

# A Profile on the Syrian Network for Human Rights



The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is a non-profit non-governmental human rights organization that was founded in June 2011 in light of the systematic rise of violations of human rights in Syria. SNHR aims to support the preserving and defending of victims' right and consequently accounting process, achieve justice and peace, raise the awareness of the Syrian people in regard to their civil and political rights, and amass efforts and capacities in the context of stopping violations of human rights in Syria.

SNHR is registered as a non-profit limited liability company in the United Kingdom under the registration number 9600562 and in the United States of America as a non-profit organization under registration number 26053428001806. Currently, preparations are being made to register the Network as a non-profit organization in Republic of Turkey.

SNHR is a member of [the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect \(ICR2P\)](#), a member of the [Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network](#), a founding member and a member of the executive committee of the [Transitional Justice Coordination Group \(TJCG\)](#), and a partner with the [Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor](#). Additionally, SNHR collaborates closely with [the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), [the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic](#), which was established by the United Nations [Human Rights Council](#), and with a number of international human rights organization such as [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Al Karama organization](#), and [The Syrian Campaign](#).... In addition to a number of local Syrian organizations. A Profile on the Syrian Network for Human Rights



## **SNHR works mainly within the following focuses:**

### 1- Documenting victims

SNHR team works on documenting victims who fall throughout the day. SNHR investigators try to find as much information about the victims as possible and publishes the most notable daily incidents and statistics as well as issuing a monthly report on the death toll and children and women victims.

#### **Example:**

[“The Killing of 6567 Civilians in the First Half of 2016”](#)

### 2- Documenting detainees and forcibly-disappeared persons

SNHR team has been documenting detainees and forcibly-disappeared persons daily since 2011. The team faces many challenges in this process including and most notably families’ hesitation to cooperate and reveal the arrest of their beloved ones. SNHR publishes most notable daily incidents and statistics that won’t cause any harm for the detainee. Also, SNHR publishes a monthly report on arrests and forcibly disappeared-persons which sheds light on the most notable cases

#### **Example:**

[“No less than 843 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in May 2016”](#)

### 3- Documenting attacks on vital facilities

SNHR team documents the daily targeting of religious, medical, educational, and communal vital facilities in addition to attacks on international humanitarian insignia, infrastructures, diplomatic missions, and refugee camps.... And publishes most notable incidents and statistics. Also, a report documenting the vital civil facilities that were targeted is published monthly.

#### **Example:**

[“Despite the Cessation of Hostilities agreement, 78 civilian vital facilities were attacked in April 2016”](#)

### 4- Documenting violations against media activists

SNHR team works continuously to document violations that involve media activists in Syria considering the significance of their work. SNHR publishes the most notable incidents once it is documented and also it publishes a monthly report on violations against media activists.

#### **Example:**

[“94 Media Activists killed, 33 arrested and kidnapped and 91 Injured During 2015”](#)



### [5- Documenting victims who died due to torture](#)

SNHR team works on documenting victims who die due to torture separately and in a detailed manner. SNHR publishes most notable incidents and statistics. Also, the Network publishes a monthly report that includes all statistics and the most notable deaths due to torture.

#### **Example:**

[“46 Individuals Died under Torture in September 2015”](#)

### [6- Documenting the use of barrel bombs](#)

SNHR decided to dedicate a separate file for the documentation of the use of barrel bombs due to its randomness and fatalness and the rise of number of victims who die because of barrel bombs especially after Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 in 2014 which states that the use of barrel bombs must be stopped. SNHR publishes a monthly report on the use of barrel bombs and resultant death toll.

#### **Example:**

[“974 Breaches of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement Through the use of Barrel Bombs”](#)

### [7- Documenting medical personnel](#)

SNHR team documents victims among medical personnel separately and continuously as it is critically dangerous to target this group because of its role in saving citizens in light of the ceaseless military operations. SNHR publishes most notable incidents and publishes a monthly report that document death toll among medical personnel.

#### **Example:**

[“The Killing of 81 Medics and Civil Defense Personnel in the First Half of 2016”](#)

### [8- Documenting massacres](#)

SNHR team works continuously on documenting massacres of civilians in Syria. The team tries to collect all available information, details, and accounts in every massacre in addition to publishing the death toll. Also, the Network publishes a monthly report on the massacres and its details.

#### **Example:**

[“Not Less than 516 Massacres Committed in 2015”](#)



9- Documenting violations against [women](#), [children](#), refugees, and others  
SNHR team works continuously on documenting violations against women, children, refugees and other various violations then the team publishes the most important information on the Network website and then this information is published in the form of special reports.

