

Nine Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed, and 45 Attacks on Their Facilities in January 2018

89% of The Killing Incidents were at the Hands of Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, February 5, 2018

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



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I. Introduction

Since the popular uprising for Democracy started in March 2011, medical facilities and their personnel have seen blatant violations of the international humanitarian law, which established special protection for medical facilities and their personnel, in addition to the general protection for civilians and civilian facilities.

Nonetheless, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, and pharmacies have been bombed, and hundreds of medical personnel have been arrested while some of them have been tortured to death. Additionally, medical teams and their vehicles have become a target as saving the wounded is branded now as a dangerous profession that might lead to death.

The Syrian regime has been, and still is, the main and primary perpetrator of crimes against medical personnel and their facilities, as its forces have raided hospitals and abducted some of the wounded, and targeted hospitals and medical points using shells, missiles, and barrel bombs, while civil defense facilities have been bombed repeatedly and civil defense personnel have suffered many casualties. Even international humanitarian insignia weren't safe from the attacks that targeted their facilities and killed their personnel despite the fact they are neutral, impartial entities.

We also recorded the use of the double-strike method ¹ by Syrian-Russian alliance forces -in many attacks- and the victims in most cases are paramedics and civil defense members.

¹ A policy adopted by the Syrian and Russian regimes where they bomb the same site again a few minutes later in order to inflict as much losses as possible in the ranks of civil defense personnel, medical teams, and doctors.



On the other hand, we have documented similar violations by the rest of the parties to the conflict, but to less extents and at smaller rates. ISIS members raided makeshift hospitals and dispensaries and abducted some of the wounded, doctors, and paramedics. Also, ISIS barred some doctors from practicing as per their discriminative laws while the Coalition forces (international coalition and SDF) have targeted a number of hospitals and medical points.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:

“Attacks on medical and civil defense centers as well as medical and civil defense personnel are considered a blatant violation of the international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes given the indiscriminate, and in many cases, deliberate, targeting of protected objects. All of this have only deepened the suffering of the wounded and injured and is one of the main reasons behind the displacement of the Syrian people as it sends a very clear message: there is no safe area, or a red line, including hospitals, you either flee or perish.”

Methodology

This report outlines the death toll among medical personnel, civil defense personnel, and Red Crescent personnel who were killed by the parties to the conflict in January, and the attacks on their vital facilities, with highlighting the most notable of these incidents.

According to SNHR’s methodology, the term “medical personnel” includes all who are active in medical fields, including doctors, paramedics, pharmacists, medical laboratory scientists, and managing officials, in addition to workers who operate and transport medical equipment. Secondly, the term “vital medical facilities” refers to hospitals, medical points, dispensaries, makeshift hospitals, and ambulances.

This report draws upon, firstly, on the daily, ongoing documentation and monitoring efforts by SNHR team, and, secondly, on accounts from survivors, eyewitnesses, and local media workers that we’ve talked to via phone or social media. We have also analyzed a large number of the videos and pictures that were posted online or we received from local activists via e-mail, Skype, and social media. Videos posted by local activists have shown wide destruction in vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities. We have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report in a secret online database, as well as backup copies on hard drives. For more information, please see our methodology for [documenting victims](#) and for [classifying vital civilian facilities](#).



This report contains a number of attacks that were perpetrated by an air force. However, we weren't able to accurately determine the party responsible for those attacks – the Syrian regime or Russian forces. Therefore, we assigned responsibility, in these attacks, to the Syrian/Russian regime forces.

This report documents also a number of incidents that were the result of bombings that we couldn't identify the groups behind them in light of the difficulties in identifying the responsible party for such bombings.

This report contains three accounts that we've collected through speaking directly to eyewitnesses, and not are cited from any open sources. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided without offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR tried to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violation as much as possible, and gave insurances to conceal the identify of any witness who preferred to use an alias.

Most of the attacks we have documented targeted civilian areas, as our investigations have proven, where no military bases or armories were found during or before the attacks. The attacking forces didn't take into consideration the principle of proportionality. We also didn't record that the attacking forces put out warnings for civilians prior to the attack as the international humanitarian law requires.

The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report. We add these evidences and clues to our data archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, they don't necessarily qualify as crimes.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't cover the social, economic, and mental ramifications.



II. Summary of January

We have documented a rise in the toll of violations against medical and civil defense personnel by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the month of January. Most of these violations were concentrated in de-escalation zones – particularly Idlib governorate, Eastern Ghouta, and Hama governorate.

