



## No less than 59 Medical Centers have been Targeted by Russian Forces since its Intervention in Syria The Russian Regime is a Partner in the Displacement of the Syrian People

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### I. Introduction and Methodology

Since the Russian attacks began in Syria, SNHR has issued 16 different reports on incidents that involved bombing civil targets in opposition-held and ISIS-held areas. These attacks have caused casualties, destruction, and displacement that constitute war crimes. We focused in some of the previous reports on major massacres in particular, and we will devote the 17th report to document the targeting of medical centers.

This report is an update on a previous report that documents the targeting of medical centers particularly by Russian forces. The first report “The Grozny Holocaust in Aleppo”, published on 19 February 2016, documents the bombing of 27 medical centers. Despite the many human rights and even political condemnations of targeting hospitals, we noticed that the number of attacks has doubled twice until the end of August 2016 with taking into consideration that many of the hospitals were targeted multiple times but we count it as one facility with recording the number of bombings.

Even though the Cessation of Hostilities statement went into force on 27 February 2016, attacks on medical centers haven’t stopped, and it even escalated alarmingly after the High Negotiation Committee’s decision to postpone its participation in Geneva talk on 19 April 2016 where, as the time of this writing, no less than 30 medical centers have been targeted since then.





We recorded the use of various types of ammunition in attacks against medical centers such as cluster munitions, incendiary weapons, and ballistic missiles.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

***“Russian forces’ attacks on medical centers and medics are a blatant violation of the international humanitarian law and amount to a war crime on account of the fact that these attacks are indiscriminate and in many cases deliberately targeted protected objects. These attacks have deepened the agonies of the wounded and injured and is one of the main causes of the displacement of the Syrian people as it sends a very clear message: there is no safe area or a red line including hospitals, you either flee or perish.”***

The Russian regime denies all the incidents included in this report. The Russian regime didn’t care about all the reports that focused on it and disregards it completely as there hasn’t been even one investigation.

SNHR team worked, as a part of the daily monitoring and documenting, on recording these incidents that we received information about via e-mail, social media, or Skype, and then followed with these reports and talked to survivors, victims’ families, and eyewitnesses. We explained the purpose of these interviews to the witnesses and they gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report. Also, we have reviewed all the pictures and videos and verified its authenticity. We have copies of all the pictures and videos that are included in this report. This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Additionally, this report doesn’t cover the social, economic, and psychological ramification of these violations.

