

The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March 2019

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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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 and Methodology

Syria has seen an unprecedented number of violations since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011. Extrajudicial killings, arrests, torture and enforced disappearances are at the top of the list of violations suffered by the Syrian citizens. While the Syrian regime and its affiliated militias were the sole perpetrators of these violations for the first seven months or so of the uprising, other parties subsequently joined in, also violating the rights of Syrian citizens. The SNHR has continued to document every incident that its team members are able to verify, with these violations escalating very dramatically in 2012 and 2013, prompting us to expand our issuance of periodic monthly reports recording and highlighting the continued suffering of the Syrian people, which subsequently grew to eight reports on different issues issued at the beginning of each month. In the course of our work, SNHR has compiled a massive database cataloguing hundreds of thousands of incidents, each of which involves a pattern of violations that we have been able to document.

By the end of 2018, with a reduction in the level of violence compared to previous years, we changed our previous strategy and now compile our reports into a single monthly report featuring the most prominent violations in Syria which we have been able to document in the preceding month.

This month's report focuses on the human rights situation in Syria in March 2019, and catalogues the record of civilian victims whom we documented killed by the main parties to the conflict during this period, as well as the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearance. The report also highlights indiscriminate attacks and the use of outlawed weapons (cluster munitions, chemical weapons, barrel bombs, incendiary weapons) and attacks on civilian objects.



The report also includes documentation of violations distributed according to the perpetrator parties responsible for each one. Accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. On some occasions, when we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for specific attacks to one particular party, as in the case of air strikes by Syrian or Russian warplanes, Syrian-Iranian attacks, or attacks by Syrian Democratic Forces and International Coalition forces, we indicate that responsibility for these attacks is held jointly by the parties in question until we are able to likely establish which one of the parties was likely responsible, or it's proved that the attack was a joint initiative carried out in coordination between the two parties.

This report draws upon the ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on our extensive network of relations with various sources that have been built up over the course of our work since 2011. When we receive information or learn some news about violations via the internet or media outlets, our team works to follow up these reports and attempts to verify information and collect evidence and data. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location promptly, although this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks involved, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the scarcity of human and material resources to carry out this work. Therefore, the opportunities available to access evidence vary between one case and another, and consequently the level of certainty in classification of each incident varies. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets. We also talk with medical personnel who treated the injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death.

SNHR also analyzed videos and photographs that our team has documented, or which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, sites of attacks, and the bodies of the deceased victims and the injured, the scale of destruction, and the remnants of the incendiary and cluster munitions and other munitions used, whilst other photos may show victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical and media personnel who died in attacks carried out by parties to the conflict. We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in these reports, which are also reviewed in this report, in a confidential electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about our methodology ¹.

¹ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>



This report contains one account that we've collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, none of which are cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, providing assurances that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

II. March Outline

The first half of March saw continuing military escalation by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the areas included by the Sochi Agreement, in particular the southern suburbs of Idlib and the northern and western suburbs of Hama. The pace of bombing decreased in the second half of March, nevertheless it did not cease, causing the deaths of dozens of civilians and damage to vital civilian facilities.

The Alliance forces (International Coalition and Syrian Democratic Forces) also launched a ferocious military campaign against a camp for internally displaced people in al Baghouz town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour between March 15-19; resulting in the deaths of dozens of people, most of whom were family members of ISIS fighters; the incident, which is still being investigated, took place before Syrian Democratic Forces announced on March 23 the elimination of ISIS in its last area of control - al Baghouz - despite the presence of elements of ISIS in al Baghouz mountain, which remains under ISIS control up to the time of the preparation of the report.

In March, the SNHR documented a rise in fatalities unprecedented since the start of 2019, with a high toll of civilian victims, 334 in all, killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict, including 154 at the hands of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces, mostly in the fourth de-escalation zone.

