The 2020 Annual Activities Report of the Syrian Network for Human Rights
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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), an independent human rights organization, monitors and documents human rights violations in Syria, mobilizing efforts and capabilities towards limiting them, contributing to the protection of victims’ rights, exposing the perpetrators of violations in preparation for holding them accountable, raising awareness amongst Syrians of their civil and political rights, promoting the optimal conditions for human rights, advancing transitional justice, supporting democratic change, achieving justice and peace in Syria, and saving and cataloguing the history of events.

SNHR is a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR-toP), the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the International Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and the Every Casualty Worldwide (ECW) network.

It should also be noted that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has relied, in all of its statistics on the analysis of victims of the conflict in Syria, on the Syrian Network for Human Rights as a primary source. SNHR also works in cooperation with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI) and has signed a data-sharing agreement with the Independent International and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the internal United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that have occurred in northwest Syria, and other UN bodies, as well as with international organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The SNHR is one of the most important data sources for the Syria situation reports issued by the foreign ministries of many countries worldwide and by the European Union, with a large number of Arab and international news agencies relying on the SNHR’s reports and statistics for their coverage and reports on Syria.
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Introduction:

In 2020, more than twenty-five types of violations were documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in Syria, including extrajudicial killings, arrest, torture, displacement and forced displacement, and the use of prohibited munitions and other highly destructive munitions, as well as other violations. All the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria participated in committing these violations, with the SNHR monitoring eight main parties that committed these violations, primarily the Syrian regime, in addition to many other parties whose participation was less.

Also in 2020, the Syrian Network for Human Rights issued approximately 81 reports in which it addressed multiple types of the most notable human rights violations; these reports were based on testimonies of individuals who were injured in attacks and other survivors of attacks, paramedics, central signal workers and victims’ family members. All these testimonies were obtained through speaking directly with witnesses, with none of them cited from any open sources. All these procedures are carried out in strict compliance with SNHR’s internal protocols, which we have worked for years to perfect, and which we strive constantly to develop through our experience in order to keep pace with the highest standards of care and reliability, as well as based on hundreds of photos, videos and other sources of information. Readers can study our working methodology more extensively at this link.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights also organized and participated in some six important events on human rights in Syria, with the participation of international actors and victims.
I. Monitoring and Documenting Violations:

Through the daily and continuous monitoring operations by the SNHR team, each violation incident is tracked as it occurs, after which an attempt is made to access evidence and clues, eyewitnesses, survivors, or anyone connected with one of these groups. If corroborated, the incident is verified in the SNHR’s database, and the processes of monitoring, follow-up, collecting evidence, clues and accounts continues, with these articles of evidence and other supporting data being added to the relevant database archive.

The SNHR team deals with each assignment and each interview objectively regarding the implementation of the mandate and basic international standards, with the SNHR team conducting investigations into violations and/or abuses committed by all parties on an equal basis. The SNHR is also committed to using the accurate legal qualification of incidents of violations and their details in accordance with the relevant international covenants and laws.
i. The Types of Violations Recorded by SNHR in Syria in 2020:

1. Violations Related to the Treatment of Civilians and Hors De Combat Fighters

   a. Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killings
   b. Arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention
   c. Torture in detention centers
   d. Summary trial procedure
   e. Sexual violence
   f. Violations of children’s rights
   g. Violations of women’s rights

2. Violations Concerning the Conduct of Hostilities:

   a. Military operations and unlawful attacks:
      1. Artillery and aerial attacks
      2. Mines
      3. Suicide/forced suicide-bombings
      4. Sniper attacks
      5. Siege and threats of military operations
   b. Specifically protected individuals and objects:
      1. Health sector
      2. Educational sector
      3. Media workers
      4. Attacks on vital civilian facilities
• **Places of Worship:**
  - Mosques
  - Churches and monasteries

• **Vital Cultural Facilities:**
  - Archeological sites (citadels, forts, ancient cemeteries, temples, amphitheaters and theaters etc.)
  - Museums

• **Vital Educational Facilities:**
  - Schools
  - Universities
  - Educational Institutions
  - Nurseries
  - University Campuses
  - Orphanages

• **Vital Medical Facilities:**
  - Medical facilities (Hospitals, dispensaries, medical clinics, and field hospitals etc.)
  - Ambulances

• **Communal Facilities:**
  - Gardens
  - Markets
  - Malls and commercial centers
  - Hotels
  - Care homes for the elderly
  - Playgrounds and stadiums

• **International Humanitarian Insignia:**
  - International Red Cross (facilities and vehicles)
  - Red Crescent (facilities and vehicles)

