

Statement

Most Notable Violations in September 2017

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Thursday, October 12, 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



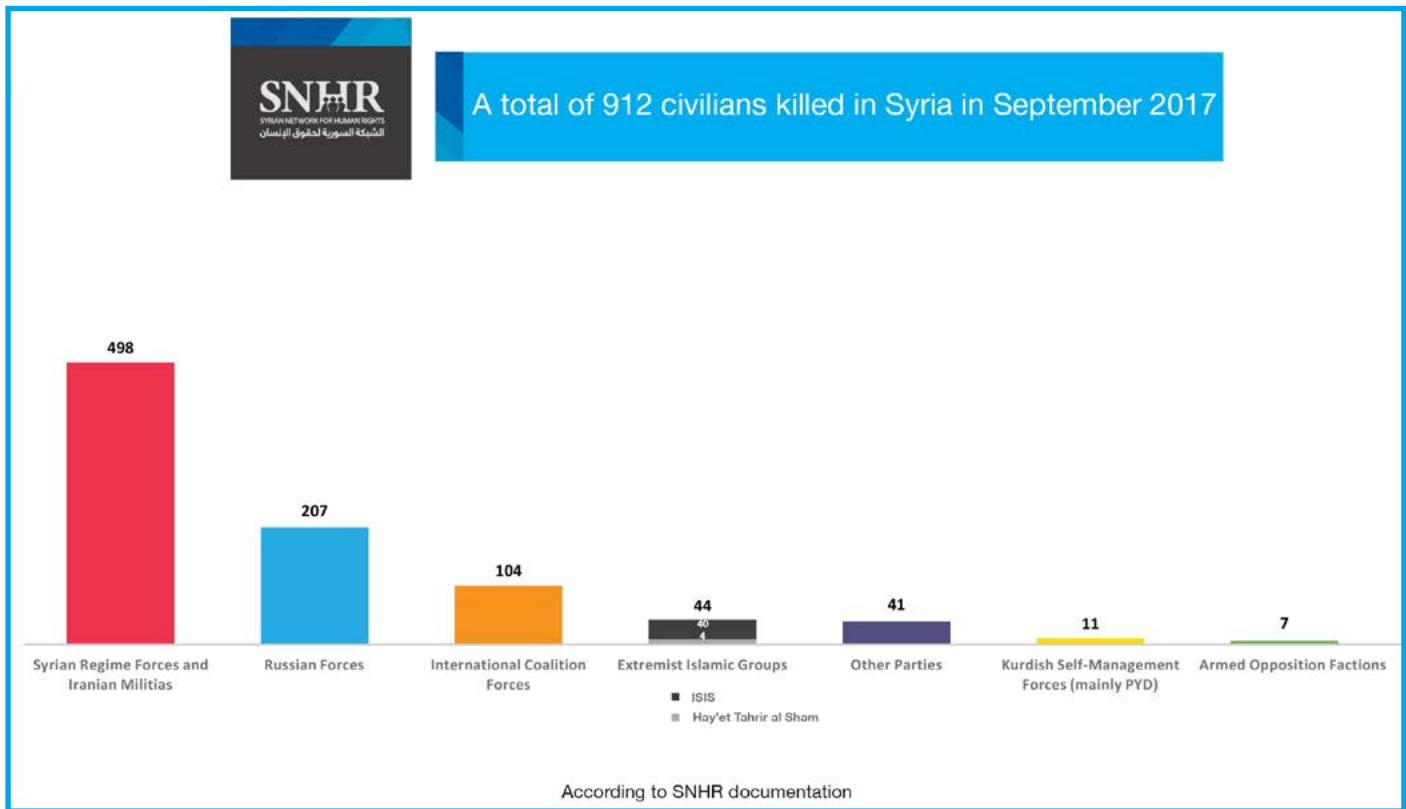
SNHR has released eight reports at the start of October 2017, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven parties to the conflict in Syria in September 2017 - civilian death toll, deaths due to torture, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against media activists, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, barrel bombs use, most notable massacres, and most notable incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities. These reports tried to measure the impact the escalation agreements, such as Anqara and Astana in addition to the local agreements, had, and their success in ceasing violations.

These reports draw upon the daily documentation efforts during September, where SNHR, through its scattered members throughout the Syrian region, monitors violations by the parties to the conflict, and publishes most notable news, before releasing a preliminary death toll at the end of each day. For more information, please see our [documentation and archiving methodology](#).