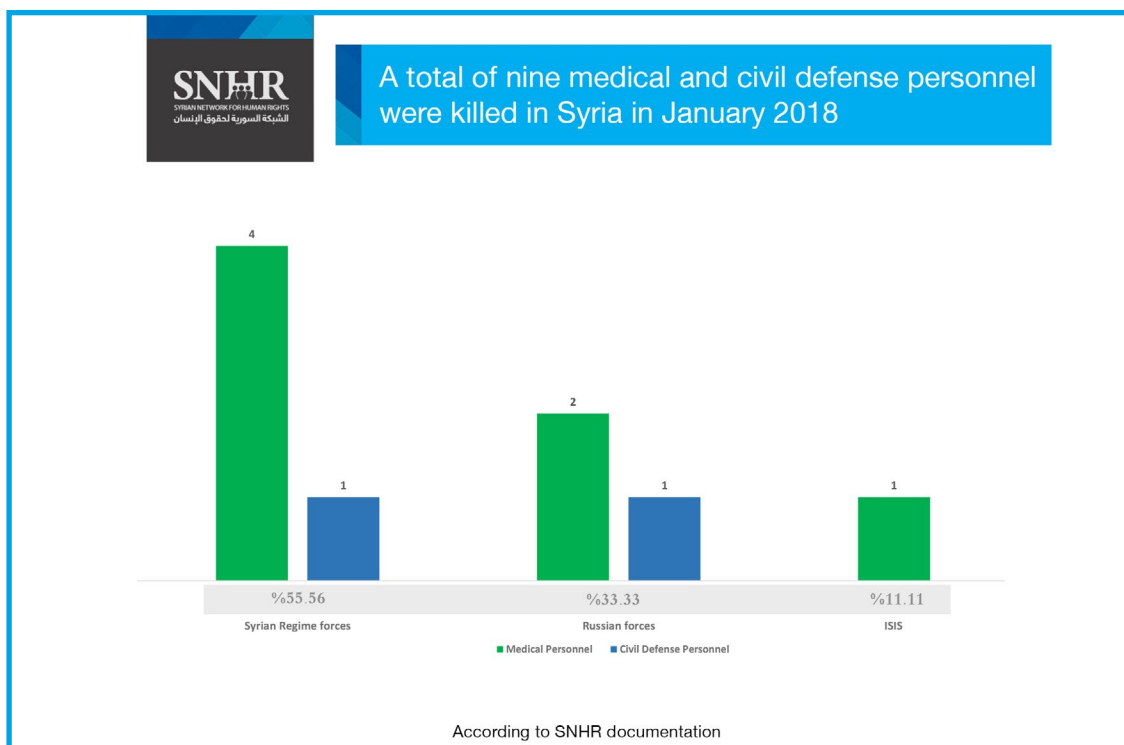
The attacks by all parties were centered on medical facilities, as 21 attacks were recorded. We have also recorded a number of repeated attacks on medical facilities by Syrian-Russian alliance forces.

Additionally, we have recorded an increase in the number of attacks on vital medical facilities that were the result of bombings compared to past months. All of these incidents took place in Idlib governorate.

III. Executive Summary

- Acts of killing

We have documented the killing of nine medical personnel and civil defense personnel, as follows:



- Syrian regime forces: five, divided into:

- One nurse
- One paramedic
- One civil defense personnel
- Two medical personnel



- Russian forces: three, including one woman, divided into:

- One doctor
- One civil defense personnel
- One medical personnel (a woman)

- Extremist Islamic groups:

ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): killed one doctor (a woman).

- Attacks on vital medical facilities and civil defense facilities

SNHR has documented 45 attacks on vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities, as follows:

- Syrian regime forces: 16 attacks, divided into:

- Eight medical facilities
- Two ambulances
- Six civil defense facilities

- Russian forces: 20 attacks, divided into:

- Eight medical facilities
- Five ambulances
- Seven civil defense facilities

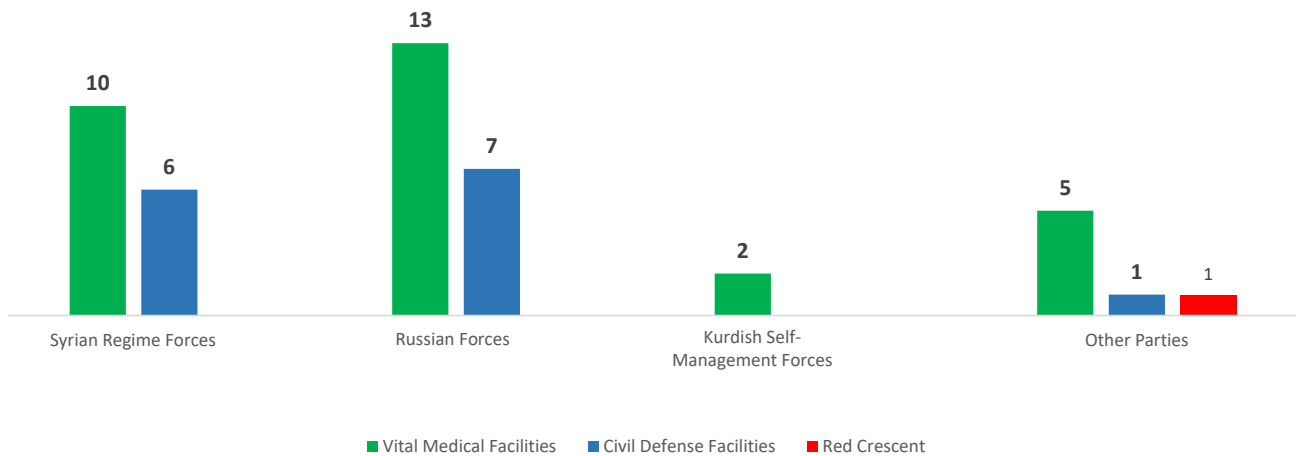
- Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party):

Two attacks on medical facilities

- Other parties: seven attacks, divided into:

- Three medical facilities
- Two ambulances
- One Red Crescent facility
- One civil defense facility



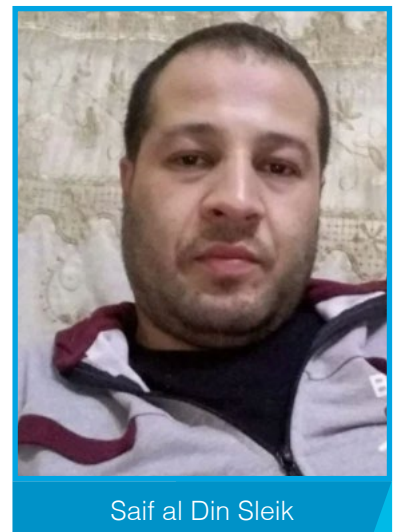


IV. Most Notable Incidents in January

A. Acts of killing

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)

Saif al Din Sleik, [ambulance driver](#), from Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, 35-year-old, works at Rif Dimshaq Specialized Hospital which is affiliated with the Unified Medical Office in Eastern Ghouta, married and a father of three children. He was killed on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, in an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces who fired a number of mortar shells at a local market in Douma city, as he was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling.



Saif al Din Sleik

Hosam al Mandil, ambulance driver, from Ma'aret al Nu'man city, works for al Salam Hospital in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. He was killed on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes who fired missiles at Dr. Firas al Jundi's guest house (Minister of Health at the Interim Syrian Government) in al Shamali neighborhood, Ma'aret al Nu'man city.



Hosam al Mandil



Ahmad Taysir Allam, [paramedic](#), from Hamouriya town, born in 1984, works at [Dar al Shefaa Hospital](#) in Hamouriya town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, married and a father of two children. [He was killed](#) on Saturday, January 20, 2018, in an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces who fired a number of shells at Hamouriya town.



Ahmad Allam

Mohammad Izzo al Bwaydani, [works at the civil defense's center 200](#), from Douma city. He [was killed](#) on Saturday, January 20, 2018, around 11:30, in artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces who fired a shell at the local market in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate as he was tending to the wounded from a previous shelling.



Mohammad al Bwaydani

- Russian forces

Basem al Fadli, [works at the civil defense's center 270](#) in Misraba town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, from al Rayhan town, Eastern Ghouta. [He was killed](#) on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, around 19:30, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian who fired missiles in the middle of Misraba town as he was scouting the site of a previous bombing, which resulted in a massacre.



Basem al Fadli



Ahmad Abdul Karim al Shehada, general practitioner, from Jarjanaz town, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, works as an emergency doctor at “al Ghadfa village” hospital in eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, married and a father. On Sunday, January 7, 2018, he was killed along with a number of his family members in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian who fired missiles at Mazra’at al Fa’loul which is located to the east of Jarjanaz town.



