

# 1014 Civilians Killed in April 2017

Including 719 at the hands of the  
Syrian-Russian Alliance

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, May 1, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



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### I. Introduction and Methodology

The report includes only the death toll of civilians that were killed by the main seven influential parties in Syria:

- Syrian regime forces (Army, Security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)
- Russian forces
- Self-management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)
- Extremist Islamic groups
- Armed opposition factions
- International coalition forces
- Other parties



## Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent human rights organization that is not affiliate of any political or partisan side. SNHR works on documenting human rights violations by the seven main parties in Syria.

We have been able to document the civilian victims who are being killed by the parties to the conflict to a great extent, whereas armed victims are divided into two categories:

**Victims from the armed opposition:** We face additional difficulties as many of those victims are killed on battlefronts and not inside cities. Also, we aren't able to obtain details such as names, pictures and other important details on account of the armed opposition forces' unwillingness to reveal such information for security concerns among other reasons. Therefore, the actual number of victims is much greater than what is being recorded.

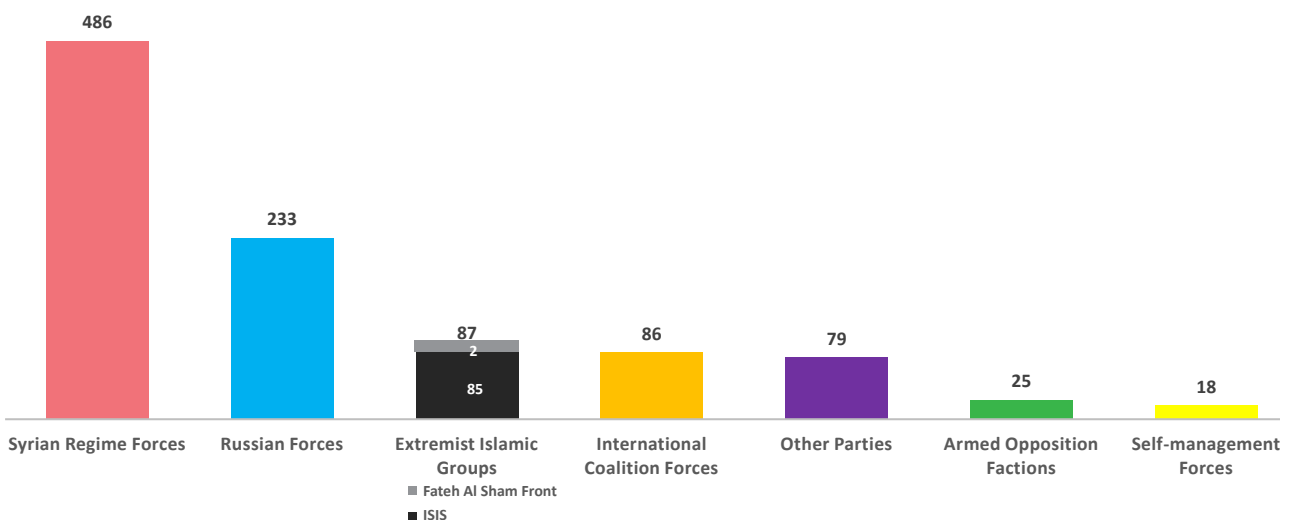
**Victims from Syrian regime forces and ISIS:** It is almost impossible to access information about this kind of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation. The Syrian government and ISIS don't publish, reveal, or record their victims. From our perspective, the statistics published by some groups on this category of victims are fictitious and are not based on any actual data.

