



## 10 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed 44 Incidents of Attack on Vital Medical and Civil Defense Facilities in October 2016

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### I. Introduction and Methodology

SNHR's high-level methodology for documentation relies on survivors and families' direct accounts in addition to the process of verifying and analyzing pictures, videos, and some medical records. However, we can't claim that we have documented all cases in light of the ban and pursuit by government forces and some of the other armed groups.

To read more about SNHR methodology in the documentation of victims, please see the following [URL](#).

The consistent bombing and targeting of medical facilities and civil defense centers by government forces since 2011, and the killing and arrest of medics and civil defense personnel at the hands of different conflict parties, especially government forces, indicates a systematic policy that only aims to shed more blood and deepen the suffering of the injured civilians and armed men.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

*"The Russian attacks on medical and civil defense centers as well as medical and civil defense personnel are considered a blatant violation of the international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes considering the chaotic, and in many cases, deliberate, targeting of protected objects. All of this have only deepened the suffering of the wounded and injured and is one of the main reasons behind the displacement of the Syrian people as it sends a very clear message: there is no safe area, or a red line, including hospitals, you either flee or perish."*





This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred. Additionally, the report doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

## II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented in the month of October 2016 the following main violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities:

### A. Extrajudicial killing

We documented the killing of 10 medical and civil defense personnel as follows:

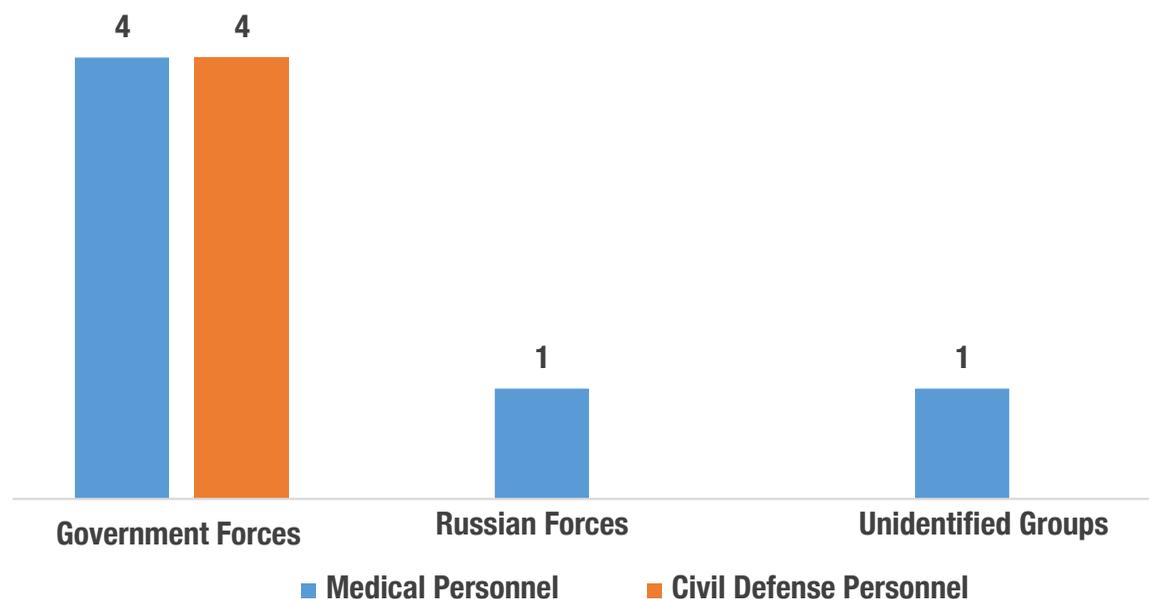
- Government forces (Army, security, local militias, foreign Shiite militias): Killed eight medical and civil defense personnel who are distributed as follows:

