



الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Statement



SNHR The Primary Source of Information in the US Department of State Report on the Human Rights Situation in Syria for the Year 2024

**The Assad Regime Continued Perpetrating Horrific
Violations Until Its Last Moment**

Wednesday 29 October 2025

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.

Damascus – The Syrian Network for Human Rights:

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. State Department released its annual report on the state of human rights in the countries of the world for 2024. The Syria report, which was 36 pages long, included multiple patterns of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The report relied on several human rights sources, listed in order of frequency of quotation as follows:

- 1. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR): 47 quotations.**
- 2. Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI): 35 quotations.**

It also drew on other sources, including the UNHCR, Human Rights Watch, and various local organizations, as well as the expertise and investigations of staff at the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in the US State Department.

This is the thirteenth consecutive year that the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor has relied on SNHR as a primary source for its report on the human rights situation in Syria. The report is an official reference document that accurately describes the human rights situation in the country and is a trusted resource for various U.S. government agencies, as well as for a large number of members of Congress and policymakers in the United States.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

The report confirmed that 2024 witnessed widespread and grave human rights violations by all parties, with the Assad regime bearing the greatest responsibility before its collapse on December 8. During its rule, massacres, torture, and arbitrary arrests were perpetrated with the participation of Russian and Iranian forces and Hezbollah militias. Non-state actors, including Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, ISIS, Turkish-backed factions, and the Syrian Democratic Forces, also committed crimes of murder, kidnapping, sexual violence, and child recruitment.

The report indicated that extrajudicial killings were widespread in Syria. SNHR documented at least **1,264 civilian deaths** between January and September, including 242 children and 118 women, with the Assad regime responsible for 356 of these deaths. Many bodies were not returned to the victims' families, and some were buried in mass graves in Damascus. SNHR also documented **86 deaths** under torture, 52 of which were at the hands of the Assad Regime forces, confirming the continued use of arbitrary killings and torture as systematic tools of repression. The Assad Regime forces and their allies continued to bombard civilian areas, including hospitals, schools, markets, and displacement camps, frequently using cluster munitions and guided weapons. The year also witnessed massacres, extrajudicial killings, torture, and collective punishment, including restrictions on access to food, healthcare, and humanitarian aid, highlighting the systematic nature of the violence against civilians.

The report stated that during 2024, Syrians suffered grave and widespread violations at the hands of various armed groups, including the Syrian Democratic Forces, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, ISIS, and Turkish-backed factions. These violations included killing, torture, sexual violence, child recruitment, and forced displacement. Turkish, Israeli, and Jordanian military operations also resulted in civilian casualties, and attacks on hospitals and health centers disrupted many of them. Press freedom remained severely restricted under the Assad Regime and by armed opposition groups, with journalists subjected to arrest, harassment, and forced expulsion. Workers' rights remained dominated by regime-controlled unions, with restrictions on strikes, weak enforcement of laws, and a sharp rise in the cost of living, placing the brunt of violence and persecution on civilians.

The report indicated that enforced disappearance and prolonged detention are key tools of political repression in Syria. SNHR documented more than 113,000 cases of enforced disappearance, including thousands of women and children, with the Bashar al-Assad Regime responsible for approximately 87% of these cases. Victims of these violations included critics of the Assad Regime, journalists, medical personnel, protesters, and returning refugees. They are often held incommunicado, denied judicial oversight, and subjected to torture, ill-treatment, or death in detention, with authorities concealing death certificates or misleading families about the fate of their loved ones. Non-state actors, including the Syrian Democratic Forces, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, and Turkish-backed factions, have also carried out arbitrary detentions and frequent abusive practices.

The report added that in 2024, Syrians faced systematic repression and widespread human rights violations. The Assad Regime and its forces continued, until its fall on December 8, to practice torture, cruel treatment, and extrajudicial punishments, targeting opponents with beatings, electric shocks, sexual violence, and denial of medical care, often with complete impunity. Non-state actors, including the Syrian Democratic Forces, Turkish-backed factions, and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, also committed a range of documented violations.

SNHR notes that in October 2019 it had signed [a memorandum of understanding](#) with the United States government, which stipulated a mechanism for coordination and cooperation in exchanging information and data documented by the Network regarding human rights violations in Syria.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights affirms its continued readiness to contribute to the reports of countries and international organizations regarding the human rights situation in Syria and will exert maximum efforts to convey violations and incidents objectively and credibly in order to protect civilians, hold all perpetrators of violations accountable, and open the path of change towards democracy.

To view the report from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State, please visit [the link](#).





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No justice without accountability

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