

SNHR documenting methodology

Founded in 2011 after the outbreak of Syrian Revolution, Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent neutrality non-governmental human rights organization, which aims to document the ongoing human rights violations in Syria, and periodically issuing reports, studies and researches by applying the highest-levels of objectivity and professionalism, as a first step in order to expose and hold perpetrators accountable, and to ensure victims' rights.

SNHR throughout its documentary efforts and various publications aims to publish human rights' culture among all the Syrian citizens and apprise them with their civil and political rights, in addition to train dozens of Syrians for various fields of human rights works and activities, within our ambition of Syrian citizens enjoy all their humanitarian and constitutional rights.

Syrian Network for Human Rights is non-partisan organization, not involved with any political activity, and affirms its commitment with all international criteria, declarations, and conventions of human rights of the United Nation.

The network works to achieve its goals via media and social websites, and connecting with human rights and civil organizations (international and Syrian).

Notable that United Nations had adopted on SNHR as primary source in all the statistics of analyzing Syrian conflict's victims.

Our reports are reliable source for several international and regional human rights bodies, in addition to hundreds of Arab and Western Media.

SNHR issued more than 120 reports and researches in addition to documenting dozens of massacres.

SNHR methodology in documentation:

First phase: SNHR has members in the different Syrian governorate depends on them mainly in documenting and verification of information, those members built during revolution years an extensive network of relations within their regions, that helped them in wider coverage and verification of information source, SNHR rely on the most credible activists who proved their honest in transferring news, and in addition to the network's members there are major civil and media activists collaborating with SNHR via email, where they periodically reported us with the names, photos and videos of victims.

Second phase: Victim>s documentation team perform checking process of photos and videos to make sure that they are valid, not repeated and matching the related news, then make sure that the name is not repeated before by checking names too, often, in documenting any incident we depends on two different sources that don>t know each other.

Nowadays because of accumulation of relations during time the news may came from more than two sources, in addition to the wide connection with field hospitals, and in some cases families and friends.

Third phase: Arrange, coordinate and sorting lists:

Victims> lists are arranged each according to his/her governorate (place of birth), if any victim killed outside the place of birth, for example displaced place, so we register him/her according to place of birth, and point out to the place of death.

Lists contain: name, picture, video, place and date of death, and cause of death.

If the victims are unidentified, where families were unable to identify them because bodies turned into pieces or burned, or because they were displaced from other regions, in these cases we only document and count their numbers first by cooperate activists, then counting them via received videos and images.

Through our expertise in documenting victims, often we get the names of unidentified victims in the following days, and here we must pay attention and back to the former list and re-document in the correct place to avoid any repetition.

We count the death toll and as we count the death number in each governorate, and distinguish between civilians and fighters.

As SNHR mention number of killed children, women and under torture victims in all lists, and confirm their proportion as an indicate of deliberate targeting civilians.

Who are the victims documenting by SNHR?

In Syria we have 6 cases of documentation cases:

- 1- Civilians killed by government forces
- 2- Fighters killed by government forces
- 3- Civilians killed by armed groups
- 4- Fighters of armed groups killed during clashes with each other.
- 5- Fighters of government forces killed during clashes with armed groups
- 6- Victims killed by undefined hand.

SNHR could document 5 of the 6 above mentioned cases; we have archive for civilians killed

by government forces and archive for fighters killed by government forces.

As we have archive of civilians killed by armed groups, and fighters of armed groups killed during clashes with each other.

And we have victims killed by undefined hands.

In all of the above five mentioned cases SNHR criteria are applicable, where we can communicate with hospitals, families, or having the news from SNHR team via wide relations in their regions then check them as we explained previously.

The lifted case that SNHR not documenting is the victims of government forces like security forces, intelligence, Shabiha and army, as there are no specific criteria or methodology can be followed, as known for everybody government forces prevent all human rights organization from working on the Syrian territories and even persecute them.

SNHR has up to this moment three members arrested in Syrian regime's prisons, the first one has been detained from 25 months, and even as some pretended that there are sources inside the Syrian regime, but it never enough to document those mentioned numbers, except the difficulty of checking the credibility of the reported news from other source.

SNHR documentation centre tried at the beginning of its work to cover that part too, but it showed later that most news transmitted by

government forces and their media are not true, but even misleading.

And we still remember well the incident transmitted by Syrian media about killing a Colonel in the Syrian Army and then later found that there is someone else in the coffin and that Colonel is alive, this was repeated so often, we cannot in any way rely on Syrian Government's sources or news, they are accused of perpetration crimes against humanity and war crimes that's caused the lost of their legitimacy and credibility.

In addition to all of the above there is another major reason that the soldier's families, friends, or one of their region do not accept to communicate with us, we have tried this repeatedly in the beginning but we always being accused of being agents to the West imperialism and Zionism, and enemies of the nation, this doesn't negate the ability to reach some cases in documenting fighters of government forces.

Finally there is something very important we would like to tell in this context, that government forces by itself doesn't recognize only by 2469 victims killed during Syrian revolution, and they stopped since 2012 from providing UN with any new files of their victims, Syrian government doesn't have any human rights, political, even media side document and record those cases for them.

Fourth phase: Archiving and issuing lists:

SNHR programming and design team prepared a program using SQL for In order to enter lists of victims and archived appropriately, after checking the lists and written in a specific way consist with the program, lists are entered all at once, not enter each name alone, and this significantly reduces error rate, the software automatically classify everyone according to his/her province, the child is listed with the children list, women with women list, torture with torture list, fighters With fighters lists, and so on.

The program also issue alert if there is any repetition, so the team can check or omit it. It also issue alert in the case of any error in the input, and locate the exact location of defect and make it is easier to repair.

This mechanism enable us to issue the lists we want in a specific date (from date to the date), and we can issue lists of civilians, children, women, or torture, or lists of Homs governorate, Damascus, for example, and so on.

The lists issued as an Excel files and send to the United Nations and some other research centers and other hands.

In this methodology, SNHR wins credibility and high confidence among Arabic and international media in addition to international bodies and research centers.