- Two doctors
- One nurse
- One Paramedic
- Four civil defense personnel

- Russia forces: Killed one medical personnel

- Unidentified groups: Killed one doctor

Victims from medical and civil defense personnel are distributed by the influential party as follows:





## B. Targeting of vital medical and civil defense facilities

SNHR documented 44 incidents of attack on vital medical and civil defense facilities as follows:

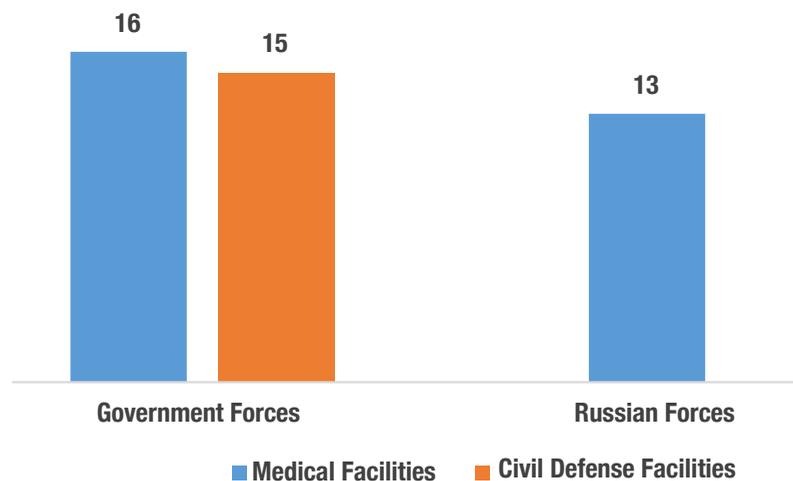
- Government forces: We recorded 31 incidents of attack on vital medical and civil defense facilities as follows:

- 13 Medical centers
- Three ambulances
- 15 civil defense centers

- Russian forces: We recorded 13 incidents of attacks on vital medical facilities as follows:

- Six medical facilities
- Seven ambulances

Incidents of attack on vital medical and civil defense facilities are distributed by the influential party as follows:



## II. Details

### A. Extrajudicial killing

#### Government forces

Mohammad Ali, paramedic, from Khan Al Sheih camp in Damascus suburbs governorate, Palestinian, Married and has kids. he was killed on 2 October 2016 by the shells of government forces artillery that targeted an ambulance in Khan Al Sheih camp for Palestinian refugees in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs as [the ambulance staff](#) were attending to the wounded from a [previous bombing](#).





Eid Khalaf, doctor, from Al Hama town in Damascus suburbs governorate. He was killed on Wednesday 5 October 2016 by government forces helicopters that dropped two barrel bombs on Al Salam hospital in Al Hama town in Damascus suburbs governorate.

Yousef Al Nader, nurse, from Al Hama town in Damascus suburbs governorate. He was killed on Wednesday 5 October 2016 by government forces helicopters that dropped two barrel bombs on Al Salam hospital in Al Hama town in Damascus suburbs governorate.

[Mahmoud Ali Al Mohammad Al Nsi-erat](#), a [civil defense](#) member in Dael city in the suburbs of Daraa governorate, from Ibta' town in Daraa governorate. [He](#) was killed on Friday 7 October 2016 by government forces rocket launchers that targeted Ibta' town with [multiple rockets](#) as he was attending to the wounded from a previous bombing.



[Bassam Ghassan Hadla](#), a [civil defense](#) member in [Ma'aret Al No'man city](#), from Hama city, born in 1986. He was killed on Thursday 20 October 2016 by fixed-wing government forces war-planes that fired a number of missiles near [the civil defense](#) center in [Ma'aret Al No'man city](#) in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate.



[Mohammad Osama Hawwa](#), a [member of the rescue team](#) at the civil defense center of Anadan city, from Anadan city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1997, has a secondary education certificate, single. He was killed on Saturday 22 October 2016 by an artillery shell shrapnel fired by government forces artillery at Anadan city which hit him in the head and the chest.





