



149 civilians
killed

Including

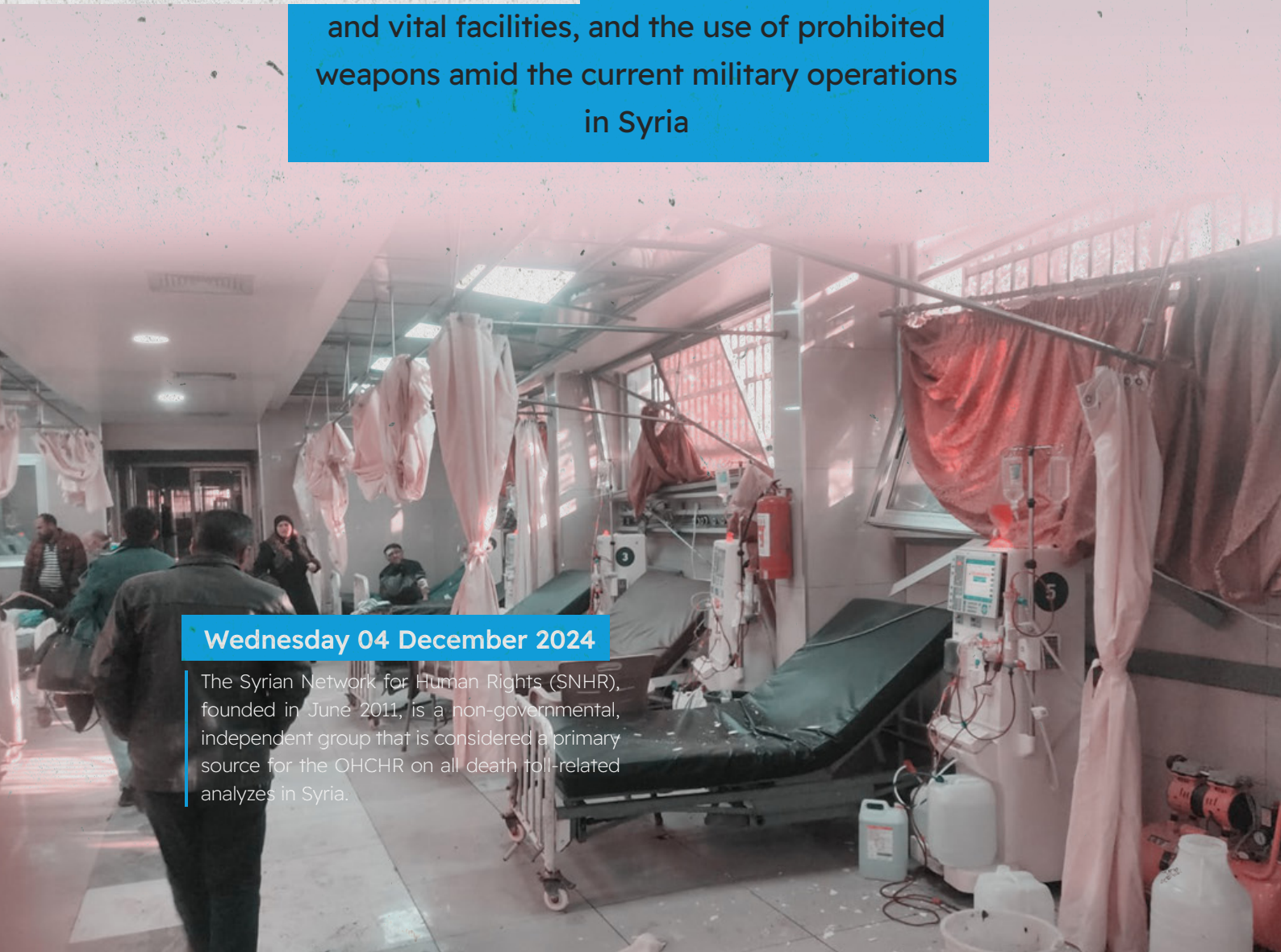
35 children  and **16** women 

in northern Syria since November 27, 2024,
up until December 3, 2024

SNHR 1st report on the attacks on civilians
and vital facilities, and the use of prohibited
weapons amid the current military operations
in Syria

Wednesday 04 December 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.



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I. SNHR'S FIRST REPORT ON CIVILIAN DEATHS, ATTACKS ON VITAL FACILITIES, AND THE USE OF PROHIBITED WEAPONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SYRIA

This report provides a record of the civilian deaths that occurred in the northern Syria region between November 27, 2024, and December 3, 2024, as a result of the ongoing military operations there. In this task, the report highlights civilian casualties, including children and women, resulting from the bombings and attacks carried out by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in that period. The aim of this report is to shed light on the impact of these operations on the humanitarian situation and to document the resulting harm suffered by civilians and damage to vital facilities, as well as the use of internationally prohibited weapons.

