

# 16,913 Civilians Killed in 2016

Including 827 Civilians in  
December

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, January 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

The report includes only the death toll of civilians that were killed by the main six 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

## Report Methodology

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

We have been able to document the civilian victims who are being killed by the six main parties 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 or ISIS: It is almost impossible to access information



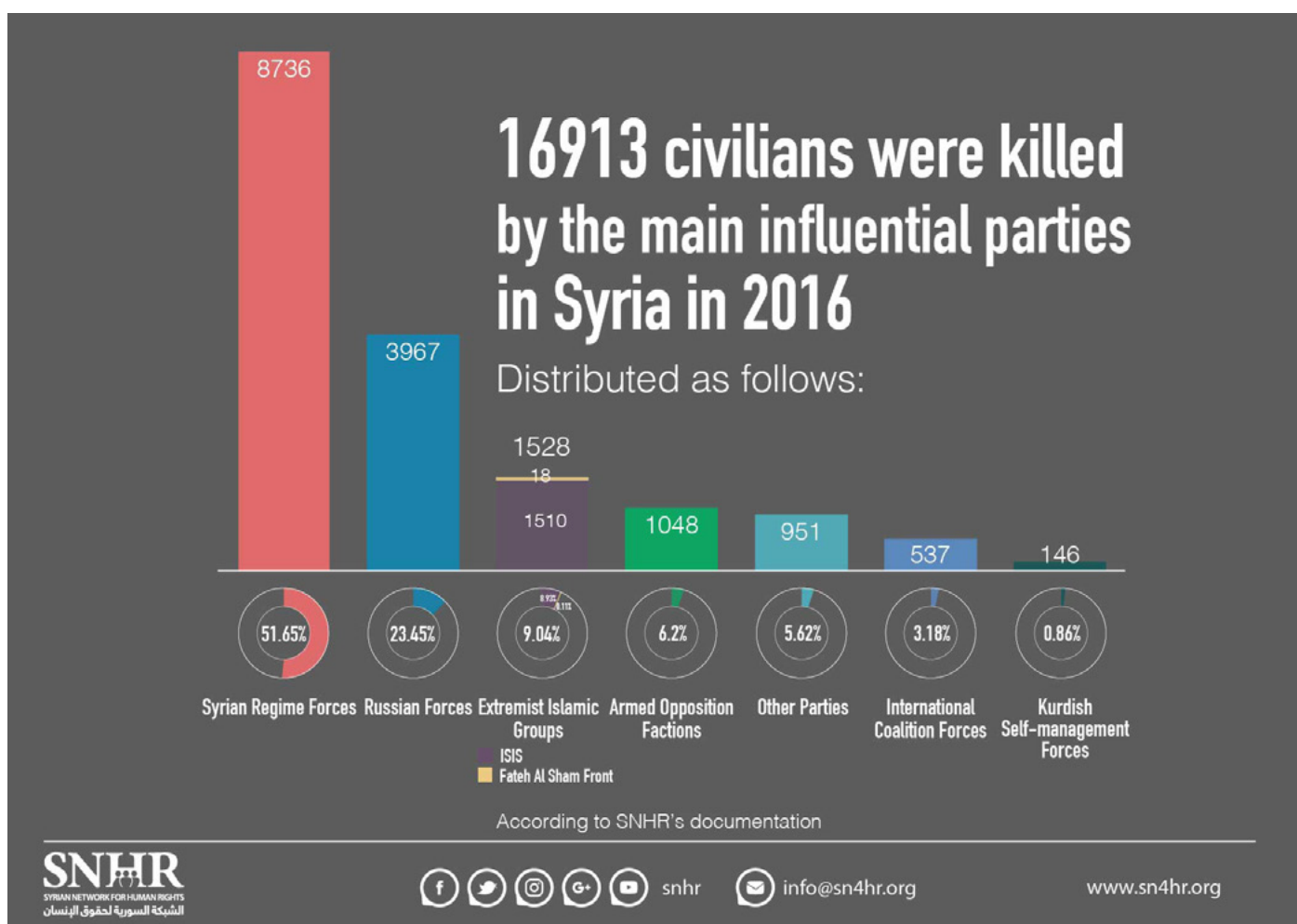
about this kind of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation. The Syrian government and ISIS don't publish, reveal, or record their victims. From our perspective, the statistics published by some groups on this category 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:

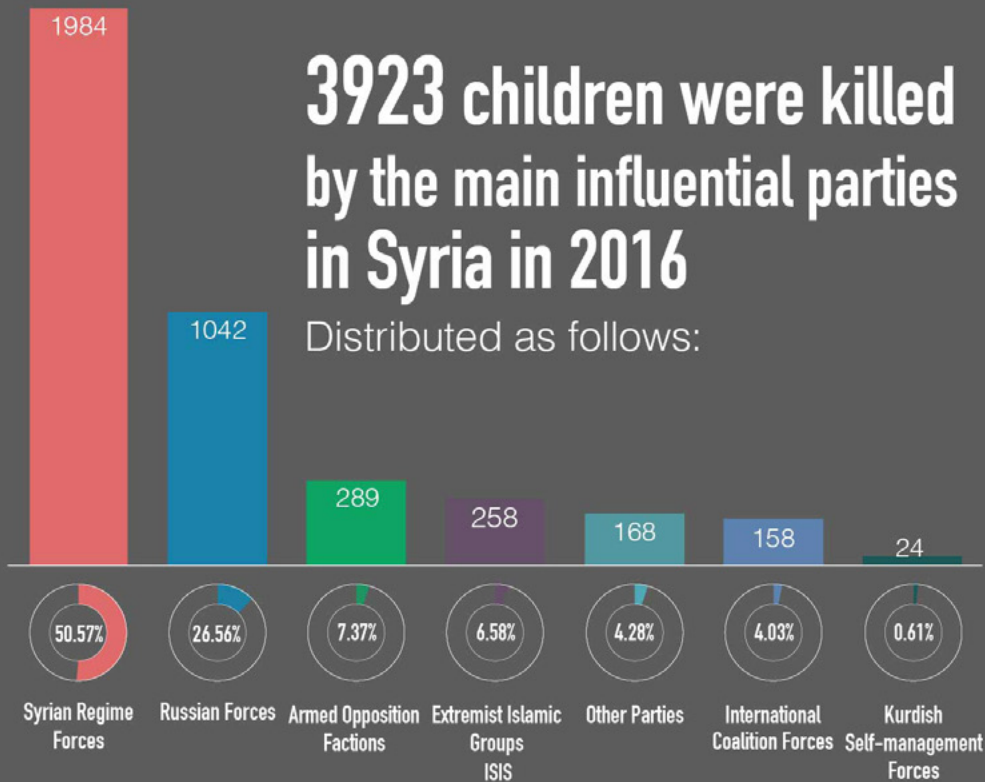
## II. Details

### A. Death toll of 2016



# 3923 children were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

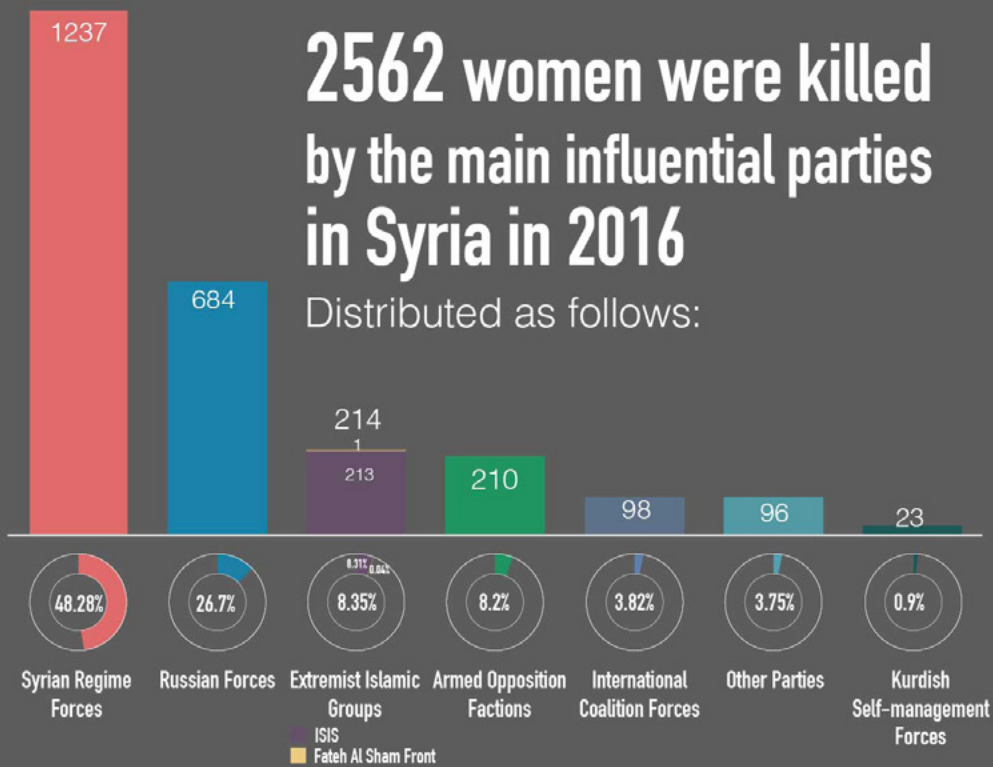
Distributed as follows:



