

# Human rights Situation in Afrin

The Second Quarter detailed report of 2021 by the TEVIN Think-tank, and Armanj Civil Society Platform, which documents and comprehensively evaluates and assessing the human rights situation in Afrin, under Turkish occupation and the Syrian National Army since 2018."

- 1. Security and military conditions**
- 2. looting and seizure of property**
- 3. Arbitrary detention, forced concealment, torture and death in custody.**
- 4. Recommendations**



# Bombings

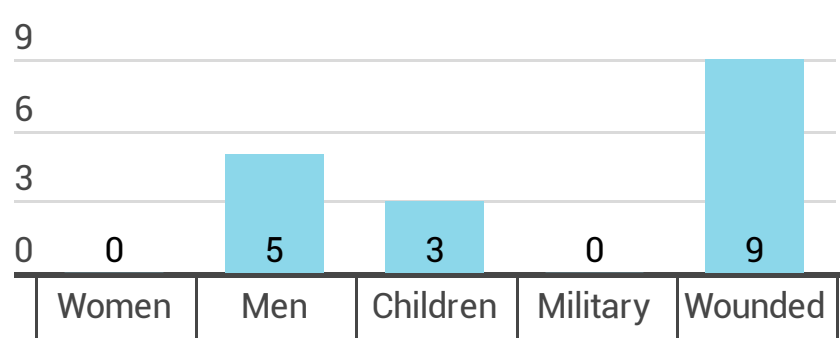
At 9:30 a.m. on 11/04/2021, a landmine planted in the land of Mazin village in Shirwa district exploded. The explosion killed two children and injured two others. The four children are Azad Ibrahim Hussein, 12 years of age, and Diyar Hamu Hussein, 11 years of age, who lost their lives", Hussein Ibrahim Hussein, 11 years of age, and Nisreen Mohamed Hussein, 12 years of age got injured."

At 08:20 a.m. on 26/05/2021, unidentified persons detonated a bomb, killing one man and injuring nine others. in addition, there were significant material losses in shops and homes close to the bombing. An explosive device planted in a civilian vehicle parked on Rajo Road, behind the Fin restaurant, exploded, killing one Muhammad Asani and injuring nine others. The explosion caused significant material damage to shops and homes, close to the scene of the explosion.

At 10:30 a.m., on 08/06/2021, unidentified individuals detonated an explosive device planted in the car belonging to Abu Omar, a member of Ahrar Al-Sharqiya. There were no casualties and only material damages to the site of the explosion.

