SOHR booklet, comprising 13 reports with infographics, summarises all key developments in Syria in June 2023

2023
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Introduction

Believing in merits of human rights and encompassing humanitarian principles, and as a Syrian human rights organisation, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), has done its utmost to monitor and document all violations committed against the Syrian people in June 2023 and tracked all developments on the ground.

In June 2023, SOHR published 918 news articles and nearly 73 reports. Meanwhile, local and international press and media agencies cited SOHR articles on more than 252 occasions. Also, many exclusive interviews with politicians, human rights activists, artists and military commanders. In addition, SOHR’s director, Mr. Rami Abdulrahman, participated in 33 interviews on numerous international TV channels and radio stations.

SOHR has compiled its booklet, comprising 13 reports with infographics, to summarise all key developments in Syria in June 2023 with the aim of highlighting the plight of Syrian people through presenting all violations and crimes committed against them.
Infographic: Syrian Observatory for Human Rights
June’s developments

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights June Developments

S O H R

918
News articles

73
SOHR reports

33
Interviews by SOHR director on various TV channels and radio stations

Local and international press and media agencies citing SOHR articles on more than 252 occasions

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Contents

Chapter 1:

Monthly death toll 01
Kidnaps and arrests 04
Old ordnance 09
“De-escalation zone” 13
“Olive Branch” areas 27
“Euphrates Shield” areas 34
“Peace Spring” areas 41

Chapter 2:

Regime-controlled areas 49
Russian intervention in Syria 66
Areas controlled by Iranian-backed militias 74
SDF-controlled areas 86
International Coalition 105
ISIS 114

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The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights documented the death of 271 people in June 2023. The fatalities were distributed as follows:

Civilian death toll: 124 persons, including 23 children under the age of 18 and 16 women over the age of 18, and they were as follows:

• One civilian died under torture in regime prisons.

• 29 civilians, including a woman and six children, were killed in infightings and indiscriminate gunfire.

• Seven civilians, including three children and two women, were killed by opposition factions and jihadists.

• Six civilians, including five children, were killed in explosions of old ordnance.

• Ten civilians, including a child and three women, were killed in bombardment and gunfire by regime forces.

• 32 civilians, including seven women and four children, were murdered.

• 11 civilians, including two children, were killed in Russian airstrikes.

• Nine civilians were killed by ISIS members.

• Four civilians, including two women, were killed in Turkish bombardment.

• Four civilians, including a child, were killed by Turkish Jandarma.
• A man and a child were killed by landmine and IED explosions.

• Nine civilians, including a woman, were shot dead by unidentified persons.

Regime forces: 48

ISIS members: 6

Syrian fighters of Islamist factions, rebel factions and other movements and organisations: 23

Syrian members of Popular Committees, the National Defence Forces and regime-backed militias: 21

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and affiliated military formations: 25

Kurdish units: 6

Iranian-backed Syrian militiamen: 15

Russian forces: 1

Jihadists: 2

We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, call on the international community once again to work hard to stop the bloodshed in Syria. The people of Syria have been facing tyranny and oppression in their noble endeavour and cause to obtain justice, democracy, freedom and equality.

The Syrian Observatory renews its commitment to continue monitoring and documenting all the developments on the ground in Syria including, the massacres, violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the Syrian people, as well as publishing all relevant statistics and causalities of such heinous acts, and hope to help all the ongoing efforts of bringing the perpetrators to special international courts, so that they do not escape justice for the crimes they committed against the people of Syria.
SOHR documented the death of 271 people in June 2023

- 147 Combatants and unidentified
- 48 Regime forces
- 6 ISIS
- 23 Syrian fighters of rebel and Islamist factions and other movements and organisations
- 21 Syrian members of popular committees, NDF and regime-backed militias
- 25 Fighters of SDF and affiliated military formations
- 6 Kurdish forces
- 15 Iranian-backed Syrian militiamen
- 1 Russian forces
- 2 Jihadists

124 Civilians
85
16
23

www.syiahhr.com Syrian Observatory For Human Rights
While more voices call for revealing the fate of the detainees and kidnapped people across Syria, arbitrary arrests and kidnaps continue amid “timid efforts” by international bodies, like the United Nations and human rights organisations concerned with the Syrian issue.

As a human rights organisation, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) monitored and tracked kidnappings and arrests across Syria in the past month. In June 2023, SOHR documented the kidnapping of 24 people, including four children, and the arbitrary arrest of 114 others, including a child and four women.

**Arrests**

**Areas under the control of Ankara-backed factions**

48 people, including two women, were arrested on different charges, the most prominent of which were “communication with the Kurdish forces, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Autonomous Administration, and ISIS cells.” Here is a breakdown of these arrests:

- “Olive Branch” area: 24 people, including two women.
- “Peace Spring” area: 22 people.
- “Euphrates Shield” area: Two persons.

SOHR calls for immediate release of detainees and disclosing the fate of kidnapped people.

June 2023 | SOHR documents nearly 140 arrests and kidnappings across Syria

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–Areas under the Syrian regime control

26 people, including a woman, were arrested on different charges, the most prominent of which are “evading the mandatory and reserve conscription in the regime army,” “communicating with foreign bodies,” and “cybercrimes.” They are distributed regionally as follows:

• Rif Dimashq: Ten persons.

• Daraa: Six people, including a woman.

• Deir Ezzor: Six people, including a woman.

• Homs: Two persons.

• Damascus: Two persons.

Meanwhile, SOHR documented the death of one person under torture in the regime prisons and detention centres in June 2023.

–Areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration

27 people were arrested on different charges.

–Areas under the control of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and opposition factions

13 people, including a child and a woman.
Kidnaps

– Areas under control of Ankara-backed factions: Nine people:
  • “Olive Branch” area: Two persons.
  • “Peace Spring” area: Two persons.

– Areas under regime control: 11 persons, including a child; they are distributed as follows:
  • Homs: Five people, including a child.
  • Daraa: Four people.
  • Al-Suwaidaa: Two persons.

– Areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration: three children.

– Areas under the control of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and opposition factions: One person.

SOHR has verified the cases of arrests and kidnaps mentioned in this report and documented most of the names. SOHR also confidently estimates that the total number of kidnapped people is much higher. However, some victims’ families preferred to keep the identities of their sons secret, fearing persecution and punishment by the bodies that had arrested and kidnapped them.
We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), warn against the repercussions of violating and non-complying with international accords signed by Syria, as well as the ongoing indifference by the warring powers in Syria to the issue of detainees and forcibly disappeared. We also appeal to the international community to seriously intensify its efforts to disclose the fate of the detainees and forcibly disappeared people, and identify and hold the perpetrators accountable.

SOHR attaches the highest importance to this issue of detainees and always strives to highlight their and their families’ plight and sufferings. SOHR also warns against using “terrorism” as an excuse to arrest politicians and human rights activists, using laws of counter-terrorism to justify arbitrary arrests.

We also call for the inspection of prisons in the entire Syrian geography, especially in regime-held areas, so that the real issue and conditions of detainees are unveiled. Furthermore, the fate of the missing and detainees who have been killed must be disclosed.
Infographic: Arrests and kidnaps in June 2023

SOHR documents 138 kidnaps and arrests in June across Syria

- **24** Kidnaps
- **114** Arrests

- **11** People 1 Child
- **26** People 1 Woman

- **3** Children
- **27** People

- **9** People
- **48** People 2 Women

- **1** Person
- **13** People 1 Child 1 Woman

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War ordnance, such as old landmines and unexploded IEDs, bombs, shells, projectiles, grenades, etc. which are everywhere in Syria, continues to pose a threat to the safety and lives of innocent Syrians. These explosive remnants of war (ERW), which had been planted by military formations across the entire Syrian geography for over 11 years, have tragically killed and injured a large number of Syrian people.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked the issue of explosive remnants of war and documented all the casualties in explosions of old landmines and unexploded ordnance across Syria in June 2023; they are as follows:

- **Deaths**: Six civilians, including a five children.
- **Wounded people**: 13 civilians, including a woman and eight children.

The casualties are distributed regionally as follows:

- **Regime-controlled areas**: Five fatalities, including four children, and nine injured civilians, including a women and five children.
- **SDF-held areas**: One fatality: a child, and four injured civilians, including three children.

Here are further details:

- **June 1**: Three children were severely injured due to the explosion of an object of war remnants while herding sheep, near “Koniko” gas field in northern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas.
• June 2: A child was killed and two others were injured by the explosion of a landmine, while they were collecting «flinders roses» to the south of Al-Fan Al-Shamaly village's school in the northern countryside of Hama, within regime-held areas.

• June 7: A child died due to the explosion of an object of war remnants in Barlehin village in Tadif countryside in the section that is held by the Syrian regime in northern of Aleppo, while herding sheep, where the child hails from Khanaser area in Aleppo countryside.

• June 16: A child was injured by the explosion of a landmine of war remnants in Mazloum town within regime-held areas in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside.

• June 19: A child was injured seriously due to the explosion of an unexploded projectile, while picking caper (Flinders roses) in Al-Wasetah area in the north of the regime-controlled city of Suran in Hama countryside.

• June 19: A 12-year-old displaced boy from Afrin was injured seriously and lost some of his hand fingers due to the explosion of an unexploded “Dushka” shell in Tel Qah village in the northern countryside of Aleppo in areas where Kurdish and regime forces are deployed, as he was attempting to extract copper pieces from the shell.

• June 20: A 13-year-old child was killed and another young man was injured due to the expansion of an old landmine, while they were collecting “Flinders roses” in Umm Al-Khalakheel area in eastern Idlib countryside. The injured young man, who hails from “Al-Mataa’ tribe, was taken to the hospital.

• June 22: A child was killed and his father and another child from the same family were injured as a result of the explosion of an old landmine in Al-Janenah village in western Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas.

• June 22: A five-year-old boy was killed and his grandmother and two of his neighbours were injured due to the explosion of an old landmine. The child had found the unexploded landmine and brought it to his house, before the landmine exploded while the boy was playing with it.
• June 27: A civilian from Manyan Town western of Aleppo city within regime-held areas, was killed due to the explosion of an object of war remnants while he was collecting scrap.

SOHR renews its call on all international organisations to work on removing unexploded war ordnance across Syrian immediately and to address the problem appropriately, especially since all warring parties throughout Syria continue to plant IEDs and landmines. SOHR also calls upon international organisations to adopt a strategy to raise the residents’ awareness about the threats of old ordnance which may have been planted in abandoned buildings as well.
Infographic: Deaths by explosion of old ordnance in June 2023

Explosions of old ordnance kill 6 civilians and injure 13 others in June 2023

- **Fatalities**: 5
- **Injured people**: 8
- **Civilians**: 1
- **Others**: 4
The “de-escalation zone”, stretching from the north-eastern mountains of Latakia to the north-western suburbs of Aleppo city running through both Hama and Idlib, has been under an “alleged” and in-name-only ceasefire agreed upon after a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on March 2020.

However, that region has experienced a noticeable escalation of military operations by Russian and regime forces and their loyal militias, including daily bombardment with tens of rockets and artillery shells and Russian airstrikes, which all have caused significant human losses and material damage. Meanwhile, Turkey, the “de-escalation” guarantor, seems satisfied with its “timid” bombardment of regime positions, which has not restrained this alarming military escalation which is mainly concentrated in the southern countryside of Idlib, as well as affecting east Idlib countryside, towns and villages of Sahl Al-Ghab in the north-western countryside of Hama, Latakia mountains and western Aleppo countryside.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked all developments and violations against Syrian people in the “de-escalation zone” in June 2023, including the military escalation by Russian and regime forces, incidents and attacks, deteriorating security, instability and disastrous humanitarian situation. These key developments can be summarised in the following main points:

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“Putin-Erdogan” area in June 51 | 2023 fatalities in acts of violence…
dramatic escalation of Russian aerial operations…escalation of anti-HTS protests

SOHR renews its appeals to the international community to intervene immediately and force Russia and Turkey to keep civilians away from their narrow mutual interests
Acts of violence leave casualties

In June 2023, SOHR documented the death of 51 people in acts of violence in the “de-escalation zone;” they are as follows:

22- civilians:

• Five civilians, including two women and a child, were killed by regime forces.

• 11 civilians, including two children, were killed in Russian airstrikes.

• Six civilians, including a child and a woman, were killed in incidents of security disorder.

19- jihadists and members of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham:

• Six HTS members and a member of “Suqour Al-Sham” were killed by regime forces.

• 11 HTS members and a member of the “Turkistan Islamic Party” were killed in Russian airstrikes.

-Eight regime soldiers were killed by rebels and jihadists.

-One unidentified persons was killed in an incident of security disorder.

-An Uzbek man was killed in an incident of security disorder.
Military escalation: ground bombardment leave casualties

Since early June, the “de-escalation zone” has experienced noticeable escalation of military operations between regime forces and their proxies on one hand, and Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and opposition factions on the other, including exchange of bombardment and attacks. These operations left 20 fatalities; they are as follows:

- Five civilians, including a child and two women, were killed in regime bombardment.
- Eight regime soldiers, including a member of the Republican Guard forces.
- Six HTS members.
- A member of “Suqour Al-Sham.”

In addition, 16 combatants and 11 civilians, including five children and three women, sustained various injuries in 24 ground operations in the “de-escalation zone” in the past month.

Further details of June’s operations in the “de-escalation zone” can be summarised as follows:

- June 4: A regime soldier was killed by HTS sniper on the frontline on Kawkabah village in southern Idlib countryside.
- June 6: A member of “Suqor Al-Sham” faction which operates under the banner of the «National Liberation Front» was killed due to ground bombardment by regime forces on the frontline of the eastern Jabal Al-Zawiyah in southern Idlib countryside
- June 8: A regime soldier was shot dead by snipers of HTS on the frontline of Ma’arat Mokhas in southern Idlib countryside.
• June 10: A regime soldier was killed by snipers of «Al-Fath Al-Mubin» operations room on the frontline of Al-Fataterah village in the southern countryside of Idlib.

• June 10: A member of the republican guard of the regime was killed due to a bombardment by factions of «Al-Fath Al-Mubin» operations room on their positions on the frontline of Saraqeb in the eastern countryside of Idlib.

• June 10: A member of the Special Forces of the HTS-backed “Luwaa Talha” faction was killed by attacks of the regime on frontlines of Ma’arat Na’asan in Idlib countryside.

• June 12: Two members of the HTS-backed Luwaa Talha Bin Al-Zobair were killed by regime’s artillery shelling on the frontline of Kafr Nouran in western Aleppo countryside.

• June 14: A regime soldier was killed and others were injured in an infiltration operation by regime forces on the frontline of San in the eastern countryside of Idlib, which led to violent clashes between regime forces and members of «Al-Fath Al-Mubin» operations room.

• June 14: A regime soldier was injured in gunfire by a sniper of «Al-Fath Al-Mubin» operations room on Ain Eissa frontline northern of Lattakia.

• June 14: A regime soldier from Damr area in Damascus was killed in an attempt with several members to sneak into checkpoints of “Al-Fath Al-Mubin” operation room factions on Ain Eissa frontline northern of Lattakia.

• June 15: A civilian and his wife were injured in an artillery shelling by the regime forces on residential neighbourhoods in Afis village in eastern Idlib countryside.
• June 16: A civilian was injured in an attack with a guided missile fired by regime forces on Kafr Nouran village in the western countryside of Aleppo.

• June 16: Two members, one of which is responsible for planting landmines for “Abo Bakr Al-Siddek” Brigade of HTS formations, were killed due to the explosion of a landmine, while they were planting a number of landmines on the frontline of Al-Bara in Idlib countryside within “Putin-Erdogan” area.

• June 20: A regime soldier was injured with a gunshot fired by a sniper of a faction of “Al-Fath Al-Mubin” operations room on Al-Malajah frontline in the southern countryside of Idlib.

• June 21: A regime soldier was killed by snipers of «Al-Fath Al-Mubin» operations room, on the frontline of Afes village in the eastern countryside of Idlib.

• June 21: Three civilians, including a child, were killed and a man and a woman were injured in artillery fire by regime forces on positions in HTS-held areas in Kafr Noran town in the western countryside of Aleppo. The regime bombardment also injured six rebels who were near the site of the attack.

• June 22: A woman was killed and four females, including a little girl, were injured in bombardment by regime forces on Srmin city in Idlib countryside.

• June 26: A member of «Tahlah Bin Obayd Allah» brigade of HTS was killed yesterday, after regime forces targeted positions of HTS on the frontline of Maarat Al-Naasan town in the northern countryside of Idlib.

• June 26: A regime soldier was killed on the frontline of Jourin in Sahil Al-Ghab in the western countryside of Hama, by HTS's targeting of positions of regime forces with rocket launchers, where members were injured as well.
• June 27: A woman died affected by the wounds she sustained on June 22, due to artillery shelling by the regime forces on Sarmin City in Idlib countryside.

11 civilians among 23 people killed in dramatic escalation of Russian airstrikes

In June, Russian fighter jets executed nearly 35 airstrikes on different positions in the “de-escalation zone. Those airstrikes left 23 fatalities: 11 civilians, including two children of the families of “Turkistan Islamic Party” members. 11 members of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and a member of the “Turkistan Islamic Party.”

Here are further details:

• June 20: Russian warplanes launched four air strikes targeting the vicinity of Idlib city in the northern side.

• June 20: Russian warplanes launched four air strikes on the outskirts of Al-Sheikh Baher village in the western countryside of Idlib.

• June 23: A Russian warplane shelled Al-Sharora area in Jabal Al-Turkman within HTS-held areas in northern Lattakia countryside in two airstrikes.

• June 23: A Russian warplane executed a double airstrike with two missiles on the vicinity of Al-Ghasaniya village in Jisr Al-Shughour western of Idlib.

• June 24: Russian fighter jets executed an airstrike on the frontlines of Telal Al-Khder in northern Latakia countryside and another one on Al-Ghasaniya village in Jisr Al-Shughour in western Idlib countryside.

• June 24: Two civilian brothers were killed and others were injured due to renewal of airstrikes by Russian warplanes on the vicinity of Basbat village western of Jisr Al-Shughour in Idlib countryside near administrative borders with Lattakia province.
• June 13: 25 people were killed in Russian airstrikes on the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city and the surrounding areas of Idlib city. The fatalities are as follows: six civilians and three combatants in the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city and a member of the “Turkistan Islamic Party,” a civilian and two children of the families of “Turkistan Islamic Party” members in the surrounding areas of Idlib city. Airstrikes on the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city also left nearly 30 people injured.

• June 27: Eight members of “Liwaa Hamza” which operates under the banner of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham were killed and others sustained various injuries in seven airstrikes by Russian fighter jets which targeted military headquarters of HTS in Jabal Al-Zawiyah area in south Idlib countryside.

