

**Press release**

# **Berlin: SNHR Participates in a Dialogue Event on the Violations by the US-led International Coalition Forces in Syria**

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

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.



Berlin - March 20, 2019: The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) participated in a panel discussion entitled 'Germany's Involvement in the Anti-IS Coalition: The Air Strike on al-Badhiya IDP-Shelter in Syria'. The event, which was held at the headquarters of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights in the German capital Berlin, was organized by 'Airwars' and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), with the participation of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria, and Human Rights Watch (HRW). Speakers at the event included James Rodehaver of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria; Maike Awater, advocacy officer and conflict researcher for Airwars; Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights; Nadim Houry, director of Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program at Human Rights Watch; Robert Frau, University of Potsdam/European University Viadrina, and Andreas Schüller, Director of the International Crimes and Accountability Program at ECCHR. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Delina Goxho, consultant with the Lethal Drones Shared Framework at Open Society Foundations and PAX Netherlands. The event was also attended by a number of researchers, media professionals and other interested individuals.

In his address during the event, Fadel Abdul Ghany spoke about the role played by SNHR, not only in documenting incidents that result in a large number of victims, but also in trying to record and follow up all incidents that include violations of the rules of international law, explaining that this work has enabled it to build up an extensive database, which has helped in visualizing how the dynamics of attacks evolved over time and with the passage of years.

Mr. Abdul Ghany noted that according to the database, US-led Coalition forces have killed 3,035 civilians to date in Syria, and confirmed that, rather than the coalition learning from previous errors to avoid further mistakes and limit damage, the numbers of violations have actually escalated over the years. He also provided an analysis of the documented attacks by International Coalition forces, based on two variables: the toll of victims and the targeting of vital facilities, clarifying that International Coalition forces have committed at least 172 massacres and carried out 181 attacks on vital facilities since their initial intervention, which



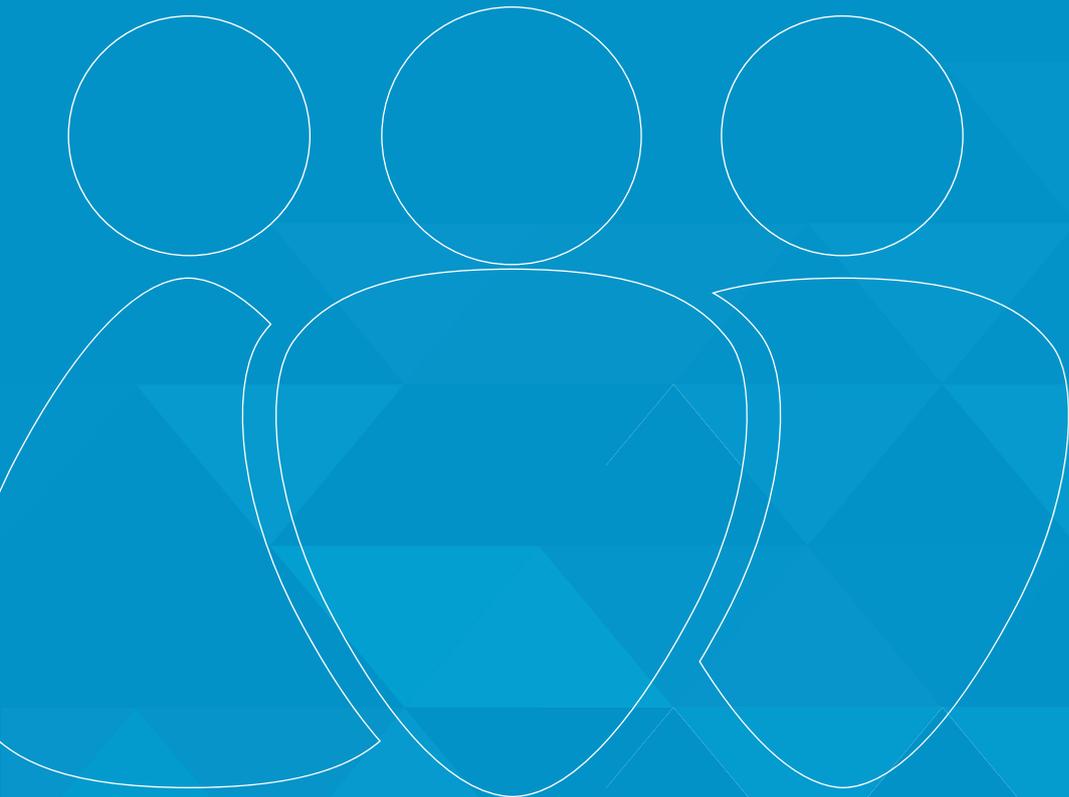
indicates that violations have become a widespread and repeated pattern that reveals a disregard for civilian life to a large extent. Abdul Ghany also conducted a comparison between the most notable violations by International Coalition forces in Syria during the terms of US Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump, noting that the attacks by International Coalition forces began to assume a more chaotic and random character since the second year of intervention, explaining that the third year (September 2016 to September 2017) was the worst ever.

Abdul Ghany recommended that the joint leadership of the International Coalition should open further investigations and compensate the victims of the attacks materially and ethically, and begin the process of rebuilding the facilities targeted, especially the vital facilities. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of contributing towards a regional transition towards political stability through holding local democratic elections, and placing the military forces at the democratically elected councils' disposal.

This latest dialogue event coincided with the second anniversary of the attack by International Coalition forces on a shelter for IDPs in al Mansoura town in the western suburbs of Raqqa governorate on March 20, 2017, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of victims and injured dozens more; most of the victims were women and children. This dialogue event underlines the message that the accountability process will continue with efforts to prosecute all perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law.

To see the full session, [please click on the link](#).





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