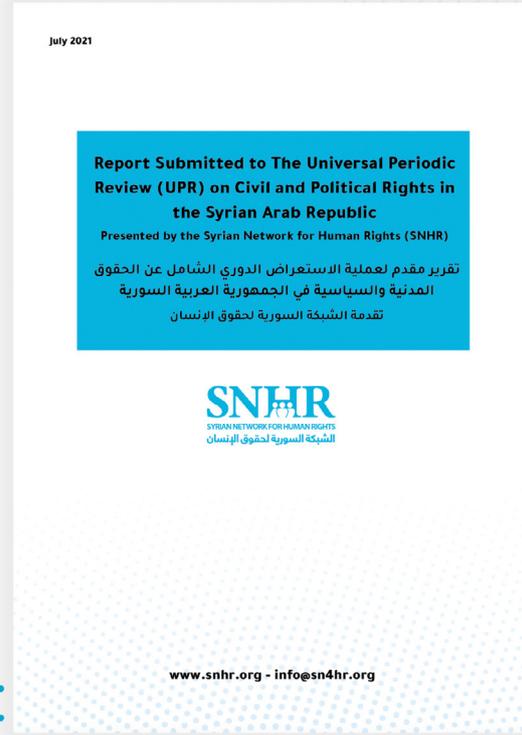


Statement

SNHR Submits a Report Including the Most Notable Violations It Recorded During Four Years, as Part of Its Participation in the Universal Periodic Review of Syria
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I. For the Second Time Since the Popular Uprising Began in March 2011, SNHR Participates in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC), through which it reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States, that takes place once every four years. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) participated in the 2016 UPR on Syria by submitting a special report based on SNHR data, and by participating in the authorship of joint reports with other human rights organizations and civil society organizations.

Four years later, the time has come for the 2021 UPR on Syria, with SNHR submitting a report on July 14 to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as part of our contribution as "Other Stakeholders" to the documents for the third cycle of the UPR, which will contribute to the summary presented by the OHCHR at the fortieth session, to be held in January and February 2022.

The UPR report is based on the report prepared by the state under review, a compilation of United Nations information on the state under review prepared by OHCHR, and a report submitted by civil society actors, also prepared by OHCHR.

The Syrian regime submitted [two national reports](#) in [the two previous cycles](#) of the UPR. The second report (2016) focused on holding what it called “terrorists” responsible for the violations taking place in Syria¹, and attributed the deterioration of the situation for Syrian citizens and the negative impact on their enjoyment of their rights, especially in the areas of development, work and a decent standard of living, to unilateral coercive measures². This is a predictable standard policy for the regime, which has always denied all of its egregious violations, and has prevented the UN investigation committees, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI), from entering its territory. Based on the large amount of daily data that we have documented in the past four years, on which we relied in submitting the report, the Syrian regime has violated all human rights treaties that it has ratified, and all binding customary laws, in a widespread and systematic manner, with some violations, including torture, enforced disappearance and forced displacement, amounting to crimes against humanity, which was confirmed by the reports of the COI and international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and others.

II. The Most Notable Contents of the Report Submitted by SNHR Based on Its Data During Four Years:

The contents of the report submitted are based on the records documented on the Syrian Network for Human Rights’ (SNHR) database, and focus mainly on the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, protection from torture, enforced disappearance, the rights of the child, women’s rights, and forced displacement, between June 2017 and June 2021. The following are the most notable points of the report:

A. The Right to Life:

The report confirms that Syrian regime forces have carried out extrajudicial killings through indiscriminate or deliberate bombardment using various types of weapons, in addition to those who died as a result of torture, siege, starvation, cold, etc.

The report reveals that the documented death toll of civilians killed by the Syrian regime in this period reached 8,622 Syrian civilians, including 63 medical personnel and 26 media workers.

The report adds that the Syrian regime’s Air Force dropped 11,715 barrel bombs during the same period, in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2139³. The report also documents at least 71 cluster munition attacks, killing 132 civilians, including 36 children and 17 women. Meanwhile, the submunitions of cluster munitions that later exploded resulted in the deaths of 67 civilians, including 51 children and three women. The report further reveals that the Syrian regime has continued using chemical weapons, with the report recording at least 13 chemical attacks during this period, in addition to at least 34 attacks using incendiary weapons.

