

## Introduction

1. This report was prepared by a steering committee that was formed from the **Alliance for Writing and Advocating the Syrian Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Reports “AWASUR”**. The “AWASUR” consists from organizations and associations from the civil society in Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey, who believe in the full enjoyment of human rights for everyone in Syria regardless of political, religious, racial, gender, ethnic, and/or national belongings. The “AWASUR” members are active in various fields: human rights, in particular that of women and children, social services, health care, citizenship and democracy, peace building, media, and development.
2. The “AWASUR” aims to review the state of human rights and its progress in Syria and to play a vital role in revealing and uncovering the human rights’ violations during the ongoing civil war. The “AWASUR” also aims to urge the conflicting parties – through the international community – on the need to adhere and commit to the international treaties and the International Humanitarian Law, and in particular on the protection of the civilians and objects that are indispensable for the survival of the civilians. Furthermore, the recommendations – if accepted and implemented – could alleviate the status of human rights in Syria.
3. The report focus on the main themes that form major violations of human rights, while being sensitive to the international treaties and the International Humanitarian Law, and highlighting the recurrent patterns and crimes against humanity. The steering committee made sure to scrutinize and confirm the information received, analyze it in a systematic and methodological manner to identify the recurrent violations, and link them to the relevant legal references.
4. There have been various changes to the Syrian Republic State since the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (12<sup>th</sup> session in 2011). Some of these changes were positive while others were negative due to: the transition of the Syrian crisis into a civil war, the intervention of foreign forces in the conflict, the limitation of the State’s sovereignty in Syria where this sovereignty is being performed by the Syrian Regime (de’ jure) and other parties to the conflict (de’ facto) and which both are representatives of sections of the Syrian society, the suffering of many due to internal displacement and asylum seeking owing to the loss of factors of human security in their original residences (either through displacement or forcible evacuation).
5. The nature of the Syrian crisis changed since the start of the early peaceful protests in March 2011 due to the Syrian regime (de’ jure) use of overwhelming political violence. The protesters turned to violence to face the violence of the state, which escalated to an armed conflict in November 2011. The conflict was further complicated with the involvement of local and foreign parties and the import of munitions, arms, and combatants.

6. The parties to the conflict committed various violations that differ in their geographical ambit, location and spread. Their methods and means of warfare focused – and in particular that of the Regime (de' jure) – on the management of the civil war using practices of siege, starvation, and use of weapons in ways that do not abide by the International Humanitarian Law. Through amendments to the constitution and issuing the counter-terrorism laws in 2012, following the removal of the state of emergency laws, the de' jure (the Regime) established legal sponsorship and protection to commit crimes against humanity and evade punishment. Moreover, the parties to the conflict displaced people by force from their habitats.
7. The parties to the conflict sought to control and monopolize natural resources and humanitarian relief and aid provisions and set to trade in them. They also extorted passers-by on check points, demanded tributes from residents living in areas under their control, managed a human trafficking network (child recruitment, imported foreign combatants, selling/buying of women, and forced labor), attacked civilian structures to seize trophies and financial gains, abducted and took hostages for ransoms, and smuggled munition, arms and persons.
8. The parties to the conflict violated the rights and endangered the safety of the people living in areas under their control. Both the de' jure and the de' facto, through their paramilitary and recognized affiliates, are responsible for all acts of violations which constitute breaches to their obligations in accordance to international treaties.
9. Despite that the Syrian Regime accepted the recommendations outlined in “working team of Syrian Universal Periodic Review” report A HRC/19/11 on 24th January 2012, the 100 (38) recommendations it implemented by issuing the 3/2010 law to prevent crimes of human trafficking, yet did not commit to take the necessary steps to protect the victims of human trafficking, the 100 recommendations (1 to 37 and 39 to 60) accepted and there is no tangible progress in the implementation of them and the Syrian regime has therefore failed to uphold its commitments to the Human Rights Council (HRC) review 2011.
10. The Syrian regime claimed in the “working team of Syrian Universal Periodic Review” report A HRC/19/11 on 24th January 2012, that the 101 (1 to 26) recommendations have been implemented while the 102 (1 to 13-15) recommendations implementation was in progress. Yet it did not prove any progress or change but rather took part in engendering the violence and the human rights violations by issuing the counter-terrorism laws (19-20-21) and establishing the counter-terrorism court (law 22).

