

# **68** Civilian Deaths,

Including 13 Children and Three Women as well as Nine Deaths due to Torture, Documented in Syria in April 2024

Five Attacks on Vital Facilities, Including Two Attacks on Two Schools, in April

**Wednesday 01 May 2024**

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.

## Contents:

I. Background and Methodology .....	1
II. Brief on the Most Notable Killings and Attacks on Vital Facilities in April.....	3
III. Civilian Death Toll in April 2024.....	7
IV. Deaths due to Torture .....	9
V. Most Notable Massacres.....	11
VI. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities.....	11
VII. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Civil Registry’s Death Records .....	14
VIII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue? .....	15
IX. Conclusions and Recommendations .....	16
Acknowledgment.....	21

## I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths that were recorded by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in April 2024, as well as attacks on vital facilities. The report sheds light particularly on those victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel, as well as focusing on documenting the massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document during this period; it should be noted that we use the term, 'massacre' to refer to an incident in which no fewer than five peaceful individuals were killed. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims who died at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, 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 attacks in some incidents of ground-based bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party to the perpetrator. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite these efforts, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign culpability for a particular killing to one of two possible parties due to the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons by different parties, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified under the category 'other parties' until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, 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 have not yet been able to determine or regarding whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming these victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the past month, April 2024. 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 believe the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at this link.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), *Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology* [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)

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information supplied by our extensive network of various sources which 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.

Our investigations confirm that all 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. Also, the perpetrators of these attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

There are many additional steps and challenges to take into account in the process of documenting civilian deaths, which we've detailed in our methodology. We've opted to shed light on some aspects of these challenges in order to ensure the report is kept to a manageable length.

The information included in this report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these events.



## II. Brief on the Most Notable Killings and Attacks on Vital Facilities in April

### A. Killings

- In April 2024, we documented the killing of **68 civilians**, including 13 children and three women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

#### 1. Other parties

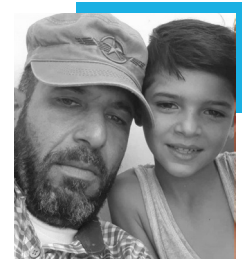
In April, we documented the killing of **41 civilians**, including nine children and two women, at the hands of other parties. Other parties were responsible for about 60 percent of all civilian deaths documented in April, with Daraa governorate accounting for about 54 percent of all these victims, followed by the two governorates of Deir Ez-Zour 12 percent. Some noteworthy incidents include:

- We documented the killing of four civilians, including one woman, while gathering desert truffles. Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 62 civilians, including three children and 13 women, have been killed while harvesting desert truffles.
  - On Monday, April 4, [Jasim al-Zamel](#), a man from al-Bouhamad in eastern rural Raqqa governorate, was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while gathering desert truffles in the badiya or desert area around Ma'dan in eastern Raqqa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- In April, we documented the deaths of eight civilians, including one woman resulting from the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. Adding April's toll to the rest of the year's total to date, this that means that 63 civilians, including nine children and 14 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of this year.
  - On Friday, April 12, [three civilians were killed](#), while another was injured, by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while they were spraying pesticide on pistachio trees in agricultural land near al-Zaghba village in northern rural Hama governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- In April, gunfire of unidentified source killed 17 civilians, including one girl, accounting for about 41 percent of all the victims killed by other parties this month. Fourteen of the 17 victims were killed in Daraa governorate.
  - On Tuesday, April 2, [Sheikh Talal Abdullah al-Khater](#), the imam of al-Musalla Mosque and the official in charge of the Waqf 'Endowments' affairs for the Syrian regime's government in his home city of al-Mayadeen in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, died of wounds sustained on March 16, 2024, when he was shot by unidentified gunmen from a passing motorbike in the city's al-Jaradeeq area. Following the shooting, Talal was transferred to Damascus city for treatment where he later died. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

- On Wednesday, April 24, [Jasim Mohammad al-Hamad](#), the head of the local council of M'aizela town in northern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, from Hatla village in northern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen from a passing motorbike near the local council building in al-Azba town, also in northern Deir Ez-Zour governorate. Another member of Al-Azba's local council, identified as Shubat al-Yassin, was injured in the same shooting. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) at the time of the incident.
- In April, Bombings by unidentified parties killed 11 civilians, including eight children. A bombing in Daraa governorate resulted in a massacre, in which seven civilians from the same family died.

