I. Introduction
The involvement of Syrian regime in receiving heavy weapons related to the Syrian army such as tanks and artillery since summer of 2011, subsequent to the Air Force warplanes and missiles since the beginning of 2012, caused an alarming rise in the operations of murder and destruction. We have documented hundreds of dead cases under the rubble because of the delay in removing the rubble, and we have recorded hundreds of other cases of deaths due to the delay in aid the injured. In those circumstances, comes the birth of civil defense organization, established and started practicing its activities in March 2013 from Aleppo governorate, and expanded to include various Syrian provinces. Its work focuses in particular to meet the needs and services in addition to the direct and rapid work following the bombardment operations and its causes of casualties and destruction. Hundreds of staff and volunteers have joined the organization distributed among nearly 119 centers, and provided services to tens of thousands of Syrian citizens without discrimination.

The Services of Syrian civil defense includes operations of rescue and extinguishing the fires and picking up the victims from under the rubble and the evacuation of the wounded. Also, the civil defense groups contributes effectively in the work of removing the rubble and debris, and the delivery of water and electricity networks affected as a result of the shelling, in addition to the civil defense members in particular women follow-up to the conditions of the wounded, first aid and care for children and pregnant women.
Fadel Abdul Ghani, director of SNHR says:
“Given the eminent services provided by the civil defense, its fate was similar to those medical and media teams which were exposed to violations through the deliberate bombardment, particularly by warplanes of the regime and its allies, through the repetition of the policy of dual strike*”.

II. The most outstanding challenges facing the tasks of civil defense in Syria.

No one from the civil defense members or others working in the Syrian relief feels any sense of security towards their lives; and that is the most prominent of the notification under the complete lack of respect for international law and international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular by the Syrian regime which has the air force.

Many civil defense members in Syria told us about the logistic difficulties relating mainly to the decrease in the number of machinery and equipment, owing to the exceptional situations in Syria that require an enormous and continuous work, and that there is a deficit on the reform of the harmony of the machinery and equipment owing to the lack of spare parts for workshops, specialized in addition to the scarcity of the trainee cadre in the besieged areas such as eastern Al Ghouta, Darayya, and Deir Al Zour.

SNHR talked with Mr. Hazem, one of the civil defense members in the city of Sarakib, Idlib, and he informed us about the most prominent difficulties facing the civil defense team:

«We communicate with each other through wireless lines. It is the only way under the lack of available possibilities, and the lack of equipment and the lack of population, and the inability to repair when exposed to breakages; also the large operational and commensurate with our resources cost a lot and that are also considered as difficulties we face in light of the bombardment that does not stop.»

In the areas under the control of extremist organizations, the challenges facing the Civil Defense teams increase. ISIL removed a number of mechanisms, in addition to the imposition of appointing staff that are related to ISIL; what forced a large number of civil defense members to leave those areas.

*The policy of dual strike: Is the policy followed by the Syrian and the Russian regime, based on the principle of the bombing of certain site and then targeting the same site after several minutes; the aim of the rhythm is hitting the largest possible number of human losses, and cadres of the civil defense, ambulances and doctors.
Rami, a former volunteer of civil defense in Deir Al-Zour City reported to SNHR about the actions in the areas under control of ISIL:

«Through a small number of mechanisms and available cars, 45 volunteers and I contributed in extinguishing the burns and save the injured people and picking up those trapped under the rubble and have developed the capacity of volunteers after a period of work. However, the control of ISIL on the city and the arbitrary policy imposed on volunteers pushed many to leave the organization and then ISIL appointed members of the organization who are supporters to them do not have the minimum work experience in that area.»

II. Violations Against Civil Defense
SNHR gives particular importance to target vital facilities, medical cadres, and Civil Defense members. The reports are periodically issued monthly in this regard. We have a large number of violations of the Syrian Civil Defense since it was founded in March 2013 until now; most prominent of which are:

A. Extrajudicial Killing
SNHR documented the killing of 106 members of civil defense, mostly by the Syrian regime forces and its allies and distributed according to the committed side:
- Government forces killed 99.
- Russian Forces Killed 3 members.

Sunday 14 September 2014 government military aviation bombed a missile targeted the building of the civil defense center in Douma city, Damascus countryside, which resulted in the death of 8 members of civil defense.

Tuesday, 26 January 2016 Government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on one of the houses in the town of Hayyan in the governorate of Aleppo; killing 2 of the civil defense members.

Tuesday, 26 April 2016 governmental warplanes bombed several missiles that targeted the civil defense center in the city of Al Atarib in the governorate of Aleppo, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 5 members of the Center at once, and injuring two others.
Tuesday, 20 October 2015 Allegedly Russian warplanes bombed two missiles at the northern city of Sermeen, Idlib governorate. The bombardment caused the killing of Mr. Abdul Razzaq Abboud, one of the civil defense members.