Incidents of security disorder leave eight fatalities

SOHR documented six incidents of security disorder in areas controlled by Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham and opposition factions in Idlib city and surrounding villages in the past month. These incidents left eight fatalities:

• An unidentified person.

Here are further details of these incidents:

• June 2: Three beekeepers were killed and others were injured, as a young man opened fire on them following a dispute over stealing a beehive in Al-Mawzarah village in southern Idlib.

• June 2: An Uzbek-born migrant was shot dead by unknown gunmen, while he was travelling on his motorcycle in Armanaz town in the western countryside of Idlib.
• June 6: Residents found the body of a person, who was field executed by gunshots in mysterious circumstances, where his body was dumped near the road between Failon and Idlib.

• June 8: Unidentified gunmen opened fire directly with a gun equipped with a silencer on a civilian selling vegetables, in Salwa village northern of Idlib near the administrative borders with Aleppo, killing him immediately.

• June 10: An eight-year-old boy was killed, while he was playing with his father’s gun in the HTS-held town of Ihsim in the southern countryside of Idlib, where a gunshot fired by mistake and hit the boy.

• June 25: A woman stabbed her husband to death with a knife due to family disputes between both sides in Al-Ajamy Camp in Saliqin city northern of Idlib.

HTS security services arrest nearly 40 people

Also, in June, security services of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham arrested 13 people, including an Egyptian-born jihadist and his wife, a commander of the 2nd Corps in the “National Army,” a commander and a member of the «Islamic Party of Liberation» and a civilian and his five-year-old son.

Further details of these campaigns can be summarised as follows:

• June 3: Members of the General Security service of HTS arrested a young man, yesterday, in Ariha town in southern Idlib countryside for «belonging to the Islamic Party of Liberation.»
• June 6: HTS members arrested a commander of the second legion of the Turkish-backed National Army and his companion in Taftanaz town in Idlib countryside, where the members searched the commander's house and confiscated some of his possessions and they were taken to an unknown destination.

• June 7: General security service of «HTS» arrested a notable person from Hama city in Al-Barakah camp in the northern countryside of Idlib, on the charge of participating in the protests denouncing «HTS.» This came after setting up a checkpoint at the entrance of the city, while three persons wanted for the security of «HTS» fled to an unknown destination, without being able to arrest them.

• June 9: General Security Service of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham arrested a commander in the «Islamic Party of Liberation» for unknown charges. The commander was taken to a security centre of HTS.

• June 10: General security service of «HTS» arrested two young men after Friday prayer, in Al-Barah village in Jabal Al-Zawiyah area in the southern countryside of Idlib, without explicit charges against them, where they were taken to one of the security centres of «HTS.»

• June 13: Members general security service of «HTS» ambushed a leader in «Al-Tahrir party « in Foah village in Idlib countryside, he was arrested in the vicinity of Idlib city after being chased, for his criticism of the policies of «HTS,» where he was taken to an unknown destination.

• June 17: General Security Service of HTS arrested a lawyer at Al-Ghazaweyah checkpoint in Afrin countryside for unknown reasons, and his fate remains unknown.
• June 20: HTS-backed General Security service arbitrarily arrested a civilian, who is a member of the «Islamic Party of Liberation» and his five-year-old son in Al-Dana city in the northern countryside of Idlib. The security services confiscated the civilian's car and took him and his son to a security centre of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham, while their fate remains unknown.

• June 23: Members of General Security service of HTS arrested an Egyptian jihadist and his wife in Idlib city for unknown reasons, while their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.

• June 27: Members of the General Security Services of HTS arrested a media activist, minutes after he filmed the protests that took place in Sarmada Square. The members beat and assaulted him even though he showed them the press card issued by the “Salvation Government”, where they inspected all his communication devices and his gear before detaining him for four hours and insulted him.

• June 27: Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham in Idlib arrested nearly 40 combatants and other individuals working for the General Security service, including two senior commanders, for “spying for the Syrian regime and International Coalition.” HTS secretly stormed places where the suspects were located and took them to security centres.

It is worth noting that HTS-backed security services trespassed civilian houses during arrest campaigns in areas controlled by Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham, which triggered broad anger and discontent among the residents who staged demonstrations almost daily, protesting heinous practices by security services.

Nearly 2,000 rockets and artillery shells hit different positions

SOHR sources reported ongoing bombardment by regime ground forces and their proxies in June, where 1,900 artillery shells and rockets hit military and residential positions in areas under the control of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) and Jihadist groups and factions. The attacks targeted positions in the rural areas of Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Latakia.
Regime attacks are distributed regionally as follows:

• **Aleppo**: 700 shells and rockets hit Darat Izza city and the villages of Kafr Nouran, Kafr Amah, Sheikh Suleiman, Taqad, Tadeel, Kafr Taal, the surrounding areas of Al-Atareb.

• **Idlib**: 500 shells and rockets hit the villages of Bayanin, Hursh Bayanin, Sfouhen, Al-Rouwayah, Al-Fatirah, Kansafra, Maarrat Alya, Deir Sonbol, Al-Barah, Maarat Al-Naasan, Ghaniyah, Sheikh Sandiyan, Fulayfel, Mantaf, Marblit, Kadourah, Saan, Sarmin, Afes, Musaybeen and Al-Nayreb.

• **Hama**: 400 shells and rockets hit Al-Sarmaniya, Al-Mabaqer, Al-Mashyak, Al-Ankawi, Khabbah Al-Naqous, Tel Waset, Al-Mansourah, Al-Qarqour, Al-Ziyyarah and Al-Qahera.

• **Latakia countryside**: 300 shells and rockets hit Al-Tuffahiyah frontline, the hills of Kabanah, Deir Al-Akrad and other frontline in Jabal Al-Turkman.

**Turkish forces bring in 100 military vehicles to “de-escalation zone”**

SOHR activists reported the arrival of batches of Turkish reinforcement in military posts in the “Puten-Erdogan” area, along with the arrival of reinforcement of regime forces in the opposite region.

The first batch crossed into Syria on June 8 when Turkish forces brought in new military reinforcement consisting of 25 military vehicles, coming from Kafar Lousin border crossing between Syria and Turkey in Idlib countryside, and headed towards south in Idlib to be distributed in Idlib and Aleppo countryside within «Putin-Erdogan» area, in order to replace their forces and to reinforce their military posts in their presence areas.
While on June 21, Turkish forces brought in large military reinforcement to the “de-escalation zone,” less than 48 hours after the arrival of a regime military column in Aleppo countryside. According to SOHR sources, two military convoys crossed into Syria through Kafr Lusin crossing in northern Idlib, and they comprising over 75 Turkish armoured vehicles and trucks carrying tanks, logistical supplies and repair equipment, as well as tens of personnel carriers. SOHR sources also confirmed that the first convoy headed to Turkish military posts in the western countryside of Aleppo, while the second one headed to Al-Mastumah camp near Idlib city.

**Sit-in protests and almost-daily demonstrations opposing HTS and “Al-Julani”**

Since early June, SOHR activists have documented public protests against HTS and its leader “Abu Mohamed Al-Julani” almost daily.

The role of women was shown in these protests in fear of the arrest of men, where the demonstrators demanded the release of the detainees in prisons of HTS and toppling of “Al-Julani.”

Demonstrations and protests in June concentrated in the towns of Killi and Atma and the cities of Ariha and Tarmanin in Idlib countryside and Al-Saharah town, Kafrarah and Al-Atareb in the western countryside of Aleppo, where the demonstrators condemned the policy of “Al-Julani” and practices of his subordinated members who trespassed houses of peaceful civilians.

On June 23, unknown individuals left paper notes in the streets of Al-Atareb town in the western countryside of Aleppo, expressing their discontent of Al-Julani’s practices.

While on June 27, residents of Idlib countryside went out on protests against HTS and its violations, conforming to their demands to release the prisoners in HTS prisons, while members of the security services of HTS sieged the site of the protests near Sarmada Square.
As a human rights organisation, we, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), call upon all international powers concerned with Syria's affairs and the international community to intervene immediately and put an end to the bloodshed in Syria, as well as applying international humanitarian laws and keeping civilians away from military operations and conflicts.

We also demand that Russia and Turkey, the “de-escalation” guarantors, comply with the ceasefire agreement and stop all violations, including intensive bombardment and airstrikes, which only affect civilians who seek a safe haven in the “de-escalation zone”, fleeing from the repression of the Syrian regime and its security services.
Infographic: Violations in the “de-escalation zone” in June 2023

Key developments in “Putin-Erdogan” area in June 2023

- **8** Regime soldiers and loyalists
- **1** Unidentified people
- **19** Jihadists and HTS members
- **1** Refugee of Uzbek origin
- **15** People killed in acts of violence
- **4** Turkish forces bring 100 military machineries
- **3** Russian aerial military escalation kills 23 people
- **1,900** Missiles and artillery shells fired on 40 areas

Ongoing protests and demonstrations condemning violations of HTS

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“Olive Branch” areas in June 2023 | 25 kidnapings and arbitrary arrests... nearly 55 other human rights violations...ongoing sabotage of Syria’s civilisational heritage

SOHR calls on the international community to intervene immediately and protect civilians from systematic violations by Turkish-backed factions

Since Turkish forces and their proxy factions captured several areas in north-western Aleppo, namely Afrin canton, after a military operation known as “Olive Branch”, humanitarian crises have been emerging and worsening gradually, with violations, attacks and explosions occurring almost daily. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked prominent developments and gross violations in these areas in June 2023, which can be summarised in the following main points:

Acts of violence leave casualties

In June, SOHR documented the death of four persons in areas under the control of Turkish forces and factions operating under the banner of “Olive Branch” operations room in the north-western countryside of Aleppo. A breakdown of fatalities is as follows:

- A woman was killed in indiscriminate gunfire during an infighting.
- A woman was murdered.
- A man was shot dead by unknown gunmen.
- A combatant was killed during an infighting among militiamen.

Further details of the circumstances of the death of those persons can be summarized as follows:

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• A member of Haraket Al-Tahrir Wal-Binaa, which belongs to the Turkish-backed National Army, died eight months after being injured in clashes with HTS in neighbourhoods of Jinderes district in Afrin countryside.

• A woman in her 60s was shot dead in the head by an unidentified source, near Maarata Square in Afrin Al-Jadida neighbourhood in Afrin city.

• A civilian from Jarjnaz town in Idlib countryside was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Raju district in Afrin in northern Aleppo. The gunmen managed to escape.

• A woman was killed by thieves using a knife in her house near Ma’ratah roundabout in Afrin city centre during a burglary. The thieves set fire to the house to cover up the crime.

Ongoing heinous crimes and violations

As Turkish-backed factions continue their blatant violations on a daily basis against the residents who have chosen to stay in their areas over displacement and against people displaced to Afrin canton, SOHR has documented 24 arbitrary arrests of civilians, including and two women, by Turkish-backed factions and only one case of kidnapping in June.

Furthermore, SOHR has documented over 55 other violations distributed as follows:

- Nine incidents of seizure and selling of displaced people’s houses which had been forcibly seized earlier by Turkish-backed factions. The houses were sold at low prices and in US dollars in particular, where those houses were sold for 800 USD up to 2,000 USD.

- Eight incidents of felling fruit-bearing trees by factions of Turkish-backed “National Army,” where over 786 olive trees were cut down in several areas in villages and districts of Afrin.
26- incidents of imposition of levies by factions, military police and Turkish intelligence; they are as follows:

• Six incidents in which ransoms of 100 to 600 USD each in return for release of detainees. Turkish intelligence was involved in three incidents.

• 16 incidents in which “Sultan Suleiman Shah” faction imposed levies on 14 farmers from Ashkan Gharby village in Jendires district in return for allowing them to irrigate their fields. The levies reached 100 USD each.

• Imposition of levies by members of “Suleiman Shah” faction on displaced people inside the Qatari camp in Shaikh Al-Hadid in Afrin countryside of 50 USD each family, and they threatened to expel them from the camp if they did not pay the levies.

• Imposition of levies by «Suleiman Shah» faction on farmers in villages of Sheikh Al-Hadid district in Afrin countryside, which reached four US dollars every olive tree to allow them to harvest their olive crops.

• Imposition of levies of 1,000 USD by the military police on merchants in Rajo district under the pretext of “expanding the district’s prison and build new rooms.”

• Imposition of levies of 100 USD each by members of «Al-Sham Corps,» which controls villages in Rajo district in Afrin countryside north western of Aleppo, on farmers to allow them to harvest grape leaves, where Al-Sham Corps' members threatened to arrest farmers for “dealing with the former Autonomous Administration,” if they did not pay the royalties.
Four thefts; they are as follows:

- Members of «Al-Amshat» faction stationed at a checkpoint near Darkyriah village in Ma’abarati district, had taken a sum of 200 USD and 600 Turkish Liras from a civilian from the village and threatened to kill him, if he filed a complaint against them at military police headquarters or the “Rights Restitution Committee.”

- Members of “Al-Sultan Murad” faction stormed, on June 20, a house belonging to a civilian in Afrin city, beat him severely and stole his money, solar panels and electrical appliances from his house, and they threatened to kill him if he filed a complaint against them. The stolen money is estimated to be 1,500 USD.

- Members of “Al-Amshat” faction blocked a civilian from Mirkan village in Ma’barati district, stole his money and threatened to kill him if he filed a complaint against them. The stolen money had been sent to the civilian from his relatives who live abroad to buy sheep for “Eid Al-Adha,” where he received the sum of money at a currency exchange company.

- Members of the military police stole nearly 50 olive oil tins from the storage of a merchant and move them at night to their headquarters in Rajo district.

An incident of selling of a shop, where members of the “National Army” sold a shop belonging to a displaced man from Al-Ashrafiyah neighbourhood in Afrin city for 2,000 USD.

Also, SOHR also documented six assaults by various factions of the “National Army” in June; further details can be summarised as follows:

- June 5: Two young men were injured with gunshots fired by a driver working for a leader within «Sultan Murad» faction, after they defended a child who was beaten and tortured by the leader in Qarah Tabbah village in Sharan district in Afrin countryside within «Olive Branch» area. The injured young men were taken to the hospital.

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• June 6: Members of «Al-Sultan Suleiman Shah» faction, known as «Al-Amshat,» assaulted two civilians from Sheikh Al-Hadeed district in Afrin countryside, in front of the residents, and threatened to kill them because of their participation in the protests that were staged in Jinderes district in Afrin countryside, against «Ahrar Al-Sharqiyyah» faction after its members killed four civilians who lit the flame of Nawroz last March.

• June 13: Members of “Al-Sham Legion” beat a civilian from Shaikh Mohamadly village in Rajo district in Afrin countryside with backs of their guns, while the civilian was guarding bags of wheat in his field at night in fear of them being stolen, where he suffered bruises and wounds on different parts of his body and was taken to a hospital to receive proper medication.

• June 19: Members of a patrol of “Sultan Suleiman Shah” Division (Al-Amshat) arrested a civilian from Jendires district, while attempting to sneak into Turkey with the help of smugglers. The civilian was brutally beaten and his money was taken over.

• June 22: Members of “Al-Sultan Murad” faction stormed, on June 20, a house belonging to a civilian in Afrin city, beat him severely and stole his money, solar panels and electrical appliances from his house, and they threatened to kill him if he filed a complaint against them. The stolen money is estimated to be 1,500 USD.

Sabotage of Syria’s civilisational heritage

Beside the ongoing efforts by Turkish forces and their proxy factions to change the demography of Afrin canton, after looting civilian properties, seizure of farmlands and forcing nearly a third of the canton’s indigenous inhabitants to displace, Turkish-backed factions continue to sabotage Syria’s historical heritage through excavation work and digging in archaeological hills and sites, searching for buried artefacts and antiques.

In June, Turkish-backed factions excavated and destroyed the archaeological hill of Katakh which overlooking the road between Afrin city and Raju district in Afrin countryside.
This hill, which is registered at the Syrian Ministry of Culture and General Administration of Antiques and Syrian museums based on Article no. 244, in 1981, was systematically destroyed by Turkish-backed factions which used heavy diggers and earth-moving machineries to search for buried treasures. Furthermore, the factions felled tens of fruit-bearing trees in and around the site.

It is worth noting that Katakh hill experienced frequent incidents of sabotage and thefts since Turkish-backed factions took control of Afrin canton in 2018.

Explosions

SOHR documented two explosions in “Olive Branch” area in the past month, with the first taking place on June 4 when a landmine explosion was heard near the Turkish military base on Jendires road in Afrin area. The explosion hit a bulldozer used by displaced people to level land for establishing shops, causing material damage only.

The second explosion took place on June 7 when a media activist hails from Idlib was seriously injured due to an unknown explosion, while he was working in Afrin city within «Olive Branch» area, where he was taken to a hospital in Azaz city. It is not known if the explosion was caused by an assassination attempt or for another reasons, amid media blackout.

It seems that violations in “Olive Branch” areas will not stop as long as Turkish forces and their proxies keep breaching all international laws and charters, while no party or international or regional player is exhibiting any willingness to put an end to these “grave” violations, despite SOHR’s repeated warnings about the dreadful humanitarian situation in the region.
Infographic: Violations in “Olive Branch” area in June 2023

- 26 incidents of imposition of levies on civilians
- 25 kidnappings and arbitrary arrests
- 6 assaults
- 4 thefts

incident of selling and confiscating displaced people's houses

33
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Since Turkish forces and their proxy factions captured several areas in Aleppo after a military operation known as “Euphrates Shield”, humanitarian crises have been emerging and worsening gradually, with violations, attacks and explosions occurring almost daily. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked June’s prominent developments in these areas, which could be summarised in the following main points:

Human casualties

In June 2023, SOHR activists documented the death of ten people in areas under the control of Turkish forces and factions operating under the banner of “Euphrates Shield” operations room and their surroundings in the northern, eastern and north-eastern countryside of Aleppo. The fatalities’ breakdown is as follows:

-Seven civilians, including a woman:
  - Three civilians were killed in indiscriminate gunfire and infightings.
  - A civilian was killed by factions.
  - Two civilians were murdered.
  - A civilian was shot by unidentified gunmen.
Three combatants:

- One was assassinated.
- Two killed in clashes with drug dealers.

SOHR also documented the injury of over 17 people in acts of violence in “Euphrates Shield” area and its surroundings in June 2023.

The circumstances of the death of those civilians and combatants can be summarised as follows:

Civilians

- June 4: A civilian was killed in indiscriminate gunfire during clashes with light weapons between a young man keeping pigeons and his neighbours in Bizaa town in the eastern countryside of Aleppo. Members of the police interfered to break up the clashes, but some of them sustained injuries.