- On Tuesday, April 2, [engineer Bassel Abdul Qader](#) from Qamhana town in northern rural Hama governorate, the head of the Military Construction Institution in Hama, was killed by the explosion of an improvised explosive device (IED) of unidentified source that was planted inside his car in al-Qosour neighborhood in Hama city. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

- On Thursday, April 25, [Jaber Amin al-Amin](#), from Batnta village in northern rural Idlib, died at the hands of the Turkish Border Guard who beat and tortured him after capturing him as he was trying to cross the Syrian-Turkish borders from the Harem area in western rural Idlib. After arresting Jaber, torturing him, and beating him to death, the border guards then threw his body back to the Syrian side of the border where locals retrieved it. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.



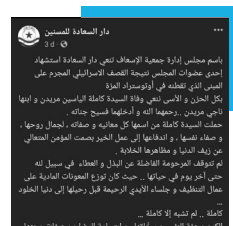
↑ 👁 Jaber Amin al-Amin

- On Monday, April 1, the Israeli Air Force bombed a four-story building in al-Maza area in the capital Damascus. The building houses the Iranian Consulate which occupies the two upper floors, while the second floor is inhabited by the Mredin family who had owned the apartment on that floor for many years. The Iranian Ambassador also lives on the top floor of the building. Additionally, the Syrian-Libyan Company is located across the hall from the Iranian Consulate.

The building had previously been put at the disposal of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement. The attack on the building killed two civilians, a young man and his mother, and injured another woman.

1- Naji bin Irfan Mredin, an electronic engineer who graduated from Franklin University in Ohio, the United States

2- Kamila Mohammad Yassin al-Yasini, Naji's mother, a member of the Management Board of al-Sa'anda Nursing Home for the Elderly in Damascus.



↑ 👁 Al-Sa'ada Nursing Home mourns the death of Kamila and her son in a statement



↑ 👁 Kamila Mohammad Yassin al-Yasini

[Lubna M'alla](#), a competitive swimmer and the sister of Firas M'alla the head of the Syrian regime's Olympic Committee, was also injured in the attack.



↑ Lubna M'alla

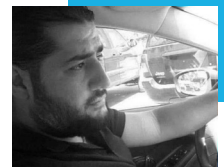
Two military personnel from the Syrian regime's auxiliary forces (pro-Iran forces) were killed also in the Israeli attack according to local sources. These two individuals were named as:

1- Mohammad Adnan Snoubar, from al-Qaimariya neighborhood in the capital Damascus, a Shiite man who was affiliated with with the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force (IRGC-QF).



↑ Mohammad Adnan Snoubar

2- Mustafa Suleiman.



↑ Mustafa Suleiman

## 2. Syrian regime forces

- In April, Syrian regime forces killed 11 civilians, including four children and one woman, as well as four individuals who died due to torture. Victims killed by regime forces accounted for about 16 percent of all victims killed in April. These 11 victims, all civilians, were killed in various Syrian governorates: Four were killed in Daraa governorate, three in Idlib governorate, two in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, and one each in both Hama governorate and Aleppo governorate.
- On Sunday, April 7, [two children, young brothers](#) identified as the sons of Jamal Mahmoud al-Labbad, were killed in an attack by an armed group affiliated with the Syrian regime's Military Security Intelligence service who targeted the family's home in al-Sanamayn city in northern Daraa governorate with bullets and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), with the resulting fire burning down the house. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

## 3. SDF

- In the month of April, the SDF killed eight civilians: Three in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, two each in Aleppo governorate and Hasaka governorate, and one in Raqqa governorate. All of these victims were shot dead by SDF patrolmen.
- On Saturday, April 6, [Alaa Awad al-Mousa and Ibrahim Khalaf al-Mousa al-Aziz](#), two men from al-Dbeib village in southwestern rural Hasaka governorate, were shot dead by SDF servicemen at a checkpoint erected in the Jabal al-Aziz area of southwestern Hasaka governorate while they were travelling to areas under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) in northern Hasaka governorate. The area was under the SDF's control at the time of the incident.

