



مركز توثيق الانتهاكات في سوريا
Violations Documentation Center in Syria



Civilians Have the Most to Lose in Operation 'Peace Spring'

Special Report on Recent Violations In North East Syria

The Violations Documentation Centre | October 2019

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About the Centre

[The Violations Documentation Centre in Syria](#) is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit Syrian organization established in April 2011. The Centre monitors and documents human rights violations in Syria and simultaneously contributes to the promotion and dissemination of human rights culture and concepts in the country. The Centre is led by a number of activists from inside and outside Syria (approximately thirty activists), most of whom are located in Syria in various governorates, cities and towns. Irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator or the victim, the Centre's activists monitor and document violations from all parties to the conflict, such as the names of victims, detainees, missing persons and abductees in Syria.

Introduction

The Violations Documentation Centre (hereinafter referred to as the VDC) presents this report which is based on a rigorous process and on human rights and documentary perspectives. In this report, the VDC ensured to maintain its ongoing policy on being uninfluenced by any political background and on refraining from the use of terminology that may incite violence and hatred. The production of this report relied on the testimonies of eyewitnesses, activists and local residents who have first-hand experience of the ongoing events. The VDC refrains from citing or referring to the names of its sources of information. This is to prevent potential threats to their lives during the ongoing conflict between the parties in the cities and towns of north-eastern Syria.

The displacement crisis among the population of the targeted area remains one of the most prominent features of the suffering caused by the recent military operations. The suffering of the internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as the IDPs) continues to be a source of devastation to Syrians since the beginning of the conflict. Areas where IDPs have settled in following the loss of their homes and towns are not safer than the areas they came from.

Hostilities in northeast Syria have caused massive population movements. Around 180,000 people, including 80,000 children, have fled to the southern border areas between Turkey and Syria in the past two weeks. According to the UN [figures](#), most of them managed to stay with friends and relatives, while others sought shelter in camps for displaced people.

The population of al-Hasakah constituted the largest number of displaced persons, where fighting is taking place between the Kurdish Protection Units on the one hand and the Turkish army and the National Army factions supporting it on the other hand in the border areas. In addition to Kobani /Ain al-Arab in Aleppo and Tal Abyad/ Girê sipî in Raqqa governorate. According to the UN [figures](#), around 3 million people live in north-eastern Syria. This includes 710,000 displaced people and 1.8 million people needed humanitarian assistance before the recent escalation of the conflict by the involved parties. The UNICEF, however, [estimated](#) that nearly 70,000 children have been displaced since the escalation of violence in north-eastern Syria. The UNICEF is concerned that the need for humanitarian assistance for at least 170,000 children will increase as a result of the violence in the region.

Methodology and Challenges

- Panic among civilians as well as the fear of detention or future reprisals were some of the main challenges that faced the VDC in the process of collecting data for this report. These challenges also involved communicating with local activists who were moving from one area to another for fear of being arrested or prosecuted. The VDC team has also encountered serious difficulties in obtaining accurate information and figures on the ongoing violations, far from exaggerating or underestimating what is happening.
- The report relied on testimonies and statements of eyewitnesses who were in direct contact with the event as the source of its information. The VDC has taken into account the substantive conditions to produce a report which has the merit of being simple on the one hand, yet objective in its observation of the of violations committed by all parties that took place on the other.
- In preparing this report, the VDC adopted a special methodology for documenting military operations, which enabled it to document 51 military strikes and attacks with lists of the names of the civilian victims whom the VFC was able to verify.
- In this report, the VDC excluded all objectives which, after verification, proved to be of a military nature.
- The VDC notes that this report does not address a number of attacks for which its investigators have not been able to conduct a detailed and thorough investigation, even if they have been included in media reports from local media offices or social media. This is due to the inaccessibility of several sources about single attacks. This, however, does not mean that the VDC denies these attacks.
- The VDCs definition of violations is based on the definitions contained in international human rights conventions, human rights standards, international humanitarian law, the Rome Convention containing the Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Geneva Conventions, including, but not limited to, attacks against civilians, civil infrastructure, humanitarian and relief facilities.
- The VDC documents violations committed by all actors in Syria regardless of race, religion, political allegiance or any other factor and is equidistant from all violators and victims. The Centre also documents as much information as possible about each violation, including the perpetrator, the place and date of its occurrence, its type as well as other statistical characteristics that may be relevant to victims and violations.
- Statistics in this report are inconclusive. They are subject to periodic and ongoing reviews by the Centre's activists first, and data processors and field observation team inside Syria afterwards.

