

# No less than 156 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in February 2018

Including 89 Attacks on Vital  
Civilian Facilities in Eastern  
Ghouta by Syrian Regime Forces

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, March 10, 2018

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

Article 52 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 defines Civilian Objects as: **“....all objects which are not military objectives” with Military Objects being: “military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.”**

Civilian objects include medical facilities, educational facilities, infrastructures, places of worship, and other facilities that are used for civilian purposes.

Since March 2011, Syrian regime forces, and then Syrian-Russian alliance forces, have trumped all parties in targeting vital civilian facilities – especially in the areas under the control of armed opposition, and to a lesser degree in ISIS-held areas. We have recorded repeated attacks on thousands of vital facilities, which proves that these facilities were de-



liberately destroyed and corrupted. We have also recorded hundreds of massacres that resulted from attacks on such objects.

Certainly, other parties committed similar violations, but to varying degrees, and never to the extent of the crimes by the Syrian-Russian-Iranian forces.

The attacks we have recorded include deliberate bombardments that targeted civilian objects, lootings, and attacks that involve disabling these objects and undermining their purpose in serving civilians despite the lack of any pressing military necessity or these objects being used for combat purposes by a party which would have justified targeting them by the other parties to the conflict.

In light of the prolonged duration of the conflict and these facilities being continually targeted, as well as the ongoing demographic changes, a need rose for alternating the functions of some facilities (for example, many schools have been turned into IDPs shelters). We have also noticed that some facilities moved between multiple buildings and areas more than once in order to evade bombardment, while others were moved to secure sites such as caves.

SNHR has dedicated a periodic monthly report to monitor attacks on vital civilian facilities. In addition, SNHR has released extensive reports and researches on vital facilities that have been destroyed by the parties to the conflict.

## **Methodology**

The report monitors the attacks on vital civilian facilities that we were able to document in January, except for attacks on medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and international humanitarian insignia which were documented in a separate report.

This report draws upon, firstly, the daily, ongoing documentation and monitoring efforts by SNHR team, and, secondly, on accounts from survivors, eyewitnesses, and local media workers that we've talked to via phone or social media. We have also analyzed a large number of the videos and pictures that were posted online or we received from local activists via e-mail, Skype, and social media. Videos posted by local activists have shown wide destruction in vital civilian facilities. We have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report in a secret online database, as well as backup copies on hard drives. For more information, please see the methodology adopted by SNHR for [classifying vital civilian facilities](#).



This report contains a number of attacks that were perpetrated by an air force. However, we weren't able to accurately determine the party responsible for those attacks – the Syrian regime or Russian forces. Therefore, we assigned responsibility, in these attacks, to the Syrian regime/Russian forces.

This report documents also a number of attacks that were the result of bombings. However, we weren't able to identify the groups behind them in light of the difficulties in identifying the responsible party in such bombings.

In addition, this report contains a number of attacks in which artillery and mortar shells were used. However, we weren't able to accurately determine who fired them, as we couldn't visit the site or obtain evidences to help properly identify the source of these shells.

This report contains one account that we've collected through speaking directly to the eyewitness, and not are cited from any open sources. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided without offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR tried to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violation as much as possible and gave insurances to conceal the identify of any witness who preferred to use an alias.

Most of the attacks we have documented targeted civilian areas, as our investigations have proven, where no military bases or armories were found during or before the attacks. The attacking forces didn't take into consideration the principle of proportionality. We also didn't record that the attacking forces put out warnings for civilians prior to the attack as the international humanitarian law requires.

The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report. We add these evidences and clues to our data archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, they don't necessarily qualify as crimes.



