



## Levels of killings dating back to what it was before the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

The Killing of 872 Civilians in May 2016, 498 amongst which were killed by government forces

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### I. Introduction:

This report encompasses the casualties' death toll of who were killed by major conflict parties in Syria:

- A. Government forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias)
- B. Russian Forces
- C. Kurdish Self Management Forces (Mainly Democratic Union forces - People's Protection Units and Asayish forces)
- D. Extremist Islamic Groups
- E. Armed opposition Groups
- F. International Coalition Forces
- G. Unidentified groups

One day after the declaration of the Supreme Commission for negotiations to postpone its participation in the Geneva negotiations on 19 April, government forces and Russian forces resumed bombardment of areas beyond the control of the Syrian regime to return the pace of killings to what it was before the cessation of hostilities agreement.

### II. Report Methodology:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent human rights organization that documents the violations of human rights by the six major conflict parties in Syria. To a certain extent, we are able to document the civilians who are killed by all major conflict parties in Syria, however, armed victims are divided into two categories:





a. Armed opposition victims: It is difficult to document the precise number of armed opposition members since they are killed in battle fields not cities. In addition, some armed opposition groups keep the victims' names confidential due to security reasons. Hence, we cannot obtain their names, images or any other details and therefore, the number of killed armed opposition members is far more than what we were able to record.

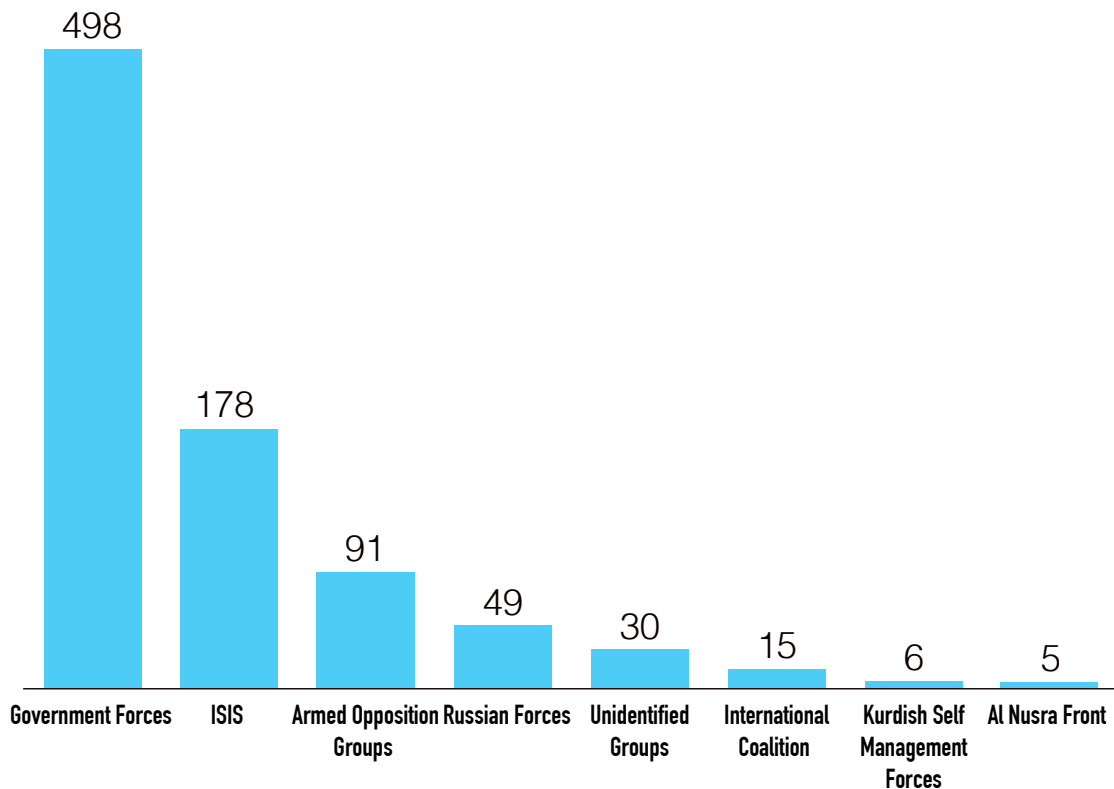
b. Government forces' or ISIL victims:

It is nearly impossible to obtain information about those kinds of victims due to the absence of any clear methodology, for several reasons. Neither Government forces nor ISIL declare their victims' names or record it. Therefore, there is no clear and credible data to rely on while documenting ISIL or government forces' members. Therefore, we will record the civilians who were killed by all conflict parties and compare between it.