These developments have come about as part of an ongoing military escalation in northern and central Syria following the launch of a large-scale offensive by armed opposition factions, in collaboration with Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), on November 27, 2024, codenamed **Deter Aggression**. Meanwhile, the Syrian National Army (SNA) launched a separate offensive on November 30, 2024, codenamed **Dawn of Freedom**. Armed opposition factions have taken control of large swathes of land in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, and Hama in the course of these two operations.

The documentation process adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) draws upon a comprehensive methodology that involves on-the-ground monitoring, information verification, and collection of data from a wide range of sources including SNHR's own teams on the ground and direct accounts from victims and eyewitnesses, in addition to reviewing available photos and video footage, in order to ensure the highest level of reliability and accuracy for the information included in this report.

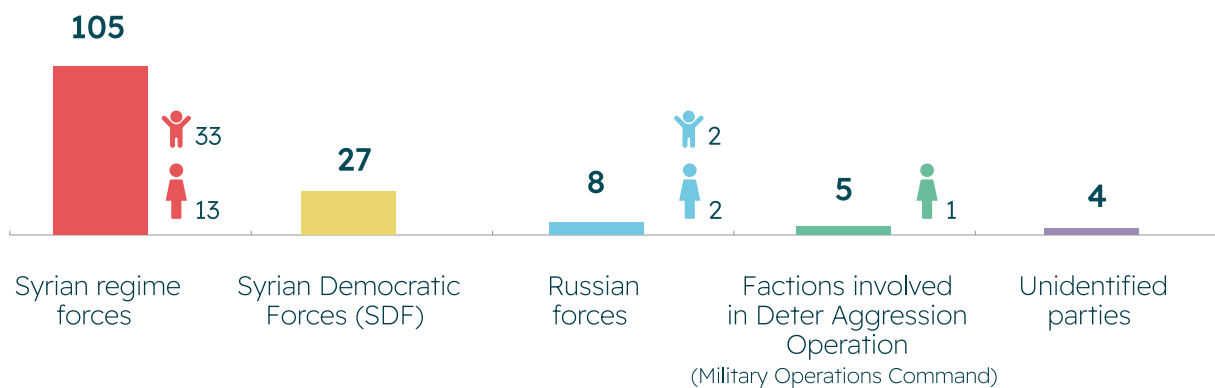


↑  Syrian regime warplanes bombing Aleppo University Hospital - December 1, 2024

II. SUMMARY OF THE VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM THE MILITARY OPERATIONS TAKING PLACE IN SYRIA SINCE NOVEMBER 27 UP UNTIL DECEMBER 3, 2024

A. CIVILIAN DEATHS AND MASSACRES

SNHR has documented the killing of 149 civilians, including 35 children and 16 women, in northwestern Syria, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces between November 27, 2024, and December 3, 2024. These civilian deaths are attributed to the responsible parties as follows:



- Syrian regime forces: 105 civilians, including 33 children and 13 women.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): 27 civilian deaths,
- Russian forces: Eight civilians, including two children and two women.
- Factions involved in Deter Aggression Operation (Military Operations Command): Five civilians, including one woman.
- Unidentified parties: Four civilians.

Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 70 percent of all deaths documented in this period, which underlines the excessive volume of violations committed by the regime. Even worse, about 44 percent of all civilians killed by the regime were children and women. Meanwhile, the SDF was responsible for 18 percent of the total.

Victims are distributed according to the responsible party as follows:

1. Syrian regime forces

Since Wednesday, November 27, 2024, Syrian regime forces have intensified their military attacks in northwestern Syria, using both their air and land forces, leading to the death of many civilians and destruction of numerous facilities. As SNHR has documented, 105 civilians have been killed by regime forces, including 33 children and 13 women. Among the victims were also three medical workers, three media workers, and one Civil Defense (White Helmets) rescue worker. The regime attacks have also injured about 373 individuals, including 110 children and 76 women.