- Unidentified Groups Killed 4 members in the village of Meskan, Aleppo governorate. Saturday, 10 January 2015, two car bombs exploded at the entrance of the village, the explosion of the second car caused the death of 17 civilians, including 4 from the cadres of the civil defense, in addition to the mass destruction and burning a car belonging to the civil defense. The SNHR team could not determine who carried out until the moment of the preparation of the report.

B. Arrest and enforced Disappearances:
SNHR documented 6 cases of arrests at the hands of the patrons of Al Nusra Front of the Qaeda Organization.

- Extremist Islamic Groups
SNHR documented 6 cases of arrests at the hands of the patrons of the Qaeda Organization.

Tuesday, 6 January 2015, we recorded Al Nusra arresting Mr. Maed Barish, Member of the civil defense organization, in the city of Sarakib, Idlib City on the international road between Aleppo and Idlib. He was released on Saturday, 31 January 2015.

Thursday 10/ September 2015 Al Nusra arrested Lawyer Hatem Marwan was born in 1986 and is one of the civil defense members in the town of Maarat Masreen, governorate of Idlib, was released on Tuesday, 13 October 2015.

- Armed Opposition factions:
SNHR recorded 5 cases of arrests were executed by members belonging to the factions of the armed opposition.

Wednesday, 17 February 2016, armed members belonging to the «Fajer Al Omma» faction, which is a part of Syrian opposition factions abducted by the armed Mr. Sakher Quraie, director of the civil defense center in Tishreen Neighborhood in the city of Damascus and his deputy, Mr. Mohammad Al Ous from the building of the civil defense center, and their fate is still unknown for their parents and to SNHR.
- **Unidentified groups**

We recorded 5 cases of arrests of members of civil defense by armed members could not be identified.

Saturday, 10 October 2015, SNHR recorded the arrest of Mr. Radi Saad who was born in the city of Hama and a member of the civil defense in the city of Ma’aret Al Numan, Idlib governorate by armed members that have not been able to be identified, was released on Monday, 19 October 2015.

**C. Attacks on Civil Defense Centers**

SNHR recorded 66 attacks targeted Centers related to civil defense service and cars belonging to it since its establishment until 30 April 2016, distributed as follows:

- **The government forces: we recorded 62 attack incidents, the most prominent of which:**

  Wednesday 14/ May 2015 government military aviation bombed a missile at an ambulance belonging to the civil defense in the city of Al Atarib suburb of Aleppo, under the control of the opposition armed factions. The missile fell on an ambulance belonging to the Civil Defense Directorate in the city, killing the crew of the vehicle, in addition to the destruction of the car completely, and left out of service.

  Thursday, 14 May, 2015, government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb at the civil defense center in the city of Khan Shaikhoon, Idlib, killing two children and a woman, in addition to material damages to in 3 ambulances belonging to the center.

  [Video](#) shows one of the civil defense members speaks about the dumping of governmental aviation of explosive barrels near the center of Hananu in Aleppo in 19 June, 2014

  Friday, 17 April, 2015 government warplanes bombed two missiles at civil defense center Al Bab city in the governorate of Aleppo, caused damage to the building and burned some mechanisms, did not record any victims.

  Sunday 26/ April 2015 government forces shelled a thermal missile directed at engines of civil defense in Edlib, which led to the killing of one of the cadres of the civil defense, in addition to the damage of the spiral damaged vehicle and left out of service.
Pictures showing the damage in the engines of civil defense in Edlib due to targeting the government forces have thermal missile on 26 April, 2015

Thursday, 14 May, 2015, government warplanes bombed barrel bombs at the civil defense center in the city of Khan Shaikhoon, Idlib, killing two children and a woman, in addition to material damages to in 3 ambulances belonging to the center.

On Friday, 26 June, 2015 government helicopters dropped 14 gas jar near the civil defense center in the village of Balyoun, Idlib, killing one person, injuring 6 members of civil defense, in addition to the medium damage of the ambulance of the Center. A video showing the effects of destruction caused by the dumping of governmental aviation bombing 14 gas jar near the civil defense center in the village of Balyoun, Idlib in 26 June, 2016
Wednesday, 19 August 2015 government artillery bombarded fired several mortar shells on the civil defense center in the city of Harasta, Damascus countryside, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 2 civil defense cadres, in addition to the material damage of the building.

Videos depicting the damage in the civil defense center in the city of Harasta. Damascus countryside as a result of artillery bombardment by government forces that fired several mortar shells on 19 August, 2015

Pictures showing the damages in the civil defense center in the city of Harasta, Damascus countryside as a result of artillery bombardment by government forces that fired several mortar shells on 19 August, 2015

Tuesday, 26 April 2016 government warplanes bombed a missile on civil defense center in the city of Al Atarib under the control of the opposition armed factions, what caused the death of 5 of the civil defense members in one batch, in addition to a big destruction in the construction of the Center and damaging three of its mechanisms (ambulance, and a firefighters› car, and a tank,) and left out of service.