Summary

This report covers the period between 09 and 23 October 2019 through which the VDC team recorded the following violations:

- **51** violations committed by all parties to the conflict across the north-eastern regions of Syria.
- **33** violations by the Turkish army and its Syrian National Army factions from the beginning of the military operation on 09 October 2019 until the 23rd of the same month.
- The team also documented **10** violations committed by the People's Protection Units (YPG) fighters during the same period.
- **6** violations that we were unable to identify their perpetrators.
- The death of one child at the hands of Syrian government forces.
- The death of **223** people since the beginning of the military operation on 09 October, including **59** civilians who were killed by the Turkish army and the National Army factions supporting it and **21** civilians by the Syrian Democratic Forces (hereinafter referred to as the SDF)¹, in addition to **143** non-civilians.

Attacks Against Civilian Objects

The VDC documented three attacks² by Turkish forces on three hospitals on Friday, 11 October. These hospitals are:

- Tal Abyad Hospital in Tal Abyad / Girê sipî, in Raqqqa governorate.
- Ain Dewar Hospital in Al-Malikiyah / Dêrika Hemko, in al-Hasakah governorate.
- Ras al-Ain Hospital/Serê Kaniyê, in al-Hasakeh governorate.

An attack has also targeted a medical point near Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê in al-Hasakah governorate. The attack resulted in the death of a paramedic on 14 October 2019. It also killed 5 people from the medical staff of the Kurdish Red Crescent. The VDC also documented an attack carried out by the Turkish army against a convoy of media and other civilians, which resulted in the killing of three journalists, including a Ukrainian national.

1 -The Syrian Democratic Forces, briefly referred to as the SDF, is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious alliance of predominantly Kurdish militias, as well as Arab and Assyrian / Syriac militias. The SDF is composed mostly of the SDF, which is mostly Kurdish factions, which leads the forces militarily.

2- Attack: Rather than the number of shells, a single attack here means a full day of shelling which targets one place.

Ceasefire Agreement

On the morning of Wednesday, 09 October 2019, the Turkish Ministry of Defense issued a statement in which it announced a large-scale ground incursion into northern Syria as part of 'Spring of Peace' operation launched against the Syrian Democratic Forces with the support of the Syrian National Army factions³. The military operation began with Turkish warplanes launching airstrikes on border towns and cities controlled the SDF.

A ceasefire was announced in northern Syria on 17 October 2017 between the Turkish army and the National Army factions on the one hand, and the SDF on the other. The agreement entered into force at 10 pm local time (19:00 GMT).

On October 22, 2019, the Russian and Turkish governments reached another agreement to extend the ceasefire for an additional 150 hours in order for the SDF to complete their withdrawal 30 kilometers away from the border area, as well as the cities of Tall Rifat and Manbij. The agreement also included joint patrols between Russia and Syria on the one hand and Turkey on the other, 10 kilometers from the Syrian side of the border except the city of Qamishli. The new ceasefire commenced on 23 October at 12 noon local time.

Despite the ceasefire agreement to suspend military operations between the warring parties, breaches of the agreement were recorded by the Turkish army, which continued to carry out artillery shelling targeting the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê.

Kamal Derbas, a member of the Kurdish Red Crescent, told the VDC:

“

It is hard to establish whether Turkey the National Army factions have violated the ceasefire agreement. This is because they did not abide by the ceasefire at all. The frequency of shelling on all residential areas has not decreased or been affected. In fact, they remained the same as before the agreement.

