

THE IMPACT OF THE POST ARAB SPRING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN SYRIA

Dakheelallah Alharbi^{1*}, Zarina Othman², Sity Daud³

¹PhD Candidate at Research Centre of History, Politics and International Affairs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi 43600, Selangor, Malaysia, ²Professor and Chair, Research Centre of History, Politics and International Affairs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi 43600, Selangor, Malaysia, ³Associate Professor, Research Centre of History, Politics and International Affairs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi 43600, Selangor, Malaysia.

Email: ^{1*} dakheelallah.alharbi@gmail.com, ² zo@ukm.edu.my, ³ sitydaud@ukm.edu.my

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to give an analysis of the humanitarian situation and the case of human rights in Syria after the events of the Arab spring.

Methodology: This is analytical-descriptive research that has been done through literature review, content analysis, and documentary and case study research.

Result: our results suggest that the Syrian government made false concessions designed to end the revolts. The occurrence led to the formation of a rebel group, the Free Syrian Army whose main objective was to oust the authoritarian regime and stop the killing of civilians. This marked the beginning of the blatant violation of human rights as well as the civil war in Syria. The government not only ignited but also took the war to its own people killing, injuring and imprisoning thousands of people. Worse still, thousands of women and young girls still suffer sexual violence during the nightly raids conducted frequently on either opposing camps. Following the massive violations of human rights, almost all economic sectors of Syria have met rock-bottom.

Applications: This research can be used for policymakers and the international community to take a further step to aid the Syrian civilians.

Novelty/Originality: In our research, we try to target a very much debated topic in the Middle East. Although several articles written about the humanitarian and human rights situation in Syria studies on human rights after the Arab spring is still lacking.

Keywords: *Arab Spring, Syria, Civilians, Democracy, Human Rights, Conflict.*

INTRODUCTION

Syria is one of the Arab states in the Middle East and Northern Africa that have yet to recover from the effects of the revolutionary wave that swept through the region towards the end of the last decade. The cause for the nation's prevailing circumstances is "The Arab Spring" that started on 17th December 2010 when a vegetable hawker in Tunisia, the capital of Tunisia, set himself on fire outside a government building in protest of mistreatment by the state authorities ([Campante & Chor, 2012](#)). The selfless act of sacrifice sparked a wave of intense mass outcry and protest across the nation, which culminated with the fleeing of the authoritarian ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Interestingly, the outcome of the Tunisian protest inspired similar occurrences in other states within the region including Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, and Syria ([Anderson, 2011](#)). When the Tunisian authoritarian leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali could not withstand the pressure and calls for his resignation, he fled to Saudi Arabia. Tunisia conducted its first democratic parliamentary elections in October 2011 almost a year after the beginning of the protests in Tunisia.

The Arab Springs the result of a string of uprisings witnessed in the Arab region around springtime towards the end of the last decade¹. On the other hand, stifled democracy and infringement of citizens' rights perpetrated by authoritarian regimes were the main cause of the uprisings. History has shown that the second half of the 20th century has seen the establishment of authoritarian regimes across the region including the ones of Hosni Mubarak (Egypt), Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (Tunisia), Muammar Gaddafi (Libya), Bashar al Assad (Syria), Ali Abdullah Saleh (Yemen), and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (Bahrain). The biggest point of contention in the entire Arab Spring debacle is the uprising's impact and achievement. While the revolts mainly aimed at injecting elements of democracy in the social and political spheres of the nations, the outcomes do not necessarily align with the objectives ([Campante & Chor, 2012](#)). Apart from Tunisia –