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

## II. Summary of February

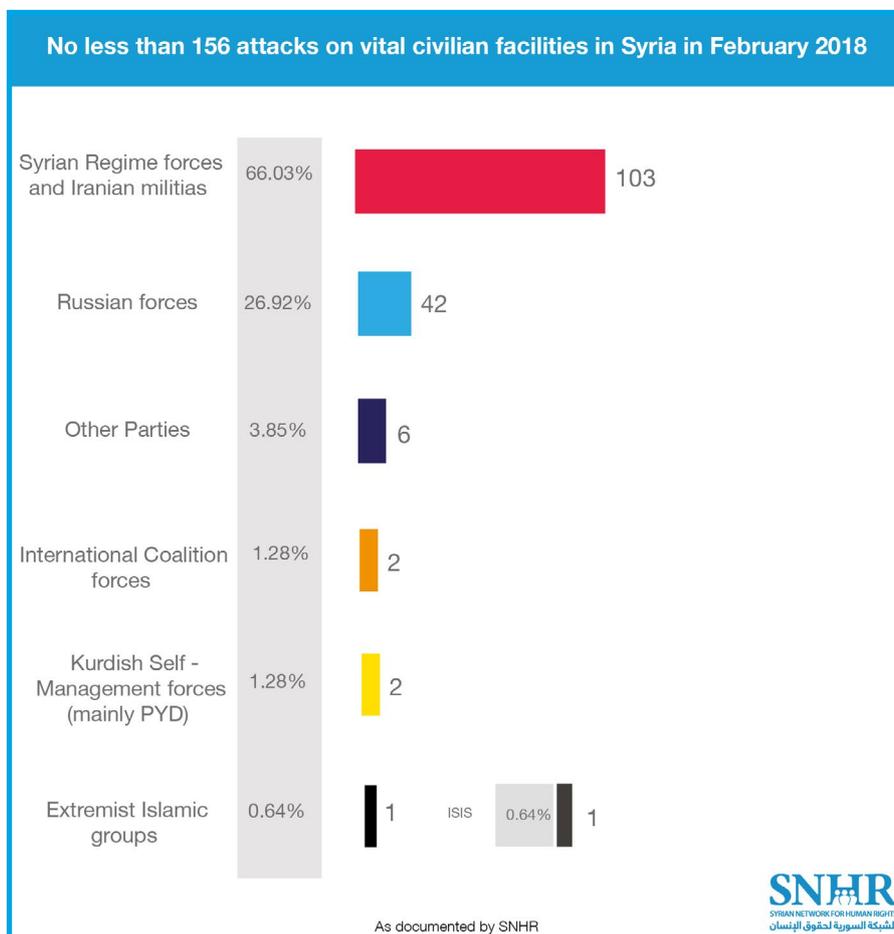
Syrian regime forces topped all parties in February, carrying out 69% of all attacks on vital civilian facilities this month. 84% of Syrian regime forces 'attacks were in Eastern Ghouta, Damascus suburbs in light of their escalation offensive on the area, where we have documented that attacks by the Syrian regime in Eastern Ghouta have increased to three times as many attacks by the same forces in January.

Russian forces were responsible for 27% of all attacks, as they were only surpassed by Syrian regime forces. 98% of all Russian attacks were in Idlib governorate.

In addition, vital medical facilities conceded the most attacks with 27% of all attacks, while places of worship came second with 22%