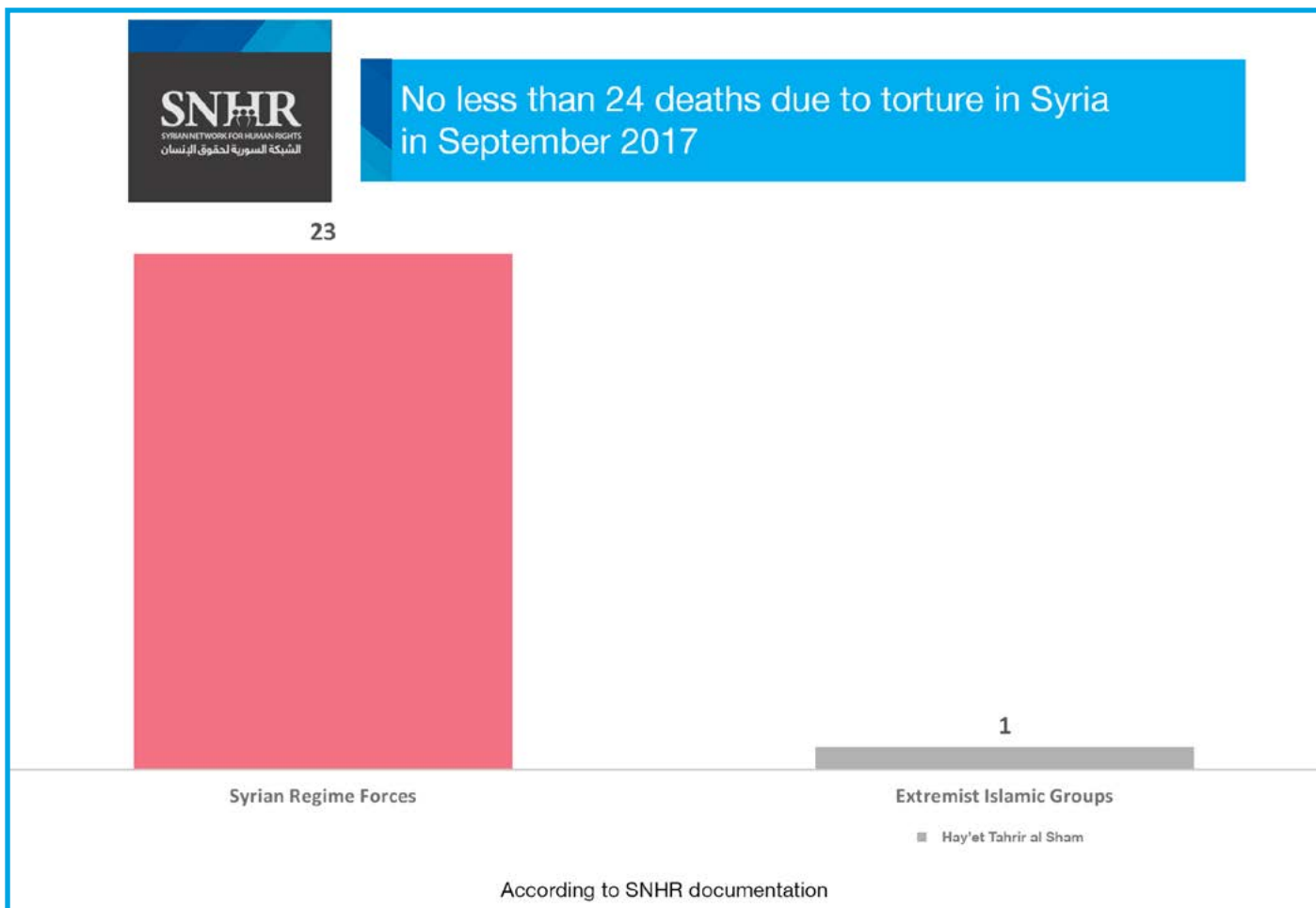
The first report, entitled: [“912 Civilians Killed in September 2017”](#), documents that the Syrian-Russian alliance topped all other parties in killing civilians by killing 78% of all civilian victims. These killings were concentrated in areas that were included in de-escalation agreements and other areas that are under the control of ISIS, as 32% of all victims killed by the Syrian-Russian alliance were in Idlib governorate, while 31% were in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, and 13% in Damascus city and its suburbs. On the other hand, Raqqa governorate is still the governorate targeted by international coalition forces the most, seeing that 51% of all victims killed by international coalition forces were in Raqqa governorate, even though the death toll of international coalition forces attacks dropped to one-third compared to last August.

A chart showing the toll of civilian deaths in September 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict.



