

Profile of the Syrian Network for Human Rights

www.snhr.org



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I. The Idea and Establishment:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), an independent human rights organization, monitors and documents human rights violations in Syria, mobilizing efforts and capabilities towards limiting such violations, contributing to the protection of victims' rights, exposing the perpetrators of violations in preparation for holding them accountable, raising awareness amongst Syrians of their civil and political rights, promoting the optimal conditions for human rights, advancing transitional justice, supporting democratic change, achieving justice and peace in Syria, and saving and cataloguing the history of events.

SNHR was founded in June 2011, as a result of the systematic increase in human rights violations in Syria, at the initiative of Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, who is currently the CEO, and in cooperation and coordination with a number of activists. It has continued to expand in the years since then, with the current SNHR team consisting of 48 people, including staff members and volunteers, who are located in Syria, neighboring countries and nations of asylum, with SNHR now licensed in the United States of America, France, and Turkey. The SNHR's structure consists of seven main sections, in addition to the administrative supporting sections.

The SNHR has worked to monitor and document human rights violations in Syria on a continuous daily basis since 2011, documenting more than twenty-five types of violations perpetrated in Syria, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, displacement and forced displacement, and the use of prohibited munitions and other highly destructive munitions, as well as other violations.

The SNHR has established databases to archive and catalogue incidents of violations, with SNHR working to continuously develop these databases, taking into account the latest developments in Syria and their context, with the databases used to document the largest possible amount of data regarding many types of gross violations of human rights, using a working methodology developed specifically to be compatible with the nature of the non-international armed conflict in Syria and according to universal human rights standards, declarations, covenants, and conventions issued by the United Nations. SNHR reflects what it documents on its databases through the materials it continuously issues, including various human rights reports, whether these are periodic reports (daily/ monthly/ annual) concerning the human rights situation in Syria, or statistical or thematic reports dealing with research, statistics and analysis with one or more types of human rights violations. SNHR also publishes charts and interactive maps on its official website concerning specific statistics, as well as analyses of the reality of one or more violations that are practiced on Syrian soil, in addition to many daily news articles on human rights violations in Syria.

It should also be noted that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has relied on the Syrian Network for Human Rights as a primary source in all of its statistics on the analysis of victims of the conflict in Syria. SNHR also works in cooperation with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) and has signed data-sharing agreements with the Independent International and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the internal United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that occurred in northwest Syria, as well as with other UN bodies and international organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in addition to signing memoranda of understanding with many distinguished international and regional bodies and institutions, including United



States governments, the German Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Medi), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), and Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB).

The SNHR is one of the most important data sources for the Syria situation reports issued by the foreign ministries of many countries worldwide and by the European Union, with a large number of Arab and international news agencies relying on the SNHR's reports and statistics for their coverage and reports on Syria.

The SNHR is a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the International Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and Every Casualty Counts (ECC) network.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) also supports advocacy efforts for victims of human rights violations in Syria through holding bilateral or group meetings with international decision-makers and politicians, United Nations agencies and committees, human rights international organizations and bodies, and with human rights defenders around the world. In addition to these activities, SNHR also participates in organizing advocacy events to mobilize capabilities and efforts within the framework of curbing human rights violations in Syria, advancing transitional justice, supporting democratic change, and achieving justice and peace in Syria.

As of June 2021, SNHR has issued approximately 1,170 reports and approximately 290 statements, in addition to thousands of news articles, in which it addressed multiple types of the most notable human rights violations. Since its establishment, the SNHR has also organized and participated in some 57 important events on human rights in Syria, with the participation of international actors and victims.

The SNHR has also provided training to a wide range of Syrian media workers, in addition to a number of political offices of factions of the Syrian opposition, as well as to human rights activists from other Arab countries suffering from conflicts.



