

Statement

Most Notable Violations in August 2017

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday, September 13, 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



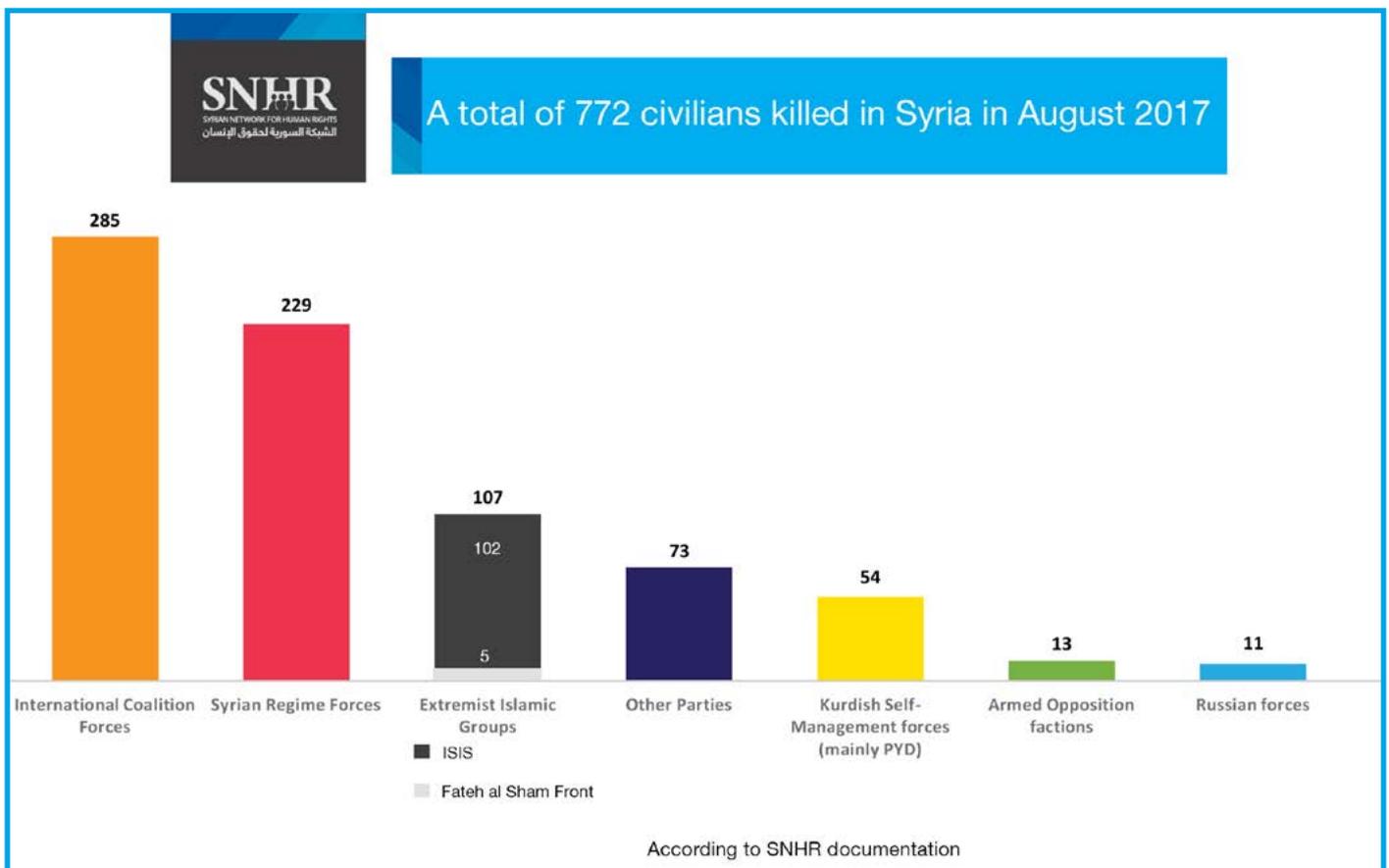
SNHR has released eight reports with the start of September 2017, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven parties to the conflict in Syria in August 2017 - civilian death toll, victims due to torture, most notable violations against media activists, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable massacres, barrel bombs use, and most notable incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities. These reports highlighted the impact of the series of de-escalation agreements on the rates of violations by the parties to the conflict in August. These agreements were established on the grounds of Ankara Ceasefire Agreement, starting with the first agreement that came into effect on Saturday, May 6, 2017, as it was announced at the end of the fourth round of Astana talks, followed by South Syria Agreement which went into effect at 12:00 of Sunday, July 9, 2017, and was announced by the American and Russian presidents on the sidelines of the 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit. The two agreements were followed by a number of local agreements that were struck in a number of opposition-held agreement such as the de-escalation agreement in Eastern Ghouta, which commenced at 12:00 on Saturday, July 22, 2017 after it was signed in Cairo by representatives from Jaish al Islam and Russian military officials, while Failaq al Rahman had signed the same agreement in Geneva with Russian military officials, provided that the agreement would go into effect at 21:00 of Friday, August 2017. Additionally, a de-escalation agreement in northern suburbs of Homs governorate and southern suburbs of Hama governorate was signed in Cairo, Egypt's capital, and came into effect on Thursday, August 3, 2017. At 12:00

These reports draw upon the daily documentation processes during August, 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](#).