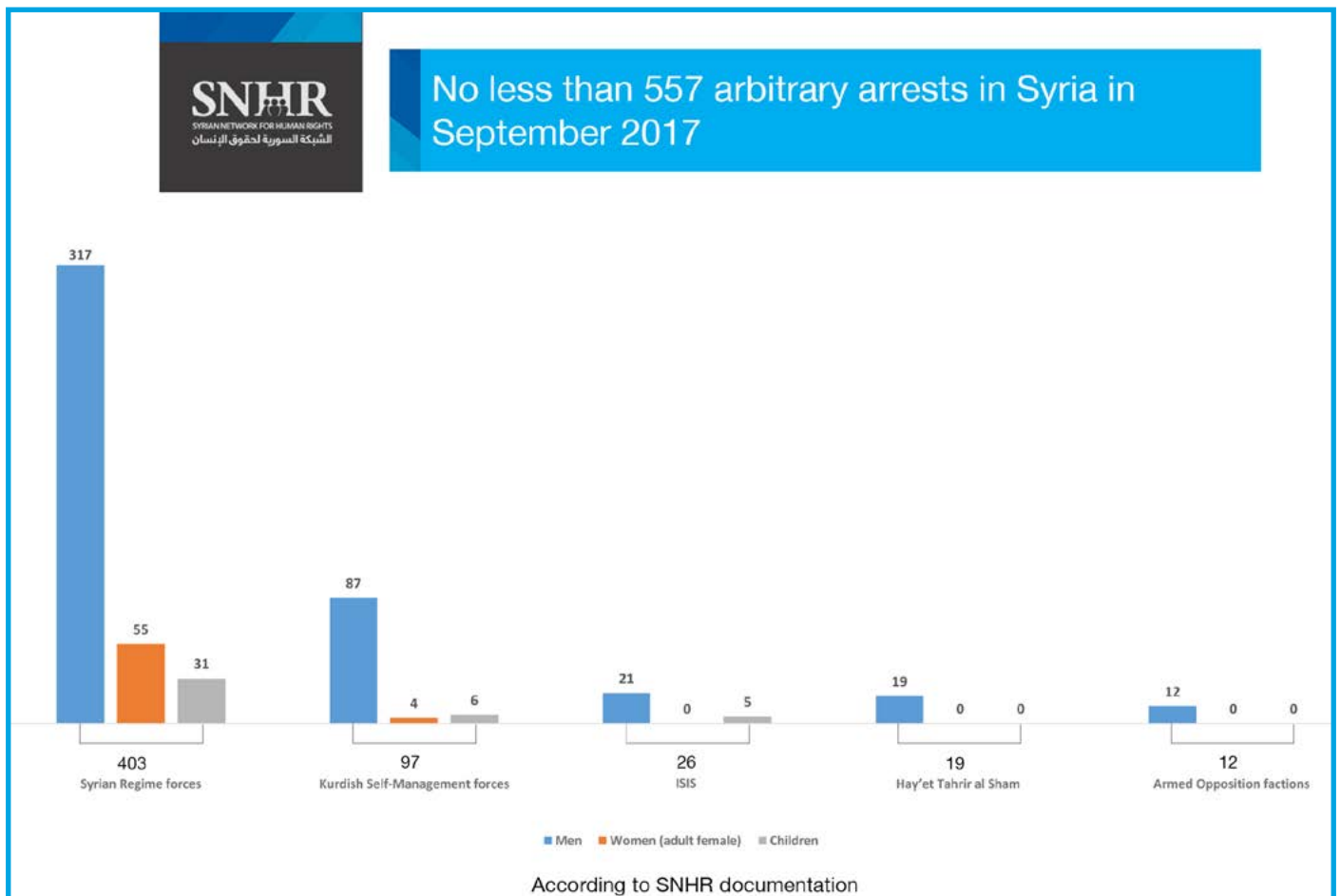
The report [“24 Individuals Died due to Torture in September 2017”](#) notes that de-escalation agreements had no impact on deaths due to torture, where we documented that 23 individuals died due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces in September, including two women, as September was the first month in which incidents of women dying due to torture were recorded since November 2016.

A chart showing deaths due to torture in Syria in September 2017, and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