”

Dr. Sherwan Kurdi, the director of the [Kurdish Red Crescent](#), told the VDC:

“

The hospital of Tall Tamr Hospital has been receiving emergency cases. The state of injured people varies depending on the type of injury. However, most cases received are of citizens who were injured as a result of aerial bombardment and mortar shells. The hospital received several other cases of people injured as a result of being targeted by incendiary munitions, which we could not determine their type.

”

3- A group of Syrian armed opposition factions that were under the umbrella of the Free Syrian Army (FSA). They were assembled under “regular and professional military command” before Turkey’s first military operation in Syria, which Turkey called the Euphrates Shield in August 2016. The aim was to unify the opposition factions and to facilitate action and coordination as one army under one command, and to prevent any conflict between different armed groups

Six people, including 2 children and 4 adult civilians, had first-degree burns as a result of being targeted with suspected phosphorus and incendiary munitions. The Kurdish Red Crescent provided the VDC with the files of the victims, all of which indicate that they suffered burns of varying intensity. These reports are supplemented by medical reports confirming that they were targeted with munitions believed to be incendiary. The VDC could not establish their type.

Kamal Derbas, a member of the Kurdish Red Crescent Society, adds:

“

In just one day, medical centers received around 10 cases with varying degrees of burns. These cases confirm suspicions of the use of munitions believed to be phosphorus.

”

Most notable violations documented in the cities and towns of north-eastern Syria

‘Sh. N’ is the owner of a house that has been seized by National Army factions. He told the VDC:

“

Our house, located in Al-Mahatta neighborhood in the city of Ras al-Ain, was seized by a battalion called ‘Martyrs of Deir ez-Zor’. The latter is part of the National Army, which is supported by the Turkish government, and is led by Abu Bakr al-Deiri. Members of the faction stole all the house’s belongings and seized it. They locked it and closed the main door with an iron chain to prevent us from returning to it again. (Photo 1)

”



Photo 1: A house has been seized by a faction called “Martyrs of Deir ez-Zor”.
Source: The house owner

Violations documented on Wednesday, 09 October 2019

- 1- The VDC team documented attacks with artillery shells and airstrikes by the Turkish army and armed opposition factions affiliated with the Syrian National Army. These attacks targeted the cities of Al-Qamishli, Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê, Tal Abyad / Girê sipî, Ain al-Arab / Kobani, and Ain Issa. They resulted in the death of three people (Mohammed Haj Kaddour Ismail, Rabia Ismail, Akram Youssef) and the injury of more than twenty civilians.
- 2- The SDF artillery shelled the Turkish town of Karkamish, opposite to Jarablus, in addition to Mardin and a number of border towns. The shelling targeted civilian dwellings in these towns, resulting in damages.
- 3- The SDF artillery, stationed in the village of in Zour Maghar, targeted residential neighbourhoods in the city of Jarablus in the eastern countryside of Aleppo with rocket launchers. The shelling also reached al-Jabal camp, which hosts displaced people from the of the Euphrates river, after the SDF established control of the area. The shelling killed Ahmad al-Shukh and wounded 7 others, including 2 children and a woman.

We'am Al-Halabi is 18 years old. He is a displaced person and currently lives in the city of Jarablus. He told the VDC:

“ We were indoors on 09 October at 7 pm, when we heard artillery shelling aiming at our neighbourhood. The first shells landed a long distance from our house. Then the shelling stopped for a few minutes. This was followed by loud explosion which turned out to be a shell that hit a nearby house. Few seconds later, another shell hit our house turning the entire place to dust and rubble. We could not see anything. My foot was injured and it bled profusely. We took refuge in the house of our neighbour. I was screaming in pain because of the open wound in my foot. I was taken by ambulance to the hospital and one of the shrapnel in my foot was removed and the wound was sutured. My mother left the hospital and went to our house to pack it before my discharge from the hospital. Unfortunately, the house was completely destroyed and not suitable for habitation. We stayed with our relatives for a few days and before we could rent another house. (Photo 2)

”



Photo 2: Empty munitions that were used in shelling residential areas in the city of Jarablus. | Source: The VDC correspondent

Violations documented on Wednesday, 09 October 2019

1- Turkish warplanes targeted civilian buses on their way to the city of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî in Raqqa governorate. Among the passengers were some teachers and civil society activists in Raqqa governorate who were on their way to participate in demonstrations. The shelling killed 3 people and wounded 5 others.