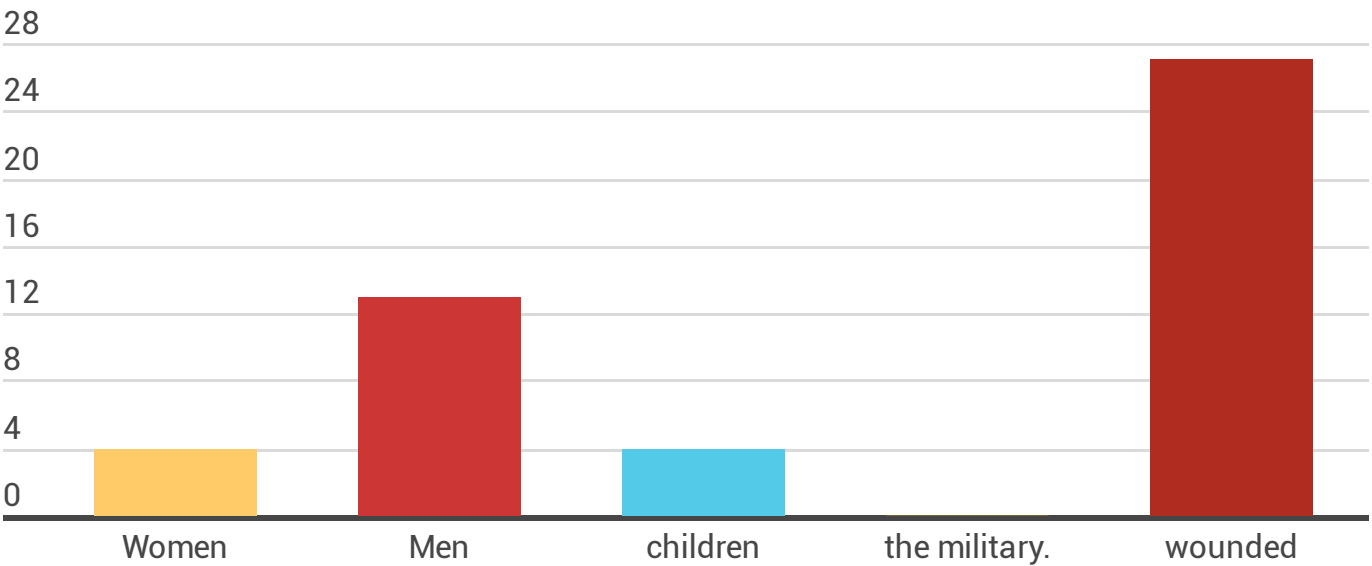
At 15:30 p.m., on15/06/2021, unknown individuals in the village of Kafr Janna, in the Sharan area, detonated a Hyundai car bomb in the (Kafr Janna) junction on the main road between Aleppo and Afrin, near the Al-Jabha Al-Shamiya platoon checkpoint. The car owner was killed, along with another person, and some members of the checkpoint were injured.

At 3:30 a.m., on 26/06/2021, unknown people detonated a car bomb parked next to the road in the city of Afrin, near the Kawa roundabout of the Afrin-A'zaz Road. Three people were killed, including a 11-year-old girl, bearing in mind that the entity controlling the detonation site is the Al-Jabha Al-Shami faction.



● Number of bombings 5

## Artillery bombardment



At 08:20 a.m., on 05/06/2021, Turkish forces shelled villages in the SDF- and regime-controlled Sherawa district with around 80 artillery shells "Zeinab Hussein, a 12-year-old girl, was killed, her father Ibrahim Hussain and her brother Bakr Hussain, 11-year-old, were seriously injured and agricultural land and houses were damaged."

At 04:00 p.m., on 12/03/2021, an unidentified individual randomly bombed the city of Afrin. 9 rockets from a rocket launcher fell indiscriminately on the city of Afrin and the majority of witnesses believe that the rockets were launched from Nubol and Al-Zahra areas which is controlled by Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias.

The artillery bombardment resulted in 22 casualties, including 6 women, 3 children, and 25 with varying injuries,

and destruction of property, the most painful of these is the artillery bombardment of the Afrin hospital, which killed 8 medical staff, while rockets fell in other places, including the Western Highway, Al-Siyassia Street and the Maarat Junction.

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*At around four o'clock, rockets fell on different places in Afrin, killing 22 people, including 6 women and 3 children, two unidentified victims and injuring 25 people, as Afrin has become the scene of bloody conflicts between armed parties in the region.*

## Murder, threats

At 02:00 a.m., on 10/05/2021, a group of masked men in Satya village-Afrin, controlled by Al-Hamzat faction, dug a grave to bury an unidentified corpse they had in their possession.

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*Suddenly we heard the sound of an excavator coming from the side of the cemetery and many villagers tried to know what was going on, but the masked men threatened to kill anyone who approached," said Abu Rifaat, a resident of the village. " Then we discovered that they buried in the village cemetery an unidentified corpse that we did not recognize, after which they left the area".*

*Witnesses*

At 03:00 a.m., on 13/05/2021, two members of Sultan Murad's faction were killed in the village of Qirat Qalaq in the sub-district of Sharan on a motorcycle they were driving. The leadership of the Sultan's faction concealed the incident and did not carry out any investigation.