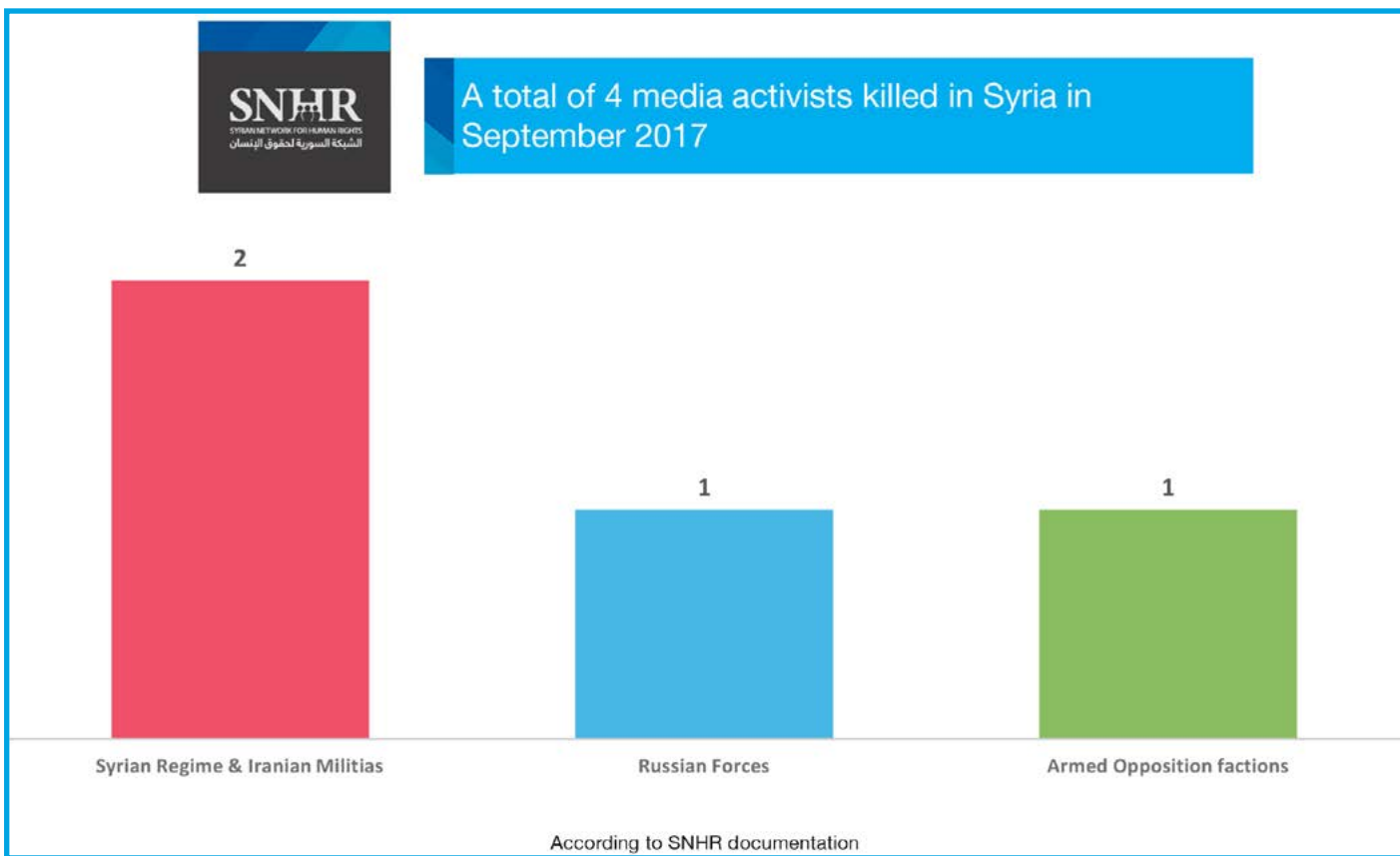
The report [“No less than 557 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in September 2017”](#) notes that 557 individuals at least were arrested in September, including 42 children and 59 women, at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria. Of those, 72% were arrested by Syrian regime forces. The report also records a rise in the rates of arrests made by Self-Management forces in their areas of control in Hasaka governorate.

A chart showing the toll of arbitrary arrests in September 2017, and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