¹Another explanation for the Arab Spring, point to its resemblance with a series of revolutions that occurred in Europe in the 19th century. The year 1848 marked the beginning of a tumultuous era with several nations across Europe experiencing significant cases of revolts among the citizenry ([Sperber, 2005](#)). Similar to the Arab spring, the European revolution began from one nation, Sicily, and with time spread to others such as Germany, Austria, and France. The uprisings were the result of mass upheavals aimed at effecting change in the face of socioeconomic issues that had caused significant food shortages across the European continent ([Berger and Spoerer, 2001](#))

and to a negligible extent Egypt – the remaining cases transformed into even worse scenarios that entailed mass degradation of human life and stifling of democracy. Only Tunisia has lived to experience fully the fruits of their hard labor. Egypt, on the other hand, managed to oust dictatorial leader Hosni Mubarak in January 2011 ([Comunello&Anzera, 2012](#)). However, the contentious appointment of current President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sissi through a coup brought back the previous authoritarian rule. In a way, the Egyptian uprising failed to achieve its ultimate objective, which was to install the rule of democracy in society.

Syria stands out as the most controversial case in the entire history of the Arab Spring. Like in the case of Libya, Egypt, Yemen, and Bahrain, the Syrian uprising materialized as a reaction to the successful insurrection that established significant social and political changes in the society that broadened the democratic space in Tunisia ([Comunello & Anzera, 2012](#)). As the discussed cases the Syrian uprising started mildly in January 2011 in the form of peaceful demonstration following the torture of teenage students. Soon other regions across the nation joined in the demonstrations and called for the ejection of President Bashar al-Assad. The protesters demanded the broadening of democratic space, allowing multiple political parties, and freedom of speech, press, and assembly among other issues ([Campante&Chor, 2012](#)). Following the protests, the Syrian government made false concessions designed to stop the revolts, but to no avail. In response, the government unleashed terror upon its citizenry murdering hundreds and injuring and imprisoning thousands of others in the process. The occurrence led to the formation of a rebel group, the Free Syrian Army (FSA)², whose main objective was to oust the authoritarian regime and stop the unnecessary mass killings of civilians. This marked the beginning of the blatant violation of human rights as well as the civil war in Syria.

RESEARCH METHOD

In general, there is a shortage of research published on the impacts of the post-Arab Spring period on human rights in Syria. Hence, the question remains on what the extent of the atrocities committed against the people of Syria is. Our review lingers on the issues that pertain to the inhuman treatment of the local Syrian population in the face of the civil war between 2011 to the present. To this end, we have used, in line with the suggestions of [Hart](#) (1998), keywords searching in online sites search such as Ebsco Host, google books and google scholar in search of reports, books, journals, and articles published in the Arab spring. Several terms were used to search for these articles: Arab Spring, Syria, Russia, Iran, conflict, war, civil, Arab spring, Humanitarian, conflicting parties. Our initial search resulted in 33 articles. Only 30 articles were included in this review as they match with the core of the research question of this article. The three articles were excluded because they were published by unknown publishing houses and biased political writers in the Syrian Crisis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Syria Crisis

[Idris \(2017\)](#) provides a detailed outline of the entire incidence as well as the corresponding figures of the violation of human rights alongside their perpetrators. Undoubtedly, the biggest culprit in the category is the government of Syria together with its ally Russia. The government not only ignited but also took the war to its own people killing, injuring, and imprisoning thousands of people. The government employed the use of indiscriminate artillery in the suppression of the rebellion against civilians ([Comunello&Anzera, 2012](#)). Further, the government has made a point of thwarting every effort aimed at providing aid to civilians in the midst of the civil war. Specifically, it has targeted and denied civilians access to medical and educational facilities throughout the region. The Syrian government tortured, detained, and worse still, executed tens of thousands of civilians since January 2011. Following the ethnic divisions that continue to fuel the unrest in Syria, myriad Armed Syrian opposition militias have also perpetrated various attacks on civilians in the process, depriving part of the population not allied to them, of food and medical supplies. Reports have emerged of these militia groups subjecting civilians to torture and sometimes executions