According to SNHR's documentation

# 2562 women were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

Distributed as follows:



According to SNHR's documentation



**SNHR documented the killing of 16,913 civilians in 2016. Death toll is distributed as follows:**

**A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)**

SNHR documented the killing of 8736 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces including 1984 children (Six children are killed every day) and 1237 women. Additionally, among the victims were 447 individuals, including two children and seven women, who died due to torture.

The percentage of women and children victims is %37 which is an explicit indicator on the deliberate targeting of civilians by Syrian regime forces.

**B. Russian Forces**

We documented the killing of 3967 civilians including 1042 children and 684 women as a result of bombardment operations we believe were Russian

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

Killed 146 civilians including 24 children and 23 women. Also, among the victims were six individuals, including one woman, who died due to torture

**D. Extremist Islamic groups: We documented the killing of 1528 civilians including 258 children, 214 women, and 12 individuals who died due to torture as follows:**

- ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): Killed 1510 civilians including 258 children and 213 women. Also, among the victims were eight individuals who died due to torture.
- Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nussra Front): Killed 18 civilians including one woman. Additionally, among the victims were four individuals who died due to torture.

**E. Armed opposition factions**

SNHR documented the killing of 1048 civilians including 289 children and 210 women. Also, among the victims were 10 individuals, including one child, who died due to torture.

**F. International coalition forces:**

We recorded the killing of 537 civilians including 158 children and 98 women by the bombardment of the international coalition forces warplanes.



## G. Other parties

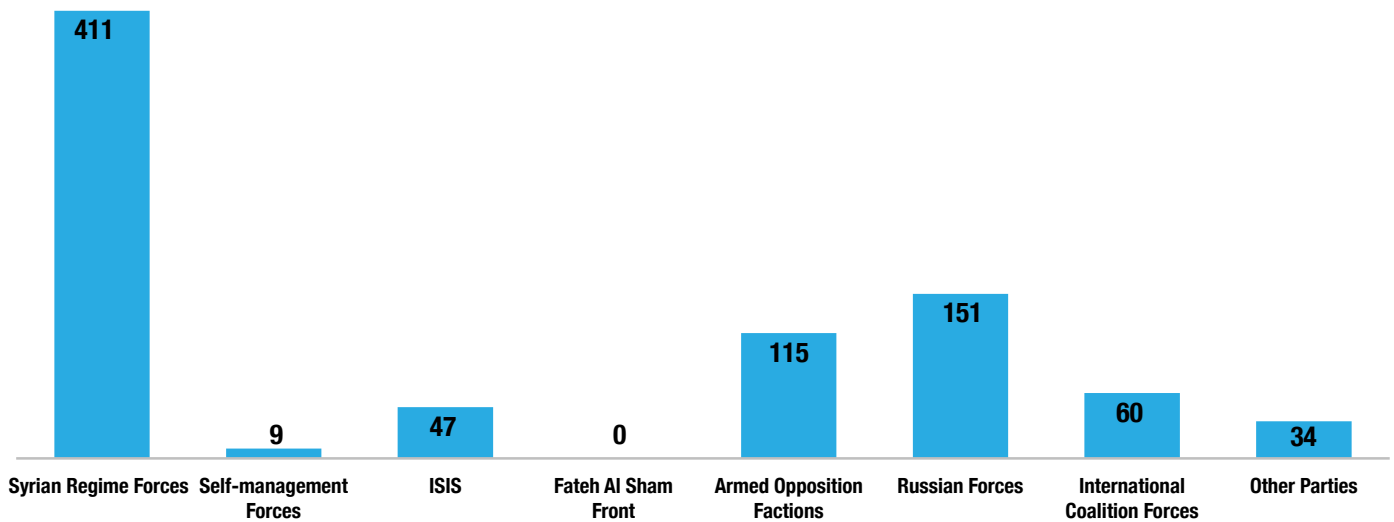
We documented the killing of 951 civilians including 168 children and 96 women at the hands of groups we couldn't identify at the time of this writing in addition to the victims who fell in the indiscriminate bombardment of the land and air Turkish forces. Also, among the victims was one civilian who died due to torture.

