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Severe Violations in North and East Syria

Department of Foreign Relations of the
Democratic Autonomous Administration of
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Severe Violations in North and East Syria

Since the fall of Assad regime in late 2024, the Syrian Transitional Government (STG) in Damascus - led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and its affiliated factions - has carried out massacres, ethnic cleansing, and intensive military attacks against minorities. These attacks have resulted in the killing of approximately 1,500 Alawite civilians along the Syrian coast, as well as assaults and massacres against the Druze community in Suwayda, and the targeting of Christians through attacks on churches and intimidation amid rising extremism.

Since late 2025, forces of the Syrian Transitional Government have also begun targeting Kurdish neighborhoods, including Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh, leaving many civilians injured, causing loss of life, and forcibly displacing the residents of these areas.

In addition, regions of North and East Syria (NES) have witnessed a military escalation by the STG army and their affiliated factions, leading to a series of grave human rights violations against civilians and captives.

Below, attached links and description of what has been documented up to now:

- The release of hundreds of ISIS fighters by factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of the STG from multiple prisons.
- 1. [ISIS members fleeing al-Shaddadi prison and spreading through the streets of al-Shaddadi](#)
- 2. [Armed factions affiliated with the STG releasing ISIS members from al-Shaddadi prison](#)
- 3. [Release of hundreds of ISIS fighters from al-Aqtan and other locations by the factions STG](#)
- Armed factions affiliated with the interim government in Damascus carried out executions of prisoners and beheaded them, using methods similar to those practiced by ISIS.

This act constitutes a brutal crime and a grave violation of the dignity and lives of prisoners, reflecting retaliatory behavior carried out without any legal or humanitarian framework.

[Armed factions affiliated with the interim government in Damascus killing prisoners using methods associated with ISIS](#)

- A brutal assault against an elderly Kurdish civilian in Raqqa, in which armed factions affiliated with the STG gouged out his eye, this represents an ethnic based crime reflecting a dangerous pattern of targeting civilians based on their ethnicity.



- Factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of the STG targeted a bus transporting students fleeing Raqqa.

Direct targeting of students in the city of Raqqa

- On January 21, 2026, an individual affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of STG carried out an ISIS-style act by slaughtering a Kurdish child from one of the villages of the city of Kobani, the village of 'Saq Bireq'. This act constitutes a brutal crime and a clear violation of human rights and the rights of the child.

بعد إطلاق سراح داعش ذبح طفل كوردي من كوباني

- An ISIS cell embedded within the Ministry of Defense of the Syrian interim government admitted to opening the gates of al-Hol camp and carrying out a Palmyra-style operation against U.S. soldiers. This confirms the presence of ISIS elements within the Ministry of Defense of the Syrian interim government.

Admission by factions affiliated with the interim government of carrying out operations against Kurds and Americans

- The humiliation of a fighter from the Syrian Democratic Forces in Raqqa, followed by his beating and brutal killing in the street in full public view.

Humiliation of a Syrian Democratic Forces fighter, his killing, and the desecration of his body

- Armed elements affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of the STG drove over the bodies of fallen Syrian Democratic Forces fighters with armored vehicles and desecrated their remains.

Running over the bodies of Syrian Democratic Forces fighters with armored vehicles

- Factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense of the STG burned the bodies of Kurdish civilians in Tabqa. These acts confirm the commission of violations that contravene international law and humanitarian conventions.

Burning of the bodies of Kurdish civilians in the city of al-Tabqa

- Two armed members of factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense desecrated and vandalized the graves of Syrian Democratic Forces martyrs who fought against ISIS in al-Hasakah Governorate (al-Shaddadi).

Provocative attempts by factions to vandalize the graves of fighters who fought ISIS

- A fighter affiliated with the Syrian Ministry of Defense seems happy after detaining Kurdish female fighters and filming a video for his fellow called "Abu Mujahed" telling him that he is bringing him 2 "Hevala"

Treatment of women by Ministry of Defense elements of the Syrian interim government in the manner of ISIS

- In al-Sousa near al-Baghous, eight civilians (seven Kurds and one Arab who are originally from Amuda) surrendered to factions affiliated with the Syrian Defense Ministry. These factions subsequently carried out summary executions against them, killing the civilians after they had surrendered.