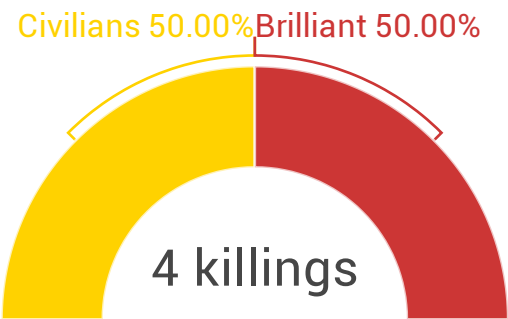
At 02:00 p.m., on 26/06/2021, inside the funeral tent of one of the settler families a disagreement broke out between them, resulting in the killing of (three civilians) and the arrest of the killer by the security forces of the faction, in the village of Al-Ghazawya - Afrin.

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*"There was shooting in the village, but we could not get out of fear until sunrise," said Abu Farhad, a resident of the village. "We knew that two of the soldiers were killed, these appear to be retaliation and to settle an account among themselves about the theft and the spoils in their possession and over the widespread brothels".*

*Witnesses*

At 08:00 a.m., on 29/06/2021, members of AL- Hamzat faction under the command of Abu Yaman conducted a live-fire military exercise on the outskirts and in the center of the village of Jawqa, intimidating and harassing residents and preventing them from moving or moving around. In addition to military exercises, they sweep the village.



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*The Arab in the settlement were racist toward the Kurdish people of the village. Until now, the villagers did not mix with them. We heard gunfire and went towards the sound, as it turned out that in the funeral tent, a fight broke out among the family, resulted in killing three of their members".*

Witnesses

## Public property

At 03:00 p.m., on 26/03/2021, Ramdana village, Sheik Al-Hadid area, an unknown perpetrator set fire to the forested areas stretching from the town of Sheik al-Hadid to the village of Ramadana. where it was extinguished after 36 hours and the affected area was estimated to be 20 or about 4000 trees.

At 04:07 p.m., On 16/06/2021, the Sultan Murad faction members cut down the forest trees in the village of Kafroma in order to turn them into firewood and profit from it and in front of the security forces of other factions and Turkish intelligence, there is no deterrence or accountability.

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**the Sultan Murad faction transported two trucks every day from the forest tree area and is estimated to date to be about 2,000 forest trees have been cut.**

Witnesses

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**it is the fourth time that the same area has been on fire since factions took control of the area and the seventh time it has been on the opposite side of our village."The Hajj Hassanli forest, thousands of trees, was burned and cut down by armed militants to turn it into firewood."**

Witnesses

At 04:00 p.m., On 29/06/2021 a fire broke out in the Qathqli forest on the edge of the village of Kafr-Safra, in the Janders district. Firefighting teams were delayed in coming to put out the fire, which caused a large area of trees to burn, and was recorded against an unknown perpetrator. The area affected by the fire is estimated to be 3 hectares, according to eyewitnesses from the village



### Private property

At 07:45 a.m. on 09/04/2021, the Sham Legion, which controls the town of Maidan Akbis, cut 70 olive trees belonging to forcibly displaced residents into Shahba'a areas, turning them into firewood and transporting them to Idlib.

At 8:30 a.m. on 11/04/2021, Sultan Suleiman Shah's faction, led by Muhammad al-Jassim "Abu Amsha," forced Several villagers in Sheik al-Hadid to sign a contract to sell their land to build a settlement at gunpoint. However, the owners of these lands refused to sell them, which led to forcing them to make concessions in favor of the municipality in order to build a housing association on an area of 40 dunums, which will be supervised by the Turkish organization (Afad) and Qatari funding.

At 08:00 a.m. on 01/05/2021 in the Sheik al-Hadid sub-district of Afrin, Sultan Suleiman Shah (al-Amishat) militants seized property belonging to civilians, forcibly demolishing the house of a forcibly displaced citizen, Hassan Balou, turning the house into a parking garage for the security militants of the faction.



