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4.1.4. Afrin area

The Afrin area, previously occupied by the SNA until control was transferred to the transitional administration in early February 2025,656 witnessed during the reference period numerous instances of civilians being subjected to killing,657 kidnapping,658 beating,659 threats660 and intimidation,661 as well as armed robbery/looting662 by members of militias, including SNA-affiliated factions such as the Sultan Murad Division,663 the Al-Hamzat Division,664 and the Suleiman Shah faction.665 Rudaw quoted the human rights monitor Violations Documentation Center (VDC) as saying that 87 people had reportedly been kidnapped between 1 January and 8 February 2025.666 At least one child was killed during gunfights involving theft and robbery.667

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