**Example:**

[“The Enslavement Mob of Syrian Women in Lebanon: Rape of 45 Syrian Women”](#)

[“Children of Syria ... Angels with Broken Wings”](#)

[“Syrian Women in the Eye of the Storm”](#)

[10- Publishing special non-periodic reports](#)

SNHR publishes reports that tackle one kind or more of violations of human rights in Syria, or shed light on a party that commits these violations, or highlights the mechanisms or methods used in the perpetration of violations such as the use of illegal weapons such as chemical weapons or cluster munitions, or focus on crimes such as enforced displacement, sexual violence, or other crimes. The following are a few examples:

[“The Syrian Regime Uses Toxic Gases Again and Violates UNSC Resolutions 2118, 2209, and 2235”](#)

[“The Black Bottom”](#)

[“New Attacks by the International Coalition Forces Result in Losses and Civilian Victims”](#)

[“Allegedly Russian Warplanes Kills 104 Civilians, including 25 children and 15 women”](#)

[“The most prominent violations against the Syrian Civil Defense”](#)

[“Armed Opposition Factions’ attacks on Neighborhoods in Aleppo city”](#)

[“The Lethal Ceasefire: “The Death of 63 Civilians, 21 amongst Which Died From Hunger in Madaya”](#)

[“No One Is Safe](#)



## Mortar Victims Toll”

### 11- Special researches

Researches with regard to violations of human rights in Syria that tackle and analyze a specific issue from different perspectives. These reports are published on spaced occasions. SNHR has published until mid-2016 26 researches.

#### **Example:**

“No Alternative to Return Home: Violations Committed by Kurdish- Self-Management Forces in Al Hassaka Governorate”

“Syrian Artists: Between Freedom and Oppression”

“Fleeing Death to Face another/Most notable incidents of drowning death”

### 12- Joint researches

SNHR works with other organizations that collaborate with the Network to publish joint reports. These reports try to shed light on the violations of human rights against Syrians.

The most recent report was published in 2016 in collaboration with the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor:

Child Labor”

Among Syrian Refugee Children in Jordan”

### 13- Yearly reports “Detailed accounts”

At the beginning of every year, a comprehensive report is published that includes a detailed account of the various violations of human rights by the different parties in Syria over the course of the past year. This report is the result of the cumulative daily and monthly efforts in documenting violations of human rights by SNHR team.

#### **Example:**

“The Most Significant Human Rights Violations in Syria during 2015”



Also, the Network publishes a report that includes statistics on the various violations of human rights in Syria since March 2011, this report is a collective of yearly reports

**Example:**

[“Four Years Harvest: the Highlights of Human Rights Violations in Syria”](#)

14- Participating in the universal periodic review on Syria

Submitting a report on the human rights situation in Syria and collecting efforts during a [universal periodic review](#) which is a unique process that involves a review of all human rights records for all state members of the United Nations.

15- Providing statistics and data

SNHR is one of the most significant sources for statistics on violations in Syria. The Network provides researchers, research centers, and human rights organization that are interested in the Syrian issue with the requested statistics and data. Also, SNHR provides media outlets with data and eyewitnesses at their request in order to cover a particular incident in addition to providing local political and civil institutions as well as official international institutions with statistics as per their request.

*Most notable institutions and organizations that used SNHR statistics*



- Carnegie [Photo Essay: Aleppo Under Siege](#)



- The Middle East Monitor: [Syrian Network for Human Rights: Assad regime dropped more than 3,000 barrel bombs on Syria since beginning of Russian military intervention](#)



#### 16- Coordinating meetings with victims

SNHR team works on coordinating meetings between victims and eyewitnesses and investigators affiliated to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council, provided the victims' and eyewitnesses' consent and insuring their safety. The Commission publishes [periodic reports on the human rights situation in Syria](#). Sometimes, their meetings are arranged with international human rights organizations and some research centers.

#### 17- Filling out the forms of the Special Rapporteurs at the United Nations

SNHR team contacts a large number of victims to raise their awareness on the importance of filling the forms issued by the Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations special committees that are concerned with monitoring the implementation of the international human rights instruments and especially The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killing, Special Rapporteur on arrest and enforced-disappearance, and Special Rapporteur on torture. These forms are particularly important to confirm the occurrence of the violations and the victim's right to prosecute the criminal and the right for remedy.

#### 18- Training human rights defenders

Prior to 2011, working or specializing in the field of human rights wasn't viable in Syria. Therefore, SNHR works through its members, who have acquired enough practical experience and knowledge in this field as a result of their practice and training, on training human rights defenders in Syria.

#### 19- Raising the awareness of local actors on international laws that govern the ongoing situation in Syria

On some occasions, workshops are held with groups of local actors in which information and details on the international laws governing the situation in Syria are discussed in addition to emphasizing the necessity to respect and defend human rights.



