

# 107 Civilians Killed, including 34 Children, in the First 72 Hours Following Security Council Resolution 2401

Most Notable Violations of Security  
Council Resolution 2401 in  
Three Days

# 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

Security Council resolution 2041 comes at a time when the Security Council's impact in the Syrian catastrophe had reached extreme degrees of passivity and impotence. Even though the Security Council has adopted 18 resolutions on Syria so far, these resolutions are mere words, including the ones that include warning phrases and threaten to take punitive measures in the event of non-compliance, such as resolution 2139 on the cease of barrel bomb use, as well as resolutions 2118, 2209, and 2235 that addressed the repeated use of chemical weapons and have been violated hundreds of times by the Syrian regime, as the Security Council is still standing idly by under Russia's thumb.

No real progress has been seen in the case of resolution 2401 that was adopted in the form of weak, non-binding phrases, without addressing any penal specifics or consequences in the event of non-compliance. A resolution like this was a greenlight to the Syrian regime and its allies to continue the killing and bombardment, as nothing has happened, where the heavy and indiscriminate bombardment was resumed merely a few hours after the resolution was adopted. In this, the Syrian regime and its allies send out a number of messages – most notably an insult to the rest of the members of the Security Council, permanent and non-permanent. This was followed by the Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoygu giving a personal and nonsensical interpretation of the Security Council resolution by announcing a five-hour truce from 09:00 to 14:00, while the killing and bombardment should continue in the remaining 19 hours for the course of the next 30 days, which implies that the 24-hour killing and bombardment will be resumed as soon as the 30 days are over.



## **Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:**

“In all of the past ceasefire and de-escalation initiatives, we would sense a form of ‘shame’ where rates of killing and bombardment would decrease for two or three days, before going back to their former levels. However, the case of the resolution 2401 is unprecedented. The Syrian regime and its allies didn’t wait for more than few hours before going back to the bombardment, killing, and raids.”

Ten days have passed since the escalation of the offensive started, and the human situation in Eastern Ghouta is becoming a serious catastrophe in light of the Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces’ usual policies with the start of each offensive in targeting hospitals and medical points and even ambulances and civil defense teams to deepen the suffering of the wounded and the sick who are suffering under an already-present shortage of medical supplies due to the siege. There are no less than 1,350 wounded people in Eastern Ghouta today, including 670 people who need special medical care and 270 who are in need of artificial limbs as the amputation cases are increasing rapidly.

## **Report Methodology**

This report outlines the most notable violations by the parties to the conflict from when Security Council resolution 2401 was adopted on February 24, 2018 evening until the evening of February 27, 2018. We have reviewed the pictures and videos we received and verified their authenticity using a special software. We have also spoke to survivors, victims’ relatives, or eyewitnesses to some of the incidents.

In the course of the ongoing monitoring for incidents and developments by SNHR team through a wide network including tens of various sources that have been built over an accumulation of extensive relations since the start of our work. When we receive information, or hear some news about a violation via the internet or media outlets, we work on following-up on this news and try to verify and collect evidences and data. In some cases, the researcher is able to visit the incident location at the soonest. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily incidents and in light of the human and material resources at hand. Therefore, the possibility to access evidences vary from one case to another, and, hence, the degree of its classification. Usually, what we do, at SNHR, in such cases is relying on accounts from survivors who experience the violation firsthand, where we try to access those directly, and, to a second degree, who saw or filmed the violation, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the internet and media outlets. Thirdly, we try to speak to medical personnel who treated the wounded, assessed the symptoms, and determined the cause of death.



Please see the methodology adopted at SNHR for [documenting victims](#) and [classifying vital civilian facilities](#)

the investigations included in this report have proved that the targeted areas were civilian areas where no military centers or armories for armed opposition factions or extremist Islamic groups were found before or during the attack. Also, the aggressing forces didn't alert the civilians prior to the attacks as the international humanitarian law requires.