2- The SDF carried out artillery shelling on the town of Akçakale on the Turkish side, which targeted a government building in the town and neighbouring residential buildings. The shelling killed 3 people, including a Syrian child (Mohammed Omar, 9 months).

3- The artillery of the Turkish army targeted Qaddur Bey neighbourhood in the centre of the city of Qamishli, which is overcrowded by unarmed civilians, with two artillery shells. This resulted in the death of Mohammed Yusuf Hussein, 12-year-old, the injury of a 60-year-old woman and the amputation of the 7-year-old Mohammed Hussein's leg. [videotape](#)



Photo 3: Khatib Hami was killed by the shelling of the Turkish army artillery and the National Army factions on 10 October 2019

4- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled the town hall in the village of Hawijah al-Tahri in the countryside of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî. The shelling destroyed the building, leaving it out of service.

5- A SDF sniper aimed at Khalaf Abd Al-Habouchi while trying to leave his house in Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê, killing him immediately.

6- SDF units, stationed in Tall Rifat, shelled Afrin, resulting in the injury of 5 civilians.

7- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê. The shelling killed one civilian (Khatib Hami) and severely injured his wife. (Photo 3)

8- The yard of the Virgin Mary Syriac Orthodox Church in the village of Tal Jahan, northwest of Al-Qahtaniya district, was shelled by Turkish forces and their affiliates the National Army factions.

9- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted the vicinity of Al-Mabrouka Camp in Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê in al-Hasakah governorate in conjunction with the attempt of its residents to set a fire in the camp. The camp houses families of ISIS fighters. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) attempted to prevent families from escaping from the camp and [transferred](#) them to Al-Houl camp in al-Hasakah.

Rami Mustafa is 24 years old. He is a displaced person and currently lives in the city of Jarablus. He told the VDC:

“

After my family and I were displaced from Aleppo, we went to the city of Jarablus. We thought it was relatively safe and it is close to the borders. When the Turkish army and the opposition factions launched the military operation, the city of Jarablus was shelled by artillery. Although our area did not experience a military build-up, I managed to see the shelling because I live in a high building. I could see the shells being fired from the east bank of the Euphrates at night and falling the city of Jarablus city. One of the shells fell and hit the building where I was staying. The damage was limited. A fire broke out in the house which was hit by the shell and the fire was put out by the civil defense. All of its inhabitants were moved to other places. Some settled in Jarablus countryside and some moved to the camp.



Photo 4: Extent of damage to residential houses as a result of being shelled by the SDF
Source: The VDC correspondent

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Violations documented on Wednesday, 09 October 2019

- 1-** The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled a residential street in Qaddur Bey neighbourhood, which resulted in the death of 'Um Bashir Muhammad' as a result of shrapnel wounds (Photo 5).
- 2-** The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled the village of Koran, to the east of Ain al-Arab / Kobani, which killed 3 people (Jalal Esmat, Masoud Sheikh Ahmed, Idan Rashid Jedara).
- 3-** The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled al-Zaytouna neighbourhood in al-Qamishli, killing two people (Suleiman Abbas and Haj Hussein).

- 4- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted the vicinity of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê Hospital in al-Hasakah governorate. The shelling caused damages to the hospital, leaving it out of service.
- 5- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled Qaddur Bey neighborhood in al-Qamishli, killing two civilians (Suleiman Abbas Al-Shukr, Hussein Kusho) (Photo 6).
- 6- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions bombed the bakery in the centre of the city of al-Qamishli, killing "Hasan Suleiman Ali" and injuring five other workers who were injured during the course of their work.
- 7- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted Al-Malikiyah/ Dêrika Hemko, Tal Abyad/Girê sipî and Ras al-Ain/Serê Kaniyê hospitals, putting them out of service.
- 8- A car bomb exploded next to Omri Restaurant in Munir Habib Street in al-Qamishli, killing one civilian (Fadi Adel Ibrahim) and injuring others. The perpetrator remains unknown.