SNHR, represented by its chairman Fadel Abdul Ghani, has conducted a presentation that outlined the most notable rules of the customary international law. The presentation was for a large number of members of political offices that are affiliated to armed opposition factions. The presentation discussed practical examples from Syria and then the attendants discussed these rules. Some of the factions' representatives expressed their willingness to sign on abiding by the international agreements that are relevant to the law of war.

SNHR Conducted a Presentation for a number of Armed Opposition Groups about [the International Humanitarian Law](#)

## 20- Supporting negotiation processes regarding detainees

SNHR works on supporting the fruition of negotiation process that take place between the various conflict parties in order to release detainees. This is done through the officials in charge of the negotiations with the chairman of the Network and with consulting international human rights organizations and experts in order to guarantee that the process is executed in a way that insure that detainees won't be harmed within the international laws that govern such cases.

In addition, SNHR seeks to expand its scope thoughtfully while taking into consideration its goals that the Network was established for and its capabilities especially in projects in the fields of justice, peace, and social abilities building. Furthermore, SNHR aims to continue gathering efforts and capacities in order to limit and/or cease violations of human rights in Syria.

SNHR works ceaselessly on building and improving the abilities of its members as human rights defenders through enrolling them in training courses that are taught by specialized experts in collaboration with international organizations that work in the same field and through opening channels for its members with local and international experts who support the work of the Network and can provide practical knowledge during the course of the work (such as experts in international law, military experts, doctors, and psychologists among others.) SNHR has representatives in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the French Republic, and the Republic of Turkey who work on raising the awareness of the civil society, decision makers, and human rights defenders. SNHR's





representatives also work on advocating victims through publishing documented information, data, and statistics, calling on making all possible efforts to put an end to the violations of human rights in Syria, supporting accountability and justice processes, and gathering efforts for peace.

SNHR funds its activities and work through unconditioned donations and grants from individuals and groups... and through human rights project, studies, and researches the network carries out which all are fundamentally related to the documentation of violations of human rights and victims advocacy. SNHR obliges itself to financial transparency with the granting parties by filing financial reports and supporting documents.

### ***The impact that SNHR made***

SNHR works have reflected in a number of major researches and works done by United Nations organs, human rights organization, research centers, media centers, civil society organizations, and political institutions in addition to workshops, conferences, seminars that SNHR held or participated in.



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

[Updated UN study indicates at least 93,000 people killed in Syria conflict](#)



(Icrt) International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

[26 June Global Report: UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#)



**OCHA**  
United Nations  
Office for the Coordinator  
of Humanitarian Affairs

OHCA  
Weekly Update – Syrian Crisis





United State Department of State  
[Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015](#)  
Syria

[International Religious Freedom Report for 2014](#)  
Syria  
[International Religious Freedom Report for 2013](#)  
Syria

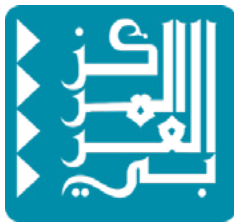
[Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012](#)  
Syria



الائتلاف الوطني لقوى  
الثورة والمعارضة السورية

National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposi-  
tion Forces

[Rights Group Documents 54 Russian Cluster Munitions  
Attacks on Syria](#)



Arabic Center for Studies and Policy Research  
[Geneva II: In the Run-Up to Round II, what did Round I  
Achieve?\[1\]](#)



Azmi Bishara: Syria-A Way of Suffering to Freedom



Human Rights Watch  
[Russia/Syria: Widespread New Cluster Munition Use](#)

[If the Dead Could Speak](#)  
[Mass Deaths and Torture in Syria's Detention Facilities](#)

[US, Russia: Investigate Deadly New Attacks in Aleppo,  
Syria](#)





Amnesty International

[SYRIA: 'DEATH EVERYWHERE' - WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ALEPPO, SYRIA](#)

[SYRIA: 'LEFT TO DIE UNDER SIEGE': WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EASTERN GHOUTA, SYRIA](#)

[SYRIA: 'BETWEEN PRISON AND THE GRAVE': ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN SYRIA](#)

[Syrian and Russian forces targeting hospitals as a strategy of war](#)

### ***Some of SNHR activities***

- A side-event at the United Nations headquarters: ["First Cracks in the Syrian Impunity Wall: National Prosecutions Underway in the Courts of Third Party States for Serious Crimes committed in Syria"](#)

SNHR outlined the proposed international mechanisms to form a court that is based on an international legitimacy. SNHR noted the absence of the term "accountability" in parallel with the political process. Also, SNHR affirmed that human rights defenders are not willing to accept a political settlement at the expense of justice and highlighted the ramifications of impunity in the Syrian society and the Syrian regime's disregard for the Resolutions of the Security Council.