The Syrian regime responded to the 103 recommendations and promised to provide a reply about it, but have not responded to 104 (8-10-15) recommendations. The Regime did not accept or interact with the 105 (1-13) recommendations, which could have limited the escalation of the conflict between the parties to the conflict.

## 11. Right to life, Freedom, and Safety

### **11.1. Threats of Murder, Murder, and Mass Murder**

The Syrian Regime practiced political violence that was reflected in the murder and the threatening of activists, notables, and clerics; especially in the beginning of each movement or peaceful civil gatherings (advocacy, reforms...). The peak of this violence was in 2011 (during the period of lifting the state of emergency) where the Regime and its contracting parties practiced systematic murder and threatening by murder of individuals.

The Regime used excessive force to target peaceful gatherings which led to mass murder inside places of worship and other public and private spaces<sup>1</sup>. The intention was to intimidate and terrorize civilians, protestors, and demonstrators (in a public and outrageous manner by spreading exaggerated rumors).

The Regime murdered civil activists publicly, systematically, and repeatedly on sites of checkpoints based on name lists. On-site murders and killings became a pattern that activists face during and after coming back from their peaceful actions or relief work (transporting materials concerning their activity: medical and food supplies, color spray, microphones, film equipment camera/cellphone with video footage).

The Regime also murdered those whom it considered them to be possible enemies including: civilians, fighters who are incapable of combat, and detained persons.

Parties to the conflict<sup>2</sup> committed individual and mass on-site murders against prisoners of war, wounded persons, detainees<sup>3</sup>, and relief workers after the fighting in the areas under their control, and disposed of the bodies by throwing them in open areas and/or rivers.

The Islamic State performed on-site murders in order to establish its strength and control, and mutilated the bodies of the dead publically.

Parties to the conflict carried out abductions, arrests and detentions, and murders and mutilations that targeted relief workers, medical staff, activists and human rights defenders.

### **11.2. Practices of Abduction**

The Regime practiced policies of abduction, arrests, and enacted forced disappearances of people in different areas of Syria, especially journalists, activists calling for reform and/or opposing the Regime, clerics, and human rights defenders who were observing violations. Persons targeted by these policies had their phones raided and their cellphones, cameras, computers and records confiscated. This pattern became widespread and targeted<sup>4</sup>, in addition to fleeing soldiers and conscientious objectors from the Syrian Arabic Army and stakeholders, relief workers carrying out their work, and injured people who were abducted from ambulances while being succored.

Parties to the conflict<sup>5</sup> used policies of abduction and arrest in areas under their control, either for financial reasons, for prisoner exchange at later stages<sup>6</sup> or to consecrate and tighten their control and suppress any opposition.

### **11.3. Mass Graves & Numbered Cemeteries**

The Regime intended to dispose of the corpses of prisoners, detainees, arrestees and the kidnapped by burning, chopping, and mutilating them in a way that is hard to recognize before burial. The corpses were buried in anonymous graves or in previously occupied graves where the identity of the newly buried was not identified. The Regime also created mass graves in order to dispose of corpses quickly and to obscure the causes of death. Some of the mass graves that contained graves of soldiers buried at the beginning of 2012 had symbols and numbers<sup>7</sup>, and later contained the corpses and body parts of other activists, leaders, arrestees, and members of certain wealthy families and tradesmen<sup>8</sup>.

#### **11.4 Using Methods and Means of Warfare that do not abide by International Humanitarian Law**

##### **11.4.1 Bombardment, Aerial Non-Discriminative Bombardment**

The Regime did not discriminate in bombarding military targets and inhabited residential areas, using bombardment as a mean to subjugate residential areas out of its control, which led to a large number of victims<sup>9</sup>.

The Regime also used non-discriminative aerial bombardment to destroy residential areas and civilian objects, making them uninhabitable and unusable<sup>10</sup>, in order to create a buffer zone from the debris to serve as a barricade to fortify their positions, resulting in the death and displacement of a large number of civilians.

