

222 medical staff killed and 989 detained in Syria

Documented by [SNHR](#)

Assad waging campaign against medical workers as aid catastrophe grips Syria

New research from the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has revealed that 222 medical professionals have been killed by the Assad regime since the Syrian uprising began and at least 989 medical staff have been detained, with many still in custody. Medical personnel inside Syria have said that the Syrian government is specifically targeting medical facilities and personnel.

Omar, a doctor in Damascus and the founder of Coordinating Doctors of Damascus, reported: “When the demonstrations began in Damascus, security forces started a systematic campaign against doctors who are trying to help the wounded. The Air Force Intelligence branch led on suppressing and targeting medical workers. For the regime, the educated and doctors are wanted more than the FSA fighters.”

The Syrian Network for Human Rights has compiled data on medical professionals who have been detained, tortured and/or killed during the conflict which includes the following:

- Between March 15, 2011 and March 30, 2013 researchers for SNHR have documented the names of 222 medical workers killed by the regime, including 105 doctors, 71 paramedics, and 46 pharmacists. Eight of them were women, 24 were killed under torture and 5 were executed, according to eyewitnesses inside the country. The main areas that people were killed are 60 in Homs province, 34 in Aleppo, 31 in the Damascus suburbs, 31 in Idlib province, and 19 in Hama province. The SNHR data on those killed can be seen [here](#).
- SNHR have the names of at least 989 staff medical staff who have been detained in Syria since the start of the uprising. In addition, eyewitness accounts from people who have recently been released from detention have told SNHR that the actual number is far higher. The SNHR data can be seen [here](#).
- SNHR has documented the names of 374 civilians, among them 49 newborn babies and 48 women, who have died due to lack of access to adequate medical care in the wake of the Syrian government’s assaults. The SNHR data can be seen [here](#).

SNHR founder Fadel Abdulghani said: “We are witnessing a catastrophic denial of basic human rights in Syria with doctors being targeted by the regime. Our network of doctors inside Syria are desperate for aid to save lives - the silence of the international community in taking action on Syria makes them complicit in this crisis.”

Emma Ruby-Sachs, Campaign Director for Avaaz, said: “Of all the depraved and wicked things done by Bashar al-Assad, targeting doctors who seek nothing more than to heal the sick and wounded may be his most evil move yet. It’s time for Russia to stop enabling Assad and support a Security Council resolution to get medical aid into Syria to where it is needed most.”

Doctors and organizers working with medical professionals inside Syria report the following:

- Salahuddin, a physiotherapist from the Coordinating Doctors of Homs and director of the Center for Documentation and Assistance for the Wounded in Homs, said: “We have only had one delivery of medical supplies in the last eight months and none of the wounded have been able to leave the besieged areas of Homs. The regime destroyed the major hospitals in the city. The security forces surround the Al-berr hospital, where no one can enter or leave without the approval of the Security. If the wounded enter the hospitals, they will be detained by security and they will take them to a military hospital, where they will be subjected to torture and the risk of death. The medical situation is very bad because of the lack of equipment and medicines. There are no surgical specialists, and most of the medical staff working in the city are students or civilian volunteers.”
- Activist Abu Fidaa from Al Khaldiya neighbourhood in Homs said: “The Red Cross and Red Crescent has only been able to enter this area once since the siege began seven months ago. Once they were able to enter, they couldn’t bring in medical aid and supplies. They were not able to take out a single wounded or ill patient, even women and children. All they brought in was 200 food baskets and some antibiotics and light painkillers.”
- Dr. Abu Muhammad, a former government military doctor who defected, said from Aleppo: “The medical situation in Syria is catastrophic. Medical staff are being targeted by the regime and are often wanted more than gunmen. The regime is trying hard to keep them away from the revolution and sow terror among the citizens by depriving them of treatment, which makes anyone hesitate before going out in any demonstration. I left the army after I found that their hospitals have become centres of torture, some medical staff are acting like regime security men in torturing the wounded.”

The attack on medical facilities and doctors in Syria is in violation of articles 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977.

SNHR has collected this information through a network of researchers within Syria who record first-hand reports of those killed or detained. Where possible, SNHR corroborates these reports by collecting photos or video, or through confirmatory sources. Avaaz is assisting SNHR to publicize this data and can arrange interviews with those quoted in this release and other medical professionals from inside Syria upon request.

- These names are pseudonyms in order to protect the actual sources, who remain inside Syria.