Therefore, we are only going to include civilian victims who were killed by all parties and compare them

Please see SNHR [methodology](#) in documenting victims:

## II. Details

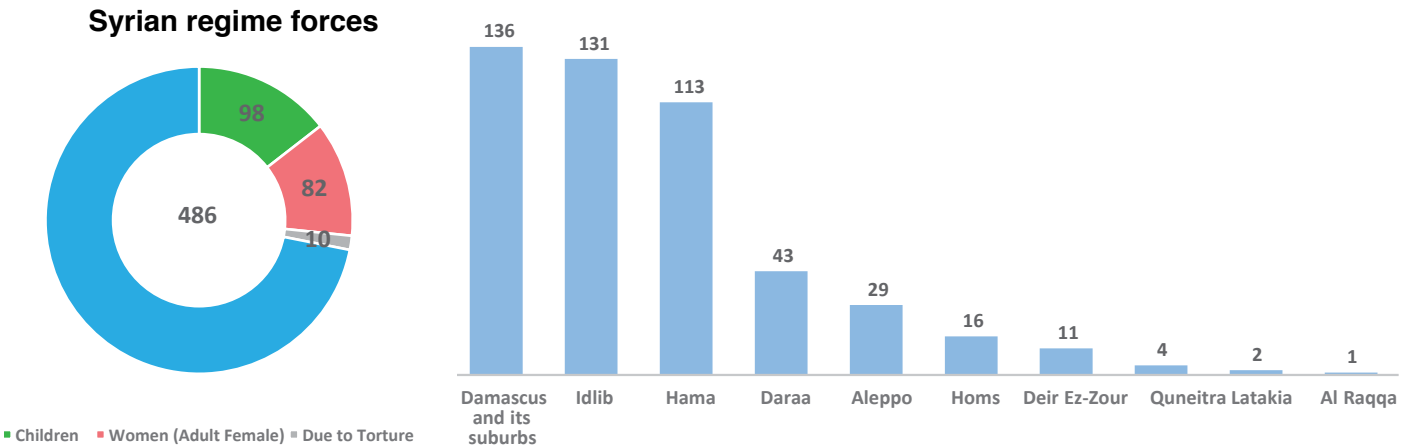
SNHR documented during the month of April 2017 the killing of 1014 civilians. Death toll is distributed by the influential party as follows:



### A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

SNHR documented the killing of 486 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces including 98 children (three children are killed every day on average) and 82 women (adult female). Additionally, among the victims were 10 civilians who died due to torture.

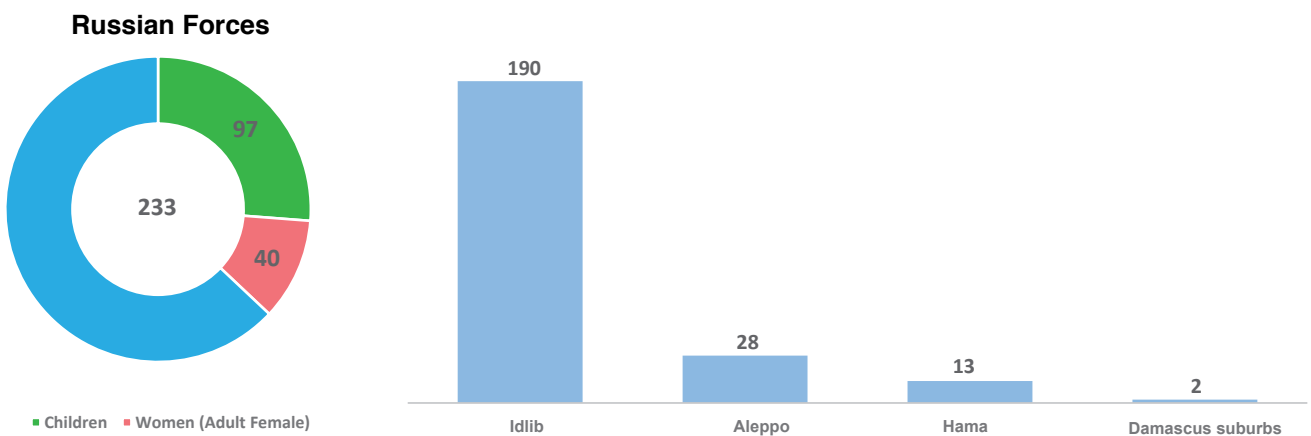
Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates



### B. Russian Forces

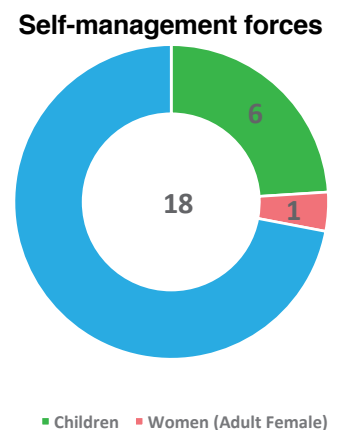
We documented the killing of 233 civilians including 97 children and 40 women in bombardments by forces we believe are Russian.

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates



### C. Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)

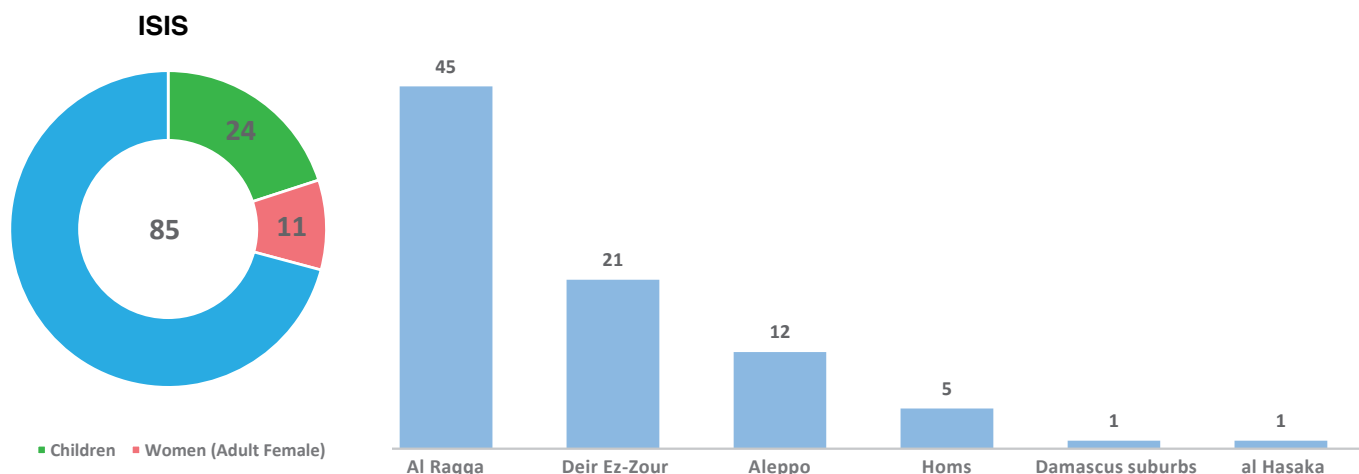
Killed 18 civilians including six children and one woman. The death toll is distributed across Syrian governorates as follows: Al Raqqa: 14, al Hasaka: 4



## D. Extremist Islamic groups: Killed 87 civilians as follows

- **ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State):** Killed 85 civilians including 24 children and 11 women.