Another notorious perpetrator is the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has unleashed a series of terror attacks in Syria, killing and injuring hundreds of civilians ([Campante & Chor, 2012](#)). Significant yet is the group's infamous propensity to enforce stringent Islamic laws on the locals, which often attract harsh punishments such as corporal and capital penalty. Furthermore, the involvement of Kurdish groups in the war has seen them displace thousands of civilians through forceful eviction and destruction of homes. According to [Guha-Sapir et al.](#) the warring factions had caused the displacement of almost half the Syrian population as of 2016. As well, this group has persistently coerced Syrian teenage and adult males to join their ranks (ISIL? Move sentence up). Together with all these groups, with the exception of the international community, have used Syrian and Iraqi women as sex slaves and subjected them to rape and occasionally forceful marriages.

In 2016, a report released by [Amnesty International \(2016\)](#) indicated that over 250, 000 civilians had succumbed to the ravages of the Syrian Civil War. Subsequent reports released, in courtesy of [Human Rights Watch \(2018\)](#), but the death

²The free Syrian Army is a loose faction in the Syrian Civil War founded on 29 July 2011 by officers of the Syrian Armed Force, who said their goal was to bring down the government of Bashar al-Assad.

toll at 400, 000 people and counting. The latter report also confides that about 5 million Syrian civilians have sought refuge in the adjoining regions, while more than half a million others still reside in war-torn areas and risk displacement, injury or even worse. Overall, the war has resulted in the displacement of more than six million people countrywide. However, the [SNHR \(2018\)](#) recently released conflicting statistics that suggest that only 222, 114 civilians have died thus far. Out of the figure, 27, 989 were minors, 25, 179 were women while the remaining figure was split between arbitrary arrests (118, 829) and torture (14, 024). Ultimately, the figures bring the world's attention to the unthinkable atrocities committed against millions of civilians in Syria that amount to the inconsiderate violation of human rights in the region.

From one perspective, the Arab Spring was an act of sheer bravery and nationalism that epitomized the advancement of the world in relation to the objective and need to expand the wings of democracy to all nations. In another, it highlighted the indefinite nature of revolutions as well as the inconsistencies that they become as in the cases of Libya, Egypt, and Syria among others. The Arab Spring and the following events lead scholars to view revolutions in a different light. In their studies, most scholars have focused on examining the influence of the Arab spring on the fight for equal rights and democracy expansion. Incidentally, most studies seem to focus on its anticipated impact on authoritarian leadership in northern Africa and the Middle East context. Still, others have attempted to investigate the reasons for the failure of most uprisings in the Arab nations, save for Tunisia. As a result, the trends have left a significant gap in research that addresses the unique scenarios in Syria – the nation with the longest uprising in history. The Syrian uprising persists now almost six years, during which civilian rights were violated by the warring groups. The Arab uprising started in springtime 2011 while the whole world watched in awe as the Muslim nations of the Middle East, and Northern Africa awoke to the realities of democracy. The citizens yearned for a broadened democratic space where everyone could enjoy equal rights as well as the freedom of speech and movement. In states such as Syria, the authoritarian rule of President Bashar al Assad stifled the freedom of the press and any attempt at rebelling attracted torturous punishments from the authorities. According to [Bayat \(2017\)](#), the occurrence took people down memory lane when a similar incidence occurred across Europe in the 19th century. The two incidences have similar characteristics as in both cases the masses marched on the streets in protests of governance that limited progress from the perspective of development. While in the European revolution, the people protested against issues such as food shortages, the Arab spring protests mostly called for the changes in regimes. In more than one account – Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, and Libya – the locals called for the ousting of the incumbent leaders, who led with an iron fist. Many studies have focused on making sense of the Arab spring, as well as the reasons and rationale for its occurrence.