The air-forces of international parties<sup>11</sup> carried out military actions in Syria that resulted in deaths among civilians<sup>12</sup>.

The Russians bombarded civilians, and civilian objects that are indispensable for the survival of civilians, continually for almost six months, which caused much death and destruction.

In its campaign against the Islamic State, the USA-led International Coalition bombed civilian objects and installations<sup>13</sup> that were utilized by the Islamic State as military bases or supply routes.

##### **11.4.2 Use of Incendiary Weapons Launched from Aircrafts:**

The Regime air forces attacked military targets located inside densely populated civilian areas<sup>14</sup>, without any previous warning, using incendiary weapons<sup>15</sup> and causing injuries and the loss of civilian life. Objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and green spaces, forests, and other kinds of surrounding vegetation, were repeatedly made the object of attack by the Regime.

##### **11.4.3 Use of Conventional Weaponry in Densely Populated Civilian Areas:**

The Syrian Regime turned its arsenal on areas heavily inhabited by civilians<sup>16</sup> through rocket attacks and other heavy artillery, causing death and injuries among civilians<sup>17</sup>, obstructing safe passages and making their regions "hard to reach".

##### **11.4.4 Long term Devastation Caused by Destructive Weaponry:**

The Syrian Regime used incendiary and destructive weaponry to burn<sup>18</sup> forests, agricultural lands, and irrigation infrastructures, as the result of both the Regime's intent to destroy them<sup>19</sup>, and the use of non-discriminate incendiary weapons which caused them to become collateral damage, causing long term damage on agricultural wealth, decreased soil fertility, the destruction of trees that were hundreds of years old, and harm to forest fauna and flora.

Parties to the conflict<sup>20</sup> implanted landmines and booby-trapped objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, hindering the ability of civilians to survive, and leaving the unexploded remnants of projectiles in civilian buildings and inhabited areas, where there have rarely been experts available to dismantle them.

The Syrian Regime and international parties to the conflict used Cluster and Dense Inert Metal Explosive bombs against armed groups and civil places<sup>21</sup>.

#### **11.4.5 Use of Thermobaric Weapons:**

The Syrian Regime used bombs with enhanced destructive capabilities, including thermobaric bombs, against military targets located inside densely-populated civilian areas and installations<sup>22</sup> that it had already put under siege.

#### **11.4.6 Use of Unconventional Weaponry with Massively Destructive Traits:**

The Syrian Regime used massively destructive weaponry against targets located inside civilian areas and buildings which led to the deaths of civilians<sup>23</sup>.

#### **11.4.7 Use of Unconventional Improvised Weaponry<sup>24</sup> against Civilian-Inhabited Areas and Buildings**

The Syrian Regime used materials and equipment designed for non-warlike purposes as weapons, such as incendiary containers used to cause hard-to-control fire and the emission of toxic and suffocative gasses, causing huge collateral damages. These weapons are inaccurate and usually miss their target because they are left to free fall over a wide radius of impact.

Parties to the Conflict<sup>25</sup> used materials and equipment designed for non-warlike purposes, such as gas containers and sewage pipes to make rockets<sup>26</sup>. Such weapons are inaccurate and primitive because they lack sufficient missile guidance.

#### **11.5 The Institution of Sieges against Inhabited Areas:**

As a consequence of the sieges instituted by some parties to the conflict against cities and civilian-inhabited areas<sup>27</sup>, famine spread, causing widespread malnutrition and several deaths<sup>28</sup>. Parties to the conflict restricted the passing of vital foodstuffs to civilians in need, quantifying insufficient portions which kept decreasing until they were entirely exhausted<sup>29</sup>.

Food commodities vital to survival were sold inside sieged places by people favored by the parties to the conflict dominant in the area, with prices overcoming the purchasing ability of populations already facing pronounced economic hardship<sup>30</sup>, due to absence of normal job opportunities and the inability of workers employed in

the public sector to receive their salaries, financial dues, and family benefit packages<sup>31</sup>.