Moreover, SNHR has documented **seven massacres by Syrian regime forces in the same period, as follows:**

- **First massacre:** Perpetrated on Thursday, November 28, 2024, in al-Atareb city in western rural Aleppo, killing 11 civilians, including five children and two women.
- **Second massacre:** Perpetrated on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at al-Bassel Roundabout on the western outskirts of Aleppo city, killing 16 civilians, including two women.
- **Third massacre:** Perpetrated on Sunday, December 1, 2024, in Aleppo city, killing 12 civilians, including two media workers and two medical workers.
- **Fourth massacre:** Perpetrated on Sunday, November 1, 2024, in Idlib city, killing 10 civilians, including three children and one woman.
- **Fifth massacre:** Perpetrated on Sunday, December 1, 2024, in Idlib city, killing 12 civilians, including six children and three women.
- **Sixth massacre:** Perpetrated on Monday, December 2, 2024, in Wadi Arab Talhdya Camp in southern Harbnoush town in northern rural Idlib, killing eight civilians – seven children and one woman.
- **Seventh massacre:** Perpetrated on Monday, December 2, 2024, in Idlib city, killing six civilians, including two women and three children.

Victims killed by regime forces are distributed according to the governorate where they were killed as follows:

1. Aleppo governorate: We documented the killing of nine children and five women.

- **Aleppo city:** 29 civilians, including two women
- **Rural Aleppo:** 24 civilians, including nine children and three women, distributed as follows:
 - **Al-Atareb:** 13 civilians, including five children and two women.
 - **Darat Ezza:** Five civilians
 - **Qebtan al-Jabal:** Three civilians, including two children.
 - **Arran village:** Three civilians, including one woman and two children.

2. Idlib governorate: We documented the killing of 52 civilians, including 24 children and eight women

- **Idlib city:** 37 civilians, including 14 children and six women.
- **Rural Idlib:** 15 civilians, including 10 children and two women, distributed as follows:
 - **Wadi Arab Talhdya Camp:** Eight civilians (Seven children and one woman).
 - **Khan Sheikhoun:** Two children,
 - **Shnan village:** One civilian.
 - **Sarmin:** One woman.
 - **Jisr al-Shoghour:** One civilian.
 - **Kansafra:** One civilian.
 - **Gathering of Wadi Abbas Camps near Babsqa:** One child.

2. Russian forces

SNHR documented the killing of eight civilians, including two children and two women, and the injury of one woman, in attacks by fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian, during this period.

Victims killed by Russian forces are distributed according to the governorate where they were killed as follows:

1. Hama governorate

- **Morek city:** Four civilians, including one girl and one woman.

2. Idlib governorate

- **Idlib city:** Four civilians, including one boy and one woman.

3. Factions involved in the Deter Aggression Operation (Military Operations Command)

On Monday, December 2, 2024, five civilians at least were killed, including one woman, while a number of others were injured, when the Military Operations Command fired multiple rockets targeting Kazou and al-Baath neighborhoods on the western outskirts of Hama city. The attack took place in tandem with intense clashes between regime forces and opposition factions in the Qalaat al-Madiq and Souran districts in northern rural Hama. Souran city was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

4. Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

Between November 30, 2024, and December 2, 2024, about 27 civilians were shot and killed by SDF personnel, including two humanitarian workers with the International Humanitarian Relief Association (IYD). These victims were killed either by snipers or in ambushes set for military groups. All of these incidents took place in Aleppo city, particularly on the outskirts of the neighborhoods of al-Ashrafiya, al-Lermaoun, and Bostan al-Qasr. The SDF has deployed snipers on the roofs of residential buildings overlooking the neighborhoods under its control, or those they recently took over, following the Military Operation Command's taking control of the city, after regime forces withdrew. SDF gunmen and snipers have accidentally shot or directly targeted civilians and combatants who lost their way in the city and accidentally arrived in areas either under the control of SDF or in close proximity to SDF-held areas.

5. Unidentified parties

On Friday, November 29, 2024, four university students were killed and others injured by a shell of unidentified source that struck housing unit No. 15 in Aleppo University's student housing units, which are located in the New Aleppo neighborhood on the western outskirts of Aleppo city. The shells landed on the first floor of the unit.

B. ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES

1. Syrian regime forces

At least 30 vital facilities have been attacked by regime forces. They are:

- Eight attacks targeting schools
- Five attacks targeting universities.
- Four attacks targeting hospitals.
- Four attacks targeting places of worship (churches and mosques).
- Three attacks targeting camps.
- Two attacks targeting markets.
- Two attacks targeting gas stations.
- One attack targeting a bakery.
- One attack targeting a cultural facility.

These attacks highlight the escalated level of assaults on primary facilities, which directly affect civilians' lives in the area.

2. Russian forces

At least five vital facilities were attacked by Russian forces. These are:

- Four attacks targeting medical and healthcare facilities.
- One attack targeting a water station.

C. USE OF INTERNATIONALLY PROHIBITED CLUSTER MUNITIONS

On November 27, 2024, Syrian regime forces again used internationally prohibited cluster munitions, resulting in the death of a child in Wadi Abbas Camps near Babsqa in northern rural Idlib. On the same day, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets carrying highly explosive anti-personnel cluster bomblets in Darat Ezza city and al-Atareb city in western rural Aleppo, which resulted in civilian injuries.