SNHR has analyzed the videos and pictures that were posted online, or were sent to us by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media. Some of the videos published by activists show the location of the attacks, the dead bodies, the injured, and the huge destruction in the aftermath of the bombardment.

This report only represents the bare minimum, which we were able to document, of the magnitude and severity of the violation that occurred. It also doesn't cover the social, economic, mental, and demographic ramifications.

## II. Executive Summary

### A. Massacres and other acts of unlawful killing

We have recorded the killing of 107 civilians, including 34 children and 18 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria. We have also recorded three massacres. The violations were as follows:

Syrian regime forces: 83 civilians, including 18 children and 13 women. Syrian regime forces also committed two massacres.

Extremist Islamic groups:

- ISIS: 4 children

International coalition forces: 16 civilians, including 10 children and 4 women. Also, international coalition forces committed one massacre.

Other parties: 4 civilians, including 2 children and 1 woman.

B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities: we have documented no less than two attacks on vital civilian facilities by Syrian regime forces which targeted a mosque and a local market.

C. Prohibited weapons: We have documented that Syrian regime forces dropped no less than 47 barrel bombs, distributed across governorates as follows:

Damascus suburbs governorate: 43

Hama governorate: 4



### III.Details

#### **A. Most notable massacres and other acts of unlawful killing**

##### **A. Syrian regime forces**

###### Damascus suburbs governorate

Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate – Sunday, February 25, 2018

Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at the city, which resulted in the killing of [three civilians](#) (two children and their mother). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Hazza town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate – Sunday, February 25, 2018

Fixed-wing Syrian/Russian regime forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated to accurately determine the perpetrator) fired a number of missiles in the town, which resulted in the killing of two civilians. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate – Monday, February 26, 2018

Monday dawn, fixed-wing Syrian/Russian regime forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated to accurately determine the perpetrator) fired a number of missiles in the city, which resulted in the killing of no less than 10 civilians at once from the same family, including children and women. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Jisreen town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate – Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at the town, which resulted in the killing of two civilians, including one child. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

###### Damascus governorate

Jobar neighborhood, eastern Damascus city, Sunday, February 25, 2018

Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at the neighborhood, which resulted in the killing of two civilians. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



### Homs governorate

Hmeima village, northeastern suburbs of Homs governorate – Monday, February 26, 2018  
Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at the village, which resulted in the killing of one woman. In addition, her infant son and husband were wounded. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions, with a minor presence for Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, at the time of the incident.

### Idlib governorate

Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate – Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
Fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at the city, which resulted in the killing of three civilians, while about 11 others were wounded. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **2- International coalition forces**

Suosa village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate – Sunday, February 25, 2018  
Fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a pedestrian bus that was transporting IDPs from al Baghouz village, suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bombardment resulted in the killing of 16 civilians, including 10 children and four women. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

## **Attacks on vital civilian facilities**

### Damascus suburbs governorate

Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate – Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Syrian regime forces rocket launchers fired a number of rockets at [Um Habiba Mosque](#) in the city. The mosque building was partially destroyed, and its furniture was heavily damaged.

### Idlib governorate

Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate – Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
Fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [a local market](#) in the middle of the city. The market facilities were moderately damaged.



## IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

1- Syrian-Russian-Iranian forces have, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolution 2401, which states that hostilities should be ceased, as well as resolutions 2139 and 2254 that preceded, as both resolutions state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased. Also, these forces have violated Articles 7 and 8 of Rome Statute through the crime of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.

2- The bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, or significant damages to civilian objects. There are strong indicators that suggest that the damage was too excessive in relation to the anticipated military benefit.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Security Council**

- The Security Council has to take additional steps after resolution 2401 was adopted, which explicitly provides for the cease of hostilities and facilitating the passage of humanitarian aids into besieged areas.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for crimes should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- Instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Expand the sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.