Distribution of victims across governorates



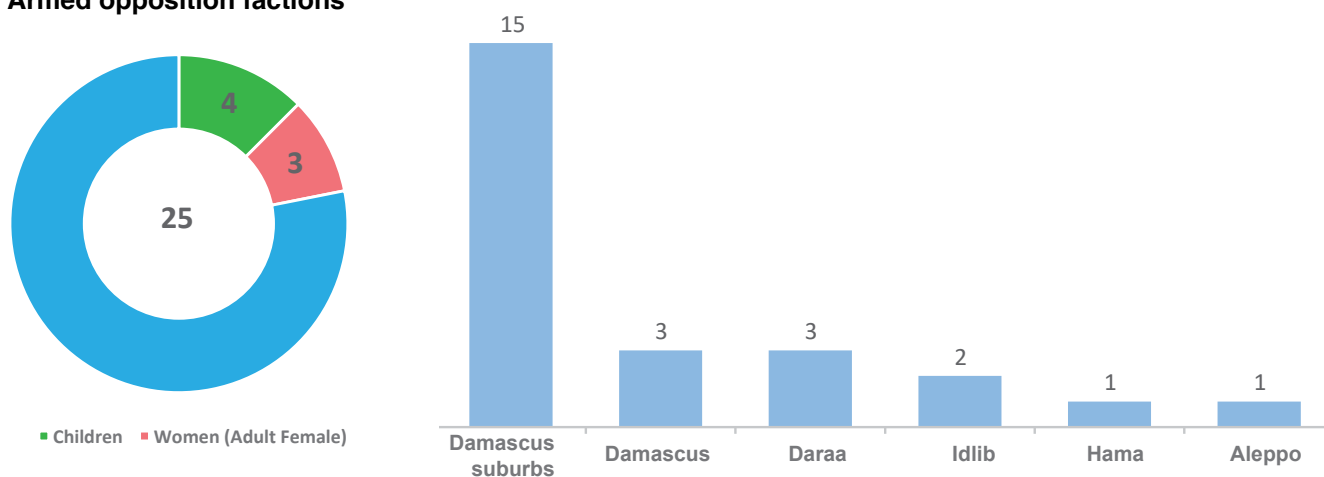
- **Fateh al Sham Front (formerly Al Nusra Front):** killed two civilians in Hama governorate

## E. Armed opposition factions

SNHR documented the killing of 25 civilians including four children and three women.

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates

### Armed opposition factions



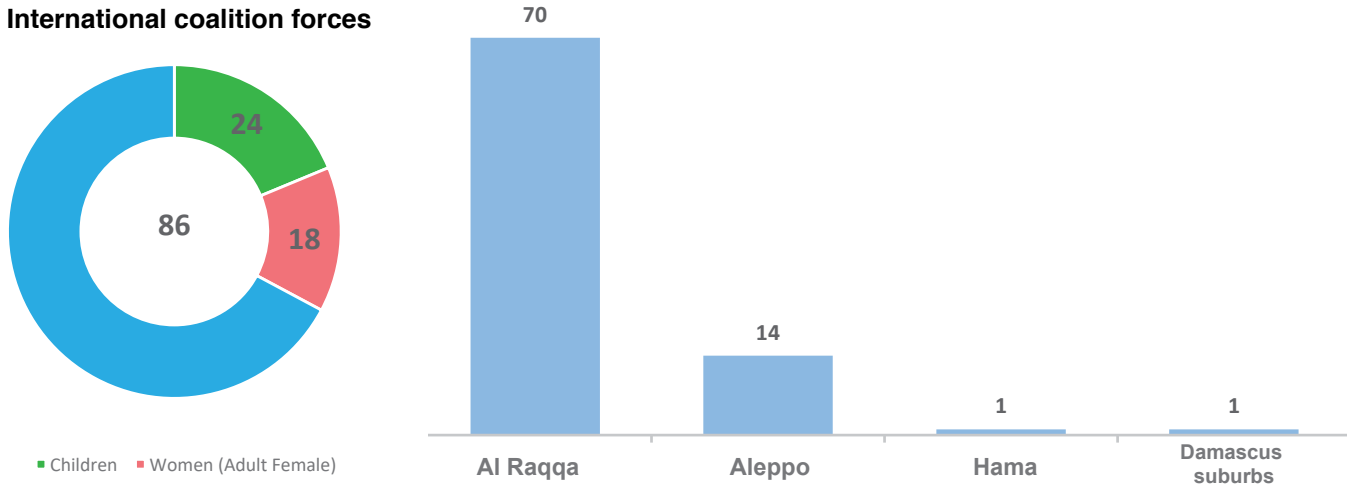
### F. International coalition forces:

We recorded the killing of 86 civilians including 24 children and 18 women by the bombardment of the international coalition forces warplanes.