Photo 5: 'Um Bashir Muhammad' was killed by the shrapnel of a shell which landed near Nubar Pharmacy



Photo 6: 'Suleiman Abbas Al-Shukr' was killed by the shrapnel of a shell which hit Qaddur Bey neighbourhood. He is from the village of Helwet al-Shaikh

A.A. an independent activist and journalist working in the field of documenting violations in the north-east of Syria, told the VDC:

“

Several systematic abuses by factions of the National Army, backed by the Turkish government, have been documented. At least three separate incidents were confirmed following contact with the victims and their relatives:

- A faction of the National Army executed civilians: Khalil Jolo Sido, Sheyar Mahmoud Ali Osman and Mustafa Hamad Osso on 19 October 2019 while returning to the industrial district of Ras al-Ain to inspect their houses.

- National Army factions looted two shops in al-Hasakah owned by Khoshnaw Yusuf, 57 years old. Videos showing the shops being cleared by members of the opposition factions were sent to Yusuf's phone. Consequently, he suffered a heart attack and he was taken to the hospital.
- Armed factions of the National Army abducted the elderly Mohammed Masoum Abdul Latif Seda, 80 years old, from the village of Mandi, which is 14 km away from the city of Ras al-Ain. The kidnappers demanded \$15,000. He was released in exchange for \$8,000 after several negotiations.



Violations documented on Saturday, 12 October 2019

1- A Turkish sniper aimed at a woman (Iman Mohammad Sharif Tahlo, 24 years old) in the northern belt of the city of Qamishli, killing her immediately. (Photo 7)

2- Syrian opposition factions / Syrian National Army blocked the international road M4 and stopped and searched civilians' vehicles. Armed members of two factions, calling themselves Ahrar al-Sharqiyya ⁴ and Sultan Murad ⁵ of the Turkish-backed National Army, targeted the car of Hafrin Khalaf, the political secretary of the 'Syria the Future' Party. Consequently, she was killed and her body was mutilated by members of Ahrar al-Sharqiyya faction. Later, they executed both her bodyguard and driver. Nine civilians were killed at different times on the same day, including Farhad Mohammed, who was accompanied by Hafrin Khalaf, and seven other civilians. (Photo 7)



Photo 6: Iman Mohammad Sharif Tahlo, 24 years old, was killed by a Turkish Sniper in the northern belt of the city of Qamishli

4- One of the factions that form the Syrian National Army, which is backed by the Turkish government. This faction was established near the city of Azaz and announced its formation on 22 January 2016 by members mostly in exile and others in Deir ez-Zor governorate.

5- The Sultan Murad Division was formed in December 2015 after it was merged into a unified military structure including "Turkmen Martyrs Brigade - 1st Infantry Brigade - 2nd Infantry Brigade - Special Task Force Brigade - Yarmouk Brigade". It participated in the Euphrates Shield operation, launched by Turkish forces in the northern countryside of Aleppo, against ISIS on 24 August 2016. It also participated in the 'Olive Branch' operation launched by Turkey on 20 January 2018, to gain control of the Afrin region



Photo 7: Hafrin Khalaf was killed at the hand of the National Army factions, which are backed by Turkey years old, was killed by the Turkish government on 12 October 2019. | Source: The Kurdish Red Crescent

3- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled the city of Kobani / Ain al-Arab, resulting in the death of one civilian named Basil Ahmed Ayub.

4- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted a power plant to the north of the city of al-Qamishli. The shelling left the plant out of service and cut off the 66kv cable that feeds it.

5- Members of the Syrian Democratic Forces / SDF burned several houses in the town of Tal Abyad/Girê sipî, north of Raqqa, three of which were empty since their owners were displaced to the Turkish town of Akçakale. The scorched houses belong to Khalaf al-Hassoun, Ahmad al-Zaidi, Abboud al-Hassoun, Mohammed al-Mousa al-Hussein, Ma'ayar al-Hussein, Darwish al-Musa and Hussein al-Ayyub. Apparently, burning these houses was motivated by revenge, because these houses belonged to relatives of people who were members of the Syrian National Army.

