



## The Death of 6 Medical Personnel and Civil Defense Staffers in March 2016 6 amongst which were killed by government forces

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### I. Executive Summary:

SNHR's high standards for documentation are based on collecting direct testimonies from survivors or victims' families in addition to analyzing and verifying photos, video footages, and some medical records. However, we can't claim that we've documented all the incidents in light of the ban and pursuit by the Syrian regime and other armed groups.

- To read more about the methodology of SNHR in documenting victims, please visit the following URL
- The consistent bombing and targeting of medical facilities and medical teams since 2011 by the different conflict parties indicates a systematic policy that only aims to kill more victims and deepens the suffering of the injured civilians and rebels.

Different Syrian governorates, especially regions under the control of armed opposition, witnessed a significant decline in the shelling and killing percentages since March 2011. However, it is worth noting that regions under the government control or Kurdish Self Management Forces are not subjected to government shelling which is considered responsible for killing more than 60% of the victims in addition to destroying houses and displacing its residents.

However, the Syrian regime continued to breach the cease-fire in several ways as it is one of the most affected parties regarding this agreement and unpublicized violations have been continuous like torturing detainees.





SNHR documented the death of 6 medical personnel and civil defense staffers in March 2016, incidents are detailed as follow:

**A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias) killed 4 medical personnel and civil defense staffers, detailed as follows:**

- a doctor
- 3 civil defense staffers

B. Russian Forces: killed one civil defense member

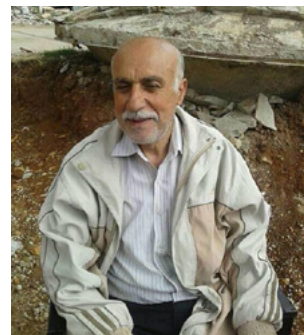
C. Armed Opposition Groups: killed one nurse.

## II. Incidents' Details:

A. Government Forces:

- [Ibrahim Sadeka](#), a civil defense member in Damascus suburbs, from Harasta city in Damascus suburbs, was killed on 23 March 2016 due to government rocket shelling on Harasta city while he was aiding injured residents from a previous government shelling.

- [Mohamad Youssef Al Kous](#), a general surgeon from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs. He worked in the medical committee in Al Zabadani city, 70 years old, married and a father of three. On 25 March 2016 he died after he was sniped by a government sniper who was centered [in the Infirmary checkpoint in Al Zabadani](#).



- [Mohamad Deib Awwad](#), one of the founders of the Civil Defense in Al Zabadani, from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs, 40 years old, and a father of four. On 25 March 2016 he died after he was sniped by a government sniper who was centered in the Infirmary checkpoint in Al Zabadani.





- [Mohamad Waleed Al Ghourani](#), a paramedic in the civil defense, from Deir Assafier town in Damascus suburbs, 30 years old, married and a father of one child. [He died on 31 March 2016](#) due to government warplane shelling while he was aiding injured residents from a [previous shelling](#).



### **B. Russian Forces:**

- [Houssien Abdul Kareem Al Deheik](#), a trainer in the cluster munitions and land-mines dismantling team in Homs. He was from Talbisa city in Homs, 38 years old, married and a father of four. He died on 18 March 2016 due to a cluster munitions explosion that occurred due to alleged Russian shelling with cluster munitions on Talbisa city in Homs suburbs.

### **C. Armed Opposition Groups:**

Mohamad Ali Al Za'ouki, a nurse from Inkhil city in Daraa, was killed on 18 March 2016 due to injuries he sustained from a clash between two armed opposition groups. We could not verify the certain group that was responsible for his death.

## **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

The Syrian and Russian governments and ISIL have blatantly violated both the International Humanitarian Law and the norms of the Humanitarian law; particularly Article 3 of Geneva Conventions and the international humanitarian law and committed crimes that can be openly classified as war crimes when it targeted medics as well as crimes against humanity through these numerous acts of killing. The employment of weapons in indiscriminate bombing is an explicit violation of the international humanitarian law. All the armed opposition factions should immediately stop these practices.





## **The Security Council**

The Security Council should uphold its legal and moral responsibilities in respect to what happening in Syria instead of only watching the daily bloodbath only becoming bigger.

Russia and China should stop protecting the Syrian regime after it was proven that it has perpetrated war crime and crimes against humanity. Also, the International Community should take further steps to protect the lives of the Syrian people if Russia and China didn't change their positions.

## **Medical organizations around the world**

There is a severe shortage in the medical teams in Syria because of the ceaseless killing of Syrian doctors which should be properly addressed. Also, these organization can send volunteers to safe areas where wounded are sent for treatment. We have recorded many cases where wounded died due to lack of medical capabilities.

## **Acknowledgment**

Our heartfelt thanks go to victims' families and friends and to the local activists who contributed majorly to this report. Also, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families.