Interviews are available with:

- Doctors and medical staff inside Syria
- SNHR founder Fadel Abdulghani

For more information or for interview requests please contact :

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Internal Notes below not for outside distribution :

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Headings of spreadsheet in English:

Name - Area - City - Gender - Age - Date - Under torture

Military - Occupation - Notes - Video - Image

Saria Ayat Al Hosni, Al Waer neighbourhood

[Died of kidney](#) failure on March 12, 2012. His condition worsened after he was stopped at a military checkpoint and prevented from reaching a nearby hospital.

Najah Daas and Mohammad Zahra

[Newborn babies](#), died on February 12, 2012 as a result of siege laid on Homs and a power outage on the Al Walid Women's Hospital. They passed away because incubators failed due to the power outage.

Idlib :

Sadeq Sadeq Abdulrazzak, Sarmeen

[Sadeq](#), a newborn, fell ill suddenly but his family was not able to reach the hospital because of the heavy concentration of checkpoints on the road from Sarmeen to Idlib.

Taher and Tarek Haddad, Tareeq Al Baba

The 10 month old twins died on November 11, 2012 of dehydration. The nearby pediatric hospital was closed due to the shelling. Their parents took them to a field hospital where the medical team was unable to treat them due to lack of resources and unpreparedness to deal with the illnesses of newborns.

Ahmad Anas Osman, Kfar Nabbouda

The 16 year old was hit by a sniper in the stomach and no one was able to move him to the hospital because snipers in the area were targeting all movement. He died of internal bleeding in front of his parents on 21 November, 2011.

Shaker Fawaz al Mahameed, Daraa al Mahatta

Shaker, 14, died of a brain stroke after being prevented by security forces at a checkpoint from crossing to a nearby hospital. He died on 1 October, 2012.

Death at the Checkpoints: Newborns and the Sick killed at Hospital Gates

374 civilians killed due to lack of proper treatment and denial of access to hospitals by the regime

Within the past two years of revolution, civilians have been subject to all forms of oppression and brutality, which has killed as many as 60,000 people. The Syrian regime was not however satisfied to kill with only bullets and shelling. They are also killing civilians through besiegement and prevention of access to adequate treatment and hospitals for the sick and wounded, in a flagrant violation of human rights treaties.

At the same time, the regime targeting medical workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics, Who help the wounded. Security issued instructions to all workers in the medical field to report about any wounded entered the hospital for treatment. The hospitals are penalized violated these orders the destruction and burning like the Al-Fateh Hospital in Kfar Batna.

(There are more examples in the testimonies of doctors at the bottom)

So some doctors went to work in secret. Away from the eyes of the security.

Doctors who spoke to Avaaz confirmed that the targeting of doctors and medical workers has two reasons:

First: to sow terror in the hearts of citizens out in the demonstrations, so that if someone injured, it will not find anyone to help him.

Second: is part of the plan to target the middle class and educated, in order to keep it away from the revolution, in order to convince the world that there is no revolution in Syria carried out by people of all classes, but it is a rebellion of street gangs and Islamist militants.

Dr. Omar (one of the founders of Damascus coordinating doctors) said: “Air Force Intelligence Branch Is entrusted with the implementation of the task of suppressing and targeting medical workers, and for the regime, the educated in general and doctors in particular, they are wanted strongly more than the FSA fighters “

The Syrian Human Rights Network has documented the names of 374 civilians, among them 49 children and 48 women, killed due to lack of access to adequate care as a result of the siege laid by the Syrian army on various areas in Syria, Syrian Network for Human Rights also documented, the names of 140 from the medical workers killed by the regime, including 61 doctors, 52 paramedic, and 27 pharmacists. 13 were killed under torture while 4 people were executed immediately after their arrest. In addition to documenting the names of 3,000 prisoners, including 600 doctors, and 11 Red Crescent medic, and all of them had been arrested for helping the wounded

Syrian activists and researchers believe the number to be much higher in reality. Many however prefer to bury their dead in silence for fear of retaliation by security forces and the army.