[Yousef Ahmad Al Tarraf](#), a [specialized doctor](#), surgery, from Hass town in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1980, works at Has makeshift hospital, married and has kids. [He](#) died on Friday 28 October 2016 of wounds sustained in a bombing by fixed-wing government forces warplanes that targeted his car at Kamal Qal'aji schools complex in the southern neighborhood of Hass town on Wednesday 26 October 2016 as he was attending to wounded from a previous bombing at the time.

[Ibrahim Hussein Mahmoud](#), a member of the rescue team at the civil defense center of Al Ansari neighborhood, from Aleppo city, born in 1981, has a secondary education certificate, married and has three kids. [He](#) was killed on Sunday 30 October 2016 by an artillery shrapnel fired by government forces artillery on Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city which hit him in the head.

### **Russian forces**

[Mahmoud Al Jmieli](#), an [ambulance driver](#), from Aleppo city, born in 1985, works with Sham Humanitarian Institution, has an elementary education certificate, married and a father of four. He was killed on Friday 14 October 2016 by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian that targeted Al Sha'ar neighborhood in Aleppo city.



### **Unidentified groups**

[Mohammad AbdulHaj Khezam](#), a fourth-year medical student at the faculty of medicine in Damascus University, from Al Mwathafein neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour. [He](#) was found dead on Sunday 16 October 2016 in Al Mazza neighborhood in Damascus after he was declared missing on Wednesday 12 October 2016. As of this writing, we haven't been able to determine the party who killed him.





## **B. Targeting of vital medical and civil defense facilities**

### **Government forces**

#### **Medical facilities**

Medical centers (Hospitals, dispensaries, medical regions, and makeshift hospitals)  
Monday night 3 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile at the incubator center in Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center and its equipment were moderately damaged.

Monday night 3 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile near the central laboratory of Eastern Ghouta in Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center and its equipment were moderately damaged.

Sunday 2 October 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian forces (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) targeted the Martyr Dr. [Hasan Al A'raj hospital](#) in [Kafr Zita city](#), located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the hospital walls was partially destroyed and its furniture were moderately [damaged](#).

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces artillery targeted with shells Sham [Al Amal hospital](#) in [Qadsya town](#), located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The hospital building](#) and equipment were [moderately damaged](#).



Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs in conjunction with government forces artillery firing mortar shells on the Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie makeshift hospital in Khan Al Sheih town, located in Western Ghouta and is under the control of armed opposition factions. A number of patients were killed in the bombing. In addition, the hospital building was heavily damaged and the hospital's power generators burned.





Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs on Al Salam hospital](#), the only hospital in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Two medical personnel were killed, one of them was a doctor. In addition, the hospital building and its equipment were [moderately damaged](#). As a result, [the hospital](#) was [rendered out of commission](#).

Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped 16 barrel bombs, including four barrel bombs that were loaded with incendiary weapons, in conjunction with government forces artillery's mortar shelling on The Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie makeshift hospital in [Khan Al Sheih town](#), located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building and equipment were [heavily damaged](#). As a result, the [hospital was rendered out of commission](#).



Image shows the destruction in Martyr Doctor Ziad Al Buqa'i Makeshift Hospital in Khan Al Sheih town in Damascus suburbs due to government helicopters dropping barrel bombs and government artillery shells fired near the hospital in 5 & 6 October 2016

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Thursday 7 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired a number of missiles near a [medication warehouse affiliated to the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation \(SAMS\)](#) in Jabal Al Zawiya, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. [The warehouse was moderately damaged](#) and a number of [the medications were ruined](#).





Saturday 15 October 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian forces (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles near [the health center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in a [massacre](#). Additionally, the center entrance was partially destroyed and the building and [equipment](#) were [heavily damaged](#). As a result, [the center was rendered out of commission](#).

