

## Hunting Humans

5307 citizen have been killed by the snipers  
of the Syrian regime and its militias

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### **Executive Summary**

When a sniper decides to kill a victim, he observes him very closely through the scope which enables him to identify the target before killing him. Thus, sniping is very similar to execution as the sniper knows exactly whom he is going to kill with the only difference being that the sniper, usually, doesn't know or care about the victim's charges or distinguish between a child, elder, woman, or even handicapped.

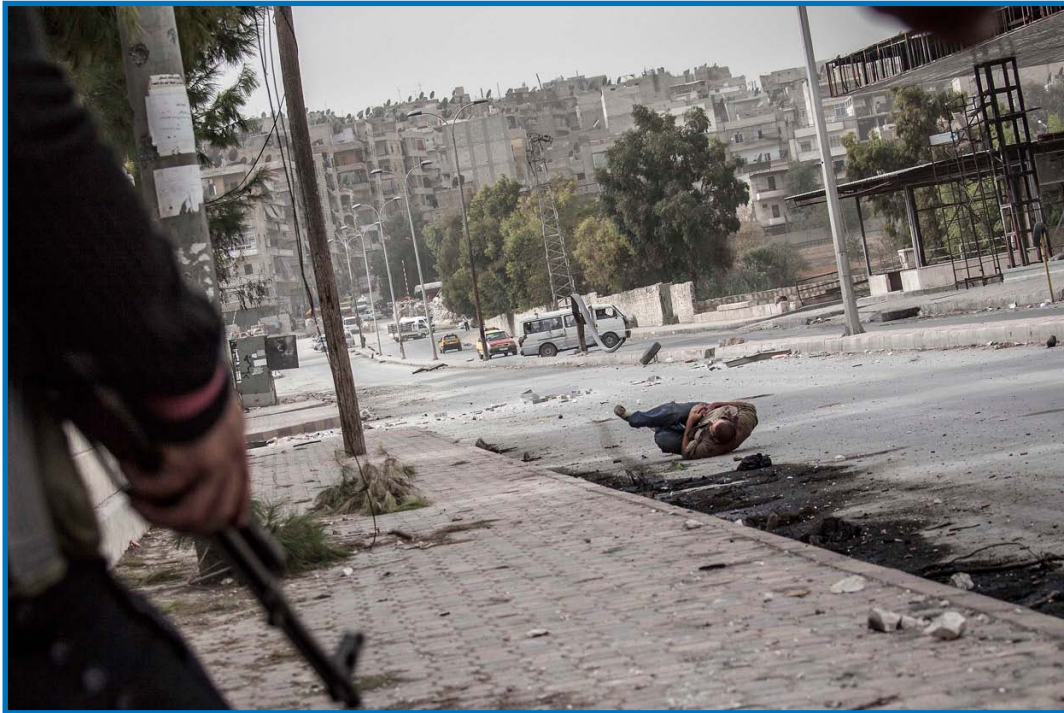
Typically, snipers choose sites that overlook roads and cities so he can observe and obstruct the different aspects of day-to-day life and be able to kill the highest possible number of civilians and rebels inside cities. Furthermore, snipers chose usually religious, educational, or public buildings, such as mosques, schools, hospitals, administrative buildings and residential towers, for its distinguishable location.

The Syrian regime resorted to sniping as a method to oppress demonstrations and protests at the early stages of the Syrian revolution. Many security personnel were used at first as snipers before it was used on a wider scale. The phrase "watch out, there is a sniper" became very common in the streets of Syria. The Syrian regime uses sniping as a method to enforce curfews or close specific streets and location on Fridays.

The Syrian regime used only Syrian snipers until June 2012. However, with the Syrian revolution turning into an armed con-

flict and the growing clashes in the cities, the Syrian regime relied more heavily on “foreign” Shiite Iraqi, Iranian, and Lebanese snipers. For more details, please see SNHR’s report “Fighting Shiite Militias in Syria”.

In 2013, we recorded the use of new sniping weapons starting with 6 mm to 12,7 mm some of which were manufactured in Belgium or manufactured or tweaked in Iran. Some of the rebels published videos of such weapons after they managed to take over some of the Syrian regime military sites.



**The following are some of the most known sites for snipers that were used to kill the highest number of civilians**

7 April tower in Damascus – Az-Zabltny.

Bostan Al-Qaser, Al-Qasar Al-Baladi, and Al-Itha’a military checkpoints in Aleppo.

Al-Ghardiniya tower in Homs.

The National Hospital building in Daraa.

The Union building in Hama.

As-Siyasiya tower in Der Ezzor.

Through studying pictures and video footages of people who were injured by snipers, SNHR was able to note some “characteristics” of the Syrian regime snipers, type of victims they tend to target, or the injuries they intend to cause. For instance, some of them intend to injure women in sensitive areas; SNHR documented the killing of 641 by snipers which we mentioned in a report we published about wounded in Syria.