- June 23: A displaced young man from Hayan city in northern Aleppo countryside shot his wife and his second wife’s brother dead, after returning to his house and seeing the two persons committing a shameful act inside his house. The young man handed himself to the military police in Azaz city.

- June 29: Two drug traffickers were killed due to exchange of fire between them following a dispute over drug trafficking on Teshtan road in Jarabulus city in eastern Aleppo countryside.

- June 30: A drug dealer was killed and another person was injured due to armed clashes erupted between two families which one of them is affiliated to the Turkish-backed National Army in Marea city in the northern countryside of Aleppo.

- June 30: A young man of special needs was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a “Santa Fe” car in front of Al-Ehsan Mosque in Al-Bab City in eastern Aleppo countryside.
Combatants

• June 1: A member of “Al-Jabha Al-Shamiyah” faction of the Turkish-backed “National Army” died affected by the wounds he sustained, after being directly shot by unidentified gunmen in a “Santa Fe” car, while he was returning from his commercial store on the road of Telal Al-Sham in A’zaz countryside northern of Aleppo.

• June 10: A member of the Military Police died affected by his wounds and another member was severely injured, along with a child and a woman during armed clashes between a group of drug dealers and members of the Military Police in Jarablus city in Aleppo countryside.

• June 20: A member of the counter-narcotics department of the civil police in Al-Bab city in the eastern countryside of Aleppo was killed in clashes with suspects during a security operation which targeted a drug dealer in the city.

Explosions

“Euphrates Shield” area experienced only one explosions in June, where gunmen threw a hand grenade, on June 8, inside a car after breaking its glass in Jarablus city in Aleppo countryside within “Euphrates Shield” areas, before they fled on their motorbike to an unknown destination, causing damage to the car without any human casualties..

Infightings

Also, in June 2023, SOHR activists documented seven infightings in “Euphrates Shield” area and its surroundings; they are as follows:

• June 4: Clashes with light weapons erupted between a young man keeping pigeons and his neighbours in Bizaa town in the eastern countryside of Aleppo. Meanwhile, members of the police interfered to break up the clashes. The clashes left a member of the police injured, while a civilian was killed with an indiscriminate gunshot.

• June 7: A civilian was injured by a stray bullet due to intermittent clashes with medium machineguns between “Suqour Al-Shamal” faction and the “51st Division” after “Suqour Al-Shamal” faction took over the house of a former commander of ISIS in Ahtaimlat village in northern Aleppo countryside.
• June 10: A member of the Military Police died affected by his wounds and another member was severely injured, along with a child and a woman during armed clashes between a group of drug dealers and members of the Military Police in Jarablus city in Aleppo countryside.

• June 20: A member of the counter-narcotics department of the civil police in Al-Bab city was killed and two others were injured in clashes with suspects during a security operation which targeted a drug dealer in the city in “Euphrates Shield” area.

• June 29: Two drug traffickers were killed due to exchange of fire between them following a dispute over drug trafficking on Teshtan road in Jarabulus city within areas controlled by pro-Turkey factions in eastern Aleppo countryside. One of the dead men hailed from Deir Ezzor city and the other hailed from Jarabulus city in eastern Aleppo countryside.

• June 30: A drug dealer was killed, and another person was injured in the early hours of Today, due to armed clashes erupted between two families which one of them is affiliated to the Turkish-backed National Army in Marea city in the northern countryside of Aleppo.

• June 30: Two people were injured during the eruption of armed clashes between two families near Al-Kaf Square in the centre of Al-Bab City within “Euphrates Shield” areas, amid reports of tension and mobilization of armed members of both families and cutting of general roads.

Ongoing violations

Assaults

As Turkish-backed factions continue their violations against the residents of “Euphrates Shield” area and its surroundings, SOHR documented, in June, four incidents of assaults committed by Turkish-backed militiamen against civilians.
On June 12, members of the Civil Police in Dabik village in Akhtarin district in northern Aleppo countryside, assaulted, severely beat and insulted a civilian after an arrest warrant was issued against him, where he refused to show up causing quarrels between both sides, while members of the patrol opened fire on the agricultural tractor that is carrying water tanks, and took him to their headquarters.

While on June 26, members of an armed group including a college student of the Turkish-backed «Al-Jabhah Al-Shamiyah» faction, attacked the teaching staff in Al-Sham university on the road on Shamarin in Izaz countryside within «Euphrates Shield» area which is controlled by Turkish-backed factions in the northern countryside of Aleppo, where the armed group arrested the teaching staff including the rector of the university.

According to SOHR sources, the student with the group members attacked the teaching staff, saying «I can buy you, and I will pass exams against your will.» In turn, the administration of the university issued a statement announcing the suspension of exams and the closure of the university until the perpetrators are held accountable.

On the same day, members of the Turkish Jandarma brutally beat Syrians, which caused bruises and fractures in mouths and jaws, as well as stealing their money, mobile phones and personal properties.

Arrests

“Euphrates Shield” area experienced two cases of arbitrary arrests in June, with the first taking place on June 6 when members of Al-Shat Checkpoint of Al-Jabha Al-Shamiya arbitrarily arrested a young man displaced from Daraa city yesterday, while heading towards Afrin city from Al-Bab city in eastern Aleppo countryside, without knowing the charges pressed against him.
The second case was documented on June 23 when members of “Al-Shat” checkpoint of Al-Jabha Al-Shamiya faction arrested a civilian from Zarko village in Rajo district in Afrin countryside, after he returned from A’zaz city to Afrin city in “Olive Branch” area, and he was taken to an unknown destination.

On the other hand, the military judiciary in Mare’ city in the northern countryside of Aleppo released a regime soldier on June 6, after paying a sum of money estimated to be 1,000 USD; this triggered a state of anger among the residents who accused the military judiciary and factions of the “National Army” of releasing regime soldiers, who are involved in committing massacres against Syrians, for money.

It seems that violations in “Euphrates Shield” area will not stop as long as Turkish forces and their proxies keep breaching all international laws and charters, while no party or international or regional player is exhibiting any willingness to put an end to these “grave” violations, despite SOHR repeated warnings about the dreadful humanitarian situation in the region.
Infographic: Violations in “Euphrates Shield” area in June 2023

“Euphrates Shield” area and its surroundings in June 2023

- 10 People killed in acts of violence
- 7 Infightings
- 1 Explosion
- 6 Human rights violations committed by Turkish-backed factions

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“Peace Spring” areas in June 2023 | Public protests against corruption and violations committed by Turkish-backed factions...dreadful living conditions...nearly 30 cases of kidnapping and arbitrary arrests

SOHR renews its call to the international community to protect civilians from systematic abuse and violations by Turkish-backed factions

Human rights violations have been escalating in areas under the control of Turkish forces and their proxy factions in Al-Hasakah and Al-Raqqah, known as “Peace Spring” areas, since they were captured in October 2019. These forces' aim is to accomplish specific economic and political objectives through exploiting the region's wealth, resources and people.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked all developments and violations committed in “Peace Spring” areas in June 2023.

In June, SOHR documented five fatalities in “Peace Spring” areas, and here are further details:

• A little boy was found dead in Al-Kharabah cemetery in the south of Sluk town in Al-Raqqah countryside, a few hours after having gone missing.

• Three young and adult men were shot dead by Turkish Jandarma in Al-Hasakah and Al-Raqqah countryside.

• A member of «Al-Jabha Al-Shamiyyah» was shot dead by unknown gunmen on motorcycles on Al-Huwayjah road near Tel Abyad city in northern Al-Raqqah.
In June, “Peace Spring” areas experienced no explosions. However, SOHR sources reported only one infighting on June 26 when violent armed clashes with light and medium weapons erupted between two groups of factions in the centre of Sluk town in northern Al-Raqqah following a dispute over seizure of an oil truck belonging to a commander in “Liwaq Soqor Al-Shamal” by members of “Al-Khattab Battalion,” after it had crossed through Al-Tufahah crossing in the north of Al-Terwazeyah. The clashes left two civilians and two gunmen injured and they were taken to the hospital.

“Peace Spring” area also experienced ongoing violations by Turkish-backed militiamen in June, where SOHR documented the kidnapping of seven people and arrest of 22 others; they are distributed as follows:

• June 1: Militiamen of “Ahrar Al-Sharqiya” faction arrested four civilians in Ras Al-Ain area in “Peace Spring” area in north Al-Hasakah countryside, while attempting to cross Al-Mabroukah area from SDF-controlled areas, with the help of smugglers, with aim of sneaking into Turkey. The faction’s members asked the families of the arrested civilians for a ransom of 5,000 USD in return for their release. The fate of the four civilians remains unknown.

• June 1: Seven civilians from Al-Hasakah countryside were kidnapped in Al-Hasakah countryside after crossing Ras Al-Ain area in “Peace Spring” area in Al-Hasakah countryside, with the help of smugglers, in order to immigrate to another country after sneaking into Turkey.

• June 4: Military police stormed houses in Ras Al-Ain city in north-western Al-Hasakah within «Peace Spring» area and arrested two people on charges of “involving in drug trafficking.” Ironically, houses and headquarters of militiamen belonging to the «National Army,» who publicly trade in drugs in the city and countryside, were not raided.
• June 5: Members of «Al-Jabha Al-Shamiyyah,» which operates under the banner of the pro-Turkey «National Army,» stormed four houses in Ain Al-Arous village south of Tal Abyad in northern Al-Raqqah countryside, within «Peace Spring» area, amid indiscriminate gunfire which led to the injury of two persons. The injured people were taken to the hospital under military police monitoring. According to SOHR sources, five people were arrested during the raid campaign on charges of «dealing with SDF,” and their whereabouts and fate remain unknown.

• June 18: Members of military police, with the participation of members of «Al-Sultan Murad» faction, stormed several houses in Ras Al-Ain (Sare Kaniyeh) villages and the centre of the city, within «Peace Spring» area, where they breached the sanctity of the houses and arrested five persons, on the pretext that they are fugitives. Members of military police also arrested six prison guards, to delude the relevant authorities that they pursue the fleeing, and they have nothing to do with the process of smuggling of the prisoners.

Separately, Young men from Al-Ekaydat tribe attacked, on June 5, a checkpoint belonging to «Al-Sultan Murad» faction in Al-Halow village in Ras Al-Ain countryside in northern Al-Hasakah, where members of the checkpoint had beaten a young man and his wife from Al-Ekaydat tribe, after refusing to pay a levy. Verbal altercation erupted between the couple and the checkpoint’s members, after the checkpoint’s members verbally abused the young man’s wife. According to SOHR sources, the checkpoint’s members escaped while the attackers vowed to punish them for insulting the young man and his wife, amid a state of tension in the area.

Escalating public anger over disastrous living conditions

Residents staged two separate demonstrations in “Peace Spring” area on June 14, protesting the control of pro-Turkey factions of the prices of wheat and monopoly on the purchase of wheat from farmers, the high cost and stockpiling of basic foodstuffs, as well as the deteriorating health sector, education, services, water sector, escalating security chaos and rampant drug business.
According to SOHR sources, residents staged a demonstration in Tel Abyad city in northern Al-Raqqah, expressing their rejection of the price set by Turkish-backed militiamen to buy wheat from farmers, where the militiamen announced that they would buy wheat for 280 USD per ton. The protestors also called for improvement of living conditions and services, mainly healthcare, education and electricity, as well as countering corruption in military and civil institutions.

On the other hand, farmers staged a demonstration in Ras Al-Ain city in north-western Al-Hasakah in “Peace Spring” area, calling for putting an end to the Turkish-backed factions’ monopolisation of purchasing wheat from farmers.

The demonstrations came after calls by activists on June, in which they vowed to continue protests until fulfilling their demands which were manifested mainly in putting an end to injustice, looting and thefts. In addition, the activists called upon the region’s residents to participate in the demonstrations and call for their rights.

In a statement they issued, the activists announced that the first demonstration would be staged on June 14, in which they would call for the following:

• Dissolving the so called “economic bureaus” in Tel Abyad and Sluk.

• Putting an end to the factions’ domination over civil affairs, including their control of crossings and monopolising crops, diesel and silos.

• Handing over headquarters and buildings to official institutions.

• Reducing fees imposed at Tal Abyad crossing and crossings in northern Syria without any intervention from factions.
• Dissolving the local council in Tel Abyad. The activists also called upon “honourable employees,” as they described, to resign from the local council and prioritise the people’s interests.

• Allowing the entry of the Turkish institution of “Al-Timo” immediately to the region to buy the farmers’ harvest without blackmailing them or imposing taxes and levies.

• Reducing the price of bread and unify bread price in all areas.

The activists called upon “Al-Raqqah military revolutionaries,” as they described, to protect their families from oppression practiced by “the Shabiha of the Revolution,” and protect demonstrators. They also noted out that regime and SDF affiliates would be prevented from participating in the demonstrations.

On the other hand, families from Tel Abyad (Kri Sabi) area in northern Al-Raqqah countryside continued to leave “Peace Spring” area which is controlled by Turkish forces and their proxies, towards SDF-held areas in north-east Syria, escaping from deteriorating living and economic conditions.

According to the sources, the number of families which left Tel Abyad during the past three months reached nearly 256 families from Tel Abyad city and Sluk town and the surrounding villages, where they left in consecutive batches, searching for better living conditions.

People in “Peace Spring” area have suffered from the control of pro-Turkey factions of the prices of wheat and monopoly on the purchase of wheat from farmers, the high cost and stockpiling of basic foodstuffs, as well as deteriorating of health sector, education, services, water sector, security chaos and drug business.
Separately, SOHR sources reported on June 17 that about 40 family of ISIS of Iraqi nationalities, including women and children, left Ras Al-Ain (Sare Kaniye) area within «Peace Spring» area in Al-Hasakah countryside, towards Turkish territory, through the border crossing.

Sources confirmed that those families would be handed over to the Iraqi government by the Turkish consulate after entering the Turkish territory, under a joint coordination between them.

This came after the Turkish forces and their proxies had settled «ISIS» families in «Peace Spring» area in earlier periods, especially in Al-Mahatah and Al-Kharabat neighbourhoods in Ras Al-Ain (Sare Kaniyeh) city, after the displacement of a third of its residents during the military process in 2019.

While in the last ten days of June, SOHR sources reported that Turkish-backed factions continue their show campaign, where they claimed that they were searching for prisoners who had escaped from the central prison in Ras Al-Ain city (Sere Kaniye) nearly a week earlier. It is worth noting that the military police and “Al-Hamza” and “Sultan Murad” divisions participate in this campaign, where their members storm and inspect houses in Ras Al-Ain city and countryside on a daily basis under the pretext of “searching for the escapees.”

According to SOHR sources, over 120 houses were stormed under this campaign, while members of those factions committed scores of violations during their raids, which were manifested in stealing jewelleries, mobile phones and money.

Ironically, those raids and campaigns led to arresting no body, because the wanted individuals had been already escaped to SDF-controlled areas with the help of members of the military police and Turkish-backed militias.
In this context, the fate and whereabouts of the 19 Iraqi ISIS members, who escaped from the central prison in Ras Al-Ain remains unknown. It is worth noting that 18 other individuals escaped from the prison on the same day, but they were arrested shortly after they had crossed into SDF-controlled areas.

Overall, this bleak picture remains in place, with the widespread corruption and tyranny of the Turkish-backed factions without any deterrent preventing them from committing further humanitarian crimes against Syrian civilians in the “Peace Spring” areas.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, therefore, renews its appeal to the international community not to abandon its responsibility and obligations and find a lasting solution to the tragedy of the region's civilians that are plagued with systematic abuse and violations committed by lawless factions, including thefts, murders, looting, arrests and kidnappings.
Infographic: Violations in “Peace Spring” area in June 2023

“Peace Spring” area in June 2023

5
Combatants and civilians killed in acts of violence

Tribal infighting leaves injuries

Ongoing violations by Ankara-backed factions

Public protests erupt against living conditions and corruption
Regime-controlled areas in June 2023 | Nearly 125 fatalities in acts of violence...escalating assassinations of combatants...disastrous living conditions

SOHR renews its appeal to the international community to intensify its efforts to end the Syrian people’s suffering

Regime-controlled areas experienced scores of dramatic developments in June 2023, including an alarming escalation of violence, worsening living conditions, tightening security grip and ongoing arbitrary arrests.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked all key developments in regime-controlled areas in the past month, which can be summarised in the following main points:

Acts of violence leave many casualties
In June 2023, regime-controlled areas experienced an alarming escalation of acts of violence that left many casualties, where SOHR documented the death of 124 people across areas controlled by the Syrian regime and affiliated militias; the deaths are as follows:

Civilian fatalities

52 civilians, including 13 children and eight women. Here are further details of the circumstances of these deaths:

• 17 civilians, including three women and three children, were murdered.

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• 11 civilians, including a child and three women, were killed in incidents of security disorder in Daraa.

• Five civilians, including four children, were killed in explosions of old ordnance.

• Six civilians were killed by ISIS.

• Six civilians, including two women and three children, were killed in aerial and ground attacks by HTS.

• Three civilians, including two children, were killed in indiscriminate gunfire.

• Three civilians were killed by regime forces.

• One civilian died under torture in regime’s prisons.

Non-civilian fatalities

53- combatants:

• 23 killed in incidents of security disorder in Daraa province.

• Nine killed by opposition factions.

• Two killed by ISIS.

• Three killed in internal infightings.

• Seven shot dead by unknown gunmen.
• Five combatants, including officers, were killed by explosions.

• Five attacks by Turkish airstrikes.

15- Iranian-backed militiamen, all of whom are of Syrian nationalities:

• Eight killed by ISIS.

• Six killed in attack on their vehicle by unidentified gunmen.

• One shot dead by unknown gunmen.

- Three ISIS members:

  • Two killed in clashes with regime forces.

  • One killed in an incident of security disorder in Daraa province.

- One Russian soldier was killed in Turkish bombardment.

Kidnappings and arbitrary arrests

As regime security and intelligence services continue their repression, SOHR activists documented, in June, the arrest of at least 26 civilians, including a woman, as well as the kidnapping of 11 others, including a child.

A regional breakdown of arbitrary arrests is as follows:

• Rif Dimashq: Ten persons.

• Daraa: Six people, including a woman.
Deir Ezzor: Six people, including a woman.

Homs: Two persons.

Damascus: Two persons.

A regional breakdown of kidnaps is as follows:

Homs: Five people, including a child.

Daraa: Four people.

Al-Suwaidaa: Two persons.

Here are further details of the arrests and kidnappings documented in the past month:

Arrests

June 1: Regime security services arbitrarily arrested a young man in Al-Hama town in Rif Dimashq.