The parties to the conflict did not provide any alternative solutions to these problems inside areas of their control,<sup>32</sup> either because of their inability to enact, or indifference towards enacting, the restarting of public sector institutions and the rebuilding of the infrastructure in besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

The Syrian Regime did not provide essential and indispensable food and medical supplies to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, although it was capable of providing them aeri ally<sup>33</sup>.

The Syrian Regime intended to delay the evacuation and aid of injured people in besieged and hard-to reach-areas, and caused them to be at risk of abduction and arrest.

The parties to the conflict<sup>34</sup> did not care about opening safe passages or the evacuation of civilians; their intentions solely concerned the evacuation of their own fighters and injured people<sup>35</sup>.

The parties to the conflict intentionally overtook medical utilities and other public utilities inside besieged areas, and gave priority to wounded military personnel over wounded civilians.

The parties to the conflict, in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, did not care about the needs of protected categories of civilians, especially women and children, who are the most vulnerable. Medical crews, most times, did not contain gynecologists and pediatricians, so the mortality rate increased among mothers and infants<sup>36</sup>. Contagious illnesses spread amongst the population<sup>37</sup>.

The parties to the conflict did not care about providing fuel to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, which forced the population to use alternative fuels like refined plastic and material from trees, which both lead to long term chronic health and environmental<sup>38</sup> damage.

The parties to the conflict did not care about supplying besieged and hard-to-reach areas with electricity and water<sup>39</sup>, which led to spoilage of foodstuff and plants, and the deterioration in health utilities, which caused an increase in deaths<sup>40</sup>.

The Syrian Regime and its militia forcefully moved families from Bloudan, Almaamoura, Alenshaat, whose records are in Alzabadani, to besieged Madaya, and tightened the siege, preventing sufficient food supplies from entering, which caused deaths to take place amongst the population, especially amongst children, who sustained long-term physical and psychological damage. This was a collective punishment, targeting the forcibly displaced from Alzabadani to Madaya, which was turned into a concentration camp<sup>41</sup>.

The Syrian Regime imposed a total siege on Alyarmouk camp in July 2013, which caused a severe shortage in food, medical supplies, and fuel. This was accompanied by the systematic destruction of neighborhoods, especially public utilities and infrastructure, which negatively affected indispensable human security conditions of Palestinian refugees. This shortage led to severe malnourishment,

especially among children and pregnant women; this soon became the situation for the entire population of the camp, which led to deaths<sup>42</sup>. The situation lasted until September 2014, when the population turned to alternative methods of farming, removing ruins and planting lands, roofs, and the interiors of buildings.

The Syrian Regime intentionally cut off irrigation infrastructure, and bombed planted areas, with the purpose of ruining the alternative farming project. These actions aggravated malnourishment amongst the residents of Alyarmouk camp, and disease and illnesses spread because the besieged were obliged to use contaminated water for drinking and other usages.

#### **11.6 The Use of Rape and/or the Threat of Rape as a Weapon:**

Parties to the conflict<sup>43</sup> raped women and used rape as a means of pressure and punishment<sup>44</sup>, and as a weapon to propagate terror and fear. Parties to the conflict intentionally spread rumors of rape with the purpose of terrorizing the population.

#### **11.7 The Initiation of Military Actions from within Civilian Areas**

##### **11.7.1 Militarization of civil and religious places:**

The parties to the conflict took indispensable civilian buildings as headquarters without any military necessity, constructed military points and centers within highly populated areas, and used historical churches<sup>45</sup> as base for operations, placing snipers on minarets which caused those buildings to come under attack, and exposed civilians to non-distinctive bombardment, weapons of huge collateral damage, and highly destructive weapons.

The parties to the conflict used installations such as bridges and dams<sup>46</sup> as military bases and used them to commence attacks endangering civilians' lives in surrounding areas.

The Islamic State placed improvised and ad-hoc refineries<sup>47</sup> inside civilian areas and within vital installations such as dams, without considering the general safety of civilians, who were placed at risk of great harm if and when these refineries were attacked.

The Syrian Regime turned public and joint sector institutions into investigative and military centers, questioning any individual incarcerated in these centers without charges, and exposing him or her to the risk of enforced disappearance, arrest, and murder.