Monday 17 October 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian forces (Investigations are [still ongoing to determine](#) the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles near the health center in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center building was destroyed almost completely and was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that the center was targeted by fixed-wing government/Russian forces (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) using missiles on Saturday 15 October 2016.

Tuesday 18 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in the vicinity of the makeshift hospital of Jadid Ekiedat village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS. The hospital building was slightly damaged.

Friday 21 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile at a residential house that is located 10 meters away from Kiwan surgical hospital in Kansfra town, located in Jabal Al Zawiya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. No damages were recorded as the missile didn't explode.

Thursday 27 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a number of missiles on a land that is located next to the maternity hospital known as Al Re'aya hospital M30 in Termaneen town, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under joint control of armed opposition faction and Fateh Al Sham Front. The hospital building cladding materials were moderately damaged. We believe that this incident is not a violation of the international humanitarian law considering that the target was a military checkpoint. However, we included it in the report to record it among the incidents that resulted in casualties and damages to a vital civil facility even if it was within the boundaries that the international humanitarian law allows for.





## Ambulances

Sunday 2 October 2016, government forces artillery fired shells that fell on an ambulance in Khan Al Sheih camp for Palestinian refugees, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The shelling resulted in the killing of a paramedic from the ambulance staff. In addition, the ambulance structure was moderately damaged.

Monday 3 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes [targeted using missiles an ambulance](#) for [Sham Humanitarian Network](#) in Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the ambulance staff was wounded. In addition, the ambulance glass and medical equipment were [moderately damaged](#).

Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs in conjunction with government forces artillery's shelling on [the Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie hospital](#) in Khan Al Sheih town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. An ambulance and a service car were heavily damaged and [rendered out of commission](#).

## Civil defense centers (Facilities and vehicles)

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters [dropped a number of barrel bombs near the civil defense center](#) of Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center building and furniture were [heavily destroyed](#). As a result, the center was rendered out of commission.



Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces barrel bombs dropped a number of barrel bombs near the civil defense center of Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which [heavily destroyed](#) a fire truck for the center and rendered it [out of commission](#).





Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is [affiliated to the Syrian civil defense center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The center building was heavily destroyed.](#)

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters [dropped barrel bombs](#) on center 114 which is affiliated to the Syrian civil defense center in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which heavily destroyed a vehicle used for removing rubble and rendered it out of commission.

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to the Syrian civil defense center in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which heavily damaged a service vehicle and rendered it out of commission.

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to the Syrian civil defense center in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which moderately [damaged the structure of an ambulance](#) that belongs to the center.

Saturday 15 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile near the civil defense center in Al Houla, located in the suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. A civil defense member was wounded, Additionally, the center [was slightly damaged.](#)

Wednesday 19 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes machine guns fired C5 missiles near the civil defense center of Kafr Nabbol town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Three civil defense members were wounded while the center wasn't damaged.

Wednesday 19 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes machine guns fired C5 missiles near [the civil defense center](#) of Kafr Nabbol town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed





opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Three civil defense members were wounded. In addition, the front of the structure of a fire truck belonging to the center was slightly damaged.

Wednesday 19 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes machine guns fired C5 missiles near the civil defense center of Kafr Nabbol town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Three civil defense members were wounded. In addition, [the glass of an ambulance](#) belonging to the center was shattered.

Thursday 20 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired missiles near [the civil defense center of Ma'aret Al Nu'man city](#), located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. [A civil defense member](#) was [killed while five others were wounded](#), In addition, the cladding materials and furniture of the center building were moderately [damaged and the center yard](#) was heavily [damaged](#). As a result, the center was [rendered out of commission](#).





Thursday 20 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired missiles near the civil defense center of Ma'aret Al Nu'man city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. The front of a service vehicle (A pickup truck) [was slightly damaged](#).

Sunday 23 October 2016, government forces artillery fired a mortar shell near an ambulance belonging to center 114 that is affiliated to the civil defense center in Al Marj area, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, as the ambulance was evacuating wounded from a previous bombing in the same area. As a result, [the ambulance](#) structure was [moderately damaged in its front](#).

