

Annual Report for 2022
Humanitarian Situation in Syria

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Department of North Press Agency

North Press Agency is a Syrian news agency that works on covering events in Syria as a whole through a team of correspondents and editors. North Press Agency deals with latest developments on all sides as well as preparing visual and written reports. North Press Agency is for all Syrians.

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Introduction:

The report highlights the key issues related to all areas in Syria and what Syrians had experienced during 2022. It focuses on human rights violations-related issues through exposing incidents in which people were killed or affected. In addition, the report uncovers the violations committed by states involved in the Syrian crisis and parties to the conflict in the country against international law and conventions. It shows what North Press Agency had monitored during 2022 through figures and ratios, and describes the events and classifies them according to the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and human rights.

Human rights violations in Syria in 2022

After 12 years of war in Syria which is considered one of the biggest humanitarian crises in the 21st century, the country has turned to the poorest, as 90 percent of the population lives under the poverty line, most corrupt, and is the most dangerous country in the world. It has also become the second worst country regarding human rights and the rule of law due to crimes against humanity, including murders, kidnappings, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearance, displacement, suppression of freedom of expression, and illegal military operations. These violations have been committed for 12 years by the parties to the conflict and the states involved in the Syrian crisis that have claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and displaced 13 million people.

In 2022, 2.628 individuals lost their lives in different methods, 1.880 of them are civilians, including 347 children and 360 women, and 1.147 were injured, including 121 children and 64 women, North Press documented.

Most of them were killed or injured illegally and in ways that violate human rights and the IHL.

More than 959 individuals, including 30 women and 20 children at least, were arbitrarily arrested by the parties to the conflict. Most of the detainees are civilians, including civil and human rights activists and journalists, and 50 percent of them are from areas held by the Turkish-backed armed opposition factions, also known as the Syrian National Army (SNA).

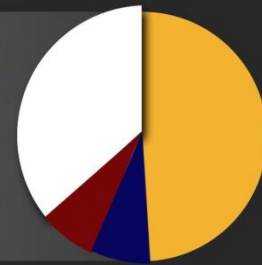
Human Rights Viola- tions in Syria 2022

Women 360 ■

killed 2634 ■

Child 347 ■

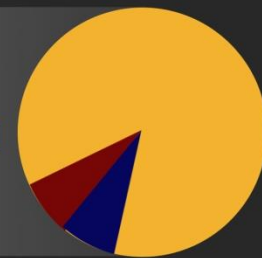
civilians 1880 ■



Child 121 ■

injured 1147 ■

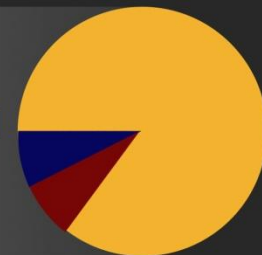
Women 64 ■



Women 30 ■

Arresed 959 ■

Child 20 ■



Women's rights

The war caused a great breach of women's rights in Syria, as in 2022 only, more than 360 women were killed, 250 others were kidnapped, and 196 committed suicide due to domestic violence, harassment, child marriage, and forced marriage.

About 65 percent of the Syrian women were subjected to gender-based discrimination and about 196 rape cases were recorded, 75 of them were in the SNA-held areas.



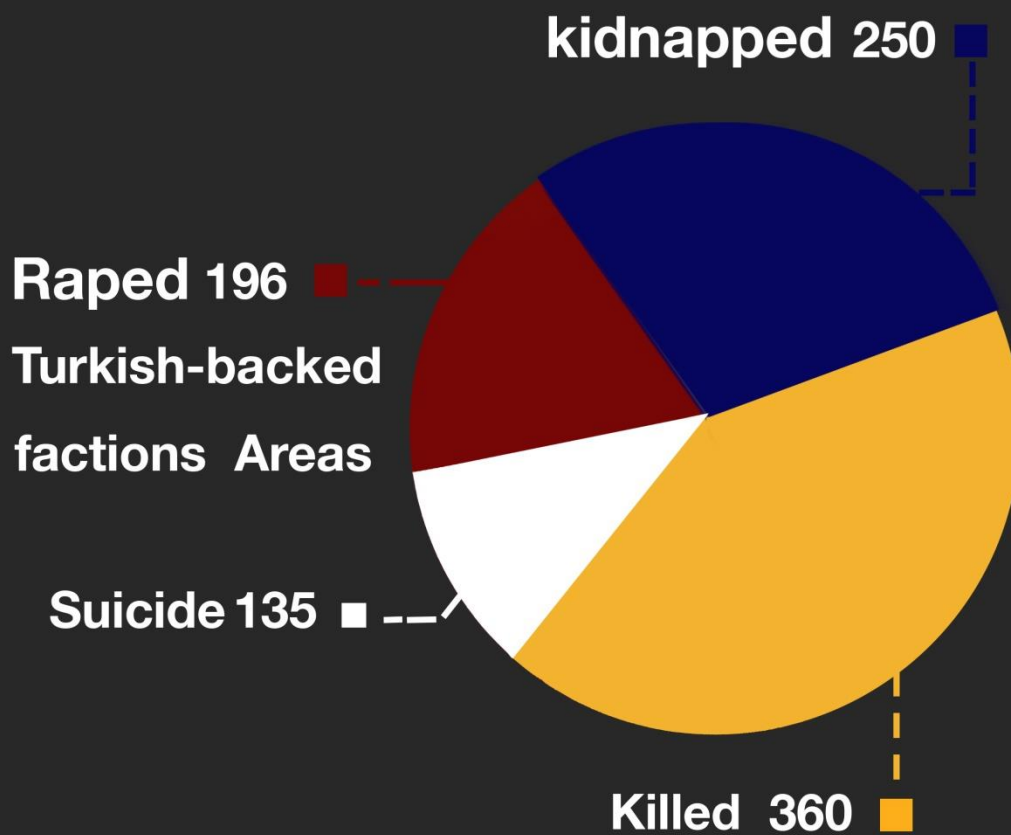
Women in Washokani camp, west of Hasakah in northeast Syria, that shelters IDPs from Sere Kaniye, east of Hasakah

The issue of child marriage has been increased during war years in Syria. Some statistics conducted by international organizations have documented that child marriage in Syria has reached 50 percent of the total number of marriages due to insecurity, displacement conditions and financial need in cities and camps in the country.