##### **11.7.2 The Progressive Destruction of Neighborhoods during Armed Clashes**

The parties to the conflict<sup>48</sup> launched military attacks from civilian areas and buildings on opposing parties and engaged them in armed clashes, progressively moving from civilian building to civilian building in a manner which exposed each building to the fire of opposing parties. This resulted in the destruction of entire neighborhoods.

These clashes among parties to the conflict in Alyarmouk camp caused more destruction, the loss of shelter, and the enforced displacement of many.

### **11.7.3 The Use of Civilians and Civilian Objects as Shields**

Parties to the conflict displayed indifference about the lives and welfare of civilians during armed clashes, and intentionally used them as human shields, especially<sup>49</sup> during raids or raid rebuff.

Parties to the conflict<sup>50</sup> targeted public utilities, places of worship, civil objects, rivers, agricultural lands, and irrigation infrastructure for destruction<sup>51</sup>.

Islamic State forces attacked Alyarmouk camp, which is suffering from long-term siege, and intentionally terrorized the population, confiscated planted lands, and controlled the public utilities therein.

## **11.8 Recommendations:**

### **11.8.1 Recommendation 1:**

International community shall obligate parties to the conflict to respect Geneva treaties, especially the Second Additional Protocol.

### **11.8.2 Recommendation 2:**

The Syrian Regime must ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### **11.8.3 Recommendation 3:**

The Syrian Regime must respect the right of protest, the right to freedom of expression, and must stop terrifying and terrorizing civilians, murdering activists, clerics and human rights defenders.

### **11.8.4 Recommendation 4:**

The Syrian Regime must reveal the destiny of abductees and the disappeared before 2012, releasing the living ones, and revealing where the killed are buried.

### **11.8.5 Recommendation 5:**

The Syrian Regime must reveal all confidential arrest centers, and allow the United Nations investigative teams to enter and access all relevant data.

### **11.8.6 Recommendation 6:**

The Syrian Regime must allow the United Nation investigative teams to investigate murders and on-site killings and, in investigating these practices, consider them to be widespread practices that may reach the level of crimes against humanity.

### **11.8.7 Recommendation 7:**

The International community shall enact measures to stop the crimes against humanity that the Islamic State has committed and is currently committing, and protect civilians under areas of Islamic State control.

### **11.8.8 Recommendation 8:**

The parties to the conflict must stop the persecution activists, opponents, human rights defenders, and conscientious objectors.

**11.8.9 Recommendation 9:**

International community shall exert concerted pressure on parties to the conflict to halt abductions, reprisal abductions, and arrests. The Regime shall take necessary measure to guarantee that this takes place.

**11.8.10 Recommendation 10:**

The Syrian Regime must surrender the name lists held of all captives, arrestees, prisoners, and abductees, must reveal their destiny, and must reveal the places where the deceased are buried.

**11.8.11 Recommendation 11:**

The Syrian Regime must reveal mass graves and declare the identity of those bodies buried within them.

**11.8.12 Recommendation 12:**

The Syrian Regime must respect articles 48-51-52 of The First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, article 13 of The Second Additional Protocol of Geneva treaties, which concern the protection of civilians, civil objects, and the distinction between civilians and military targets.

**11.8.13 Recommendation 13:**

The Syrian Regime must abstain from using military methods that cause serious long-term damage, either through intention or negligence, to the civilian population, must ban aggressive acts and threats meant to spread fear among civilians.

**11.8.14 Recommendation 14:**

The parties to the conflict must uphold Article 51 from the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, stopping the use of weapons and fighting that do not sufficiently discriminate between legitimate military targets and civilians.

**11.8.15 Recommendation 15:**

International parties operating military actions in Syria must respect Article 57 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, making sure that the targets of military actions are not civilians, civil objects, or are subject to special protections under international law, and take the required precautions to avoid harm coming to civilians.

**11.8.16 Recommendation 16:**

The International Party to the conflict, the Russian Forces, must respect articles 51 & 52 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, refraining from dealing with civilians and civil objects as targets for attack, abstaining from violent acts and threats aiming and/or acting to spread terror amongst the population, and distinguishing between civilian objects and military targets.

