

Statement

Most Notable Violations of Human Rights in Syria in February 2018

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.



As usual with the start of every month, SNHR released eight reports at the start of March 2018, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven main parties to the conflict in Syria in February 2018 - civilian death toll, deaths due to torture, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against media workers, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, most notable massacres, most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities, and barrel bombs use

These monthly reports try also to assess the impact the de-escalation agreements, such as Ankara and Astana, had, in addition to the local agreements and Security Council Resolution 2401 which was adopted on the evening of February 24, and how successful they were in ceasing violations.

These reports draw upon the daily documentation efforts during February, where SNHR, through its scattered members throughout the Syrian region, monitors violations by all of the parties to the conflict, and publishes most notable news, before releasing a preliminary death toll at the end of each day. For more information, please see our [documentation and archiving methodology](#).

The report entitled: [“1,389 Civilians Killed in February 2018”](#) stresses that Eastern Ghouta bled the most in February in light of the ruthless offensive on the region, as we have documented the killing of 923 civilians by Syrian regime/Russian forces. Syrian regime topped all parties in February by killing 1,073 civilians, including 203 children, followed by international coalition forces who killed 102 civilians, including 50 children.

According to the report [“Seven Individuals Died due to Torture in Syria in February 2018”](#), all deaths due to torture were at the hands of Syrian regime forces. Homs governorate recorded the highest toll of deaths due to torture in February with two individuals, while one individual died in each of Daraa, Idlib, Deir Ez-Zour, Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates.



The report [“No less than 579 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in February 2018”](#) stresses that Syrian regime forces carried out multiple widespread raid and arrest campaigns in the centers of main cities, markets, and universities for recruitment purposes, as these arrests were centered in the governorates of Hama, Latakia, Damascus, and Aleppo. Also, Syrian regime forces continued to pursue and arrest relatives of armed opposition factions’ fighters, including women and children, in order to use them in exchange deals. On the other hand, Self-Management forces continues to enforce its policy of arbitrary arrest for the purpose of conscription as a main motive. In addition, the report records a rise in the rates of arbitrary arrests made by Hay’at Tahrir al Sham in its areas of control in Hama, Idlib, and Aleppo governorates in light of the fighting with factions from the armed opposition.

The report [“Four Media Workers Killed and Five Injured, Toll of February 2018”](#) documents the most notable violations against media workers in February, as Syrian-Russian alliance forces were responsible for the majority of violations. Syrian regime forces topped all parties with regard to killing media workers, as two media workers were both killed in Eastern Ghouta by Syrian regime forces. Secondly, Russian forces and Self-Management forces killed one media worker each.

Further, Syrian regime forces injured three media workers in Eastern Ghouta, while Russian forces injured two in Idlib governorate

The report [“28 Medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent Personnel Killed, and 59 Attacks on their Facilities in Syria, Toll of February 2018”](#) stresses that February recorded the highest rates of violence by Syrian regime forces and their allies against medical facilities and their respective facilities since the Cessation of Hostilities agreement went into effect in February 2016. Syrian regime forces killed 16 medical, civil defense, and Red Crescent personnel, including 13 in Eastern Ghouta, while Russian forces killed six, all in Idlib governorate, followed by international coalition forces who killed four in Deir Ez-Zour.

Syrian regime forces carried out 33 attacks on vital medical facilities, civil defense, and Red Crescent facilities, including 21 attacks on medical facilities in Eastern Ghouta, while Russian forces were responsible for 23 attacks on vital medical facilities and civil defense facilities, including 11 attacks on medical facilities. OF the 11 attacks, 10 were in Idlib governorate.



According to the report [“No less than 69 Massacres in February 2018”](#), Syrian regime forces and their allies were responsible for the majority of massacres in February with 53 massacres in which 563 civilians, including 158 children, were killed. Syrian regime forces’ massacres were concentrated in February in Eastern Ghouta that saw 46 massacres, while the same forces perpetrated four massacres in Idlib governorate, two in Aleppo governorate, and one in Hama governorate in February.

On the other hand, Russian forces perpetrated seven massacres, including five in Idlib governorate, while international coalition forces perpetrated six massacres in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

The report [“No less than 156 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in February 2018”](#) records that Eastern Ghouta suffered most of the attacks on vital civilian facilities by Syrian regime forces and their allies with 89 attacks even though most of them have been rendered out of commission in light of the ruthless offensive by Syrian regime forces and their allies. Secondly, Idlib governorate saw 56 attacks, including 41 attacks by Russian forces.

The eighth report, [“No less than 407 Barrel Bombs Dropped by Syrian Regime Forces in February 2018”](#), records that a barrel bomb attack on February 19 marked the first use of barrel bombs by Syrian regime forces in Eastern Ghouta for the first time since June 2016. We have also documented a chemical attack using barrel bombs that targeted Saraqeb city on February 4, which was the 211th chemical attack carried out by Syrian regime forces against Syria since the first use in 2012.



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