

OUR 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Our Syrian Archive, Yemeni Archive, Ukrainian Archive, Sudanese Archive and Rapid Response programmes including Iranian Archive collectively preserved and archived **13,756,317 new digital records**, identified 9,154 new sources, and published **20 investigations**.
- Syrian Archive and Ukrainian Archive submitted **40 dossiers** of open source information and evidence to various accountability mechanisms, official investigators and public authorities.
- Syrian Archive became a civil party to the criminal investigation into the 21 August, 2013, sarin attack on East and West Ghouta, along with the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, the Open Society Justice Initiative and Civil Rights Defenders. Following the filing of evidence and a criminal complaint prepared by Syrian Archive and partners, France issued **arrest warrants** for Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, his brother Maher al-Assad, and two other senior Syrian officials, over the use of banned chemical weapons against civilians in Ghouta in August 2013. Issuing an arrest warrant for a sitting head of state was a historic decision and speaks to the strength of the evidence compiled for the case.
- Our Rapid Response team worked on establishing an [Iranian Archive](#) in collaboration with a coalition consisting of the Atlantic Council, the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, the Promise Institute for Human Rights at the UCLA School of Law, Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps, the Human Rights Center at the UC Berkeley School of Law, and the Azadi Archive, supported by Civil Rights Defenders, to collect and preserve open source content documenting human rights violations related to Iran for use in justice and accountability efforts.
- Following the new wave of violence in Sudan starting April 2023, Sudanese Archive shifted its focus from documenting violence against protestors to monitoring war. Following increased efforts to protect and preserve documentation which is at greater risk of being destroyed or lost, Sudanese Archive now has over **700,000 archived records**.
- Mnemonic trained over **140 individuals**, primarily journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders, on open source investigation techniques, how to use digital information as legal evidence and how to stay safe while doing research.
- Our Content Moderation Policy and Advocacy team engaged at international and EU levels with social media platforms, regulators and decision makers on the negative impact of contemporary content moderation policies. We co-launched the [#StopSilencingPalestine campaign](#) alongside 18 other civil society organisations, provided input to the [Oversight Board](#) and co-authored a [blog](#)

- [post](#) alongside 7amleh - The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media on the real world impact of X (formerly Twitter) policies on human rights investigations in Syria and Palestine. We also contributed to the production of a [documentary](#) by the BBC about social media takedowns where we provided statistics on content removals on Syria, Sudan and Ukraine, aiming to raise awareness about this issue.
- Our work was cited by numerous prominent media outlets, with over **140 articles** featuring our achievements. For more, please see [Mnemonic Press](#), [Syrian Archive Press](#), [Ukrainian Archive Press](#), [Yemeni Archive Press](#) and [Sudanese Archive Press](#).
- Mnemonic launched its **Research Handbook** in both English and Arabic. This sets out clear practices, standards and policies for core research activities on an organisation-wide basis. The Handbook is accompanied by 30 annexes, including templates, handouts, worksheets and other resources to facilitate and coordinate researchers' work. This version of the Handbook has been reviewed topic-by-topic through nine internal workshops with the Mnemonic team and in full by 22 external partners. As part of this process, Mnemonic's legal and research team hosted a closed session review of the draft Handbook at the 12th Edition of RightsCon.
- Our Tech Team developed a roadmap for 2024-2025, performed a security audit on Elfehrest – Mnemonic's media annotation platform that facilitates access to the archives – and provided secure access to materials on Elfehrest for new external organisations, mainly from Ukraine and Yemen.
- Mnemonic established a collaboration with Relativity's [Justice for Change](#) programme to expand partnerships with experts, supporting our work in organising and cataloguing documents for legal accountability work on Syria.
- Ukrainian Archive and the Ukraine 5AM Coalition jointly convened a roundtable discussion, General Observation Tagging Schema and Documentation of International Crimes in Ukraine. The event provided an overview of Mnemonic's tagging schema and its role in supporting large-scale data analysis, focusing on its implementation and benefits in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine and beyond.
- Our staff participated in capacity-building activities in addition to specific training within each archival Programme. These included a cybersecurity training organised and led by internal team members; advocacy through International Human Rights Mechanisms organised by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; training on ammunition types, projectiles, and battle damage assessment led by external experts; forensic investigation led by the Argentine Forensic Anthropology team; training in interviewing skills by the Institute for International Criminal Investigation; training on principle of international law and documentation of crimes by the Syrian Centre for Legal Studies and Research; and research and journalism training by Danwatch.