**Eyewitnesses confirmed to us that "what the leader of the faction, Abu Amsha, is doing is part of the demographic change plan for the town and the Afrin region in general, where a settlement is being built to accommodate 200 families from the countryside of Idlib and Hama. They forced Jamil Mohammed, Jamil Khalil Sheykho, Yusuf Hanan Mu'mu, Rashid Suleiman and Sheik Hassan, also known as Khoja, to give up their land records, all of which are 4 hectares**

At 07:00 a.m. on 03/05/2021, Sultan Suleiman Shah's faction leader forced taxes on the grape leaf crop in Afrin-Sheik al-Hadid, where the tax was 15% of its value as freight cars departed from his areas of control. the estimated number of vehicles are, 25 trucks loaded with grape leaf per day.

- At 10:30 p.m. on 06/05/2021 in Afrin, the village of Kurzileh, a group of armed masked men robbed the house of Zuhair Mamo, a resident of Kurzileh village in Bulbul, after tying his hands and feet and his family too. They began looting the house and some stolen items were recorded such as (cash, a television set, a mobile phone, a motorcycle, and kitchen utensils). knowing that the village is under the control of the Al-Mu'tasim Billah faction.
- At 09:00 a.m. 15/05/2021, Muhammad Ali Murad, a resident of the village of Kafr Safra in the Jindiars sub-district, went to his pean-grown farm, where he found 400 sheep inside it, the shepherd was a member of the Samar Qand faction and was armed and the sheep owner was the father of the deputy chairman of the Samar Qand faction that controls the village.
- at 12:00 p.m on 16/05/2021, a member of the military police in the city of Afrin, Abu Yusuf al-Baghdadi, seized several shops and a residential building under the gunpoint, without being deterred by any security or legal entity. Shop owners have demanded that their property be restored through complaints to no avail.

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**"Eyewitnesses confirmed that there are many cases of seizures of shops and homes here at gunpoint, such as (Haidar Ba'aj), a resident of Al-Mayadin, Deir Ezzor. He is a leader in the Syrian National Army's Ninth Division, who took over five stores and several houses under the gunpoint, and rents them for his benefit".**

- At 10:10 a.m. on 26/05/2021, an Arab settler, Abu Rasheed, who is originally from the town of Hreitan in the Aleppo countryside and lives in the village of Kublak in the Sharan district, forcibly seized an olive oil factory located on a Midanki road, under the pretext that its owner was affiliated with the former autonomous-administration. According to eyewitnesses, he herded sheep and cows between the villagers' olive groves without any deterrent and with the protection of the factions.



- At 06:00 a.m. on 29/05/2021. in the village of Marwanah, specifically at the Janders district security checkpoint, members of the Al-Waqqas Brigade taxed residents' crops in areas under their control and announced that each box of grape leaves coming from their villages abroad or the Al-Hal Market would pay a tax of 400 Syrian pounds, and each oil gallon taxed one USD or its equivalent



**"Eyewitnesses From the village of Sinara, said, "Everything that emerges outside the areas controlled by the Al-Waqqas Brigade pays a tax to the security detail of the faction, such as the crops of vegetables, olive oil, and grape leaves. The platoon's security barrier earns thousands of USD a day on taxes."**

- At 07:45 a.m. on 03/06/2021. in the village of Senara in the sub-district of Sheik al-Hadid, in the Wadi Jarajem area, settlers (from the Al-Waqqas Brigade) spread their tents among the olive trees belonging to the residents of the village of Senara.

When a citizen affected by sheepherding between his trees objected to them and tried to get them out of his land, he was threatened with weapons and was driven out of his land with his hands tied.

- At 10:00 p.m. on 07/06/2021, An identified group of armed men robbed the home of citizen Ahmed Hassan Rashkilu., a resident of the village of Randa in the sub-district of Sheik Al-Hadid, who currently lives in the town of Jindiers. After he was physically assaulted they tied his hands and feet, and searched his house, stolen items that the victim has declared "Gold bracelets and cash were stolen and then they fled site," he said



**"Eyewitnesses: Thousands of trees were damaged by the grazing of sheep belonging to the faction members. The areas under the control of the Al-Waqqas Brigade agreed to allow livestock to enter their areas under their control for a fee of 40 Turkish Lira per head, and the coming shepherds will graze them within the agricultural lands without any consideration for anyone".**

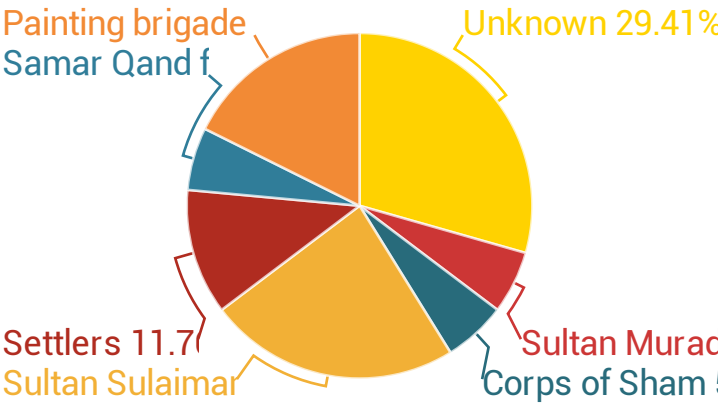
Type of violation	Numbers
the trees	6070
Home	11
Shops	5
Land	8 h
Olive press	1
taxes	3
Separation of the job	2

Dismissal from the job

- At 09:00 a.m. on 06/06/2021, Turkish intelligence has ordered the dismissal of 40-year-old police officer Hassan Horo from the village of Bileco in the Raju district, on charges of having an old picture of him in Kurdish costume on his phone.

“On the other hand, Abu Bakri confirmed on the Rajo side that "Turkish intelligence is pursuing aggressive hostility against the Kurds for the sake of having a Kurdish name, the Policeman Hassan was dismissed from his job on charges of wearing a Kurdish outfit, and yesterday another policeman, Nashat Musa, was dismissed from the village of Kawanda in the district of Rajo on charges of military service duty with the autonomous-administration."

Responsible parties



## Arbitrary detention, Kidnapping

- At 03:00 p.m. on 08/04/2021, members of the Al-hurra Police (Political Security) arrested Amir Mustafa, a 27-year-old resident of the village of Ma'arata, on his way back from Bassota distributing food baskets. He was accompanied by his colleagues from the Shafaq organization for unknown reasons, and he is still in detention.
- At 09:00 a.m., on 14/04/2021., Military Police at the A'azaz checkpoint arrested Engineer Muhammad Ali Alu, a resident of the town of Midanki in the sub-district of Sharan, on charges of dealing with Autonomous-Administration.
- At 10:00 a.m., On 15/04/2021, Zakariya Ibrahim Omar, a resident of the village of Douda in Midana, was arrested by the (Civilian Police in the town of Midana) in the district of Rajo on charges of having dealings with the former administration(Autonomous-Administration). He remains in detention without trial.
- At 09:00 a.m., on 21/04/2021, (members of the Al-Hamzat faction) arrested many citizens in the village of Burj Abdallo for several hours and released them after paying a ransom imposed by the faction.



**"Eyewitnesses confirmed that members of Al-Hamzat raided some houses in the village and arrested some villagers, including Adil Hasan, Nihad Hamid Kalaho, Adil Hamid Kalaho, and Muhammad Kamal Ahmed. They took them to the security headquarters and interrogated them for three hours. They were released after paying a ransom of 6000 thousand Turkish lire".**

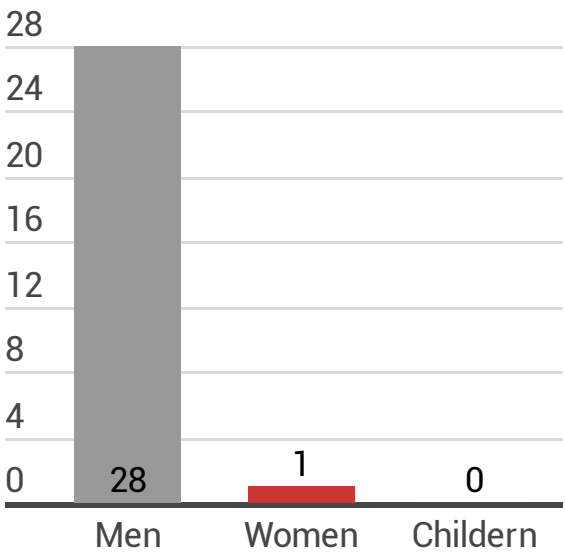


- At 11:10 a.m., on 28/04/2021, in Afrin, the village of Heikja, in the Jindiers district, members of the Al-Waqqas Brigade arrested several citizens from the village for extortion and ransom.
- At 08:00 a.m., on 01/05/2021, members of the Syrian National Army's Sham Corps raided the homes of Afrin residents in the village of Kabashin in Shirawa. They arrested some of them (Isma'il Jamo Haidar and Ezzedine Jamo Haidar) on charges of dealing with the Autonomous-Administration in order to collect the ransom.
- At 11:45 a.m., on 01/05/2021, in the village of Baadina, Rajo District Afrin, members of the Syrian National Army's 112 Brigade raided citizens' homes arresting Muhammad Rashid Manan, 61, and Muhammad Rashid Othman. They were handed over to Turkish intelligence and later released.
- At 10:00 a.m., on 26/05/2021 in Raju district, Afrin, the Civil Police security agents (the security branch of the Civil Police) arrested 66-year-old Ali Hamza

raiding his home on charges of having dealings with him the former Autonomous-Administration. He is still being detained by the security authorities in Rajo on the pretext that he is under investigation.



**Eyewitnesses said that some citizens from the village filed a complaint with the Office of the (Rad Al-Mathalem) in Afrin, demanding that the shepherds stop grazing their livestock in the people's farms. But instead of amending their complaint, they arrested them and ordered a ransom. They are Abdeen Hassan Ibrahim, Khalil Said Arab, and Farhan Hassan Ibrahim. Then they were all released after paying a ransom of 5000 thousand Turkish lire and pledging not to file a complaint against them".**



- At 09:00 a.m., on 29/05/2021, the military police at the entry checkpoint of the city of A'zaz arrested Bashar Othman Othman, a young man from the village of Kafar Jannah in the sub-district of Sharan. He was arrested on charges of military service duty, dealing with the Aautonimus-Administration, and not settling his status. He is still under arrest.
- At 09:15 a.m. on 29/05/2021, in Afrin, the village of Al-Basoota, members of the Al-Hamzat Brigade, the security forces controlling the village of Al-Basuta, raided the homes of citizens in the village and arrested several citizens n charges of having dealings with the former Autonomous-Administration

o(Hassan Zaki Hamsho, Najib Matsu, Ahmed Abdul Rahman Batal, Bayman Muhammad Taha, and Khalid Ahmad Rajab), including a woman, who are still in detention.

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"Abu Hassan Dalou of the village said, "Most of the faction members have sheep hurds, and it is estimated between 100 and 2000 or more for each one. They always bring their sheep to graze on farmlands and among olive trees. So far, thousands of olive trees have been damaged despite the residents' objections and complaints against them. The situation is still ongoing. They increased the grazing of their sheep, and anyone who interferes or complaining is threatened with the force of arms, the arrest of Ali was to force fear and terror among the people, and the ransom was paid for his release".



