



## Press Release

# SNHR Participates in Dialogue Forums on the OPCW's Recent Report and a Decade of Violations against the Syrian People



The Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany, participated in a dialogue forum with the Masarat Political Development Center entitled 'The recent report of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the role of the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting chemical attacks' on the Zoom platform, on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Mr. Fadel Abdul Ghany spoke about the SNHR's methodology in documenting chemical weapons attacks, referring to 222 attacks documented on the SNHR's database, all of which have been cumulatively worked on since the first documented use of this weapon in December 2012.

Mr. Abdul Ghany observed that Syria had ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in September 2013, noting that since acceding to the Convention, the Syrian regime has carried out some 184 attacks to date according to the SNHR's database, and briefly addressed defining the mandate of the Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons, from which both bodies emerged, namely the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), whose mandate, until June 2018, was limited to confirming whether or not a chemical attack occurred, without attributing responsibility for the attack, and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), which attributed responsibility for four chemical attacks to the Syrian regime, through two reports, the first of which was issued in April 2020, addressing three attacks, while the second was issued on April 12, 2021, in which attributed responsibility to Syrian regime forces, specifically the Russian-backed 'Tiger Forces', for carrying out the Saraqeb attack on February 4, 2018. Mr. Abdul Ghany said that the work of the OPCW team is characterized by the highest levels of credibility, reliability and professionalism.

Mr. Abdul Ghany spoke in some detail about the methodology used in the IIT's second report, pointing to a number of highlights that reflect a high level of reliability and professionalism in their working practices, including reviewing more than 400 gigabytes of files, using the most advanced laboratories for sample analysis, obtaining testimonies and comments from all parties including the Syrian regime, and communicating with and collecting information from many organizations working to document chemical attacks, including the Syrian Network for Human Rights, referring to [the Principles of Cooperation agreement signed between the SNHR and the IIT](#) since January 2020.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of continuing with human rights work, documenting violations and cooperating with the relevant UN and international organizations to issue further condemnations of the Syrian regime and Russia, given the importance of pressuring Russia to commit to and deal seriously with the political process and the course of transitional justice.

On April 3, 2021, Mr. Abdul Ghany gave a lecture at the invitation of the al Kawakibi Forum for Dialogue, entitled 'The Syrian Revolution: The Bleeding Decade', on the Zoom platform, with participants in the forum discussing the outcome of 10 years of systematic violations of human rights in Syria in light of international laws and conventions, with [the SNHR's report on this issue](#) being reviewed, and with a question-and-answer session and discussions of the points raised following of the lecture.



These events and activities form part of the Syrian Network for Human Rights' efforts to spread and promote a culture of human rights, support efforts to document violations and issue reports based on them, raise awareness of the importance and centrality of the role of victims and the need for Syrian society to cooperate to expose those involved in perpetrating crimes, hold perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity accountable, and fight the culture of impunity.

The full dialogue forum can be viewed at the [following link](#).