June 4: Two high school students were arrested by members of a regime security patrol in Al-Wady street in Al-Joura neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city on charge of “filming the streets with their mobile phones,” where they were taken to security centres and their fate remains unknown. It is worth noting that the two students came to regime-controlled areas for final semester exams.

June 4: An armed group affiliated with «Abu Al-Fadel Al-Abas» brigade of the Iranian militias, set up a checkpoint in south-west of Rif Dimashq and arrested a civilian while crossing the checkpoint, for unknown reasons.

June 5: Regime security services arrested five young men in Qudsaya suburb and Al-Hama town in Rif Dimashq.

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• June 8: Members of regime political security forces arbitrarily arrested a 30-year-old civilian and seized his car in Nubl city in Aleppo countryside for unknown charges, where he was taken to a security branch in Aleppo, while his fate remains unknown. It is worth noting that the arrested man has been displaced from Korzilah village in Sherawa district in Afrin.

• June 10: Members of the military police arrested two high-school students in front of a school in Al-Qusour neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city, which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian-backed militias, just after accomplishing their exams. The two students were taken to a regime security centre for unknown reasons, and their fate remains unknown.

• June 14: Regime soldiers stationed at a checkpoint in Daraa countryside arrested a civilian, while he was heading to Idlib city in north-western Syria for «belonging to HTS.»

• June 15: Members of the regime military intelligence service arrested a civilian from Al-Hesan town in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor.

• June 21: Regime forces arrested a woman in her fifties and her three sons near Izraa city's bridge, while they were heading from Daraa city to Damascus. The four people were taken to the air-force intelligence branch in Damascus.

• June 22: Regime forces arrested a 40 years-old man on Al-Matar checkpoint in Deir Ezzor which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian militias, while entering the city coming from SDF-held areas.

• June 23: Members of the Military Intelligence Department stormed a house in Bada town in Al-Qalmon Al-Gharby area in Rif Dimashq and arrested a young man arbitrarily for unknown reasons, where he was taken to one of the security branches with no information regarding his fate.
• June 23: Two young men were arrested in Rankos Farms in Al-Qalmon Al-Gharby area in Rif Dimashq by members of the Military Intelligence Department.

• June 26: Members of regime forces stationed at a military checkpoint arrested a civilian, while he was on his way to Daraa city.

• June 27: Security services arrested two civilians from Daraa City, one of which was arrested in Bab Al-Masla Garage in Damascus while he was returning from Lebanon, and the other was arrested at Mankat Al-Hatab Checkpoint on the road between Damascus and Daraa.

• June 29: Members of the 4th Division stationed at a checkpoint arrested a displaced young man from Afrin, while he was on his way to Aleppo city for buying Eid Al-Adha supplies. He was arrested for unknown reasons and his fate remains unknown.

**Kidnaps**

• June 1: A gang arrested a young man, while he was attempting to sneak into Lebanon from Homs countryside.

• June 2: A young man from Hayt town in the western countryside of Daraa was blocked and kidnapped by unknown gunmen in Al-Sameriyah area on the road to Jilin in the same countryside.

• June 3: Two young men from Daraa countryside were kidnapped by a gang, while they were returning from Damascus to Daraa. One of them hails from Nawa town and works in a shawarma shop, while the other young man is from Sayda town and he has recently returned from Kuwait.

• June 5: A gang kidnapped a young man in his 30s while heading from Al-Shahba city towards Al-Suwaydaa city for work.
• June 12: Local gunmen in Al-Suwaydaa kidnapped a young man from a gathering of civilians on a street in Al-Suwaydaa city.

• June 13: Unknown people kidnapped a civilian in his fourth decade while he was on his way to buy veterinary medicine in Basr Al-Harir town in the eastern countryside of Daraa. The kidnapped person hails from Lebin village in Al-Suwaidaa countryside, where he was taken to an unknown destination with knowing his fate.

• June 20: A kidnap gang kidnapped a family of four, including a child, from Talbiseh city in the northern countryside of Homs.

Crime rate is on the rise

Since early 2023, regime-held areas have experienced an alarming escalation of crime rate, in light of the regime security services' failure to put an end to the state of disorder and rampant security chaos in all Syrian provinces.

The Syrian Observatory documented 16 murders in regime-controlled areas in June 2023, where domestic violence and armed robbery were behind some of these murders, while motivations behind the others remained unknown. These murder crimes left 17 fatalities: three women, 1 young and adult men and three children. The fatalities are distributed regionally as follows:

• Rif Dimashq: Three murder crimes left three men dead.

• Latakia: Two murder crimes left a woman and two children dead.

• Al-Suwaidaa: Two murder crimes left a woman and a child dead.

• Homs: Three murder crimes left three men dead.

• Hama: Two murder crimes left two men dead.
• Damascus: One murder crime left a man dead.

• Aleppo: One murder crime left a man dead.

• Deir Ezzor: One murder crime left a man dead.

• Tartus: One murder crime left a woman dead.

Daraa “the cradle of the Syrian Revolution:” Security chaos noticeably escalates

Incidents of security disorder, mainly armed attacks, in Daraa province continued in June 2023, where SOHR documented 39 attacks in different areas throughout Daraa province. These attacks left 34 people dead; they are as follows:

• 11 civilians, including a child and three women.

• Three persons accused of “involving in drug business.”

• 17 members of regime forces and security services and “collaborators” with security services.

• One ISIS member.

• Two former fighter who did not join any military formation, after having struck reconciliation deals.
On the other hand, regime's security services opened on June 3 a “settlement” centre in Daraa city. The “settlement” process covers young people who passed their date of joining the mandatory service to regime’s security branches, regime army defectors, people possessing weapons and security suspects, under pressure and threats to arrest everyone refusing to strike reconciliation deals with the regime. The centre was planned to be open for six days in the Palace of Al-Hourriyat (Qasser Al-Hourriyat) in Daraa city. It is worth noting that this “settlement” targets people in all towns and villages of Daraa province. It is worth noting that thousands of people struck reconciliation deals during those six days.

While on June 27, a fighter jet believed to belong to regime forces executed two airstrikes on positions nearby Da’el and Al-Yadoudah towns in Daraa countryside. According to SOHR sources, the fighter jet took off from the Syrian desert, while the nature of the targeted sites and the reasons behind this attack remain unknown.

It is worth noting that this was the first round of airstrikes in the past five years, precisely since 2018.

Nine assassinations and attacks target combatants

In June, SOHR documented nine assassinations and attacks which targeted members of regime forces and security services in Al-Quneitra, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Al-Suwaidaa and Deir Ezzor provinces, which left many casualties. Here are further details:

• June 7: A regime soldier in his 20s, belonging to the special forces “15th Division” from Homs countryside was killed in mysterious circumstances, where his body was found showing signs of gunshots in the chest near Talol Al-Safa area in the deep Al-Suwaydaa desert, without knowing the reasons and motivations behind his murder. According to reliable SOHR sources, the accident took place following a meeting between first-rank officers in Al-Suwaydaa desert, after complaints were issued on social media due to the spread of corruption and bribes between members and commanders of the military land in the region.
• June 12: Unidentified gunmen opened fire directly on two members of the Internal Security Forces in the Square of Naba’ Sakhr town in the middle countryside of Al-Qonaitara near the occupied Syrian Golan, killing them.

• June 12: Unidentified gunmen opened fire directly on an employee of a drinking water institution for “working for the Military Intelligence”, inside his house in Ruwaihaina town in western Al-Qonaitara countryside, killing him immediately.

• June 12: Unidentified gunmen opened fire directly on an officer ranked as lieutenant and a member of Sa’sa’220 Branch of the Military Intelligence Department, near the dam of Um Al-Ezam village and Ruwaihaina village, killing them immediately.

• June 13: An officer at the rank of brigadier general was killed due to an explosion within Al-Idikhar neighbourhood in Homs city which is controlled by regime forces, where an explosion was heard, to be found later that it was a result of targeting the brigadier general.

• June 24: A top general and two other soldiers escorting him were killed in an explosion in the ammunitions warehouse in Hasyaa area in the southern countryside of Homs.

• June 26: A collaborator with the military intelligence division wrote a malicious report against two brothers working for the 4th division and submitted it to the military security in the region, which led to altercations and quarrels between both sides, after which the ambush was set up and the person was killed by the two brothers.

• June 27: A commander in the 4th Division was killed due to the explosion of an IED planted by unidentified gunmen this morning in his car in Jadyda Artuz town in Rif Dimashq. The dead commander hailed from Al-Saburah area in Rif Dimashq.
• June 30: A leader of an armed group and official of recruitment processes for the «4th Division» was shot dead by unknown gunmen at midnight of Thursday-Friday, near Al-Husainiyah town in Wadi Barada area in Rif Dimashq.

Infightings in Deir Ezzor and Rif Dimashq

Regime-controlled areas experienced five infightings in June, which left casualties. Further details can be summarised as follows:

• June 1: A member of the Military Intelligence Department “Saasaa” branch, a member of the 4th Division Security and two civilians were killed in violent clashes between two families close to the Military Intelligence Department and the 4th Division Security, where medium and light weapons were used in Bait Jinn town in Rif Dimashq, amid a state of fear and panic among civilians.

• June 10: A member of “Osoud Al-Sharqiya” militia was injured in an attack by unidentified gunmen on a motorbike on a headquarters of the militias within Teb Al-Joura neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city, while the gunmen fled to an unknown destination. Meanwhile, members of the militia opened fire in the air following the attack, amid a state of fear and panic among civilians.

• June 17: Armed clashes erupted between members affiliated with IRGC and members of the 4th Division in Al-Qusour neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city due to seizure of a motorcycle belonging to a member of IRGC by members of the 4th Division. According to the sources, the members are drug abusers, and they showed abnormal behaviour. It is worth noting that the tension is growing between the two sides continues, amid exchange of death threats.

• June 18: People of “Al-Sho’aitat” Tribe working for Osoud Al-Sharqiya militia kidnapped a member of Luwaa Al-Qods militia, after Luwaa Al-Qods assaulted a member of Osoud Al-Sharqiya in Al-Joura neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city within areas of regime and Iranian forces. The situation escalated to armed clashes between both sides in front of the headquarters of Osoud Al-Sharqiya in Al-Joura neighbourhood, causing the injury of a member of Osoud Al-Sharqiya who is one of “Al-Sho’aitat” Tribe, amid mobilization by the latter for revenge, coinciding with interference by members of the regime forces to break the clashes.
June 29: Clashes with light and medium machineguns erupted between members of the National Defence Forces and gunmen from Fakd Al-Jisat of Al-Ekaydat tribe in Al-Duwayr area in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian-backed militias. The clashes, which followed disagreements between the two sides.

Tragic living crises

Areas controlled by the Syrian regime have experienced considerable escalation of the prices of food stuffs and supplies to a level unaffordable by the many. This coincides with low salaries of employees working in governmental institutions, whose salaries ranges between 85,000 SYP and 150,000 SYP each, as well as the low wages of workers and freefall of the Syrian currency against the US dollar.

In Damascus and Aleppo cities, the Syrian pound against the US dollar recorded 9,000 SYL and 8,830 SYP in Al-Hasakah city.

The unprecedented high prices of fruit, vegetables and food supplies have been met with broad public discontent, where residents expressed their astonishment at the reaching of prices to this high level, especially with the availability of some summer vegetables on markets. The residents have stressed that the owners of shops and vegetable stalls do not comply with the daily price bulletin issued by the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection, which sets the prices of all products.

SOHR activists have toured markets in Damascus and monitored the prices of vegetables and basic products; which are as follows:

- Tomato: 3,000 SYP per kilogram.
- Cucumber: 3,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Courgettes: 3,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Potato: 2,500 SYP per kilogram.
• Egg plant: 1,700 SYP per kilogram.
• Peas: 4,500 SYP per kilogram.
• Beans: 4,500 SYP per kilogram.
• Lemon: 3,500 SYP per kilogram.
• Sugar: 9,500 SYP per kilogram.
• Rice: 22,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Lentils: 12,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Pasta: 12,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Ghee: 25,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Cooking oil: 15,000 SYP per litre.
• Tomato paste: 10,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Eggs: 25,000 per pack.
• Chicken meat: 25,000 SYP per kilogram.
• Chicken fillet: 40,000 SYP per kilogram.
Residents have met the astronomically inflated prices with angry reactions, where social media users called for monitoring prices on markets and putting an end to stockpiling of basic products, blaming the regime government for the deteriorating living conditions. Some residents commented on the situation, saying that if an employee wanted to buy a kilogram of chicken meat and some vegetables, then he would spend the whole monthly salary in one day, stressing that these prices could be suitable in a country whose employees receiving their salaries at the US dollar.

It is worth noting that the economic situation continues to deteriorate in areas controlled by the Syrian regime continues, even after the return of Al-Assad’s regime to the Arab fold and normalisation of relations with most of the Arab countries. Such developments and rapprochements have not contributed to improving the Syrian residents’ living conditions.

On the other hand, members stationed at the 4th Division checkpoints continue oppressing civilians in Deir Ezzor city through imposition of taxes and levies on trucks carrying food stuffs and infant formula delivered to the city; this, in turn, contributed to raising prices, amid a state of public discontent and anger regarding these practices.

According to SOHR sources, a pack of infant formula has been increased from 25,000 SYP to 50,000 SYP; let alone the fact that infant formula packs are not available in the most of the city’s pharmacies. Ironically, infant formula is available in only one pharmacy in Deir Ezzor city, precisely in Al-Qusour neighbourhood, as the owner of the pharmacy is one of the affiliates and loyalist of the 4th Division and work for it.
Ant-regime graffiti and fliers in Al-Suwaidaa, Daraa and Rif Dimashq

On June 3, unknown individuals stuck paper fliers with anti regime slogans written on them on walls in Al-Suwaidaa, expressing the people’s rejection of normalisation of relations with the Arab world. Some of those slogans read “reconstruction under the rule of Al-Assad will leads to definite death to the remaining Syrians,” “a refugee, a detainee, then a martyr killed under torture in Al-Assad’s prisons. Do not risk the lives of Syrians,” “every US dollar granted to Al-Assad leaves a child without milk.”

Similarly, on June 5, unidentified people spread leaflets in streets of Al-Suwaydaa city, carrying anti regime sentences such as “No to a corrupt regime built on rationalism” and “Yes to the No. 2,254 law” and other sentences that demand to overthrow the head of the regime. Meanwhile, SOHR sources reported heavy deployment of security forces in the city.

This coincided with the deteriorating living conditions, poor service and escalating security chaos in regime-controlled areas.

While on June 7, unknown individuals left anti-regime graffiti on the walls of Kanaker town in western Rif Dimashq, condemning the reconciliations with the Syrian regime and calling for the toppling of Al-Assad’s regime and release of detainees in regime prisons.

Some of those slogans read “we want the detainees,” “no reconciliation before release of detainees,” “down with Al-Assad.”

On June 9, unknown individuals circulated fliers opposing the reconciliation with the Syrian regime, which escalated after the return of the Syrian regime to the Arab League, one of which read “Allah never helps or guides those who strike reconciliation with them.” Such fliers were circulated in the cities in Jasem and Nawa, the towns of Namir and Sahem Al-Golan, Al-Shajarah, Tafas and Al-Jizah in Daraa countryside, Aleppo University and Damascus.
Ongoing Israeli attacks

As Israel continue to violate Syria's sovereignty, SOHR documented only one attack in June, which left several members injured and heavy material losses. On June 14, Israeli strikes hit positions in the perimeter of Damascus international airport and Al-Keswa area to the south of Damascus, which hosts warehouses affiliated to Iranian-backed militias. The targeted warehouses were destroyed, where violent explosions were heard even in Damascus city centre. The Israeli strikes left several people injured, including a regime soldier, amid unconfirmed reports of fatalities among the ranks of Iranian-backed militias.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has been all along warning against the repercussions of the crippling chronic crises and security chaos in regime-controlled areas and elsewhere in Syria, with only the Syrian regime to blame for the disastrous situation Syria is in right now. We, at the Syrian Observatory, call upon all international actors not to abandon their responsibility and obligations towards the people of Syria and urge them to find a lasting solution to the tragedy of millions of Syrians and bring Al-Assad, his affiliates and all those responsible for violations and those who aided and abetted the killing of Syrian people to justice.
Infographic: Key developments in regime-controlled areas in June 2023

**Regime-controlled areas in June 2023**

- 3 ISIS members
- 1 Russian forces
- 9 Assassinations and attacks target combatants
- 53 Combatants and “collaborators” with security services
- 15 Iranian-backed militiamen
- 124 Fatalities in acts of violence
- 37 Kidnaps and arbitrary arrests

Sentences against the regime spread in Al-Suwaydaa, Daraa and Rif Dimashq

65
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At a time when Russia’s plans are proceeding with their 93rd consecutive month of involvement in the Syrian crisis, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has monitored and tracked the recent developments during the sixth month of the eighth year of the Russian intervention in Syria. This month has experienced subsiding activity by Russian forces in light of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Key developments can be summarized regionally as follows:

**North-west Syria**

Russian fighter jets dramatically escalated their airstrikes on “Putin-Erdogan” area with nearly 35 airstrikes documented by SOHR in the last ten days of June. The Russian airstrikes in June targeted positions in Al-Shahroura, Talet Al-Khudr and Kabana in Latakia countryside, Al-Ghassaniyah, Basbat, Kam’aya, Al-Nahr Al-Abyad, Bazabour, Jisr Al-Shughour, the surrounding areas of Idlib city, Sheikh Bahr, Jabal Al-Arba’in and Sarjeh in Idlib countryside.

Those airstrikes left 11 civilians and 12 jihadists dead, as well as the injury of 40 other persons.

Here are further details:

- **June 20**: Russian warplanes launched four air strikes targeting the vicinity of Idlib city in the northern side.

- **June 20**: Russian warplanes launched four air strikes on the outskirts of Al-Sheikh Baher village in the western countryside of Idlib.

- **June 23**: A Russian warplane shelled Al-Sharora area in Jabal Al-Turkman within HTS-held areas in northern Lattakia countryside in two airstrikes.

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• June 23: A Russian warplane executed a double airstrike with two missiles on the vicinity of Al-Ghasaniya village in Jisr Al-Shughour western of Idlib.

• June 24: Russian fighter jets executed an airstrike on the frontlines of Telal Al-Khder in northern Latakia countryside and another one on Al-Ghasaniya village in Jisr Al-Shughour in western Idlib countryside.

• June 24: Two civilian brothers were killed and others were injured due to renewal of airstrikes by Russian warplanes on the vicinity of Basbat village western of Jisr Al-Shughour in Idlib countryside near administrative borders with Lattakia province.