6- Members of the Hamza division ⁶ of the National Army Forces in Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê, led by Abu Jaber, led by Abu Jaber, the commander of military operations and the field commander Abu Hanash, indiscriminately arrested and looted their properties. Their fate is unknown to date to the VDC. We have registered a number of people arrested: Hammadi al-Hamoud al-Hamda, Hammadi Ali al-Mukhtar (teacher at Tal Halaf School), Sabah al-Najm, Abboud al-Zaher, and Khaled Hassan al-Ismaïl.

7- The VDC correspondents documented some damages in the city of al-Hasakah as a result of a car bomb explosion near a former prison of ISIS detainees. No casualties were recorded and the perpetrator was not identified.

6- One component of the Syrian National Army, supported by the Turkish government. The group has been trained and equipped by the United States and Turkey as part of the Syrian training and equipment program to fight ISIS in northwestern Syria.

Violations documented on Sunday, 13 October 2019

- 1-** The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted the Bar Association Centre in the northern neighbourhood of the city of Kobani / Ain al-Arab ([videotape](#)) The shelling injured two people that were taken to the hospital (Jamil Ahmed Al-Ahmad, 65, and Rawhalat Yildiz, 20).
- 2-** Turkish warplanes carried out airstrikes on a convoy of civilians heading to the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê. This civilian convoy came from most areas east of Al-Hasakah to support the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The shelling resulted in the death of Saad Al-Ahmad, the correspondent of Hawar Press Agency, in addition to an unidentified Ukrainian media person. It also killed Mohammed Hussein Rasho, the correspondent of Çıra TV, who died of his wounds.
- 3-** The SDF forces targeted a private transport vehicle on the road between Arab Hassan and Al-Mohsinli villages in Manbij countryside with a thermal tracking missile from the southern bank of Al-Sajour River ([videotape](#)). The shelling killed three people, including Faisal Akram al-Kous, who comes from Homs governorate, while the other two were not identified.
- 4-** Members of the SDF kidnapped (Muhammad Ali al-Saleh) from the western countryside of Raqqa. He is one of the organizers of the pro-Syrian Government Forces rally in the city of Raqqa.
- 5-** Members of the SDF executed three civilians and wounded five others in the village of Abu Kraya, east of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî, after they tried to take their car by force to flee. The victims are: Aziz Hassan Al-Hammadi (50 years old), Mahmoud Hassan Al-Hammadi (30 years old) and Rajab Al-Hammadi (60 years old).
- 6-** Connection was lost with a medical staff consisting of three people from the Kurdish Red Crescent in the area of Slouk, who were heading to the city of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî to help the wounded. The staff consists of two female paramedics in addition to one male. (Paramedic Media Busan, Paramedic Haven Khalil Ibrahim and the ambulance driver Mohamed Bouzan Sidi) (Photo 8).



Photo 8: Medical staff with whom contact was lost in the area of Slouk on 12 October 2019
Source: The Kurdish Red Crescent

Kamal Derbas, a member of the Kurdish Red Crescent Society, confirmed to the VDC that members of an armed faction belonging to the National Army, which is backed by the Turkish government, have summarily executed members of the staff and concealed their bodies.

7- The Turkish army forces and the Syrian opposition factions affiliated with it (the National Army) bombarded the village of Jatli, which belongs to the Darbasiyah district in al-Hasakah governorate.

Violations documented on Monday, 14 October 2019

1- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled the village of Umm Adasa Al-Farat in the western countryside of Manbij, killing two civilians (Ahmed Abdullah, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Safari) and wounding thirteen others, including children who were transferred to Al-Furat Hospital in Manbij. According to medical staff, three of the injured were in critical condition.

2- Aamal Mohammed Ali Al-Debs, a 10-year-old child from the city of Al-Bukamal in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Ezor, was killed by a gunshot wound, fired by a patrol of Syrian government forces. The incident took place in the vicinity of Ain Issa refugee camp in the city of Ain Issa in the northern countryside of Raqqa.



