

2.3. Individuals opposing or perceived to be opposing non-state armed actors

○ (a) Individuals opposing or perceived to be opposing SDF

Between March 2025 and May 2025, SNHR reported that the SDF carried out mass raids and arrests against civilians under the pretext of combating ISIL cells. As noted by SNHR, civilians were arrested for criticising ‘SDF practices’ in areas it controls²³⁴ and, in March and April 2025, also for expressing support for the new government.²³⁵ In March 2025, particularly in Hasaka and Raqqa governorates, civilians were reportedly arrested and/or detained for replacing SDF banners and flags with the Syrian uprising flag during public celebrations following the 10 March agreement to integrate the SDF into Syrian state institutions.²³⁶

Similarly, citing a joint statement by activists in northeastern Syria, Syria Direct reported that, in March 2025, the SDF arrested supporters of the interim government and participants in commemorations of the 2011 revolution.²³⁷ As noted by SNHR, the same month, SDF arrested and/or detained civilians and SNA personnel who had returned to their homes in SDF-held areas after prior displacement.²³⁸ Additionally, on 16 March 2025, SDF forces reportedly vandalised a house allegedly belonging to a former opposition fighter during a security operation in Sayid Hammoud village in the countryside of Hasaka.²³⁹

In May 2025, the SDF arbitrarily detained civilians ‘in dozens of villages’ in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates and in several neighbourhoods of Raqqa city.²⁴⁰ While SNHR noted that these detentions were linked to expressions of criticism about the SDF, the media outlet New Arab reported that SDF arrests in Raqqa governorate, in which at least 20 people from the neighbourhoods of Al-Mashlab, Al-Sabahia, Al-Khatuniya, Ya’rub, and Al-Mansoura’ were detained, were directed at ‘suspected Assad regime supporters, figures opposed to the SDF and defectors’.²⁴¹ Additionally, in May 2025, the SDF reportedly detained relatives of defectors from its forces to pressure them into surrendering. During some of the SDF-conducted raids, its members reportedly physically assaulted women and confiscated personal items from families of the detained persons, including money, gold jewellery, and mobile phones.²⁴²

Reporting on statistics of arbitrary arrests and/or detentions of civilians by the SDF, SNHR documented 93 cases of arbitrary arrests and/or detentions, including of seven children in March 2025²⁴³ and 53 arrests and/or detentions, including of nine children and one woman in April 2025.²⁴⁴ In May 2025, SNHR recorded 64 arrests by the SDF, including of four children and two women.²⁴⁵ In total, 29 persons were released during these three months, after being detained for a period between a few days and a month.²⁴⁶

Most of the released persons were originally from the governorates of Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa²⁴⁷ and Aleppo governorates.²⁴⁸

Sources reported instances of violence against media professionals by the SDF, including but not necessarily limited to the following cases. On 5 January 2025, as reported by local media, an SDF drone targeted a reporter covering the fighting between the SDF and Turkish-backed SNA around Menbij in rural Aleppo, resulting in the journalist being injured. At the end of the same month, SDF forces detained for unspecified reasons a media activist in Shafa in rural Deir Ez-Zor, following a raid on his house. On 22 April 2025, an Al-Arabia news channel reporter was detained in Qamishli in rural Hasaka over a Facebook post about corruption cases and the arrest of SDF security officials on drug trafficking charges in Raqqa.²⁴⁹

○ (b) Individuals opposing or perceived to be opposing SNA

In March 2025, the UNCOI reported that following the recapture of Manbij (Aleppo governorate) from SDF in December 2024, SNA fighters threatened and robbed civilians and extorted bribes and valuables from them to pass checkpoints.²⁵⁰ Similarly, STJ noted that SNA actions in the area brought, next to the increase in security instability, significant human rights violations, including summary executions, killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture.²⁵¹ The local media outlet Hedvesti reported that 15 people executed were members of SDF, YPG, or the Forces of the Internal Police of DAANES (Asayish).²⁵²