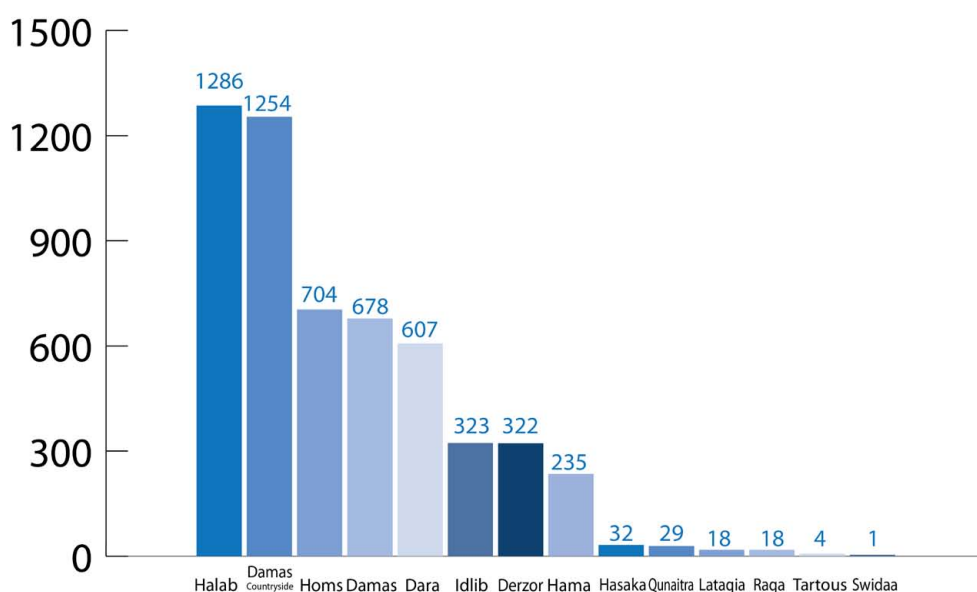
Fadel Abdulghani, founder and head of SNHR, says: *“anyone who contributed in selling sniping weapons to the Syrian regime and its militias is an actual partner in the crime of murder, which is classified as a crime against humanity, especially that the allies of the Syrian regime are completely aware that these weapons are being used to perpetrate such crimes.”*

The methodology of this report depends only on mentioning the death toll of civilian victims who were killed by snipers. Although SNHR works also on documenting victims among rebels, it doesn't record the military victims who fight for the Syrian regime due to the fact that there are no specific mechanisms to do so in light of the Syrian regime's pursuit of our activists. For more information about SNHR methodology.

## Sniping victims

### A. The Syrian regime

SNHR documented the killing of no less than 5307 civilians, with name, picture, place, and date, by the snipers of the Syrian regime and its militias across Syria including 518 children and 641 women. Regional distribution of victim who were killed by snipers



It should be noted that many snipers force the residents and activist to stay away from the victims after killing him by targeting anyone who tries to get the dead body or the injured. SNHR recorded incidents where dead bodies stayed for days because no one was able to get near it. Also, we documented cases where the paramedic was killed while he was trying to pull or save the victim. This

horribly deepens the suffering of the victims' families who see their beloved one laying on the ground without being able to save or bury him.

This huge number of victims who were killed by snipers indicates that this is based on a systemic widespread state's policy. These crimes can be classified openly as crimes against humanity that must be stopped and the individuals responsible for it must be held accountable. The continuance of these crimes will undoubtedly result in an unpredictable extreme response by the victims' families and friends.

### **B. ISIS**

ISIS killed at least eight civilians at least; five of whom were children while three were women.

### **C. Armed opposition**

The armed opposition never adopted this method to kill civilians. We didn't document any such killings. This doesn't mean that the armed opposition were involved in any cases of extrajudicial killings. Therefore, we always note that what we document is the minimum.

### **Recommendations**

The United Nations should hold anyone involved in these crimes, which can be openly classified as crimes against humanity, accountable. Furthermore, a special court should be formed for this purpose. The international community should take action to protect the Syrian civilians in light of the Security Council's inability to end these crimes.

Russia and Iran should stop supplying the Syrian regime with weapons which is a direct involvement in these crimes.

### **Appendixes and Attachment**

Video footage of a Syrian regime sniper in Damascus countryside – Doma

Video footage showing a Syrian regime sniper shooting from a minaret in Aleppo countryside – Izaz

Video footage showing a sniper stationing in the surroundings of Al-Jalaa square in Damascus countryside – Qatana

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on Ugariet School in Homs – Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on a school in Homs – Al-Khaldiya neighborhood.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on The Qar School in Homs – Ashira neighborhood.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on a minaret in Daraa – Al-Msiefra city.

Video footage showing Syrian regime snipers on the water tower in Damascus countryside – Saqba city.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on the Umayyad Mosque minaret in Aleppo.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on Qal't Homs.

Video footage showing a sniper stationing on the engineers buildings in Homs

Video footage showing a sniper from the Shiite militias shooting

Video footage showing a civilian being targeted by a sniper while he was aiding a victim

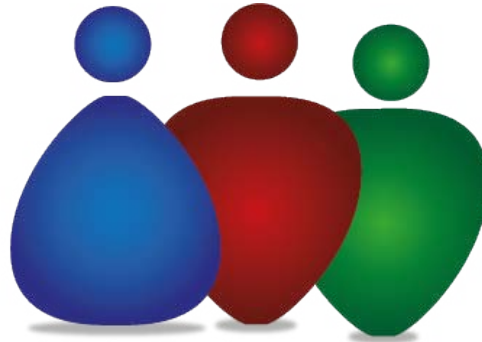
Video footage showing a victim in Al-Wa'r neighborhood. The video shows how anyone who is trying to aid the victims is being targeted.

Video footage showing the corpse of Mr, Isam Al-Abd who was targeted by a sniper from the Syrian regime. His dead body stayed in the streets for five days as the sniper was targeting anyone getting near it.

Video footage showing the corpse of Muthna Al-Ma'srani who was targeted by a sniper from the Syrian regime. His dead body stayed in the streets for three days as the sniper was targeting anyone getting near it.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks go to the victims' families, eyewitnesses, photographers, and media activists who helped SNHR finishing this report. Our most heartfelt condolences to the victims' families who lost their beloved ones.



Syrian Network  
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