Ahmad al Shehada

Shu’a Qasem al Mohammad, a female student at the Medical Institute which is affiliated with [Free Idlib University](#), from Um Mwyelat al Qabali village, which is administratively a part of Senjar county, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. She fled to Khan al Sebel village, born in 1996. She was killed on Friday, January 12, 2018, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian who fired a number of missiles at the houses near Aleppo-Damascus highway in the center of Khan al Sebel village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in a massacre.

- Extremist Islamic groups

ISIS

Suzan Fattoum, a children’s dentist, 29-year-old, has a degree from the faculty of dentistry at Tishreen University in Latakia city. She was killed on Tuesday, January 16, 2018, in a shelling by ISIS rocket launchers that targeted al Se’in city, eastern suburbs of Hama governorate.



Suzan Fattoum



B. Targeting vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities

We are going to shed light on the most notable attacks on vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities. We have the details of the complete incidents stored in SNHR's database.

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)

Vital medical facilities

- medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Saturday, January 6, 2018, around 14:00, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired four missiles near al Quds hospital in [Hamouriya](#) town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The hospital building and its cladding materials were moderately damaged, as the hospital was temporarily rendered out of commission. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Dr. Majd Dalati ², a SNHR researcher, visited al Balsam Clinical Complex and al Quds Hospital after the bombing: **“The warplanes fired four missiles at once. One of the missiles landed in front of al Balsam complex which contains a number of clinics while another missile landed in front of al Quds Hospital which contains an ICU and a maternity wing. The bombing caused great damages to both facilities as the wooden walls that separate the clinics collapsed while some medical equipment was damaged.”** Majd added that the same attack resulted in a massacre in the attack: **“Medical personnel and patients were unharmed, and the patients and premature newborns were transferred to other medical points. Currently, both facilities are out of commission.”**

Saturday, January 6, 2018, around 14:00, fixed-wing Syrian/Russian regime forces warplanes (investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party) fired a missile near the only medical center, which is affiliated to the Unified Medical Office in Eastern Ghouta- in [Madyara](#) village, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The center building was heavily destroyed and its equipment was heavily damaged, as the hospital was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

The medical office has issued [a statement](#) condemning the attack on the only medical center in Madyara village which was rendered out of commission

Monday, January 8, 2018, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a shell near al Zahraa Hospital, known as the Maternity Hospital, in the middle of [Saqba](#) city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The hospital building was slightly damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

² We contacted him via Facebook on January 9, 2018



Msallam Abdul Basit ³, a photographer, said that approximately three shells landed where he was: **“One of the shells landed on the building that contains al Zahra Hospital and caused slight damages. The second one landed in the local market in the public street before al Mahata Square towards al Jam’iya Square.”** Muslim added that as soon as he got to the site, he saw paramedics pulling out Abu Saleh al Qouatli from his shop after a shell landed in front of him: **“The destruction wasn’t excessive. Only shop fronts were damaged.”**

Monday, January 29, 2018, around 12:30, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [one missile](#) at the only [medical center](#) in Jezraya village, southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the center’s rooms was partially destroyed and its equipment was moderately damaged, as the center was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

- Ambulances

Thursday, January 11, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near an ambulance belonging to al Salam Hospital in al Shamali neighborhood, Ma’aret al Nu’mān city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The ambulance driver was killed, while the ambulance’s structure and its equipment were heavily damaged, as the ambulance was rendered out of commission. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces near an ambulance belonging to al Salam Hospital in Ma’aret al Nu’mān city, Idlib – January 11, 2018

³ We contacted him via Facebook on January 9, 2018



Civil defense facilities

Saturday, January 20, 2018, around 11:30, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a shell near [an ambulance belonging](#) to the civil defense's center 200 in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. One of the civil defense personnel was killed, while other was wounded. In addition, the frontal structure on the ambulance was moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Damages in the aftermath of a shelling by Syrian regime forces near an ambulance belonging to civil defense's center 200 in Douma city, Damascus suburbs – January 20, 2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018, Syrian regime forces SPAAG Shilkas, stationed in Jbourin village, fired a number of shells that landed near an ambulance belonging to the civil defense in al [Ghanto](#) village, northern suburbs of Homs governorate, as its staff were tending to wounded from a previous shelling. The structure on [the ambulance](#) was [moderately damaged](#) from the front. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