- At 08:35 a.m., on 02/06/2021, in the village of Heikja, sub-district of Jindiers, members of the Al-Waqqas faction arrested Ali Al-Ali, a resident of the village after the residents filed a complaint against members of the faction at the Office of the (Rad Al-Mathalim) in the city of Afrin for heavy grazing of their sheep on their olive farms
- At 05:00 p.m., on 05/06/2021, in the village of Uqaybah, district of Shirawa; (Zakariyya Diab), a young man from the village of Uqaiba who emigrated to Turkey to escape military service duty by the Autonomous-Administration back in 2013. In 2021, he decided to return and settle in the village with his family. Upon his arrival, he was arrested by the security elements of the Sham Legion, which controls the village, on charges of military service duty and dealing with the Autonomous Administration. He is still under arrest and investigation.
- At 07:30 a.m. on 06/06/2021, on Afrin-Raju Road, a masked armed group attempted to abduct 52-year-old Ahmed Rashid Daoud,

who was returning to his home in the village of Afarzah, after resisting he managed to escape and he was shot in the leg and taken to Afrin hospital for treatment."

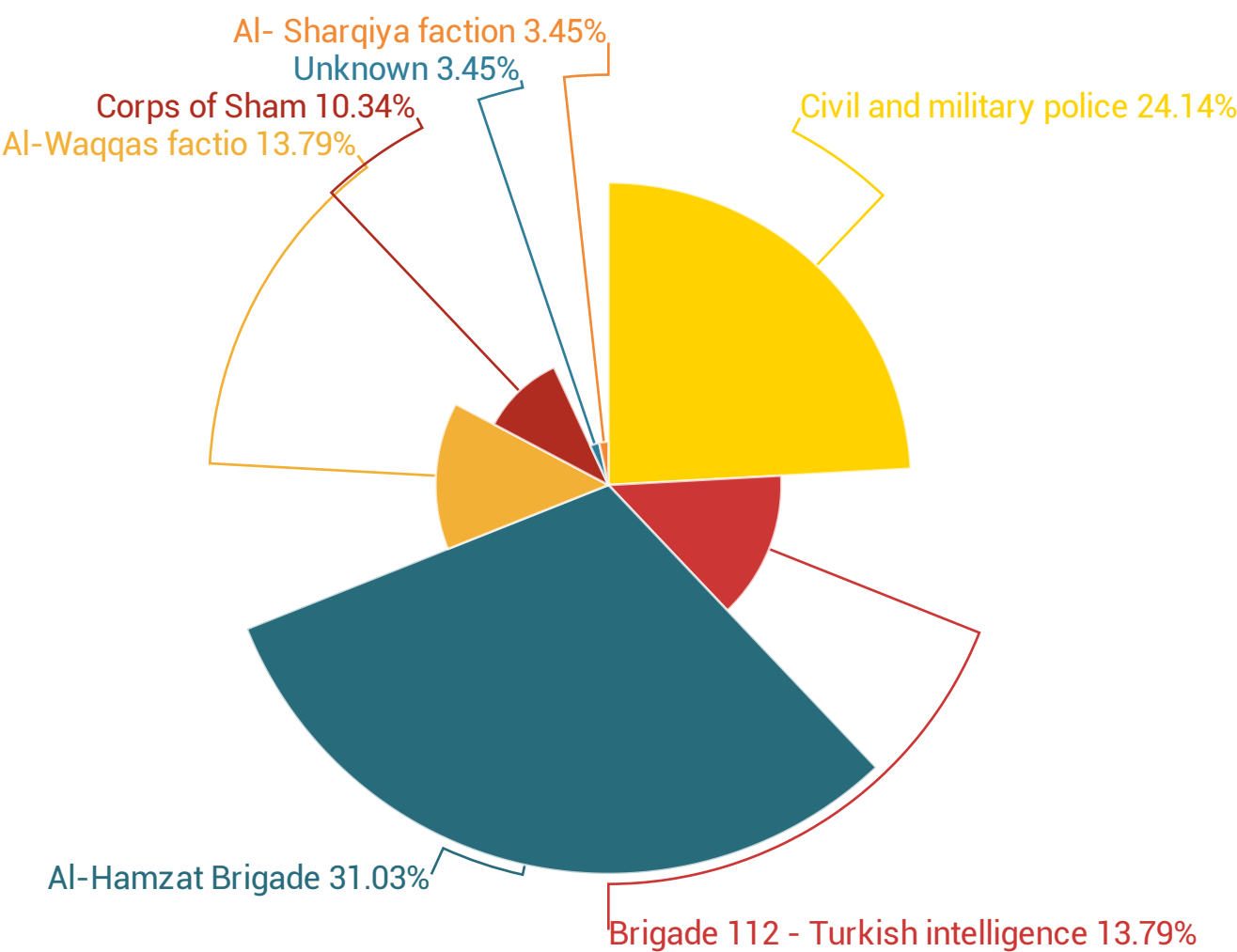
- At 09:00 a.m. on 07/06/2021, members of the Ahrar Al-Sharqia Faction arrested Faisal Rasheed, from the village of Haj Khalil in the Rajo district, for writing an old post on his personal Facebook page criticizing the actions and practices of the faction in Afrin. Faisal, a young man, was working at a medical center of childhood vaccination and was a mobile worker in vaccinating children among the villages of Afrin.
- At 11:45 a.m., on 13/06/2021. The civilian police in Rajo arrested a citizen (Abdullah Muhiddin Dawood), a resident of Atmanah village, at the entrance of Rajo town; the reason is unknown and still under detention and investigation.