The phenomenon of child marriage widely spreads in areas held by the SNA and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS, formerly al-Nusra Front) because women there go through violence and sexual exploitation, as families think that they protect their daughters from harassment, kidnapping, and rape through marrying them early.

Due to the psychological and physical effects left by the war, most of the Syrian women and girls need help, especially those who reside in camps and who went through rape, violence, torture, and sexual exploitation.

Women's Right Violations in Syria 2022



Children's rights

Children are the most affected, as they lose their protective and secure environment, are deprived of their childhood and future and suffer from cruel, inhuman, and poor health conditions.

The 12-year-Syrian war deprived the children of their most basic rights, as violations continue to be committed against them, including killing, kidnapping, mutilation, rape, and early marriage, not to mention recruiting them and engaging them in hard and dangerous jobs.

In 2022, North Press documented the killing of 347 children by different methods, some of them were raped and tortured before being killed. The agency also recorded 120 raping cases and 195 kidnappings, most of which were committed in the HTS and SNA-held areas.

Militants of the SNA and the HTS depend on kidnapping children as a source of financing, as they kidnap children and ask their families for ransoms.

The largest number of recruited children was recorded in the HTS and SNA-held areas, as 1.518 children were recruited in 2021 only, according to the United Nations (UN).

Child labor spreads in all Syrian areas, as hundreds of children dropped out of school to work to support their families, not to mention the widespread scavenging and begging in almost all Syrian areas, as they were turned into professions and sources of income, according to the UN.



Children collect metal materials from landfills to sell them later to support their families in Idlib Governorate, northwest Syria.

Syrian children cannot live normal life due to the consequences of the war. Since the beginning of the Syrian war, more than 13.000 children have been died and injured, and nearly 5 million children were born into an environment rife with destruction, homelessness, hunger, and the absence of education, according to the UN.

In addition, there are 6.5 million children in Syria who need humanitarian assistance, especially in northeastern Syrian, as there are about 80.000 children in the camps who suffer from a severe lack of aid due to the politicization of aid distribution. There are also more than 16.000 children, who suffer from malnutrition, according to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

About 70 percent of Syrian children are deprived of their right to education due to the existence of different educational curricula that varies from one region to another, the unstable security situation, and dualism in education. About 50 percent of the schools are no longer suitable for education, as they have been either destroyed or used as shelters or military headquarters.

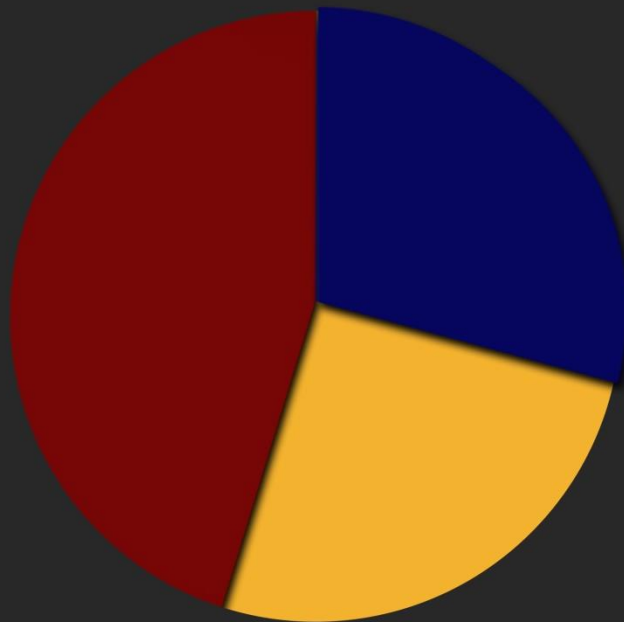
These ongoing violations forced more than 3 million children to drop out of school. This will lead to an illiterate generation with an unknown future.



A child in Shahba camp in the northern countryside of Aleppo, northern Syria.

Child Rights Violations in Syria 2022

Kidnapped 195 ■



killed 347 ■

Raped 120 ■

The economic crisis in Syria in 2022

The dire economic conditions that have been overwhelming the country for more than a decade have reached their peak in 2022. It is expected that things will get worse by 2023, as the country witnessed a continuous decline in development indicators, an increase in the inflation rate that reached 130 percent, poverty, and food insecurity, especially since the crisis has affected the rights of the Syrians in sheltering, food, economic stability, social justice, and health care. 90 percent of them were deprived of their right to live a decent life.

The deterioration of the Syrian economy is a result of the ongoing conflict, the economic sanctions imposed on the Syrian government, COVID-19, and the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The abovementioned reasons contributed to the devaluation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the US dollar, as the exchange rate of the USD against the SYP in 2022 has increased by 60 percent in comparison with 2021 and 14.000 percent in comparison with 2011.

As for purchasing power, it has continued to decline until it reached 94 percent in 2022 due to the skyrocketing food prices and low government wages.

Food security in Syria

In Syria, 80 percent of the people suffer from food insecurity and 70 percent of them are in need, as out of 22.1 million people, 15.3 million people need assistance, 12 million suffer from food insecurity, 6.9 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 90 percent of them live under the poverty line, according to the UN.

One of the things that enormously affected the Syrian economy and food security is the drought in the region as a result of the severe water shortage in northeastern Syria due to climate changes and Turkey's seizure of the Euphrates water, depriving Syria of its share of water.