• June 25: 25 people were killed in Russian airstrikes on the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city and the surrounding areas of Idlib city. The fatalities are as follows: six civilians and three combatants in the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city and a member of the “Turkistan Islamic Party,” a civilian and two children of the families of “Turkistan Islamic Party” members in the surrounding areas of Idlib city. Airstrikes on the surrounding areas of Jisr Al-Sughour city also left nearly 30 people injured.

• June 27: Eight members of “Liwaa Hamza” which operates under the banner of Hayyaat Tahrir Al-Sham were killed and others sustained various injuries in seven airstrikes by Russian fighter jets which targeted military headquarters of HTS in Jabal Al-Zawiyah area in south Idlib countryside.

North-east Syria

In the past month, Russian and Turkish forces conducted three joint patrols, two of which were in Ain Al-Arab countryside (Kobani) in Aleppo province and one in Al-Darbasiyyah countryside in Al-Hasakah province. Here are further details:
• June 1: Russian and Turkish forces ran a joint patrol comprising four military vehicles of each side, this morning, in the northern countryside of Al-Hasakah. The patrol, which was escorted by two Russian helicopters, sat off from the crossing of Sherik village in western Al-Derbasyah countryside and toured the villages of the western and southern of Al-Derbasyah countryside along the area to the western countryside of Amouda northern Al-Hasakah, passing by Dailk, Qunitrah, Salam Alyk, Qurmaneah, Tal Kadysh, Ghanamyeh, Karbatly, Jadidah, Tal Tyri, Tal Karamah, Khaski, Modaorah, Abo Jaradi and Khanyi, before returning back to the set off point. After the patrol had accomplished its mission, the Turkish vehicles returned to Turkish territory, while Russian vehicles returned to the Russian airbase in Al-Qamishli.

• June 5: Russian and Turkish forces ran a joint patrol in the western countryside of Ain Al-Arab (Kobani). The patrol, which comprised eight military vehicles and escorted by two Russian helicopters, set off from Ashemah village in western Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) countryside and toured the villages of Jarrqly Fuqani, Qarran, Dakmidash, Kharkhuri, Boban, Joul, Tel Shair, Sowsan, Qulah, Qawa Tahtani, Bayander, Jabnah, Mashkow and Jarqali Fuqani. After the patrol had accomplished its mission, Russian forces returned to their base in Sarin town in the south of Ain Al-Arab Kobani.

• June 19: Russian and Turkish forces ran a joint patrol in the western countryside of Ain Al-Arab (Kobani). The patrol, which comprised eight military vehicles and escorted by two Russian helicopters, set off from Ashemah village in western Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) countryside and toured the villages of Jarrqly Fuqani, Jabnah, Bayadeyah, and Roze Maghar which is the furthest village in western Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) opposite Jarabulus city on the eastern bank of Euphrates river. The patrol headed towards the east and toured the villages of Jabnah, Mashkow, Bandar, Qaraquy Tahtany, Qulah, Sowsan and reached a checkpoint belonging to Internal Security Forces «Asayish» near the radio station in the west of Kobani city.
On June 15, Turkish forces and Russian forces met at Sherek border crossing in the west of Al-Dirbasiyah in northern Al-Hasakah, where a patrol was planned to roam villages in western Al-Dirbasyah and Kassra in northern Al-Hasakah countryside. However, the two sides agreed to cancel the joint patrol due to the recent attacks by Turkish forces in northeast Syria, where the Turkish patrol returned to Turkey and Russian forces later headed to their base in Al-Hasakah.

While on June 26, SOHR sources reported that Russian forces conducted a military patrol of four military armoured vehicles, without the participation of the Turkish forces, in eastern countryside of Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) in the eastern of Aleppo, where the patrol set off from Gharieb village and toured villages of Karbanaf, Qusek, Alishar, Gom-Ali, Qurtak, Qowbaksatan, Tiery, Tlejab, Tel Hajeb, Qabageq Sagher, Tallek, Howlaqeyah, Khrebessan Tahtany, Geshan, and Qarah Mogh, before heading back to Russian base in Sarin town in southern Ain Al-Arab (Kobani). The patrol was supposed to be conducted by joint forces of Turkish and Russian forces, but the Turkish military vehicles did not come to the border gate, which is 20 kilometres to the eastern Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) near Gharieb village, due to “Eid Al-Adha” holiday.

Also, Russian forces conducted an inspection tour in Al-Hasakah countryside on June 11. According to SOHR sources, a Russian patrol escorted by an vehicle of the SDF coordination bureau inspected some regime outposts and military posts along the border line between Turkey and Syria in Al-Dirbasyah and Amudah countryside, within SDF-controlled areas in north Al-Hasakah countryside.

Similarly, on June 14, Russian forces conducted a military patrol comprising four military armoured vehicles, without the participation of the Turkish forces, in north Al-Hasakah countryside. The military patrol, set off from Al-Derbasiyah countryside and headed to Abo Raseen town in north Al-Hasakah countryside, amid flight of two Russian helicopters over the region.
Moreover, a top event was documented on June 12 when a Russian soldier was killed and four others were injured in an earlier Turkish bombardment with heavy artillery, targeting a Russian convoy on Mazarea Um Hosh-Harbel road in the northern countryside of Aleppo, amid a Russian helicopter flight over the area to transport the injured members and the killed one.

On June 14, a Turkish armed drone attacked a Russian base in Al-Wahshiya village in northern Aleppo countryside within areas of Kurdish and regime forces in northern Aleppo countryside. However, no casualties were reported.

As a part of exploiting the residents’ dire living conditions and efforts to woo Syrian people, the Russian reconciliation centre in Deir Ezzor city distributed 300 food baskets, on June 1, to residents of Mazloum village in the east of Deir Ezzor. The baskets contained sugar, rice, cooking oil, flour and packs of powder milk.

On June 11, the Russian Reconciliation Centre distributed rescue baskets on nearly 300 families from Mazloum town in northern of Deir Ezzor, in the presence of the mayor of the town in celebration of the Russian Army Holiday.

Also, on June 7, Russian forces distributed humanitarian aid of 235 food baskets to residents of Bayet Showher village in Drykesh in Tartus countryside. In addition, Russian forces provided two schools with two generators. This is the first humanitarian aid of its kind to be provided by Russian forces in Tartus province, with the aim of showing “Russia’s humanitarian aspects” and woo and attract people.
Separately, Russian forces brought in a column comprising seven military vehicles from Damascus. The column headed to Hawyjat Sakr in Deir Ezzor countryside. This coincided with Russian forces’ efforts to strengthen their presence in different areas in Syrian territory.

Between the 30th of September 2015 and the 30th of June 2023, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights documented the death of 21,146 persons. The breakdown of fatalities is as follows:

- **8,708 civilians**: 2,112 children under the age of eighteen, 1,321 females over the age of eighteen, 5,275 men and young people

- **6,201 ISIS members**

- **6,237 fighters of rebel and Islamic Factions, Hayyaat Tahrir al-Sham, the Islamic Turkestani Party, and fighters of Arab and foreign nationalities.**

SOHR sources have reported that Russia used “Thermite-type explosives” in their airstrikes, a substance composed of aluminium powder and iron oxide which causes burns as it continues to ignite for about 180 seconds; some bombs used by Russian jets on the Syrian territory were loaded with this substance.

It has been discovered that they are “RBK500- ZAB 2,5 SM” cluster incendiary bombs each weighing about 500 kg (about 1100 pounds (ca. 499 kilograms)) and they were dropped by military aircraft. They carried anti-individuals and anti-vehicles small-sized bombs of the type (AO 2,5 RTM), loaded with 50 to 110 small-sized bombs stuffed with “Thermite”, which outpour out of it when they explode; the range of these anti-individuals and anti-vehicles bombs reaches 20 to 30 metres.
As the months pass, the Syrians suffer the scourge of the Russian intervention, which seems to resemble a kind of revenge and retaliation against Syrians for protesting against the regime that committed the worst violations against its own people. At a time when the map of alliances and power balances is changing, Russia has become the ultimate winner, succeeding in helping the Syrian regime regaining control over about two-thirds of the country after losing control of most of its territory. Moscow used the pretext of “the war on terror” to commit massacres against civilians, and sponsored and struck agreements that were soon after abandoned. Moscow and its war machine have spilled the blood of Syrians despite claiming to be a “political mediator” or “broker” that can deal with all parties to the conflict.

With all recent changes in the balance of powers, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights renews its appeals to the international community to put pressure on Russia to stop its aggression against the Syrians, and to find a political solution to end the Syrian crisis that completed its eleventh year.
Russian intervention in Syria 93 months on

Nearly 35

airstrikes on the ‘de-escalation zone’ leave 63 casualties

Cessation of anti-ISIS operations in the Syrian desert

3

joint patrols run with the Turks in north-east Syria

Russian forces distribute food baskets in Tartus and Deir Ezzor, attempting to gain populist support

The Syrian Observatory would like to point out that all information and figures mentioned in this report have been documented and updated until the date of publication, June 30.

73

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Iran’s presence in Syria in June 2023 | 15 fatalities in ground attacks... confusion and hectic movements in west Euphrates...ongoing recruitment in Homs desert and Aleppo countryside

SOHR calls upon all international actors to intensify their efforts to expel Iran and its proxies from Syria and bring to justice all those who aided and abetted the killing and displacement of Syrian people

Iran and its proxy militias have unprecedented influence in most areas under the “symbolic” regime control, as neither attacks by Israel and the International Coalition, nor the “cold war” with Russia could hinder the alarming entrenchment and expansion of these forces across Syria. Strengthening their presence and promoting their ideology, the Iranians are still carrying on with their systematic plan to change the demography of different areas throughout Syria’s geography.

In the following report, SOHR highlights the key developments in areas dominated by the Iranians in June 2023.

Human casualties

SOHR activists documented the death of 15 Iranian-backed militiamen, all of them are of Syrian nationalities, in ground attacks in Syria in June 2023; they are as follows:

• Eight killed by ISIS.

• Six killed in an attack which targeted their vehicle.

• One shot dead by unknown gunmen.
Confusion and hectic movements in west Euphrates

-Wooing and impressing residents

On June 2, the Iranian cultural centre held an honouring ceremony for top students in Al-Asdeqaa park in Huwayjat Sakr which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian-backed militias in Deir Ezzor. The centre announced the graduation of over 40 students aged between 17 and 20, all of whom got the full mark in French. It is worth noting that the Iranian centre holds honouring ceremonies for top students every month.

On the same day, the Iranian organisation of “Fayd” carried out several activities in areas under the control of Iranian-backed militias in Deir Ezzor, including a theatre performance imitating the incident of the murder of “Al-Hassan Ibn Ali and his brother Al-Husayn” who were killed 1,400 years ago. The play was performed in different primary and middle schools, including “Hassan Al-Atrah” school, “Al-Reyad Na’omah” school and “Samy Al-Jasem” school. The activities held by the organisation in Syria are supervised by a displaced man from Al-Yarmouk camp in Rif Dimashq known as “Haj Ya’reb.”

While on June 12, Iranian cultural centre in Deir Ezzor city managed by Haj “Rasoul”, announced the opening of new courses for learning Persian language, where about 50 students aged between 25-18 years, presented to the courses. The centre and its management exploit the bad living conditions of most of the residents of the city, where it provides financial prizes for the students in addition to recreational trips outside Deir Ezzor province for each one masters Persian language.

Similarly, on June 23, SOHR sources reported that Iranian-backed militias started a new training course on June 21 under the name of “Young People Empowerment” in Al-Qusour neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian-backed militias.
The course targeted young people aged between 15 and 30, where they were supposed to undergo training for three months, including courses of sewing, barbering and fixing electronic devices, as well as ideological courses. Applicants would receive certificates after the end of those courses.

After passing the training courses, young people would be able to receive financial support provided by the training and education centre, so that they can open their own projects. This came as a part of efforts by Iranian-backed militias to gain support of young people and lure them later to join the ranks of Iranian-backed militias in areas under their control.

Meanwhile, Nasr centre of IRGC in Deir Ezzor city which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian militias, has proceeded to follow new policies to attract men and young men for recruiting them in the ranks of the revolutionary guards. This came after the previous attempts failed and the weakness of young men's demand to the temptations of the centre, what led it to offer new ones represented by raising the salary to 100 USD for those wishing to join and insuring that military police would not pursue those wanted for compulsory and reserve service in regime army, in addition to providing a monthly food basket and their mission will be guarding the headquarters of the militia in the city and its vicinity, with periodic paid vacations.

-Recruitment operations

On June 3, Iranian-backed militias started admitting children and young men from Deir Ezzor city aged between 15 and 45 to their ranks, at orders by “Haj Abbas” who is in charge of the recruitment officer in the city, after providing family registries and IDs.

In the meantime, new posts of Iranian-backed militias were reopened in Al-Mayadeen city in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor and the neighbourhoods of Al-0mmal and Al-Rasafah in Deir Ezzor city, after suspension of recruitment operations for nearly three months.
According to SOHR sources, Iranian-backed militias depend on offering financial incentives to young people, such as offering relatively high monthly salaries that reach 700,000 SYP, to lure them to join their ranks and undergo ideological and military courses with the aim of impose their influence and strengthen their presence in Deir Ezzor city; this, in turn helps Iranian-backed militias to expand their presence and instil their ideology in the segments of Syrian society.

In Mid June, SOHR sources reported that the Iranian cultural centre in Deir Ezzor city announced the start of admitting female volunteers to join the ranks of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), where they will be assigned with non-combat tasks. According to SOHR sources, IRGC informed the Iranian cultural centre and some affiliated militiamen that it needs female volunteers to work in different sectors, such as supervising kindergartens and nursing courses, for monthly salaries ranging from 700,000 SYP to one million Syrian pounds. Despite the relatively high salaries, the announcement did not attract the expected large number of the region’s residents.

- New reinforcement

On June 3, military reinforcements accompanied by Special Operation units (217) of the Security Office in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards towards Al-Barid crossing in Al-Mayadin “the capital of the Iranian militias in eastern of Syria”, where the reinforcements comprise trucks carrying boxes of unknown contents, and was moved to the second bank of Euphrates River through the regime’s crossing. Moreover, six trucks were moved to the area of smuggling crossings.
Also, on June 6, a convoy of closed trucks from Al-Bokamal arrived at headquarters of Iranian militias in Al-Mayadin “the capital of the Iranian militias in eastern of Syria”, where the convoy comprises ten trucks of unknown contents and the convoy headed towards Deir Ezzor, with members of the Iranian militias and support by the National Defence forces who volunteered for the Iranian-backed militias.

A day later, Iranian militias and Lebanese “Hezbollah” brought in a bus carrying a number of communications workers from Damascus towards Al-Bokamal area in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor. According to sources, the bus was accompanied with two members of the information branch in the military intelligence, and the processes of installing the communications monitoring devices on towers of communications and exchanges in both Al-Bokamal city and Al-Salehiyah village in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor has begun, amid a security protection by the Iranian militias.

While on June 12, Iranian-backed militias brought in, today, military reinforcement of weapons and militiamen on motorcycles to replace other militiamen deployed at the military checkpoints in Al-Mayadeen city, the “capital of Iranian militias” in east Deir Ezzor countryside. The reinforcement was brought from Hatlah town to Al-Salehyah area near Al-Mayadeen city.

In the period from June 17 to June 20, areas controlled by Iranian-backed militias and regime forces in Deir Ezzor province in western areas of Euphrates, are witnessing intense and suspicious movements of the militias. These movements represented in transporting weapons, ammunitions and members from Deir Ezzor to the vicinity of the capital Damascus, in addition to western Rif Dimashq.

According to SOHR sources, the militias exploit the inflow of the buses of Shia pilgrims from Iraqi lands to Al-Saydah Zaynab, through Al-Bokamal, to practice their beliefs, especially in the last ten days of the month of Zul Hijjah, where military and logistic equipment was brought in through civil buses among the pilgrims to ensure not being targeted and not making any suspicions. Furthermore, Lebanese Hezbollah militia and IRGC sent their members and leaders to the vicinity of Damascus for unknown reasons and they were sent in three buses intended for Shia visitors. In addition to the above, militias’ sites in Deir Ezzor are witnessing massive security mobilization, amid increased guarding and intensive patrols in the region.
Similarly, on June 21, Iranian-backed militias brought in a new convoy of military reinforcement from Al-Bokamal city to Hatla and Al-Rasahfah neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city. The convoy, which was headed by “Al-Haj Salman,” comprised members of the 47th Regiment escorted by 12 “pick-up” trucks and “Inter” trucks carrying combatants and buses carrying 80 other combatants.

**-Infightings and attacks**

SOHR activists documented three infightings and two attacks in areas controlled by Iranian-backed militias in June, which left several casualties. Here are further details:

- **June 19**: Six combatants were killed due to an explosion which targeted their car near Al-Baghayliyah neighbourhood in the western part of Deir Ezzor city which is controlled by regime forces and Iranian-backed militias. The death toll is expected to rise further, as the attack left four other combatants injured, some seriously, amid unconfirmed reports of more fatalities. No confirmed information was reported about the nature of the explosion, and it is not known whether it was caused by an IED explosion or International Coalition drone attack. According to SOHR sources, the car had left Ayash warehouse affiliated to Iranian-backed militias shortly before it was attacked, and it was on its way to Al-Jurah neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city.

- **June 21**: A member of the Iranian militias was shot dead by unknown gunmen on a motorbike, while he was going to buy bread from the municipal bakery which is 100 meters away from the military intelligence detachment in Al-Mayadeen city.

- **June 17**: Armed clashes erupted between members affiliated with IRGC and members of the 4th Division in Al-Qusour neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city due to seizure of a motorcycle belonging to a member of IRGC by members of the 4th Division. According to the sources, the members are drug abusers, and they showed abnormal behaviour. It is worth noting that the tension is growing between the two sides continues, amid exchange of death threats.
• June 26: Two Syrian members of the Lebanese Hezbollah were injured due to a quarrel which evolved to a fight with knives in Al-Jamaat neighbourhood in the centre of Al-Bukamal city in eastern Deir Ezzor province. It is worth noting that they were under the influence of drugs.

• June 28: A civilian was injured by a stray bullet during clashes between members of Osoud Al-Sharqiya and members of the Military Police in the central garden in the middle of Deir Ezzor City within areas held by regime forces and Iranian militias, after a member of Osoud Al-Sharqiya harassed a girl. The injured civilian was taken to the hospital to receive proper medication.

- Ongoing violations

On June 11, SOHR sources reported that Lebanese Hezbollah militia took over new houses in Deir Ezzor city, where it took over three houses in Al-Jubeilah neighbourhood beside Hawaijah roundabout in the city, and turned them into military headquarters, what caused panic among residents, amid their fear of deploying military headquarters among their residential neighbourhoods, because of the ill-treatment of the militias for the residents on one side, and from another side the fear of aerial targeting of the militias among civilians.

