

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Item 4: Presentation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on civilian deaths in the Syrian Arab Republic

30 June 2022

In her Presentation, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, reported to the Council on the **casualty count of conflict-related deaths in the Syrian Arab Republic**, providing a more complete picture of the scale of the conflict and its impact on civilians. The office applied robust and reliable techniques to document figures. Between March 2011 and March 2021 she collected figures on conflict-related civilian deaths. In total **350,209 deaths** resulting directly from the conflict. Among them, **143,350 were civilians**. For each of these civilians, the Office has been able to document the names, dates and locations of death. In addition, a further **163,537 civilian deaths** were **estimated to have occurred**, bringing the total estimated civilian death toll to the shocking number of **306,887** in this ten-year period, the highest estimate yet of conflict-related civilian deaths in the country. The massive figures in the report do **not include** indirect deaths, namely those resulting mainly from loss of access to essential goods and services. This loss was caused or aggravated by the conflict. The figures and information presented are a staggering reminder of the magnitude and relentlessness of the war in Syria. They show disturbing patterns.

The High Commissioner called on all parties to the conflict to strictly guard international humanitarian law and human rights obligations, ensuring **protection of civilians at risk**. She also called for the creation of an **independent mechanism** with a strong international mandate. This would clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people, and to provide support to relatives. Moreover, she called on the Syrian Government to ensure access to **remedies and reparations for all victims and survivors of this war**. This includes ensuring effective **accountability and transitional justice** mechanisms, with meaningful **participation** of victims.

To watch full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).