Ricken Patel, Executive Director of global campaigning organisation Avaaz, said:

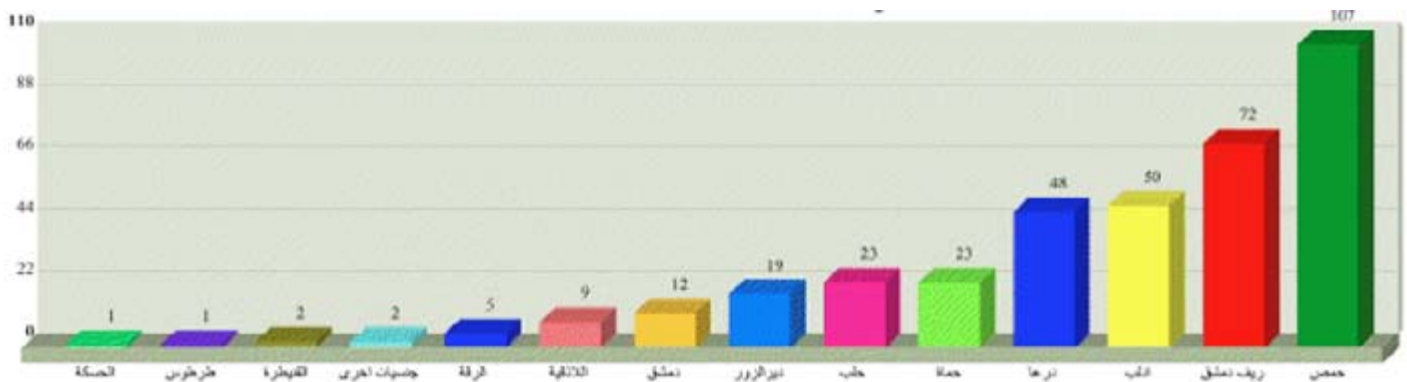
“The states supporting the Syrian regime must pressure Assad into allowing access to humanitarian organisations in all of Syria’s provinces and into providing emergency medical assistance to all civilians trapped in besieged areas. This file must also be transferred to the International Criminal Court because the prevention of treatment for the wounded and sick is a crime against humanity. The time has come for the international community to provide the necessary protection for the Syrian people.”

SHRN founder Fadel Abdulghani warned of a humanitarian catastrophe, especially after pharmaceutical factories ceased to operate in Aleppo and Homs, where the largest ones are located. Abdulghani urged the international community and humanitarian organisations to provide aid for civilians. He said:

“The Syrian regime has prevented aid organisations from helping the wounded and sick inside Syria. All treaties and conventions and international standards dictate that during times of war, medical care must be provided to all people without prejudice. The silence of the international community and relevant organisations to the matter makes them complicit in the legal and moral responsibility of this matter.”

Medical reports from inside Syria state clearly that kidney failure, cancer, hemophilia, bronchial asthma, and heart disease are the most common causes of death due to besiegement and lack of access to care. EXPAND -- what is the biggest problem?

Graph illustrating breakdown of deaths by province due to lack of access:



Reports collected by Avaaz and the SHRN confirm a shortage of medicine across Syria. The shortage is particularly acute in hotspots and besieged areas. The besiegement on many towns and cities has ensured that no food comes across. This leaves civilians particularly vulnerable to illness as their immunity has weakened, according to a field hospital worker in Old Homs. This explains why Homs has seen the largest number of victims because many of its areas are under siege. The Red Crescent has been unable to remove the sick or wounded from areas under siege.

Activist Abu Fidaa from Al Khaldiya neighbourhood in Homs said: “Four elderly people died in the space of 20 days in the besieged areas because they were in need of medicine to treat their chronic illnesses. The Red Cross and Red Crescent has been able to enter this area once since the siege began 7 months ago. Once they were able to enter, they were couldn’t bring in medical aid and supplies or nutritional additives. They were not able to take out a single wounded or ill patient, even women and children. All they brought in was 200 food baskets and some antibiotics and light painkillers.”

The Geneva Accords of 1949 and its annexes require the protection of human dignity of all human beings in all times and circumstances and carry the obligation to take all possible measures, without discrimination, to stop the suffering of all the sick and disabled, whether

they are involved in the conflict or whether they are civilians. These treaties state clearly that adequate treatment must exist for all injured people in hospitals and mobile clinics and clinics, regardless of the faction controlling them.