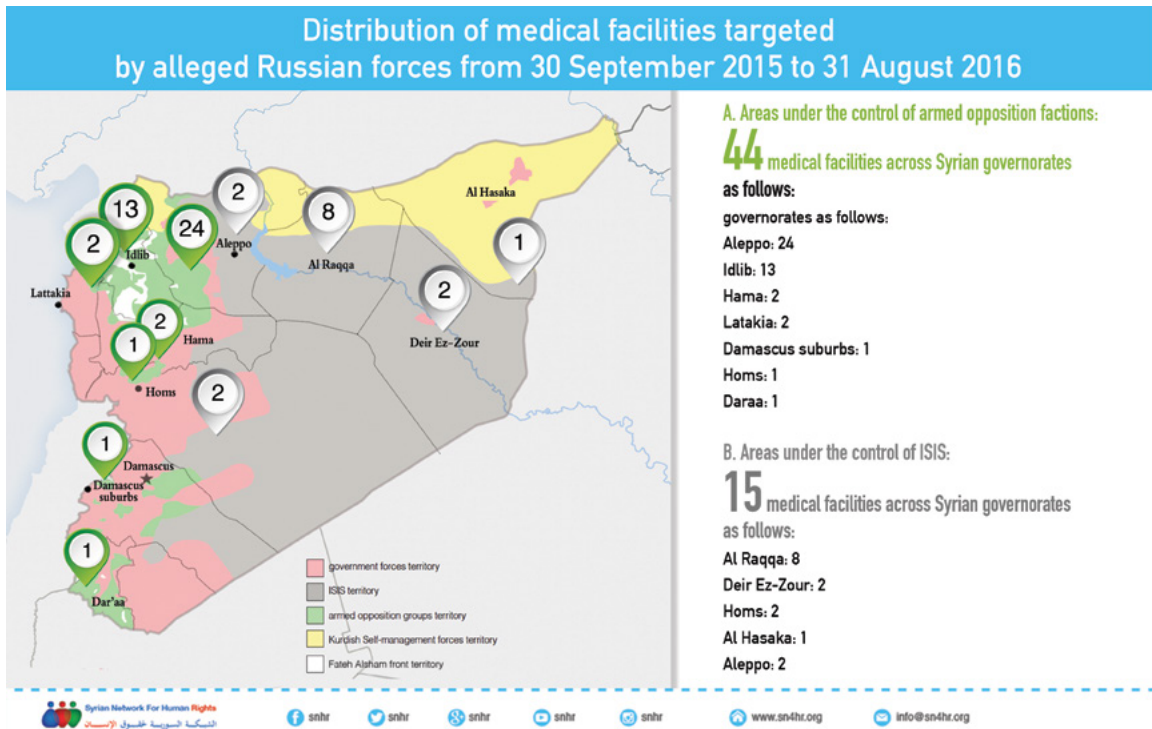
## II. Executive Summary

SNHR documented that no less than 59 medical centers have been targeted in attacks that are suspectedly Russian including five medical facilities that have been targeted more than once from the beginning of the Russian airstrikes on Wednesday 30 September 2015 until Wednesday 31 August 2016. 84% of the attacks occurred in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. The distribution of these attacks across Syrian governorates is as follows:





A map illustrating the geographic distribution of the medical centers that were targeted by alleged Russian forces between 30 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.



These attacks resulted in the killing of 86 civilians including eight children and 13 women. 26 out of the 86 civilian victims were medical personnel.





### III. Details of the New Incidents

#### (Details about the old attacks can be found in the report)

This report highlights 32 medical centers that were targeted by alleged Russian forces between 15 February 2016 and 31 August 2016 in addition to an incident in Tafas town in Daraa on 5 February 2016 that wasn't included in the previous report because it was still under investigation at that time.

The report also includes new attacks on medical centers that were documented in our previous report

#### A. Areas under the control of armed opposition factions

##### Aleppo governorate

##### 1- Al Kenana hospital, [Darat Izza city](#), Friday 26 February 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted with missiles Al Kenana hospital in Darat Izza city which caused cracks in the walls of the clinical rooms and reception. The hospital administration rendered the hospital out of the commission following the attack.

##### 2- Makeshift hospital of Kafr Hamra town: was targeted twice

- **First incident:** Friday 26 February 2016, alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles at the makeshift hospital of Kafr Hamra town which caused moderate damages to the hospital building and shattered its glass.

- **Second incident:**

Thursday 14 July 2016, alleged fixed-wing Russian warplanes fired a missile that targeted [the makeshift hospital](#) of [Kafr Hamra town](#). The attack resulted in [the killing of four civilians](#) including [three medics](#). Additionally, [the hospital building was heavily damaged](#) and the hospital; was [rendered out of commission](#).





### **Names of the victims**

- 1- Khaled Rajou, 50-year-old, ambulance driver.
- 2- Mohammad Taha Al Ash, 37-year-old, nurse.
- 3- Mahmoud Jamal Haj Ibrahim, 39-year-old, hospital guard.
- 4- Abdullah Mohammad Ghannam, 28-year-old, media activist.

### **3- Al Quds hospital, Al Sukkari neighborhood, Wednesday 27 April 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted [Bassel Aslan makeshift hospital \(Al Quds hospital\)](#) in Al [Sukkari neighborhood](#) in [Aleppo city with missiles](#). As a result, two doctors, one female nurse, and two medics were killed. Additionally, the hospital building was heavily damaged and was rendered out of commission.

### **Victims' names**

- 1- Mohammad Wasim Khaled Ma'az, 36-year-old, pediatrician.
- 2- Ahmad Mohammad Yassin (Abulyaman), 28-year-old, dentist.
- 3- Ismail Ahmad Al Hussein (Ismail Siyana), 23-year-old, maintenance worker at the hospital.
- 4- Ahmad Mohammad Tabshou (Abu Mohammad Haras), 38-year-old, guard.
- 5- Safaa Dib Al Qassoum, Karnaz town, Hama.

### **4- Al Huda hospital, Majbina village, Monday 13 June 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes used incendiary weapons to target [Al Huda hospital](#) in [Majbina village](#) resulting in [moderate damages](#) to the hospital building and rendering it out of commission.