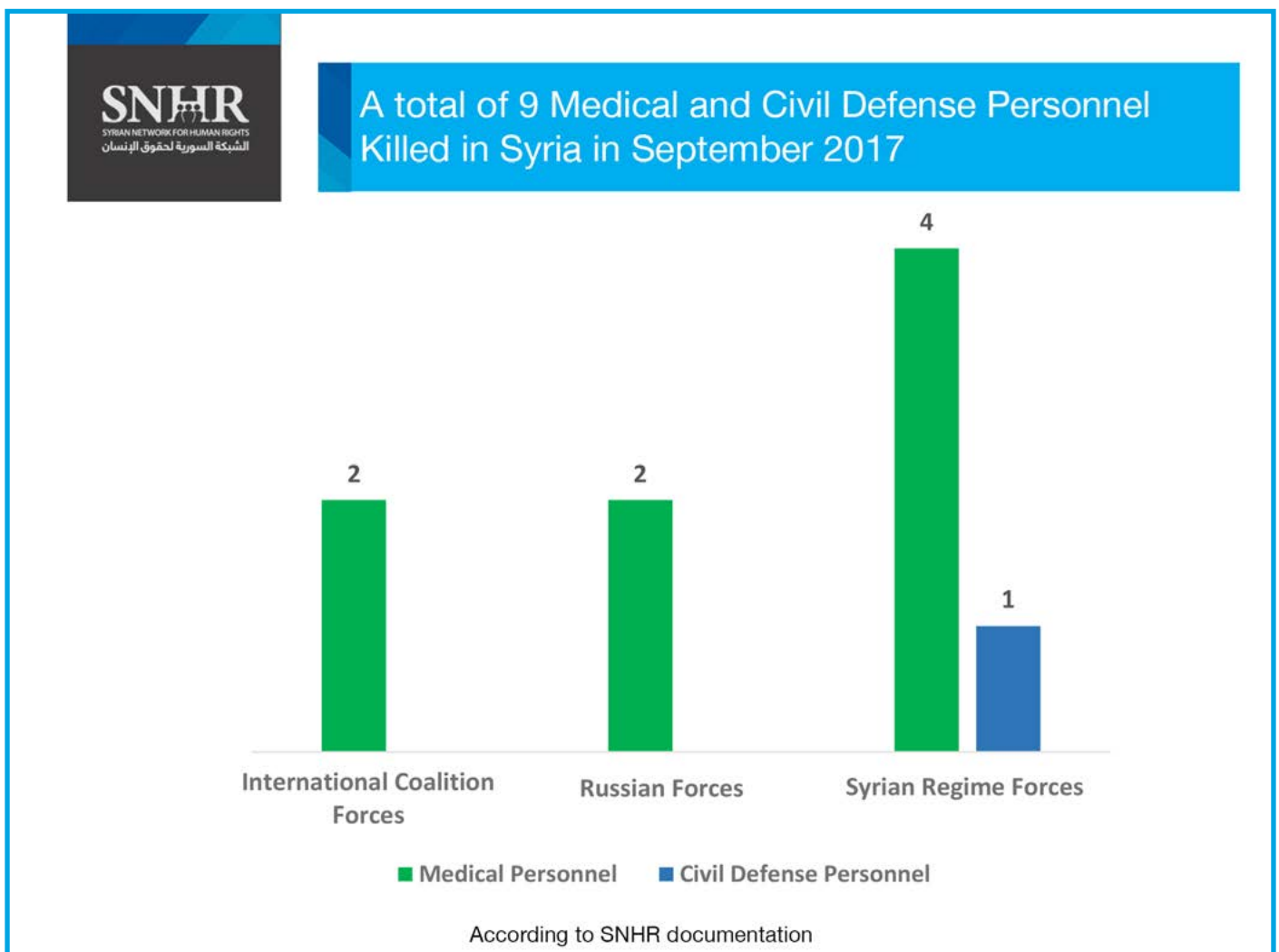
The report [“Four Media Activists Killed, One Injured, and Nine Arrested and Abducted, toll of September 2017”](#) documents that Syrian regime forces have returned to the policy of killing media activists after a two-month stall, topping all other parties by killing two media activists, to a total of 15 media activists killed by Syrian regime forces since the start of 2017. Also, Russian forces have killed media activists again after a five-month stall, as one media activist was killed in Idlib governorate by Russian forces, which was the fourth media activist killed by Russian forces in 2017.

A chart showing the death toll among media activists in September 2017, and its distribution by the parties to the conflict