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates

Al Raqqa: 70, Aleppo: 14, Hama: 1, Damascus suburbs: 1

International coalition forces

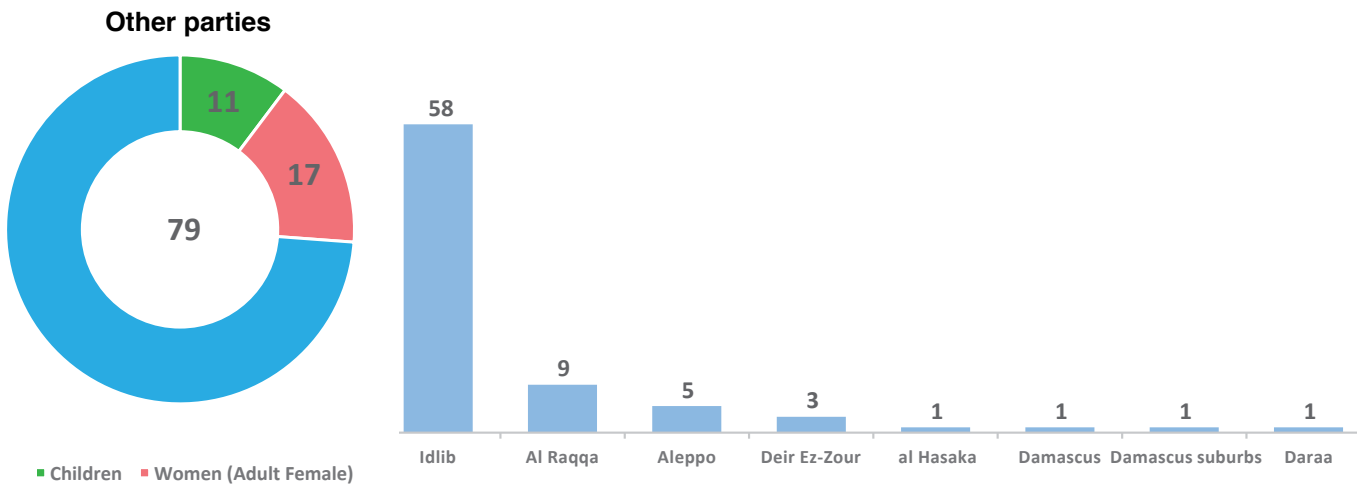


### G. Other parties

We documented the killing of 79 civilians including 11 children and 17 women by other parties. This category includes bombings that we couldn't identify the group behind them, bullets of unknown sources, landmines of unknown sources, drowning, victims who died in fires, and the indiscriminate bombardment incidents by the Turkish land and air forces, and victims killed by Jordanian and Lebanese forces.

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates:

Other parties



We would like to note that this what we were able to document and verify with full names, place, and time through our members who are spread across Syria. It also should be noted that there are many cases that we couldn't access and document especially in the event of massacres where towns are villages are enclosed and communication is cut off which is what the Syrian government repeatedly does every time. This suggests that the actual number of civilian deaths is greater. All of this is because the Syrian government bans any human rights organization from working on its grounds.

### III. Conclusions and Recommendations

1- SNHR affirms that the Syrian-Russian alliance forces have violated the rules of international human rights law which guarantee the right to life.

Evidences and proofs, according to hundreds of eyewitnesses' testimonies, indicate that 90% at least of the widespread and single attacks were directed against civilians and civilian facilities.

All of this discredits the Syrian government's claims that they are fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists"

SNHR notes that these incidents of killing constitute crimes against humanity where most of these cases involved the element of widespread or systematic attack against a group of civilian residents.

2- Kurdish Self-management forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that constitute war crimes.

3- Extremist Islamic groups have conducted extrajudicial killings as well that constitute war crimes.

4- Some of the armed opposition factions have conducted extrajudicial killings that constitute war crimes.

5- International Coalition forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that constitute war crimes.