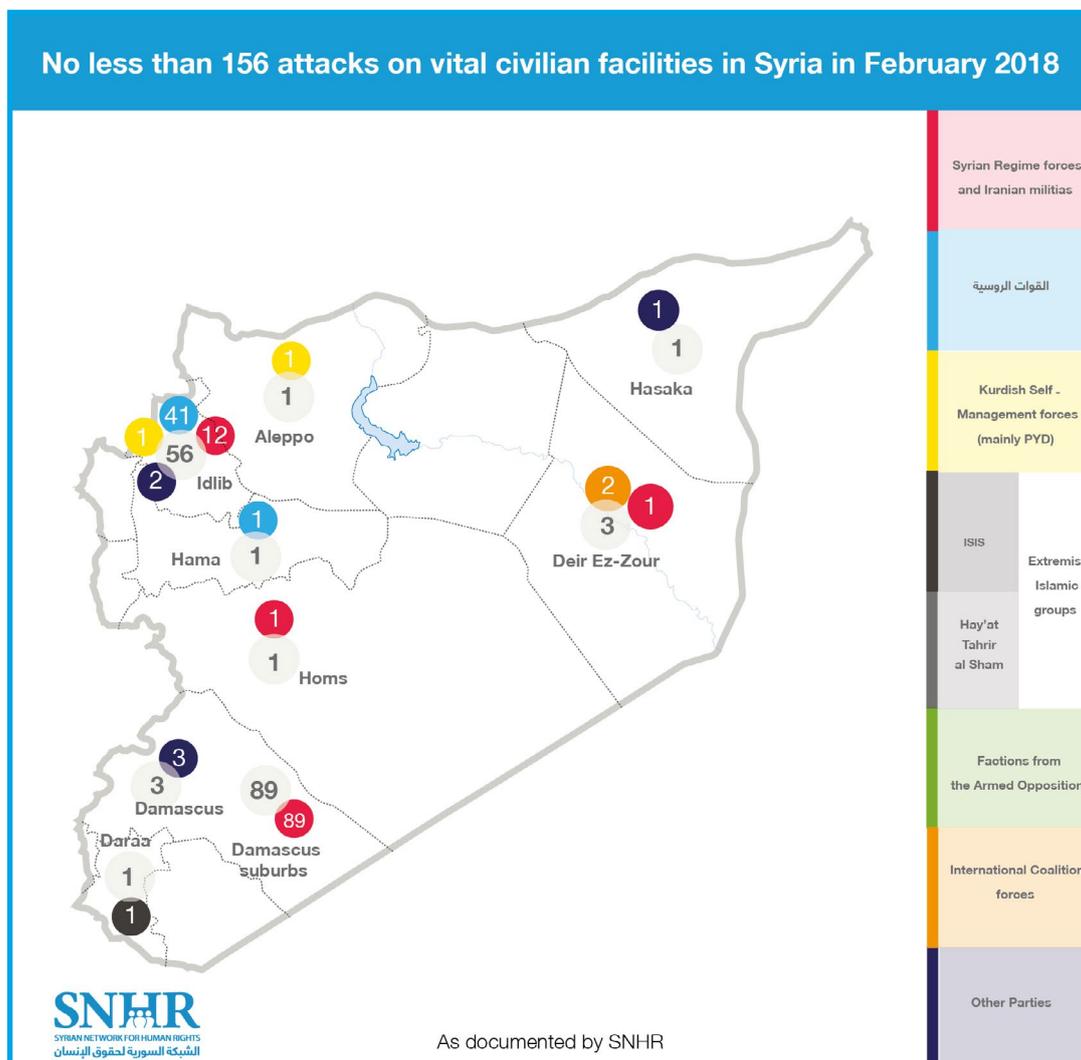
## III. Executive Summary

Through daily documentation and monitoring, we, at SNHR, have recorded no less than 156 attacks on vital civilian facilities in February 2018, distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:



- A. Syrian regime forces: 103
- B. Russian forces: 42
- C. Extremist Islamic groups:
  - ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): 1
- D. International coalition forces: 2
- E. Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party): 2
- F. Other parties: 6

Attacks on vital civilian facilities in February were distributed across governorates by the perpetrator party as follows:



Most notable facilities that were attacked in February 2018: 42 vital medical facilities, 33 places of worship, 29 infrastructures, 27 vital educational facilities, 22 communal facilities, two international humanitarian insignia, and one refugee camp.

Distribution of Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities by the Perpetrator Party in February 2018

Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	Extremist Islamic Groups	International Coalition Forces	Kurdish Self-Management Forces	Other Parties
Targeted Facility			ISIS			
<b>Places of Worship</b>						
Mosques	27	3	1			
Churches and Monasteries	1					1
<b>Vital Educational Facilities</b>						
Schools	11	12				1
Kindergartens	1					
Universities	1					
Institutes	1					
<b>Vital Medical Facilities</b>						
Medical Facilities	21	11		1		
Ambulances	1	7				1
<b>Communal Facilities</b>						
Markets	20				1	1
<b>International Humanitarian Insignia</b>						
Red Crescent	2					
<b>Infrastructures</b>						
Civil Defense Facilities	9	5				
Water Systems		1				
Official Headquarters	6	2				2
Bakeries	2			1		
Domestic Animal Farms		1				
<b>Refugee Camps</b>						
Refugee Camps					1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>



## IV. Details of Most Notable Incidents in February

This report outlines the most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities. We have the details of the complete incidents stored in SNHR's database.