Photo 9: Hayel Al-Saleh died of his wounds resulting from the shelling on medical point located near Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê

3- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions targeted the medical point located near Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê, killing the paramedic Hayel Al-Saleh (Photo 8) and injuring three other medical staff. (Photo 9)

Violations documented on Monday, 14 October 2019

- 1-** The SDF targeted the city of Jarablus in eastern Aleppo countryside with rocket launchers. The shelling targeted residential neighbourhoods and al-Jabal camp within the city, which shelters displaced people from eastern Euphrates after the SDF took control of the area. Three civilians, including a child, were wounded.
- 2-** A landmine planted by SDF exploded south of the city of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî in the northern countryside of Raqqa, killing Ahmed Hassan Mohammed.
- 3-** The child Mahmoud Omar Mohammed Al-Bakara, 14 years old from the village of Al-Ameriya of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê in the north western countryside of al-Hasaka governorate, was killed. The body of the child was found in Al-Mushairfah neighbourhood in the city of Al-Hasakah on 14 October with gunshot residue. We note here that Mahmoud disappeared on 10 October while in Al-Hasakah. The city is under the control of the SDF, and we have not been able to determine who carried out the killing so far.
- 4-** Members of the Syrian National Army executed 2 civilians (Rizan Julo and Mustafa Sino Warsho) and severely injured another (Abdulrazzak Hesso) when they tried to visit their houses in the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê. (Photo 10).



Photo 10: corpses of civilian victims who were killed at the hand of the Syrian National Army factions on 15 October 2019 | Source: Syria News Agency

Violations documented on Wednesday, 16 October 2019

- 1- Members of the 23rd battalion of the Sultan Murad Division, which is part of the National Army, carried out a series of theft and looting of properties belonging to the civilian population in the village of Salhiya in Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê and other areas.
- 2- SDF members arrested five members on charges of belonging to the National Army on the road to Tal Tamr, claiming that they were sleeper cells. Several sources confirmed that these five people are civilians, mostly students of Sheikh Mohammed Mutaal al-Khaznawi at the Khaznawi School ([videotape](#))
- 3- A case of a child suffering from burns caused by incendiary substances suspected to be phosphorus has been documented. This has not been substantiated as yet.

Violations documented on Thursday, 17 October 2019

- 1- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled the Suez Canal neighbourhood in the city of al-Qamishli, wounding three people, including two children. The victims are: Raha Fahad Ibrahim Al-Masri (8 years old), Nidal Mohammad Zaki and Mohammed Saleh Abdullah.
- 2- Two people were killed in a landmine explosion near the village of Quneitra in the countryside of the city of Raqqa. The victims are: Mohammed Matar Al-Hallous and Hussein Hamad Al-Barho.

Violations documented on Friday, 18 October 2019

- 1- A military group carrying the emblems of the "National Army" seized two Hyundai cars in the village of Hweish Al-Nasser near Al-Alia. The cars belong to Suleiman Al-Alu and Ahmad Al-Kanao

2- The Turkish army and its armed opposition affiliates prevented the Kurdish Red Crescent medical team and an American medical team from entering the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê to rescue the wounded civilians.

3- The Turkish army and its armed opposition affiliates prevented the medical team of '[Free Burma Rangers](#)' from entering the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê to rescue the wounded.

4- Members of the Hamza division of the National Army forces seized five vehicles in the village of al-Alloush belonging to civilians, as well as two vehicles in the village of al-Maqsoumeh.

5- The artillery of the Turkish army and the National Army factions shelled Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê, killing one civilian named Hameed Halloum Suleiman (Photo 11).

6- Six cases of first degree burns were recorded, including 2 children and 4 adult civilians. It is believed that the burns were caused by incendiary substances, suspected to be phosphorus. ([videotape](#))



Photo 11: Hameed Halloum Suleiman was killed by the shrapnel of a shell on the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê

Violations documented on Sunday, 20 October 2019

1- The SDF executed Ismail Mohammed Mulla Matar (civilian), following accusations of collaborating with the Syrian National Army in the village of Bab al-Khair, east of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê (Photo 13)

2- The spouse of Hajji Al-Dada was killed by a landmine planted by the SDF in the village of Al-Dadat, in the eastern countryside of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî.