While on June 14, SOHR sources reported that the directorate of endowments of the regime’s government in Deir Ezzor city announced the change of the name of Al- Omari mosque in Al-Emal neighbourhood to the name of Al-Redwan mosque, on the orders of the leader of “IRGC” militia in the city, “Al-Haj Kamil.” This came after the finishing of its renovation a short while ago. According to sources, last May, Iranian cultural centre in Deir Ezzor city invited young men from the city to train on what is known as “Latmiat,” which means slapping and hitting the chest, inside the mosque.
On the other hand, trucks carrying food and nutrition arrived on June 8 at Al-Mayadin city from Damascus and Aleppo. Regime checkpoints at Al-Bala’om Square forces truck drivers to pay royalties to bring the goods into the city. Coinciding with the obstacles by the regime, Deir Ezzor, Al-Mayadin and Al-Bokamal witness Iranian goods filling markets of the region, where they compete with Syrian goods due to not having royalties imposed on them.

In the same context, the regime-backed 4th Division, which is also close to Iranian-backed militias, continue clamping down on civilians in Al-Mayadeen in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, which has ignited public discontent and renewed tension between the two sides.

In this context, the 4th Division continues imposing large levies on commercial goods, especially foodstuffs, brought from different Syrian provinces, mainly Damascus, which has led to dramatic increase in the prices of those goods, as well as the delayed delivery and unavailability.

Accordingly, a large number of residents have found themselves obligated to depend on goods smuggled from SDF-controlled areas on the eastern bank of Euphrates river and Iranian and Iraqi goods which are readily available in Al-Mayadeen markets and all areas dominated by Iranian-backed militias. Such goods are smuggled from Iraq by individuals working for Iranian-backed militias; this means that repression practiced by the 4th Division aims at increasing residents’ willingness to buy goods smuggled from Iraq.

Iranian-backed militias recruit more young and adult men in Homs, exploiting extreme poverty
As Iranian-backed militias continue exploiting the extreme poverty and dreadful living conditions in regime-controlled areas to recruit young and adult men, SOHR activists have confirmed that the Lebanese Hezbollah continues recruitment operations in Homs province. According to reliable SOHR sources, the number of young and adult men recruited by Hezbollah since mid-March has increased to 97, and they are from Palmyra, Al-Baydah, Um Amad, Al-Bayarat, Kherbet Tayyas.

Hezbollah offers a salary of 900,000 SYP, equivalent to 100 USD, to everyone wants to join its ranks, and this is a relatively high salary compared to the salaries of employees, especially with the lack of job opportunities. In addition, Hezbollah offers security privileges to its recruits, facilitating their movements through military checkpoints in the area and protect those who evaded reserve military service from being arrested by regime forces. It is worth noting that military drills are conducted in the same place which is a military field of Hezbollah in the vicinity of Marhatan village. After military courses, the recently-recruited members are distributed to posts of the Lebanese Hezbollah, where they are tasked with guarding those posts.

On June 9, SOHR sources reported that Lebanese Hezbollah brought in two trucks to its positions in the eastern countryside of Homs. According to SOHR sources the two trucks escorted by private vehicles affiliated to Hezbollah arrived in the early hours of Friday morning in positions of the Lebanese Hezbollah from areas near the Syria-Lebanon border in Rif Dimashq. The two trucks unloaded in underground warehouses, which had been dug by Hezbollah, in Al-Alyaniyah area which is nearly 30 kilometres away from the 55 kilometre de-confliction zone which hosts Al-Tanaf base where Coalition Forces are stationed.

SOHR activists have confirmed that the two trucks were carrying medium-range Iranian-made missiles, rocket launchpads ammunitions and logistical supplies.
Ongoing recruitment operations in Aleppo countryside

Unlike the Syrian regime’s promises to the Arab world regarding expelling Iranians from Syria, Iranian-backed militias are proceeding with their efforts to entrench their presence further across Syria, where they continue recruiting young and adult men through offering financial incentives, exploiting the disastrous living conditions, lack of job opportunities, low salaries and prohibitively high prices.

In the eastern countryside of Aleppo, Iranian-backed militias, namely the Afghan militia of “Liwaa Fatemiyoun,” continued to recruit young men. According to SOHR sources, the number of people who joined Iranian-backed militias in the eastern countryside of Aleppo since the beginning of escalating recruitment operations in February 2021 approximated 3,410. These operations, which are carried out by spiritual figures and offices offering financial incentives, are concentrated in the areas of Maskanah, Al-Sfirah, Deir Hafer and other towns and villages in eastern Aleppo.

Ongoing Israeli attacks

As Israel continue to violate Syria’s sovereignty, SOHR documented only one attack in June, which left several members injured and heavy material losses. On June 14, Israeli strikes hit positions in the perimeter of Damascus international airport and Al-Keswa area to the south of Damascus, which hosts warehouses affiliated to Iranian-backed militias. The targeted warehouses were destroyed, where violent explosions were heard even in Damascus city centre. The Israeli strikes left several people injured, including a regime soldier, amid unconfirmed reports of fatalities among the ranks of Iranian-backed militias.
The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) is used to hearing the Syrian regime’s empty mantra that it always reserves the right to respond to Israeli attacks. However, regime forces do not hesitate when it comes to shelling opposition positions or bombarding residential and civilian areas inside Syria. The Iranians also dare not launch a large-scale military operation against Israel, as they know full well that they will be facing the might of Israel’s military, so the Iranians seem satisfied with letting its proxies do its bidding by firing only a few rockets from time to time on the occupied Syrian Golan, using the Iranian and Hezbollah-backed movement “Syrian Resistance to Liberate Golan”.

At a time when the Syrian regime “intercepts and downs” Israeli missiles only with a Russian green light, Israel can hit Iranian targets -with the purpose of undermining the Iranian military presence in Syria- and only with Russia’s full consent.

On the other hand, Washington justifies Israel’s stance that “Tel Aviv practices its legal rights to defend its security and interests against the Iranian direct threat”, not to mention the US desire to get Syria free of Iranian forces and militias.

We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), call for keeping the Syrian civilians out of the regional conflicts as the targeted areas and facilities are owned by Syrian people alone, not by Iran or its proxy militias.

SOHR stresses the importance of expelling the Iranian forces and militias from Syria without risking the safety and lives of civilians or damaging Syria’s public properties and facilities.
Infographic: Iran's presence in Syria in June 2023

15 people killed in ground attacks

Chaos and extensive movements in western of Euphrates

Ongoing recruitment of youths in Aleppo countryside

Taking advantage of poverty to recruit men and young men in Homs
Areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), (SDF-held areas) experienced in June 2023 scores of incidents of security disorder and violations against human rights. In this context, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has monitored and tracked all key developments in SDF-held areas in the past month.

Deaths in acts of violence

SOHR documented the death of 59 people in June 2023 in light of the ongoing acts of violence in SDF-held areas. Here are further details of those deaths:

19- civilians, including three women and four children; they are as follows:

- Seven civilians, including a child and a woman, were murdered.
- Four civilians were killed by ISIS.
- Four civilians, including two women, were killed in airstrike by Turkish drone.
- A child was shot dead by Turkish Jandarma.
- A child was killed by explosions of old ordnance.

SOHR calls for protecting civilians, guaranteeing their rights, and putting an end to violations by “Al-Shabiba Al-Thawriyah”
• A little girl was killed in indiscriminate gunfire.
• A man was killed by an explosion.

25 - combatants:
• Ten killed in attacks by ISIS members.
• 15 killed in airstrikes by Turkish drones.

- Three ISIS members:
• Two killed by SDF.
• One killed by International Coalition Forces.

Unprecedented escalation by Turkish forces

The renewed military escalation on areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration seems to be one of the top priorities of the Turkish president “Recep Tayyip Erdogan” on his new presidential term regarding Syria’s affairs. As soon as the presidential elections had been over in late May, Turkish drones started a new campaign of military escalation in Syrian territory.

In June, SOHR activists have documented ten attacks by Turkish drones, which left 19 people dead and 18 others injured. The Turkish drone attacks coincided with ground bombardment which left no fatalities.

Here are further details of aerial and ground operations by Turkish forces in SDF-controlled areas in June:
Drone attacks

• June 2: A Turkish drone attacked a vehicle carrying a commander of “Manbij Military Council Forces” nearby the Russian base in Al-Arimah area in western Manbij in the eastern countryside of Aleppo, killing him immediately.

• June 2: A Turkish reconnaissance armed drone attacked a group of workers in Aslim village in Ain Issa district near M4 highway in northern Al-Raqqah, injuring a man and his wife.

• June 12: A Turkish drone attacked a motorcycle near a petrol station in Ain Al-Arab city (Kobani) in the eastern countryside of Aleppo, killing two combatants of military formations operating in SDF-controlled areas and injuring five civilians.

• June 13: An SDF fighter was killed and three other commanders were injured in an attack by a Turkish drone near Qarrah Qozaq bridge in the eastern countryside of Aleppo.

• June 13: A Turkish armed drone attacked a checkpoint of “Manbij Military Council Forces” in Daraj village, killing a member stationed at the checkpoint.

• June 14: Four members of “Manbij Military Council Forces” were killed and two others were injured seriously in a drone attack on Al-Dandaniyah village in Manbij countryside.

• June 14: A civilian was killed in a drone attack on a house near Arab Hassan area which controlled by “Manbij Military Council” in Manbij countryside.

• June 14: Four SDF commanders were killed and three combatants were injured in a drone attack on Al-Qamishli-Al-Malikiyah highway in Al-Hasakah countryside.
• June 14: Two members of the SDF-backed “Manbij Military Council Forces” were killed in a drone attack on military post in Al-Sayyad village in Manbij countryside in eastern Aleppo.

• June 20: A female leader, who was the co-chair of Al-Qamishly district, an official of the Autonomous Administration and a driver were killed and a Christian leader, who is the vice-president of the district, was injured in a Turkish drones attack which targeted a car belonging to the Autonomous Administration on Tel Shaeir road, in the area between Al-Qamishly and Amudah cities in northern Al-Hasakah within SDF-held areas.

Ground bombardment

• June 7: Turkish forces stationed in “Peace Spring” areas shelled the M4 road between Aleppo and Al-Hasakah near Ain Eissa northern of Al-Raqqah, causing fire to break out in agricultural lands.

• June 10: Turkish forces and their proxies fired heavy artillery shells on areas within SDF-held areas, where the firing concentrated on Al-Sousah, Tel Al-Laban and Farhiyah Ramo villages in Tel Tamar countryside west of al-Hasakah, what led to setting fire in wheat crops, amid the displacement of residents from the village, towards safer areas.

• June 13: Turkish forces and their proxies fired dozens of artillery shells on Al-Tokhar village northern of Manbij city within areas of the Manbij Military Council in eastern Aleppo countryside, causing huge damages to farms of civilians.

• June 17: Turkish forces targeted, with heavy artillery shells, areas in Ain Issa camp and Saydah and Haushan villages in northern Al-Raqqah countryside.
• June 18: Turkish forces and their proxies within «Peace Spring» area east of Ras Al-Ain (Sare Kaniyeh), fired heavy artillery shells on areas in Al-Bobi, Al-Khedrawi and Al-Asadiyah villages in Abu Rasin countryside northwest of Al-Hasakah. A military post of regime forces was also bombarded in Al-Khedrawi village.

• June 22: Turkish forces fired -23 caliber mortar shells on Ain Eissa Camp, the M4 Road and Saida village and Mashrafa village within SDF-held areas in northern Al-Raqqa countryside.

• June 23: Turkish forces fired heavy artillery shells on areas within SDF-held areas, where the firing concentrated on Ain Eissa camp and Al-Nakhil rest east of Ain Eissa in the eastern countryside of Al-Raqqah. No causalities were reported.

Escalating activity by ISIS cells

ISIS continued its operations in areas under the control of the Autonomous Administration, where it carried out several armed attacks and assassinations through gunfire, attacks with sharp tools and planting IEDs and landmines.

The Syrian Observatory documented 21 operations, including armed attacks and explosions, carried out by ISIS cells in SDF-held areas in June 2023. According to SOHR statistics, these attacks left 16 fatalities: four civilians, two ISIS members and ten combatants of formations operating in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration.

Those operations are distributed regionally as follows:

• Al-Raqqah: One operations left three combatants dead and one member injured.

• Deir Ezzor: 18 operations left 12 fatalities: four civilians, six combatants and two ISIS members, including an Iraqi member.
• Aleppo: One operation left a combatant dead.

• Al-Hasakah: One operation left no fatalities.

Meanwhile, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by the International Coalition, continued their large-scale security campaigns to curb the escalating activity by the organisation and its affiliated cells in SDF-held areas. According to SOHR activists, 12 anti-ISIS campaigns were carried out in June 2023, including eight joint campaigns with International Coalition Forces. The 12 operations led to the arrest of 29 persons of ISIS cells and the death of an ISIS member.

Ongoing public protests

SOHR activists documented 19 protests and demonstrations in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria in June against the polices of Ankara and Turkish-backed factions, while residents staged and participated in many sit-in protests in these areas to express their rejection of the deteriorating living conditions, especially in Deir Ezzor over the acute lack of fuels and teachers’ low salaries.

Further details on June's protests in SDF-controlled areas can be summarised as follows:

• June 2: Several teachers working in Al-Furat educational complex staged a sit-in protest, condemning the deteriorating education and low salaries. The protestors called for restructuring the committee of Education in Deir Ezzor, accepting permanent contracts with agents and increasing salaries. In addition, the protestors called upon other educational complexes in other areas, especially in Sh’aytat area in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor to expand protests.
• June 3: Farmers of the seven-kilometres area in Deir Ezzor countryside protested the inaction of the civil council and fuel committee regarding the non-distribution of farmers’ fuel allocations. The protestors also attacked the headquarters of the local council in the area, amid a state of public tension and anger, in order to exert pressure on officials to grant them fuel allocations of this season.

• June 4: Several teachers in Al-Hamam, Al-Kishkiyah and Gharanij towns in SDF-controlled areas in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor renewed protests over the deteriorating education in the area, calling about the Autonomous Administration to improve the education sector. The protestors warned against allowing education to deteriorate further in light of the ineffective role of the Autonomous Administration and suspension of support provided to the education sector.

• June 4: Owners of currency exchange offices and companies started a strike in Amuda district in Al-Qamishli countryside in northern Al-Hasakah in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration, expressing their rejection of the executive regulations about financial insurances issued by the cash desk of the Autonomous Administration with conditions exceeding the capabilities of the owners of currency exchange offices and companies, who called for revoking the decision.

• June 5: Tens of residents staged a sit-in protest in front of the headquarters of the Autonomous Administration in Al-Hasakah city, calling for improving living conditions and finding solutions for the bread and household gas crises. The protestors blocked roads.

• June 8: a group of gunmen from SDF-held town of Al-Busayrah in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor blocked the main road, after setting fire to rubber tyres, expressing their condemnation of the arrest of two persons of their relatives by members of an SDF patrol for “involving in drug business.” The gunmen started a riot, calling for the release of the two persons.
• June 8: Dozens of Minbij’s residents in the eastern countryside of Aleppo staged a demonstration yesterday, organized by youth council of Future Syria party, denouncing the Turkish Air Force’s bombing of areas in north and east Syria and calling on the international community to intervene and impose a no-fly zone over the region. The demonstrators lifted placards that read: “Syrian youth rejects Turkish occupation with all of its kinds,” ”What Erdogan did not achieve in the ground; he won’t achieve in the sky,” ”We call on the international community to impose a no-fly zone” and ”No for Turkish drones”

• June 9: Tens of residents from Al-Hawayij and Theban towns in SDF-controlled areas in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor staged a demonstration, condemning the dreadful living conditions in the area and frequent power outages. The protestors set fire to rubber tyres, blocking the main roads.

• June 10: Residents of Al-Muhaymidah town in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor renewed their protests following the arrest of an official, by SDF, working for the transportation bureau of Deir Ezzor Civil Council. The protestors called for the release of the officials.

• June 12: Tens of people from Theban town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor staged a demonstration, condemning deteriorating living conditions and frequent power outages. The protestors set fire to rubber tyres, blocking the main roads.

• June 13: Residents staged a demonstration in Theban town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, where they set fire to rubber tyres, blocking the main roads. The protestors expressed their discontent at the deteriorating economy and called for improving living conditions.

• June 15: Tribesmen attacked military checkpoints of Syrian Democratic Forces in Al-Suwar town in Deir Ezzor countryside, along with protests in the area. This follows indiscriminate arrests under investigations regarding the murder of a little girl in a village near Al-Qamishli, after having been kidnapped by a group of people, one of whom had been recognised a few days earlier. This coincided with protests calling for the release of women detained in SDF prisons.

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• June 18: The villages of Al-Jaeyah, Moheimdyah, Hawayj Bomasa in western Deir Ezzor countryside, which controlled by SDF, witnessed protests, along with blocking roads by protestors who set fire to rubber tyres and chanted anti-SDF slogans, calling for the release of detainees in SDF prisons. According to the sources, some individuals among the detainees are drug dealers and traffickers who worked in SDF-held areas in Deir Ezzor countryside, and they had been arrested in separate security operations by Internal Security Forces (Asayish).

• June 20: Dozens of people staged a protest in Abo Hamam town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas. The protesters demanded improvement of living conditions and release of detainees in SDF prisons. Protestors also accused SDF of “attracting people who were affiliated with ISIS and handing them oil investments.

• June 20: Tens of residents from Tel Maarouf village on the road of Al-Hawl in Al-Hasakah countryside, staged an angry demonstration, amid blocking of roads and setting fires protesting against the theft of the gas cylinders by some certified persons in distributing the allocations of the gas at the Autonomous Administration. As a result of blocking roads and setting fires, many employees in Al-Hawl camp were forced to return to Al-Hasakah city due to the difficulty of their arrival. Residents accuse some certified persons to distribute gas cylinders of stealing a proportion of them in several villages, towns and some neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakah city.

• June 20: Tens of residents of Al-Qamishli city in Al-Hasakah countryside staged a demonstration in the city, condemning the latest Turkish attacks on north and east Syria. The demonstration started at Al-Sharq roundabout, before the demonstrators headed to Soni roundabout in the city’s market.

• June 22: A number of Al-Basirah city residents staged a protest, amid blocking the roads with burning tires, demanding SDF to release the detainees in their prisons.
• June 24: dozens of people staged a protest today in Al-Qahawy market in Abo Hamam town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas, demanding improvement of living conditions and release of detainees in SDF prisons. Among the detainees, there is a media activist, who was arrested last year during a joint security operation by the International Coalition and SDF.