### Condemnation and liability

Every internationally unlawful act committed by the state will entail a legal responsibility on that state. Equally, the customary international law states that the state is responsible for all the acts committed by the members of its security and military forces. Consequently, the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, that have been perpetrated by the members of its military and security forces.



Additionally, the Russian regime and all Shiite militias as well as ISIS are all foreign parties who were effectively involved in acts of killings and are all responsible legally and judicially in addition to the funders and supporters of the Syrian regime that is perpetrating massacres systemically and ceaselessly on a daily basis.

## Recommendations

The Security Council

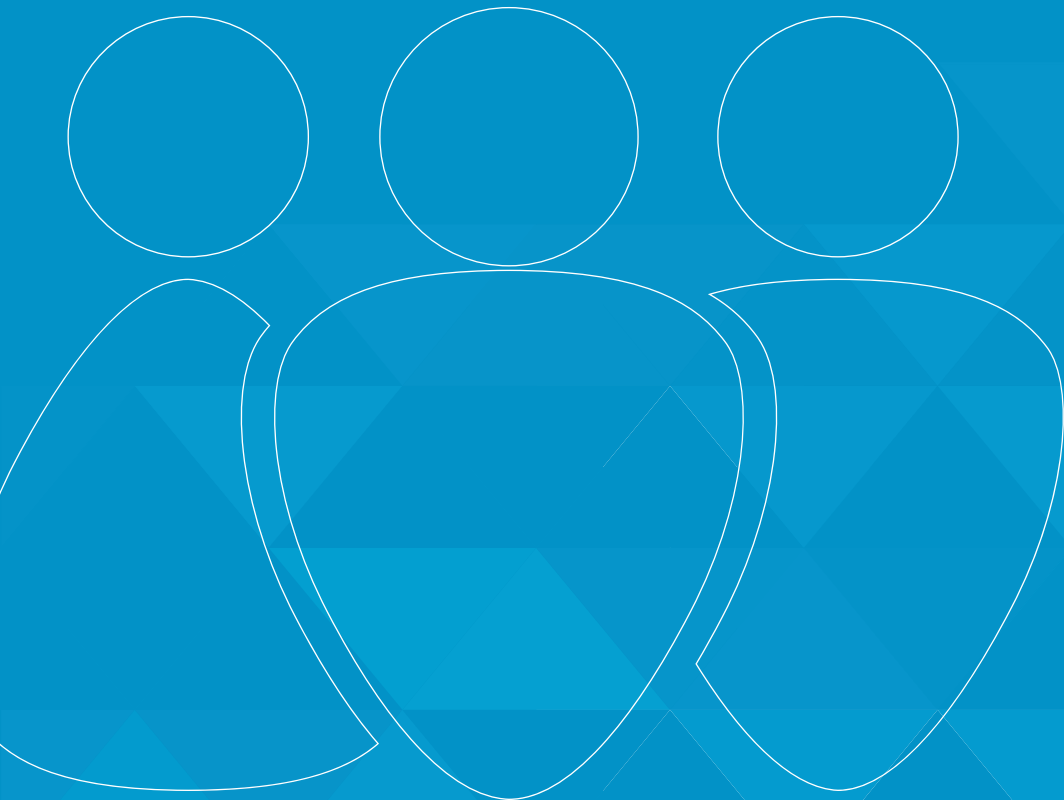
- The Security Council must take additional steps as it has been a year since Resolution 2139 was adopted and no pledges to stop the indiscriminate bombing, which causes daily destruction and killing, have been made.
- Apply pressure on the states that support Syrian regime forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the weaponry and expertise supply for Syrian regime forces as it has been proven that Syrian regime forces have been involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as states and individuals who are supplying extremist groups, the Democratic Union Party, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable.
- Instill security and peace in Syria and implement the principle of Responsibility to Protect in order to save the Syrians' lives, history, and culture, from being destroyed, stolen, and ruined.

## Acknowledgment

We gratefully thank all the families and local activists who majorly enriched this report with their contribution.







@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