• **Infrastructure:**
  - Power stations and energy facilities (Power grids, electricity generation and transmission stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, gas wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines etc.)
  - Civil Defense centers (facilities and vehicles)
  - Fire stations (facilities and vehicles)
  - Water facilities and related resources (water pipes, wells, water pumping and treatment stations, irrigation canals, dams, water tanks, sewage treatment plants, sewage systems).
  - Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries etc.)
  - Transport features (bridges, water crossings, highways, railroads, garages, car parks, bus and railway stations, civil airports, border crossings and associated offices, etc.)
  - Bakeries
  - Banks
  - Livestock farms
  - Grain silos
  - Industrial facilities (industrial factories, facilities and zones, etc.)
  - International headquarters and organizations’ offices and other assets.
  - Pharmacies
  - Civil society organizations
  - Media

• **Diplomatic missions**
  (Embassies, consulates, foreign representatives, diplomatic centers and offices)

• **IDP Camps**
  (Regular camps - random camps - shelter centers - IDP villages)
c. Use of prohibited weapons

1. Cluster munitions
2. Barrel bombs
3. Chemical weapons
4. Incendiary weapons
5. Nail missiles

3. Violations of the Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IPDs):
   a. Displacement and Forced Displacement
   b. Confiscating property and legalizing property looting

4. Achieving Progress in the Accountability Process:
   a. Documenting the names of the perpetrators of the crimes and assigning individual responsibility
   b. Monitoring entities and individuals violating European and US sanctions

5. Neglecting the Precautionary Measures Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ii. The Parties Documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights as Committing Violations in Syria in 2020:

A. The main parties:
- Syrian Regime forces
- ISIS
- Turkistan Islamic Party
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces

B. Other parties:
- Russian forces
- Hay’at Tahrir al Sham
- The Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army
- US-led coalition forces
- Landmines of unknown source
- Gunfire of unknown source
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified
- Jordanian forces
- Shelling from unknown source
- Killings by unknown persons
- Turkish border guards
- Lebanese border guards
- Drowning
- Messing around with weapons
II. The 2020 Syrian Network for Human Rights Publications
A. Daily Publications:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) releases publications on its website on a daily basis, including the daily death toll report and news reports on incidents of violations that it can verify. The SNHR published at least 1,287 news reports on its official website during 2020.

One: Daily Death Toll Report:

The SNHR issues a daily report summary that includes the death toll of civilian victims who were killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria the previous day.

Two: News:

The SNHR’s monitoring team tracks each violation incident when it occurs, and tries to access evidence and clues, eyewitnesses, survivors, or anyone connected with one of these groups, and publishes the news of the occurrence of the violation providing only that information, however minimal, which it can verify; these news reports are published on the SNHR’s official website on the Internet.
B. Monthly Reports:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued 36 periodic monthly reports in 2020, three reports per month:

**Monthly Victims Report (12 reports released in 2020):**

This is issued on the first of every month and documents the death toll of civilian victims whose deaths were documented by SNHR as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in the previous month, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst media, medical and Civil Defense personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces, and including an outline of the most notable incidents.
Monthly Arrest Report (12 reports released in 2020):

This is issued on the second of every month and documents the record of arbitrary arrests/detentions at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, as well as summarizing the most notable individual incidents, and categorizing cases and incidents of arrest according to the place where each incident took place.


This is issued in the first week of every month, with this report monitoring the human rights situation in Syria during the previous month.
C. Annual Reports:

One: Keeping up with international events; in 2020, we issued reports related to the following events:

**International Women’s Day:**
We issued a report providing an update on the record of the most notable violations committed by the parties to the conflict against women in Syria, and monitored the general reality of what women have endured during the conflict in the previous year.

**World Press Freedom Day:**
We issued a report providing an update on the record of the most notable violations committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces against citizen journalists in Syria since March 2011, highlighting in depth a number of factors regarding freedom of opinion and expression in Syria.

**International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:**
SNHR’s report issued to commemorate this event provided a record of the most notable types of violations against females in Syria, according to the SNHR database, since March 2011, outlining details and incidents of the most notable types of violations against females during the preceding year (since the previous annual report).

**World Children’s Day:**
Our report noted that violations against children were continuing, emphasizing that they pose a risk threatening generations of Syrians for decades to come, as well as providing detailed information and summarizing some of the incidents of the most notable types of violations against children since the previous annual report.

**International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances:** We issued a report providing a record of those forcibly disappeared by the parties to the conflict since March 2011, and outlining incidents that were documented within the previous year.

**International Day of the Victims of Chemical Warfare:**
We issued a brief report on the most notable developments in the international arena regarding the issue of the Syrian regime’s use of chemical weapons.
We issued a report marking the anniversary of the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011, outlining the record of the most notable types of human rights violations at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since March 2011.