Escalating security chaos: Scores of infightings and murder crimes

SOHR activists have reported noticeable escalation of tribal and family infightings in SDF-controlled areas in June 2023 in light of the growing security chaos, proliferation of arms and military and security powers’ inability to control the security situation. In the past month, SOHR documented 21 tribal infightings which left 12 people dead and 15 others, including a child and three women, injured; they are distributed regionally as follows:

• Deir Ezzor: 17 infightings left nine people dead and 12 others injured, including a child and three women.

• Al-Raqqah: Three infightings left two people dead and three others injured.

• Aleppo: One infighting left a man dead.

Here are further details on the circumstances of tribal and family infightings in SDF-controlled areas in June 2023:

• June 1: A member of Al-Jamasa tribe was shot dead by young men of Al-Balasem family of Al-Madlaj tribe in Al-Samrah village in the eastern countryside of Al-Raqqah due to earlier vendetta between the two tribes.

• June 1: A young man was injured due to clashes with machineguns between two families in Jazara Al-Boheimed town western of Deir Ezzor due to the renewal of an old vendetta, amid a state of panic among civilians and demands for the dignitaries to interfere and break the clashes.
• June 2: Four people were injured, some seriously, due to a tribal infighting erupted among relatives over disagreements which evolved to use of weapons in Jadeid Ekaydat town, within SDF-held areas in the eastern Deir Ezzor countryside. The injured people were taken to the hospital.

• June 3: A woman was injured in clashes among cousins over a dispute which evolved into fight with arms in Theban town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

• June 4: Violent armed clashes with medium and light weapons erupted between members of two families of Al-Shaytat tribe in the early hours of Sunday morning, following disagreement over holding company in Al-Ma’dan neighbourhood in Gharanej town within SDF-held areas. According to the sources, the clashes led to burning some farmlands, amid a state of tension in the town, but no casualties have been reported.

• June 4: A young man was shot dead by his cousins over an earlier retaliation between them in Abu Hamam town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

• June 5: A young man was killed in violent clashes between cousins from the families of “Banan” and “Shalouh” of Al-Bofario tribe in Abu Al-Naytal town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor over an earlier retaliation. Meanwhile, a state of tension was prevailing in the region, amid interference by SDF to break up the clashes.

• June 6: Violent armed clashes erupted between two families from Al-Sha’ytat tribe, following disagreements in Abo Hammam town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-controlled areas, while residents appealed to the region's dignitaries to break up the clashes, amid a state of panic in the town. However, no casualties have been reported.

• June 6: Family infighting erupted between cousins of Al-Sho‘aitat tribe in Gharanig town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside due to disputes between them, leaving one civilian killed, amid a state of tension as people called tribe dignitaries to interfere and break the clashes.
June 10: A young man died of the wounds he had sustained on June 5 during an infighting with his cousins in the SDF-controlled town of Al-Sha’fah in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor following a dispute over the possession of a plot of land. The clashes then had left two persons injured, before one of them died today affected by his injuries.

June 12: A woman was shot in her chest, due to an armed infighting erupted between cousins over a quarrel, in Theiban market in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, within SDF-held area, where she was taken to the hospital for treatment and tension still ongoing in the area.

June 12: A child was injured by stray bullets this noon due to an infighting among cousins in Al-Shahel town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-controlled areas. The injured child was taken to the hospital.

June 13: Infighting with machineguns erupted between Al-Habib and Al-Barghouth families due to disputes between them, in Al-Shahil town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas. Only material damage was reported.

June 14: An infighting erupted with light weapons between cousins in Zaiban town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas, due to disputes between them over the theft of a motorbike, leaving one person killed.

June 20: A civilian died of the wounds he had sustained during a tribal infighting with light and medium weapons between gunmen from Al-Kabisah tribe and others from Al-Mushahdah tribe in the SDF-controlled town of Al-Sabha in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor. Meanwhile, tension is growing in the area, amid appeals by locals to tribal dignitaries to interfere and break up the clashes.
• June 22: three people were injured due to armed clashes between Al-Naser and Al-Waheb tribes in Al-Tabqah city in western Al-Raqqah countryside within SDF-held areas. The clashes erupted over a disagreement which evolved to the use of weapons in the city’s market, where Internal Security Forces (Asayish) intervened to break up the clashes.

• June 22: A tribal infighting erupted this evening following a dispute between two relative families in Al-Kebar village in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor, amid appeals by locals to the region’s dignitaries to interfere and break up the clashes. However, no casualties were reported.

• June 23: A young man died in a hospital in Damascus, affected by the injuries he sustained on May 19 in a tribal infighting which erupted between members of “Al-Eyfan” and “Al-Ewyed” families following disagreements over an old vendetta, which evolved to armed clashes in Gharanij town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside.

• June 25: A young man was shot dead due to an armed clash between members of two tribes over a dispute, in Minbij city, within SDF-held areas in the eastern countryside of Aleppo.

• June 27: Armed clashes with light weapons and knives erupted among cousins from Al-Ekaydat tribe in the market of Theban town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas, which led to injuring a young man who was near the site of clashes.

• June 27: “Naif Al-Ibrahim” The Shaikh of “Al-Maghlatan” Tribe was shot dead by a member of “Al-Nasser” Tribe, following the eruption of armed clashes between both sides due to previous disputes over an agricultural land in Al-Safsafa Village in Al-Tabaka countryside western of Al-Raqqa, amid reports of tension between both tribes, the imposition of a security cordon and cutting of roads by the Internal Security Forces “Al-Asayesh.”
June 30: Two civilians were killed and a woman was injured, due to infighting erupted between «Al-Bukhalaf» and «Al-Bu Ezzadin» at midnight of Thursday-Friday, in Thubyan town within SDF-held areas in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

Moreover, SOHR documented seven murder crimes in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration in the past month over domestic violence, thefts and other unknown motives. These murders left seven fatalities, including a child and a woman; they are distributed regionally as follows:

- Al-Hasakah: Three civilians, including a woman and a child.
- Deir Ezzor: Two civilians:
  - Manbij: A civilian.
  - Ain Al-Arab (Kobani): A young man.

Further details of the circumstances of those crimes can be summarised as follows:

- June 6: A young man shot his brother dead in Bakarah town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside. This followed gunfire by the victim yesterday, which resulted in the death of a woman with a stray bullet. It is worth noting that the victim was a former SDF member.

- June 9: Residents have found the body of a ten years-old girl, killed and dumped among wheat straws in an agricultural field in Amrazobash village between Amouda and Al-Dirbasiya cities in northern Al-Hasakah countryside within areas of the Autonomous Administration, where the body of the girl was taken to the clinic in Al-Dirbasiya city to undergo medical investigation. It is worth noting that the girl went missing two days ago, while she was herding sheep.
• June 13: A young man was shot dead by his cousin on the main road near the butcher market in the SDF-held town of Al-Shadady town in south Al-Hasakah countryside over an earlier retaliation. It is worth noting that the victim hailed from Al-Srajeeyah village in Al-Shadady countryside.

• June 19: A 55-year-old woman was found dead with marks of stabs from a sharp tool in her house in Jal Agha district in Al-Qamishly in northern Al-Hasakah countryside in SDF-held areas in mysterious circumstances. The woman’s body was taken to a hospital for examination by the forensic doctor, while the security authorities started investigation to disclose perpetrator and the reasons behind the murder. It is worth noting that the woman had four children and his husband was outside the house when the murder took place.

• June 20: A young man in his twenties was found dead with marks of torture and stabs from a knife. The man’s body was found hanged with a rope in his house in Al-Assadiyah village in Manbij countryside in eastern Aleppo, while the reasons and motives behind the crime remain unknown. Meanwhile investigations are underway to disclose the circumstances of the death of the young man and perpetrators. It is worth noting that the young man works in smuggling people and had involved in disputes with other smugglers.

• June 24: Unidentified gunmen opened fire directly on a civilian from Abo Hamam town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside within SDF-held areas for revenge, where he was injured severely before dying in the hospital, while the gunmen fled to an unknown destination. It is worth noting that the victim is a civilian and does not belong to a military or local side.

• June 27: A young man stabbed his brother to death due to a quarrel between them in Ramalah village in the vicinity of Sarreen town in Ain Al-Arab (Kobani) in eastern Aleppo in SDF-held areas.
Ongoing deportation of foreigners of families of ISIS members

On June 23, the Department of the Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration in north-eastern Syria handed over a Danish woman and two children of families of ISIS members, who were inhabiting Rouj camp in Al-Hasakah countryside, to a Danish delegation, after signing official documents between the two sides.

This came under agreements signed between the Department of the Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration and countries whose citizens are held in camps in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration.

According to the sources, the Department of Foreign Relations of the Autonomous Administration met with a Danish delegation on June 22 to check the situation of Danish people, discuss the ways to deport them and discuss the humanitarian conditions in Rouj and Al-Hawl camps.

On the other hand, 50 Iraqi ISIS prisoners, who were held in SDF prisons were delivered to Iraqi territory on June 3 in coordination between SDF and the Iraqi government.

Meanwhile, a new batch of families of ISIS members of Iraqi nationalities was planned to leave to Iraq on the following day. The new batch comprised 168 families of 658 people, and they would be delivered to the Iraqi government.

Water crisis in Allouk and Coalition plans to strike Iranian-backed militias

On June three, SOHR sources have reported the resumption of bombing water from Allouk water station in the east of Ras Al-Ain in areas controlled by Turkish forces and their proxy factions, after providing the station with electricity from Al-Darbasiyah city in the northern countryside of Al-Hasakah. Accordingly, the neighbourhoods Al-Nashwah Al-Gharbiyah, Al-Shari‘ah and Al-Sakan Al-Shababi in Al-Hasakah city have been provided with drinking water. The reactivation of the station comes after suspension of pumping of drinking water since May 3, except on a few occasions in which the station was active for a short period of time.
While on June 9, Allouk Water Station in eastern of Ras Al-Ain within “peace Spring” area in areas of Turkish forces has stopped pumping water due to power outage in Al-Dirbasiya city in Al-Hasakah countryside, six days after it started operating as water was being pumped to neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakah city.

According to reliable SOHR sources, the power outage off the station took place after a visit by a delegation of the UNICEF comprising engineers, to the centre of electricity distribution in Al-Dirbasiya city to check the conditions of the electricity that feeds Alouk Water Station that supplies water to Al-Hasakah city.

On the other hand, SOHR sources reported on June 5 that meetings were conducted between American forces and Arabic factions affiliated with SDF in an attempt to form fighter groups for fighting Iranian militias under the name of “Popular Resistance” in Deir Ezzor province, to block the Syrian-Iraqi border against the Iranian militias and to detect the cells that Iran has recruited to target American forces and their proxies in Autonomous Administration areas in northeast Syria.

According to sources, the meetings were intensively conducted during the few past days in Al-Raqqah, Al-Hasakah and Deir Ezzor provinces within Autonomous Administration areas between American forces and leaderships of factions affiliated with SDF preparing for this step.

Iranian militias use Syrian-Iraqi border to move weapons and military convoys and to enter their members towards Syrian territory, they also worked on recruiting many of the residents in the previous periods to carry out attacks and targeting against American forces and SDF in an attempt to destabilize areas of the Autonomous Administration.

On the same day, June 5, Al-Qamishly city in Al-Hasakah countryside witnessed a security alert among regime forces and internal security forces “Asayish” in the area of the airport of Al-Qamishly, amid bringing in military reinforcement by “Asayish” in the vicinity of the airport. For unknown reasons.
In parallel, internal security forces “Asayish” stopped buses carrying regime members on the road of Ali Faro in Al-Qamishly countryside, who set up checkpoints, amid tightening military and checking the passersby, and tension among both sides in the city.

It is noted that this was the first incident of its kind during this year, where Al-Qamishly city witnessed tensions previously between internal security forces “Asayish” and regime forces, what caused the removal of some of the regime's checkpoints deployed in Al-Qamishly city and restricted them in the security zone in the centre of the city.

Kidnaps and ongoing recruitment of children by “Al-Shabiba Al-Thawriyah”

SOHR documented three cases of kidnapping children in SDF-controlled areas in June 2023, where SOHR sources reported on June 21 that a two masked men on a motorcycle kidnapped a child when he was in front of his house in Abu Hamam town in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

Two other children were kidnapped by “Al-Shabiba Al-Thawriyah” (the Revolutionary Youth) in Al-Hasakah.

We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), call upon the authorities in SDF-held areas to fulfil people’s demands that call for the improvement of social and living conditions and not punish them for demanding their rights. We also call on the International Coalition and SDF to intensify their security campaigns against active and sleeping ISIS cells in various areas in east Euphrates to prevent the revival of ISIS which poses a threat to local, regional and international security.

SOHR calls upon the Autonomous Administration in north and east Syria, Syria Democratic Forces, and all relevant authorities to put an end to the ongoing violations by “Al-Shabiba Al-Thawriyah” (the Revolutionary Youth) in the east Euphrates region.
Infographic: Key development in SDF-controlled areas in June 2023

Fatalities in areas held by "Autonomous Administration" in June 2023

59 people were killed in acts of violence

- 3 ISIS members
- 12 gunmen
- 25 combatants of military formations

- Ongoing protests with escalation of activity of ISIS cells
- 10 Turkish aerial attacks in an unprecedented military escalation
- 28 murders and infightings

104
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Syrian Observatory For Human Rights
Compl.inging the 105th consecutive month of military operations against the “Islamic State” in Syria, the International Coalition continues sending military reinforcement to SDF-held areas, carrying out raids, arrests and various security campaigns in several areas controlled by SDF. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, in turn, tracked and monitored all operations and movement of the International Coalition during the past month.

In the 105th month of International Coalition operations in Syria, 295 trucks and vehicles affiliated to the Coalition, carrying military and logistical supplies, crossed into Syria from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in nine batches on the 23rd, 27th, 30th and 31st of May and the 3rd, 7th, 11th, 19th, and 20th of June. The trucks headed to the Coalition’s military bases in Al-Hasakah and Deir Ezzor in north-east Syria region. Here are further details:

• May 23: The International Coalition forces brought a convoy comprising nearly 30 trucks carrying military and logistic equipment and fuel tanks, where the convoy entered Syria through Al-Waleed border crossing from Kurdistan-Iraq region and headed towards its base in Al-Shadady city southern of Al-Hasakah.

• May 27: International Coalition Forces brought in a convoy comprising nearly 40 trucks carrying military and logistical equipment and cement blocks, where the convoy entered Syria through Al-Waleed border crossing from Kurdistan Region of Iraq and headed towards their bases in Al-Hasakah countryside, in the north and east of Syria.
• May 30: International Coalition Forces brought in new military reinforcement to their bases in Al-Hasakah countryside. According to SOHR sources, a military convoy of nearly 30 trucks carrying logistical supplies and oil trucks crossed into Syria from Kurdistan Region of Iraq, via Al-Waleed crossing.

• May 31: “International Coalition” forces brought a new convoy through Al-Walid crossing on borders with Kurdistan-Iraq region. The convoy comprises 25 trucks carrying “Jeep” cars, fuel tanks, closed boxes, logistic and military materials, and headed towards “International Coalition” forces in Al-Hasakah countryside.

• June 3: The International Coalition brought in new military reinforcement to north and east Syria from Kurdistan Region of Iraq, via Al-Waleed border crossing. The convoy, which comprised 25 trucks carrying logistical supplies and closed boxes, headed to Coalition bases in Al-Hasakah countryside.

• June 7: «International Coalition» brought in more military reinforcement towards their military bases in Al-Hasakah countryside, where a military convoy entered through Al-Waleed crossing which separates Autonomous Administration areas from Kurdistan region of Iraq. The convoy comprised 35 trucks carrying armoured vehicles and covered weapons, in addition to some vehicles and ammunition, under the protection of five American armoured vehicles. The convoy headed towards the military bases of the «International Coalition» forces in Al-Hasakah countryside.

• June 11: The International Coalition brought in a military convoy of 35 trucks, including fuel trucks, carrying armoured vehicles and weapons, which headed towards the military bases of International Coalition Forces in Al-Hasakah countryside. The convoy entered Syria through Al-Waleed crossing which separates areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration from Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
• June 19: «International Coalition» forces continue reinforcing their military bases in Al-Hasakah countryside, where they sent a new military convoy today, coming from Kurdistan region of Iraq through Al-Waleed border crossing. The convoy comprised 35 trucks carrying closed boxes, fuel trucks and logistic and military materials, and headed towards bases of the «International Coalition» forces in Al-Hasakah countryside.

• June 20: International Coalition Forces brought in a military convoy from Kurdistan Region of Iraq through Al-Waleed board crossing. The convoy comprised 40 trucks carrying closed boxes, fuel, armoured vehicles and logistical and military equipment, and it headed towards International Coalition bases in Al-Hasakah countryside.

In the past month, SOHR activists also documented the participation of the International Coalition in eight joint security operations with SDF, namely raids and airdrops, arresting ten members of ISIS cells and killing one. These operations can be summarised as follows:

• May 27: SDF-backed Special Units, backed by International Coalition aircraft, stormed the house of an oil investor in the SDF-controlled village of Abu Al-Naytal in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, before asking him to surrender via loudspeakers. The security operation led to the arrest of the oil investor for “dealing with ISIS cells.”

• May 31: Special security units affiliated to Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by International Coalition aircraft, carried out a security operation in the early hours of Wednesday morning in Al-Sharidah and Al-Allawi neighbourhoods in Al-Baghouz town, ISIS’ latest stronghold in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor. The security campaign, which last for four hours, led to the arrest of an individual belonging to ISIS.
• June 4: SDF, backed by International Coalition Forces, arrested two ISIS members in Tuwaymeen village in the south-eastern countryside of Al-Hasakah.

• June 11: SDF members carried out a security operation in Al-Hasakah countryside, supported by the International Coalition forces that executed an airdrop operation earlier today, on a house in Saham village in Tuwaimin area in south eastern Al-Hasakah countryside. According to reliable SOHR sources, a person accused of “belonging to ISIS” was killed after resisting arrest and clashing with the security forces, while another person was arrested during the operation.

• June 16: SDF-backed Counter-terrorism Units, with International Coalition aerial support, have launched an anti-ISIS campaign in Al-Sabkhah village, near Al-Shaddadi town in the southern countryside of Al-Hasakah. During the campaign, two ISIS members were arrested and weapons and ammunitions in their possession were confiscated. According to SOHR sources, the two arrested members are accused of helping ISIS members to escape and providing other members with weapons and equipment required for launching surprise attacks in north and east Syria.