From January 2025 to April 2025,²⁵³ Tishreen Dam on the Euphrates River near Manbij has become ‘a battleground’ between SDF and Türkiye-backed SNA. In January 2025, protests started at the Tishreen Dam, over disruption to water and electricity access for over 310 000 people in Manbij and Ayn al Arab/Kobani areas, caused by damage to the dam occurred a month earlier.²⁵⁴ On 18 January 2025, a strike by the Türkiye-SNA coalition targeted SDF forces near the protest site, killing 20 and injuring more than 120 people,²⁵⁵ including four journalists.²⁵⁶ The attack occurred while protesters were performing a traditional Kurdish dance. Another strike hit an ambulance that was transporting one of the injured persons.²⁵⁷ Between December 2024 and February 2025, three journalists were reportedly killed and eight injured during Turkish and SNA attacks on the Tishreen Dam.²⁵⁸ As reported by STJ in May 2025, in the Turkish/SNA attacks on the dam, a total of 24 civilians were killed and more than 200 injured.²⁵⁹

Furthermore, on 16 March 2025, 10 members of a Kurdish family, including 7 children, were killed in an allegedly Türkiye or SNA-drone attack in an SDF-controlled village south of Kobane.²⁶⁰

In a report covering March 2025, SNHR noted that SNA and armed factions carried out arbitrary arrests and/or detentions of people²⁶¹ arriving from areas under the SDF control, as well as arbitrary arrests/detentions of an ‘ethnic character’ in SNA-controlled parts of Aleppo governorate. The latter included civilians arbitrarily arrested or detained over alleged cooperation with the SDF, with such incidents primarily concentrated in ‘a number of villages’ of Afrin city.²⁶² SNHR recorded 13 cases of arbitrary arrest/detention by SNA in March 2025, with four persons released within the same month.²⁶³ In total, six arbitrarily arrested or detained persons were released in March 2025,²⁶⁴ after being detained for a period ranging from a few days to one month. Most of the people released were originally from Aleppo governorate.²⁶⁵

²³⁴

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 8; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 8; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 9

²³⁵

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 8; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 8

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 8

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Syria Direct, Can the SDF-Damascus deal withstand internal divisions and geopolitical shifts?, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 8

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EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Middle East, as of 6 June 2025, [url](#)

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 9

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New Arab (The), Syrian government and SDF carry out raids targeting regime loyalists and drug gangs, 21 May 2025, [url](#)

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 9

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 5

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 5

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 5

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 6; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 6; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 6

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 9; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 8; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 4 June 2025, [url](#), p. 6

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SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 9; SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 3 May 2025, [url](#), p. 8

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EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Middle East, as of 6 June 2025, [url](#)

[250](#)

Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Advance unedited version A/HRC/58/66, 14 March 2025, [url](#), para 30

[251](#)

STJ, War Crimes: Turkish/SNA Attacks on Tishrin Dam Killed Civilians, Endangered the Vital Resource, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

[252](#)

Hevdesti, Manbij: The Rise of Human Rights Violations by Syrian National Army Factions (SNA), 25 December 2024, [url](#)

[253](#)

[FDD](#)'s Long War Journal, Syrian government, SDF, and other factions move to end tensions over strategic dam, 15 April 2025, [url](#)

[254](#)

STJ, War Crimes: Turkish/SNA Attacks on Tishrin Dam Killed Civilians, Endangered the Vital Resource, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

[255](#)

HRW, Northeast Syria: Apparent War Crime by Türkiye-Backed Forces, 30 January 2025, [url](#)

[257](#)

HRW, Northeast Syria: Apparent War Crime by Türkiye-Backed Forces, 30 January 2025, [url](#)

[258](#)

NPA, Media workers in Qamishli protest Turkish attacks against journalists, 18 February 2025, [url](#)

[259](#)

STJ, War Crimes: Turkish/SNA Attacks on Tishrin Dam Killed Civilians, Endangered the Vital Resource, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

[260](#)

HRW, Syria, Türkiye-Backed Attack Kills, Injures Family, 29 May 2025, [url](#)

[261](#)

SNHR defines these arrests/detentions as ‘carried out without any judicial authorization or any involvement of the police, which is the only body officially vested with judicial authorization to carry out arrests and detentions. See, SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 9

[262](#)

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 9

[263](#)

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 5

[264](#)

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 6

[265](#)

SNHR, Monthly Report on Arrests/Detentions in Syria, 10 April 2025, [url](#), p. 9