We have also noted the Syrian Regime forces' continuing policy of persecution and arrest of persons who had previously settled their security situation. The Syrian regime also released a number of detainees from Hama Central Prison following a decision issued by the relevant committee monitoring the settlement of the detainees' situation there. Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces also targeted the IDPs living in areas under SDF control for arrest, mainly residents of IDP camps.



In March, we also recorded that Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham arrested and prosecuted students and staff of the "Free" University of Aleppo, including the university's Vice-President for Scientific Affairs, after the university management refused to hand over buildings and properties to the Higher Education Council of the Salvation Government, which is affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham.

In March, we also documented an increase in the number of attacks on vital civilian facilities, with 57 incidents occurring, of which 51 occurred in the fourth de-escalation zone carried out by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces. These incidents focused on humanitarian facilities, places of worship and schools.

We also documented the continuous use of outlawed weapons by Syrian-Russian alliance forces for the second consecutive month, with all of the incidents we recorded taking place in Idlib governorate.

During March, we also monitored several Turkish patrols carried out in accordance with the Russian-Turkish agreement, which moved between the Turkish points in the fourth de-escalation zone; most of these patrols were carried out in the second half of March after a decrease in the frequency of bombing.

The suffering of the displaced persons in the fourth de-escalation zone continued in March, with residents of the areas that were bombed being displaced to the north in search of safer places. Bad weather conditions at the end of the month led to massive flooding of dozens of IDP camps, with the displacement of their residents compounding their already immense suffering. Meanwhile, the displacement of the families of ISIS fighters and some of the group's fighters continued in eastern Syria from al Baghouz area in Deir Ez-Zour suburbs towards al Hawl Camp, lasting until mid-March. Al Hawl Camp is also suffering from worsening living conditions given the high number of the displaced there.

III. The Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March

This report outlines the most notable human rights violations that were documented by the SNHR in March 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria.



Record of the Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in March 2019

Syrian Regime forces	Russian forces	SDF (mainly PYD)	Extremist Islamist groups		Factions of the Armed Opposition	International Coalition forces	Other parties
			ISIS	Hay'at Tahrir al Sham			

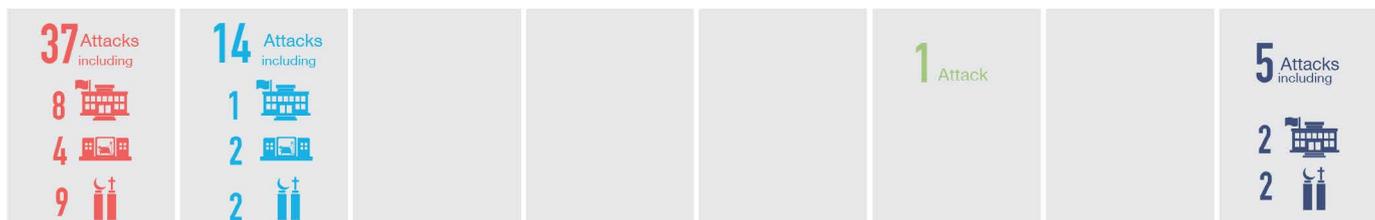
Extrajudicial Killing



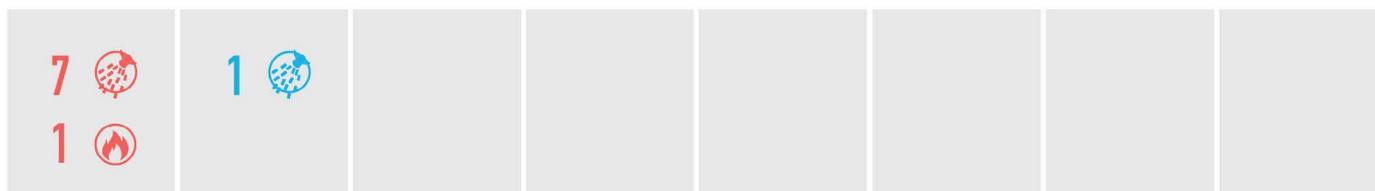
Arbitrary Arrests and Unlawful Detention



Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities



Record of Indiscriminate Attacks and Attacks Using Outlawed Weapons



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As documented by SNHR



A. Extrajudicial killing:

In March 2019, SNHR documented the deaths of 334 civilians, including 85 children and 63 women (adult female), with the highest rate of killings being carried out at the hands of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces, including two Civil Defense personnel, and two media workers. We also documented the deaths of 30 individuals who died due to torture, and at least 13 massacres. We issued a report on the first of this month detailing the civilian victims documented killed in March at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

The death toll of civilian victims was distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):** 78, including 24 children and 13 women.
- **Russian forces:** 76, including 13 children and eight women.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 33, including two children, divided between:
 - ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): 28, including one child.
 - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): Five, including one child.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** One.
- **Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):** 18, including nine children and one woman.
- **International Coalition forces:** Nine, including one child and one woman.
- **Other parties:** 119, including 36 children and 40 women

B. Arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance:

SNHR documented at least 357 cases of arbitrary arrest, including 16 children and 26 women (adult female), at the hands of the main perpetrator parties to the conflict in Syria in March 2019. The largest number of arrests was carried out by Syrian Regime forces in the governorates of Damascus, Damascus Suburbs and Aleppo. We issued a report on the second of this month detailing the record of cases of arrests and enforced disappearances we documented in March 2019 at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria.

These arrests are distributed according to the main perpetrator parties, as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 263, including 11 children, and 22 women.
- **Extremist Islamist groups:** 21.
 - Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: 21.
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** 31, including two children and two women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 42, including three children and two women.



C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR recorded in March at least 57 attacks on vital civilian facilities, 90 percent of which were carried out at the hands of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the fourth de-escalation zone.

Among these attacks, 11 were on schools, six were on medical facilities and 13 others were on places of worship.

These attacks are distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 37
- **Russian forces:** 14
- **Factions of the Armed Opposition:** One
- **Other parties:** Five

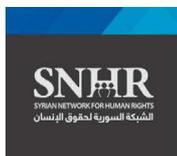


The record of attacks documented in March on vital civilian facilities is distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	Factions of the Armed Opposition	Other Parties
Attacked Facility				
Places of Worship				
Mosques	9	2		2
Vital Educational Facilities				
Schools	8	1		2
Nurseries	1			
Vital Medical Facilities				
Medical Facilities	4	2		
Ambulances	1			
Communal Facilities				
Markets	3			
Infrastructure				
Power stations and energy facilities		1	1	
Civil Defense Centers	8	2		
Official Headquarters	1	5		1
Means of Transport	1			
Domestic Animal Farms		1		
Industrial Facilities	1			
Refugee Camps				
Refugee Camps	1			
Total	37	14	1	5



Thus, the record of attacks on vital civilian facilities since the start of 2019 up to the start of April of the same year at the hands of the main perpetrator parties in Syria has now reached 113 in total, distributed monthly as follows:



At least 113 attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria since the beginning of 2019



