



The Killing of 21179 individuals in 2015 amongst which were killed in December 1793

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1. Introduction:

This report includes the death casualties of those who were killed at the hands of the main conflict parties in Syria i.e.:

1. Government forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias)
2. Russian forces
3. PYD Kurdish Self Management Forces
4. Extremist Islamic Groups
5. Armed Opposition Groups
6. International Coalition Forces
7. Unidentified Groups

2. Report Methodology:

SNHR is an independent, non-governmental, and non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011.

To a large degree, SNHR is able to document all the civilian victims who are killed by the major conflict parties, however, armed victims are distributed to two categories:

1. Victims of the armed opposition groups:

Members of the armed opposition groups get killed on the frontlines not in cities and their groups sometimes keep the identities of its fighters confidential due to security reasons. Therefore, we cannot record their names or retain their images. Thus what we were able to document is the bare minimum of the total number of armed opposition victims.

2. Victims of the government forces or ISIL:

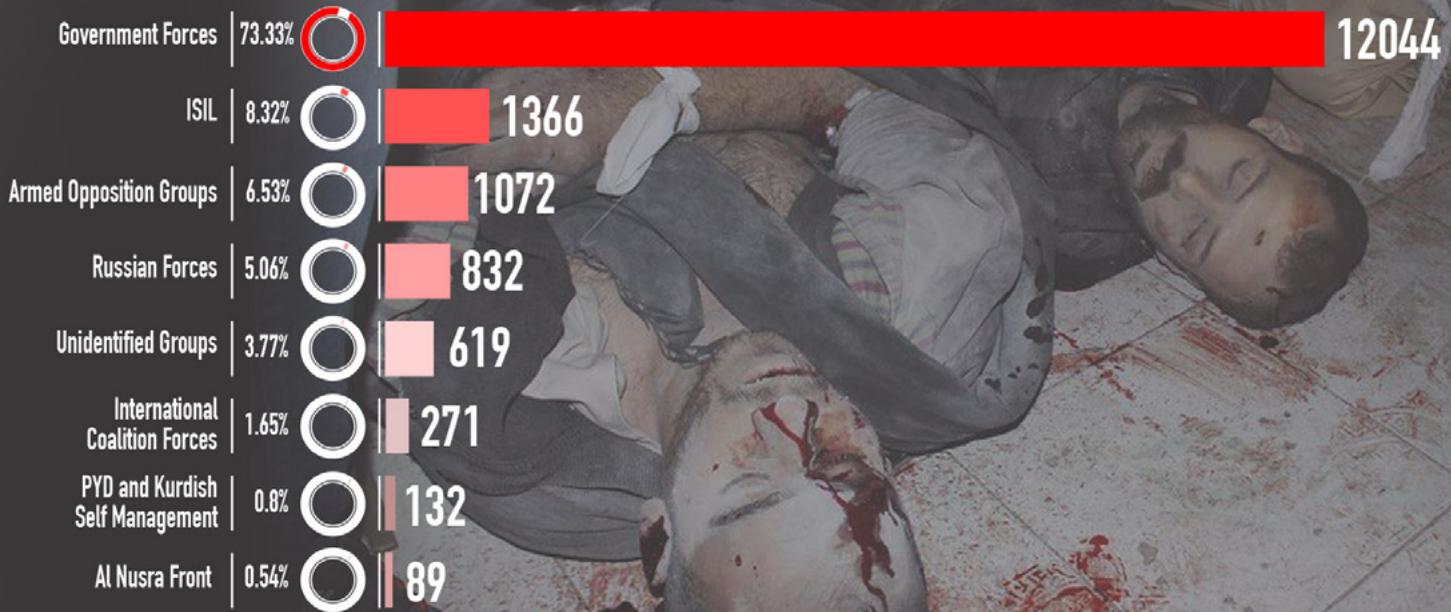
It is impossible to record or document these kinds of victims, since neither the Syrian government forces nor ISIL declares or records their victims' numbers.

To read more about SNHR's [methodology](#):



Toll of civilians killed in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015

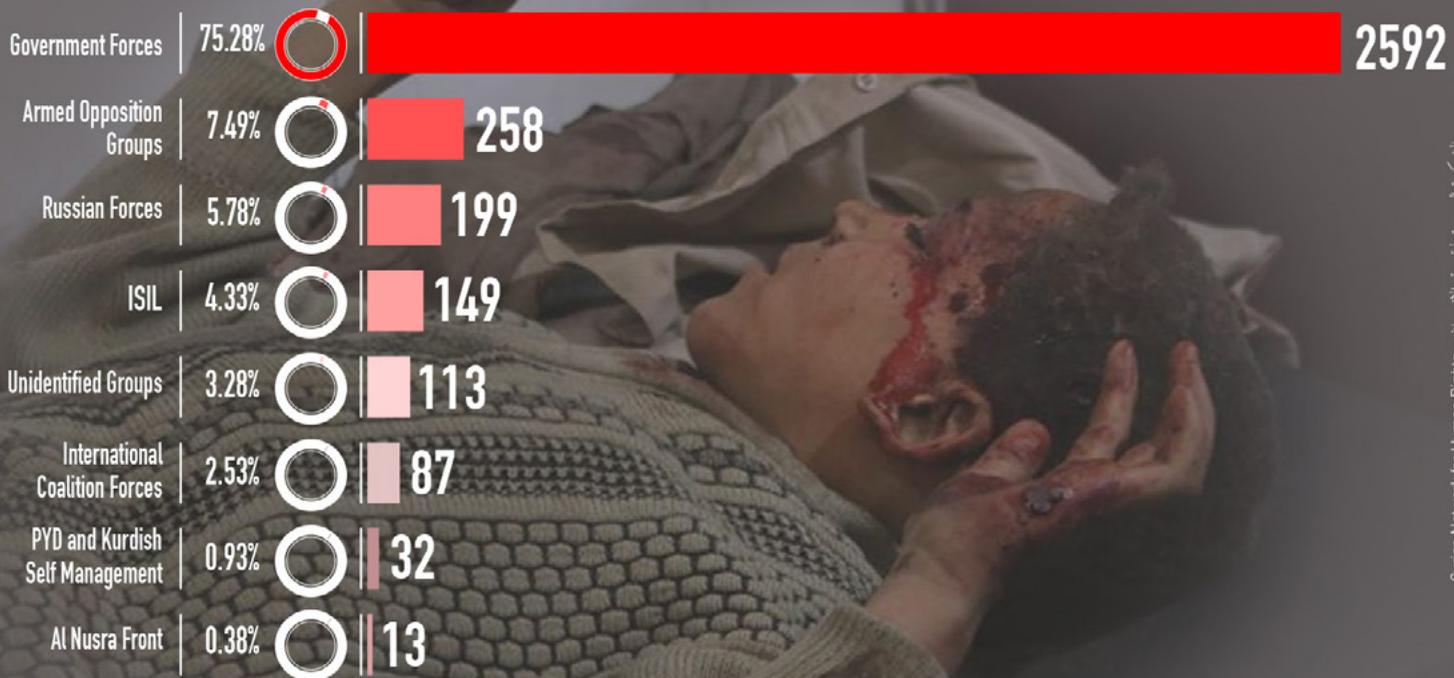


According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights

Toll of children killed in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015



According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights

Toll of Women killed in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015



According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

شبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights

Toll of victims of death under torture in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015



According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

شبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان - Syrian Network for Human Rights



II- Report Contents:

A. 2015 Victims' Death Toll:

SNHR recorded the killing of 21179 individuals, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

1. Government forces:

SNHR documented the killing of 15748 individuals at the hands of government forces, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

SNHR recorded the killing of 12044 civilians including 2592 children (at a rate of killing 10 children daily) and 1957 women. Not less than 1546 individuals died under torture including 7 children and 4 women (at a rate of killing 3 individuals under torture daily). Amongst the torture victims, there were 546 civilians, including a woman, and 113 armed opposition members whose pictures were cross referenced with Caesar's leaked images in the Photographed Holocaust.

The percentage of women and children who were killed reached 38% which is evidence that civilians were targeted deliberately and discriminately by government forces.

ii. Gunmen:

Government forces killed 3704 armed opposition members during battles or shelling.

B. Russian Forces:

SNHR recorded the killing of 849 individuals due to the alleged Russian shelling, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

Alleged Russian shelling killed 832 civilians including 199 children and 109 women.

ii. Armed Opposition Members:

Alleged Russian shelling killed 17 armed individuals (the bare minimum of what we were able to record to the secrecy of the armed opposition groups)

C. PYD and Kurdish Self Management Forces:

PYD and Kurdish Self Management forces killed 132 civilians including 32 children and 12 women. Four individuals died under torture.

D. Extremist Islamic Groups:

SNHR recorded the killing of 2265 individuals at the hands of extremist Islamic groups, detailed as follows:

a. ISIL: killed 2098, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: ISIL killed 1366 civilians including 149 children and 188 women. 8 individuals died under torture.

ii. Gunmen: ISIL killed 732 armed men, including 2 gunmen who died under torture. The victims were killed during battles between armed opposition groups and them or by field executions for prisoners.





b. Al Nusra Front: killed 167 individuals detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: Al Nusra Front killed 89 civilians including 13 children and 11 women. Nine individuals died under torture.

ii. Gunmen: Al Nusra Front killed 78 armed men including 10 who died under torture.

E. Armed Opposition Groups:

SNHR recorded the killing of 1121 individuals at the hands of armed opposition groups detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: Armed opposition groups killed 1072 civilians including 258 children and 181 women. Nine individuals were killed under torture.

ii. Gunmen: Armed opposition groups killed 49 armed men during clashes with each others.

F. International Coalition Forces:

SNHR recorded the killing of 277 individuals due to the international coalition shelling, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: 271 were killed, including 87 children and 46 women

ii. Gunmen: 6 armed men

G. Unidentified Groups:

We recorded 787 killing incidents by groups whom remain unidentified, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: 619 civilians were killed, including 113 children and 111 women. Four individuals were killed under torture.

ii. Gunmen: 168 armed men were killed.

A. December 2015 Death Toll:

What distinguishes this month in particular is the escalation of the Russian forces' strikes on Syria as it has become one of the main conflict parties in the Syrian conflict. The percentage of killed women and children reached 39% of the total civilians' death toll who were killed by the Syrian government and the Russian forces, which is strong indicator that those forces deliberately and indiscriminately target civilians.

SNHR documented the killing of 1793 individuals in December 2015 detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

A. Government Forces:

SNHR documented the death of 1233 individuals who were killed by government forces, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

Government forces killed 941 civilians including 147 women and 219 children (at a rate of killing 7 children every day). Also, not less than 33 individuals died under torture (at a rate





of killing 1 individual every day under torture). The percentage of women and children who were killed in this month reached 39% among the total victims' death toll; which is a strong indicator that government forces deliberately targeted civilians.

ii. Gunmen:

Government forces killed 292 armed opposition gunmen during shelling time of clashes.

Victims' distribution, who were killed by government forces, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Damascus and its suburbs: 371

Aleppo: 329

Idlib: 212

Daraa: 89

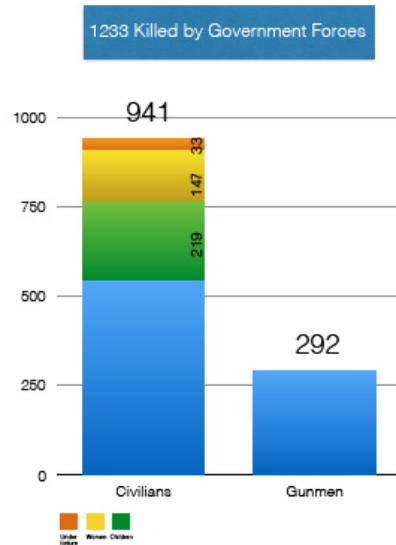
Hama: 92

Deir Al Zour: 50

Homs: 49

Raqqqa: 25

Lattakia: 16



B. Russian Forces:

SNHR recorded the killing of 266 individuals due to alleged Russian shelling, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

Alleged Russian shelling killed 262 civilians including 47 children and 49 women.

ii. Gunmen:

Alleged Russian shelling killed 4 armed men.

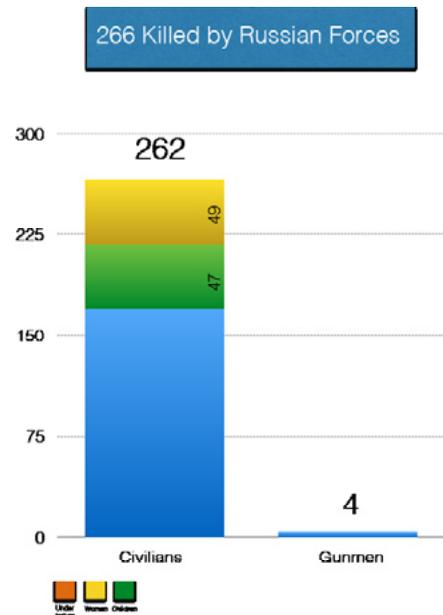
Victims' distribution, who were killed by the alleged Russian shelling, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 167

Idlib: 74

Deir Al Zour: 13

Raqqqa: 12



C. PYD and Kurdish Self Management Groups:

KSM forces killed 4 civilians.

Victims' distribution, who were killed by KSM Kurdish forces, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Deir Al Zour: 1

Aleppo: 3





D. Extremist Islamic Groups:

1. ISIL: killed 144 individuals detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: ISIL killed 114 civilians including 23 children and 12 women.

Victims' distribution, who were killed by ISIL, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Deir Al Zour: 48

Aleppo: 17

Homs: 18

Damascus suburbs: 3

Raqqqa: 1

Al Hassaka: 27

ii. Gunmen: ISIL killed 30 gunmen during battle times with armed opposition or during field executions for prisoners.

Their distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

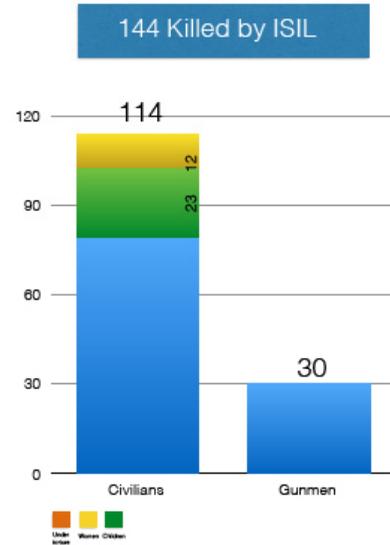
Aleppo: 24

Daraa: 3

Damascus suburbs: 1

Damascus: 1

Raqqqa: 1



E. Armed Opposition Groups:

SNHR recorded the killing of 62 individuals at the hands of armed opposition, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: 53 were killed including 12 children and 10 women

Their distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 29

Idlib: 1

Damascus: 3

Daraa: 14

Lattakia: 1

Damascus suburbs: 3

Deir Al Zour: 1

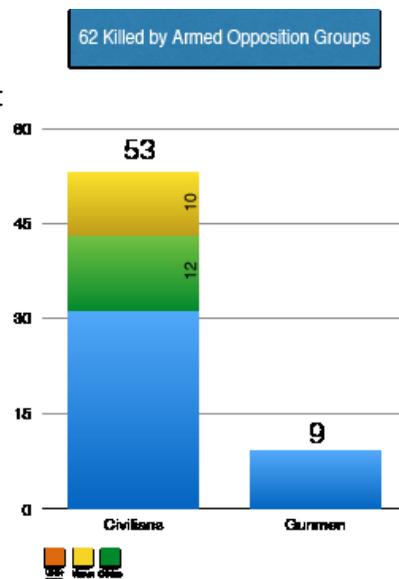
Hama: 1

i. Gunmen:

We recorded the death of 9 gunmen from the armed opposition who were killed during battles with each other.

Their distribution according to the governorates:

- Damascus suburbs: 9





F. International Coalition Forces:

We recorded the killing of 40 civilians including 20 children and 9 women due to the international coalition shelling.

Their distribution according to the governorates:

- Al Hassaka: 40

G. Unidentified Groups:

We recorded 44 killing incidents by groups who remain unidentified up to the moment of making this report, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians: 32 civilians were killed including 10 children and two women. One individual died under torture.

Their distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 4

Deir Al Zour: 8

Daraa: 7

Idlib: 4

Raqqa: 1

Damascus suburbs: 3

Damascus: 4

Homs: 1

ii. Gunmen: 12 gunmen were killed at the hands of unidentified groups.

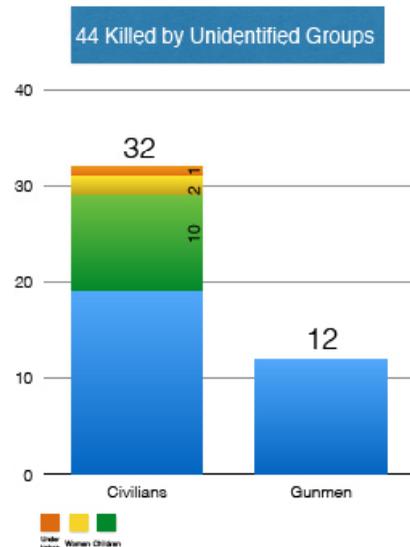
Their distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

- Daraa: 1

- Aleppo: 8

- Idlib: 2

- Homs: 1



It should be noted that we managed to document those victims through our network of activists who are distributed across Syria. Those victims are documented by full name, place, and date of death. There are many other cases that we weren't able to reach and document especially in the cases of massacres and siege where government forces besiege a town or a village and cut off communication. It is very much likely that the actual death toll is larger than what we were able to document mainly because government forces don't allow any human rights organization to operate in its territories.





III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR affirms that government forces, its militias (Shabiha) and the Russian forces have violated the principles of the human rights international laws which protect the right to life. All the evidences and eyewitnesses' testimonies prove that more than 90% of the wide and individual attacks targeted civilians and civil points.

This contradicts with the Syrian government forces' claims that it is fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists". SNHR implies that those killing actions amount to crimes against humanity which are committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack directed against civilians.

- Russian Forces, Kurdish Self Management forces, extremist Islamic groups, International coalition forces and armed opposition groups committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.

Liability

Every internationally wrongful act by a State inflicts an international responsibility on that State. Similarly, the customary international law stipulates that the state is responsible for all acts committed by members of the military and security forces. And therefore the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, committed by members of the military and security forces.

As such, the government of Iran, Hezbollah and ISIL are actual participants in the killings, and bear the legal and judicial responsibility, in addition to all funders and supporters of the Syrian regime, which is committing massacres almost daily and systematically without stopping day or night. All of these parties must be held responsible for the consequences and reactions on the Syrian people's part especially by the victims' families and relatives.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional measures as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution 2139 and no one committed to put an end to the indiscriminate bombing that is resulting in more blood and destruction every day.
- To press on the states that are supporting government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the flow of weapons and expertise to government forces after it was proven that these resources are being used in crimes against humanity and war crimes which applies as well on the states and individuals that support extremist groups, PYD forces, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the ICC and all individuals responsible for the crimes that have been perpetrated in Syria must be held accountable.
- To enforce peace and security in Syria and implement the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in order to save the lives of the Syrians and their traditions and arts from being destroyed, stolen, or ruined.

Acknowledgment

Our heartfelt thanks go out for the victims' families and activists who contributed majorly to this report.