What's happening in Syria is in utter violation of the Geneva Accords and the Syrian regime is responsible for all cases of death related to the prevention of medical access. The Syrian regime also bears full responsibility for the deaths caused by lack of access as a result of chronic illness. This is considered a crime against humanity. Each single case provides enough impetus for the United Nations and members of the international community to act in the protection of the Syrian People. In Khan Sheikhoun, activists confirmed that on 19 October, 2012, 6 children were injured by an artillery shell that fell near the area where they were playing. Among these children was Salsabil Bakour who was taken to a local hospital inside the town to be treated. She was not treated due to a shortage of medical supply and equipment. Her family decided to move her to a hospital outside Khan Sheikhoun yet they were prevented from leaving the town. The girl died of her injuries.

Homs :

Shamsa Abbara, Al Houleh

Died of kidney failure on 7 December, 2011 due to lack of medicine and inability to receive dialysis as a result of army siege.

Saria Ayat Al Hosni, Al Waer neighbourhood

[Died of kidney failure](#) on March 12, 2012. His condition worsened after he was stopped at a military checkpoint and prevented from reaching a nearby hospital.

Najah Daas and Mohammad Zahra

[Newborn babies](#), died on February 12, 2012 as a result of siege laid on Homs and a power outage on the Al Walid Women's Hospital. They passed away because incubators failed due to the power outage.

Idlib :

Sadeq Sadeq Abdulrazzak, Sarmeen

[Sadeq](#), a newborn, fell ill suddenly but his family was not able to reach the hospital because of the heavy concentration of checkpoints on the road from Sarmeen to Idlib.

Mohammad Ahmad Noqor, Idlib city

Suffered from a stroke and died on September 6, 2012 because of the siege on the city of Idlib. All movement was forbidden and targeted so his family was unable to get him adequate care.

Aleppo :

Fadila Nabhan, Al Nayrab

Was a victim of a heart attack at night. None of her family members were able to take her to the hospital because the route to the hospital passed by Al Nayrab airport where snipers were targeting all movement. She died on 26 October, 2012. She was 60 years old.

Mervat Nayef Zeno, Al Nayrab

Mervat died at 22 years old when she suffered from heavy bleeding as she was giving birth. Her family was unable to take her to the hospital because snipers were spread across the entire airport road. They took her to a field hospital but the medical team was unable to help due to lack of resources. She died on 3 November, 2012.

Taher and Tarek Haddad, Tareeq Al Baba

The 10 month old twins died on November 11, 2012 of dehydration. The nearby pediatric hospital was closed due to the shelling. Their parents took them to a field hospital where they the medical team was unable to treat them due to lack of resources and unpreparedness to deal with the illnesses of newborns.

Hama :

Mamdouh Fouad Hamsho, Shiha village

The 32 year old was injured by shelling and when locals attempted to take him out of village for adequate treatment, the checkpoint did not allow them to leave. He bled to death on 22 September, 2012.

Ahmad Anas Osman, Kfar Nabbouda

The 16 year old was hit by a sniper in the stomach and no one was able to move him to the hospital because snipers in the area were targeting all movement. He died of internal bleeding in front of his parents on 21 November, 2011.

Daraa :

Shaker Fawaz al Mahameed, Daraa al Mahatta

Shaker, 14, died of a brain stroke after being prevented by security forces at a checkpoint from crossing to a nearby hospital. He died on 1 October, 2012.

Doctors testimonies :

Physical therapist Salahuddin, (a member of Homs coordinating doctors, and Director of Center for Documentation and assistance the wounded in Homs)

We have found ourselves compelled to take action to set up field hospitals to treat the injured and working in secret in the field, For several reasons, including the fact that the regime destroyed the major hospitals in the city, such as the medical care hospital and the Kindi Hospital. While the security forces surrounded the Al-berr hospital, where they investigate with entering and leaving to and from the hospital, and no one can enter or leave without the approval of the Security. While military checkpoints are spread around the AL-amin hospital in the neighborhood of Inshaat in Homs, And if the wounded enter this Hospitals, will be detained by security and they will take them to a military hospital, where they will be subjected to torture and the risk of death.

The people suffering led us us to open field hospitals in an effort to provide assistance to them, especially after the regime to target Red Crescent activists, which worked to rescue the wounded, we managed to save many lives, but we have also failed to save dozens of injured people.

The regime targeting doctors and paramedics, pharmacists and impose a blockade on them, so forcing many of them to leave the city. The few who remained in the city is either inside the besieged neighborhoods, can not do a lot for the civilians there, or in the neighborhoods controlled by the regime and they are unable to provide help or any assistance to those who is living in besieged neighborhoods.

