

Medics are decreasing in Syria as they either being killed or forcibly disappeared

Scope of the Report: documenting the victims of the medical field since the outbreak of the Syrian revolution

Our Methodology

SNHR is a Human Rights organization that is independent of any factional or political side. The network works on documenting the human rights violations in Syria, including victims and prisoners.

Please visit the following URL to learn more about the [SNHR methodology in documenting victims](#)

Introduction

The international humanitarian law gives special consideration to the medical personnel. However it was a high priority for **SNHR** to document violation against the medical staff and it has already issued several reports regarding that matter; the most recent of which was issued in collaboration with Avaaz organization on 31/1/2013. Government forces have killed 222 medics, we noticed through our daily observation the escalation of targeting hospital and paramedics by the Syrian regime which caused a severe shortage of medical capabilities all over Syria. Also a lot of the wounded are dying in front of their families due to the lack of any medical care.

Details

Syria, as noticed by **SNHR**'s team, lost over the past three years a large number of medics; government forces have killed 326 medics at least divided as follows:

166 doctors

105 paramedics including Red Crescent paramedics

56 Pharmacists

Among the medic victims were 12 women which is a vital indicator of the Syrian women's valuable involvement in the various aspects.

Also among the medics were 7 non-Syrian doctors; the majority of them were Egyptian.

Nevertheless, the most horrible was arresting 3270 medical worker at least including no less

than 650 doctors who some of them have been released. The Syrian regime used to torture anyone found to be working in the medical field more than usual as they were accused of “treating the terrorists”. 31 medical personnel were tortured to death inside the detention center. This represents an explicit evidence that medical workers are specifically being targeted by the Syrian regime.

To this moment, there are 7 Red Crescent personnel being prisoned by the Syrian regime. For all the details, information, pictures, and videos of the medical field victims please visit the following URL

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5pudHajcbMuN0VXVG9DSnBVdmc/edit?usp=sharing>

The geographic distribution of the medical personnel victims is as follows:

These actions, in addition to shell and loot 227 hospitals, and turning some of it into military stations have forced thousands of medical personnel and private clinics to stop functioning completely, which overwhelmed considerably the field-hospitals that don't have the capacity to address these numbers of wounded in light of the severe shortage of medical staff. Because of this tens of people died in front of the paramedics as they told us.

Furthermore, Al-Qaeda affiliated factions “ISIS” have perpetrated wide violation against medical workers and raided several field-hospitals and abducted wounded without any consideration to their health status. These violations were included in a separate extensive report that documents the ISIS's violations.

Additionally, armed groups have kidnaped three paramedics that were working for the Red Cross. Another armed groups are tracking down the movement of some of the doctors and paramedics. Nonetheless the worst role that some of the armed groups have played so far is taking advantage of the Syrian government's siege of some of the cities to control the insertion of medications and medical equipment into these cities.

Legal Conclusions

The Syrian government have blatantly violated both the International Humanitarian Law and the norms of the Humanitarian law and committed crimes that can be classified as war crimes when it targeted medics as well as crimes against humanity through these numerous acts of killing.

Condemnation and holding responsibility

[SNHR](#), as a national and independent organizations whose purpose is to defend human rights,

is holding the president of the Syrian regime and commander-in-chief of the Syrian regime army Bashar Al-Assad responsible for killing, directly targeting, torturing, and arresting medical workers as the one who gave these orders. We also hold the Syrian government including all its departments directly responsible as well as the government that support the Syrian regime such as the Iranian, Russian, and Chinese governments in addition to Hezbollah. The opposition should uphold the responsibility of tracking and following the perpetrators of these violation in its territories in order to prevent them from committing such acts. It should also do more than issuing condemning statements.

The Security Council should shoulder its responsibility regarding what is happening in Syria and transfer the Syrian file to I.C.C. it also should adapt mandatory action to implement Resolution 2139 that hasn't been implemented in the slightest.