### **5- Omar ben Abdul Aziz hospital, Al Ma'adi neighborhood, Tuesday 14 June 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted the vicinity of [Omar ben Abdul Aziz hospital](#) in [Al Ma'adi neighborhood](#) with missiles. As a result, the patients room of the east wing were partially damaged and its equipment were damaged. The hospital was rendered out of commission.





**6- The health center in Hreitan city, Wednesday 29 June 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted with missiles the health center in [Hreitan city](#). The center building was [destroyed almost completely](#) and was [rendered out of commission](#).



**7- The medical system in Jam'iat Rif Al Muhandesein area, Monday 18 July 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the medical system in [Jam'iat Rif Al Muhandesein](#) area in the western suburbs of [Aleppo governorate](#). As a result, the building and its fence were partially destroyed.



**8- Al Daqqaq hospital, Al Sha'ar neighborhood, Sunday 24 July 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted the vicinity of Al Daqqaq hospital (A surgical hospital) in Al Sha'ar neighborhood with missiles. The hospital building was mildly damaged.

**9- Fatima Al Zahraa makeshift hospital, Al Sha'ar neighborhood, Sunday 24 July 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted the vicinity of Fatima Al Zahraa hospital (maternity hospital) in Al Sha'ar neighborhood with missiles. the hospital building was moderately damaged.

**10- Al Hakim hospital, Al Sha'ar neighborhood, Sunday 24 July 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles targeting the vicinity of Al Hakim hospital (children's hospital) in Al Sha'ar neighborhood. As a result, the infant "Ali Al Shibli" suffocated to death in his incubator. Additionally, the hospital building was moderately damaged.





### 11- Blood bank building, Al Sha'ar neighborhood, Sunday 24 July 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of Blood bank building in Al Sha'ar neighborhood resulting in damages to the laboratory and the analyzing machines.

### 12- Al Huda makeshift hospital, Hawwar town, Sunday 31 July 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted [Al Huda makeshift hospital](#) in [Hawwar town](#) in the western suburbs of [Aleppo governorate](#). The hospital walls were partially destroyed and its cladding materials and equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission.



### 13- Al Eman hospital, Urm Al Kubra town, Sunday 14 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes a number of missiles that targeted [Al Eman children's and women's hospital](#). The hospital yard was damaged and some of the windows and doors were shattered.

### 14- children's and Women's hospital, Kafr Hamra town, Friday 12 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted [the children's and women's hospital](#) in the town. As a result, [two civilians \(paramedic and nurse\) were killed](#). Also, the hospital was heavily damaged and was rendered out of commission.





### **Names of the victims**

Nezar Ismail, 29-year-old, paramedic.

Mahmoud Barakat

### **15- Al Rih Al Mursla, Darat Izza city, Tuesday 16 August 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted [Al Rih Al Mursla hospital](#) in [Darat Izza city](#) in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. As a result, two ambulances belonging to the hospital were burnt and were rendered out of commission.

### **16- Lindaou medical center, Al Jina village, Tuesday 16 August 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes missiles that targeted [Lindaou medical center](#). As a result, the reception room and the hospital pharmacy [were damaged](#).

### **Idlib governorate**

#### **1- The National hospital, Idlib city, 30 May 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired two missiles that targeted the vicinity of the National hospital which resulted in damages to the hospital building on the western entrance side. The city is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.

Muslim Al Sayeed Eissa, a media activist who arrived at the incident location immediately after the attack, SNHR contacted him via Facebook:

“I was one of the first to get to the vicinity area of the national hospital after it was targeted with two missiles. One of the missile fell in the main street between the residential buildings while the other fell near Al Ashqar where Al Ashqar pharmacy is located. The building was destroyed completely. Medical teams pulled out 12 victims and more than 20 others who were wounded including very well-known figures such as a lawyer from the family of Izzdin and a female pharmacist and a female doctor from Al Ashqar family. The bombing was Russian, it didn't break the sound barrier and the bombing was carried out from a very high altitude.”







## **2- Sham aiding system, Idlib city, Monday 30 May 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted [Sham aiding system](#) in Idlib city. As a result, one civilians was killed and four vehicles belonging to Sham aiding system were damaged in addition to damages to the nearby buildings. The city is jointly controlled by Fateh Al Sham Front and armed opposition factions.

## **3- Dialysis center, Idlib city, Monday 30 May 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the dialysis center at Ibn Sina hospital in Idlib city. As a result, the center building was moderately damaged and was rendered out of commission. The city is jointly controlled by Fateh Al Sham Front and armed opposition factions.