II. Monitoring, Documenting and Archiving the Data of Violations:

i. The Types of Violations the SNHR Records in Syria:

1. Violations Related to the Treatment of Civilians and Hors De Combat Fighters



Extrajudicial killings



Arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and enforced disappearance



Torture in detention centers



Violations of children's rights



Violations of women's rights



Summary trial procedure



Sexual violence

2. Violations Concerning the Conduct of Hostilities

a. Military operations and unlawful attacks:



Artillery and aerial attacks



Mines



Suicide/ forced suicide bombings



Sniper attacks



Siege and threats of military operations

b. Specifically protected individuals and objects:



Medical sector



Educational sector



Media workers



Attacks on vital civilian facilities

c. Use of prohibited weapons



Cluster munitions



Barrel bombs



Chemical weapons



Incendiary weapons



Nail missiles

3. Violations of the Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IPDs)



Displacement and forced displacement



Confiscating property and legalizing property looting

4. Assigning individual responsibility

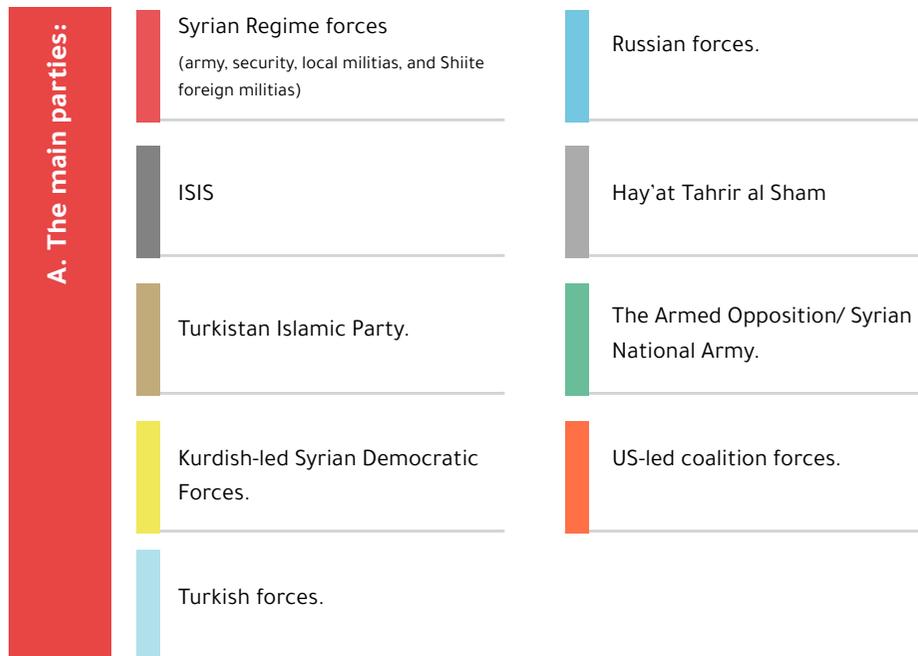


Documenting the names of those involved in perpetrating violations



Monitoring entities and individuals violating European and US sanctions

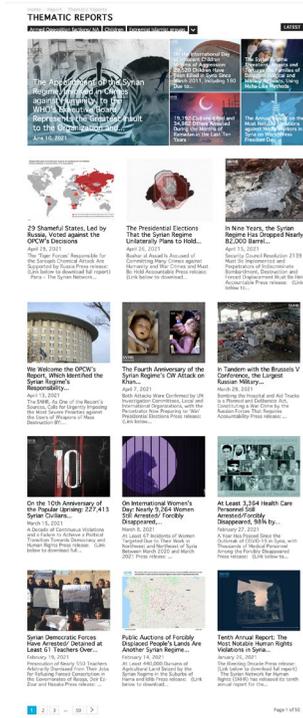
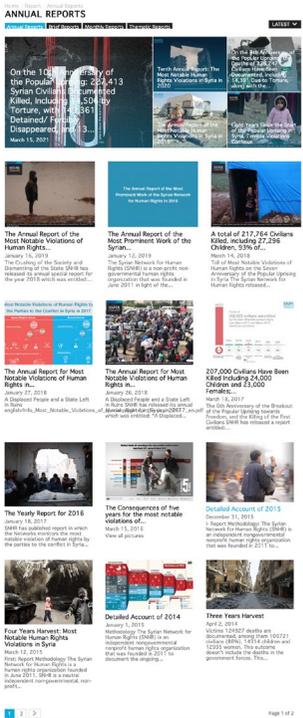
ii. The Parties Documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights as Committing Violations in Syria:



III. The Syrian Network for Human Rights Publications:

A. Daily Publications:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) [issues publications on its website on a daily basis](#), including [the daily death toll report](#) and news reports on incidents of violations that it can verify.