**11.8.17 Recommendation 17:**

The international community must place concerted pressure on international parties operating militarily in Syria to investigate those attacks which have resulted in civilian victims.

**11.8.18 Recommendation 18:**

The Syrian Regime must uphold Article 2 of the Third Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions the Uses of Incendiary Weapons, abstaining from targeting any military point located inside civil areas with aerial incendiary weapons, and abstain from targeting forests and other areas of natural importance.

**11.8.19 Recommendation 19:**

The Syrian Regime must abide by and encourage local truces and reconciliations, find safe passage for civilians, respect the evacuation of the injured, and facilitate the transport of medical supplies to afflicted areas.

**11.8.20 Recommendation 20:**

The Syrian Regime must respect Article 35 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, and abstain from using means and fighting methods that cause long-term and extensive damage to the environment.

**11.8.21 Recommendation 21:**

The Syrian Regime must refrain from targeting agricultural land, in particular during the harvest, and respect related international resolutions<sup>52</sup>.

**11.8.22 Recommendation 22:**

The international community must ban the provision of parties to the conflict with mines, the transfer of mines across borders<sup>53</sup>, and prohibit the production of mines locally.

**11.8.23 Recommendations 23:**

The Syrian Regime must provide experts to dismantle explosives and mines, and to take action to enable other parties to the conflict to perform the same actions.

**11.8.24 Recommendations 24:**

The Syrian Regime must abstain from using unconventional weapons of mass destruction, and must abide by its international resolution by surrendering and permitting the destruction of any remains or materials pertaining to weapons of mass destruction by responsible teams and/or investigations<sup>54</sup>. The Syrian Regime must open an investigation into its usage of weapons of mass destruction, deal with those responsible for the deployment of weapons of mass destruction, and allow international investigation committees to continue with investigations and to visit the storage spaces and factories of these weapons.

**11.8.25 Recommendations 25:**

The Syrian Regime must abstain from the usage of highly destructive improvised explosive devices weapons that cause highly uncontrollable collateral damage to civilians and civilian objects.

**11.8.26 Recommendation 26:**

The Syrian Regime must enforce Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Treaty, guarantee the implementation of UN security council resolutions 2139-2165; cooperate with the independent judicial international commission of inquiry for the Syrian Arab republic and facilitate its mission; allow the commission to visit the areas that still besieged; and enhance implementation of recommendations issued on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015 guaranteeing the total protection of civilians.

**11.8.27 Recommendation 27:**

The Syrian Regime must apply Article 14 of the Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, abstain from the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, and take all required measures to guarantee that civilians in need, and take measures to ensure that what is left of foodstuffs, fuel supply, and cash flow is not seized.

**11.8.28 Recommendation 28:**

The Syrian Regime must ratify the Prohibition of Genocide and Collective Punishment treaty, dissolve the concentration camp in Madaya , allow medical crews to enter and repatriate inhabitant to their original places. The International community shall intervene immediately to ensure that genocide and/or preparations for genocide do not take place.

**11.8.29 Recommendation 29:**

The Syrian Regime must apply Article 76 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva treaties, Article 8 of the Rome Status, to protect women from rape, a crime against humanity, and refrain from using rape as weapon of war to terrify civilians.

**11.8.30 Recommendation 30:**

The parties to the conflict must uphold Article 53 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, Article 16 of the Second Additional Protocol of Geneva, and abstain from using religious, historical, and cultural objects as military installations, and stop targeting them.

**11.8.31 Recommendation 31:**

The Syrian Regime must take comprehensive measures to halt the usage of public sector institutions as investigating centers, and refrain from enacting military and intelligence procedures inside them.

**11.8.32 Recommendation 32:**

The parties to the conflict must respect Article 3 of the Third Geneva Treaty, and refrain from taking civilian hostages in conflict areas and using them as human shields.

**11.8.33 Recommendation 33:**

The international community must exert concrete pressure on all parties to the conflict to ensure that they abide by Article 54 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, Article 14 of Second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Treaties, abstaining from targeting objects indispensable for the survival of

civilians, and guaranteeing that civilians will no longer be targeted with military actions.