## **4- Al Ihsan hospital, Saraqeb city, Saturday 4 June 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted the vicinity of Al Ihsan hospital in Saraqeb city with an RBK-500 missiles loaded with ShOAB-0.5 submunitions. As a result, the hospital building was slightly damaged, and the power generators were broken, and the hospital was temporarily out of commission. The city is jointly controlled by Fateh Al Sham Front and armed opposition factions.

Pictures showing cluster munition after an alleged Russian warplanes bombed the vicinities targeted Al Ihsan hospital in Saraqeb, 4 June 2016. Picture from Hussein Al Abdullah, a civil defense member.





### 5- Al Amal charity hospital, Malas town, Saturday 6 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes carried out airstrikes using four missiles on the building of Al Amal charity hospital in Malas town. As a result, 11 civilians were killed including four children, two women, and four medics. Additionally, the operation and ICU room was completely destroyed.



### 6- Physical therapy center, Sirmein city, Saturday 6 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes carried out a missile airstrike near the physical therapy center that is located in front of the makeshift hospital building. The bombing resulted in moderate damages to the center building and its furniture.

### 7- The surgical specialized hospital, Idlib city, Monday 29 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes carried out two airstrikes, one of the airstrikes used incendiary weapons, that targeted the building of the surgical specialized hospital which resulted in great damages to the building and its equipment. As a result, the hospital was temporarily damaged.

Picture of [the damage in the surgical specialized hospital](#) after an alleged Russian bombing





Picture of a [container loaded with incendiary weapons](#) that was dropped by alleged Russian warplanes



#### **8- Al Eman hospital, Sarja town, Monday 29 August 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired a missile that was dropped in the vicinity of Al Eman hospital in Sarja town. The bombing resulted in damages to the building hospital and its medical equipment. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission temporarily.

#### **9- The maternity hospital, Idlib city, Monday 29 August 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired a missile that targeted the maternity hospital in Idlib city. The bombing resulted in damages to the hospital building and medical equipment

#### **Homs governorate**

##### **1- The makeshift hospital, Ter Ma'la village, Friday 12 August 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired a missile that targeted a residential area which killed a civilian named “Hasan Mohammad Al Kousa” and injured 15 others. Additionally, the makeshift hospital of the village was damaged.

SNHR contacted Kenan Abu Osama, a media activist from Te' Ma'la village, via Whatsapp:





*“I was at home when the observatory in the area announced that Russian warplanes are leaving Hmemeim airbase. At around 1:30 AM the observatory informed everyone that the warplanes arrived in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate, then we heard the explosion. The warplane fired a missile at a residential area near Abu Bakr Al Siddeaq mosque and the makeshift hospital in the village. I went to where the missile was dropped and counted four houses that were destroyed completely. Also, the bathrooms and ablution place of the mosque were destroyed in addition to some of the furniture. Also, the operation room at the makeshift hospital was rendered out of commission after all the equipment were destroyed. I learned that a blind elder from Kousa family died in the attack.*”

## **Daraa governorate**

### **Makeshift hospital, Tafas town, Friday 5 February 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired about 10 “RBK-500” missiles loaded with “AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT” submunitions on a number of areas in Tafas town. The bombing resulted in four civilians being injured and mild damages to the hospital; in the town which is affiliated to Doctors Without Borders organization. Abu Ra’d Al Jbabi, a local media activist from Tafas town who was present at the time of the bombing, told SNHR:

*“Around 9:30 PM the airstrikes started, the warplane was flying at an extremely high altitude which made me certain that the bombing was Russian because Russian warplanes are more capable of attacking from high altitudes and at night.”*

*“14 cluster missiles were used to target a number of areas. Three missiles targeted the minarets of the mosques as Al Ba’l, Al Ghazali, and Al Omari Al Qadim mosques were all damaged in addition to targeting the makeshift hospital in the town which is affiliated to Doctors Without Borders organization with two missiles loaded with cluster bombs; the first missile of the two fell inside the hospital while the other fell in front of the outer fence. Additionally, a missile fell in a neighborhood on the outskirts of the town. Every missile contains about 200-300 spherical cluster bombs but only less of the half exploded while civil defense teams collected and neutralized the remaining bombs. I visited all the targeted areas and took pictures of the cluster remnants.”*





Pictures of cluster bombs remnants after alleged Russian warplanes targeted Tafas town in Daraa governorate with cluster missiles, 5 February 2016



## **B. Areas under the control of ISIS**

### **Aleppo governorate**

1- Surgical hospital, Al Baba city, Monday 27 June 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the surgical hospital in Al Bab city. The hospital building was heavily damaged and was rendered out of commission.