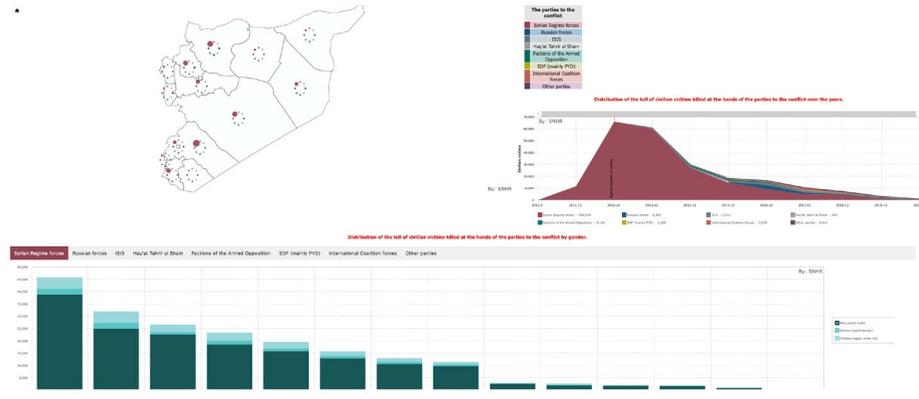
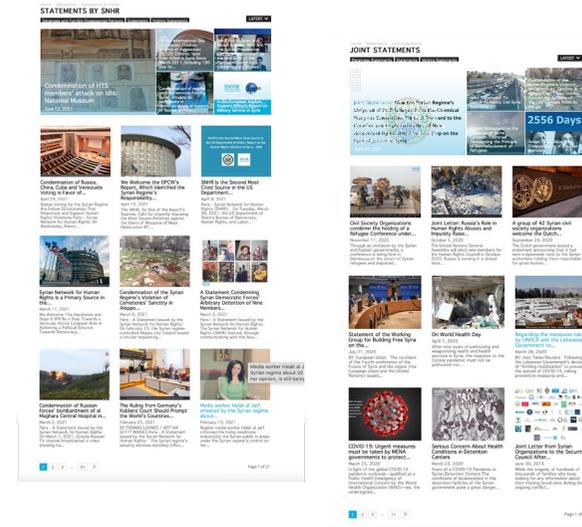


B. Reports:

The SNHR issues monthly and annual reports on the most notable violations and the human rights situation in Syria. It also issues brief and statistical reports that deal with one or several types of violations, as well as providing an analysis of statistics based on the information documented on the SNHR database. The SNHR also issues thematic reports. These thematic reports deal with a specific issue, or a specific incident, and expand on previous documentation and analysis, assembling the largest possible amount of evidence and data about the subject, with these reports being often used to provide information on important topics requiring greater investigation, clarification and advocacy. The SNHR also issues joint reports in cooperation with other organizations and bodies.

C. Statements:

The SNHR issues [statements with the aim of exposing a specific violation urgently](#), or advocating for a specific case. It also issues joint statements with other organizations and bodies with the aim of advocating on behalf of many causes.

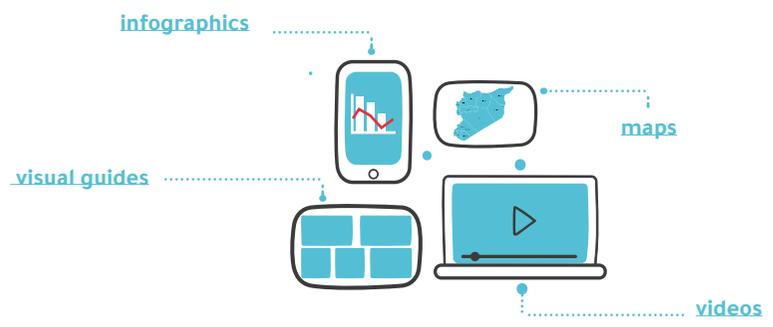


D. Interactive Map:

The SNHR's IT team has created a program providing an interactive way for users to see information on victims of extrajudicial killings in Syria according to the SNHR database, through which it is possible to view statistics on the victims of extrajudicial killings in each governorate separately, according to the perpetrator parties responsible, with the periodically updated interactive map displaying these statistics in a cumulative manner, along with the death toll for each year.

