

Statement

SNHR Condemns Israeli Airstrike on al-Mazza Neighborhood in Damascus City that Resulted in a Massacre Against Civilians

Israeli Forces Carried out an Attack Without Warning Civilian Residents, With No Fighters or Military Equipment Found in the Targeted Area



Thursday 10 October 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.

The Hague – The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR):

On the evening of Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at around 20:15 local time, fixed-wing warplanes, suspected to be Israeli, fired multiple missiles, believed to number three, at al-Sheikh Saed area in al-Mazza neighborhood in Damascus city. The attack targeted a residential building in an area known locally as the ‘14 Buildings’,¹ killing at least **eight civilians**, including four children (three girls and one boy) and three women, including a doctor, and inflicting injuries of varying severity on 11 others. [The attack also heavily damaged the buildings and nearby civilian properties.](#)



↑ A residential building destroyed in an attack by Israeli forces on al-Mazza neighborhood in Damascus, which resulted in a massacre – October 8, 2024

The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident. According to intelligence obtained by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), in addition to the photos and video we received and information from open sources, the area is a civilian one. We have yet to confirm that there were any Iranian fighters, commanders, or other military personnel associated with Iran, or any military equipment in the area at the time of the attack.

Names of the victims that SNHR has documented as killed in this attack:

- [Dr. Rahaf Abdul Rahim Qamhiya](#), a nephrologist who was a resident doctor in Damascus Health Directorate, from al-Qosour neighborhood in Homs city, born on January 2, 1998
- [Dr. Shawqi Hussein Naji al-Oudi](#), a Yemeni national who was a professor of pharmacy at the Syrian Private University
- Iqbal Ahmad al-Oudi, Dr. Shawqi’s wife
- Dr. Shawqi’s three daughters: [Bayan, Walid, and Lin al-Oudi](#)
- [Rana Abdul Razzaq Touma](#), a woman
- [Qusai Mohammad Khair Othman](#), a boy and the [son of Rana Touma](#)

1. The name comes from the fact that most of the buildings in the area have 14 floors.

As SNHR's database attests, we have documented the killing of at least **12 civilians**, including four children and six women, in Israeli airstrikes across Syria between September 25, 2024, and October 10, 2024

Legal background: International humanitarian law requires that all possible precautionary measures must be taken to protect civilians from a military attack, including issuing warnings to civilians beforehand when targeting sites that may contain non-combatant residents. Israeli forces, however, have failed to issue any warnings for civilians to leave the buildings before bombing them. They have also failed to make any distinction between civilians and fighters in their attacks. As of this writing, no photos or videos confirming the presence of fighters or military equipment in the area targeted have emerged.

Condemnation and demands: SNHR strongly condemns this aerial attack by Israeli forces that resulted in this horrifying massacre and claimed the lives of several civilians. We call for:

- Launching an immediate and transparent international investigation and holding those responsible accountable.
- Issuing an official apology and fairly compensating the victims and their families for the material and psychological damage they suffered.

SNHR also condemns the Syrian regime for bringing tens of thousands of Iranian militiamen to help crush the Syrian people's popular demands for democratic change. In addition to these crimes, the regime and its Iranian allies have been using civilian facilities and civilian aircraft for military purposes, putting these facilities and nearby areas at risk of being targeted, thereby threatening civilians' lives.

SNHR also calls on the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI) to add this incident to its ongoing investigations on violations against civilians in Syria, and to include it in its next report.



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No justice without accountability

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