## B. Death toll of December 2016

SNHR documented during the month of December 2016 the killing of 827 civilians. Death toll is distributed by the influential party as follows:

### Death toll of December 2016

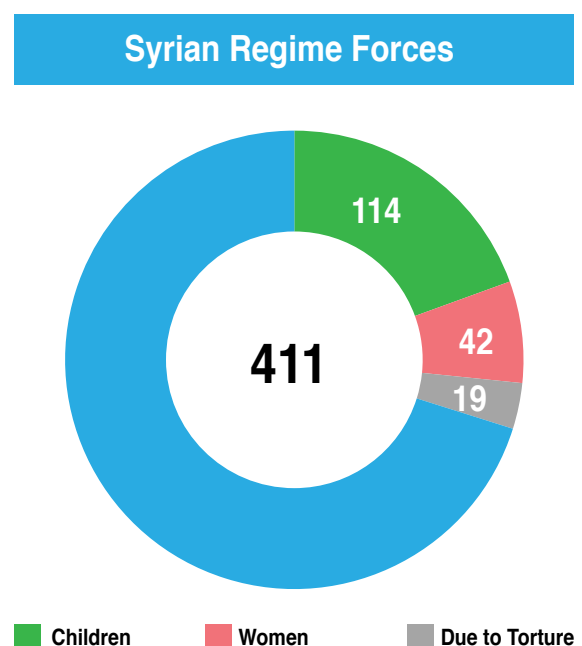
Total: 827

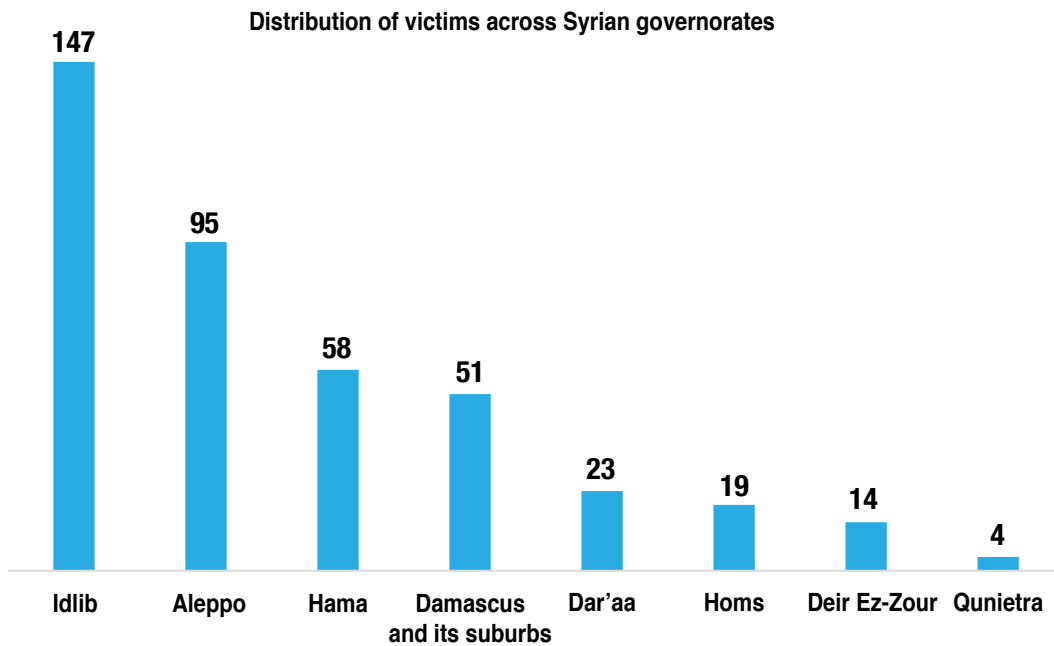


## A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

SNHR documented the killing of 411 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces including 114 children (four children are killed every day) and 42 women. Additionally, among the victims were 19 civilians who died due to torture.