Turkey has committed another flagrant violation of human rights by depriving the Syrians of their rights to reach safe water and affecting their food security, as the limited water level affected the agricultural productivity in the country's northeast, leaving its effects on the prices of vegetables and bread in all Syrian regions.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government continues increasing the burdens placed on Syrians' shoulders, creating vast gaps among community classes, contributing to the lack of social justice by raising food products' prices by about 60 percent during 2022 and raising fuel prices by about 72 percent. This increase does not match with the Syrians' income, as the average income of each Syrian is about \$25, while each individual needs about \$100 to live a normal life.

Impacts of economic crisis on IDPs

6.9 million Syrian IDPs, including more than two million, reside in 1.760 permanent and makeshift camps that lack the minimum life basics and go through great challenges in securing their basic needs. Most of them are forced to displace due to Turkish incursion, bombing, and Islamic State Organization (ISIS) activities, as the IDPs are the most affected people by the economic situation in the country. The average of people who are in need has increased in 2022 by 5 percent in comparison with 2021.

In addition, due to the closure of Tel Kocher (al-Ya'roubiya) crossing on the Syrian-Iraqi border in 2020, and the prevention of entering humanitarian aid except through Bab al-Hawa crossing in Idlib Governorate, held by the SNA, the IDPs' burdens have increased in northeast Syria, as thousands of IDPs in the region have lost their rights to receiving international aid.

Impact of economic crisis on social justice in Syria

Social justice, which is closely related to human rights, has declined in Syria since the beginning of the war, however, it witnessed a sharp deterioration in 2022. This was represented by the difficulties faced by the Syrian people in securing shelter, livelihood opportunities, health care, education, water, and sanitation.

This is the result of the deteriorating economic crisis which made the quality of life in Syria non-existent and eliminated equality in the Syrian community, allowing classism to overly surface.

The Syrian people face extreme difficulty in finding a safe and comfortable shelter, as 60 percent of them do not have a residence.

Regarding medical care, 75 percent of Syrians have no access to health care and medicine due to the increasing rate of medical consultations in 2022 by 40 percent in comparison with 2021. The medicine prices have increased by 20 percent in comparison with 2021. Due to the economic crisis, many pharmaceutical manufacturing companies have shut down, causing a severe lack of medicine.

On the other hand, education is in a bad situation, as dualism in education spreads in most Syrian areas. The economic crisis and war have pushed 70 percent of the children to drop out of school which means that they lost their right to education and found themselves forced to work at an early age to support their families.

As for job opportunities, 50 percent of Syrians lost their sources of income due to the economic downturn, while the unemployment rate increased by 60 percent.

Social justice, equality, equal opportunity, housing, water, mobility, and health care became unfamiliar terms to the Syrian people because it is too busy with providing their livelihood.

Health crises in Syria

The Syrian war had a significant impact on the healthcare sector. Syria has turned into an epicenter for diseases and epidemics, including cholera, leishmaniasis, measles, polio, hepatitis, and respiratory diseases in addition to Covid-19. This came as a result of poor health services, deteriorating infrastructure, garbage accumulation near residential areas and camps, and no access to clean water.

The crowded camps that shelter 6.9 million IDPs contributed to creating a suitable environment for diseases and epidemics, as the IDPs share the same public facilities and use and drink contaminated water.

About 5.5 million children and women, half of them live in northeast Syria, suffer from malnutrition which in turn causes immune deficiency and stunting, and makes children more vulnerable to diseases.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), 3.163 people died of Covid-19 in Syria since late 2019 and about 57.423 confirmed cases were reported. There have been 56.879 suspected cholera cases since September 2022. The organization also reported 98 deaths as a result of diarrhea and dehydration.

The limited water supply from Turkey caused widespread cutaneous leishmaniasis in Syria especially among the IDPs in camps with more than 50.000 cases. The disease causes deformation of the skin and death.

Healthcare was extremely worsened in 2022, as Syrians with chronic diseases have been in danger due to a lack of medicine and medical equipment, increasing prices of

medical consultations, and staffing shortages in healthcare that resulted from the increasing immigration.

The people of northeastern Syria are the most affected by these health crises because of the closure of al-Yaroubiya border crossing and the lack of health and relief assistance that used to be entered through the crossing. The humanitarian situation might get worse if the crossing remains closed.



A child infected with leishmaniasis in the town of Sirrin, in Kobani, northern Syria.

Syrian refugees

Syrian refugees and IDPs are considered one of the greatest crises in the world, as their number has reached 13 million people, 6.7 million of them are IDPs and live in harsh circumstances.

Syria comes first in the number of its refugees, as there are 6.9 million Syrian refugees around the world, and 5.5 million of them are in neighboring countries, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Syrian refugees are exposed to the danger of compulsory deportation in several countries, including Britain which plans to deport them to Rwanda, a country in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, and Denmark which considers the Syrian capital of Damascus a safe area and tries to deport the Syrian refugees who heal from that region.

While Lebanon and Turkey use them as leverage against the international community and try to get rid of them in any way.

Lebanon has deported hundreds of Syrian families under the name of "voluntary return" and it plans to return 15.000 Syrian refugees every month, according to statements released by its authorities.



Deporting Syrian families from Lebanon to Syria

There are 3.5 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, and 15.000 of them were deported in 2022 under the name of "voluntary return". Most of them were deported to the HTS and SNA-held areas, which are considered the most dangerous areas in the country.

North Press documented several compulsory deportations of Syrian young men after they were forced by Turkish authorities to sign the paper of voluntary return.

Syrians who fled home face risks of violence and deportation while they are on their way to Europe, like what some of them face in Greek by border guards.