Marking the sixth anniversary of the start of attacks by the US-led coalition forces against ISIS in Syria in 2014: We issued the twentieth periodic report and sixth annual report on the US-led coalition forces’ activities, which also listed the basic requirements following the military defeat of the ISIS terrorist organization.

Marking the anniversary of Russia’s announcement of the start of its military operations in Syria in 2015: This report included analysis of the record of the most notable human rights violations committed by Russian forces since the announcement of Russia’s military intervention in Syria, and outlined the most notable Russian political and logistical support that accompanied this.

C. Brief Reports:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) issued seven brief reports in 2020. These brief reports succinctly shed light on a specific case or incident or recalled previous incidents.
D. Statistical Reports:

The SNHR issued four statistical reports in 2020. These statistical reports deal with one or several types of violations practiced by one or several parties during the conflict, as well as providing an analysis of statistics based on the information documented on the SNHR database.

E. Thematic Reports:

The SNHR issued four thematic reports in 2020. These thematic reports deal with a specific area, or a specific incident, and expand on previous documentation and analysis, assembling the largest possible amount of evidence and data about the subject, with these reports being often used to serve important topics requiring greater investigation, clarification and advocacy.
F. Statements:

The SNHR issued 13 statements in 2020. The SNHR issues statements with the aim of exposing a specific violation urgently, or advocating for a specific case.

G. Joint Statements:

The SNHR participated in 11 joint statements with other organizations and bodies with the aim of advocating on behalf of many causes in 2020.
H. Interactive Map:

This is an interactive way to display information on victims of extrajudicial killings in Syria according to the SNHR database, through which it is possible to view statistics on the victims of extrajudicial killings in each governorate separately, according to the perpetrator parties responsible, with the interactive map displaying these statistics in a cumulative manner, along with the death toll for each year, and being periodically updated.

I. Visual Releases:

Videos: The SNHR released 11 videos in 2020 which shed light on the prominent events and the most important points included in the SNHR’s reports, with the aim of simplifying the information and making it available to the largest possible proportion of Syrian society.
Infographic: The SNHR issued 90 infographics in 2020; these are illustrative diagrams including written information or numbers that summarize the information presented in the report issued by the SNHR, with the aim of concisely summarizing the most prominent points included in the report.
11 Countries have continuously voted against Human Rights Council resolutions condemning the violations against Syrian people since March 2011 up to October 2020

A graph shows the countries that have continuously voted in favor of Human Rights Council resolutions condemning the violations against Syrian people since March 2011 until October 2020.
Portraits of Forcibly Disappeared Persons: The SNHR published a group of portraits of the most prominent individuals forcibly disappeared by all parties, with each portrait including text underneath providing a short record of the date of arrest and a summary of the individual’s activities in the popular uprising for democracy.
Maps: We issued 10 geographical coding maps, including interactive and non-interactive maps, which varied in their purpose according to the incidents of violation that they were associated with; all of them showed locations related to incidents of violation in light of the military control by the parties to the conflict; among the most prominent topics we issued maps on were:

- Routes of displacement taken by civilians as a result of the intensive military operations by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces at the beginning of the year.
- Sites of vital civilian facilities that were attacked.
- Sites that saw cluster munition attacks.
- Maps based on private satellite images showing sites that were damaged by military attacks and providing an analysis of the extent of damage.
Map showing the advance of Syrian regime forces in areas in northwest Syria between December 2019 and March 2020.

Interactive map shows the medical facilities that were targeted by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in northwest Syria between April 26, 2019 and February 8, 2020.
**Visual Guides:** Our documentation processes include analysis of the videos and photos that we received or that were published online, whose authenticity we verified. In many incidents, we issue visual guides that provide an analysis of how an attack took place and a visualization of the attack’s manner and type. In many incidents also, we design graph sections that show the impact locations of the shells, the effects they caused, and other details. In this context, we issued nearly 6 visual guides.

![Visual Guides Example](image)

*Image: SNHR*
Official Social Media Platforms:

The primary focus of our social media platforms, (most of which have been legally verified and are available in English and Arabic) is to reflect and promote the aforementioned SNHR publications on various themes, with the aim of reaching multiple segments of local, regional and international communities, thus expanding the scope of our advocacy efforts and mobilizing support. This includes our commemorative efforts, publishing visual artworks designed by our team members commemorating prominent massacres, as well as portraits of the forcibly disappeared on the anniversaries of their disappearance.

