



19,192 Civilians Killed and 34,982 Others Arrested During the Months of Ramadan in the Last Ten Years

The Syrian Regime and Its Iranian and Russian Allies Are Responsible for 86% of the Total Killings

Wednesday 12 May 2021

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Content

I. Introduction and Methodology.....	2
II. 19,192 Civilians Killed and about 34,982 Syrian Citizens Arrested/ Detained During the Months of Ramadan in the Last Ten Years.....	3
III. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	13

I. Introduction and Methodology:

International law stipulates the need for respect of religious freedoms and rituals, with the month of Ramadan being a holy month for Muslims around the world. According to the Pew Research Center¹, Islam is the religion of the majority of the Syrian people, and it might be expected that all the parties to the conflict in Syria would respect the sanctity of the month of Ramadan and either reduce or suspend their violations during this period, most especially in the cases of the Syrian regime and its Russian allies, given their status as the parties responsible for by far the largest number of violations in Syria compared to the other parties. Despite this, however, our daily monitoring operations have shown that there is barely any difference between the days preceding the month of Ramadan (or Eid al Fitr), the days of Ramadan itself and any other days in terms of the frequency and extent of violations.

Whilst such violations should certainly be stopped in any month, we believe that the impact of bombardment, arrest, torture and various types of violations is more psychologically and emotionally traumatizing during a month considered sacred by the majority of the Syrian people; we have seen this through our conversations with dozens of families, survivors and witnesses of atrocities carried out during the months of Ramadan over the past ten years, who voiced their pain at such violations during this most holy time, with phrases such as “We are in Ramadan!” or “These are the days of Eid, and yet the bombardment, siege and arrest continue without mercy!”

Since 10 years have now passed since the outbreak of the popular uprising calling for freedom and democracy in March 2011, we believe it is fitting to summarize the most atrocious violations that the Syrian people have been subjected to during the months of Ramadan throughout this decade. In order to keep the length of the report to a manageable size, we limited the violations included to extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances. These violations are all included in the statistics catalogued on the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) database, whose vast size gives some sense, albeit in minimal terms, of the terrible magnitude of the violations that occurred during the months of Ramadan in the past ten years, which we again stress are not limited to these violations alone. During Ramadan in this decade, we have documented bombardment of civilian objects, including vital facilities, especially mosques, markets, schools and hospitals, as well as documenting forced displacements, siege, and other various types of violations. As noted above, however, here we address only the four main types of violations mentioned above. This report draws upon the SNHR team’s ongoing daily monitoring of news and developments, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011 to date. Through use of the SNHR’s extensive database, we can catalogue the victims who were killed and the cases of arrest according to the governorate where the incidents occurred, and also by the governorate from which the victims originally came. This report catalogues the death toll of victims and arrests/ enforced disappearances according to the governorate in which the incidents occurred, rather than by the governorate they originally came from. This method is used to identify the extent of the human losses and violence inflicted on residents in each of the Syrian governorates during the months of Ramadan.

Readers are welcome to find out more about SNHR’s [methodology](#).

The information contained in this report only represents the bare minimum of incidents which we have been able to document, and of the severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn’t include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

¹ Pew Research Center, Religious Affiliation, Syria.

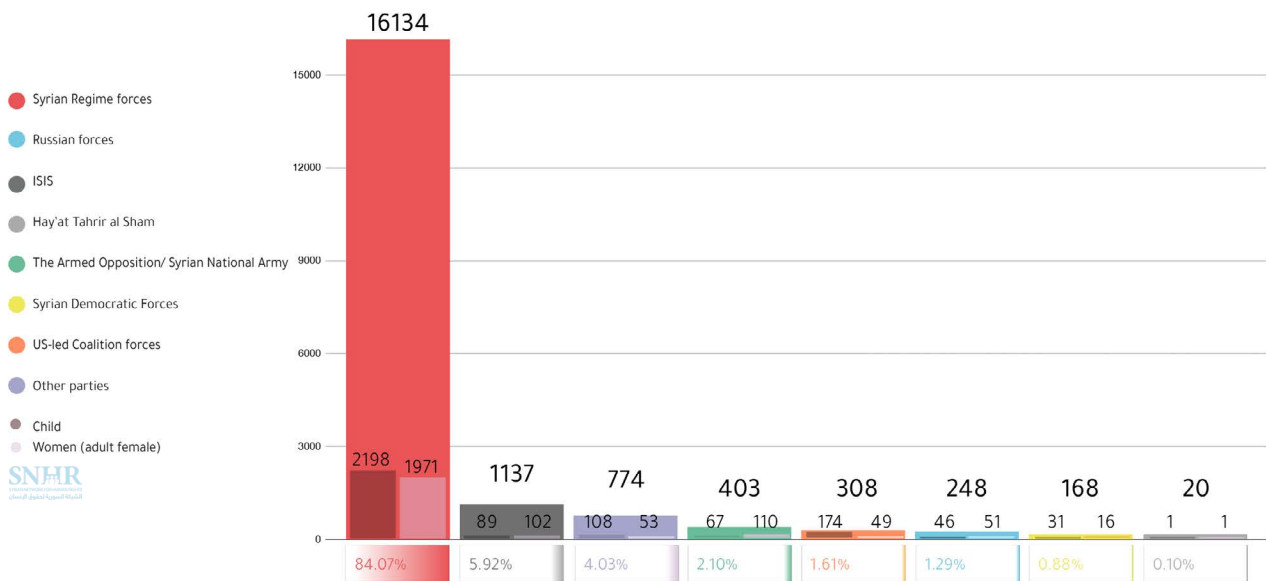
http://www.globalreligiousfutures.org/countries/syria/religious_demography/?affiliations_religion_id=0&affiliations_year=2010

II. 19,192 Civilians Killed and about 34,982 Syrian Citizens Arrested/ Detained During the Months of Ramadan in the Last Ten Years:

A. Extrajudicial Killing²:

1- Civilian death toll :

The SNHR documented the deaths of at least 19,192 civilians, including 2,714 children and 2,353 women (adult female), in the months of Ramadan, between 2011 and 2021, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:



Syrian regime forces³ : 16,134 civilians, including 2,198 children and 1,971 women.

Russian forces: 248 civilians, including 46 children and 51 women.

ISIS: 1,137 civilians, including 89 children and 102 women.

Hay'at Tahrir al Sham⁴ : 20 civilians, including one child and one woman.

The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army: 403 civilians, including 67 children and 110 women.

Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces: 168 civilians, including 31 children and 16 women.

US-led Coalition forces: 308 civilians, including 174 children and 49 women.

Other parties: 774 civilians, including 108 children and 53 women.

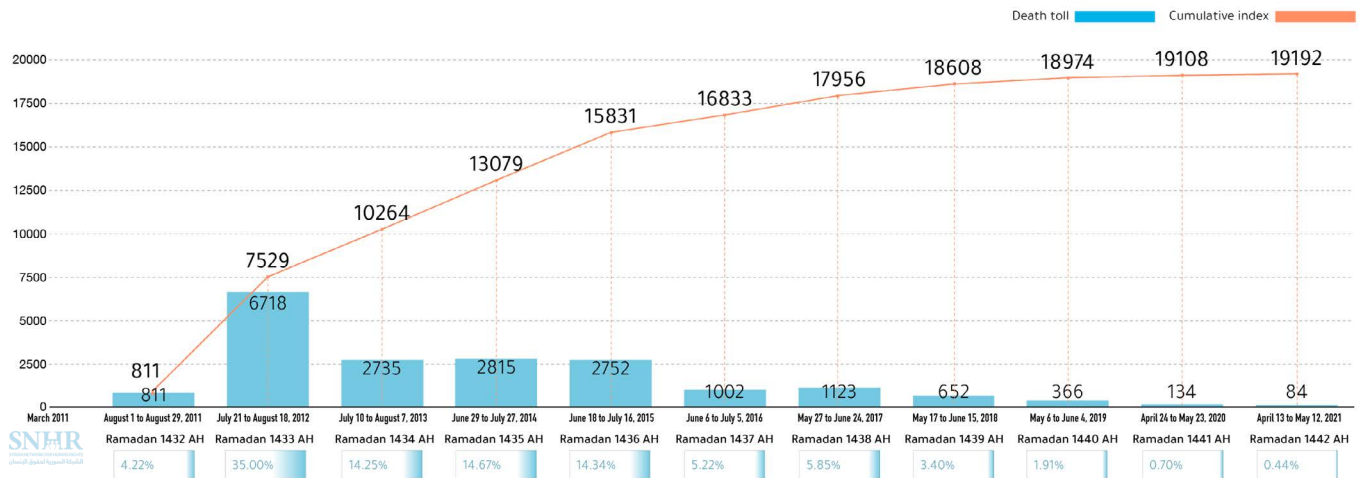
We note from the above chart that the Syrian regime has far surpassed all the other parties to the conflict being responsible for approximately 84% of the death toll among those whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan over the past ten years, followed by ISIS who were responsible for approximately 6%.

² Infographic of the reality of casualties during the months of Ramadan since the start of popular uprising in Syria in March 2011 to 2021

³ We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in turn under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria. Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

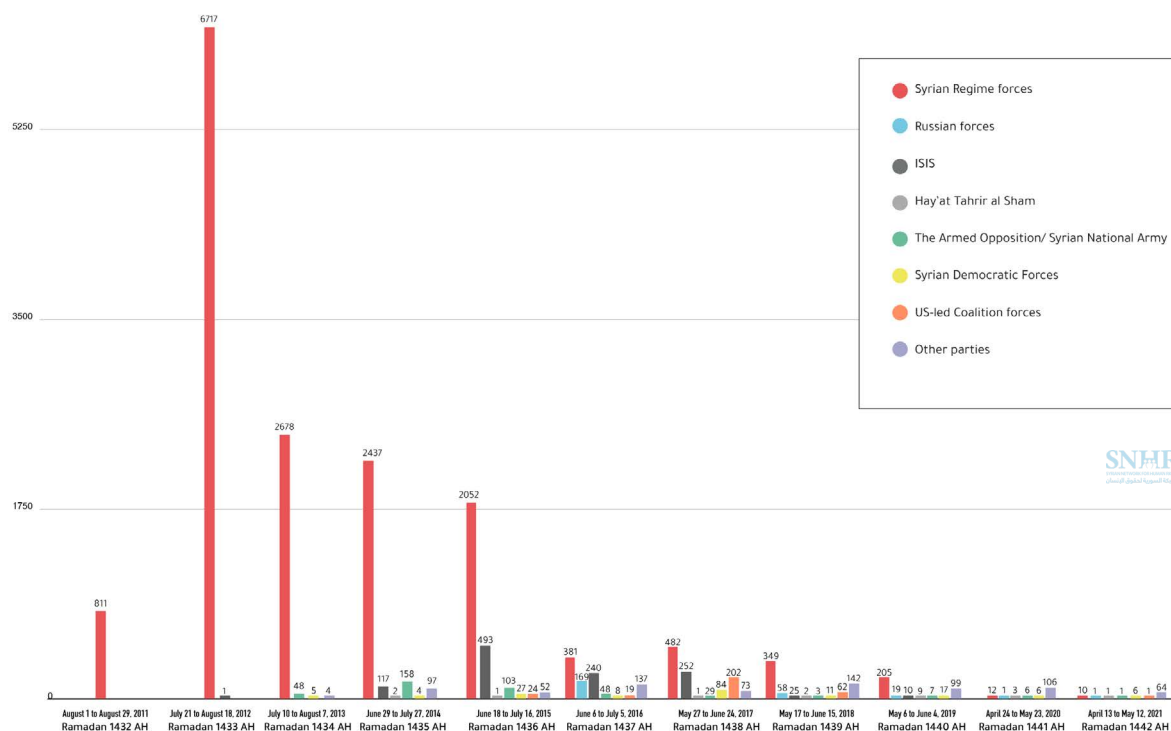
⁴ The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 was distributed by years as follows:



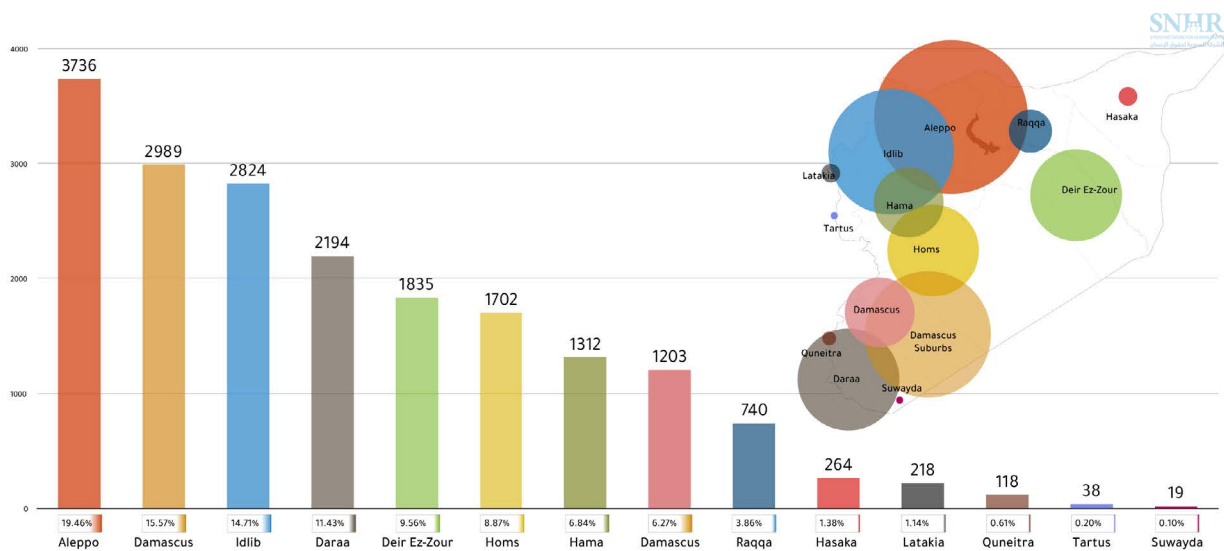
- Ramadan 1432 AH corresponding to August 1 to August 29, 2011: 811 civilians, including 112 children and 104 women.
- Ramadan 1433 AH corresponding to July 21 to August 18, 2012: 6,718 civilians, including 688 children and 597 women.
- Ramadan 1434 AH corresponding to July 10 to August 7, 2013: 2,735 civilians, including 436 children and 411 women.
- Ramadan 1435 AH corresponding to June 29 to July 27, 2014: 2,815 civilians, including 471 children and 451 women.
- Ramadan 1436 AH corresponding to June 18 to July 16, 2015: 2,752 civilians, including 386 children and 312 women.
- Ramadan 1437 AH corresponding to June 6 to July 5, 2016: 1,002 civilians, including 149 children and 135 women.
- Ramadan 1438 AH corresponding to May 27 to June 24, 2017: 1,123 civilians, including 254 children and 206 women.
- Ramadan 1439 AH corresponding to May 17 to June 15, 2018: 652 civilians, including 93 children and 79 women.
- Ramadan 1440 AH corresponding to May 6 to June 4, 2019: 366 civilians, including 86 children and 44 women.
- Ramadan 1441 AH corresponding to April 24 to May 23, 2020: 134 civilians, including 24 children and eight women.
- Ramadan 1442 AH corresponding to April 13 to May 12, 2021: 84 civilians, including 15 children and six women.

The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria was distributed by years as follows:



The above statistics show that the month of Ramadan 1433 AH corresponding to July 21 to August 18, 2012, saw the highest death toll documented during any individual Ramadan period in this decade, with 35% of the death toll of the victims whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan over the previous ten years. Although the International Red Cross declared in July 2012 that the uprising in Syria has turned into a non-international armed conflict, the Syrian regime was the sole perpetrator that year, with the exception of one civilian whose death we documented at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham - in killing civilians during Ramadan 1433 AH, killing 6,717 civilians. We have also noticed a decrease in the death toll in the months of Ramadan in the last two years, due to a number of factors, including the ceasefire agreement that resulted from the meeting of the Turkish and Russian Presidents, which came into effect at 00:00 on March 6, 2020, and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has played a major role in weakening the capabilities of the Syrian regime's army and the affiliated Iranian militias.

The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 was distributed across the Syrian governorates as follows:



Aleppo governorate saw the highest death toll - approximately 20% - of the victims whose deaths we documented in the months of Ramadan since the outbreak of the popular uprising in Syria 2011 up until May 13, 2021, followed by Damascus Suburbs governorate with approximately 16%, Idlib - approximately 15% - then Daraa - approximately 12% -.

2- The death toll due to torture:

During the months of Ramadan, between 2011 and 2021, SNHR documented the deaths of at least 533 individuals due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, distributed as follows:

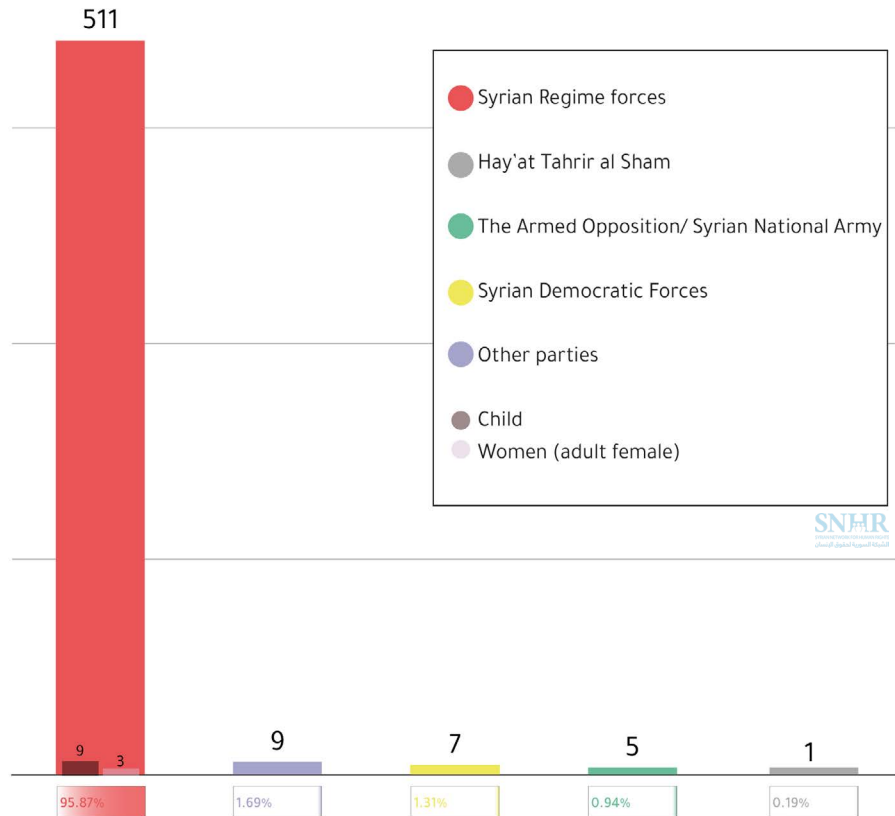
Syrian regime forces: 511, including nine children and three women.

Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: One.

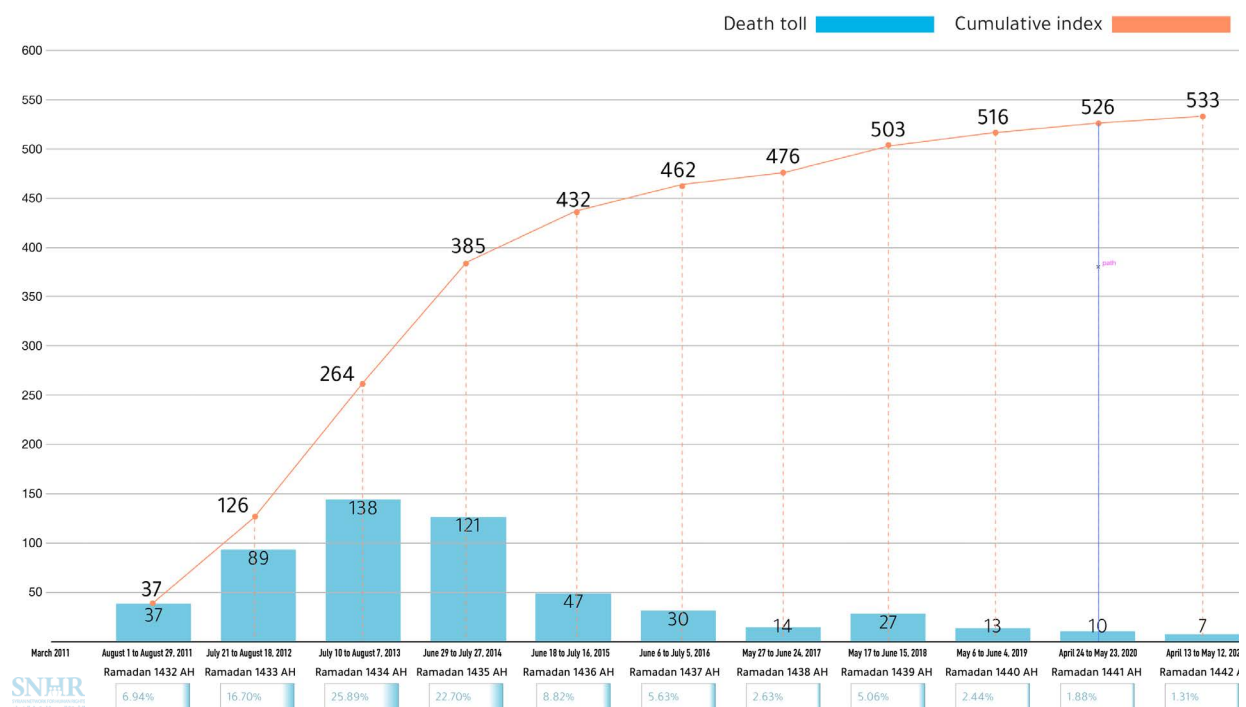
The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army: Five.

Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces: Seven.

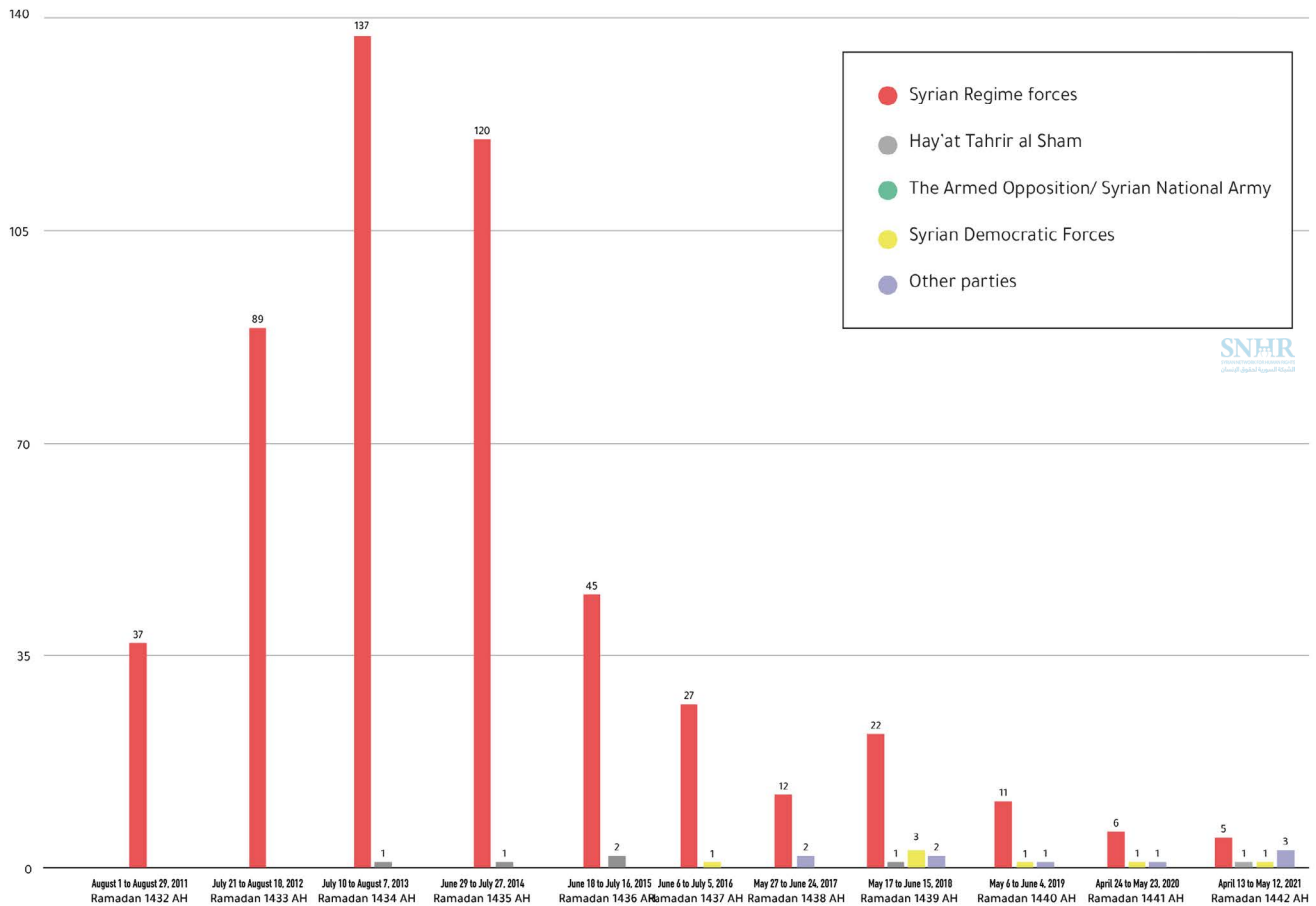
Other parties: Nine.



The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths due to torture we documented in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 was distributed by years as follows:



The death toll of civilian victims whose deaths due to torture we documented in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria was distributed by years as follows:



The above statistics show that the Syrian regime is responsible for approximately 96% of the death toll of victims whose deaths due to torture we documented in the months of Ramadan since 2011; the Syrian regime had been almost the sole perpetrator, responsible for more than 99%, of the deaths documented due to torture during the months of Ramadan, up until Ramadan 1436 AH corresponding to 2015.

Ramadan 1434 AH corresponding to 2013 and Ramadan 1435 AH corresponding to 2014 saw the death of about 49% of the death toll of victims documented as dying due to torture in the months of Ramadan over the past ten years.

Notable Killings That Occurred in the Months of Ramadan Over the Past Ten Years, Between 2011 and 2021:

Ramadan 1432 AH/ August 1 to August 29, 2011:

On Sunday, August 14, 2011, Syrian regime forces [stormed](#) al Raml al Janoubi neighborhood in the south of Latakia city and bombarded it using tanks and gunboats, killing 51 civilians, including three children and two women.

Ramadan 1434 AH/ July 10 to August 7, 2013:

On Tuesday, August 6, 2013, Syrian regime artillery forces fired a number of shells at a charity market in Ein Jalout School in the al Ansari al Sharqi neighborhood in Aleppo city, killing 16 civilians (11 children and five women).

Ramadan 1435 AH/ June 29 to July 27, 2014:

On Thursday, July 10, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the main street in the al Myassar neighborhood in Aleppo city, which was controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident. The barrel bomb fell in an area crowded with civilians and street vendors, killing 19 civilians, including one child and three women, in addition to causing the destruction of a number of shops and residential buildings.

On Sunday, July 13, 2014, the SNHR documented the deaths of seven civilians, including two children, in al Sheikh Maskin city in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate at the hands of members of the Asifit Hawran Brigade (one of the Armed Opposition factions) after brigade members randomly fired shots while detaining a person in the city.

Ramadan 1436 AH/ June 18 to July 16, 2015:

On Tuesday, June 23, 2015, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired two thermal missiles at Ihris village in the suburbs of Aleppo, which was controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, killing [13 civilians](#), including [four children](#) and [one woman](#), and [burning](#) a number of trucks.

On Saturday, July 4, 2015, US-led coalition warplanes fired a missile targeting a vehicle belonging to ISIS near Hamida al Tahir School, in al Jamili neighborhood in Raqqa city, which was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident, killing seven civilians, and injuring about 10 others by shrapnel from the missile.

Ramadan 1437 AH/ June 6 to July 5, 2016:

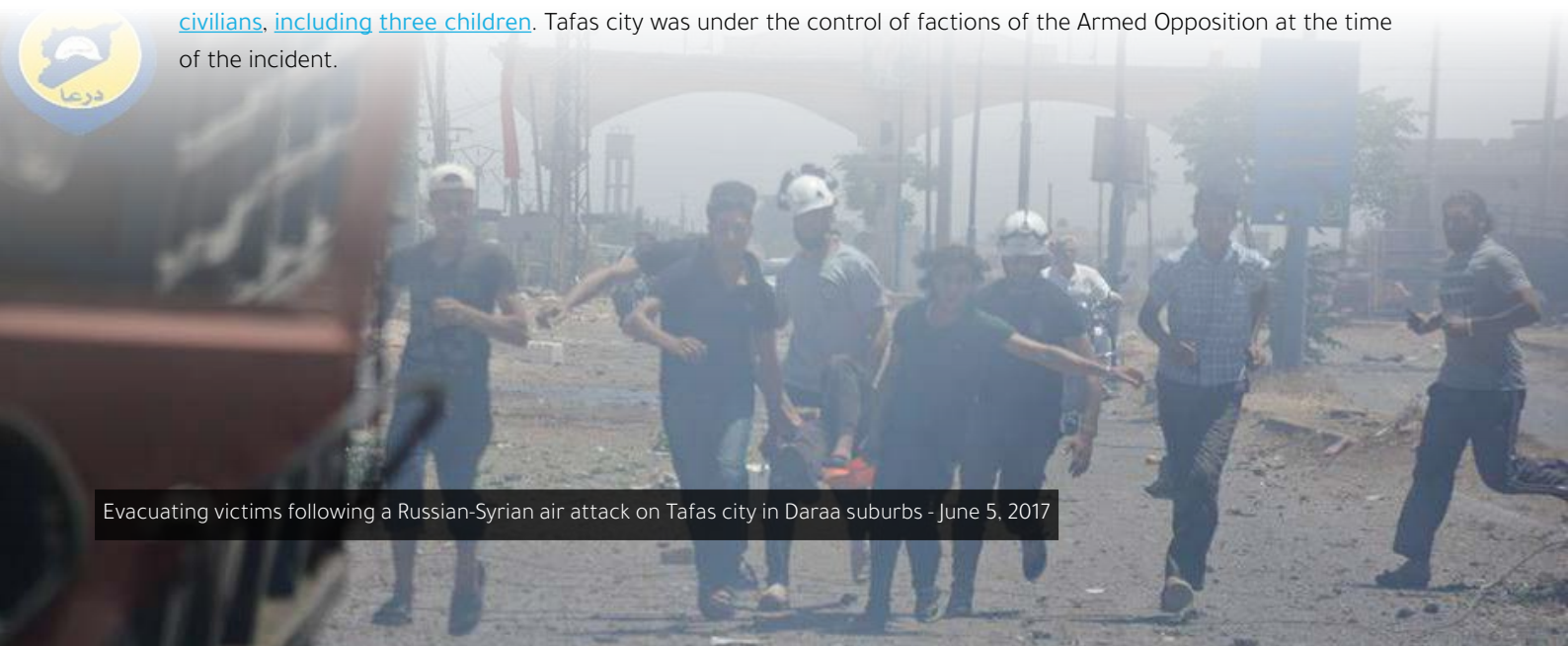
On Sunday, June 12, 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes launched an airstrike on Idlib city using two missiles. One of the missiles targeted a vegetable market in a north-western section of Idlib city, which was controlled by factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, [killing 39 civilians](#), including [14 children](#) and [three women](#), and [injuring](#) about 65 others.

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at al Qouriya city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which was under the control of ISIS at the time, killing [62 civilians](#), including [30 children](#) and 20 women, in addition to injuring about 30 others.

On Tuesday, June 28, 2016, ISIS issued [a video](#) entitled "The Story of a Slaughter" [showing](#) ISIS members killing five people by beheading them with knives in al Boukamal city in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate; the [victims](#) were accused by ISIS of dealing with the forces of the opposition's New Syrian Army. We were unable to verify the date of this mass-killing up to the time of the preparation of the report.

Ramadan 1438 AH/ May 27 to June 24, 2017:

On Monday, June 5, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian-Russian alliance warplanes (investigations are still underway to confirm the identity of the perpetrator party) fired missiles at Tafas city in the western suburbs of Daraa governorate, killing [13 civilians](#), including [three children](#). Tafas city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



Evacuating victims following a Russian-Syrian air attack on Tafas city in Daraa suburbs - June 5, 2017

Ramadan 1439 AH/ May 17 to June 14, 2018:

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, fixed-wing US-led Coalition warplanes fired missiles at Theeb Hdaj village, which is administratively part of al Shaddadi city in the southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, killing 10 civilians at once, including four children and three women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Ramadan 1440 AH/ May 6 to June 4, 2019:

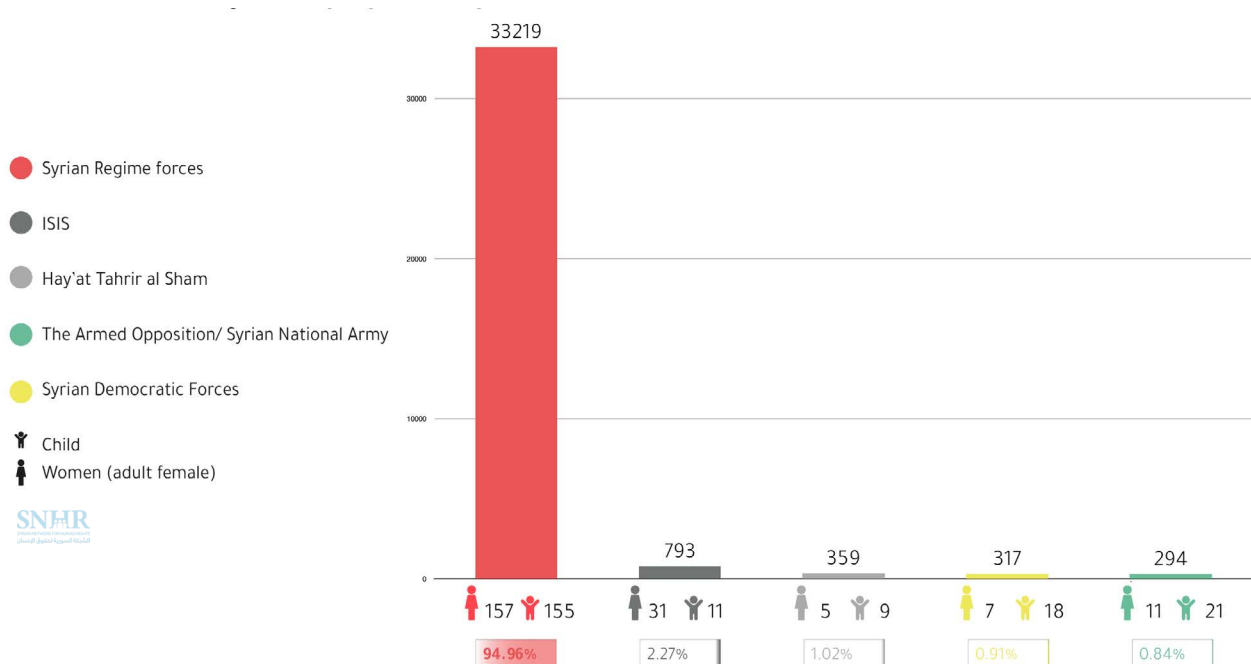
On Thursday, May 9, 2019, at around 01:30, a Syrian Democratic Forces patrol group - backed by two US-led Coalition helicopters - raided a house in al Kitf neighborhood, also known as al Hasan neighborhood, in al Sh-heil city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The raid coincided with gunfire by the members of the patrol, which resulted in the deaths of eight civilians, mostly members of one family, including two children. The city was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

Ramadan 1441 AH/ April 24 to May 23, 2020:

On Tuesday afternoon, April 28, 2020, [a car bomb of unknown source exploded](#) at the entrance to a local market in a public thoroughfare, known as Rajou Street, in the center of [Afrin](#) city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, with fires resulting from the explosion spreading across a large area due to the presence of a truck loaded with fuel at the site of the explosion. We documented [the deaths](#) of [at least 44](#) civilians as [a result](#) of [the explosion](#), most of [whose bodies](#) were [severely charred](#), including [nine children](#) and three women, while about 55 others were injured and sustained burns. The Syrian Network for Human Rights is still trying to reach witnesses or survivors of the incident to obtain more details. Afrin city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition supported by Turkish forces at the time of the incident.

B. Arbitrary Arrest/ Detention and Enforced Disappearance⁵ :

According to the SNHR's database, at least 34,982 individuals have been arrested/ detained/ forcibly disappeared during the months of Ramadan, between 2011 and 2021, including 214 children and 211 women. [distributed according to the perpetrator parties as follows:](#)



⁵ [Infographic of the record of arrests/ detentions during the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in Syria in March 2011 to May 2021](#)

Syrian regime forces: 33,219, including 155 children and 157 women.

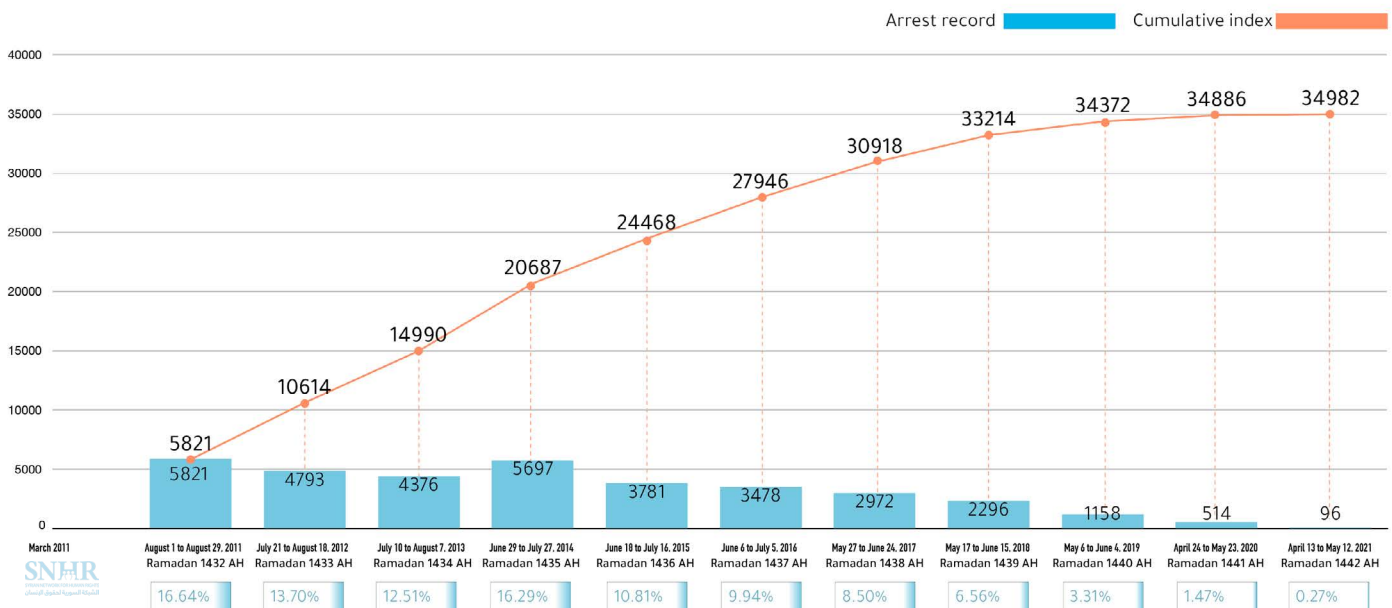
ISIS: 793, including 11 children and 31 women.

Hay'at Tahrir al Sham: 359, including nine children and five women.

Syrian Democratic Forces: 317, including 18 children and seven women.

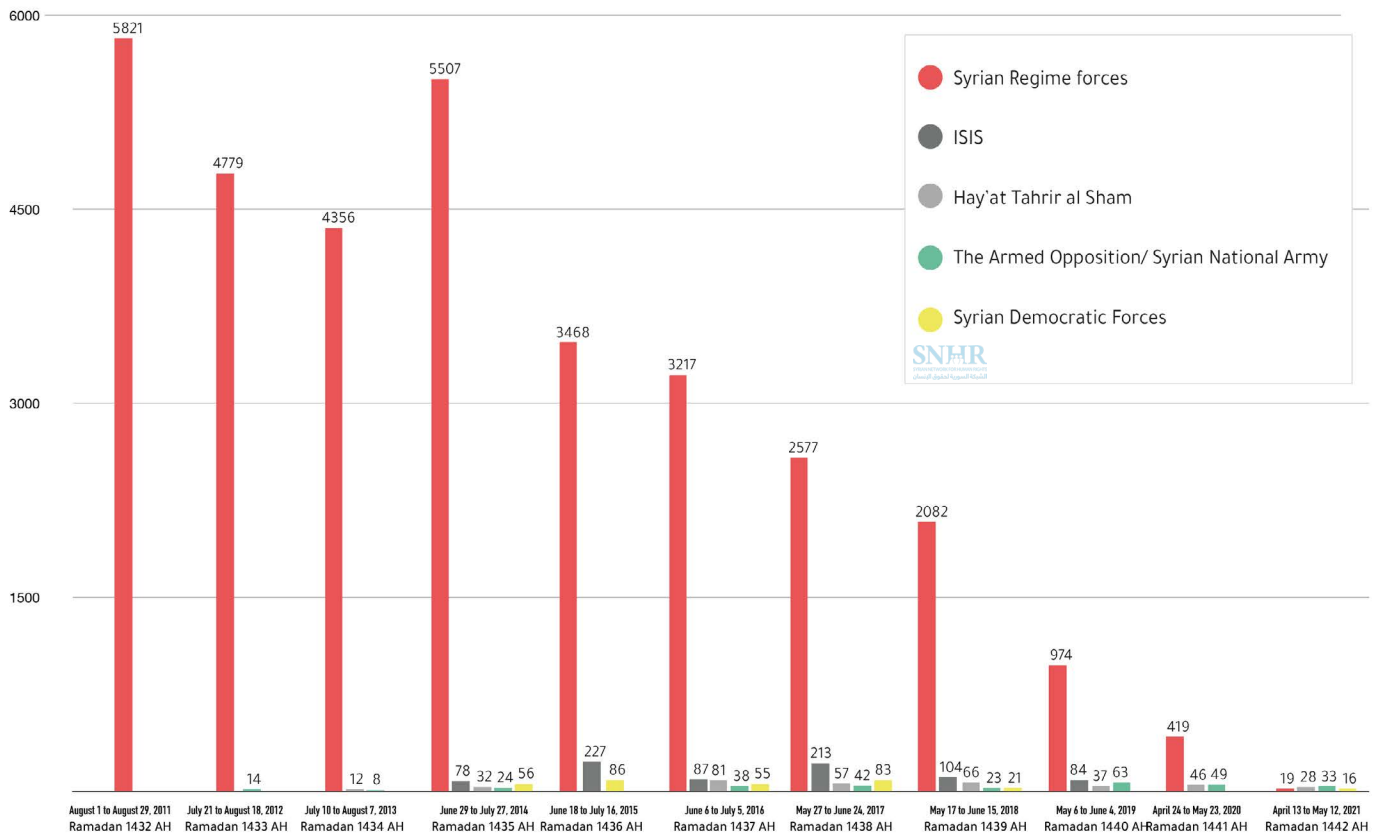
The Armed Opposition/ Syrian National Army: 294, including 21 children and 11 women.

They were distributed by years as follows:



- Ramadan 1432 AH corresponding to August 1 to August 29, 2011: 5,821, including 24 children and 14 women.
- Ramadan 1433 AH corresponding to July 21 to August 18, 2012: 4,793 civilians, including 32 children and 21 women.
- Ramadan 1434 AH corresponding to July 10 to August 7, 2013: 4,376 civilians, including 29 children and 18 women.
- Ramadan 1435 AH corresponding to June 29 to July 27, 2014: 5,697 civilians, including 27 children and 24 women.
- Ramadan 1436 AH corresponding to June 18 to July 16, 2015: 3,781 civilians, including 17 children and 25 women.
- Ramadan 1437 AH corresponding to June 6 to July 5, 2016: 3,478 civilians, including 24 children and 18 women.
- Ramadan 1438 AH corresponding to May 27 to June 24, 2017: 2,972 civilians, including 12 children and 19 women.
- Ramadan 1439 AH corresponding to May 17 to June 15, 2018: 2,296 civilians, including 21 children and 27 women.
- Ramadan 1440 AH corresponding to May 6 to June 4, 2019: 1,158 civilians, including 12 children and 16 women.
- Ramadan 1441 AH corresponding to April 24 to May 23, 2020: 514 civilians, including 12 children and 22 women.
- Ramadan 1442 AH corresponding to April 13 to May 12, 2021: 96 civilians, including four children and seven women.

The record of those arrested/ detained or forcibly disappeared at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in the months of Ramadan since the start of the popular uprising in March 2011 was distributed by years as follows:



Analysis of the charts above makes it clear that the month of Ramadan 1432 AH corresponding to August 2011 was the worst in terms of targeting Syrian citizens for arrest, with this period seeing the arrest of 16.64% of those arrested during the months of Ramadan in the past ten years. It must be noted here that, at that time, the popular uprising had not yet turned into an internal armed conflict, with all the arrests that we documented in Ramadan of that year being at the hands of Syrian regime forces, followed by Ramadan 1435 AH corresponding to 2014 with 16.29%, then Ramadan 1433 AH corresponding to 2012, with the record of the arrests/ detentions that we documented during this period being at the hands of two parties, the Syrian regime and the Armed Opposition, of which the Syrian regime was responsible for 99.7% of the total of those whose arrest we documented that Ramadan.

Notable Arrest Incidents and Cases That Occurred in the Months of Ramadan Over the Past Ten Years, Between 2011 and 2021:

Ramadan 1432 AH/ August 1 to August 29, 2011:

On Wednesday, August 3, 2011, Syrian regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in the early hours of the morning in the neighborhoods of al Jarajmah, al Qosour, Bab al Qebli and al Sabouniya in Hama city. The SNHR documented the arrest of 21 civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location.

On Sunday, August 7, 2011, Syrian regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in the neighborhoods of Deir Ez-Zour city. The SNHR documented the arrest of 32 civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location. We note that Syrian regime forces besieged Ez-Zour city, sealing off all its entrances several days beforehand.

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, Syrian regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in the Abdul Karim al Rifai Mosque in Kafrsousa neighborhood in central Damascus city while the worshipers were observing Laylat al Qadr (the Night of Power) in the month of Ramadan. We also recorded arrests in the streets surrounding the mosque. The SNHR documented the arrest of 37 civilians, with the arrests accompanied by beatings of detainees and vandalism of the mosque.



Ramadan 1433 AH/ July 21 to August 18, 2012:

Muhammad Taysir al Salloum, a university student at the Faculty of Dentistry in Hama city, from Morek town, north of Hama governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Sunday, July 29, 2012, in Hama city, and taken to the regime Military Security Branch in the city.

Ramadan 1434 AH/ July 10 to August 7, 2013:

On Saturday, July 20, 2013, ISIS members carried out a campaign of raids and arrests/ detention in Raqqa city. The SNHR documented the detention of eight civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location.

Ramadan 1436 AH/ June 18 to July 16, 2015:

Mamoun Beshr al Jaloudi, a Palestinian resident of al Yarmouk Camp, south of Damascus city, who was 43 years old at the time of his arrest, was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Thursday, June 25, 2015, while he was passing through one of the regime's checkpoints in Yalda town, south of Damascus Suburbs governorate, and was taken to an undisclosed location.



Ramadan 1439 AH/ May 17 to June 14, 2018:

On Saturday, June 2, 2018, Syrian regime forces arrested four civilians from the suburbs of Idlib governorate, upon their return from areas under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition in Idlib governorate to the areas under the control of the Syrian regime in the suburbs of Hama, taking them to an undisclosed location.

On Saturday, June 9, 2018, Syrian National Army forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests/ detentions in Ma'batli town, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The SNHR documented the detention of 17 civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location.

Ramadan 1440 AH/ May 6 to June 4, 2019:

On Monday, May 6, 2019, Syrian Democratic Forces arrested/ detained six civilians, including one child and two women from the same family from Deir Ez-Zour city, in a raid on their place of residence in al Iddikhar neighborhood in the west of Raqqa city, and took them to one of the SDF's detention centers in the city.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2019, Syrian regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in al Sanamayn city in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The SNHR documented the arrest of three civilians who had previously settled their security status, all of whom were taken to an undisclosed location.

Ramadan 1441 AH/ April 24 to May 23, 2020:

On Thursday, May 9, 2019, Syrian National Army forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests/ detentions in Qantara village, which is administratively a part of Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The SNHR documented the arrest of six civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location.

On Sunday, May 17, 2020, Syrian regime forces carried out a campaign of raids and arrests in Douma city in the Eastern Ghouta, Damascus Suburbs governorate. The SNHR documented the arrest of 18 civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location.

Ramadan 1442 AH/ April 13 to May 12, 2021:

On Sunday, April 18, 2021, Syrian Democratic Forces carried out a campaign of arrests/ detentions in Jdaidet Kahit village, which is administratively a part of al Karama district in the eastern suburbs of Raqqa governorate, in retaliation for an anti-SDF demonstration in the village, demanding the expulsion of SDF members from the village, after SDF personnel shot two civilians dead the day before, Saturday, April 17, 2021. SNHR documented the arrest of 15 civilians in the raids, with the arrests being accompanied by the burning of three houses owned by civilian village residents, with SNHR documenting that the detainees were released five days later on April 23, 2021.

On Saturday, April 24, 2021, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham detained three civilians, from the Eastern Ghouta in Damascus Suburbs governorate, while they were passing through one of HTS' checkpoints in Ma'aret Misreen town in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, on charges of breaking the fast in the month of Ramadan, and took them to an undisclosed location.

Yazan Emad Bali, from Salkhad city in the suburbs of Suwayda governorate, born in 1996, a student at the Architecture Engineering College, was arrested by personnel from the Syrian regime's Military Security Force on Thursday, April 29, 2021, in a raid on his home in the city, despite being among those who had previously settled their security status. We note that regime forces also arrested his uncle, Mu'ez al Safadi, after he went to the security branch at a later time and attempted to mediate to secure Yazan's release, as he had a settlement card.



Yazan Emad Bali

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions:

- The Syrian regime and the other parties to the conflict have flagrantly violated a number of fundamental principles of international human rights law, such as the right to life, non-enforced disappearance, non-torture, and a large number of rules of customary humanitarian law and Common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.
- Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture practiced by the Syrian regime in the various Syrian governorates, and in connection with the detainees' participation in the popular uprising against the regime, constitute a pattern of widespread attack and amount to crimes against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute .
- The Syrian regime's government has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139, resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, and resolution 2254, all without any accountability, with the breaches of these resolutions continuing to date.

Recommendations:

UN Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly insists that "all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such."
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible for violations should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using its veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, meaning that the UNSC states' veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- Ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians' lives and to save the Syrian people's heritage and historical artifacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- There will be no stability in Syria without first achieving a real political transition towards democracy in the country within a specific timetable, and this will only be achieved through the imposition of various pressures, mainly on the Syrian regime and its allies, because it will not give up power voluntarily.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing, and by lifting sieges, as well as through increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and on activating the principle of universal jurisdiction.

OHCHR

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents cited in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.
- Establish a platform that brings together a number of Syrian organizations active in documenting violations and humanitarian assistance, in order to facilitate an exchange of skills and experiences within Syrian society.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate in any such initiative and to provide further evidence and data.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Disclose to the Syrian people how long the political transition process will take if it continues its stalled situation for years.

The Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, places of worship, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Reveal the fate of some 86,000 Syrian citizens arrested by the security services whose fate has been concealed to date.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.

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