## 4. ISIS

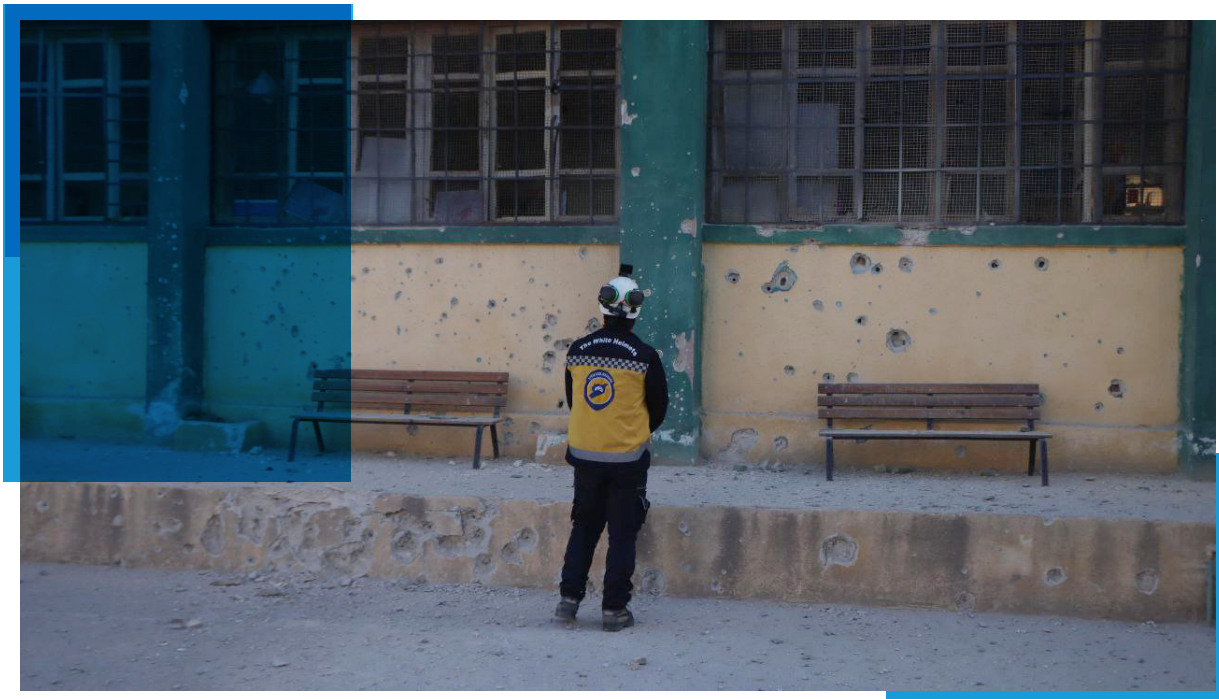
ISIS killed one civilian in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on Thursday, April 25. The civilian named [Muhajer Mohammad al-Jaffal](#) was shot dead by two ISIS members during a shootout in Muhajer's home village of al-Jarhi in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area was under the SDF's control at the time of the incident.




## B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

SNHR documented at least **five attacks** on vital civilian facilities during April 2024. Of these five attacks, two targeted educational facilities (schools). Since the start of 2024 up until the end of April, 54 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria have been documented.