The percentage of women and children victims is %38 which is an explicit indicator on the deliberate targeting of civilians by Syrian regime forces





## B. Russian Forces

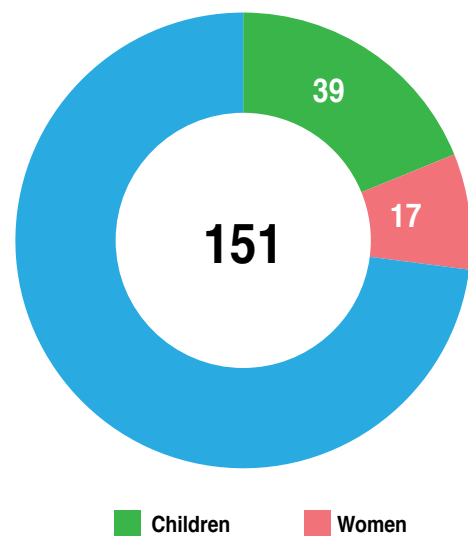
We documented the killing of 151 civilians including 39 children and 13 women in bombardment operations carried out by forces we believe are Russian

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorate

Aleppo: 124

Idlib: 27

### Armed Opposition Factions



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

Killed nine civilians including one woman

Distribution of victims across governorates

Aleppo: 5

Al Raqqa: 2

Deir Ez-Zour: 1

Other nationalities: 1



## D. Extremist Islamic groups

### • ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): Killed 47 civilians including seven children and five women

Distribution of victims across governorate

Deir Ez-Zour: 18

Al Raqqa: 15

Aleppo: 7

Homs: 6

Daraa: 1

## E. Armed opposition factions

SNHR documented the killing of 115 civilians including 27 children and 22 women. Also, among the victims were two civilians who died due to torture

Distribution of victims across governorate

Aleppo: 97

Idlib: 14

Daraa: 7

## F. International coalition forces:

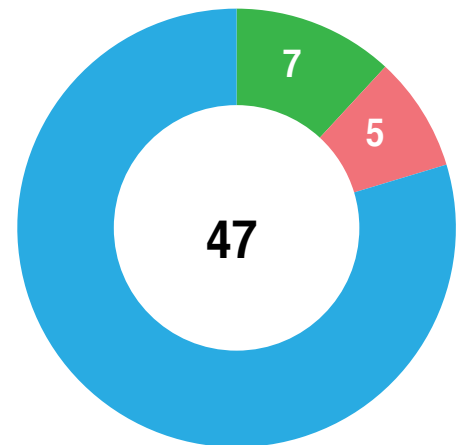
We recorded the killing of 60 civilians including 16 children and five women by the bombardment of the international coalition forces warplanes.