<sup>1</sup> Al Omari Mosque - Deraa, Wedding hall - Qaboun, Al Saa Square – Homs; **sources: Development Interaction Network (DIN), Violation Documentation Center (VDC)**

<sup>2</sup> Islam army, Jabhat Nusra, ISIS (also known as Daesh, ISIL or simply the Islamic State), Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command PLFP/GC; **sources: (<http://din.net/ar/Documentary/subjects5775>), ENSAN center for human rights, VDC**

<sup>3</sup> Aleppo Central Prison, Al Tabqa airport (Islamic State); **source: DIN, Human Rights Watch (HRW)**

<sup>4</sup> The widespread practice of abduction and enforced disappearance was enabled by laws which meant the Regime's security forces were unaffected by judicial accountability, in particular, the deficiencies rent to procedural justice in emergency trials. The Regime depended on this legal framework to silence dissent and disappear opponents; **source: DIN**

<sup>5</sup> Islam Army, Jabhat Nusra, the Islamic State, PLFP/GC; **sources: Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO), Palestinian League for Human Rights - Syria (PAHR-S)**

<sup>6</sup> Families of opponent military leaders were abducted in some coastal areas; **source: DIN**

<sup>7</sup> **Sources: MARATOUS for Citizenship and Human Rights (MARATOUS), Ceaser**

<sup>8</sup> They were buried this way so that the Regime retained the option of using the bodies to extort the families of the deceased; **source: DIN**

<sup>9</sup> **Source: VDC**

<sup>10</sup> Al Yarmouk street in Yarmouk camp, Alwaer and Alqoudat Street, Old City of Homs; **source: Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC)**

<sup>11</sup> (The USA-led International Coalition)

<sup>12</sup> Al Raqqah and Dier Ezzur; **sources: DIN, VDC**

<sup>13</sup> The USA-led International Coalition targeted bridges and refineries in particular (Al Sabahiya, Al Assadiya, Al Forosiah, Al Raqqah, Samura Dam, Hamrat Nasir, Al Hsiwa power plant, Shunaynah, al Quitar, Badir Farm, Al Karama, other small bridges in the Al Raqqah area); **sources: DIN**

<sup>14</sup> **Sources: DIN, VDC**

<sup>15</sup> Using barrels and containers which were made into unconventional improvised weapons; **source: DIN**

<sup>16</sup> **Sources: VDC, DIN, SHRC**

<sup>17</sup> **Sources: United Nations Reports, ENSAN, DIN, VDC**

<sup>18</sup> Using barrels and containers which were made into unconventional improvised weapons; **source: DIN**

<sup>19</sup> Al Ghouta al Sharqiah - Hama & Rief Damascus; **sources: Abaad Media Center, DIN**

<sup>20</sup> The Syrian Regime at Syrian borders, Jabhat nusra, the Islamic State, Houran Ababil, AHRAR Palestine, Brigade of abu al fadl al abbas

<sup>21</sup> Ezaz, Kafr Hamrah, Endan, Hayan in North Aleppo in February 2016; **source: Syrian Network for Human Rights (SN4HR)**

<sup>22</sup> Al Qusayr, Al Raqqah, Hama, Homs; **sources: HRW, UN Reports**

<sup>23</sup> 756 persons in Khan al Asal, Saraqib, and Al Ghouta; **source: The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

<sup>24</sup> Unconventional Improvised Weapons; **source: DIN**

<sup>25</sup> The Islamic State, Jabhat Nusra, Islam Army, Syrian Free Army, the Syrian Regime; **sources: VDC, SN4HR**

<sup>26</sup> Sief rockets, Sief al Farouq rockets, Farouq One rockets, Al Qaaqaa rockets, Nabil al Farouk rocket, Al Fiel rockets; **source: VDC**

<sup>27</sup> Old Homs, Al Waer, Al Yarmouk camp, Khan al-Shieh, Madaya, Al Zabadani, Al Madamiyat al Sham; **sources: PAHR-S, Amnesty International, PHRO, HRW, SHRC**