On Monday, April 1, 2024, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb the [Martyr Abdou Salama School for Elementary Education](#), which consists of two buildings surrounded by one fence, in Sarmin city's al-Sharqi neighborhood in eastern rural Idlib governorate. Some of the rockets landed in the schoolyard, [partially destroying one of the buildings, and damaging a number of walls as well as the schoolyard](#). Sarmin city was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



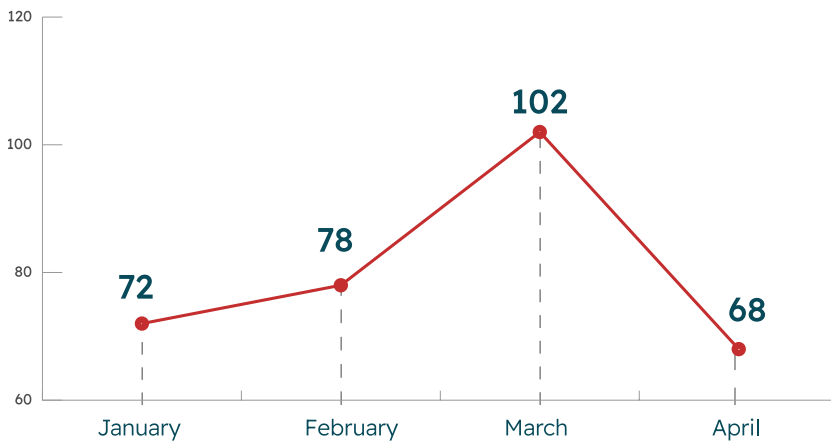
↑  Destruction to the building of Abdou Salama School for Elementary Education following a rocket attack by Syrian regime forces on Sarmin - April 1, 2024



### III. Civilian Death Toll in April 2024

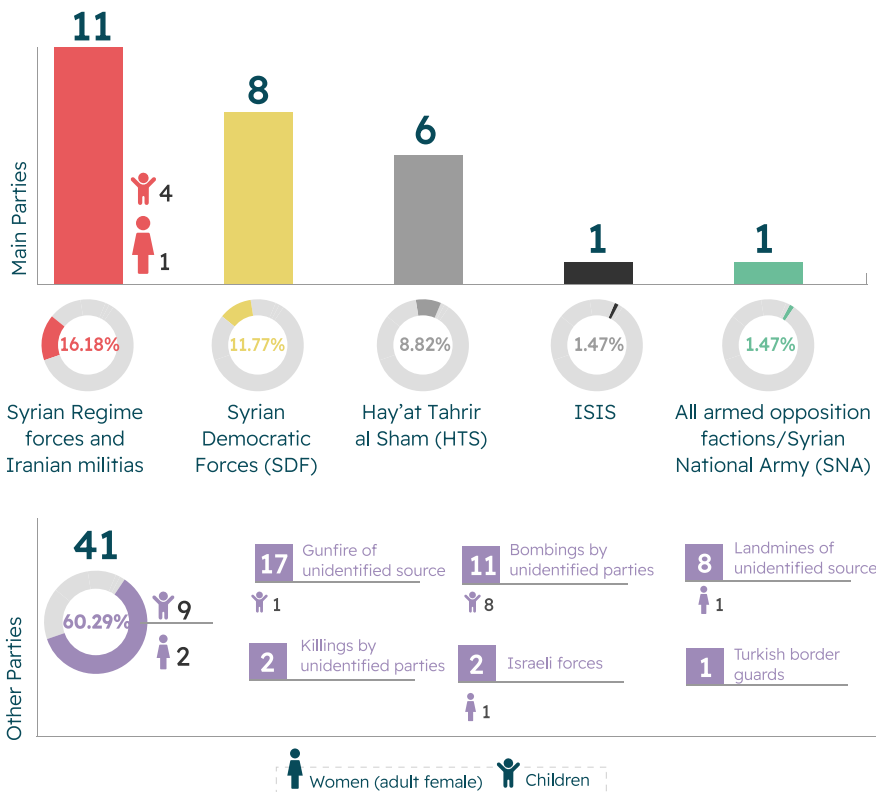
In April 2024, SNHR documented the killing of **68 civilians**, including 13 children and three women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until the end of April, to **320 civilian deaths**.