Videos depicting the effects of destruction and damage in the civil defense center by government warplanes bombed the city of Al Atarib in Aleppo in 26/ April 2016

Video shows one of the civil defense members speaks of government warplanes bombed Civil Defense center in Al Atarib city in Aleppo in 26/ April 2016
Pictures showing the effects of destruction and damages in the civil defense center by government warplanes bombed the city on Al Atarib, Aleppo, in 26/ April 2016

- The Russian forces: we recorded 3 attacks:
  Thursday, 12 November 2015 allegedly Russian warplanes shelled several missiles that targeted the eastern town of Benin Idlib Governorate; which led to the damage of an ambulance belonging to the organization of the civil defense.

Tuesday, 12 January 2016, allegedly Russian warplanes shelled several missiles targeted the car of an ambulance belonging to the organization of the civil defense in the city of Ma’aret Al Numan Idlib Governorate; what led to an enormous damages.

Monday, 25 January, 2016 allegedly Russian warplanes shelled several missiles at a school building used as a Civil Defense center in the town of Hardantien, Aleppo governorate; which led to the material damages of the building.
- **Unidentified Groups:** We have recorded the incident of one attack in the village of Meskan suburb of Aleppo.

Saturday, 10 January 2015, two car bombs exploded at the entrance of the village, the explosion of the second car caused the death 17 civilians, including 4 from the cadres of the civil defense, in addition to the mass destruction and burning a car belonging to the civil defense, SNHR team could not determine who carried out the attack until the moment of the preparation of the report.

[Video](#) shows the remains of the car bomb that exploded on a Meskan checkpoint, suburb of Aleppo in 10 January 2015

Pictures showing the damage as a result of the explosion of car bomb at a checkpoint of Meskan, suburb of Aleppo in 10 January 2015

### III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

**Conclusions:**

According to the international humanitarian law the indiscriminate attacks or deliberate or others proportionate, are considered as illegal, and the government and Russian forces on the headquarters of the defense mechanisms of civil society is a flagrant disregard of the minimum standards of international humanitarian law and considered as a frequent war crimes.

We emphasize that the bombing incidents contained in the report have targeted unarmed individuals and, consequently, the government and Russian forces had violated the provisions of International Human Rights Law which protects the right to live. In addition to it committed non-international armed conflict and considered as a war crime, which has all within aspects.
The attacks contained in the report by the Syrian regime and its allies as a violation of international humanitarian customary law, the missiles had been fired at populated areas and wasn’t directed to a specific military objective.

The operations of arbitrary detention, kidnapping by the Islamic organizations, and some opposition armed factions is considered a clear violation of international human rights law.

**Recommendations:**

**To the Syrian political and military Opposition:**
1. To provide all forms of support and the possible facilities defense teams with Syrian civil society, development levels of cooperation and coordination with them.
2. The local councils should increase the levels of support and coordination with the civil defense teams operating in the areas belonging to them.

**To the Security Council:**
- Issue a binding resolution to criminalize targeting civil defense teams and all the relief crews and medical in Syria; the follow-up implementation not to be similar to the previous resolutions such as 2139, 2455 and others.
- It must put pressure on the Syrian regime and its allies to stop supplying it with arms and military experts after its proven involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes. It also must pass a resolution to condemn the sides that supply it with weapons.
- The Syrian file must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in war crimes and violations must be held accountable.
- The UN Security Council must establish peace and security and protect Syrian civilians and their heritage from looting, destruction and vandalism.
- It must expand the sanctions to include all pillars of the syrian and the Iranian regimes as they are directly involved war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**To the High Commissioner for Human Rights:**
We call upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report to the Human Rights Council Rights and other United Nations bodies about those violations against civil defense and the all relief organizations.

**To the International Community:**
- Given the divisions at the UN Security Council, measures must be made at the national and regional level to build coalitions to aid the Syrian people through protecting it from the daily killings, lifting the siege, and stepping up the relief aid; and seek to practice
universal jurisdiction over these crimes by national courts in fair trials for all people involved.

• SNHR demands that the United Nations and the Security Council in several studies and reports to implement the principle of “protecting civilians” (ICRtoP), the political steps are exhausted through Arab league then Kofi Anan plan, so it must refer to the article VII to implement the principle of “protecting civilians” (R2P) that approved by United Nation General Assembly but was obstructed by Security Council.

• Pressure must be put on the UN Security Council to refer the Syria file to the International Criminal Court.

• It must seek to achieve justice and accountability in Syria through the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and the use of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Acknowledgment

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