

## Statement

### SNHR is the Most Cited Source in the Latest EUAA Report on the Security Situation in Syria



Thursday 7 November 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 analyzes in Syria.

## The Hague – Syrian Network for Human Rights:

In October 2024, the [European Union Agency for Asylum \(EUAA\)](#) released its [latest report on the security situation in Syria](#). This report's primary purpose is to provide relevant information to help with the assessment of international protection applications, including refugee status and subsidiary situation, particularly with respect to updating the EUAA's guidance document on Syria. The report covers the period between September 1, 2023, and August 2024.

As the report notes, a range of documentary sources of information were used in its compilation, including government reports, information from civil society organizations, advocacy groups, and humanitarian and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as international human rights reports issued by different bodies, including the UN, and Syrian and regional media outlets, academic publications, and think tanks.

Among these sources the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) was the most frequently cited, being referred to a total of 475 times in the report, followed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with 309 citations, and then the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) with 147 citations.

In addition to these sources, the report draws upon other prominent entities, such as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI), the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and Human Rights Watch (HRW).

While the report extensively analyzes the security situation, it does not address issues of arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, or socioeconomic situation, which were the focus of a separate EUAA report that we will address in a similar statement set to be released in the near future.

The first half of the report provides an overall description of the security situation in Syria, and the effects of the conflict there on civilians. The report notes that the country is currently split into four main areas of control:

1. Areas under the control of Syrian regime forces, backed by Iran and its militias, as well as Russian forces.
2. Areas under the control of Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by the US.
3. Areas under the control of the Türkiye-backed Syrian National Army (SNA).
4. Areas under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

The report's second half details the security situation in Syria on a governorate-by-governorate basis. The report notes the lack of any political progress in the Syrian conflict, as well as highlighting a sharp escalation of violence since October 2023, the most intense since 2020.

The report further notes that Iranian forces are still present in Syria, attempting to affect demographic change across the country, with Deir Ez-Zour governorate described as Iran's "core zone of influence." Meanwhile, Turkish forces are still stationed in western Syria, with the Turkish government officially stating that its presence in Syria is dependent on eliminating the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and reaching a political solution in Syria. Since mid-2024, the report adds, Russia has been establishing more military points in Quneitra along the buffer zones between Syria and Israel. The report also notes that the US-led International Coalition forces against ISIS still maintains its deployments in northeastern Syria and al-Tanf Base in order to prevent the revival of ISIS and to prevent the Syrian regime and Iran from taking control of the gas and oil zones within the SDF-held areas. Meanwhile, Israeli forces continue to target outposts affiliated with Iranian forces and the Lebanese group Hezbollah in Syria.

Furthermore, the report notes that, during the period which it covers, between September 2023 and August 2024, violence persisted in Syria. October 2023 saw a notable increase in hostilities, the most intensive upsurge since the March 2020 ceasefire. In this context, internationally prohibited weapons were used (incendiary munitions and cluster munitions). The report adds that SNHR documented the deaths in landmine explosions of **68 civilians**, including 10 children and 14 women, in the first half of 2024. By comparison, the group documented the killing of **111 civilians** by landmines in 2023. In total, the report adds that SNHR documented the killing of **1,032 civilians** in 2023, while **539** had been documented killed since the start of 2024 up until August.

By the end of 2023, the report notes, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) **has reached 7.2 million IDPs** according to data by the OCHA. Relatedly, the report notes that the recent escalation of hostilities by the regime in October 2023 led to the displacement of **120,000 people**, half of whom returned to their homes **after October 18, 2023**.

In conclusion, SNHR believes that its contributions to such international reports on the human rights situation in Syria form part of our duty to reveal the truth, protect victims' rights, and expose the perpetrators of violations on the largest scale possible. We hope that our database and the massive compendium of information it contains, as a massive, concrete, factual and accurate chronological narrative of events in Syria, which has been painstakingly built up over the past 13 years, and which we continue to add to as evidence continues to emerge, will continue to serve the world in refuting the relentless attempts by the Syrian regime and its allies, Russia, and Iran, to revise historical reality in order to deny, downplay, or justify their own heinous violations. We reiterate that we at SNHR shall continue to spare no effort to document everything that happens in an accurate and objective manner in the service of our broader goal, namely defending civilians in Syria, protecting victims' rights, and holding all the perpetrators of violations accountable, as a positive step along the path of change towards a system of governance based on democracy and respect for human rights.



SYRIAN NETWORK  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



[info@snhr.org](mailto:info@snhr.org)  
[www.snhr.org](http://www.snhr.org)

*No justice without accountability*

© Syrian Network For Human Rights (SNHR),  
November 2024