On November 29, 2024, SNHR also documented that one civilian was killed and another injured in Idlib city in bombardment by regime forces who used a rocket launcher to fire rockets carrying incendiary submunitions on the city.

The use of weapons loaded with cluster submunitions is a serious violation of international humanitarian law that puts civilians' lives at serious risk, as it potentially leads to fatal injuries and permanent disfigurements, in addition to destroying infrastructure. The use of these outlawed weapons by the Syrian regime once again demonstrates its utter disregard for international legal instruments, and only intensifies the already intense suffering of civilians. The use of cluster munitions constitutes a war crime that necessitates accountability.

D. USE OF BARREL BOMBS

SNHR has documented that Syrian regime helicopters dropped at least **10 barrel bombs** on areas in the governorates of Idlib and Hama between November 29, 2024, and December 3, 2024.

Barrel bombs are indiscriminate weapons with high destructive capabilities. They are used to target extensive areas and lead to the destruction of facilities and infrastructure, in addition to inflicting severe human losses, including among civilians. The Syrian regime's recent return to using these devastating weapons is the first time that it's used them in over four-and-a-half years, with the last previous documented use of barrel bombs dating back to February 2020 according to SNHR's database.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- **The continued suffering of civilians:** The report's findings suggest that civilians in northern Syria still face intensified violence and massacres due to ongoing military operations, including indiscriminate bombardment and targeting of vital facilities.
- The Syrian regime continues to use prohibited weapons, exacerbating the humanitarian disaster and destroying infrastructure, particularly essential medical and service facilities.
- Figures show that women and children account for the largest percentage of victims, which underscores the urgent need to protect them and provide immediate humanitarian assistance.
- SNHR has documented blatant violations by the Syrian regime and its Russian ally, including non-compliance with UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2254, which call for ending indiscriminate attacks. Gross violations of international humanitarian law, which oblige conflicting parties to distinguish between civilians and combatants, were also recorded.

Recommendations

Syrian regime

- Cease retaliatory military operations: Refrain from launching aerial and ground attacks on residential areas and civilians, and avoid destroying vital facilities.
- Comply with international law: End the use of prohibited weapons, such as cluster munitions, which constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.
- Protect vital facilities: Refrain from targeting health, education, and essential infrastructure facilities on which civilians depend.
- Work towards a political solution: Take serious steps toward a comprehensive political resolution to restore peace and stability to the country.
- Accountability: Ensure that those responsible for gross human rights violations are held accountable through independent investigations or cooperation with relevant international mechanisms.

Russian and Iranian forces

- Stop military support for the Syrian regime: Refrain from providing support that contributes to escalating military operations and increasing civilian suffering.
- Comply with international humanitarian law: Respect the rules of international law and ensure that prohibited weapons are not used, and that operations endangering civilians are not conducted.
- Protect essential infrastructure: Avoid targeting service facilities, such as water and electricity networks, to prevent worsening the humanitarian crisis.
- Investigate violations and ensure accountability: Conduct transparent investigations into reports of human rights violations and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Avoid escalation: Refrain from any military actions that may exacerbate the humanitarian situation or displace more populations.

Armed opposition factions and the Military Operations Command

- Comply with international humanitarian law: Conduct all military operations in accordance with international standards for civilian protection.
- Protect civilians: Avoid targeting residential areas and essential infrastructure.
- Independent investigations: Form independent committees to investigate incidents that result in civilian casualties and take punitive measures against those responsible.
- Cooperate with humanitarian organizations: Facilitate access to aid in affected areas and ensure the provision of humanitarian support to civilians.

International community and the UN

- Comprehensive political solution: Intensify international efforts to achieve a political solution in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254.
- Apply pressure on conflicting parties: Use all available means to ensure that the Syrian regime, Russian forces, and opposition factions comply with international humanitarian law.
- Strengthen monitoring of violations: Send independent teams and international observers to northern Syria to document violations regularly and ensure transparency.
- Impose effective sanctions: Apply sanctions on parties violating human rights, including an arms embargo on those responsible for such violations.
- Ensure access to humanitarian aid: Work to remove political and procedural barriers hindering humanitarian aid delivery to affected areas.
- Support humanitarian organizations: Provide necessary support to organizations operating in conflict zones to ensure the continuation of essential services such as medical care, education, and relief efforts.

Acknowledgment & Solidarity

SNHR wishes to wholeheartedly thank every person who contributed to this report. We stand in solidarity with the victims and their families.



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No justice without accountability

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