



Syrian Government Forces Kill over 1200 Citizens in Two Weeks of Ramadan

A report by: The Syrian Network for Human Rights

Introduction

Ramadan is a month of great holiness to Muslims all over the world. Many parties, including the Syrian political opposition, offered a truce to government forces. However, government forces turned down all of these propositions.

Report

Government forces completely disrespected the holy month of Ramadan. SNHR documented in two weeks of Ramadan the killing of 1262 citizens, as follows:

847 civilians, including 107 children and 100 women (approximately every hour, a child is killed by government forces)

442 armed opposition fighters

On average, 91 are killed each day, and four Syrian citizens are killed by government forces every hour.

This huge number of civilians, especially women and children, who are being killed is an explicit indicator on the continued and systematic killing and shelling.

The more glaring evidence, however, is the victims who died due to torture inside the Intelligence branches, as 100 citizens died due to torture -seven per day- which is a blatant indicator that torture operations are systematically ongoing.

[The first week's toll](#) with details – pictures, videos, and names

[The second week's toll](#) with details – pictures, videos, and names





Victims are distributed in the second week of Ramadan across Syrian governorates as follows:

Damascus and its suburbs: 426

Aleppo: 172

Idlib: 180

Daraa: 169

Homs: 101

Hama: 70

Deir Ez-Zour: 27

Raqqa: 28

Tartus: 15

Hasaka: 20

Quneitra: 13

Latakia: 2

Al Suwyada: 1

Non-Syrians: 38

We would like to note that this is 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 and 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.

Legal conclusions

1. SNHR affirms that government forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Also, there are tens of cases wherein the elements of a war crime were fulfilled with respect to the crime of murder.

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"





2. 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.

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.

We, at SNHR, hold the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Bashar al Assad responsible for all the acts of killing and torture and massacres that took place in Syria as he is the responsible before anyone else for issuing commands for these acts. We also, hold all parts of the Syrian government that command the security and military apparatuses directly responsible for these acts.

In this context, the Iranian government and Hezbollah are directly involved in the killings and bear legal and judicial responsibility, in addition to all the funders and supports of this regime, which is perpetrating ceaseless massacres in a systematic manner and on a daily basis. We hold them all responsible for the reactions and consequences that come out from the Syrian people and especially the victims' relatives and families.

Human Rights Council:

- 1- Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.
- 2- Apply pressure on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- Hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for what is happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- Give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.





The Security Council:

- 1- Adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- 2- Warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.

The Arab League:

- 1- Ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.
- 2- Give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.
- 3- Apply political and diplomatic pressure on the main Syrian regime's allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.