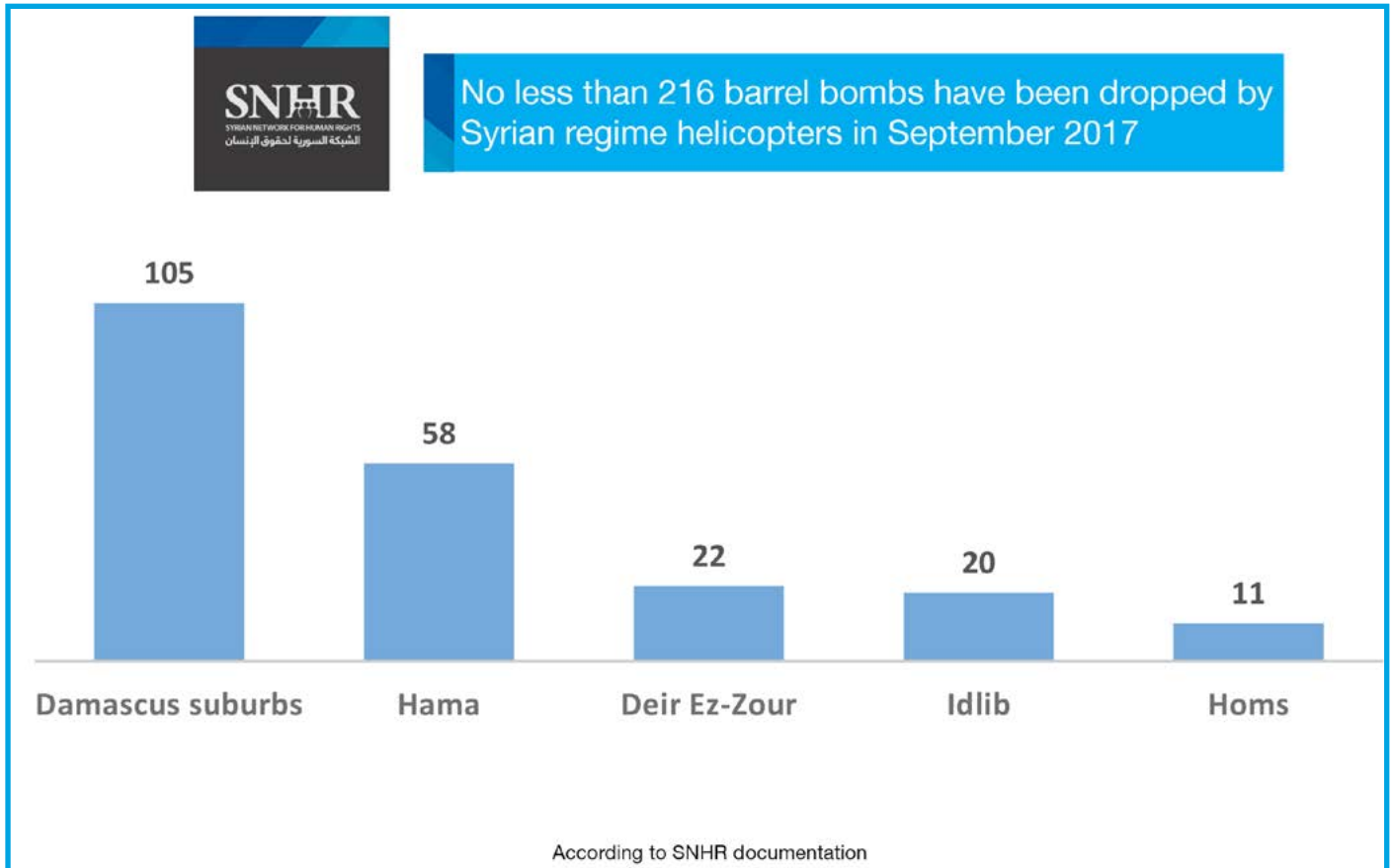
The fifth report, [“Nine Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed, and 43 Incidents of Attack on their Vital Facilities in September 2017”](#), notes that Russian forces are killing medical personnel again after a two-month stall, while we recorded that international coalition forces were responsible for killing medical personnel for the second month in a row. In September, Syrian regime forces topped all other parties in terms of killing medical and civil defense personnel by killing 56%, whereas Russian forces were responsible for most attack on medical and civil defense facilities with 63% of all attack in September.

A chart showing deaths among medical and civil defense personnel in September 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



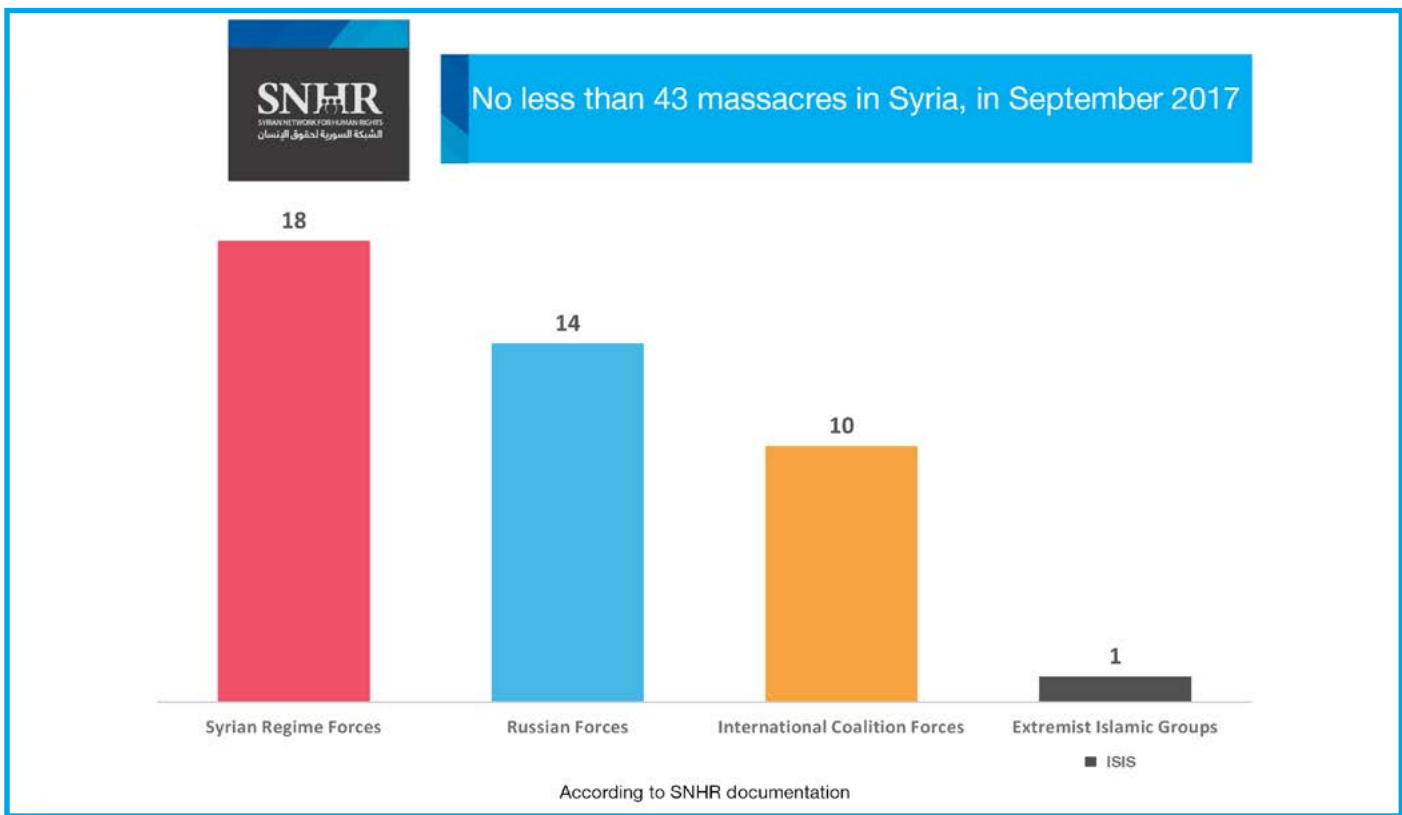
The report [“No less than 216 Barrel Bombs in September 2017”](#) stresses that the Syrian regime used barrel bombs in its offensive against ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate for the first time in 17 months.

A chart showing the toll of barrel bombs use in September 2017



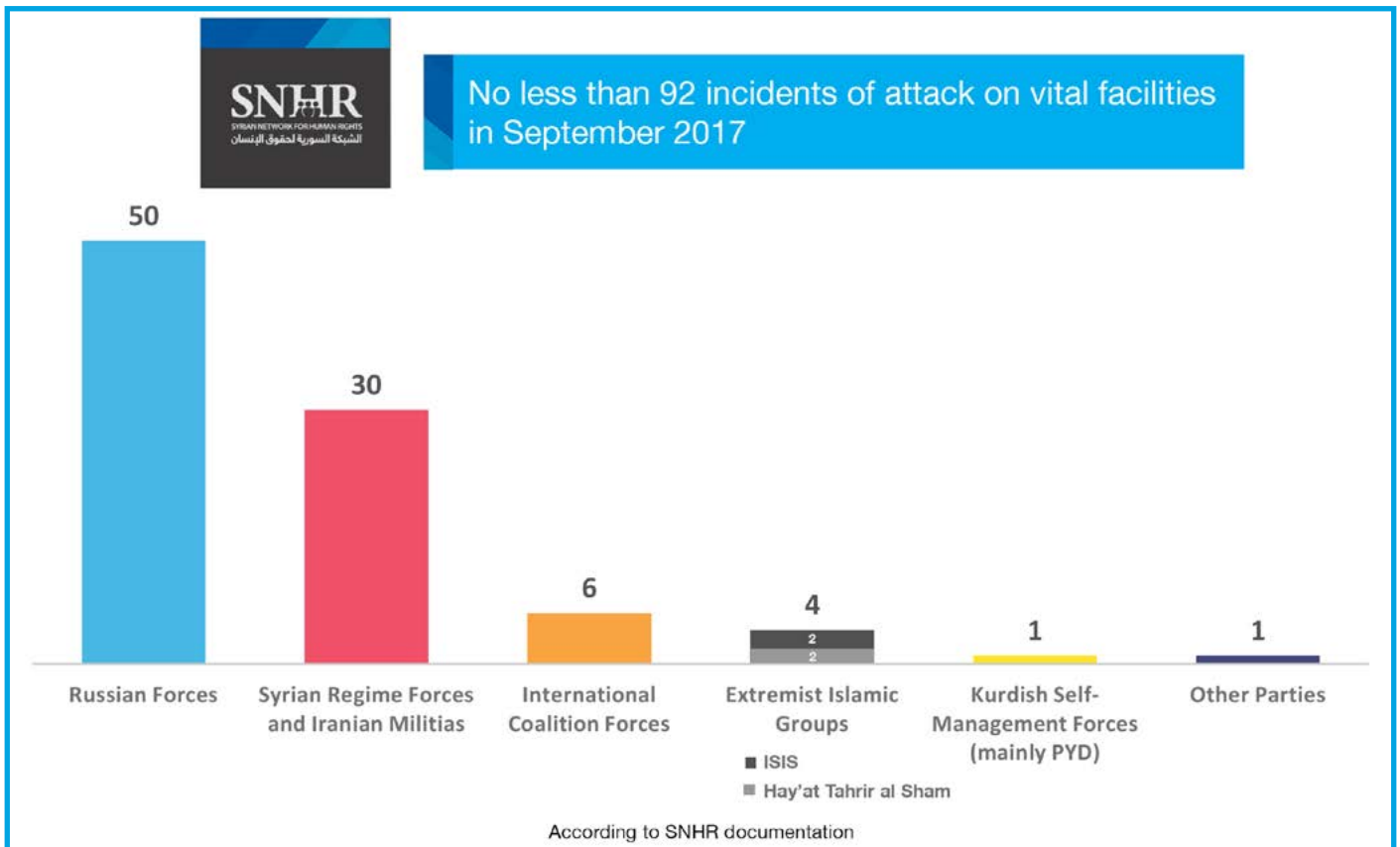
According to the report [“No less than 43 Massacres in September 2017”](#), 43 massacres were perpetrated in September, including 24 massacres in Deir Ez-Zour governorate – four by international coalition forces, while the remaining 20 were by Syrian regime forces and Russian forces (10 massacres each). Most of the Syrian-Russian alliance’s massacres were against IDPs who were fleeing bombardments on their areas by the alliance itself.

