



## ***Bilateral Agreement for Using SNHR Data in Negotiation Cases***

### **I. Overview:**

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents violations committed by all parties involved in the Syrian conflict, regardless of the victims or perpetrators' identities. SNHR operates with absolute neutrality and does not adopt any ideology.

### **II. SNHR's Methodology:**

SNHR abides by international professional standards and criteria in conducting its research and in issuing its reports and statements. SNHR follows the utmost precision and accuracy levels in collecting and documenting data despite the obstacles and challenges it has been facing since the beginning of the uprising in 2011. SNHR was able to establish a comprehensive database and archive which includes information about victims, detainees, injured individuals, targeted locations, facilities and infrastructure, use of illegal weapons, shelling aftermath and other relevant information.

SNHR's data and reports are considered highly credible and reliable which prompted different international organizations to consider the network as a reference and primary source of information about human rights and its violations in Syria. For instance, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, other international organizations, government agencies and media outlets consider SNHR as a reliable source of information.

### **III. Detainees and Enforced Disappearances:**

SNHR affirms that almost 117,000 individuals are either forcibly disappeared or arrested by Syrian government forces. Therefore, SNHR welcomes any cooperation or negotiation efforts, by different parties, to exchange prisoners and/or disclose the fate of detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals. Consequently, we are ready to provide these parties with all the information we have documented, in addition to some necessary recommendations to ensure the rights and dignity of the victims and their families are well protected.

#### ***SNHR requests all parties negotiating with government forces to:***

A. Communicate directly with the chief negotiator and negotiating team on one hand and with SNHR chairman and Head of the Detainees Department on the other, in order to achieve the highest levels of coordination and precision.

B. Highly commit and provide guarantees to maintain the confidentiality of information, data, correspondence and discussions between all parties. The same applies to visual, audible, or written files related to detainees cases and forcibly disappeared individuals.

C. Consider SNHR as a party in the negotiation process, in respect to the human rights aspect of these cases. Through this role, SNHR aims to ensure the success of the negotiation processes and in order to protect the detainees' rights.





D. Commit to informing SNHR with all details about the negotiations progress, as well as the final results of the process.

E. Pledge not to use SNHR data before obtaining an official authorization, also after reaching a final agreement with government forces.

F. In case negotiations with government forces fail, the acquired data has to be fully returned to SNHR, deleted and destroyed. The second party has no right to use the previously provided data by SNHR, in different negotiations, without notifying us, in accordance with the previous conditions.

G. In this context, SNHR affirms its right to refuse or end any communications or negotiations with the second party in case all the aforementioned articles are not respected and taken into account. SNHR also has the right to terminate its part in the negotiations process in case the second party violates the international standards and laws during the negotiations process, or if it will cause serious violations of the human rights or if it affects the safety of detainees and forcibly disappeared individuals.

H. In case of a breach in the terms and conditions of this agreement, SNHR asserts that it will not bear any responsibility towards any party, decision or action made. Also, SNHR is not responsible for any political or military action that violates the international humanitarian law, constitutes a war crime or crime against humanity, according to the International Law. SNHR's task is limited to providing necessary information and data according to the above-mentioned criteria.