- SNHR presented real models of the development of immigration and the making of extremism at the Civil Society Forum Neighbourhood South (3rd Edition): 26-27 May 2016 in Brussels through its continued efforts and its network of relations with activists and actors on the Syrian grounds.

[Syrian Network of Human Rights Participates in the Civil Society Forum - the Southern Vicinity](#)



- In addition to its main purpose of documenting violations, SNHR conducted a presentation entitled: “Silence is Worse than Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes” at the sidelines of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly which was held in the last week of September 2014 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. In the presentation, SNHR showed a number of satellite images of Douma city in Damascus suburbs which the Network was able to obtain. The images showed the size of the destruction resultant of the Syrian regime’s use of barrel bombs in bombarding residential areas during the period of time from before the adoption of Resolution 2139 on 22 February 2014, which calls for the cease of use of barrel bombs, until a year after the resolution was adopted. The images showed a significant increase in the destruction over the course of one year which explicitly implies the Syrian regime’s disregard for the Security Council Resolutions.

[The Syrian Network for Human Rights Participated in the Meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations](#)

- SNHR briefed a number of Arab and foreign delegation to the Security Council on the human rights situation in Syria where the chairman of the Network met a number of the ambassadors from delegation of a number of states. Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, expanded on the daily violations that the Syrian citizen is subjected to by various parties including and most notably the Syrian regime. Also, Abdul Ghani talked about the continuing, and daily killing, arrest, and torture against civilians. Finally, the Network chairman emphasized the necessity to take steps in order to cease the bombing using barrel bombs.

[SNHR Meets a Group of Arab and Foreign Ambassadors’ Missions of the UN Security Council](#)



- SNHR outlined the chronicles of the popular uprising in Syria and affirmed that not only the Syrian regime failed to protect the Syrian people from crimes against humanity and war crimes, but the regime also is the one who perpetrated these crimes in a systematic and a widespread manner in during the course of a meeting that aims to establish mechanisms to enhance the communications and build a network aiming experts in the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to remind the international community and the United Nations of the significance and imperativeness of implementing this norm which was one of the most significant norms that was established in the modern age.

[Ten Years on the Principle of “Responsibility to Protect”: SNHR affirms that the Syrian Regime is the Worst in the Modern Era](#)

- After assessing the situation on the ground in Syria through daily documenting and monitoring, SNHR submitted [its vision on the possibilities and mechanisms of the political solution in and the transitional phase in Syria](#) at the request of the UN special envoy to Syria Mr. Staffin de Mistura during a meeting with SNHR chairman Fadel Abdul Ghani and Wael Aleji. It should be noted that Mr. de Mistura invited the Syrian Network for Human Rights as a civil society organization that is concerned with the human rights aspects and considering its continued work in documenting violations of human rights in Syria since 2011 by the various conflict parties.

[SNHR meeting with the team of the UN special envoy Mr.](#)



## *SNHR in media*



*Samples of SNHR's works being cited in western media*

- CNN

[Syrian maternity hospital bombed](#)



- THE DAILY BEAST

[Assad and Putin's Sick Strategy Bombing Hospitals](#)

**theguardian**

The Guardian:

[Syria conflict: UN says 60,000 dead](#)

(2013)

[US ready to work with Russia to fight Syria's Islamic extremists](#)



- Fox News:

[Russia killed more Syrian civilians than Assad or ISIS in January, watchdog says](#)

**The Telegraph**

- Telegraph

[Syrian three-day ceasefire agreed as both sides bury dead](#)



- Anadolu Agency

[Syria: Regime forces used 5,000 barrel bombs since Sept](#)





- Reuters

[UN condemns air strike that cut water supplies to Syria's Aleppo](#)



- Washington Post

[Syrian airport reopens as clashes, Internet and phone blackout continue](#)



- Vocativ

[For Every Syrian That ISIS Kills, Bashar Assad Kills Seven More](#)

## The Network in Arab media



*Samples of the Network's work being cited in Arab media*

- Middle East

[Christian Syrian Detainees between Government Forces' Oppression and Extremists' Terrorism](#)



- Al Hayat Journal

[Warnings: Hama Prison might See the same Scenario as Sydnaya 2008](#)



- TheNewArab

[Hunting Humans: Thousands of Victims Killed by the Snipers of the Syrian Regime and Militias](#)



- Al Jazeera Net

[Syrian Network for Human Rights: 21,000 Killed in Syria in 2015](#)





- Al Arabiya TV Channel  
[Number of Victims among Medical Personnel rises to 81 amid Calls for Medical Aids](#)