April 1, 2019

As documented by SNHR

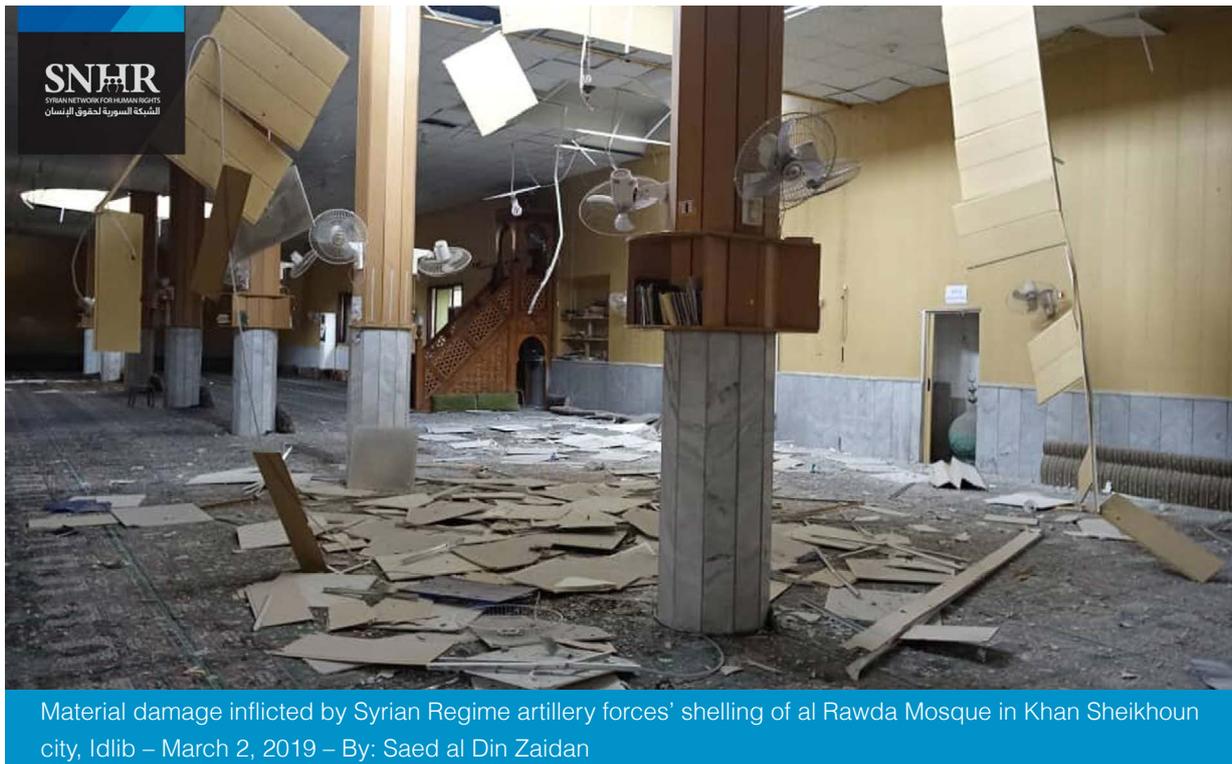
The most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities that were documented in March:

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, several missiles fell near the [Mharda electricity thermal station](#) in [Mharda](#) city in Hama governorate's northern suburbs. The missiles' source is believed to be a missile launcher stationed in an area controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition. The attack resulted in partial damages to electrical transformers and breakers. We note that Syrian Regime forces have turned part of the station into a military headquarters where heavy military vehicles are stationed. The city was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Friday, March 1, 2019, gunmen threw several hand grenades at al Mazraa School in Abu Hamam town, which is administratively a part of Hajin city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, causing moderate material damage to the school cladding materials. We were unable to determine the perpetrator party up to the time of the preparation of this report. The town was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.



On Saturday, March 2, 2019, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at [al Rawda Mosque](#) in al Sharqi neighborhood in Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, resulting in partial material damage to the building, as well as [moderate material](#) damage to [the mosque furnishings](#), putting it out of service. We also note that the mosque had been [materially damaged](#) by bombardment of the same forces the previous day. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Material damage inflicted by Syrian Regime artillery forces' shelling of al Rawda Mosque in Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib – March 2, 2019 – By: Saed al Din Zaidan

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019, a motorcycle carrying explosives exploded in front of [al Riha-wi Mosque](#) on the main street in the center of al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, resulting in the injury of seven civilians, without any damage recorded to the mosque building. We were unable to determine the party behind the bombing up to the time of the preparation of the report, given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of such bombings. The city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, March 9, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes of Syrian Regime forces fired missiles at the blood bank in Saraqeb city in Idlib governorate eastern suburbs, causing moderate [material damage](#) to the building, [interior furnishings](#) and a [vehicle provided for collecting blood samples](#). The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Damages inflicted in an air attack by Syrian regime near the blood bank in Sarqeb city, Idlib – March 9, 2019