Civilian deaths documented since the beginning of 2024 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, April saw the lowest number of civilian deaths in one month since the start of the year, accounting for about 21 percent of all victims killed in 2024 so far. Conversely, March recorded the highest monthly death toll to date, accounting for about 32 percent of all victims killed so far this year.

Civilian documented in April 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



### A. Main parties:

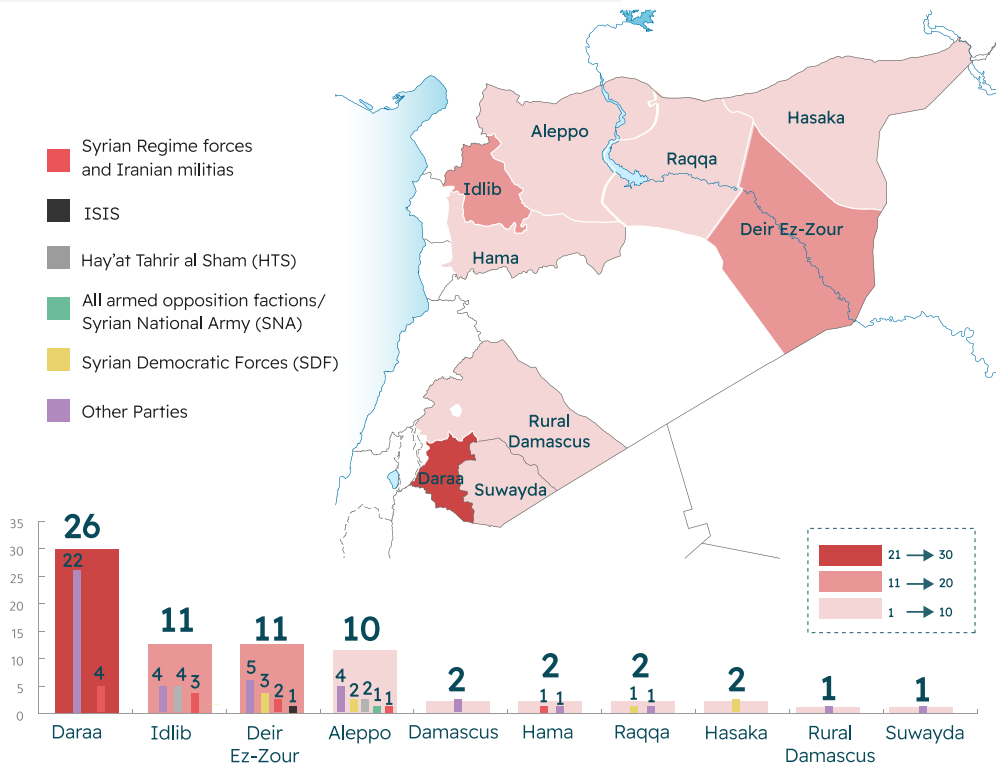
- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**  
 We documented the killing of 11 civilians, including four children and one woman, by Syrian regime forces.
- ISIS:**  
 We documented the killing of one civilian by ISIS.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**  
 We documented the killing of six civilians by HTS.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**  
 We documented the killing of one civilian by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**  
 We documented the killing of eight civilians by the SDF.

### B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 41 civilians, including nine children and two women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: Eight civilians, including one woman.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 17 civilians, including one child.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: 11 civilians, including eight children.
- Killings by unidentified parties: Two civilians.
- Israeli forces: Two civilians, including one woman.
- Turkish Border Guard: One civilian.