Torture, violence, deportation, and harassment that Syrians face in asylum countries are considered a violation of the Refugee Convention, human rights, and the principle of non-refoulment that prevent countries from deporting the refugees to their countries in which they may face danger.

Violations committed by Turkey and SNA in 2022

Turkey has committed many aggressions against the Syrians for four years whether by launching illegal attacks or by the practices of the SNA factions against civilians.

In October 2019, the Turkish forces, with the support of the SNA factions, launched the military operation "Peace Spring" against Sere Kaniye (Ras al-Ain) north of Hasakah in northeast Syria, and Tel Abyad, north of Raqqa in northern Syria, to push fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) away from the Turkish border with Syria under the pretext of "protecting Turkish national security".

Turkey has escalated its attacks on Syria's north since early 2022, as North Press could document dozens of aggressions through its video and written reports, as well as, monitored the damage caused to the civilians' property due to the Turkish attacks.

In addition, the destruction caused to the civil facilities by Turkey and its affiliated factions was documented. Such actions are banned by Geneva Convention (IV) on civilians, 1949 - Art. 147, which criminalized bombing of inhabited areas, and the IHL Treaties, 1907 - Art. 25, which considers these actions as serious violations.



Impacts of Turkish bombing on a gas installation in Suwaydiya village in the town of Derik (al-Malikiyah), in northeastern Syria – North Press

Human rights violations

In 2022, Turkey targeted more than 1.042 sites in northern Syria with 4.487 strikes, 90 of which were by drones and four of which were by suicide drones. Most of the targeted sites were houses and civil facilities, including hospitals, schools, and mosques, in addition to targeting 26 vital installations and infrastructure in northeastern Syria, the matter exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region.

About 174 people lost their lives in these airstrikes, including 14 children and three women, as well as, about 352 people were injured, including 33 children and 23 women, in addition to leaving dozens of people, including children, with permanent disabilities. The strikes forced hundreds of people to displace from their villages adjacent to the Syrian-Turkish border.



Child whose leg was amputated due to the Turkish bombing of his house in the village of Qaramogh in Kobani, northern Syria.

Turkey continues to commit human rights violations via its affiliated SNA factions in areas of northern Syria, as these areas are considered the most dangerous in Syria due to the security chaos, infightings that constantly broke out among the SNA factions, and violations against civilians such as killings, kidnappings, arbitrary arrests, and assaults, in addition to violating cultural, economic and environmental rights.

Regarding human rights violations committed by the SNA factions, 28 murder crimes and 43 injuries were recorded, as well as, 42 women and children kidnapped or injured.

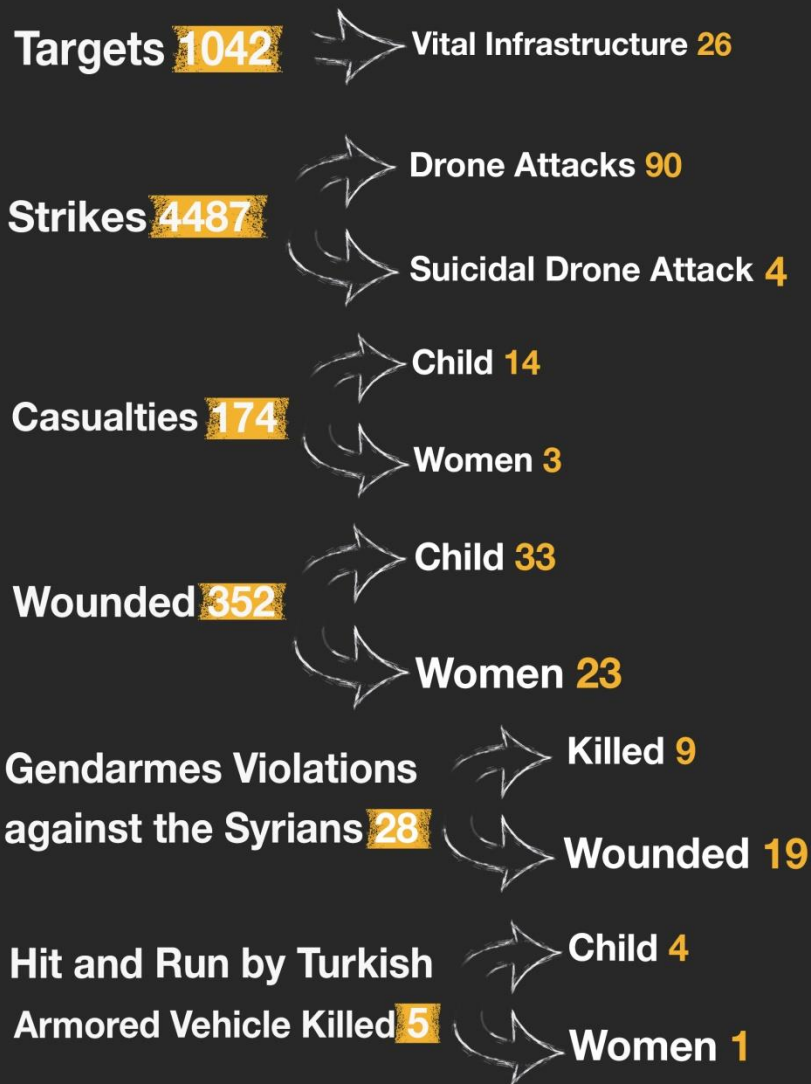
In addition, in the city of Afrin, northwestern Syria, 72 women, and children were raped, and about 109 women and children were kidnapped or arrested, in addition, Turkish military armored vehicles run over a woman and four children.

Besides, Turkish border guards treat Syrians who try to cross the Syrian-Turkish border illegally inhumanly which amounts to a war crime.

In 2022, the Turkish border guards killed 18 Syrians, as 9 of them were shot dead, and the rest were tortured to death. In addition, 10 residents and farmers, including a girl, were targeted by the Turkish border guards, as they were in front of their houses or their farmlands.