E. Visual Releases:

The SNHR issues visual and audiovisual materials, which shed light on the prominent events and the most important points included in the SNHR's reports, with the aim of simplifying the information and making it available to the largest possible proportion of Syrian society. These releases vary, with their content including infographics, maps, videos, and visual guides.



IV. Cooperation Agreements for Data-Sharing and Affiliation with International Alliances:

To date, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has signed about 27 agreements and memoranda of understanding to share data on human rights violations in Syria with many [regional and international institutions and bodies](#) working in the field of human rights or active in the Syrian case, including:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism \(IIIM\)](#), the UNICEF Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in times of armed conflict, [United States government](#), the German Heinrich Böll Foundation, [the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\)](#), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) [Investigation and Identification Team \(IIT\)](#), Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), [Global Public Policy Institute \(GPPI\)](#), [Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#), Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG), EuroMed Rights, Paris School of Economics (PSE), [New York Times](#), Oxford Research Group (ORG), and Durable Solutions Platform (DSP).

Affiliation with Specialized Alliances:

The SNHR is [a member of](#) the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, [the International Cluster Munition Coalition \(CMC\)](#), [the International Campaign to Ban Landmines \(ICBL\)](#), and Every Casualty Counts (ECC) network.



V. A Primary Source for Many United Nations Agencies, States and Research Centers:

Several United Nations agencies rely on the data provided by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), and it has been a primary source on the violations that occurred in Syria for them, as well as for many states around the world, including foreign ministries, in the situation reports issued by those states, in addition to a wide range of human rights and research institutions, civil society organizations and political institutions. The following are the most prominent of these bodies:

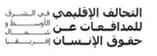
United Nations Bodies:

 OCHA OCHA	 UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)	 International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)	
 UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER			
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention	Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	
The Periodic Outline We submitted a comprehensive special report, and two joint reports on the human rights situation in Syria in 2016, and we submitted a special report in 2021.		The Human Rights Committee established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights We submitted a report on the most notable violations committed by the Syrian regime which contravened a large number of articles of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights We submitted a joint report on <u>sexual</u> violence	

Political Institutions:

 US Department of State	 British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	 MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES Liberté Égalité Fraternité French Ministry of Foreign Affairs	 German Federal Foreign Office
 Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	 Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

International Organizations:

 Amnesty International	 Human Rights Watch	 Euro-Med Monitor FOR HUMAN RIGHTS المعهد الأوروبي لحقوق الإنسان	 Reporters Without Borders
 The Syria Campaign	 British Medical Journal	 Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists	 International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
 European Asylum Support Office	 The Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	 Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor (Euro-Med)	 Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
 The Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in the Middle East and North Africa	 The High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces	 National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces	

Research Institutions:

 Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies	 Middle East Monitor	 Carnegie	 Brookings Institution
 The Global Public Policy Institute	 The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project	 Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG)	 Oxford research group
 Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies	 Jusoor for Studies	 Omran for Strategic Studies	

VI. Advocacy Events:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) regularly participates in [international and UN events](#), as well as organizing side events on the sidelines of international events.

As part of its endeavors to share and transfer the extensive experience it has gained, the SNHR has provided training to large numbers of Syrian media activists, as well as to human rights activists in Syria and other countries, in addition to providing training on international humanitarian law to a number of political offices of factions of the Syrian opposition.