Civilian deaths documented in April 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

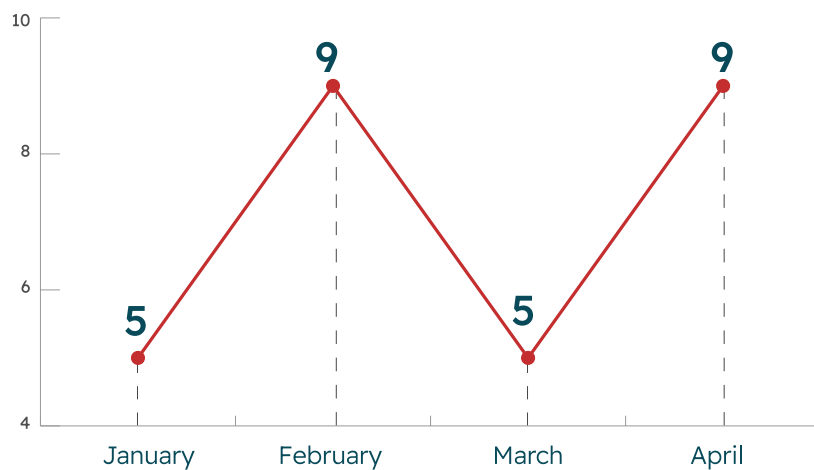


As the graph shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths in April accounting for about 38 percent of the total, with most of the victims killed in the governorate being killed by other parties. Daraa governorate was followed by the two governorates of Idlib and Deir Ez-Zour governorate which accounted for approximately 16 percent each, and then Aleppo governorate with about 15 percent of the total.

## IV. Deaths due to Torture

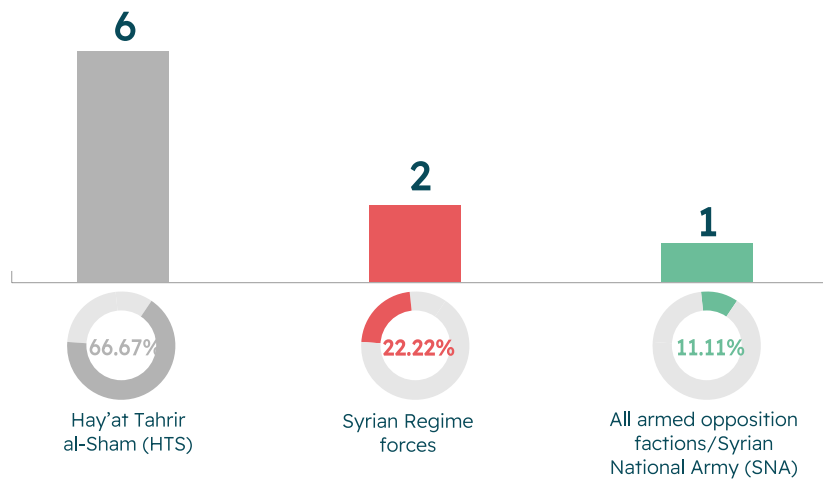
In April 2024, SNHR documented nine deaths due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. This brings the total number of victims who died due to torture since the beginning of 2024, up until the end of April, to 28.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in 2024 so far are distributed as follows:



Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 43 percent of all deaths due to torture recorded to date in 2024. In other words, about half of all victims who died due to torture in 2024 have died at the hands of regime forces. The two months of February and May have seen the highest monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting each for about 32 percent of the total so far this year.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in April 2024 are distributed as follows:



### A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: Two individuals.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): Six individuals.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One individual.

### Below are the most notable cases:

[Mohammad Hamed al-Qwyeder](#) from Jasim city in northern rural Daraa governorate was a conscript serving in the Syrian regime's military forces at the time of his arrest by regime troops at a checkpoint in 2013 while he was travelling from Damascus city to Daraa governorate. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, his family learned that he had died in Sednaya Military Prison in Rural Damascus governorate. We can confirm he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR can also confirm that his dead body has not yet been returned to his family.



↑ 👁 Mohammad Hamed al-Qwyeder

## V. Most Notable Massacres

In April 2024, SNHR documented one massacre at the hands of other parties. This brings the total number of massacres documented in Syria since the start of 2024 to eight massacres.

The massacres documented in April 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

### A. Other parties : One massacre

- Bombings by unidentified parties: One massacre

A total of seven children from the same family were killed in the massacre documented in April 2024.