Summary executions of civilians who had surrendered to the factions

- Confirmation of Turkish participation in the attack on the city of Kobane through the “Turan Battalion,” which is currently affiliated with the Ministry of Defense. The Turan Battalion is composed of Turkish, Uzbek, and Turkmen fighters. This group has taken part in combat operations and committed serious war crimes, including the execution of wounded individuals inside a hospital in Minbij and the execution of prisoners.

Participation of Turkish, Uzbek, and Turkmen fighters in attacks on Kurdish areas

- Following the release of ISIS elements by factions affiliated with the STG, media outlets linked to STG accused SDF of detaining civilians in ISIS prisons and al-Hol camp. The following video demonstrates the identity and engagement of an ISIS member who was shown innocent by them.

Media disinformation attempts by channels affiliated with the Damascus government

- As occurred along the Syrian coast against Alawites and in Suwayda against Druze communities, similar acts are now taking place in Raqqa, where killings are being carried out based on ethnicity and racial discrimination.

Ethnic-based killings in Raqqa

- Armed factions affiliated with the Syrian interim government drove over female fighters, humiliated them, killed them, and subsequently desecrated their bodies.

Running over female fighters, humiliating them, killing them, and desecrating their bodies

- In Raqqa, factions affiliated with the STG carried out summary executions of civilians. These factions accused the victims of being affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), or being snipers within the SDF in order to change facts and legitimize the killing of civilians.

Summary executions of Kurds in Raqqa

- Despite the announcement of a ceasefire between SDF and the STG, factions affiliated with the Ministry of Defense violated the ceasefire on 25 January 2026, and committed shelling on al-Qasimiya village in the countryside of Kobani, one child was killed, and three others were injured.

Ceasefire violation and shelling targeting civilians in the countryside of Kobane

- Direct targeting of civilians in villages around Kobane by armed factions affiliated with the STG. Ibrahim Abdul Qader Bargis was targeted and killed in his village of Kojakmet in the countryside of Kobane.

Targeting of civilians in Kobane by Damascus government-affiliated factions

❖ Humanitarian Situation in Kobane

- Since armed factions affiliated with the Syrian interim government besieged Kobani, the city has suffered a complete cutoff of water, electricity and Internet, as well as severe shortages of medicine and necessities of life. This siege has resulted in the death of five children due to deprivation of essential services.
- Massacre in the village of Kharab Ashk carried out by a Turkish drone:
Location: Kharab Ashk village – countryside of Kobane
Date: 26 January 2026

Names of the victims:

- Fatima Othman
- Jamila Ahmed Othman
- Solaf Rashed Bozan Kadro
- Child: Jaafar Mohammed Sheikh Bozan
- Child: Daughter of Mohammed Sheikh Bozan

There are additional deceased and injured individuals who have not yet been identified.

Targeting of civilians in the village of Kharab Rishk – Kobane

- Massacre against a Kurdish family in Abu Khashab-Raqqa
Location: Village near Abu Khashab – East of Raqqa
Date & time: 18 January 2026 – approximately 5:30 PM

Visual evidence and audio messages have emerged documenting a horrific massacre committed against a Kurdish civilian family while they were fleeing Raqqa toward Hasakah. The attack

followed a large-scale assault carried out by factions affiliated with the Ministries of Defense, with the participation of allied tribal forces.

After confirming that the family was Kurdish and had no affiliation with any political or military entity, the commander issued an order to execute the adults immediately.

The massacre was carried out on 17 January 2026, the same day a ceasefire agreement was announced between STG and SDF.

Names of the victims:

- **Mohammed Ismail Saleh (50 years old)**
- **Sara Shaheen Saleh (49 years old)**
- **Youssef Mohammed Saleh (20 years old)**
- **Layla Mohammed Saleh (17 years old)**
- **Afeen Mohammed Saleh (10 years old)**
- **Mahmoud Ahmed Saleh (26 years old)**

Names of the injured:

- **Shireen Mohammed Saleh (25 years old)**
- **Ghazal Mohammed Saleh (16 years old)**
- **Ibrahim Mohammed Saleh**
- **Children of Shireen and Mahmoud Saleh:**
 - **Shadi (6 years old)**
 - **Ibrahim (4 years old)**
 - **Lavand (2 years and 2 months old)**

Massacre against a Kurdish family in eastern Raqqa

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