- Russian forces

Vital medical facilities

- Medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes we believe [were Russian](#) fired a missile in front of [al Salam Hospital](#) (Children's and Women's hospital), which is backed by the Syrian [American Medical Society](#) (SAMS), in al Sharqi neighborhood, [Ma'aret al Nu'man](#) city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in [casualties](#). In addition, the hospital building and [its equipment](#) were [heavily damaged](#) (most damages concentrated in the Maternity



Wing). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

SAMS issued [a statement](#) on the same day on their official website that declared the hospital out of commission in the wake of the bombing that targeted it.

Monday, January 29, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-25) we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles in front of [Oday Saraqeb Hospital](#), known as [al Ihsan Hospital](#), in al Sharqi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. In addition, [the hospital's main entrance](#) was [heavily damaged](#), as well as [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital. It should be noted that the hospital was receiving the victims from a massacre perpetrated by Russian forces on the same day in Saraqeb city. Also, the hospital was damaged by missile airstrikes that the same warplanes carried out on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by warplanes we believe were Russian on Oday Saraqeb Hospital, known as al Ihsan Hospital, in Saraqeb city, Idlib – January 29, 2018

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the Martyr [Martyr Hasan al A'raj Hospital](#), known as al Maghara Hospital, which is affiliated to the Free Hama Health Administration and supported by SAMS, in Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The hospital's external walls were slightly damaged. It should be noted that this the third attack on the hospital by the same warplanes in this month. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

SAMS issued [a statement](#) on their official website on February 1, 2018, to declare the hospital out of commission in the wake of the bombing.



Civil defense facilities

Wednesday noon, January 10, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles [at the civil defense' center 3332](#) in [al Latamena](#) town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. A civil defense personnel was wounded. In addition, the center building and its equipment were partially destroyed, and [an ambulance belonging](#) to the center was heavily damaged as both the center and the ambulance were rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Damages to an ambulance in the aftermath of a bombing by warplanes we believe were Russian on the civil defense's center 3332 in al Latamena, Hama – January 10, 2018

Saturday, January 20, 2018, around 20:45, fixed-wing Russian warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a missile](#) at the [civil defense center](#) in the middle of Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The center building was [partially destroyed](#), while the center furniture and equipment were [heavily damaged](#) as well as [an ambulance](#). As a result, the center was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that [the center was damaged](#) in a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes that targeted it with missiles on Thursday, January 11, 2018. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Damages to an ambulance in the aftermath of a bombing by warplanes we believe were Russian on the civil defense center in the middle of Sarageb city, Idlib – January 20, 2018

- Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)

Vital medical facilities

- medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Friday, January 19, 2018, around 01:00, Self-Management forces (primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party) artillery, stationed in Ifreen city, fired a shell at [the mental hospital](#) in [Izaz](#) city, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in casualties. In addition, [the hospital building](#) was [partially destroyed](#) and [its cladding materials](#) and furniture were [moderately damaged](#). [The hospital houses](#) about [200 individuals](#) who suffer from mental and [psychological illnesses](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a shelling by Kurdish Self-Management forces on the mental hospital in Izaz city, Aleppo – January 1, 2018



Mohammad Hanthal ⁴, a media activist from northern suburbs of Aleppo, told us that he received a phone call from a friend who told him that the mental hospital in Izaz has been bombed. Ahmad immediately headed for the attack site: **“When I arrived, the situation was “dire” and smoke was everywhere. The women’s dorm was destroyed, as well as part of the hospital’s roof and furniture.”** Mohammad adds: **“I was able to count 12 individuals who were injured and they were all women. I learned that one of them died the day after at a Turkish hospital. It was clear how the shells penetrated the roof of the women’s dorm and landed inside it.”**

- Other parties

Vital medical facilities

- Medical facilities (hospitals – dispensaries – medical points – makeshift hospitals)

Sunday, January 7, 2018, around 18:30, a bombing occurred in front of al Salam Medical and Charity Center, which uses the second floor of a building as a base, in al Thlatheen Street on the southwestern outskirts of Idlib city. The bombing resulted in a massacre. In addition, the center building and its equipment were heavily damaged as the center was rendered out of commission. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to identify the group who was responsible for the bombing due to the considerable difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombings. The area was under the control of Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. It should be noted that one of the building’s floor is a military base for Ajnad al Qouqaz.