For more information on SNHR [methodology](#), click on the following URL:

### III. Report Details:

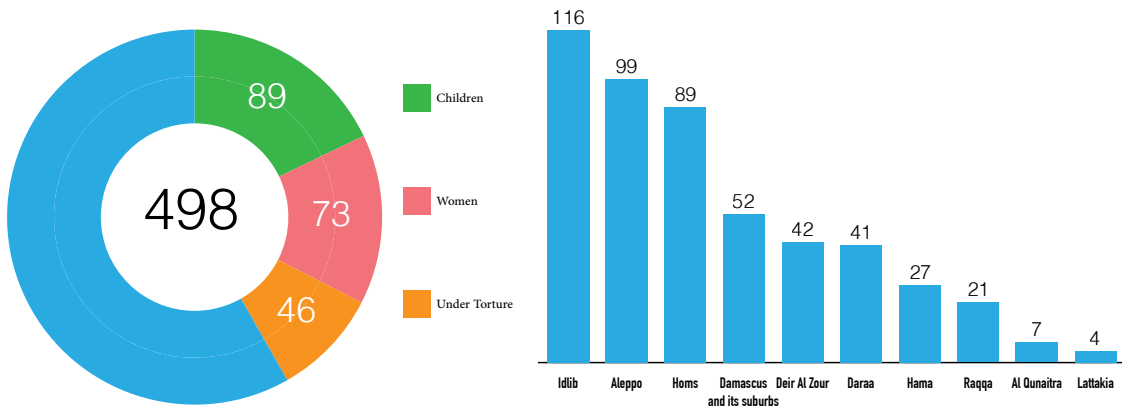
In May 2016, SNHR documented the killing of 872 civilians, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:





**A. Government Forces: (Army, security, local militias, foreign Shiite militias)**  
SNHR documented the killing of 498 civilians at the hands of government forces, including 73 women and 89 children (at a rate of killing 3 children daily).  
The rate of killing women and children was 33% among the civilian victims and this is considered as a stark indication of the deliberate targeting by government forces to civilians.

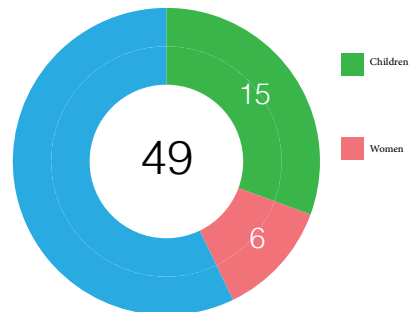
### 498 Killed by Government Forces



### B. Russian Forces:

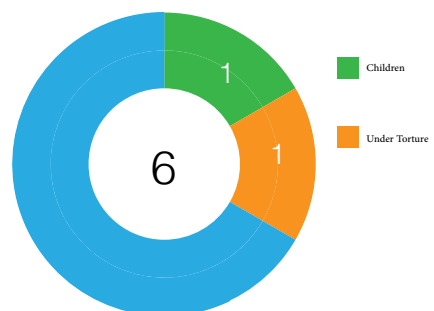
We recorded 49 civilians including 15 children and 6 women all in the Aleppo governorate due to alleged Russian shelling

### 49 Killed by Russian Forces



**C. Kurdish Self Management Forces (Mainly Democratic Union forces - People's Protection Units and Asayish):** Killed 6 civilians including one child and one out of torture. Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates: Aleppo: 5, Al Raqqa: 1

### 6 Killed by Kurdish Self Management Forces





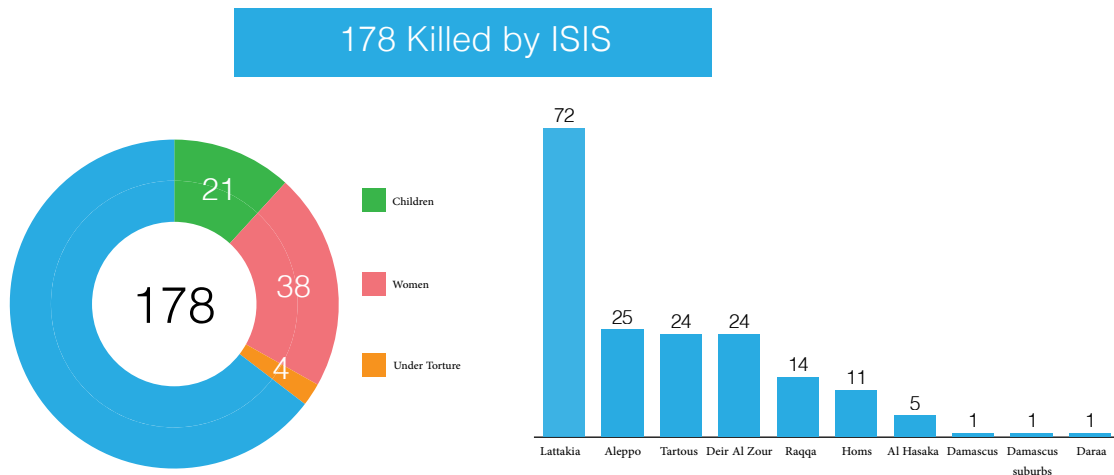
## D. Extremist Islamic Groups:

Extremist Islamic groups killed 183 civilians, detailed as follows:

i. ISIL (called themselves as Islamic State): killed 178 civilians including 21 children and 38 women and 4 due to torture.

Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Deir Al Zour: 24, Aleppo: 25, Daraa: 1, Al Raqqa: 14, Damascus suburbs: 1, Damascus: 1, Lattakia: 72, Tartous: 24, Al Hasaka: 5, Homs : 11



ii. Al Nusra Front: killed 5 civilians including one child

Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Damascus: 1, Idlib: 4

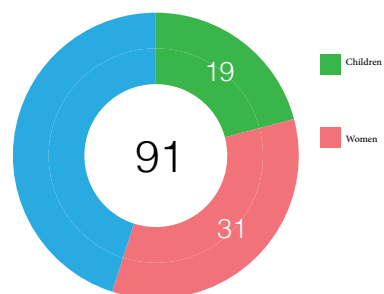
## E. Armed Opposition Groups:

SNHR documented the killing of 91 civilians including 19 children and 31 women.

Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Daraa: 10, Aleppo: 72, Damascus suburbs: 9

91 killed by Armed Opposition Groups



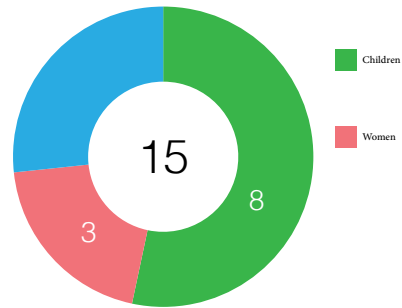


## F. International Coalition Forces:

We recorded the killing of 15 civilians including 8 children and 3 women due to the bombing of international coalition war-planes.. Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Deir Al Zour: 4, Aleppo: 11

15 Killed by International Coalition

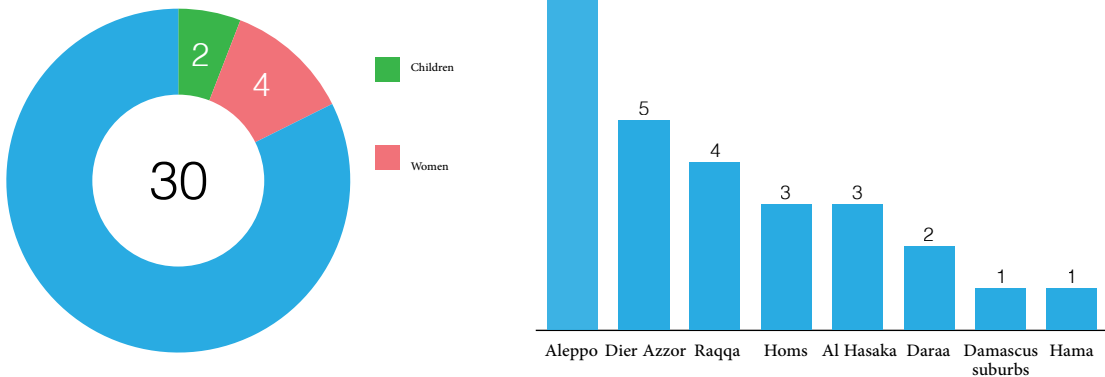


## G. Unidentified Groups:

We recorded the killing of 30 civilians including 2 children and 4 women by unidentified groups. Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Daraa: 2, Idlib: 3, Hama: 1, Damascus suburbs: 1, Al Hassaka: 3, Deir Al Zour: 5, Aleppo: 8, Al Raqqa: 4, Homs : 3

30 Killed by Unidentified Groups



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.





## IV- Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. SNHR affirms that government forces 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 committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- Kurdish Self Management forces committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- Extremist Islamic groups committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- International coalition forces committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- Armed opposition groups committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- International Coalition forces 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, Russian system and all the Shiite militias, including ISIL are actually considered 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 no. 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