Tuesday 25 October 2016, government forces artillery that is stationed in the vicinity of Jabal Azzam fired shells at that fell in the vicinity of [the civil defense center](#) in Al Smiriya village, located in the southern suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition factions. An ambulance belonging to the center was heavily damaged and rendered out of commission while the center wasn't damaged.

Tuesday 25 October 2016, government forces opened fire at [an ambulance belonging to the civil defense](#) in Madaya town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which slightly damaged the ambulance structure and fractured its frontal windows.





## **B. Russian forces**

### **Vital medical facilities**

#### **Medical facilities**

Saturday morning 1 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles near [the makeshift hospital](#) of Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition. [One of the hospital walls](#) were [partially destroyed](#) while [the patients room](#) were [moderately damaged](#).



Monday noon 3 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the makeshift hospital in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building and equipment were heavily destroyed. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that the hospital was damaged before as a result of the targeting of its vicinity by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Saturday 1 October 2016.

Tuesday afternoon 4 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the health center in Kar Karmeen village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, a large part of the hospital building was destroyed and some of the equipment were moderately damaged. The hospital was rendered out of commission temporarily.





Friday evening 14 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of Al Bayan Surgical hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Some of the administrative rooms were destroyed and a large quantity of medications were ruined.

Tuesday 18 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile that targeted Al Eman hospital, the only hospital in Sarja town, located in Jabal Al Zawiya in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Five medical staffers were wounded. In addition, the hospital building and equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission. It is worth nothing that the hospital provides medical services for about 80,000 people who live in Jaba Al Zawiya.

Tuesday morning 18 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the Charity Aiding Network building in Masaken Hanano neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Three paramedics who work for the Network were wounded. Additionally, the building was moderately damaged.

### **Ambulances**

Saturday morning 1 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the makeshift hospital in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which heavily destroyed the structure of an ambulance belonging to the hospital and rendered it out of commission.

Friday 14 October 2016, approximately 5:30 AM, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted a residential building near an ambulance belonging to Sham Humanitarian Institution in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The ambulance driver was killed. In addition, the ambulance structure was greatly damaged and the ambulance was rendered out of commission.

Friday evening 14 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of Al Bayan surgical hospital in Al Sha'ar neigh-





borhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The glass windows of an ambulance belonging to the hospital were shattered. Tuesday 18 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile that targeted Al Eman hospital, the only hospital in Sarja town, located in Jabal Al Zawiya in the southern suburbs of Idlib and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Two ambulance belonging to the hospital were moderately damaged.

Tuesday morning 18 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the Charity Aid Network building in Masaken Hanano neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Two ambulances belonging to the Network were heavily damaged and rendered out of commission.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendation**

Legal conclusions

- 1- The incidents mentioned in this report are considered, beyond any doubt, violations of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, these incidents are violations of Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.
- 2- We can confirm that most of the incidents included in this report have targeted armless civilians. Therefore, government forces and Russian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled.
- 3- The attacks mentioned in this are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at a populated area rather than a specific military object.
- 4- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.





## Recommendations

### The Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps as it has been more than two years since Resolution 2139 was adopted and no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombardment operations have been made. All the conflict parties must respect these steps and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in committing war crimes have been proven.
- To 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.
- To expand the sanctions to include the Syrian and Iranian regimes and all of their pillars who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.

### The International Community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killings 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 were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Statute must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must 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 utilizing the principle of the universal jurisdiction.





### **Medical organizations around the world**

There is a severe shortage in medical manpower in Syria because of the ceaseless killing of medical personnel. Firstly, Syrian doctors must come back to Syria to compensate for the severe shortage in medical personnel. Also, international organizations can send volunteers to safe areas where wounded are sent for treatment. We have recorded many cases where wounded died due to lack of medical capabilities.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our most sincere thanks go to the victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report.