#### Below are the details of that massacre:

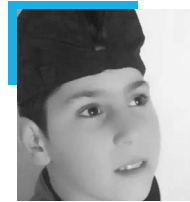
On Saturday, April 6, 2024, seven children, including four siblings, from the same family were killed, while another was injured, by the explosion of an IED of unidentified source in their home city of al-Sanamayn in northern Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Munir Mohammad al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Emad Ayman al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Mohammad Firas al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Wasim Emad al-Labbad

## VI. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities

SNHR documented at least five attacks on vital civilian facilities during April 2024, four of them by Syrian regime forces, which were concentrated in the two governorates of Idlib and Aleppo.

Of these five attacks, we documented two attacks targeting an educational facility (a school).

## Massacres from the History of the Popular Uprising for Democracy in Syria

### In this month: April

- ▶ On Sunday, April 20, 2014, **57 civilians**, including 12 children and nine women, were killed by multiple barrel bombs dropped by Syrian regime warplanes on al-Ferdous neighborhood in Aleppo city. The attack also damaged a number of residential buildings and caused numerous fires.
- ▶ On Saturday, April 25, 2015, **10 civilians**, including one child, were killed, and another 23 injured in airstrikes by Syrian regime forces warplanes that fired two missiles at the town of al-Shaddadi in Hasaka governorate. More than 13 shops were also destroyed in the air raids. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Wednesday, April 27, 2016, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired two missiles at Bassil Aslan Hospital, also known as al-Quds Hospital, and at surrounding residential buildings, in Aleppo city's al-Sukkari neighborhood. **Thirty-six civilians**, including 14 children and eight women, were killed and about 40 others injured in the attack. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Sunday, April 30, 2017, at around 11:00, two Syrian regime helicopters dropped **eight barrel bombs** on buildings still under construction that were inhabited by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in al-Shayyah area in southern Daraa city, killing **12 civilians**, including five children and three women. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident

Recalling the massacre, eyewitness Hassan al-Farouq,<sup>1</sup>  
the head of the Civil Defense's Center No. 14, said

“ When we arrived, the sight was heartbreaking. Dead bodies were everywhere, and some were reduced to scattered body parts. We pulled out 12 victims: five children, three women, and four men. We also helped to take a number of injured people to hospitals; some were in a critical condition. ”

1. Interviewed via WhatsApp.



The attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in April 2024 were distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

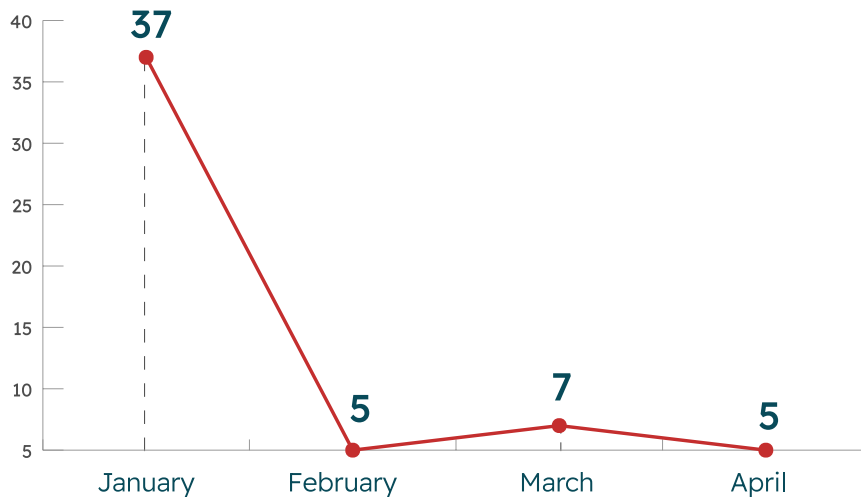
### A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: Four attacks.