However, revolutions are not entirely peaceful affairs and the outcomes of most of the cases in the Arab Spring attest to this fact. Often, incidences of unnecessary violence and bloodshed mar the processes. Right from the outset, the Arab spring had elements of violence and even death as depicted in the Tunisian and Syrian cases. In the former case, a vegetable vendor torched himself to death in protest of mistreatment in the hands of government authorities. As a result, the Tunisian revolution kicked off as the local people protested in response to the unfortunate incident. The authoritarian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia as pressure mounted for him to resign. The nation held its first parliamentary elections a few months later. In the latter case, the Syrian government authorities tortured about twenty male teenage students after they sprayed graffiti that criticized the government. One boy died in the process. Motivated by the results of the Tunisian uprising, the people of Syria responded with protests, which soon spread to other cities within the region. They called for the overthrowing of Bashar al-Assad the authoritarian president, together with a broad spectrum of reforms that would see the country increase its democratic space. In turn, the government responded by unleashing terror on its citizenry thereby starting the now rampant violation of human rights in the nation.

Freedom of Expression

The government of Syria under the Assad leadership arrested and detained more than 10, 000 people, **who** had connections to the upheaval. Before the uprising, the government had already detained several political prisoners with no access to a fair trial for more than four years ([Deutsch Karlekar & Dunham, 2012](#)). Deaths aside, the restraining of the freedom of expression in the Arab nations such as Syria acted as the catalyst to the eventual rebellion. The high number of incarcerated political prisoners was the result of the limited democratic space that meant little or no freedom of expression. The prolonged detainment of suspects without fair trial was a clear act of human rights violation on the part of the government. This was yet another aspect of the violation of civilian rights before the dawn of the uprising.

Clearly, the Syrian government was at fault for mistreating its own people right from the onset. Besides denying the prisoners their freedom to live freely among the people, it stifled the press' freedom to cover and report such incidences fully without restrictions. Studies that focus on media/press coverage in Muslim nations including [Lamer \(2016\)](#) and [Duffy and Maarouf \(2015\)](#) highlight the stringent directives that limit the freedom of expression not only for the common person but also to the entire media fraternity in most of the regions. According to Carlsson (2016), freedom of expression is a fundamental pillar that sustains social life. For society to grow, members must have the capabilities to contribute freely and equally to their wellbeing. Equal and unrestricted contribution essentially entails the freedom to express oneself generously without fear or intimidation. Moreover, the expression goes hand in hand with information. To express oneself reasonably one must obtain the relevant information first. In modern society, people depend on media outlets such as the press to acquire information, which enables them, contribute effectively to the development of society.

The Syrian authoritarian government did not condone such and made a point of filtering the information that reached the masses. Worse yet, it has continued to do the same throughout the course of the uprising.

Moving on, most studies published on this subject seem to isolate the issue of freedom of expression as the factor that mostly defines societies in these regions (Relly & Cuillier, 2010; Ghannam, 2011 and Allagui & Kuebler, 2011). According to Ghannam (2011), freedom of expression has definite implications on the well-being of the society as well as the individual. The Arab spring brought to the attention of the world the distasteful status of press freedom in the Arab states. According to Freedom House (2018), more than 14 journalists died in 2016 following the Syrian government retaliation on rebel groups through airstrikes. On all these occasions, the government failed to secure its sovereignty to provide protection to its citizens. This includes the pressmen who die in the line of duty. Press freedom was one of the major issues that the Syrian people asked the government to address during the protests. In their article of the post-Arab-spring Duffy and Maarouf (2015) reported significant differences in their comparative analysis of the poignant issue of press freedom in countries in and outside of the Arab region. While press freedom has increased significantly in the neighbouring states such as Jordan, Syria remains one of the most perilous environments for practicing journalists. President Bashar al-Assad's government and his allies, the ISIL and the local Kurdish militants have on different occasions kidnapped, captured, threatened, maimed or executed journalists.

Indiscriminate Use of Force on the Public

The Syrian government's tough stand on the uprising began officially in April 2011 and by the month of October; nearly 3,000 people had lost their lives (Santos et al., 2018). Recent reports suggest that the figure is almost hitting the half a million mark and is set to increase if the ongoing peace talks do not amount to much (Anderson, 2017). The President is hell-bent on holding on to power and has demonstrated his willingness to do everything it takes to achieve that objective, including destroying anything that stands on the way of that mission. His unregulated means of stifling expression and quelling of the protest has resulted in the wanton loss of death and destruction of property. In the process, the nation has experienced one of the highest rates of inflation due to the destruction of the community. The constant and persistent warring did not give much room for participation in any meaningful form of economic or social development. Erameh (2017) reported increased use of indiscriminate weapons such as barrel bombs dropped on very populated areas, with the objective to maximize the impact of the attacks more specifically, the government and its allies target social centers and institutions in populated areas such as schools, hospitals, and markets. Many children and women have lost their lives during those attacks as a result. In 2016 alone, the Syrian government and its allies dropped at least 12, 958 bombs in various parts of the nation (SNHR, 2017). In retaliation, the rebel groups have attacked regions under the government's direct rule with different kinds of criminal activities.)

Idris (2017) highlights the widespread attacks on school premises throughout the war putting the lives of innocent children and tutors at risk. In an attempt to put pressure on civilians, to stop the protests, the Syrian government has increasingly employed the tactic of directing its attacks on social institutions. The scholar reported that at present Syria is the country with the highest number of war attacks on civilian schools by almost half from 2011 to 2015. In October 2016, a government-orchestrated an attack on a school that left 35 dead people (6 teachers and 22 young learners). The attacks led to the destruction of educational structures rendering education provision a futile process (Turku, 2018). To date, the Syrian educational sector suffers from the destruction of institutions and the killing of children and their teachers. The stigma associated with it hampers the possibility of realigning the student to keep providing educational services in the midst of the turmoil.

Due to the ongoing brutalities, medical facilities served as people who sought medical attention for their injuries. The government and its Russian allies repeatedly attack clinics and hospitals in regions controlled by their foes intentionally (HRC, 2016). Reports by Amnesty International (2017) indicate that out of the 400 attacks on medical care institutions the Syrian government coordinated at least 90% of the attacks. Moreover, these attacks on the medical facilities resulted in the destruction of structures and the loss of valuable medical supplies and equipment. Worse yet, they put the lives of injured victims at risk due to the lack of medical attention. Many patients have succumbed to their conditions caused by the inaccessibility and availability of qualified medical personnel. For instance, in 2016 the airstrikes launched on a medical facility in the countryside of Aleppo, which destroyed building, and killed some of the people present instantly leading to its indefinite closure (HRC, 2016).

Other public areas were targeted by the warring factions including the Syrian government including the water sources. According to Idris (2017), the attacks on a water spring in Wadi Barada destroyed the site thereby denying the locals access to clean drinking water for the duration of more than a month. The source reveals that the government and its Russian allies coordinated multiple airstrikes on the site with the intention to deprive civilians resisting its rule of water. The attack led to a number of other attacks on water sources in government-controlled regions by rebel groups as retaliation. Using the same tactic, the combatants launched chemical weapons attacks on the Syrian people. According to Amnesty International (2017), chlorine-improvised weapons were unleashed on civilians in August 2016 leaving not less than 28 people injured in the process. Another deadly chemical attack reported by Idris (2017) in the following year killed at least 80 people

Settlements Siege and Hindering of Humanitarian Aid

All through post Arab, spring the Syrian government embarked on operations aimed at gaining control of the state. Most operations have focused on surrendering the population through tactics such as sieges (Hehir, 2014). In definition, siege entails the strategies of gaining control of a given location/area by surrounding it, stopping the provision of supplies ultimately compelling the inhabitants to submit or surrender. The government has employed the tactic on a number of regions in the larger Syrian community such as Daraya, Ghouta, Madaya, and Aleppo (Amnesty International, 2017). Civilians caught up in such circumstances suffer untold miseries including starvation and death due to injuries obtained from airstrikes. The acts of cruelty included sieges and denying civilians' rights and freedoms of choice to force them to submit to forceful subjugation by the government (Anderson, 2017). The Daraya scenario offers a good scenario that exemplifies the extent of sieges perpetrated by the Syrian government (Amnesty international, 2017). Government-allied forces denied UN aid entry into the then besieged area. Eventually, the besieged population had to surrender to the will of the government.

The impact of the rampant violation of human rights in the Syrian civil war is not limited to the civilians alone. Other parties including humanitarian aid personnel have had to bear the brunt in various ways (Noi, 2012). On several occasions, the militants have directed the full force of their attacks on the humanitarian aid providers with the aim of denying the local people the much-needed aid (Bhardwaj, 2012). Often, these attacks culminated in the death of both the humanitarian workers and the civilians in a particular area. Furthermore, the attacks prevented people from accessing essential charitable aid.

Torture, Unlawful Killings, Unfair Trials and Enforced Disappearances

Numerous studies show that the government has direct involvement in the violation of human rights (Bhardwaj, 2012). The source reveals that most of the atrocities perpetrated by the rebel groups are in retaliation to similar attacks by the government and its allies. The government has obstinately ignored the sufferings of its people and opted to serve the personal interest of a few individuals keen to see that they remain in power despite the massive outcry for their resignation. Malashenko (2013) blames the persistent insolence portrayed by the Syrian president on the Russian factor. Russia has influenced the country by joining the conflict and aiding the government in its mission to suppress the uprising. Since the start of the uprising, thousands of Syrian citizens opposed to the government have disappeared. At the same time, the government has subjected tens of thousands of its people to unlawful detention with no hope for a fair trial. Relatives of the victims have suffered the trauma of not knowing the whereabouts of their loved ones (Gearty, 2016). According to Idris (2017), victims of enforced disappearance and unlawful incarceration include activists and political opposition leaders. Amnesty International (2017) reports the detention of Khalil Ma'touq a prolific human rights barrister. The lawyer was reported lost in October 2012 but is assumed to be in government custody after released detainees reported sighting him in the detention camps.

Bidinger et al (2014) highlighted the rampant mistreatment of detainees in Syria by the government. According to the scholars, the government through its intelligence and security torture and maltreat people in detention. Some of the people detained include children, women and even the elderly. Detainees face maltreatment from the authorities in the forms of rape, prolonged suspension, executions and sometimes death through beating (Bidinger et al., 2014). Idris (2017) reports that more than 17, 500 cases of deaths among prisoners in Syria, which was a result of torture by government security forces. Reports have also demonstrated on the rigorous interrogation and torture process that detainees endure the world's most deadly detention facilities (Amnesty International, 2016). The reports illustrate the government's coldness to the plight of its people whom it subjects to indescribable misery in the detention facilities. Worse still, the government uses the evidence obtained through the confession extracted during torture to convict suspects undergoing trial.

The discussion of the elements of human rights violation in any society is not complete without the description of the sexual violence committed against civilians. Unknown to most people, it is not only women and young girls that suffer sexual violence. However, the latter group bears the most brunt. Sexual violence is one of the most used weapons in the battle in Syria, by the warring force (Banwell, 2018). In Syria, women and young girls have been raped repeatedly in the retaliatory attacks that pit the government and rebel forces. The local citizens including raped victims have a quite negative perception about the war and limited space in the society. Furthermore, they suffer marriage challenges including ridicule, divorce, and inability to find a marriage partner.

Findings and Discussion

The present section will attempt to bring the research problem into a better perspective in a bid to derive conclusive remarks from the review. The discussion sought to elaborate on the established evidence of the violation of human rights in the Syrian upheavals until now. Various studies presented in our literature review condemn the role of the warring factions not only because of the destabilization of the Syrian community but also because of the destruction of the fabric of the society through damaging of its longstanding values and principles. One of the most important components of a society is the richness and uniqueness of its social life according to Klausen (2015). In the last seven years, the uprising that resulted from the Arab spring has reduced Syria to a battlefield society rather than guide it into an era of change and with a broadened democratic space. Within this period, civilians have undergone horrid experiences, which often culminated into ghastly injuries or even death.

Since the beginning of the uprising, the Syrian community decried the limiting and stringent legislation that infringed their rights and freedom to engage in matters that affected their nation. In particular, the authoritarian rule of President Bashar al Assad restricted the freedom of expression of civilians and more so, the press. Throughout the existence of the uprising, many people have endured prolonged detention, torture and even death due to their involvement in various types of activism. [Freedom House \(2018\)](#) reported that at least 14 journalists died in 2016 alone. Undoubtedly, this is only a small fraction of the total number of press personality deaths since the beginning of the unrest. At the same time, dozens of other vocal scholars and activists have disappeared mysteriously over the course of the unrest. The Syrian government has established about four distinct detention centers across the state where it conducts the interrogation and torture of the rebels it kidnaps or arrests. A fair trial is a rare process and the study conducted by [Bennis et al. \(2018\)](#) confirms this fact.

Moving on, the use of unnecessary force on civilians to compel them to submit to the authoritarian administration is a common feature of the Syrian upheaval. The government and its allies continue to use barrel bombs on various civilian settlements throughout the land show its callousness in handling the issue. [Idris \(2017\)](#) reports that the government dropped more than 12,000-barrel bombs in 2016 killing and injuring thousands of civilians on various occasions. Over time, the government has assumed the tendency to target specific areas for action. The strategy helps it attack regions or locations with a significant population of vulnerable groups such as children, women, and the elderly. Some of the most targeted areas as revealed in the reviews include public markets, educational institutions, medical facilities as well as churches ([HRC, 2016](#)). [Amnesty International \(2017\)](#) and [SNHR \(2017\)](#) have reported considerable destruction of schools and the killing of teachers and their students through airstrikes and barrel bombing without even warning. Medical facilities and water resources across the country have suffered similar attacks rendering them unsuitable for use. In turn, civilians continue to suffer from a lack of medical supply and qualified personnel.

The Syrian government's unwillingness to relent has seen it embark on a mission to bring the whole region under its control. Despite the obvious life-endangering risks experienced by civilians, the government has persistently used sieging tactics in order to bring rebelling regions into submission. The sieges cut off the supply of essential commodities leading to mass starvation and sometimes death. The move denies the people the freedom to choose which side of the divide they want to associate within the face of the unrest. More dangerously, thousands of women and young girls suffer sexual violence because of insecurity resulted from the frequent night raids on the opposing camps. Following the massive violation of human rights and the destruction of the infrastructure, almost all economic sectors have fallen. The educational and medical sectors have deteriorated, and the peace talks do not seem to offer much respite to the already dire conditions for the locals.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed at providing a comprehensive analysis of the humanitarian conditions in the Syrian crisis in the period of the post-Arab spring. Through a literature review analysis, the article sought to shed light on the humanitarian situation in Syria and the suffering of the people. The paper demonstrates that the Syrian crisis after the Arab spring is not well handled by the international community. Cases of sexual violence, murdering, imprisoning, and violations of human rights were documented. To this end, the paper concludes by calling policymakers and international players in the Syrian crisis to take corrective actions.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE STUDIES

Although our analysis provided evidence on the widespread violation of human rights in the Syria society and the social life, economic, political sectors have deteriorated and there exists a dire need to help the local population, our analysis was descriptive in its essence. Future studies should focus on identifying ways of reducing the impact of the war on the life of civilians. Further, future research should provide proper justification on why the intervention of the international coalition does not provide much assistance and why the peace talks have taken too long with no changes being made.

CO-AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

This paper is a scientific piece of work that was mainly carried out by the first author. Nevertheless, the co-authors closely supervised the work and contributed equally.

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