### **A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)**

#### **Places of worship**

##### - Mosques

Friday, February 2, 2018, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs that landed near the [Grand Mosque](#) in al Ghadfa village, which is administratively a part of Ma'aret al Nu'man city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The mosque building and its furniture were moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

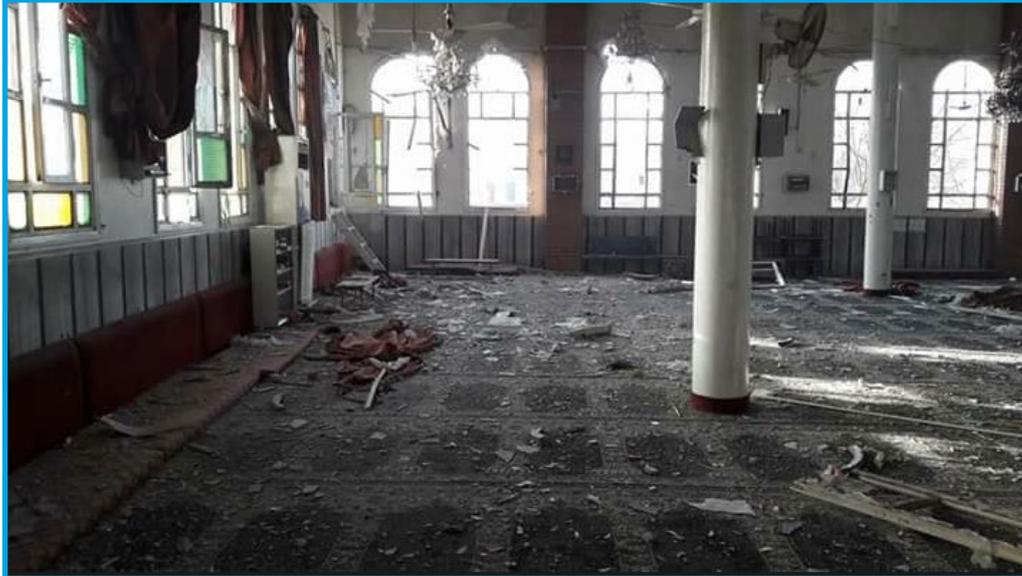
Sunday, February 4, 2018, around 21:30, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [one missile](#) near Misraba [Grand Mosque](#) in [Misraba](#) town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [moderately damaged](#), as the mosque was [rendered out of commission](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Monday, February 5, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of [missiles](#) near [al Na'san Mosque](#) in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building and its furniture were moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a [number of missiles](#) at [Zamalka Grand Mosque](#) in Zamalka town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building and its furniture were [heavily damaged](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [Ahmad ben Hanbal Mosque](#) in the middle of Jisreen town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building was partially destroyed and its furniture was heavily damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Damages in the aftermath of an attack by Syrian regime warplanes on Ahmad ben Hanbal Mosque in the middle of Jisreen town, Damascus suburbs – February 8, 2018

Thursday, February 15, 2018, Iraqi Shiite pro-regime militias burned [Omar ben al Khattab Mosque](#) in al Swiy'iya village, which is administratively a part of al Boukamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The mosque building and its furniture were heavily damaged, as the mosque was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, February 20, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime/Russian forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated to accurately identify the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at [al Tawba Mosque](#) in Zamalka town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in [the killing of a number of worshippers](#) as they were leaving [the mosque](#). In addition, the mosque building was [moderately damaged](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018, a Syrian regime forces rocket launcher shelled Um Habiba Mosque, also known as Abu al Rahaj Mosque, in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building and its furniture was heavily damaged, as the mosque was temporarily rendered out of commission. It should be noted that the mosque was damaged before in a shelling by the same warplanes using Pheel rockets on Saturday, February 17, 2018. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