The medical situation is very bad, because of the lack of equipment and medicines, as there is no surgical specialists, and most of the medical staff working in the city are students of the School of Medicine, and civilian volunteers.

Dr. Abu Muhammad From Aleppo. (military doctor defected from the army)
internal disease specialist.

Dr. Abu Muhammad describes his experience with the regular army as catastrophic, he served in Deraa, Duma, Homs and Idlib before defecting from the army and contribute to the establishment of three field hospitals.

He said:”I left the army after it found that hospitals have become centers of torture, and those working in the medical field have become as security men are torturing wounded.

Medical staff as well as educated are being targeted by the regime. and wanted more of the gunmen. Because the regime is trying hard to keep them away from the revolution .As well as the regime’s attempt sow terror among the citizens by depriving them of treatment, which makes anyone hesitate before going out in any demonstration.

The medical situation in Syria catastrophic, due to the lack of medical staff as a large number of doctors are either students, or they are not specialists in surgery.

At the beginning of the revolution in the city of Daraa, I served there, and military units were stationed in the municipal stadium, which was contained on five military formations. Fifth Division and ninth, the fourth and the Republican Guard in addition to the security forces. The detainees were being held at the stadium, and I well remember that in the history of 01.04.2011, the total number of detainees in the municipal stadium 10,000 detainees aged between 16 years and 34 years, the security forces were forcing the detainee to take off his clothes, and then they dragged him on the ground, even if he was injured.

After a period, the army took me to serve in the military hospital in Homs, Military hospital in Homs was closer to the Security Branch, but for sure its not hospital.

During my service in the military hospital witnessed many cases of torture, and one of these cases, I can not forget, one of the detainees was wounded by a bullet in the wishbone, the nurse asked his mother to leave, and when she left the nurse tortured him, by putting her shoes high heel inside the wound. As well as beatings, and two days after this patient died under torture. After homs the army moved me to Idlib, Cases of torture against the wounded that I witnessed in Daraa and Homs, i saw also in Idlib, I remember one of the detainees named Mohammed Nemer, he weighed when he entered into a Air Intelligence branch 110 kg, he was injured, but

in less than a month he died under torture, and when revealed his body was weighed no more than 46 kilograms, and looked upon the effects of torture and clear, And when I examined his body was weighing no more than 46 kg, it seemed clear signs of torture.

Dr. Omar (Damascus coordinating doctors)

At the beginning of the events in Daraa we were surprised that the wounded were transferred to the Omari Mosque in Daraa, rather than taken to hospitals.

The news comes from Dara says that the wounded who are taken to hospitals, the security forces arrested and tortured them, and some of them entered the hospital with minor injuries but came out dead. What assured us that this news is true, is that security targeted an ambulance of the Red Crescent was transporting wounded.

When the demonstrations began in Damascus, security began a systematic campaign against doctors who are trying to help the wounded we decided to set up a coordinating doctors of Damascus to be the nucleus of the basis for the work of the medical orderly in Syria. The mission of doctors is: treat the wounded, bringing medical equipment and tools needed, and the production of educational videos posted on YouTube about first aid and surgery. In addition to the training of civilians on the principles of first aid.

but the regime began entails enormous pressure on doctors, who are vulnerable to targeting and detention. Elements of the Air Force Intelligence became detain doctors

And closing hospitals and burn it, as happened in the Al-Fateh Hospital in Damascus, Dar Al Shifa Hospital in Aleppo.

About the reasons why the regime is targeting the medical staff, Dr. Omar says:

The first reason is to sow fear among citizens from going out in the demonstrations, so that if someone is injured will not receive proper treatment, and may die.

The second reason is that the Security targeting citizens who belong to the middle class and educated, and who is doctors essential part of them, in order to convince the world that this revolution is a rebellion of gangs and militants from the street, and not a popular revolution involving all the popular classes, and led by intellectuals and educated.

Dr. Omar describes the medical situation in Syria as catastrophic whatever sense of the word. He says: “Today, if government hospitals opened their doors in the face of the wounded, they would be unable to be treated and assimilated. We need to everything from human resources to equipment, devices and drugs. There are two types of injuries, Wounded who must be treated immediately, and others who may be slightly delayed treatment, But the large number of persons wounded daily, makes it impossible to be able to save most of them. Within a week received fifty wounded, managed to treat only ten of them, while died about ten others of them, and stayed thirty people waiting for treatment, and with the influx of wounded on a daily basis, we’re helpless in front of their suffering.