SNHR’s accounts on social media platforms:
III. Advocacy Events:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) regularly participates in international and UN events, as well as organizing side events on the sidelines of international events. The SNHR participated in six advocacy events in 2020, including:
| Event date: | February 24, 2020 |
| Organizers: |  |
| | ![SNHR](image1) ![HRWATCH](image2) |
| Sponsors: | Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Canada, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Finland. |
| Location: | United Nations Headquarters - Geneva |
| Participants: | The foreign ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Liechtenstein and Finland, Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, and a large number of representatives of state delegates at the United Nations, and representatives of international organizations. |
The 40th anniversary of the launch of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) and 10 years since the entry into force of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Location: Online

Participants: The Special Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Mr. Luciano Hazan, and members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the envoys of France and Japan to the United Nations, a number of experts in forensic medicine, and Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, with the session chaired by Mr. Olivier de Frouville, a member of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

Sponsors: Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Canada, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Finland.
<p>| Event date: | September 29, 2020 |
| Event title: | ‘The Need for Justice for Detainees Held by the Assad Regime Amidst COVID-19’ |
| Organizers: | <img src="image1.png" alt="SNHR" /> <img src="image2.png" alt="البعوضة" /> |
| Occasion: | United Nations General Assembly Meetings - 2020 |
| Location: | Online |
| Participants: | Amb. James F. Jeffrey, Special Representative for Syria Engagement and Special Envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, US Department of State, Mr. Robert Rohde, Ambassador for the Negotiations on Syria and Head of Division for Syria, Iraq, Lebanon &amp; Anti ISIS Strategy, German Federal Foreign Office, Mr. Ivan M. Nielsen, Special Representative for the Syria Crisis, Denmark, Rasha Sharbaji, former political detainee, Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Executive Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, and Mr. Mutasem Syoufi, Executive Director of The Day After, with the session moderated by Ms. Emma Beals, Senior Advisor at European Institute of Peace and Editor of Syria in Context. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event date:</th>
<th>October 19, 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizers:</td>
<td>![KIDSRIGHTS Logo]</td>
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<td>Occasion:</td>
<td>SNHR successfully nominates Syrian child Enar al Hamrawi for International Children’s Peace Prize 2020</td>
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The Every Casualty Worldwide network is to host a webinar on Monday, November 30 with Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), during which Mr. Abdul Ghany will talk about SNHR’s methodology of data collection on civilian casualties in Syria, in addition to holding a question and answer session.
Event date: December 8, 2020

Event title: Webinar on documenting human rights violations from different experiences of countries around the world

Organizers: The Global Sites of Conscience meeting 2020, hosted by the Asia and the Pacific Sites of Conscience Network.

Location: online

Occasion: Participants: Sophia Brostean-Kaiser, Memorium Nuremberg Trials (Germany), Mr. José Antequera, Director of Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación (Colombia), and Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights. The session was moderated by Ms. Nana-Jo N’Dow, Executive Director, African Network Against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED) (Gambia).
IV. Aspects of the Impact the Syrian Network for Human Rights Achieved in 2020:
The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has signed about 10 agreements to share data on human rights violations in Syria with many international bodies working in the field of human rights or active in the Syrian case, including:

- Humanitarian Outcomes
- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons’ (OPCW) Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

In 2020, the SNHR continued to provide data and contribute to documenting violations in partnership with many international bodies, including:

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- University of Oxford
- Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)
- The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in times of armed conflict.
- International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM).
An internal United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that have occurred in northwest Syria.

A pivotal partner in a website launched by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI) on chemical weapons in Syria.

C. Affiliation with Specialized Alliances:

- The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has become, starting from 2020.
- An official member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC).

D. SNHR Is a Source in Many Foreign Ministries' Reports and States Situation Reports Around the World:

- The US Department of State’s Report on the Human Rights Situation in Syria 2019
- The Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Report on the General Situation in Syria Issued in May 2020

The Danish Immigration Service of the Ministry of Immigration and Integration’s Report on the Security and Socio-Economic Situation in Damascus Suburbs and Damascus Governorates in Syria Issued in October 2020

The Syria Situation Report Issued by the German Foreign Ministry in December 2020
D. The Periodic Outline:

The SNHR submitted a report to the Human Rights Committee established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the most notable violations committed by the Syrian regime, which contravened a large number of articles of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

E. Trials:

The SNHR participated in the lawsuit filed against Anwar. R. by submitting data based on the SNHR database on victims of torture to the German Public Prosecutor through the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR).

F. Special Rapporteurs:

The SNHR regularly submits special forms to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to the Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
G. Cooperation with the Media:

The SNHR cooperates with a wide range of media outlets with the aim of advocating for victims and raising awareness of the human rights situation in Syria. In 2020, SNHR data and reports were quoted in at least 85 Arab and foreign media outlets, the most notable of which are:

The most notable western media:
The most notable Arab media: