

# Idlib Governorate and its Environs Have Been Under Indiscriminate Bombardment for 11 Weeks and the Security Council Doesn't Act

606 Civilians, including 157 Children, Were Killed at the Hands of Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

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## I. Introduction and Methodology

Russia has applied the same techniques since the Syrian regime took control of the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo in December 2016, using on many occasions heavy and indiscriminate aerial bombardment, and on some occasions deliberate bombardment, on civilian neighborhoods, as well as continuing its blatant violations of the laws of war, encouraged by international silence or only the most feeble condemnation, with these strategies resulting after many days or months in gaining land and displacing civilians, due to the fact that there are no legal or moral rules for the Russian or Syrian Regime forces, which deliberately target hospitals and schools in a manner not seen in modern times since World War II. In addition to violating international humanitarian law and committing dozens of war crimes, Russian forces, representing the world's second most powerful military, using modern warplanes, missiles and cluster munitions, along with its ally, the Syrian regime, and Iranian Shiite militant militias, have enabled the Syrian regime to control the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo, then the Eastern Ghouta and the Syrian south. However, the recent attack on Idlib governorate, the northern suburbs of Hama and the southwestern suburbs of Aleppo is characterized, compared to other areas, by the existence of a large population density of about three million Syrians, since most of the people in formerly liberated areas which are now controlled by the Syrian regime fled there. Also, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham's seizing control of areas of Idlib governorate has undoubtedly increased the suffering of civilians since



most of the civil society organizations there have ceased their provision of assistance, while Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has inflicted extremist and authoritarian practices against the people. Syrian society has suffered doubly from terrorism, enduring the state terrorism of the Syrian regime for decades on the one hand, and the terrorism by extremist organizations in recent years on the other.

During this military campaign by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the fourth de-escalation zone that began on April 26, 2019, we monitored the Syrian regime as it again used barrel bombs for the first time since the Sochi agreement entered into force on September 17, 2018. We also documented a new use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime in [al Kbaina village in the suburbs of Latakia](#), in addition to the extensive use of cluster and incendiary munitions, which caused property damage and the burning of thousands of hectares of agricultural land. We issued [a number of reports](#) documenting these violations, warning of the danger of their continuation, and calling on the international community to intervene urgently to protect civilians.

On June 12, the Russian Defense Ministry [announced](#) in a briefing from the Russian Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria that a ceasefire agreement had been established through the mediation of Russia and Turkey at 00:00 on June 12. Hours later, Russia accused factions of the Armed Opposition of violating the agreement and carrying out an artillery attack on a Turkish observation post in the Jabal al Zaweya area on the night of June 12-13.

The Syrian-Russian alliance forces did not abide by the cease-fire agreement but continued to carry out their attacks and expand the areas they targeted by air raids; while these attacks extended to the outskirts of Idlib city, Ma'aret Misreen town and Saraqeb city in the northern suburbs of Idlib, and areas in the western suburbs of Aleppo, most were concentrated in the areas of northern suburbs of Hama and the southern suburbs of Idlib.

The large number of violations committed by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces without facing any moral or legal deterrent has caused the displacement of tens of thousands of residents. According to [statistics](#) published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), some 330,000 people were displaced between May 1 and June 13. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) estimates that at least 85,000 of those displaced live in primitive tents in the open, spread over agricultural lands and lacking the minimum basic elements of life.



On June 13, the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu stated at a joint news conference held with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian at the Turkish Foreign Ministry headquarters in Ankara: “It is not possible to say there is a complete cease-fire in Syria’s Idlib at the moment.” [On June 27](#), the tenth Turkish observation post in the fourth de-escalation zone was attacked by a Russian air strike, and Syrian Regime forces resumed its attack on the same post two days later [on June 29](#), according to the Turkish Ministry of National Defense.

On June 18, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [told journalists](#) following the launch of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, stressed the need for full compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law, even while fighting terrorism. He appealed to both Russia and Turkey as signatories to the 2018 Idlib Memorandum of Understanding, calling on them to promote stability without delay.

On June 18, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo [stressed](#) the need for collective political will to find a solution in the fourth de-escalation zone, especially as the violence had not stopped despite repeated calls for calm.

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Lowcock, [stated](#) at the Security Council meeting held on June 25 on the Council’s previous resolutions on humanitarian access in Syria and the extent of its implementation, referred to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria, especially in the north, and appealed to the international community to move to end fighting and protect civilians.

On June 27, the European Union, [in a statement](#) issued by European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, expressed deep concern over the attacks of the Syrian-Russian alliance forces on the fourth de-escalation zone and condemned the targeting of civilians, hospitals and schools.

[The United Nations expressed](#) on Tuesday, July 2nd, its deep concern about the humanitarian impact of hostilities in and around the de-escalation zone in the north-west part of Syria, in the daily brief by the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric for reporters in New York.

On July 5, Mark Cutts, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, denounced in [a statement](#) the ongoing attacks on the fourth de-escalation zone and the attacks on medical facilities in Syria’s most congested areas, displacing more than half of its residents at one time or another.



## Methodology:

This report highlights events in the fourth and final de-escalation zone (consisting of Idlib governorate and parts of the governorates of Hama, Aleppo and Latakia) and outlines the record of the most notable human rights violations following the military escalation by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the region from April 26, 2019, to July 12, 2019. The report also outlines the record of violations committed following the announcement by the Russian Government of an alleged cease-fire on June 12.

We relied on our field researchers, who gathered direct accounts from survivors, relatives of victims, relief workers and media activists, relying on the extensive network of relations we have built up through our eight years of work.

SNHR works to document violations on a daily basis, with murder being considered the gravest and most prevalent crime and therefore a key indicator for assessing the impact of agreements, as well as the targeting of vital civilian facilities. This report documents the civilian victims only, and catalogues them according to where they were killed rather than the governorate from which they came. The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link <sup>1</sup>.

SNHR has analyzed videos and photographs, which were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. These videos and photos show, amongst other things, the sites of attacks, bodies of the victims and the injured, and the scale of destruction caused in the attacks.

We also retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in this report, in a confidential electronic database and in hard disk backup copies, and we ensure always that all these data are stored with their original source. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by the Syrian Regime forces and some other armed groups.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

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<sup>1</sup> "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <[http://sn4hr.org/public\\_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR\\_Methodology\\_en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf)>



## II. Record of the Most Notable Violations by the Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces in the Fourth De-Escalation Zone According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights' Database

### Since the beginning of the recent military campaign on April 26 to July 12:

#### A. Extrajudicial Killing:

SNHR documented the deaths of at least 606 civilians, including 157 children and 111 women (adult female), as well as 27 massacres in the fourth de-escalation zone from April 26, 2019, to July 12, 2019, distributed as follows:

**- Syrian Regime forces:** 521 civilians, including 136 children and 97 women, and committed 23 massacres, distributed as follows:

Idlib governorate: 404 civilians, including 119 children, 76 women and 22 massacres.

Aleppo governorate: 37 civilians, including seven children, six women and one massacre.

Hama governorate: 80 civilians, including 10 children and 15 women.

**- Russian forces:** 85 civilians, including 21 children and 14 women, as well as committing four massacres, distributed as follows:

Idlib governorate: 55 civilians, including 15 children, seven women and one massacre.

Hama governorate: 30 civilians, including six children, seven women and three massacres.

We also documented the deaths of at least eight medical personnel, including one woman (adult female), all of whom were killed at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, in addition to four Civil Defense personnel, all killed at the hands of Russian forces.

#### B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented at least 294 attacks on vital civilian facilities in the fourth de-escalation zone from April 26, 2019, to July 12, 2019, including 87 on schools, 62 on places of worship, 43 on medical facilities, 30 on Civil Defense facilities (centers and vehicles), 10 on markets, and four on IDPs camps. These incidents were distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

**- Syrian Regime forces:** 211 attacks, including 68 on schools, 57 on places of worship, 28 on medical facilities, 15 on Civil Defense facilities (centers and vehicles), 10 on markets, and three on IDPs camps

**- Russian forces:** 73 attacks, including 19 on schools, five on places of worship, 15 on medical facilities, 15 on Civil Defense facilities (centers and vehicles), and one on an IDPs camp.



The attacks caused damage to:

- 81 schools
- 53 places of worship
- 37 medical facilities
- 30 Civil Defense vital facilities (centers and vehicles)
- Eight markets
- Four camps

We recorded repeated attacks on some facilities on more than one occasion, and by both Syrian Regime forces and Russian forces on some facilities.

### C. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:

SNHR documented at least 17 cluster munitions attacks, 16 of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, all in Idlib governorate. These attacks resulted in the deaths of nine civilians, including three women, and injured at least 16 others, in addition to one attack at the hands of Russian forces in Hama governorate.

We also recorded at least 16 incendiary weapons attacks, all of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, distributed across governorates as follows:

Idlib governorate: Nine

Hama governorate: Seven

SNHR documented one chemical attack carried out by Syrian Regime forces in Latakia governorate on May 19, 2019.

The Syrian Regime's air force, using both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, also dropped at least 1,710 barrel bombs on the fourth de-escalation zone during the period covered by the report, distributed across governorates as follows:

Idlib governorate: 880

Hama governorate: 709

Latakia governorate: 121

### **Since the announcement of a ceasefire on June 12 to July 12:**

#### A. Extrajudicial Killing:

SNHR documented the deaths of at least 217 civilians, including 57 children and 32 women (adult female), as well as nine massacres in the fourth de-escalation zone from June 12, 2019, to July 12, 2019, distributed as follows:

**- Syrian Regime forces:** 194 civilians, including 54 children and 31 women, and committed nine massacres all in Idlib governorate, distributed as follows:

Idlib governorate: 161 civilians, including 53 children and 27 women.



Aleppo governorate: 15 civilians, including one child and two women.

Hama governorate: 18 civilians, including two women.

**- Russian forces:** 23 civilians, including three children and one woman, distributed as follows:

Idlib governorate: 18 civilians, including two children.

Hama governorate: Five civilians, including one child and one woman.

We also documented the deaths of at least four medical personnel, including one woman, all of whom were killed at the hands of Syrian Regime forces, in addition to three Civil Defense personnel, all killed at the hands of Russian forces.

#### B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

SNHR documented at least 66 attacks on vital civilian facilities in the fourth de-escalation zone at the hands of Syrian-Russian alliance forces from June 12, 2019, to July 12, 2019, including 16 on schools, 13 on places of worship, nine on medical facilities, seven on Civil Defense facilities (centers and vehicles), and one on an IDPs camp. These incidents were distributed by the main perpetrator parties as follows:

**- Syrian Regime forces:** 52 attacks, including 15 on schools, 13 on places of worship, and seven on medical facilities.

**- Russian forces:** 14 attacks, including one on a school, two on medical facilities, seven on Civil Defense facilities (centers and vehicles), and one on an IDPs camp.

The attacks caused damage to:

- 16 schools
- 12 places of worship
- Nine medical facilities
- Seven Civil Defense vital facilities (centers and vehicles)
- One camp

#### C. Record of indiscriminate attacks and attacks using outlawed weapons:

SNHR documented at least eight cluster munitions attacks, in addition to one incendiary weapons attack, all of which were carried out at the hands of Syrian Regime forces in Idlib governorate.

We recorded that the Syrian Regime air force, using both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, dropped at least 285 barrel bombs during the period covered by the report, distributed across governorates as follows:

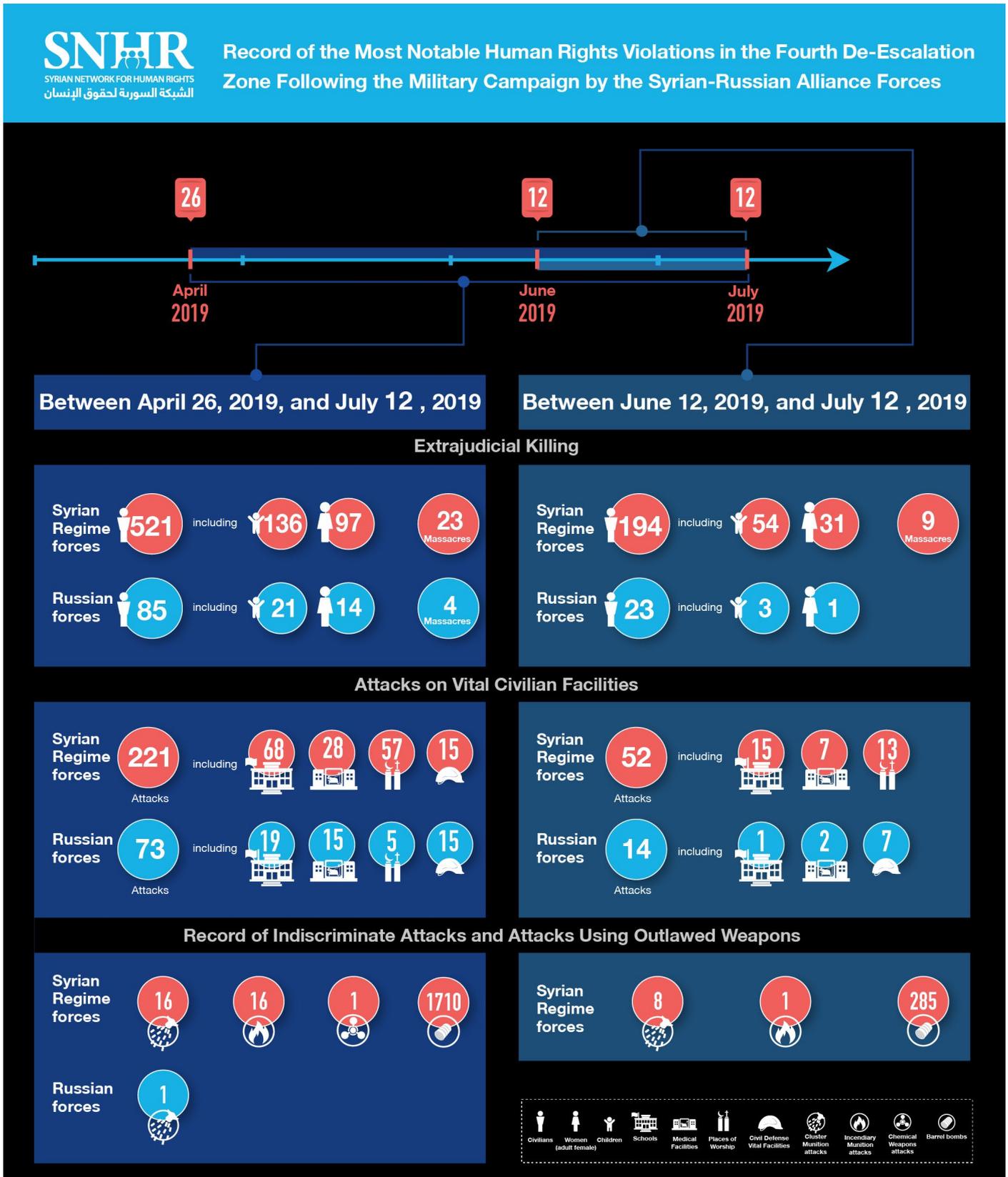
Idlib governorate: 175

Hama governorate: 96

Latakia governorate: 14



Infographic showing the record of the most notable human rights violations at the hands of Syrian-Russian alliance forces in the fourth de-escalation zone following their recent military campaign:



### III. The Most Notable Violations by the Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces in the Fourth De-Escalation Zone

On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at around 01:30, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to shell the '33103' Civil Defense Center located near the Surgical Unit in Kafr Nbouda town in Hama governorate northern suburbs. [The shelling partially destroyed the Civil Defense Center building](#), and inflicted moderate material damage to its equipment and furniture, putting it out of service. We note that the same forces repeated their shelling on this site during an attempt by the Civil Defense teams to reach it, causing moderate material damage to two vehicles belonging to the Civil Defense ([a service car](#) and an [ambulance](#)). Kafr Nbouda town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) published a news report on the targeting of the '33103' Center located in Kafr Nbouda town on its official 'Twitter' account.



Damage to the '33103' Civil Defense Center in Kafr Nbouda town, Hama, in a Syrian ground attack by Syrian Regime forces – May 1, 2019

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian Regime warplanes carried out an airstrike using machine guns on Abu al Walid IDPs Camp in east of Tarmala village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, causing moderate material damage to a number of tents. The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



[Hussein al Deiri](#), a paramedic from Arnaba village in Jabal al Zaweya in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, who worked for Kafranbel Emergency System, was married with three children. He [was killed](#) on Sunday, May 5, 2019, when fixed-wing Syrian Regime forces' warplanes fired missiles at an area near the Kafranbel Emergency System's building, located to the west of Kafranbel city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, while he was near the building.

On Sunday, May 5, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of missiles directly targeting Nabd al Hayat Hospital, causing [severe material](#) damage to [the hospital and its equipment](#). We note that the hospital patients and medical staff were evacuated two days earlier following the [military escalation](#) against the area by the Syrian-Russian Alliance forces. Hass village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of both incidents.



On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, Syrian Regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [Heesh](#) town in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, resulting in the deaths of three civilians from one family of IDPs from Helfaya city in Hama governorate northwestern suburbs, including one female child. The town was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



On Sunday, May 19, 2019, Syrian Regime forces, stationed in the Jeb al Ahmar area to the south of al Kbaina village in the eastern suburbs of Latakia, used a missile launcher to fire three missiles loaded with poison gas at a base used by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham on a hill in the southwestern outskirts of al Kbaina village, resulting in the injury of four of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham's fighters, who exhibited symptoms of breathing difficulty, redness of the eyes and tearing. We issued [a report](#) on the incident.

On Sunday night, May 19, 2019, fixed- wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, carried out consecutive raids using missiles on a residential neighborhood in the west of Kafranbel city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, which resulted in the [deaths of 11 civilians](#), mostly from one family, including [seven children](#) (three males, three females and one unborn baby) and two women. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher to fire several missiles [loaded with 9n235 cluster munitions](#) at Kansfara village in Jabal al Zaweya in Idlib southern suburbs. Some of the attack's remnants were deployed in the vicinity of Kiwan Hospital in the center of the village, whose work has been suspended since April 26 as a result of the tactic used by Syrian Regime forces in targeting medical facilities. The shelling resulted in the injury of at least three civilians and material damage to the property. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, May 25, 2019, Syrian Regime forces used a missile launcher stationed in the Braidij camp in Hama governorate northern suburbs to fire [a number of missiles](#) loaded with incendiary substances targeting agricultural lands in Abdin village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, causing the outbreak of massive fires in nearby agricultural land and houses. The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Syrian Regime forces shelled the agricultural lands in Abdin village, Idlib, with incendiary weapons – May 25, 2019

On Tuesday, May 28, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a number of missiles at a public street in the middle of [Kafr Halab](#) village in Aleppo governorate western suburbs, resulting in the [deaths of 10 civilians](#) so far as is documented up to the [time of publication](#); the [victims include four children](#) (three males and one female), and one woman. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Recovering civilian victims killed in a massacre perpetrated in an air raid by the Syrian regime on Kafr Halab village, Aleppo – May 28, 2019



Mahmoud al Mustafa, Saer Bahloul and Abdul Qader Nahtan, from the Violet Organization's Violet Ambulance team, were killed on Thursday, June 20, 2019, when Syrian Regime [fixed-wing warplanes fired](#) a missile near their ambulance in al Janoubi neighborhood in Ma'aret al Numan city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, while they were aiding civilians injured in earlier bombardment of the city by the same forces. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

The [Violet Organization](#) published a tribute to the three paramedics on its official website. Panos Moutziz, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis expressed his [shock at](#) this incident

[Mahmoud al Mustafa](#), from Kafr Uwied village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs

[Saer Bahloul](#), from Ma'aret al Numan city, married with a female child

[Abdul Qader Nahtan](#), from [Ma'aret al Numan city](#)



Mahmoud al Mustafa, Saer Bahloul and Abdul Qader Nahtan

On Thursday, June 20, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian Regime warplanes fired a number of missiles at the northern parts of [al Mastouma](#) village in Idlib governorate northern suburbs, resulting in the deaths of nine civilians, including [four male](#) children and [one woman](#), most of whom were from [one family](#) which had previously been displaced from Um Mwilat village in Idlib governorate southeastern suburbs. Al Mastouma village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and the Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Thursday, June 20, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired two RBK missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT cluster munitions, which targeted agricultural land in [al Sheikh Mustafa](#) village in Idlib western suburbs, causing the outbreak of fires in the [agricultural land](#). The area was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Remnants of AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT cluster munitions used in an air attack by Syrian Regime forces on al Sheikh Mustafa village, Idlib – June 20, 2019

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, Syrian Regime forces, stationed in the camp of Braidij village in Hama suburbs, used [a missile](#) launcher to fire a number of missiles carrying incendiary munitions at al Shamali and al Shraqi neighborhoods in Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib southern suburbs, leading to the outbreak of fires in residential buildings and agricultural land there. The city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, Syrian Regime forces artillery fired a shell at the Jazraya al Kabir Mosque, known as Omar Bin al Khattab Mosque, in Jazraya village in Aleppo governorate southern suburbs. The shell directly targeted the mosque minaret, [partially damaging](#) the minaret, as well as inflicting moderate material damage to the building. Jazraya village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Ali al Qaddour and Omar al Kayyal, members of the Civil Defense, Khan Sheikhoun center, [were killed](#) on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, when fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles near the Civil Defense team in al Beira neighborhood in north-east of Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs while they were aiding civilians injured in previous bombardment by Syrian Regime fixed-wing warplanes at the same location.

[The Syrian Civil Defense](#) published a tribute to Ali and Omar on its official 'Twitter' account. [Ali al Quddour](#), from Morek town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, [died immediately](#) at the site of the bombardment.

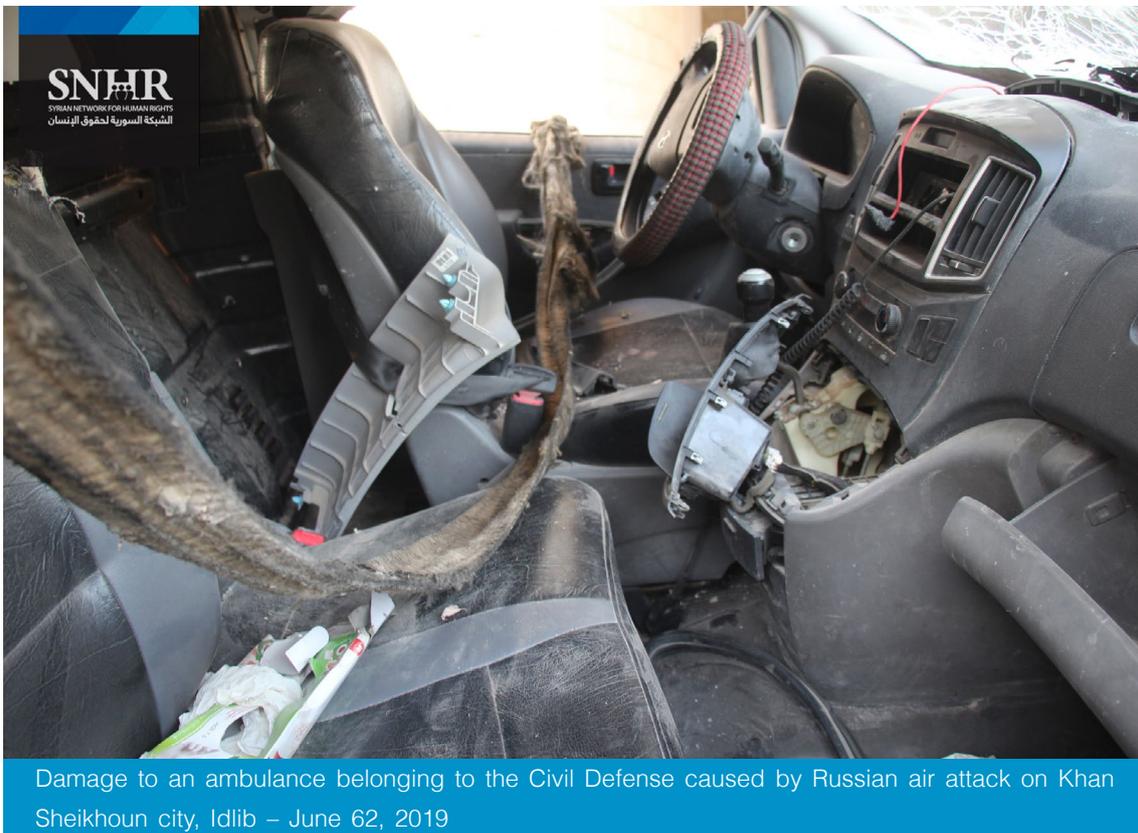
[Omar al Kayyal](#), from Khan Sheikhoun City, [died of](#) his injuries later after arriving at a hospital, despite efforts to save his life.



Omar al Kayyal and Ali al Qaddour



On Wednesday, June 26, 2019, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired a number of [missiles](#) near the Civil Defense team, Khan Sheikhoun Center, in al Beira neighborhood in northeast of Khan Sheikhoun city in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, while the rescue workers were aiding civilians injured in previous bombardment by Syrian Regime fixed-wing warplanes at the same location, resulting in the deaths of two members of the Civil Defense team and the injury of another, in addition to inflicting [significant material damage](#) to [an ambulance](#) belonging to the team. We note that the same forces repeated the bombing on the same site while another team of [Civil Defense](#) personnel from the same center was trying to reach it, which resulted in the injury of three members of that team, [in addition to](#) inflicting [moderate material damage](#) to [an ambulance](#) belonging to the team. Khan Sheikhoun city was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Tuesday, July 2, 2019, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a number of missiles at Jabala High School for girls in Jabala village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, partially destroying the school entrance and perimeter fence, and [inflicting moderate material damage](#) to its building. Jabala village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



On Thursday, July 4, 2019, Syrian Regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Hass village in Idlib governorate southern suburbs, resulting in the death of one female child, and injured other civilians. The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Friday, July 5, 2019, at round 21:00, two Syrian Regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs at three sites in Mhambel town in Idlib governorate western suburbs. Some of them fell on [houses](#) about 200 meters from the Martyr Mohammad Saleh Abdul Aal Primary School in the western outskirts of the town, perpetrating a massacre of seven civilians from one family, including four children and two women, who were inside the lobby of a house. A number of barrel bombs fell directly on [houses](#) in front of the school building, resulting in the deaths of three more civilians, including two children. A number of other [barrel bombs](#) fell on [houses](#) near the Agricultural Extension building in the northern outskirts of the town, resulting in the deaths of [three civilians](#), IDPs from the Damascus Suburbs governorate, namely a woman, her child and her unborn baby. Mhambel town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, fixed-wing MIG-21 Syrian regime warplanes fired a number of missiles at a cluster of IDP camps to the south of Deir al Sharqi village, administratively part of Ma'aret al Numan city in Idlib governorate eastern suburbs, whose residents from the suburbs of Hama governorate were shepherds. This resulted in the deaths of four civilians from one family (three children and one woman), in addition [to causing significant material damage to the tents](#), as well as the [deaths of a number of sheep](#). The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019, fixed-wing SU-22 Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Jisr al Shoghour Surgical Hospital, formerly known as al Kalawi Hospital, which is supported by the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) in Jisr al Shoghour city in Idlib governorate western suburbs, [partially destroying the hospital building](#), as well as inflicting [moderate material](#) damage to [its equipment](#), in addition to causing the burning of the hospital's main electricity generators, and causing moderate material damage to an ambulance belonging to it. As a result, the hospital was put out of service. Jisr al Shoghour was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





Destruction inflicted to Jisr al Shoghour Surgical Hospital in a Syrian air attack on Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib – July 10, 2019

## V. Legal Profile and Recommendations

- Syrian and Russian forces violated several rules of international humanitarian law, primarily by failing to discriminate between civilians and combatants or between civilian and military targets, instead bombing hospitals, schools, centers and civilian neighborhoods, with these violations amount to war crimes.
- Launching a deliberate attack on medical personnel in the context of a non-international armed conflict is a war crime punishable by international humanitarian law and international criminal law (Articles 8 (2) (b), 24, 8 (2) (e) (2) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court), and we believe that Russian and Syrian forces deliberately targeted medical personnel in a number of attacks.
- Displacement or forced displacement is a war crime in non-international armed conflicts when committed as part of a deliberate or widespread attack against the civilian population (Articles 8 (2) (b) (7) and 8 (2) (e) (8) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court), and may also be considered crimes against humanity (Articles 7 (1) (d) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court).
- The Syrian-Russian alliance forces has violated the de-escalation zone agreement in all regions, including the Idlib region, and repeatedly violated the Sochi Agreement signed in September 2018.
- Syrian Regime forces have explicitly violated the Sochi Agreement by carrying out artillery bombardment of a number of villages and towns in the fourth de-escalation zone, mostly in the demilitarized zone, in the eastern suburbs of Hama and in the south-eastern suburbs of Idlib. These attacks have resulted in civilian casualties.



- The Syrian Regime forces and Shiite militias violated the Sochi agreement by attacking factions of the Armed Opposition and killing a number of their members.
- The Syrian Regime forces has practiced the crime of displacement in a systematic, widespread and organized manner against the civilian population. This constitutes a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and amounts to a crime against humanity under Article VII of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We have not recorded any measures by these forces to provide shelter, health care or food to the displaced civilians.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **International Security Council:**

- The Security Council must pass a resolution to stabilize the ceasefire in Idlib and include punitive measures for all violators of the ceasefire.
- Genuine support for serious implementation of the peace process in Syria and for achieving a just political transition that guarantees security and stability
- The Syrian issue must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved, including the Russian regime, must be held accountable, having been implicated in committing war crimes.
- The establishment of peace and security and the implementation of the principle of Responsibility to Protect civilians and to save Syrians' lives, heritage and cultural artefacts from destruction, pillage and vandalism.
- The UN Security Council must pass a resolution concerning some seven million internally displaced persons in Syria that addresses forced displacement, to ensure that this does not become a long-term crisis, and must put pressure on the Syrian regime to end displacements, and enact laws aimed at preventing the plunder of displaced persons' properties and possessions.

#### **The UN Secretary-General:**

- Should clearly identify perpetrators of violations contributes in condemning their actions, disclosing their practices, sending a message of solidarity to the affected community, while ignoring mentioning the perpetrators of apparent violations encourages them to commit more violations and repeat them.
- Should request that the Security Council take urgent action, and hold an emergency meeting to ensure a ceasefire and to protect tens of thousands of displaced civilians.



## **International Community:**

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that can protect them from the daily killings and siege and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- The SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' principle in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after exhausting all political channels from the Arab League's plan, then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan proved fruitless. Therefore, the steps recommended under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations should be adopted 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 pressure on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court
- Work to fulfil justice and achieve accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and on implementing the principle of the universal jurisdiction.
- The countries that support the parties to the conflict in Syria, especially Russia, must put pressure on their allies on the ground to ensure the neutrality of the Idlib area of combat operations, and protect the lives of at least three million people living there.

## **UN General Assembly**

- The Syrian regime has full responsibility for the displacement of one-third of the Syrian people, including legal and material responsibility, and must ensure that victims receive full compensation for the heavy losses they have suffered, including the return of looted properties to their owners.

## **OHCHR**

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations concerning the violations committed by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces.



## **UN Envoy to Syria**

- Condemn the perpetrators of the crimes and massacres and the main culprits in the collapse of agreements on de-escalation zones, and thus declare the collapse and the end of the political process in full, as well as holding the Syrian-Russian alliance to account for its actions.
- Disclose to the Syrian people Russia's pursuit of full control of Syrian territory by force, and its public desire to rehabilitate the current regime, which means the creation of a political solution which satisfies only its own interests.

## **Donor countries and UNOCHR**

- The international community and donor countries must ensure basic living conditions, pay attention to the needs of and help provide care for thousands of displaced Syrians who are displaced in the north-western Idlib suburbs, with the most pressing basic needs, primarily water, food, housing, clothing and medical care.

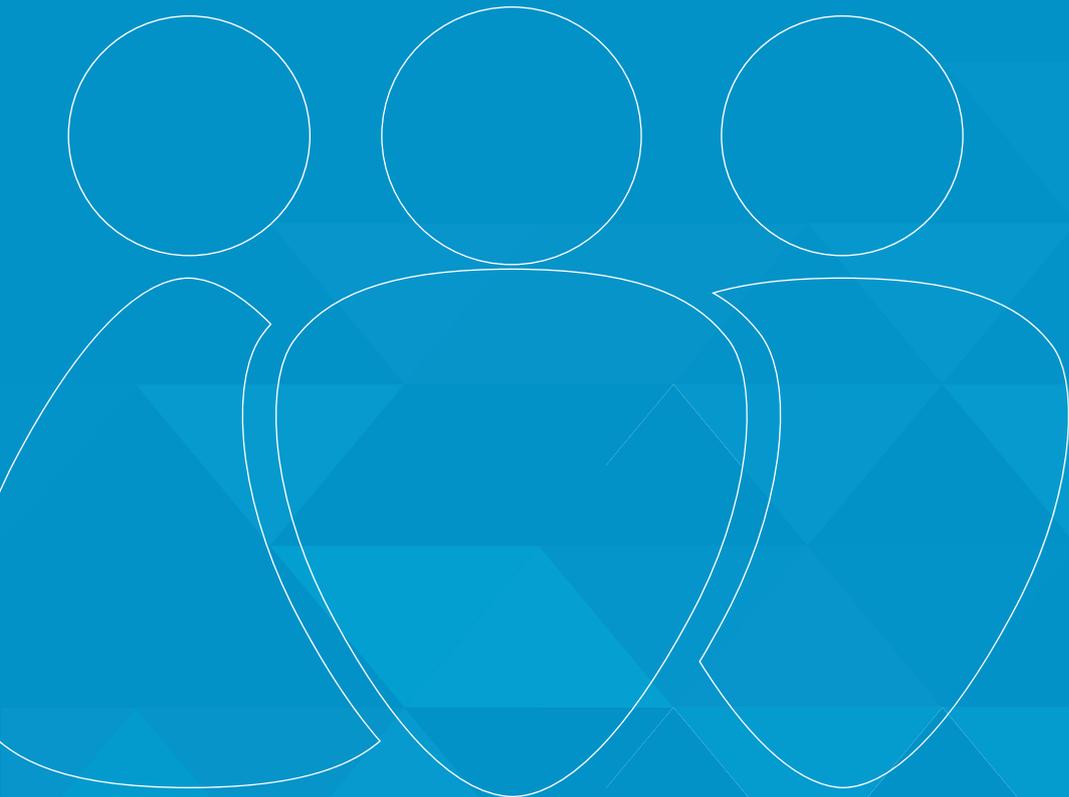
## **Russian forces**

- Stop committing all types of war crimes in Syria.
- Reconstruct what was destroyed by the Russian war machine.
- Compensate victims financially and morally and apologize publicly.
- Commit to the outcome of the Sochi Summit and not repeat the scenario of violations we have seen in the agreements of de-escalation zone.
- Stop supporting the war crimes and crimes against humanity which the Syrian regime has been committing for eight years, with the current support being considered as direct involvement in these crimes.
- Contribute to the assistance of displaced persons who were displaced by the Russian war machine from the Eastern Ghouta in the Damascus Suburbs governorate and the governorates of Homs and Daraa, and protect the residents of those areas who remained from the arrests, persecution, kidnappings and enforced disappearances being perpetrated by the Syrian Regime and the Iranian militias.

## **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

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





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