Distribution of victims across governorate

Aleppo: 39

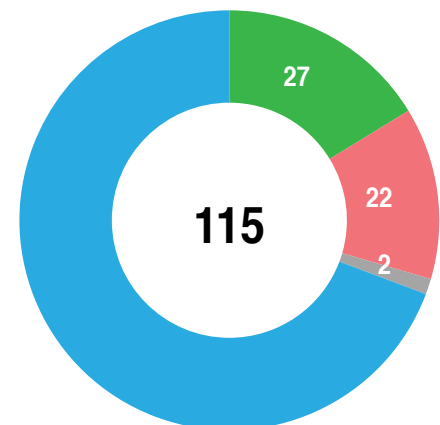
Al Raqqa: 21

### ISIS



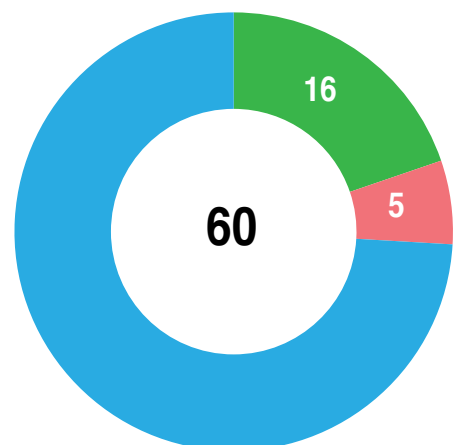
Children Women

### Armed Opposition Factions



Children Women Due to Torture

### International Coalition Forces



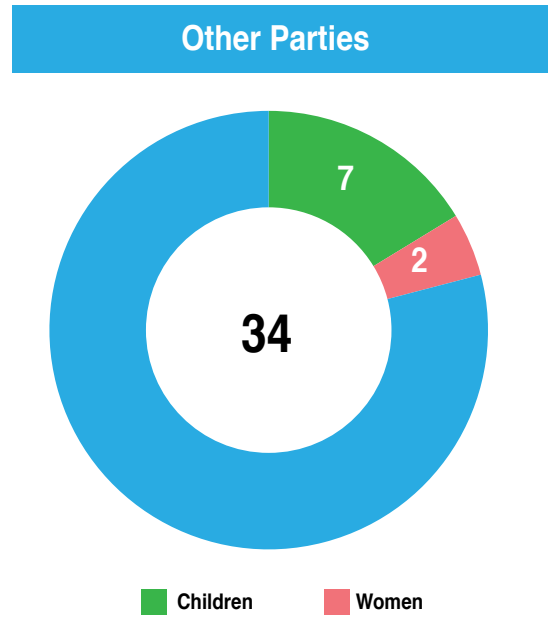
Children Women



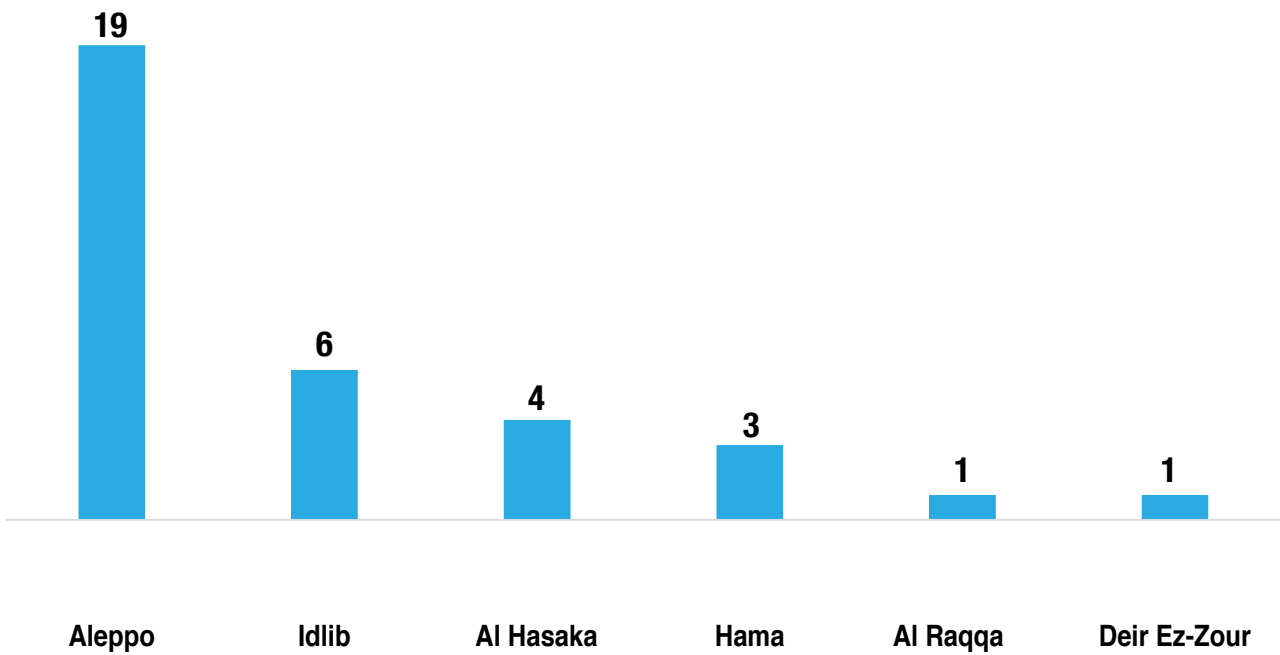


### G. Other parties

We documented the killing of 34 civilians including seven children and two women at the hands of groups we couldn't identify at the time of this writing in addition to the victims who fell in the indiscriminate bombardment of the Turkish land and air forces.



Distribution of victims across governorates:



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 Syrian regime forces and Russian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantees the right to life.

Evidences and proofs, according to hundreds of eyewitnesses' accounts, 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 groups of civilian residents.

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

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

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

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

#### **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 more than 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 government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the weaponry and expertise supply for government forces as it has been proven that government 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, thefted, and ruined.

## Acknowledgment

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





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