNHR revealed in [a statement](#) that it had taken part in bilateral meetings and multiple other events in Geneva. Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, SNHR's Executive Director, represented SNHR in these events that were held on November 14-18. Most notably, Mr. Abdul Ghany held bilateral meetings with officials from the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria (IIIM), the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI), the UN Human Rights Office, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as taking part in various human rights events and delivering a training course to a group of human rights activists from across the Arab world. These activities are part of the advocacy efforts which are of great importance to SNHR.

On November 30, [SNHR](#) released a statement on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare, stressing that no fewer than 222 chemical attacks have been carried out in Syria between the first documented use of chemical weapons on December 23, 2012 and November 30, 2022. The statement added that the Syrian regime was responsible for 217 of these attacks which were launched across Syria. Furthermore, the report notes that a total of 1,510 individuals have been killed in chemical weapon attacks, divided between 1,409 civilians, 94 armed opposition fighters, and seven captives from Syrian regime forces who were being held in an armed opposition prison at the time of one of the attacks. Of the 1,409 civilian fatalities, 205 were children and 260 were women (adult females). The report stresses that all of the chemical weapons fatalities were killed in attacks by the Syrian regime.

In November, SNHR briefed the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the UN Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism- Specific work on victims of terrorism, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, on six cases of enforced disappearance.

III. Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in November

This report summarizes the most notable human rights violations committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria that were documented by the SNHR in November.



A. Extrajudicial killing

In November, SNHR documented the death of 64 civilians, including 14 children and two women (adult female), most of whom were killed at the hands of other parties. We also documented the death of one media worker, and six individuals due to torture. Furthermore, we documented two massacres in November. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)**³: 21 civilians, including seven children and two women.
- **HTS**⁴: one civilian.
- **Kurdish-led SDF (Democratic Union Party)**: 10 civilians, including three children.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 32 civilians, including four children at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify**: Six civilians, including one child.
- **Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify**: 16 civilians, including one child.
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify**: four civilians.
- **Killings by parties we have been unable to identify**: four civilians, including two children.
- **Turkish forces**: two civilians.

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance

In November 2022, SNHR documented at least 196 cases of arbitrary arrest, including 11 children and three women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. Most of these arrests were carried out by Syrian regime forces in the governorates of Damascus suburbs, then Damascus, and then Daraa. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the cases of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearances which we documented in November at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

Cases of arbitrary arrests were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces**: 106 civilians, including two children and one woman.
- **HTS**: 11 civilians.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/SNA**: 23 civilians, including two women.
- **SDF**: 56 civilians, including nine children.

² 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.

Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

³ United Nations designated it a terrorist organization

C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

In November 2022, SNHR documented at least 19 incidents of attacks on vital civilian facilities, including six attacks at the hands of Syrian regime forces in Idlib governorate.

Among these attacks, we documented three on educational facilities and four on IDP gatherings/camps. These attacks were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** Six attacks.
- **SDF:** Three attacks

B. Other parties:

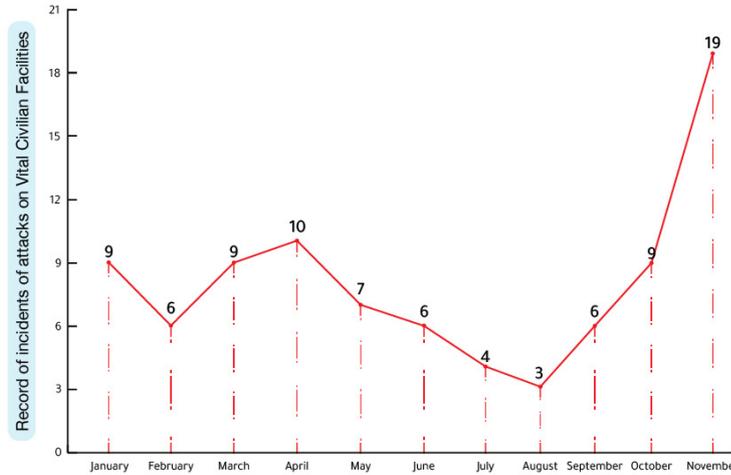
- **Turkish forces:** 10 attacks.

Attacks on vital civil facilities documented in November 2022 were distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:

Perpetrator Party Attacked Facility	Syrian Regime Forces	SDF	Other Parties
			Turkish Forces
Vital Educational Facilities			
Schools	2		1
Communal Facilities			
Markets		1	
Infrastructure			
Power Plants			6
Financial Facilities			1
Silos			1
Industrial Facilities			1
IDPs Camps/Gatherings			
Formal Camps	2	2	
Random Camps	2		
Total	6	3	10

As of December, a total of 88 attacks on vital civilian facilities have been documented since the start of 2022 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The attacks are distributed by month as follows

As of December, a total of 88 attacks on vital civilian facilities have been documented since the start of 2022 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. The attacks are distributed by month as follows



The table above shows that November saw the highest number of attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in 2022 to date, accounting for 22 percent of all attacks on vital civilian facilities since the start of 2022.