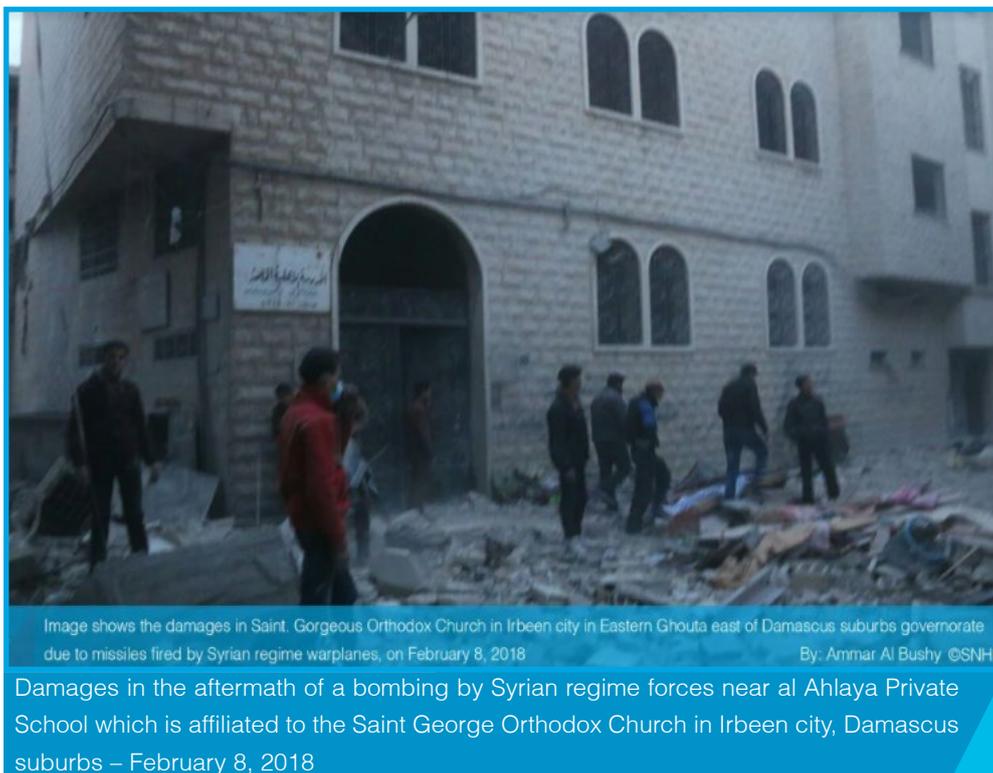
### - Churches and monasteries

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near the [Saint George Orthodox Church](#) in Irbeen city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The church building was partially destroyed and its furniture was heavily damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

### **Vital educational facilities**

#### - Schools

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near al Ahlaya Private School which is affiliated to the Saint George Orthodox Church in Irbeen city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The school building was moderately damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Friday, February 9, 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired four missiles near Kamal Qal'aji School Complex, which houses four schools (Kamal Qal'aji Elementary School, Hass Intermediate School for Boys, Hass Intermediate School for Girls, and Hass High School) in al Sharqi neighborhood in Hass village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The schools buildings were damaged to varying degrees. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Friday, February 16, 2018, around 14:50, Syrian regime forces artillery fired an explosive cylinder near [Teir Ma'la High School](#) in the middle of Teir Ma'la village, northern suburbs of Homs governorate. The school fence was partially destroyed and its furniture was slightly damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

#### - Universities

Friday, February 9, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a building that contains the economics college and the [electronical institute](#) which are [affiliated](#) to Aleppo "Free" University in Irbeen city. The building was heavily destroyed and its furniture was heavily damaged, as the building was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that Aleppo "Free" University occupies Abdul al Mun'em Ryad High School building in Irbeen city as a base for its economics college and electronical institute. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

#### - Institutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [a number of missiles](#) at [Women Now Center for Development](#), which [offers vocational](#) and educational courses for women, in Kafr Batna town. The center building was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

The Women Now Organization released [a statement](#) on the same day about the incident



Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on the Women Now Center for Development in Kafr Batna town, Damascus suburbs – February 6, 2018



## - Kindergartens

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, around 11:30, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [a number of missiles](#) at the [Teachers' Union Kindergarten](#) for Kids in the middle of Kafr Batna town. [The kindergarten](#) building was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [moderately damaged](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Anas Abu Ayman<sup>1</sup>, a media worker in Kafr Batna, told us that around 10:00, morning of February 6, one of the neighborhoods in southwestern Kafr Batna town was targeted by an airstrike carried out by Syrian regime warplanes. The airstrike resulted in a massacre, and was followed by another one about an hour later, where two missiles landed in the middle of the town: **“I headed with the paramedics and civil defense members to the site (the public street) and saw the huge destruction to the Teachers' Union Kindergarten which was directly hit by the missile, while the second missile landed on a house and two wounded persons were evacuated from the rubble,”** Anas said that the offensive that started three months ago have brought the educational process to a complete halt in Eastern Ghouta: **“This airstrike killed two individuals while about 70 were wounded. Also, the Women Now Center was heavily damaged in the same airstrike.”**



Image shows destruction in Teachers Union Kindergarten in Kafr Batna town in Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus suburbs due to Syrian regime warplanes missiles shelling, on February 6, 2018 by: Mouath Kharbotli ©SNHR

Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on the Teachers' Union Kindergarten for Kids in the middle of Kafr Batna town, Damascus suburbs – February 6, 2018

<sup>1</sup> We contacted him via WhatsApp on February 13, 2018



## Communal facilities

### - Markets

Thursday, February 1, 2018, around 11:00, Syrian regime forces artillery fired [a number of shells](#) at a [local market](#) in the middle of [Douma](#) city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. [A number of shops](#) and market facilities were [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Monday, February 5, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [a local market](#) in Hazza town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. [A number of shops](#) were [heavily damaged](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 8, 2018, around 13:00, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a missile at [a local market](#) in the middle of Jisreen town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. A number of shops were [heavily destroyed](#), while a number of market facilities were heavily damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Saturday noon, February 17, 2018, Syrian regime forces fired a number of Pheel rockets at the clothes market in Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, a number of shops were partially destroyed and market facilities were heavily damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Tuesday, February 27, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a local market in the middle of Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of market facilities were moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damages in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on a local market in the middle of Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib – February 27, 2018

## Infrastructures

### - Official headquarters

Friday, February 9, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired four missiles near the local council in the middle of [Hass](#) village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The building and its furniture were moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, February 21, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian regime/Russian forces warplanes (the incident is still being investigated to identify the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at the local council building in Hazza town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The building was heavily damaged and rendered out of commission. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



### - Bakeries

Wednesday, February 21, 2018, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near a bakery in Hazza town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate. The bakery building and its equipment were heavily damaged, as the bakery was rendered out of commission. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **B. Russian forces**

### **Places of worship**

#### - Mosques

Saturday, February 17, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a missile](#) near [Abu Bakr al Siddeeq Mosque](#) in Hazzano village, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The mosque building](#) and its furniture were [moderately damaged](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **Vital educational facilities**

#### - Schools

Monday, February 5, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at [Tareq ben Ziad School](#), located next to [Hussein al Ali School](#), in southern [Heesh](#) village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The school building was [partially destroyed](#) and fire broke out in a number of classrooms, while the furniture of the school was heavily damaged. As a result, the school was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Fires and destruction in the aftermath of a Russian air attack on Tareq ben Ziad School in southern Heesh village, Idlib – February 5, 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile near [Meshmshan High School](#) for Bous, which is located near the first care health center, in Meshmshan village, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The school building and its fence were partially destroyed and the furniture was moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party at the time of the incident.