- At 08:45 a.m., on 17/06/2021, in the town of Genders; Military police in the district arrested (Subhi Jamil Surani) after raiding his house and charged him in dealings with the former Autonomous-Administration. He is still detained.
- At 10:10 a.m., on 21/06/2021, in the village of Aghjla, district of Jinders, Arab settlers and members of the Al- Sharqiya faction pushed the Turkish intelligence to raid a car dealership. The owner, Hamdan Hussein, of the village of Aghjla, and his son, Mustafa Hamdan, were arrested on charges of possessing weapons and selling stolen tractors.

## Authorities responsible for arrest



**We reiterate, as in previous recommendations we have identified with our Syrian organization partners, and call on the United Nations and the international community to:**

1. Pressure the Turkish government to put an end to violations and insecurity and immediately stop all violations; expel armed factions from towns and villages in the Afrin region, and form a fact-finding committee to investigate the crimes committed and establish an international protection zone in Afrin, contributing to the immediate return of Kurdish displaced persons to their homes with an international guarantee until the final settlement of the Syrian crisis, per Resolution 2254.
2. Ensure the immediate and widespread release of all detainees held by Turkish forces and Syrian National Army factions; and closing all detention centers, all types of physical and psychological torture, including sexual and sexual violence.
3. Turkish forces and the Syrian National Army should stop all looting of civilian property and return it to their owners, as well as stop the destruction of archaeological sites, stop imposing royalties on civilians, and stop cutting and burning trees.
4. Sanctions must be imposed on armed groups, and individuals found to have committed human rights violations in the occupied territories under the authority provided for in Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019. Among those found to be involved, according to the UN report, are the Ahrar al-Sharqiya faction, the Suleiman Shah Brigade, the Al-Hamza Brigade, Sultan Murad Brigade, Sultan Shah, the Al-Jabha Al-Shami, Samarqand, the Al-Waqas Brigade, and the Syrian National Army Military Police.
5. Ceasing immediately all transfers of arms and security assistance to all individuals and security units involved in committing human rights violations in the occupied territories, including Turkish forces operating in Syria...!