The cases were committed in areas adjacent to the Syrian-Turkish border, including Idlib, northwest Syria, Kobani, northern the country, Hasakah, and Derik, in far northeast the country.

Turkish Violations in Syria 2022



Environmental and cultural rights violations

Turkey and the SNA factions violate the human rights and international treaties in Afrin, Sere Kaniye, and Tel Abyad, as they breach economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as, carry out racial discrimination practices, through forcibly displacing the indigenous resident of the region and settling people from other areas instead, as well as, imposing the Turkish language on Syrian students in those areas, and forcing people there to deal with the Turkish currency.

According to North Press, since Turkey's invasion of northern Syria, it has built about 95 settlements, 50 of them north of Idlib and 45 of them north of Aleppo, in forest lands and the lands of the residents who were forcibly displaced under the pretext of resettling refugees.

Establishing these settlements was funded by Turkish relief and service organizations, in addition to funding obtained from Kuwait and Qatar.

According to the Charter of the UN, the construction of settlements is considered an infringement of civil and public rights and property, which is prohibited.

"Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations," according to Geneva Convention (IV) on civilians, 1949, Art. 53.

Turkey and its affiliated factions continue their policy, which aims to bring about demographic change in the areas they occupy, by harassing their original inhabitants, robbing homes, and imposing royalties.

In 2022, the SNA confiscated 23 houses in Afrin and bulldozed 12 houses in Sere Kaniye, carried out fundamental changes in those regions' environment in order to commensurate with the new settlers, especially in Afrin, through illegal logging from public and private property to be sold as firewood in favor of the HTS in Idlib, according to North Press monitoring team.

About 5.099 olive trees were completely felled in Afrin and its countryside by the SNA factions in 2022, while the number of olive trees that were partially felled is estimated at tens of thousands.

Al-Muntaser Billah, al-Nukhba Army, and Liwa Suqour al-Shamal, affiliated with the SNA, confiscated three olive groves in Afrin, consisting of more than 1.200 olive trees.

During 2022, the SNA carried out dozens of excavations, searching for treasures and antiquities, in the western countryside of Sere Kaniye, the eastern countryside of Tel Abyad, and Afrin.

In addition, the factions dismantled large parts of the railway passing through Afrin in order to sell them to scrap metal dealers, as parts of the railway were transported by large trucks to Idlib and then to Turkey to be sold there.

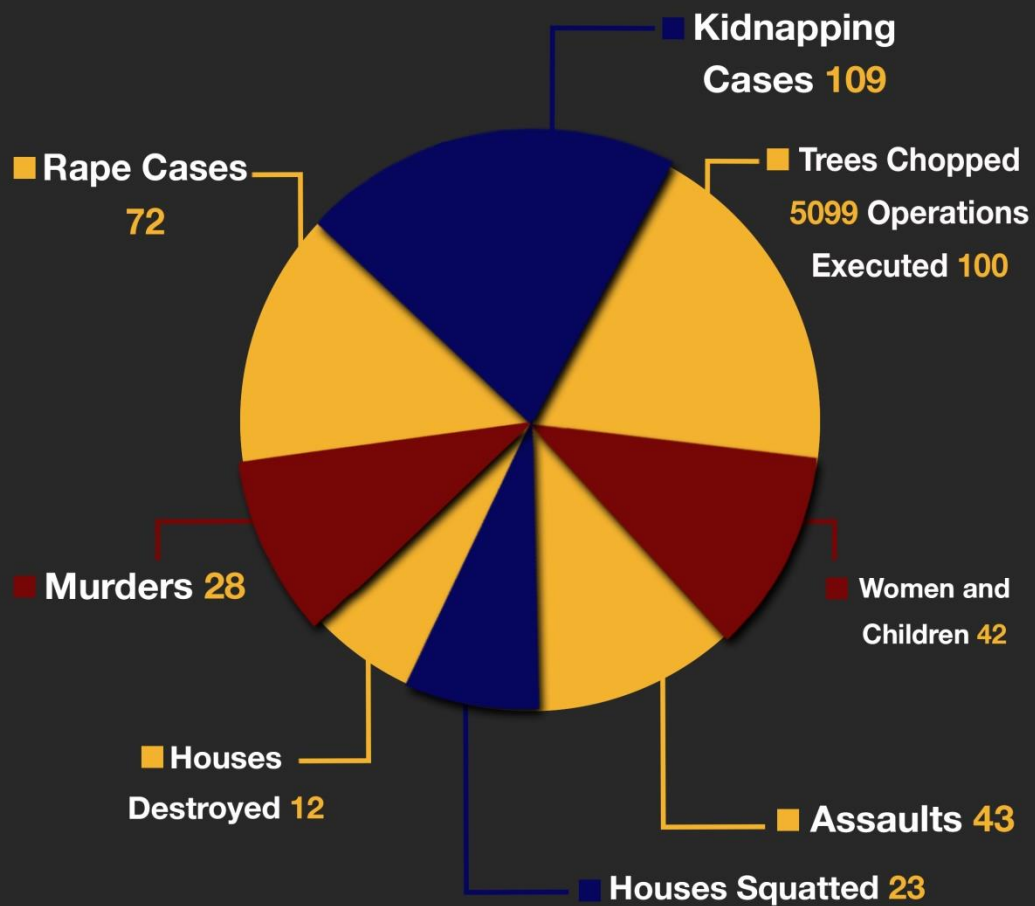


Trees chopped down by SNA factions in Jindires district in Afrin countryside, northwestern Syria



A railway site in the town of Rajo in Afrin, as only its trace remains after the SNA dismantled it.