## **Infrastructures**

### - Official headquarters

Thursday, February 1, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the [local council building](#) of [Saraqeb](#) city and its suburbs in Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The building was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#), as it was rendered [out of commission](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **C. Extremist Islamic groups**

### **- ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State)**

#### **Places of worship**

##### - Mosques

Thursday, February 8, 2018, ISIS artillery fired four shells at [Amer ben al Jarrah Mosque](#) in Heet village, northwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The mosque building was partially destroyed and its furniture and [cladding materials](#) were moderately damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Destruction in the aftermath of a shelling by ISIS on Amer ben al Jarrah Mosque in Heet village, Daraa – February 8, 2018

## **D. Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)**

### **Refugee camps**

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party) stationing in Ifreen area, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, fired [three artillery shells](#) at [al Bayan IDPs Camp](#) which is located in [Atama camp area](#) on the Syrian-Turkish borders, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The shelling resulted [in casualties](#). Additionally, a number of tents were [heavily damaged](#). The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damages in the aftermath of a shelling by Kurdish Self-Management forces on al Bayan Camp which is one of the camps in Atama camp area on the Syrian-Turkish borders, Idlib – February 6, 2018



## **E. International coalition forces**

### **Infrastructures**

#### - Bakeries

Monday, February 19, 2018, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Khdaireen Bakery for Bread in Hain city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bakery building was heavily damaged, as the bakery was rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **F. Other parties**

### **Places of worship**

#### Churches and monasteries

Monday, February 5, 2018, a number of mortar shells landed on [al Mariyamiya Church](#) in Bab Terma neighborhood, eastern Damascus city. The church building and its cladding materials were moderately damaged. We have yet, as of this writing, to identify the party who carried out the shelling. The neighborhood was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

### **Communal facilities**

#### - Markets

Saturday, February 10, 2018, an IED, planted underneath al Sa'a building within [the market](#) of al Sa'a Square (The Watch Square) in the middle of Idlib city. exploded, which resulted in a massacre. Additionally, [a number of shops](#) and market facilities were [heavily damaged](#). We have yet, as of this writing, to identify the group behind the bombing due to the difficulty in identifying the [parties responsible](#) in such bombings. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **Infrastructures**

#### - Official headquarters

Monday, February 12, 2018, an IED exploded in front of a police station affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir al Sham in Ma'aret Misreen city, northern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of police officers were killed while 15 others were wounded. Additionally, the police station was moderately damaged. We have yet, as of this writing, to identify the group behind the bombing due to the difficulty in identifying the parties responsible in such bombings. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



## V. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Syrian regime and Russian forces

- Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased.
- We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted civilian objects. Therefore, Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces have violated Articles 52,53,54,55, and 56 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.
- The attacks mentioned in this report that were carried out by the Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces, are considered a violation of the rules of the customary international humanitarian law (rules 7 through 10).
- Aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks, as well as the repeated targeting, must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

### The Coalition (international coalition and SDF)

The attacks by Coalition forces have caused significant damages to civilian facilities. In most cases, these attacks have also resulted in losses that involved casualties or injuries. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

### Other forces

ISIS and other parties have carried out attacks that targeted civilian objects, which also resulted, in some cases, in loss of lives. These violations might qualify as war crimes. However, these violations don't qualify as crimes against humanity, as with the Syrian regime and pro-regime forces who carry out unlawful attacks in a systematic and widespread manner.

## Recommendations

### Security Council

- The Security Council has to take additional steps after resolution 2139 and 2254 have been adopted, and no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombing have been made. All parties to the conflict should respect these steps, and adhere to the rules of the international humanitarian law.



- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who were directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.
- List the militias who are fighting on the side of the Syrian government and had committed wide massacres - such as Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite groups, the National Defense Army, and Shabiha, on the international list of terrorist groups.
- Abstain from considering the Syrian government an official side after it perpetrated crimes against humanity with regard to the relief aspect, and stop giving it the largest portion of financial and other aids as they are being delivered to the people who support the Syrian government instead of people who are truly in-need.

### **International community**

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, action 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 raise the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should 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 drought out 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.



## **OHCHR**

The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents included in this report and the incidents that preceded, given that they are a glaring mark in a string of daily sporadic violations of a smaller scope. Also, the OHCHR should work on implementing the recommendations in this report.