• June 19: International Coalition Forces, backed by helicopters stormed the house of an ex-ISIS commander in Izbat Al-Tabiyah in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor. The ex-ISIS commander, who works currently as an arms dealer, managed to escape. It is worth noting that the targeted man’s house is located nearly one kilometer away from Koniko oil field.

• June 21: special units of «SDF» and with air support by «International Coalition,» carried out a security operation in Al-Rez town in Al-Basirah city in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, with the participation of 20 military vehicles, searching for «ISIS» cells. According to SOHR sources, the operation resulted in the arrest of four persons, on the charge of belonging to «ISIS» cells, in coinciding with heavy firing, where they were taken to security centres of «SDF.»
In the past month, International Coalition Forces conducted three rounds of military drills in their bases with the participation of SDF in Deir Ezzor and Al-Hasakah countryside. Here are further details:

• June 8: “International Coalition” forces conducted military training using live ammunition in their military base in “Koniko” gas field in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, where warplanes of the “International Coalition” carried out several air strikes targeted fake training targets at the vicinity of the field, in coinciding with firing artillery shells, where helicopters also participated in the training. This comes as part of the ongoing military training conducting by the “International Coalition” for its forces inside the Syrian territory. On the same context, SOHR activists reported that two days ago, “International Coalition” forces started to boost and reinforce their military base within “Koniko” gas field in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, through digging a trench along the side of the main street that “International Coalition” forces use to move from and to the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

• June 9: SOHR activists have reported hearing successive explosions in Al-Hasakah countryside, which were caused by live-fire exercises conducted by International Coalition Forces nearby their base in Rumaylan in north-eastern Al-Hasakah with the aim of raising combat readiness of their troops and get ready to deal with expected attacks.

• June 15: International Coalition Forces conducted military drills with the participation of aircraft in the vicinity of Koniko gas field in north-east Deir Ezzor countryside.

Moreover, in the 104th month of Coalition operations in Syria, International Coalition Forces conducted six patrols: two in Deir Ezzor, two in Al-Hasakah and two in Al-Raqqah; they are as follows:

• June 7: “International Coalition” forces conducted a military patrol to scout Al-Hasakah countryside, where the patrol comprises four Bradley tanks and an armoured vehicle along with an SDF military vehicle coming from its base in Ramilan town in Al-Hasakah countryside, and roamed in Al-Ramilan countryside before heading back to the base.
June 15: US forces conducted a patrol in the area near Al-Bareed crossing which connects areas controlled by Iranian-backed militias and regime forces and SDF-held areas near Deir Ezzor city, amid flight by International Coalition helicopters over the region, along Euphrates river.

June 15: International Coalition Forces conducted a military patrol in the SDF-controlled cities of Rumaylan and Qahtaniyah in north-eastern Al-Hasakah. The patrol, which comprised five US armoured «Bradley» vehicles escorted by an SDF military armoured vehicle, also roamed villages on the Syria-Turkey border, where the patrol's members met with civilians and discussed the latest developments regarding the violent escalation by Turkish forces on the region and the resident's concerns.

June 17: A US convoy roamed with SDF in Al-Raqqa city and its vicinity. The convoy comprises eight cars, and visited some security and military checkpoints and the prisons that hold ISIS members, without knowing the reasons.

June 18: A helicopter of the International Coalition flew over the line of Euphrates River in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, coinciding with a roaming scout convoy of US forces and SDF in Al-Shahil town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, where the patrol headed to Euphrates River.

June 18: «International Coalition» forces conducted a military patrol comprised six tanks and a military vehicle, escorted by two helicopters, in addition to a military vehicle of SDF. The patrol toured several places in Ma'badah area within areas of Autonomous Administration in Al-Qamishly countryside north of Al-Hasakah.
Separately, SOHR sources reported that a young man was killed and another was injured on May 31 by the explosion of an oil truck in Al-Omar oil field which hosts the Coalition’s largest base in SDF-controlled areas in the eastern countryside Deir Ezzor. The victim was from Al-Kesrah town in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor.

While on June 11, SOHR activists reported that an American helicopter fell in Al-Shadady base the moment it set off on June 11, where the helicopter fell inside the military base and caused the injury of several US soldiers.

SOHR sources confirmed that the base did not experienced any attacks with rockets or airstrikes by drones when the US helicopter crashed.

US forces had announced the injury of 22 soldiers in a helicopter crash on Sunday, June 11, in areas where International Coalition Forces are deployed in north-east Syria.

June 2023: Another month passes and no investigation into alleged Coalition massacres

Despite SOHR repeated and “unheeded” appeals, International Coalition and SDF have not announced the results of interrogations with ISIS detainees and what happened to the thousands of abductees. The Syrian Observatory had previously called upon the international community to investigate reports regarding the killing of 200 ISIS operatives and their families, women, and children, in a massacre committed by the Coalition’s jets by bombing Al-Baghouz camp on March 21, 2019.
According to SOHR sources, 200 bodies were buried at dawn on that particular day, without information on whether the International Coalition was aware of the presence of children and women from ISIS families inside the camp or not.

However, all these appeals remain unanswered. Therefore, SOHR renews its calls and appeals to all relevant parties to disclose and announce the whole facts and hold accountable those responsible for the massacres and violations over the past five years, during which the Coalition was actively involved in the Syrian crisis.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, while providing adequate monitoring of Coalition operations in Syria, stresses once more that it would have been possible to avoid the heavy losses of Syrian civilian lives if the International Coalition had not ignored SOHR’s calls to spare and protect civilians from its military operations, where the presence of Islamic State militants or other jihadist groups in a civilian area does not in any way justify the blank and discriminate bombardment of the area and the loss of civilian lives.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also stresses that the negative impact of Turkish military intervention on civilians could have been avoided, if US Presidents had applied enough pressure on their Turkish counterparts to stop a new humanitarian crisis, displacing thousands and killing and injuring hundreds.

On the other hand, we at SOHR would like to remind the world that the oil and gas resources, controlled by the International Coalition, belong only to the Syrian people. Therefore, all the concerned parties are obliged under international laws and norms to preserve these resources and ensure that they will not be stolen or seized in any way; these resources do not belong to the “regime”, “Iran” or any other party; they belong only to the people of Syria, who have been suffering the brutalities of an ongoing war for over ten years. SOHR also warns of the repercussions of exploiting these sources, seizing them, or depriving the Syrians of their rights to resources.
Infographic: Activity and movements by International Coalition in the 105th month of its operations in Syria

105th month of Coalition operations in Syria

295 trucks carrying military and logistical supplies brought into military bases in Syria

3 rounds of military drills

16 patrols

8 joint security operations with SDF lead to killing and arresting 11 members of ISIS cells

The Syrian Observatory would like to point out that all information and figures mentioned in this report have been documented and updated until the date of publication, June 23.
Although the Counter-ISIS International Coalition command and the leaders of Syria Democratic Forces announced the elimination of the so-called Caliphate of the “Islamic State” in March 2019, recent developments on the ground indicate that ISIS has not been fully eliminated. ISIS continues launching military operations and counter-attacks which are met with security campaigns by Coalition forces and their Syria Democratic Forces partner throughout SDF-controlled areas, in addition to military operations by Russian and regime forces against ISIS cells in areas under their control. However, ISIS cells are still able to exploit opportunities to create a security vacuum and carry out assassinations, which clearly indicates that the “Islamic State” is still alive and kicking.

In the 107th month after the declaration of “Al-Baghdadi’s Caliphate,” ISIS carried out 21 operations, including armed attacks and explosions, in areas controlled by SDF. Those operations left 16 fatalities: four civilians, two ISIS members and ten combatants of formations operating in areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration.

Those operations are distributed regionally as follows:

• Al-Raqqah: One operations left three combatants dead and one member injured.

• Deir Ezzor: 18 operations left 12 fatalities: four civilians, six combatants and two ISIS members, including an Iraqi member.

• Aleppo: One operation left a combatant dead.

• Al-Hasakah: One operation left no fatalities.

ISIS in June 2023 | Noticeable escalation of attacks in SDF-held areas with 21 attacks, while operations in Syrian desert leave ten combatants dead
Further details on these operations are as follows:

• June 3: A former SDF member was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on a motorbike, who are believed to belong to ISIS, in the market of Al-Ezba town in northern Deir Ezzor countryside.

• June 5: An SDF member was stabbed to death with a knife after being kidnapped by unidentified gunmen, believed to be of ISIS cells, near Al-Kharafi road between Al-Hasakah and Deir Ezzor.

• June 6: Gunmen who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells attacked a military vehicle carrying members of the military council of Deir Ezzor through an ambush, in Al-Saadah area in Al-Sour town in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, while they were heading to Al-Shadadi area south of Al-Hasakah, what resulted in the death of a member and the injury of three other members, including a critical condition.

• June 10: Unknown gunmen who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells, attacked the house of one of the notables of «Al-Akidat» tribe, in Al-Malihah village in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, within SDF-held areas, and after surrounding his house, they fired it «RPG» missiles and bullets. No causalities were reported, while the gunmen fled to an unknown destination.

• June 10: Unidentified gunmen believed to belong to ISIS, targeted the house of a member of Al-Sayad tribe in Al-Basera city in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, injuring him severely, while the gunmen fled to an unknown destination.

• June 16: Unknown gunmen on motorcycles, believed to be of ISIS cells opened fire on a military patrol of Syrian Democratic Forces in the early hours of Friday morning in Barsham village in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor. The patrol’s members clashes with the attackers, before they escaped. No casualties were reported.
• June 17: Gunmen who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells, targeted a military vehicle carrying members of SDF, through planting an IED, on the road between Ain Eissa town and Tel Al-Samen Al-Shimaly village north of Al-Raqqah, killing three members and severely injuring another who was taken to a hospital for treatment.

• June 17: Gunmen believed to belong to ISIS targeted Al-Kowa’a checkpoint of SDF with machineguns in northern Deir Ezzor countryside, before fleeing to an unknown destination. However, no casualties were reported.

• June 17: Residents have found the body of a member of the general security of the Autonomous Administration, dumped in Al-Jai’a village in western Deir Ezzor countryside, where the body showed signs of gunshots. According to reliable SOHR sources, the member was shot by gunmen believed to belong to ISIS.

• June 18: A member of the military council of Deir Ezzor was shot dead in an assassination process by gunmen who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells, in Al-Namliyah village in the northern countryside of Deir Ezzor, within SDF-held areas.

• June 18: Undefined gunmen believed to be ISIS cells on two motorcycles targeted, yesterday evening, an SDF military police station in Al-Shadady city in southern Al-Hasakah countryside with machine guns, but no casualties were reported.

• June 19: Two gunmen believed to belong to ISIS opened fire directly on a member of the Deir Ezzor Military Council in Al-Shihabat village in north western Deir Ezzor countryside, where he was severely injured and was taken to a hospital to receive proper medication.

• June 19: A member of the SDF-backed “Deir Ezzor Military Council” died of his injuries he sustained in an armed attack earlier this morning by unidentified gunmen believed to be of ISIS cells in Al-Shehabat village in western Deir Ezzor countryside.
• June 19: Residents in the same region found the body of a young man who was killed by unidentified gunmen, believed to be of ISIS cells.

• June 20: Unknown gunmen on a motorbike, who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells, killed an employee from Jadid Akidat village in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor, while going to his job in the educational complex in Al-Dahlah village in the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor.

• June 21: Gunmen, believed to be of ISIS cells, opened fire on an SDF member near Kabarja village in Manbij countryside in the eastern countryside of Aleppo, killing him immediately. The attackers managed to escape.

• June 23: Residents found the body of an Iraqi ISIS commander and another ISIS member, after having been executed in mysterious circumstances by ISIS cells in eastern Al-Suwar desert in northern Deir Ezzor countryside. A paper note was found beside the two bodies which read “everyone who deals with them (they mean individuals close to ISIS) will face the same fate.”

• June 23: Two gunmen on a motorbike, believed to belong to ISIS, targeted an investor of oil wells in Zaiban town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, causing only material damages.

• June 24: Two people were subjected to an assassination attempt, where their car was shot directly by unidentified gunmen, who are believed to belong to ISIS, in Al-Kashkiya town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, with no information regarding their injury.

• June 26: Gunmen on a motorcycle believed to be of ISIS cells opened fire on two SDF members in Abrieha town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside, killing one and injuring the other seriously, where he was taken to the hospital.
June 26: Unidentified gunmen believed to be of ISIS cells on a motorcycle attacked the house of a civilian working for the local council in Theban town in eastern Deir Ezzor countryside. Only material damage was reported.

June 28: Two gunmen, who are believed to belong to ISIS, on a motorbike opened fire on a civilian on the road near a gas station in Al-Ezba Town in northern Deir Ezzor countryside and killed him, while the gunmen fled to an unknown destination.

In the Syrian desert, however, ISIS continued its operations, including ambushes, armed attacks and explosions, in areas under the control of the Syrian regime and its allies, especially in Al-Rasafah desert, the surrounding areas of Jabal Al-Bishri in Al-Raqqah, the frontlines of Ithriyah, Al-Rahjan and other frontlines in the eastern countryside of Hama, the desert of Al-Sukhnah, Palmyra in Homs countryside, Deir Ezzor desert and the administrative border between Al-Raqqah and Deir Ezzor.

According to SOHR sources, ISIS carried out eight attacks in the past month, killing ten regime soldiers and proxy militiamen, including eight Iranian-backed militiamen, while ISIS lost two members in clashes and security campaigns. In addition, six civilians were killed in the same period in ISIS attacks in the Syrian desert.

Here is a regional distribution of those attacks:

• Homs desert: Three operations left a combatant, four civilians and two ISIS members dead.

• Deir Ezzor desert: Three operations left five Iranian-backed militiamen and one civilian dead.

• Hama desert: Two operation left four combatants, including three Iranian-backed militiamen, and one civilian dead.
Here are further details on ISIS attacks in the Syrian desert in June:

- **June 1:** Two members of the National Defence Forces were severely injured, due to the expansion of a landmine planted earlier by ISIS in Jabal Al-Bishri desert in west Deir Ezzor countryside, while the injured were taken to the hospital.

- **June 3:** A regime soldier from Zamalka town in Rif Dimashq was killed in clashes between regime forces and ISIS cells in Homs desert.

- **June 6:** Four people from the same family were killed in an armed attack carried out by «ISIS» cells, while they were working in the harvest in Al-Sukhnah area in the eastern countryside of Homs, within regime-held areas. The killed were from Talbeesah city in the northern countryside of Homs.

- **June 13:** Gunmen of ISIS cells opened fire directly on a truck carrying oil tanks on the road between Al-Rasafa and Wady Ebaid in Deir Ezzor desert, killing the driver who hails from Talbisa city in northern Homs countryside and causing the tanks to burn.

- **June 13:** ISIS cells targeted a regime's car carrying nutrition and food. However, no casualties were reported.

- **June 18:** An officer with the rank of «first lieutenant» of regime forces was injured, after being shot by unknown gunmen who are likely to belong to «ISIS» cells in Palmyra desert, where he was taken to the military hospital of Homs for treatment. It is noted that the officer is from Kaaibah Faresh village in Baniyas city in Tartous.

- **June 25:** Four people: a car driver and three members of the Iranian-backed Baqer Al-Hakim brigade, were killed and four others sustained serious injuries by the explosion of a landmine in their car in Atrhiya Desert in Hama countryside on the road connecting Al-Rasafa Desert.

119
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Islamic State’s abductees: ignored and unaccounted

Although nearly 51 months have passed since the International Coalition’s announcement of the defeat of ISIS which was a dominant force east of Euphrates River, and with the recent developments over the past period, however, silence still surrounds the issue of ISIS’s abductees. All sides remain quiet and provide no clarification on the fate of thousands of abductees, where fear continues to grow for the lives and fate of the abductees, including Father Paolo Daololio, Bishops John Ibrahim and Paul Yazji, Abdullah Al Khalil, a British journalist, sky News journalist and other journalists, in addition to hundreds of abductees from Ain Al Arab (Kobani) area and Afrin, as well as the people of Deir Ezzor.

With the continuing crimes and violations against Syrian civilians, including death threats against SOHR workers by the Islamic State and other killers and criminals in Syria, The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights renews its vows to continue its work by monitoring, documenting and publishing all violations and crimes that committed against the Syrian people.

We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, renew our call to the UN Security Council to refer those war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Syria to the International Criminal Court so that all the criminals and killers of the Syrian people are brought to justice.

SOHR has been all along warning against ISIS resurgence and stressing that the defeat of ISIS in Syrian territory, as declared in 2019, was “symbolic”, as ISIS has been only eliminated as a controlling power in populated areas. The daily attacks by ISIS fighters and cells throughout Syria, clearly indicate that the “Islamic State” is still alive and kicking. While the frequent security campaigns and military operations by regime forces, Russia, International Coalition, and SDF have all failed so far to curb or hinder ISIS’s escalating activities.
The Syrian Observatory also points out that it had already warned, well before “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” declared itself as a “Caliphate State” in Syria and Iraq, that this organization did intend to work for the Syrian people and serve their interest, but rather ISIS continued to kill innocent Syrians, who had been suffering the brutality of war and violence and became displaced.

Furthermore, the “Islamic State” recruited children in the so-called “cubs of the caliphate”, controlled the wealth and resources of the Syrian people and harnessed them to build a “caliphate”, and traded openly back and forth with one of Syria’s neighbouring countries.
The Syrian Observatory would like to point out that all information and figures mentioned in this report have been documented and updated until the date of publication, June 29.
Conclusion

Neither a peaceful settlement nor a workable political solution has reached yet to inspire hope for the Syrians, while the conflicting actors have not yet resorted to rationality, respected dignity and humanity or complied with international charters ratified to preserve the rights of all human beings.

We, at the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), appeal to the international community to intensify its efforts to find an immediate lasting peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict and put an end to the senseless bloodshed and suffering of millions of Syrians, and to implement all UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly the Resolution No. 2254 unanimously adopted on 18 December 2015 and called for a ceasefire and political settlement in Syria. In the meantime, we also call on the international community and all aid and humanitarian organisations to support the millions of Syrians, particularly those displaced living in makeshift camps, who are in a desperate need of tangible help. We would like to see humanitarian aid taken out of any political calculations and delivered to all Syrians across the country, regardless of who controls which part. Many people June lose their lives if aid is not provided as a matter of urgency.

As the world is in the midst of, and preoccupied with the Covid pandemic, we would also like to call on all human rights organisations across the world not to forget the people of Syria and the violations they have endured. We want to remind the world, in unison, that very little has changed in Syria, and exert pressure on the powers that be to put an end to the Syrian tragedy.

Finally, we reaffirm our obligation and commitment to continue defending human rights, the unity of and sovereignty of our country; and we express our complete rejection of all foreign interventions and interference in Syria.

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