3- The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) executed seven people following accusations of



Photo 13: Ismail Mohammed Mulla Matar (civilian) was executed following accusations of collaborating with the Syrian National Army in the village of Bab al-Khair, east of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê

collaborating with the Turkish army and its affiliates. All the victims were from the city of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê. They were found in a street, handcuffed and shot in the head several days after their arrest. Those who were identified are: Muhammad Ali Al-Khalaf "Al-Sukhni", Ismail Ali Al-Khalaf "Al-Sukhni" and Abdullah Al-Khalaf "Al-Sukhni".

Violations documented on Tuesday, 22 October 2019

1- Turkish army snipers targeted 2 civilians (Maher Abdo Saadoun, 35 years old and Adnan Abdul Aziz Juma, 36 years old) from the city of Tal Abyad / Girê sipî. They tried to enter the city center to inspect their house. They sustained head wounds, which killed them immediately. They were taken to the National Hospital in the city of al-Hasakah.

Violations documented on Wednesday, 23 October 2019

1- The Turkish army and its Syrian opposition factions attacked the village of Shibli, 15km to the west of Tal Tamr district on Ain Issa road. They kidnapped 7 civilians from the village,

2- The SDF executed Ismail Mohammed Mulla Matar (civilian), following accusations of collaborating with the Syrian National Army in the village of Bab al-Khair, east of Ras al-Ain / Serê Kaniyê (Photo 13) Fahad al-Assi, Abu Satour Ibn Abu Yasser and Mohammed Ibn Abu Yasser.

3- A booby-trapped motorcycle exploded at 16:30 in al-Shadadi town in al-Hasakah near the Grand Mosque. The explosion wounded 8 people, 5 of them are civilians and 3 are members of the SDF. The actor remain unknown.



Photo 14: Muhammad Zuhdi Al-Omar from the village of Makhroum to the south of al-Hasaka was summarily executed by an SDF
Source: Open ID

4- Unknown groups, which we could not identify yet, assassinated two young men and caused various injuries to their father Ibrahim al-Ali Ibrahim. It is worth mentioning here that Ibrahim al-Ali works for the Raqqa Military Council of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

- 5- The SDF arrested Saleh Mohammad al-Tharthar from the town of al-Qahtania in the city of al-Qamishli on charges of communicating with armed Syrian opposition factions.
- 6- A patrol of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) arrested the young man Muhammad Zuhdi Al-Omar. He was executed and his body was mutilated following his attempt to escape from the compulsory recruitment camps south of al-Hasakah (Photo 14).
- 7- The SDF arrested a young man called Aref Hasan Al Ahmad near the bridge of Karakozak in the city of Manbij. His family found his body a few days later, bearing marks of torture and burnings.

Finally

- From the standpoint of applicable international humanitarian law, most targeted areas in these attacks are of civilian nature in their location and use.
- Indiscriminate attacks on civilians constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, in accordance with customary international humanitarian law. They therefore constitute crimes where commanders who have issued orders bear individual criminal responsibility for such attacks, as well as anyone who has committed, assisted in or facilitated these attacks that tantamount to war crimes.
- The Violations Documentation Center condemns the deliberate attacks by Turkish forces and their National Army factions on several medical units that are allocated exclusively for medical purposes, such as the 3 attacks by Turkish forces (which targeted 3 hospitals on Friday, 11 October 2019) and another attack that targeted a medical point and killed a paramedic on Monday, October 14, 2019. These attacks have also resulted in the death of 5 medical staff of the Kurdish Red Crescent.
- In all cases, these medical units must be respected and protected. This rule is implicit in Common Article 3 to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which Syria has ratified. Under customary international humanitarian law, The term “medical units” refers to establishments and other units, whether military or civilian, organized for medical purposes, be they fixed or mobile, permanent or temporary. The term includes, for example, hospitals and other similar units, blood transfusion centres, preventive medicine centres and institutes, medical depots and the medical and pharmaceutical stores of such units. Article 8(2)(b)(ix) of the Rome Convention, postulates that intentional and direct attacks against buildings dedicated to hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives; is a war crime in armed conflict.



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