<sup>28</sup> The Syrian Regime, Hezbollah, Brigade of abu al fadl al abbas; **sources: PHRO, HRW, Amnesty International, PAHR-S**

<sup>29</sup> Each person was allowed to carry through checkpoints only around 8 pieces of bread; **sources: PHRO, PAHR-S**

<sup>30</sup> **Source: International labor organization (ILO)**

<sup>31</sup> One of the main causes of this difficulty is the inability of many to obtain official documentation, thus qualifying for benefits; **source: MARATOUS**

<sup>32</sup> Especially Al Yarmouk Camp, Al Zabadani, Madaya, Old Homs; **sources: PAHR-S, PHRO, DIN**

<sup>33</sup> For example, Al Nobbol and Al Zahraa; **source: Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA)**

<sup>34</sup> Always the case for: the Syrian Regime (for example, a hospital in Sabboura refused to treat the injured from Mabouja village), Jabhat Nusra, the Islamic State, Islam Army; **source: DIN**

<sup>35</sup> This occurred during, for example, the Truce in Al Waerl; **source: DIN**

<sup>36</sup> Al Waer , Yarmouk; **sources: PAHR-S, PHRO, DIN**

<sup>37</sup> Particularly the diseases of infantile paralysis, Hepatitis A, Scabies, Typhoid, Tuberculosis; **sources: Syrian Health Ministry, World Health Organization (WHO), VDC**

<sup>38</sup> Al Yarmouk Camp, Al Waer, Al Zabadani, Rief - Damascus (suffocation, destruction of forests, increase in desertification rate in countryside); **sources: PHRO, PAHR-S, DIN, SN4HR**

<sup>39</sup> Al Yarmouk Camp; **sources: PHRO, PAHR-S**

<sup>40</sup> **Sources: PHRO, VDC, PAHR-S**

<sup>41</sup> The term indicates encampments or spaces of detention where large concentrations of people are kept under harsh conditions indefinitely, sometimes to provide forced labour or await mass execution

<sup>42</sup> 186 deaths; **source: PAHR-S**

<sup>43</sup> Islamic front, the Islamic State, the Syrian Regime, and various groups fighting for the Regime; **source: DIN**

<sup>44</sup> Women were taken as hostages to be traded for wanted people, to be used as a punishment to opponents and the arrested, etc; **source: DIN**

<sup>45</sup> Mar Sergius and Bacchus; **source: HRC, ([http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/a\\_hrc\\_25\\_65.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/a_hrc_25_65.pdf))**

<sup>46</sup> Tishreen Dam – Aleppo, all bridges in Al Raqqah (by the Islamic State); **sources: DIN**

<sup>47</sup> Primitive oil refineries and chemical installations for undefined usage; **source: DIN**

<sup>48</sup> Between the Islamic State and the Free Army, Hazm, the National Defense Force; Jabhat Nusra and the Free Army; PLFP GC and Aknaf Beit Almaqdes; **sources: VDC, PAHR-S, PHRO, DIN**

<sup>49</sup> The Syrian Regime; **source: HRW**

<sup>50</sup> Free army (Hospital of Jisr al Shoughor, Alkindi Hospital); the Syrian Regime (Khaled bin Alwaleed Mosque, Fayeze Halawi Hospital, Palestine Hospital, the main water tanks in Homs, Khan al Shieh, Hama, Al Mouadamyia, Abdul Kader Houssaini Mosque in Al Yarmouk Camp, Omayyad and Soltaniah Mosques in Aleppo); the Islamic State (Palestine Hospital, Shrines of Ammar bin Yasser, Ouayes Al Qarni, Wife of Prophet Ayyob, Essa Abdul Kader, Prophet Ayyoub, Al Emam Al Nawawi, and Sedi Salman, Martyrs Saints Church in Dier Ezzor; **sources: VDC, PAHR-S, PHRO, DIN**

<sup>51</sup> Al Gouta in Rief Damascus; **source: VDC**

<sup>52</sup> UN International Resolutions 2139(2014), 2165(2014), 2191(2014)

<sup>53</sup> The borders with Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel

<sup>54</sup> Chemical and biological weapons