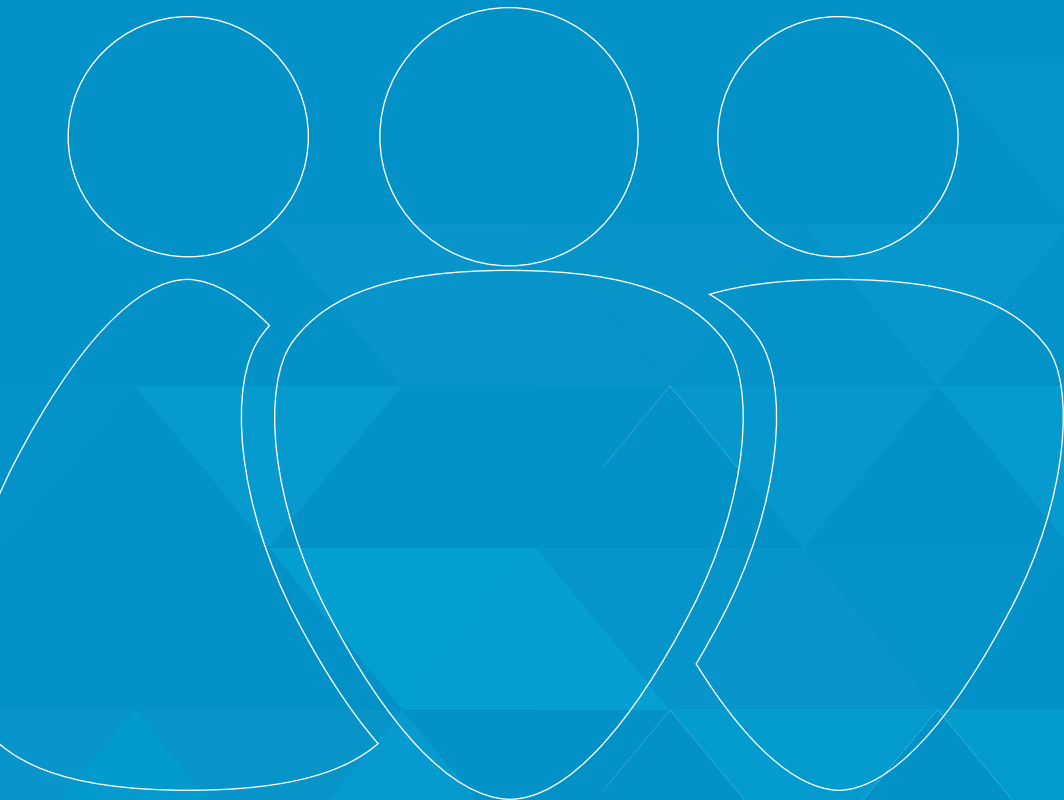
A chart showing the massacres of September 2017, and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



The report [“No less than 92 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in September 2017”](#) notes that Syrian-Russian alliance forces have majorly returned to targeting vital civilian facilities, topping all other parties with 80 attacks, including 18 on civil defense facilities, 16 on medical facilities, 11 on schools, and seven on mosques.

A chart showing the incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in August 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict





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