2- Al Farouq hospital, Al Bab city, Tuesday 16 August 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missile that targeted Al Farouq hospital (Formerly Al Jabal hospital) which resulted in destruction in the incubators section and damages to the maternity wing.

### **Al Raqqa governorate**

1- Al Teb Al Hadith hospital, Al Raqqa city, Sunday 10 April 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes targeted Al Teb Al Hadith hospital in Al Raqqa city which resulted in a fire breaking out in one of the power generator rooms near the hospital.





## **2- The maternity hospital, Al Raqqa city, Sunday 10 April 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the maternity hospital in Adnan Al Maleki street in Al Raqqa city. The hospital building was partially destroyed and a number of medical equipment were destroyed. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission.

## **Al Hasaka governorate**

### **1- The clinic, Al Shaddadi city, Thursday 18 February 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the clinic (Al In'ash Al Rifi center) in Al Shaddadi city in Al Hasaka governorate. The clinic was heavily damaged and rendered out of commission.

Furthermore, we documented five new attacks on medical centers that were mentioned in our previous report

### **• The National hospital, Al Raqqa city, Sunday 10 April 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the National hospital Al Thakana neighborhood in the middle of Al Raqqa city. As a result, three civilians, including two women (one of them is a nurse), were killed. Additionally, the northern building of the hospital was partially destroyed and the hospital was rendered out of commission.

Names of the victims:

- 1- Batool Al Aloush, female nurse.
- 2- Amin Al Zo'bi, known as Abu Tal't, from Tadmor, Homs suburbs.
- 3- Hanan Agha Al Antabli, wife of Amin Al Zo'bi, Tadmor, Homs suburbs.

### **• Anadan charity hospital, Aleppo: was targeted twice**

**First incident:** Wednesday 15 June 2016

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes used incendiary weapons to target the vicinity of [Anadan charity makeshift hospital](#). As a result, [the hospital was moderately damaged](#).





Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted [Anadan charity makeshift hospital](#). As a result, [the hospital building](#) and its equipment were heavily [damaged](#) and [the hospital was rendered out of commission](#).

- **Al Atareb hospital, Aleppo, Sunday 24 July 2016**

Alleged Russian fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the makeshift [hospital in Al Atareb city](#). The operation room walls and equipment at the hospital were moderately damaged.

- **Sarmein makeshift hospital, Idlib, Saturday 6 August 2016**

A ballistic missile that we suspect was fired from the Russian warships fell in Sarmein city. The bombing resulted in moderate damages to the hospital and its furniture and was rendered out of commission.

## IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Legal conclusions

- 1- The Russian regime has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, the Russian regime violated Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.
- 2- We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted armless civilians. Therefore, the Russian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled.
- 3- The attacks mentioned in this report, which have been perpetrated by the Russian regime, are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at a populated area rather than a specific military object.
- 4- The aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- 5- Russian forces, have perpetrated a violation that amount to war crime through targeting medical centers in indiscriminate, and in many cases, deliberate bombing on facilities that are supposedly protected.





## Recommendations

### To the Russian regime

- 1- Investigations must be conducted regarding the incidents mentioned in this report. The findings of these investigation must be made public to the Syrian people and all those who are responsible must be held accountable.
- 2- To redress all the damaged hospital, and reconstruct and re-prepare these hospitals. Additionally, all victims' families and wounded must be remedied.
- 3- To completely cease the targeting of hospitals, protected objects, and civil areas, and respect the customary international law.

### To the Security Council

- The Security Council has to take further steps as it has been two years since Resolution 2139 has been adopted and there haven't been any commitments to cease the indiscriminate bombing. Said steps must be binding to all the conflict parties who all must adhere to the rules of the humanitarian international law.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- To instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being stolen and ruined.
- To expand the sanctions to include the Russian and Iranian regimes who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.

To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office must submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on this massacre specifically considering that it was perpetrated by forces which we suspect to be Russian.

### To the International Community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people which would protect them from the daily killings and siege and increase the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.







- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Statute must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- To renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- To work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who enriched this report majorly.