On Sunday, March 10, 2019. Syrian Regime artillery forces fired several shells at [the Civil Defense center](#) in Morek town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, resulting in the death of [a staff member](#) at the Center, in addition to the [partial destruction](#) of the [center building](#). The town was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction inflicted by Syrian Regime artillery forces' shelling of the Civil Defense center in Morek town, Hama – March 10, 2019 – By: Iyad Abu al Joud



On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Syrian regime forces used a missile launcher to shell the [Girls' Primary School](#) in Ma'aret Harma village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, partially destroying the building and the surrounding fence and moderately damaging furniture inside. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at around 03:00, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired two missiles near a poultry farm for [animal husbandry](#) east of [Kafr Amem](#) village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in human casualties, as well as completely destroying the farm building, putting it out of service. The village was under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at around 15:15, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at Idlib Central Prison, west of Idlib city, resulting in a massacre; most victims were prisoners. The same warplanes returned to fly over the city at around 17:15, then bombed al Kasih area in the center of Idlib city with eight missiles that targeted the Government Square, which includes the buildings housing the civil services of the Salvation Government (Idlib Electricity Department and its warehouses, the Central Electricity Transformer Substation, the Civil Registry building, the Salvation Government headquarters, and the Ministry of the Interior headquarters), resulting in the deaths of 16 civilians, including seven children and two women.

The attack caused significant material damage to [the buildings](#) housing the [Idlib Electricity Department](#) and [its warehouses](#), [the Central Electricity Transformer Substation](#), the Civil Registry building and the [Salvation Government](#) headquarters, all of which were put out of service, in addition to inflicting moderate material damage to the Yousef al Azma Elementary School, located opposite the Civil Registry building. Idlib city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

This link shows the [location](#) of the Central Prison.



Visual guide showing the site of al Kasih area and the details of the Russian air attack on it:



SNHR contacted the activist Suhaib Mkahhal², from Idlib city, who was in the city at the time of the incident. He told us: **“At around 3:15 pm, two Russian Sukhoi 34 warplanes, according to the Observatory, launched several air strikes, and targeted Idlib Central Prison, west of the city in Arab Saeed area, [which is] a large prison divided into four floors that holds detainees on charges of various crimes,”** Suhaib told us that in each of the air raids, the warplanes launched more than one missile, adding that many of the bodies were taken to hospitals in the city of Idlib and its suburbs. He added: **“Two hours later, a Russian Sukhoi 35 warplane, which took off from the airport of Hmeimim, according to the Observatory, returned and targeted the center of Idlib city in the area of the headquarters of the Salvation Government, electricity, and civil registry. The missiles hit the Zeers’ buildings, which collapsed completely, and hit buildings opposite the government headquarters and next to it, where civilians live, which were massively destroyed. In addition, the missiles resulted in two massacres occurring in two locations less than 300 m away from each other”** Suhaib said that he was at al Ze-

² We contacted him via WhatsApp on March 16, 2019



ra'a Circle at the moment of the bombing of al Kasih area, and saw the missiles' explosion: **“The warplanes fired four missiles in each raid, and these raids hindered the rescue operations that were coming from the Central Prison, and resulted in the destruction of the infrastructure of the city. The residential and service buildings have been destroyed, especially the electricity station, which was massively destroyed and put out of service. “**

On Wednesday, March 20, Syrian Regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at an area adjacent to Abdullah Bin Rawaha Mosque in [al Twaina village](#) in Sahl al Ghab area in Hama governorate western suburbs, [partially destroying](#) the building and severely damaging its furniture. The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at around 08:30, Syrian Regime forces' artillery, stationed in Abu al Duhour area, fired a shell at a walled compound containing [two schools](#) – the [Ali Rajab Deban Primary School](#) and al Sheikh [Idris Secondary School](#) - in al Sheikh Idris village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The shell fell in the yard of Ali Rajab Deban School during school hours, resulting in the death of one student, and injuries to five others. In addition, the primary school building was moderately damaged, while no material damages were recorded in al Sheikh Idris Secondary School. Al Sheikh Idris village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

D. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:

SNHR documented in March at least eight cluster munitions attacks, all of which were carried out in Idlib governorate by air raids or artillery bombardment. These attacks are distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** Seven
- **Russian forces:** One

These attacks resulted in the deaths of three civilians, including one woman, and injured 15 others.