¹ UN, Human Rights Council, National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, Syrian Arab Republic, Paragraphs 58 and 59, September 28, 2016, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/26/SYR/1>

² UN, Human Rights Council, National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, Syrian Arab Republic, Paragraphs 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64, September 28, 2016, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/26/SYR/1>

³ Issued by the Security Council on February 22, 2014, calling for an end to the use of indiscriminate bombing weapons, especially barrel bombs

As the report notes, Russia's military intervention has increased the extent of violations, including crimes against humanity, with Russian air and ground attacks targeting civilian areas controlled by Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, resulting in the deaths of 1,967 civilians, the displacement of thousands of residents, and the massive destruction of vital facilities, mainly hospitals. Russian forces have also used cluster munitions extensively, with the report documenting at least 31 such attacks, resulting in the deaths of 36 civilians, including 20 children and eight women, in addition to deploying incendiary munitions, especially those fired from ground platforms, with the report documenting at least 14 such attacks, committing crimes that amount to war crimes.

B. The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person:

The report notes that although Syria accepted a number of recommendations in the penultimate periodic review, claiming they had been implemented, Syrian regime-affiliated forces have continued persecuting and targeting Syrian citizens in regime-controlled areas over their political dissent and expression of opinions, despite the Syrian constitution and international human rights law guaranteeing the right to both. Following these arrests, detainees are routinely classified as forcibly disappeared, with the number of recorded arrests having reached at least 11,654. The report added that Syrian regime forces have persecuted and detained citizens for forcible conscription, with around 42,738 males aged between 28 and 38 currently in this category, enrolled into the army, which is involved in committing various types of human rights violations, including killing, siege and indiscriminate bombardment.

C. Torture, Punishment, Inhuman Treatment and Enforced Disappearance:

The report stresses that Syrian regime forces have practiced the worst forms of torture since March 2011 against regime opponents on a daily basis, with the degrees of torture inflicted on victims varying between death, disability and long-term psychological trauma; the barbaric torture methods used include 'al shabeh' (the ghost), 'crucifixion', and the 'German chair'. The report further reveals that at least 1,536 individuals have died due to torture since 2017, adding that SNHR has been able to confirm the identity of around 1,003 Syrian citizens among those pictured in the Caesar photographs.

In a related context, the report reveals that since the beginning of 2018, the Syrian regime has begun notifying the families of individuals forcibly disappeared by the regime of their loved ones' death through Civil Registry departments - without returning their bodies - with a total of 996 such cases documented by SNHR in this period, including nine children and two women, adding that SNHR believes that all of these individuals either died due to torture or were killed following death sentences issued by the Military Field Court.

The report adds that the Syrian regime has practiced enforced disappearance in the context of a widespread attack against civilians with the number of forcibly disappeared persons reaching 9,667, including children and women.

D. Rights of the Child:

The report notes that Syrian regime forces have committed numerous violations against Syrian children, killing 1,585 children, arresting at least 602 others, and subjecting thousands of children to torture and cruel treatment; nearly 2.4 million children inside Syria have been deprived of education as a result of the armed conflict since March 2011.

E. Women's Rights:

During the period covered, the report documents the deaths of at least 1,142 women and the arrest of at least 1,052 others. Regime forces also practiced sexual violence during house raids and in regime detention centers, as a tool of torture and to spread panic as a form of revenge, aiming to destroy the social fabric. These forces committed at least 3,216 incidents of sexual violence, including approximately 297 incidents inside detention centers, and at least 52 cases of sexual violence against girls aged under 18.

F. Refugees and IDPs:

The report notes that the widespread violations by Syrian regime forces and their allies have displaced nearly 6 million Syrians and caused the migration of nearly 7 million others, according to the statistics of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)⁴. The report further reveals that the Syrian regime has concluded 15 forced displacement agreements with Armed Opposition factions since March 2011, causing the displacement of nearly 220,000 people, in convoys, mostly to northwest Syria.

The report additionally reveals that Syrian regime forces have systematically looted homes and other properties, and seized agricultural land owned by residents through public auctions. The report stresses that Syria is still an unsafe country for the return of refugees as long as the current authorities remain in power; since the beginning of 2014 until June 2021, the report documents the detention of at least 2,005 refugees by the Syrian regime, including 226 children and 159 women, as they returned from countries of asylum to Syria; of these, 691 have been classified as forcibly disappeared; we also documented the deaths of 15 of them due to torture.

The report submitted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights also includes other details, in addition to recommendations for each violation which can't all be shown in this statement.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights pledges to do everything in its power and provide all necessary materials and assistance to promote human rights in Syria, and to expose all perpetrators of violations there, foremost among them the Syrian regime that controls the Syrian state and institutions, in a way which exposes their crimes and their true nature to the Syrian people and to all the world's countries, and contributes to impeding their rehabilitation and their efforts to play any political role in the future of Syria, which we aspire to help in achieving its full potential as a civilized, democratic state that works for and respects the rights of all Syrian citizens.

⁴ Syria emergency, <https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>