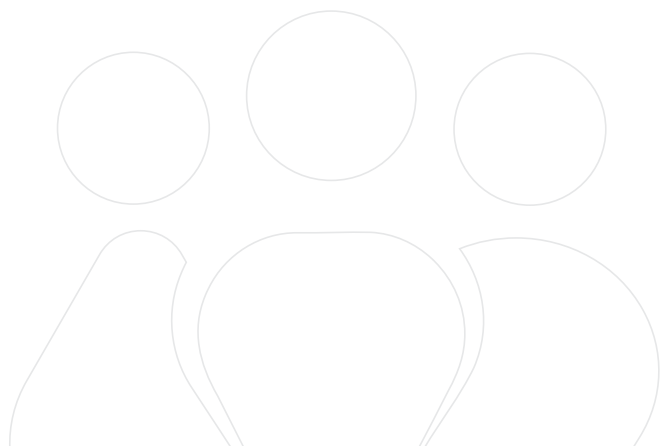
### B. Other parties

- Bombings by unidentified parties: One attack.

Since the start of 2024 up until May, 54 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria have been documented. These are distributed by month as follows:



As shown on the graph, April saw more attacks on vital civilian facilities, with the number of attacks this month being close to that of March's. According to SNHR's database, Syrian regime forces were responsible for four attacks on vital civilian facilities in April (out of five documented this month). Syrian regime forces have been responsible for the most attacks on vital civilian facilities out of all parties to the conflict and controlling forces in every month since the start of 2024.





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

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authority, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to victims' families, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. In fact, the regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime itself and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, stating falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, if they wish to obtain a death certificate. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any 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:**

- Medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar' and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from 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 their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

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'.

It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates for their loved ones from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their names with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been 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 Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice issued [Circular No. 22](#) specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at 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 a death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also gave security clearance to judicial authorities empowering them to register death cases, and thereby increasing the security services' intrusion into this process. We issued [a report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

## VIII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex 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, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered by the people of that governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's 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 with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly any statistic recorded on our database that does not include victims in either category and usually in both, 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, and humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For nearly 13 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 according to governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. We also provide 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 submits special forms 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 SNHR 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. SNHR also has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#) project, which stipulated 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 various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the justice process, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

## IX. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

- The evidence we have 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 the Syrians killed died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines have been planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- 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 resolutions 2139 and 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the 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 IV Convention on civilian, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We have 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.

- We have documented no warnings being given by Syrian regime forces, Russian forces, or US-led International Coalition forces before carrying out any of their attacks, as required by international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising in Syria, which shows an utter disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The volume of violations, their repeated nature, and the excessive level of force used, as well as the indiscriminate manner of the bombardment and the coordinated nature of the regime's attacks, must be the result of orders from the higher echelons of power in accordance with a state policy.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army forces have violated Security Council resolution 2139 through attacks that constitute violations of customary international humanitarian law, resulting in collateral civilian deaths and injuries.

## 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 UN 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 by implementing the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to protect Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies 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 enable 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 UN 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 proving 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 continued for 13 years 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 period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely return to their homes without fear.
- Prevent and end any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be extremely unsafe, and put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

## UN Office of the 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 greater 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 its 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 condemnation, 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 facilitate an exchange of experience and expertise with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

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

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes and of 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 theft of 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 parties responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

### **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 tens 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.

## **Russian regime**

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- Compensate, reconstruct, and rehabilitate the facilities that have been damaged, and compensate the families of those who have been killed and injured, by the current Russian regime.
- 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 International Coalition and SDF)**

- The states supporting the SDF should suspend 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 one of the responsibilities 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 has planted landmines, especially in 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 have taken place, hold those responsible accountable, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and take punitive measures against those personnel responsible for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- 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, particularly widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts towards carrying out landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.
- Clearly mark protected facilities and equipment, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with identifiable symbols that can be seen and distinguished from afar.
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## Acknowledgment

We extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the victims' families and friends, and to eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and invaluable contributions to this report



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*No justice without accountability*

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May 2024