#### **International Community**

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, steps 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 enhance the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must 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 consumed, 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.
- Supply makeshift hospitals with the necessary medical equipment, especially prothesis in light of the rapid increase in amputation cases among the wounded in Syria. 2,400 various artificial limbs should be secured in all of the areas of Eastern Ghouta as soon as possible.

## **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.

## **United Nations special envoy to Syria**

- Expand Security Council briefings rather than only limiting them to the violations of al Nusra Front and ISIS
- Condemn the perpetrators of the crimes, the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for breaching Security Council resolutions.

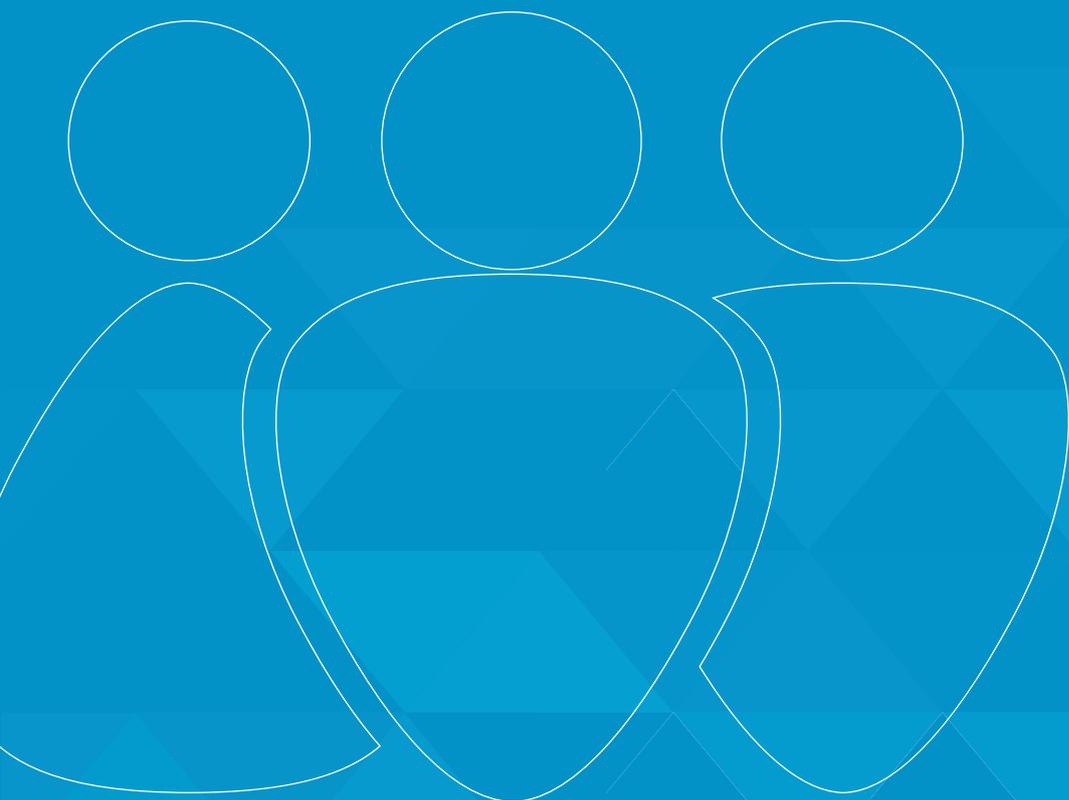
## **The Russian regime**

- Adhere to the truce it announced and apply pressure on the Syrian regime and its Iranian militias to allow the sick and the humanitarian cases to exit first.
- Ensure the safety of the civilians who want to exit without any arrests or enforced-disappearances.
- Stop supporting the Syrian regime at the Security Council and using veto to prevent the passing of any international resolution that punishes the Syrian regime.
- Apply pressure on the Syrian regime to allow unconditional passage for humanitarian aids into Eastern Ghouta.

## **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

Our most heartfelt gratitude and condolences to all the residents and local activists who contributed effectively to this report.





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