Turkish-backed Violations in Syria 2022



ISIS activity in Syria in 2022

ISIS activity and presence

The presence of ISIS militants in Syria still poses a threat and danger to the whole world, although it has not been able to control any parts of the country since its defeat in its last stronghold, al-Baghouz in Deir ez-Zor Governorate, northeast Syria, in March 2019, by the SDF, in cooperation with US-led Global Coalition.

ISIS activity during 2022 has increased in comparison with the previous year, as North Press monitored the increase in the pace of ISIS activity by 18 percent in comparison with 2021.

In 2022, ISIS claimed responsibility for over 185 operations in areas held by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) against the SDF and civilians, and most of these operations were carried out in the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor, while the ISIS claimed responsibility over 31 attacks in 2021.

The group followed a new strategy after its expulsion from al-Baghouz, based on not owning land, activating sleeper cells, and carrying out limited attacks in the countryside of a number of Syrian cities, including Deir ez-Zor, Hasakah, Daraa Governorate, southern Syria, and Hama Governorate in central Syria.

In 2022, 171 people lost their lives due to ISIS attacks in Syria, in addition to the injury of 30 others, 80 percent of them are from northeastern Syria.

Syria has the largest number of ISIS members in comparison with the rest of the world, whether in detention centers or prisons, as the number of members

with their families in the camps reaches 60.137 individuals within 16.755 families, including 3.661 foreign families of 60 different nationalities.

In addition to about 10.000 others in detention centers, the number of children and women of ISIS families of foreign nationalities in the camps reached 9.986 including 2.104 women and 7.070 children.

During 2022, the AANES handed over 515 people from ISIS families, including 129 women and 386 children, to their countries, making 5 percent of the total number.



Al-Sina'a prison attack

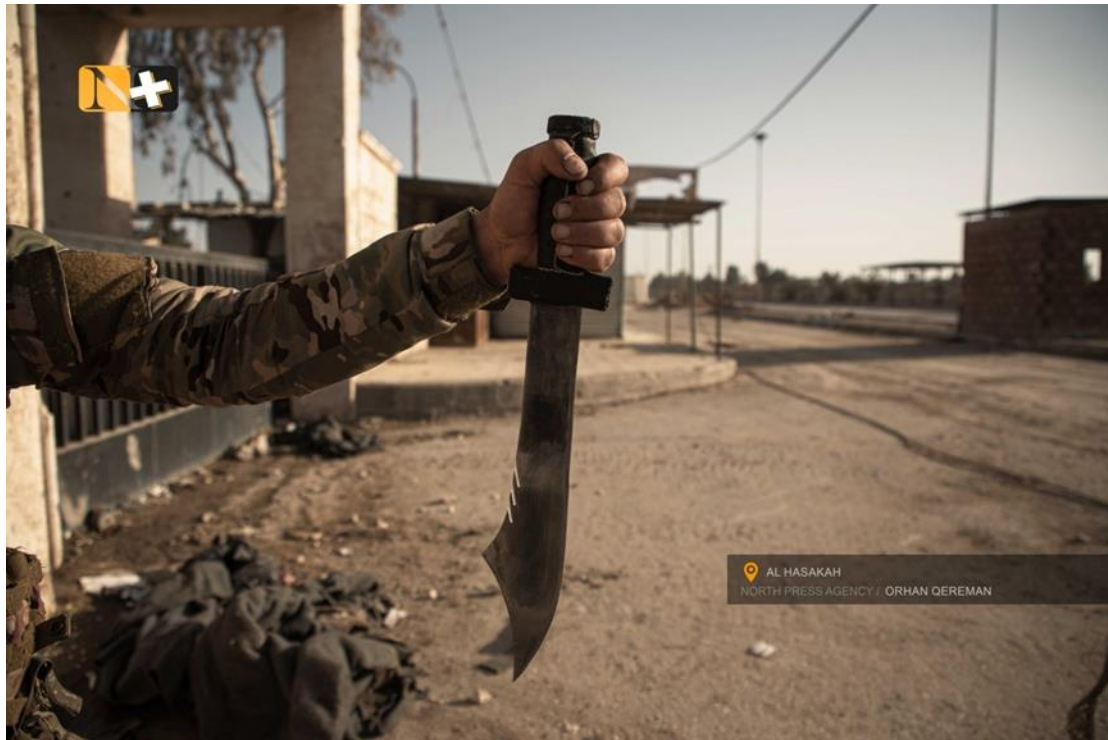
The most prominent ISIS attack in northeast Syria in 2022 is the attack on al-Sina'a prison in Hasakah on Jan. 22, 2022. The prison holds five thousand ISIS fighters including minors.

There were external and internal attacks, as riots broke out inside the prison, leading to the escape of ISIS militants.

There were clashes between the SDF fighters and ISIS militants which lasted for 10 days, resulting in the death of 374 ISIS militants and 117 SDF fighters, and four civilians.

It also led to the displacement of about 44.100 people from neighborhoods surrounding the prison. However, after the SDF declared the end of the clashes and the pursuit of ISIS fugitives, 90 percent of the people returned to their homes.

The actions committed by ISIS inside and outside the prison are considered war crimes and violations of human rights, as the ISIS militants captured about 77 individuals (prison guards and workers) as captives and cut their throats, in addition to using the people of the surrounding neighborhoods as human shields and seizing some houses and forcing their owners to leave or they will be kidnapped.



Weapon used by ISIS militants in al-Sina'a prison attack against the SDF fighters in the city of Hasakah, northeast Syria.



Residents of Guweiran neighborhood flee after ISIS militants broke out al-Sina'a prison in the city of Hasakah, northeast Syria.

ISIS attempts to revive its ideology through women and children

ISIS has not stopped trying to spread its extremist ideology for the purpose of regaining control of territories and committing inhuman actions although being detained in prisons and camps run by the SDF.

This is represented in the threats and killings committed by the ISIS families in the camps against whoever breaks their laws. In 2022 in Hawl camp only, 36 people mostly Iraqis including children were killed in the most atrocious ways.