- Ambulances

Friday, January 26, 2018, an IED planted inside an ambulance in front of Shafaq Maternity Hospital detonated in [Ma’aret Misreen](#) town, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The [ambulance](#) was [moderately damaged](#) while no damages were recorded in [the hospital](#) building. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to identify the group who was responsible for the bombing due to the considerable difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombings. Ma’aret Misreen town was under the control of Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Civil defense facilities

Monday, January 8, 2018, an IED detonated near the civil defense center which is adjacent to the Sharia Court on the southern outskirts of [al Dana](#) city, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. the center cladding materials were slightly damaged. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to identify the group who was responsible for the bombing due to the considera-

⁴ We contacted him via WhatsApp on January 24, 2018



ble difficulty in identifying the perpetrator in such bombings. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

International humanitarian insignia

Wednesday dawn, January 24, 2018, Turkish army artillery fired a number of mortar shells. One of the shells landed on [an ambulance belonging](#) to the [Kurdish Red Crescent](#) that was parked on the [public road](#) in Jneidres county, suburbs of Ifreen city, northern suburbs of Aleppo. The ambulance was [heavily damaged](#) and was rendered out of commission. The area is under the control of Self-Management forces.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The incidents mentioned in this report are considered, beyond any doubt, violations of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be cease. Also, these incidents are violations of Article 7 and 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.
- The attacks mentioned in this report constitute violations of Security Council resolution 2286 which states that attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment should be ceased, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities.
- We can confirm that most of the incidents included in this report have targeted armless civilians. Therefore, Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled. Also, Russian forces, ISIS, armed opposition factions, Self-Management forces, international coalition forces, and other parties have committed acts that amount to war crimes through the crime of extrajudicial killing or targeting vital civilian facilities.
- The attacks mentioned in this report are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at populated areas rather than a specific military object.
- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.



Recommendations

Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps after resolutions 2139 and 2254 have been adopted and no pledges to stop the indiscriminate bombing have been made. All parties to the conflict should respect these steps, and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who were directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.
- List the militias who are fighting on the side of the Syrian government and had committed wide massacres - such as Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite groups, the National Defense Army, and Shabiha, on the international list of terrorist groups.
- Abstain from considering the Syrian government an official side after it perpetrated crimes against humanity with regard to the relief aspect, and stop giving it the largest portion of financial and other aids as they are being delivered to the people who support the Syrian government instead of people who are truly in-need.

International Community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killing and siege and raise the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be activated in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the “Responsibility to Protect” in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League’s plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan’s plan have been drought out as well as the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations should be taken and the norm of the “Responsibility to Protect”, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court



- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

OHCHR

The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents included in this report and the massacres that preceded, given that they are a glaring mark in a string of daily sporadic violations of a smaller scope. Also, the OHCHR should work on implementing the recommendations in this report.

Commission of Inquiry (COI)

Launch investigations on the cases included in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

Address the cases mentioned in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

European Union and United States of America

Support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 71/248, adopted on December 21, 2016. And establish local tribunals that enjoy a universal jurisdiction, and address the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

The Russian regime

- Launch investigations regarding the incidents that resulted in civilian casualties, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all affected facilities and centers, and reconstruct and rehabilitate them. Also, compensate all the victims' families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as the all the wounded.
- Immediately cease bombing hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect the customary international law.



The Coalition (international coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states of the coalition have to unequivocally and truly acknowledge that some of the bombardment operations have resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Denying so won't do any good for these governments, as documented human rights reports and residents' accounts explicitly expose this fact. Instead of denying, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and those who were affected.
- The SDF-supporting states should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns that are under their control.
- All forms of support, weapons and otherwise, should be ceased until SDF commit to the previous recommendations. This is primarily the supporting states' responsibility. Providing SDF with weapons and support while knowing that they can be used in war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.

Armed opposition factions

Ensure the protection of vital medical facilities and their personnel in all areas, and launch investigations on the incidents included in this report.

Medical organizations around the world

There is a severe shortage in medical manpower in Syria in light of the ceaseless killing. Firstly, Syrian doctors must come back to Syria to compensate for the severe shortage in medical personnel. Also, international organizations can send volunteers to safe areas where wounded are sent for treatment. We have recorded many cases where wounded died due to lack of medical resources.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our most sincere thanks and condolences to the residents and local activists who effectively contributed to this report.





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