

Statement

Dropping of Euphrates River Water Level Threatening thousands of residents

SNHR is following the effects of the dropping of Euphrates River water level...

SNHR is following the effects of the dropping of Euphrates River water level on the Syrian side starting from Jarables, a border city with Turkey, to Euphrates Dam and the Artificial Lake (Al-Assad Lake) that is along an 84-Km area. The water level reached in the beginning of June 5 m less than what it is supposed to be.

Euphrates River, Euphrates Dam, and the Arterial Lake are considered the main source of water for the eastern and northern areas. That water is used to irrigate the crops and drinking. This continuous level dropping might, with the continuous increase in temperature, spell a disaster on the growing season in the eastern area which is the food basket of Syria and represents also an imminent threat to the electricity and water services in Arraqa, Deir-Azzor, Al-Hasaka, and Aleppo. Despite the Administrational chaos that resulted in digging many additional irrigation channels last year which was one of the reasons behind the dropping in addition to ISIS using large amounts of water to generate electricity, there was also a notable dropping in the water levels in Jarables and a relative decrease in the pumping levels on the Turkish side which affected the water levels in Euphrates Dam and the Artificial Lake.

SNHR demands any organizations that are able to work in the eastern area to intervene in the organization of the water pumping and the lake use for irrigation. We also hold ISIS the responsibility of the exaggerated continuous pumping of water, demand the Turkish government to clarify the difference in the pumping rates in accordance with the relative international conventions, and alert the international organizations to carefully watch the water and agricultural conditions to avoid the doubling of humanitarian responsibilities and refugees numbers in case the agricultural season has been affected and the cutting of electricity and water services has become more frequent.