## **Commission of Inquiry (COI)**

Launch investigations on the cases included in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

## **International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)**

Address the cases mentioned in this report and past reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

## **European Union and United States of America**

Support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 71/248, adopted on December 21, 2016. And establish local tribunals that enjoy a universal jurisdiction, and address the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

## **The Russian regime**

- Launch investigations regarding the incidents that resulted in civilian casualties, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all affected facilities and centers, and reconstruct and rehabilitate them. Also, compensate all the victims' families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as the all the wounded.
- Immediately cease bombing hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect the customary international law.

## **The Coalition (international coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states of the coalition have to unequivocally and truly acknowledge that some of the bombardment operations have targeted civilian objects, while some attacks resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Instead of denying, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and those who were affected.



- The SDF-supporting states should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns that are under their control.
- All forms of support, weapons and otherwise, should be ceased until SDF commit to the previous recommendations. This is primarily the supporting states' responsibility. Providing SDF with weapons and support while knowing that they can be used in war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.

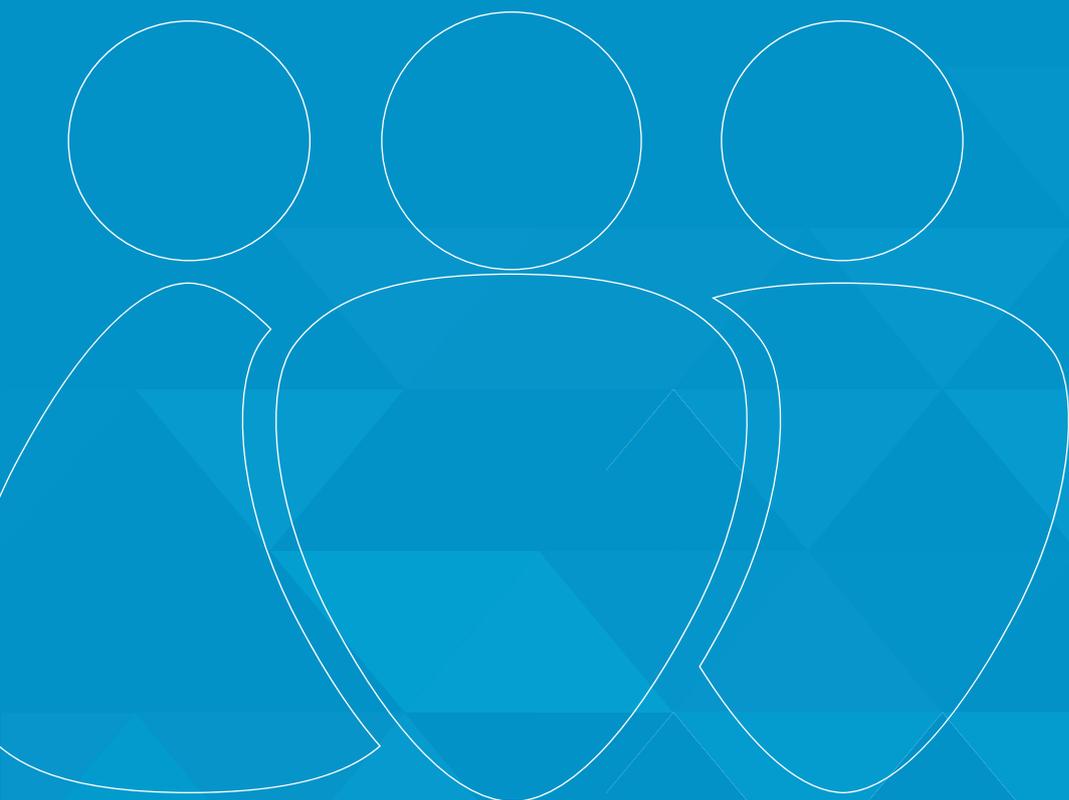
### **Armed opposition factions**

Ensure the protection of civilians and civilian objects in all of their areas of control. Also, armed opposition factions should launch investigations on the incidents included in this report.

### **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

We would like to thank and extend our most heartfelt condolences to all the residents and local activists who contributed effectively to this report.





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