Most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in November:

On Saturday, October 29, 2022, SDF personnel used a rocket launcher to bomb the [Kuwait al-Rahma IDP Camp](#), located in an area known as Hursh al-Khaldiya near Trendera village in Jabal al-Ahlam in southeastern Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the rockets hit a residential building for IDPs in the middle of the camp, killing one woman, and wounding her husband and one of their children, as well as [partially destroying the building](#). The area was under the joint control of the SNA at the time of the incident.



.Destruction caused by a land attack by the SDF on a popular market in Izaz city Aleppo - November 22, 2022

On Friday, November 4, 2022, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at the [Ma'ar Ballit Halaqa Oula School](#) in Ma'ar Ballit village in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The school building was partially destroyed in the attack](#), which also caused moderate damage to the school's furniture. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a land attack by Syrian regime forces on Ma'ar Ballit Halaqa Oula School in Ma'ar Ballit village, Idlib - November 4, 2022

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, at around 06:54 Damascus time, Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias used a rocket launcher to fire two batches of BM-27URGAN 220mm [rockets](#) loaded with [cluster submunitions](#), a total of eight rockets in all. The rockets exploded in rapid succession over a hilly area of western Idlib governorate heavily populated with IDP camps. As a result, [the tents and camp facilities were damaged to varying degrees](#) in the camps of Maram, Wadi Khaled, Mahtat Meyah/Kafr Ruhin, and Murin. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the attack. SNHR notes that it will be releasing a detailed report on the incident at a later date.



Damage caused by a land attack by Syrian regime forces using cluster munitions in Maram IDPs Camp near Kafr Jales village, Idlib - November 6, 2022

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, at around 06:54 Damascus time, Syrian regime forces carried out a land attack using cluster munitions on gathering of IDPs camps in northwestern Idlib city. One of the rockets used in the attack landed near [Murin Halqa Oula School](#) in Murin village, western suburbs of Idlib, heavily [damaging the school fence](#). [The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the attack](#). SNHR notes that it will be releasing a detailed report on the incident at a later date.



On Tuesday, November 22, 2022, SDF personnel stationed at the Mennegh airbase used a rocket launcher to bombard Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the rockets landed [in front of a shop in the Turkish Street Market](#), a popular market in the western side of Izaz city, resulting in a massacre. The rocket's explosion also partially destroyed the shop, and severely [damaged some market facilities](#). The city was under the joint control of the SNA at the time of the incident.



On Saturday, November 19, 2022, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be supporting Turkish forces used missiles to bomb a power plant in Taql Baql village, administratively affiliated with Nahiyat al-Malekiya in the northwestern suburbs of Hasaka governorate. The plant's building was destroyed completely, causing a power outage in around 50 villages in the Malekiya area. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident. SNHR's investigations indicate that there was no military presence in the area at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, November 22, 2022, artillery forces believed to be affiliated with Turkish forces, stationed on Turkish territory, fired shells at the [Kouran](#) Elementary School, which is controlled by the Education Administration in the Euphrates Region, in Kouran village, east of Ein al-Arab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo. [The school building was completely destroyed and put out of commission in the attack](#). The village was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident. It should be noted that the SDF uses a building adjacent to the school as a military base, with the military base also being shelled by Turkish forces who failed to respect the principle of distinction⁴, which resulted in damage to a vital civilian facility.

D. Indiscriminate attacks and attacks using prohibited weapons

In November, SNHR documented at least one attack that involved the use of cluster munitions in the form of a ground-based attack by Syrian regime forces, targeting Idlib governorate. The attack killed 11 individuals - nine civilians, including four children, two women, and one unborn baby, and two fighters - and wounded about 75 others.

IV. Attachments

[64 Civilians, Including 14 Children, Two Women, and Six Victims Who Died due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria, in November 2022](#)

[At Least 196 Arbitrary Arrests/Detentions Documented in Syria in November 2022, Including 11 Children and Three Women, Mostly at the Hands of Syrian Regime Forces](#)

⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, international humanitarian law, [Rule 7](#)

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused 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.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime or Russian forces prior to any attack under the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks lead to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva IV Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:

UN Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “ all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states’ veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions and landmines in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced person camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing and by lifting sieges, as well as by increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted 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’ in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League’s plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan’s plan have proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- 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.

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 incidents mentioned in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch 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.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and 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 establishment of a transitional governing body.

The Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

The Russian regime

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in 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 to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.

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

- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army

- The Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army must 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.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.
- Provide protected facilities and vehicles, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with distinctive signs that can be distinguished from long distances.

Acknowledgments

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.



www.snhr.org - info@snhr.org