VII. Taking Part in the Judicial Accountability Process:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights' (SNHR) documentary work generally falls within the framework of criminal and non-criminal accountability, such as imposing economic sanctions and taking political decisions to make efforts to stop crimes against humanity and achieve a political transition towards democracy and human rights. All of the aforementioned, including the memoranda of understanding, cooperation and data-sharing agreements, contribute to the accountability process, with examples of this being:

1

The memoranda of understanding we signed in October 2019 with the Government of the United States of America provided for the establishment of a coordination and co-operation mechanism to share information and data documented by SNHR on human rights violations in Syria and on those involved in such violations in order to participate in the investigations carried out by the Government of the United States of America into some of these violations, and to place the greatest possible number of those involved in these violations on the lists of economic and political sanctions.

2

By sharing data with the Independent International and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM), which in turn shares it with public prosecutors in Europe.

3

We contributed to in a lawsuit filed before the French Public Prosecution regarding the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs in Daraa.

4

We also contributed to the case against Anwar R. by providing data, based on the SNHR database of victims of torture, to the German Public Prosecutor through our partner organization, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR).

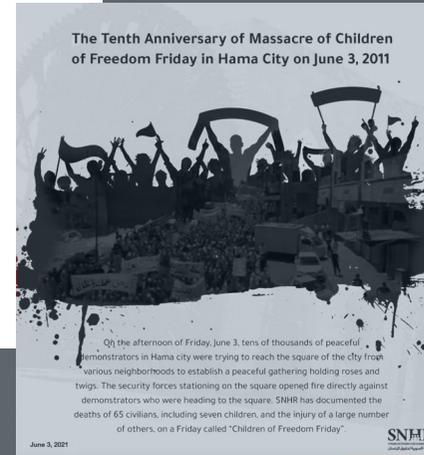
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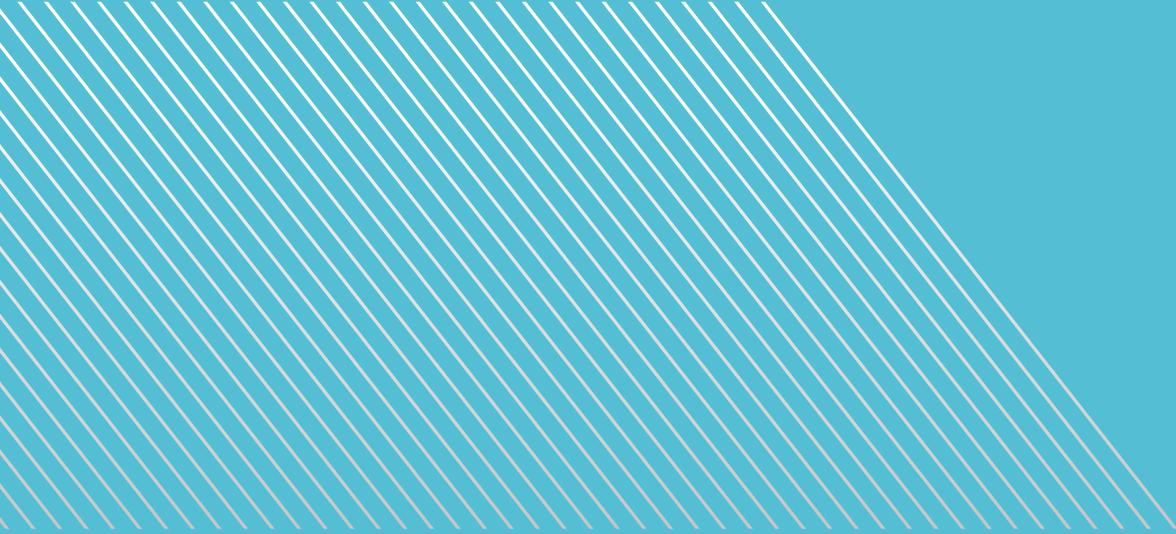
Other judicial files are being compiled that cannot be disclosed.



VIII. Official Social Media Platforms:

The primary focus of our social media platforms, (most of which have been legally verified and are available in English and Arabic) is to reflect and promote the SNHR's publications on various themes, with the aim of reaching multiple segments of local, regional and international communities, thus expanding the scope of our advocacy efforts and mobilizing support. This includes our commemorative efforts, publishing visual artworks designed by our team members commemorating prominent massacres, as well as portraits of the forcibly disappeared on the anniversaries of their disappearance.





SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان