

Statement

SNHR Participates in CIVICUS’ ‘State of Civil Society Report 2024’

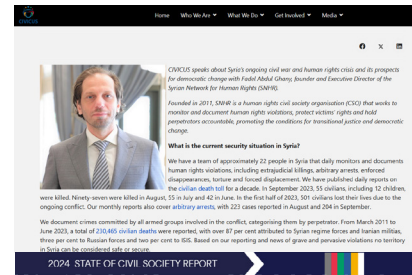


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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyzes in Syria.

Civicus,¹ a global civil society alliance, [recently released its 13th](#) report on the state of civil society worldwide, containing over 250 interviews and articles published by the global alliance from over 100 countries and territories. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), represented by its Executive Director Fadel Abdulghany, contributed to the report's assessment of Syria.

Mr. Abdulghany highlighted SNHR's continued work on documenting violations committed by all parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, revealing that **230,465** civilian deaths have been documented between March 2011 and June 2023, with Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias being responsible for over 87 percent of the total, while Russian forces and ISIS were responsible for about three percent and two percent respectively. As SNHR's database attests, the continuing gross and rampant violations in Syria means that no part of the country can be declared safe.



Mr. Abdulghany outlined the massive pressure facing human rights workers in Syria, which entails many grave risks, including arbitrary arrests and torture, adding that many Syrians are also unsafe in other countries. For instance, he noted, Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Türkiye face the threat of refoulment even though such practices would constitute violations of international law, particularly the 1951 Refugee Convention.

He noted that the Syrian civil society continues to call for respecting human rights, investigating human rights violations, and exposing their perpetrators on the basis of the principles of equality and promoting human rights. "We are working tirelessly to promote a culture of human rights in a country with one of the world's worst human rights records, as well as rid ourselves of the decades-long dictatorship in Syria," he added.

He added that SNHR also releases reports and statements calling for ending violations and making recommendations to other countries, as well as holding bilateral meetings with various foreign ministries around the world, including the French, German, Dutch, Danish, and the United States foreign ministries, in addition to other high-level meetings. SNHR also actively participates and organizes in advocacy events, including an annual international event on Syria on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's regular session.

1. Civicus is "CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world." Founded in 1993, the alliance comprises today over 15,000 members from over 175 countries.

See: Civicus. (2023). About Civicus. <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/who-we-are/about-civicus>

Moreover, the SNHR head reiterated, the international community must provide financial and logistical support for active Syrian civil society organizations that have played an instrumental role in documenting the conflict in Syria.

Mr. Abdulghany also stressed that the international community must redouble its efforts to end the 13-year conflict in Syria, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and caused massive suffering for countless others, with torture being a widespread practice, while over half the Syrian population is currently displaced.

Mr. Abdulghany further underlined the crucial importance of the international community's providing support for efforts to combat impunity, stating, "The Assad regime and other parties to the conflict have enjoyed impunity for many war crimes and crimes against humanity."





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No justice without accountability

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