We also documented in March at least one incendiary weapons attack carried out by Syrian Regime forces on an area away from the frontlines.



The following are the most notable attacks using outlawed weapons that we were able to document in March:

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used [a missile](#) launcher to fire four Urgan-9M27K missiles loaded with [cluster munitions](#), which targeted al Janoubi neighborhood of Ma'aret al Numan city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, without inflicting any documented [injuries](#), while the damages were only material. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Syrian Regime forces, stationed at [Abu Dali village](#) in the eastern suburbs of Idlib, used a [missile launcher](#) to fire about [40 missiles](#) in two consecutive stages. Most of the missiles were loaded with incendiary materials that fell indiscriminately on all the neighborhoods of al Taman'a town in the southern suburbs of Idlib in areas located away from front lines. The attack set fire to homes and farmlands, although we recorded no civilian casualties. The area is under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.



Remnants of incendiary weapons used by Syrian Regime forces in a ground attack on al Taman'a town, Idlib – March 12, 2019 – By: Mohammad al Mer'e



On Friday, March 22, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired an RBK-500 bomb loaded with AO-2.5RT/AO-2.5RTM [cluster submunitions](#), which landed on agricultural lands and [residents' houses](#) in Sehyan village in the southern Idlib suburbs. No casualties were recorded. The area is under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

IV. Attachments

[334 Civilians, Including Two Media Workers and Two Civil Defense Personnel, Documented Killed in Syria in March 2019](#)

[At least 357 Cases of Arbitrary Arrests Documented in Syria in March 2019](#)

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we have gathered indicates that attacks continue to be directed against civilians and civilian objects. The Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance. In addition, the indiscriminate bombardment and other attacks carried out caused the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- The Syrian government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- We could find no record of any warnings being issued by the Syrian Regime, or by Russian or International Coalition forces prior to any attack in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising for freedom, providing another blatant demonstration of these forces' total disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The magnitude and frequency of the violations, the disproportionate use of military force, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the inescapable conclusion that these acts are wholly deliberate and based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the alliance of International Coalition forces and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces is considered to be a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with indiscriminate killings amounting to war crimes.



- Extremist Islamist groups have violated international humanitarian law, causing the death of many civilians, as well as damage to vital civilian facilities.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through attacks that are considered as a violation of customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- All the attacks documented in this report, particularly bombings, caused massive collateral damage that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damage to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The use of explosive arms to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal and wholly deliberate mindset, with the perpetrators clearly intending to inflict the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention (arts. 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:

Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that “ all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such.”
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians’ lives and to save the Syrian people’s heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should adopt a resolution banning the use of cluster munitions in Syria, similar to the existing prohibition on the use of chemical weapons, and include advice on how to safely remove the remnants of such dangerous weapons.
- The four other permanent member states should put pressure on the Russian government to end its support for the Syrian regime, which uses chemical weapons, and to expose its involvement in this regard.
- We request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons camps, and to follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.



International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing and lifting sieges, as well as increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted 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 dozens 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 proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while 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 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 to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.

OHCHR

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents mentioned in this report since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict.
- Train Syrian organizations to undertake clearance of mines and other unexploded ordnance, and raise local awareness of the dangers of such ordnance.
- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.



International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

The United Nations special envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, and empower the Constitutional Commission prior to the establishment of a transitional government.

The Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets, and end the use of outlawed weapons and barrel bombs.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Reveal the fate of some 82,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

The Russian regime

- Launch investigations into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the those responsible accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rebuild and rehabilitate them, and compensate all the families of victims who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as all the wounded.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and to allow unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Stop using incendiary weapons in populated areas, compensate the victims and their families for all human and material damage caused by the use of these weapons, and provide treatment for dozens of civilian casualties.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the safe disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 82,000 people forcibly disappeared by the Syrian regime.



The Coalition (international coalition forces and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces)

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombing operations have resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Rather than attempting denial, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and all those affected.
- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns under their control.
- All forms of support, military and all others, should be ceased until the SDF commits itself to complying with the previous recommendations. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that these can be used in perpetrating war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must immediately stop conscripting children, hold the officers involved in such violations accountable, and pledge to return all children who have been arrested for conscription immediately.

Armed Opposition factions

- Armed Opposition factions must ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Pledge to cease any arbitrary arrests, and investigate incidents that have resulted in violations of international humanitarian law.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

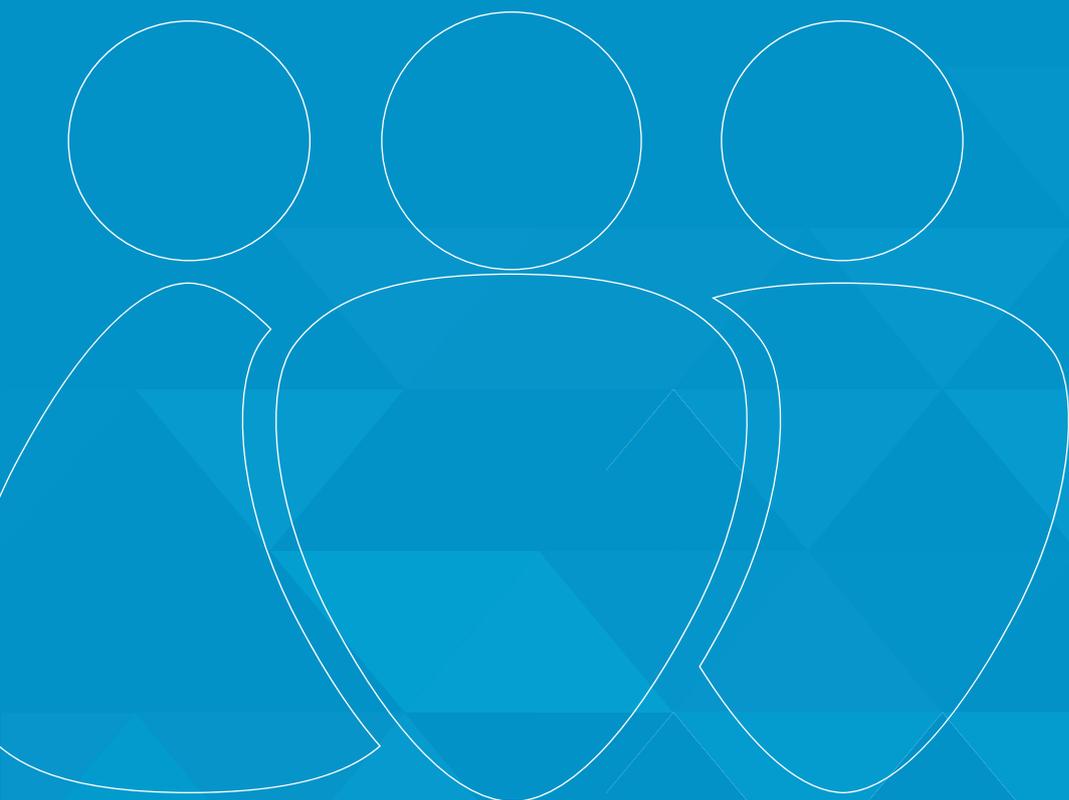
Humanitarian organizations:

Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.

Acknowledgments

We thank all family members, relatives and friends of the victims, eyewitnesses and local activists whose contributions have enriched this report.





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