According to North Press and security sources in the Hawl camp, ISIS children "Cubs of the Caliphate" also took part in the killings.

ISIS women, particularly foreign women, do not allow their children to attend schools in the camp, instead, they teach them "sharia". In the Syrian and Iraqi sections of the camp, hundreds of children undergo ideology training and are trained to kill and participate in operations conducted by the group inside the camp.

The results of this training are evident when these children see security forces and NGO workers, as they throw rocks at them and chant " You are infidels, you are apostates", and other words that suggest they have absorbed the extremist ideology.



A child boy of the "Cubs of the Caliphate" leads women of ISIS families in congregational prayer at Eid al-Fitr in Hawl Camp in Hasakah, northeastern Syria.

The Last ISIS attack in 2022

The last attack that ISIS has carried out in 2022 targeted the headquarters of the Internal Security Forces of North and East Syria (Asayish) in the city of Raqqa, northern Syria, and resulted in the death of four members of the Asayish and two fighters of the SDF, while one of the ISIS militants was killed.

The group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that these attacks were to avenge the detainees in the Hawl Camp.

Hours after the attack, the Interior Committee of Raqqa Civil Council, affiliated with the AANES, declared a state of emergency and a total lockdown in the city.

The group also claimed responsibility for three operations against the SDF in the countryside of Deir ez-Zor.

The sudden emergence of ISIS in Syria's south

Although Syrian government forces announced the expulsion of ISIS from Syria's south, Daraa witnessed, in 2022, several incidents in which ISIS militants assassinated individuals who formerly belonged to the group.

On Oct. 14, 2022, armed local groups imposed a curfew on Tariq al-Sadd neighborhood in Daraa to pursue some individuals who are suspected of belonging to ISIS, and clashes broke out between them and the group's militants. The clashes lasted for two weeks and ended with the local groups' control and the expulsion of the militants from the governorate.

The clashes resulted in the death of 8 members of the local groups and two civilians, including a child, while more than 25 ISIS militants were killed.

Due to the clashes, most of the neighborhood's residents, including women and children, were displaced to other neighborhoods, in addition, they caused damage to the neighborhood's infrastructure, as more than 20 houses were completely destroyed and about 50 houses were partially affected, as well as, several houses and streets were planted with IEDs.

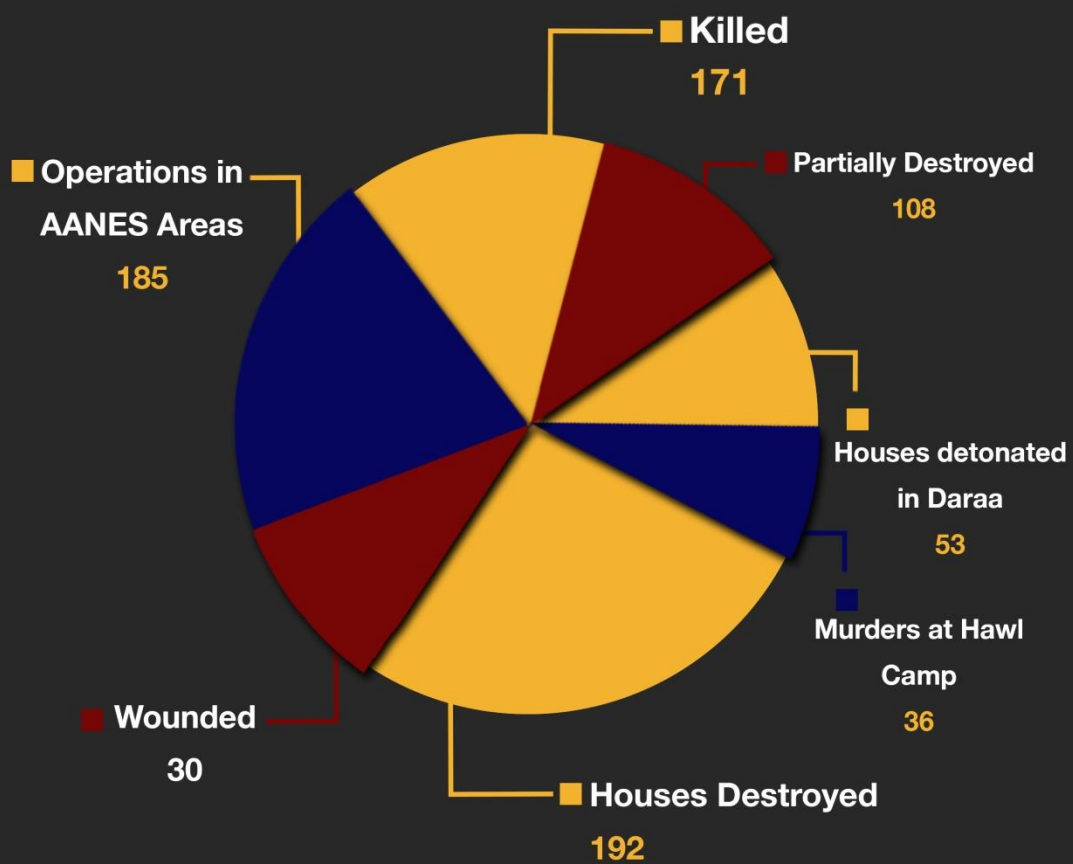
Local authorities monitored the existence of IEDs in more than 35 houses in the neighborhood, so that, the owners of the houses have not returned home yet.

ISIS used residents of Daraa as human shields and committed inhuman actions and war crimes against them, as well as, it violated human rights and deprived more than 35 families of their right to housing, in addition, it damaged the infrastructure and deprived them of water and electricity.



Destruction left by car bomb of ISIS in Tariq al-Sad neighborhood in the city of Daraa, southern Syria

ISIS Violations in Syria 2022



Why are ISIS leaders in northwestern Syria?

ISIS adopts the policy of stealth and maneuvers, as it changes its locations continuously in the areas held by the Syrian government and the AANES. However, areas held by the SNA and the HTS, including Sere Kaniye, Tal Abyad, Afrin, and Idlib, have been turned into safe havens for ISIS leaders and militants following their defeat at the beginning of 2019.

The movement of ISIS militants and leaders to Turkish-held areas in Syria was evident, as ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in the northern countryside of Idlib on Oct. 27, 2019, in an airstrike conducted by the Global Coalition. Another ISIS prominent leader Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi also was killed in the same area on Feb. 2, 2022.



Image shared by the Pentagon showing the place of residence of an ISIS leader before attacking it.

In addition, there was another operation conducted by the Global Coalition against ISIS spokesman, Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, and ISIS press officer, Ahmad al-Mustafa, in

the countryside of the SNA-held city of Jarabulus, east of Aleppo.

In addition, about 132 ISIS militants joined the SNA ranks in those areas, as they were assigned as leaders.

A US politician confirmed to North Press that foreign children and prominent ISIS figures might be in Idlib. This confirms that Turkey, the SNA factions, and the HTS are responsible for hiding ISIS militants accused of war crimes and human rights violations.

ISIS women also revealed that a Turkish NGO, IHH, assisted them to break out of Hawl Camp after paying thousands of dollars to the organization. The fugitives, including 7 women and 14 children were sent to Jarabulus and Sere Kaniye and later to Turkey.

Fatima al-Zahra' Abdullhafiz, 17, said, "The Turkish organization IHH takes most of the sisters out of the camp, At first, it used to take Turkish women from ISIS families, however, recently it began to take Arabs and Foreigners as well."

Although Turkey is a NATO member and a US ally, the presence of these wanted individuals in the Turkish-held areas in Syria raises questions regarding Turkey's support of them.

Although ISIS was expelled from Syrian four years ago, the impact of the destruction and massacres committed by them against the country and its people is still evident.

The international community has not compensated the people affected by ISIS extremism or even sue its members for the war crimes and the genocides they committed. A few cases of repatriated women only have been submitted to International Jurisdiction. There are still thousands of cases in Syria.

The terrorist group is still trying to impose its power and break its militants and their families out of detention centers and camps. ISIS existence in northeast Syria is considered a time bomb that will affect Syria and the entire world if it detonates.

Syrian government practices and their impacts on residents

The Syrian government-held areas witness several crises, including economic, social, and health crises, due to the state of insecurity, corruption, repressive actions, and human rights abuses that the Syrian government and its forces carry out, turning its-held areas into the worst to live in.

Suwayda protests

A series of protests broke out in Suwayda Governorate, southern Syria, in 2022 due to the deterioration of the economic situation and the neglect of the governorate. Dozens of residents protested and raised slogans, including "We want to live," and "No to displacement and starving." Security forces of the government attempted to crack down on the protests, as one civilian was killed and 18 others were wounded.

The government accused the protesters of being "outlaws" and vowed to pursue them, in addition, it sent military reinforcements to the city, causing a state of terror among civilians.

increased the suffering of the people who are subjected to security threats and financial losses, due to the failure of the government in pursuing the offenders and committing inhuman acts and war crimes.



Armed local groups in the town of Jassem in Daraa Governorate, southern Syria

The abovementioned practices committed by the government led to blowing up massive protests in Daraa, most notably in the town of Jasim in the northern countryside of the city.

However, activists stressed that calls for protests will continue.

The protesters called for releasing those who are detained by the government, overthrowing the regime, and revealing the fate of those who forcibly disappeared.

Siege imposed by Syrian government on areas in northern Aleppo

The Syrian government has been imposing a siege on areas held by local councils, including the Shahba region, in the northern countryside of Aleppo, in which IDPs of Afrin reside, and neighborhoods of Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya, in Aleppo, since Nov. 2022.

The scenario of the siege has been repeated several times since 2018, as security checkpoints, affiliated with the government, close al- Muslemiyah crossing that links the northern countryside of Aleppo with the city center and prevents the entry of fuel, medicine and food supplies to the aforementioned areas.

The siege made matters worse in areas and villages in the northern countryside of Aleppo, affecting more than 200.000 people there, including IDPs who live in camps.

In addition, the siege led to a fuel shortage in those areas amid bitter winter, and led to the closure of education and service facilities and the hospitals of Avrin and Tel Rifaat, as medicine and oxygen cylinders are almost non-existent, which in turn threatens the life of dozens of people, including women and children.

The siege violates the rights of the residents of the area who are deprived of their rights to health, food, education, and social security, as well, it is a clear racial discrimination committed by the government against them.



Child in the northern countryside of Aleppo receives oxygen therapy amid contaminated environment through a machine that is directly linked to an electrical battery.

Inhuman practices of Syrian government against its detainees

One of the worst incidents that Syria witnessed in 2022 was when hundreds of families gathered at al-Ra'is Bridge in the center of Damascus, at the time, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad issued a legislative decree, offering general amnesty for terrorist crimes committed by Syrians before Apr. 30, 2022.

North Press could meet dozens of ex-inmates and monitor the psychological and physical damage they had due to going through torture, violence, traumas, and social issues.

Most of the ex-inmates told North Press that they did not know the reason behind their arrest and they were not allowed to meet their families or appoint lawyers to defend them.

In addition, they witnessed incidents of torture and murders, and dozens of them have mental disorders, memory loss, or physical abnormalities due to the inhuman conditions they, alongside thousands of other detainees, went through, which are a clear violation of human rights by the government.



Families of detainees and missing individuals gathering at al-Ra'is Bridge in city center of the Syrian capital of Damascus waiting for their children.