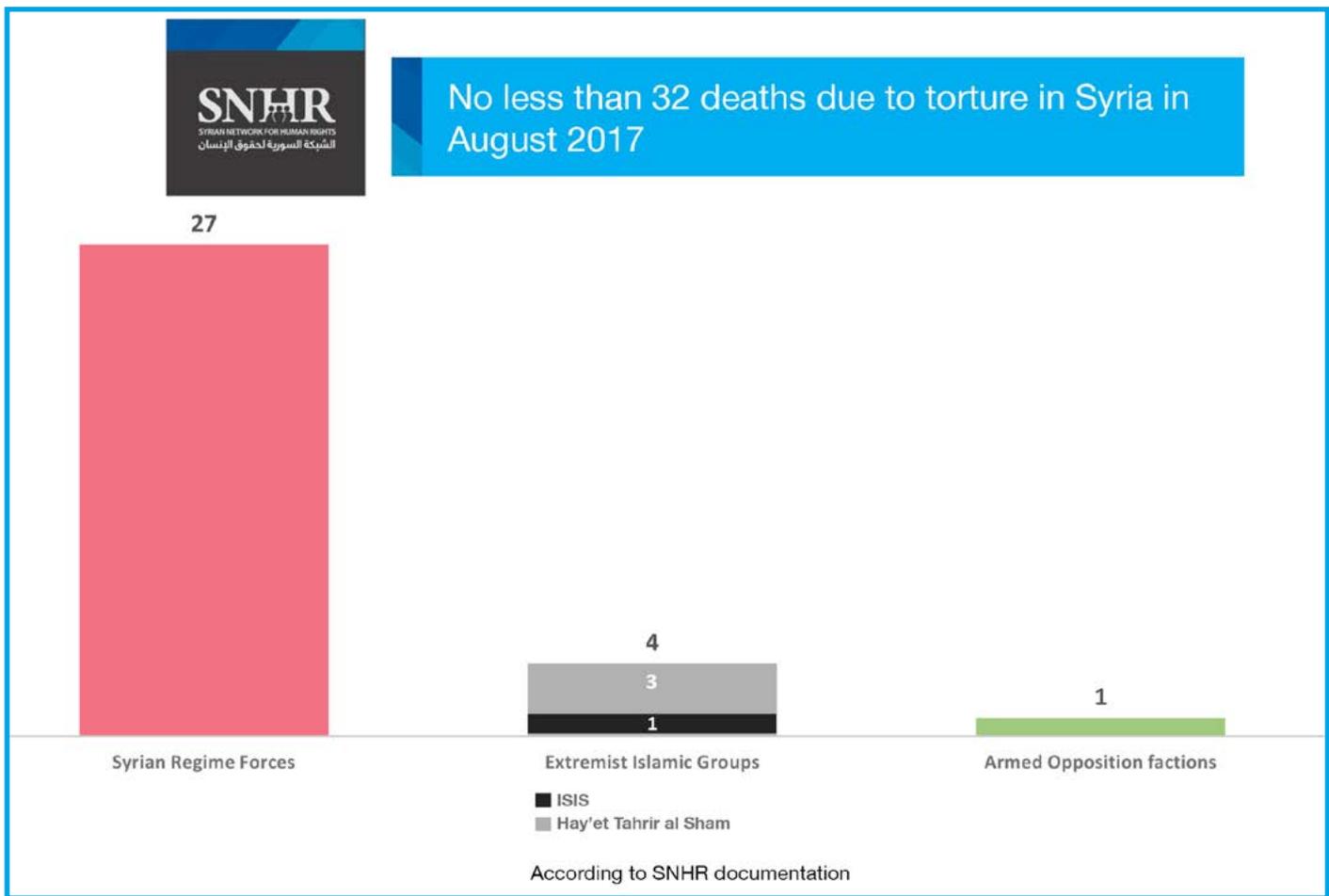
The first report, entitled: “[772 Civilians Killed in August 2017](#)”, documents that international coalition forces have topped all other parties in terms of killing civilians for the second time since the start of 2017, killing 37% of all civilians killed in August, 55% of all children killed in August, and 53% of all women killed in August. It should be noted that 71% of civilians killed by international coalition forces were from Raqqa governorate. The Syrian regime was responsible for the second-highest death toll in August, killing 30% of all victims who were killed in August. The report notes that rates of civilian deaths are likely going to rise in light of the recent vicious military campaign in Raqqa and Deir Ez-Zour governorates by the international coalition forces-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and by the Syrian-Russian alliance in light of a suffocating siege on civilians by ISIS who also enclosed the towns and villages and cut off communications in their areas of control.

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



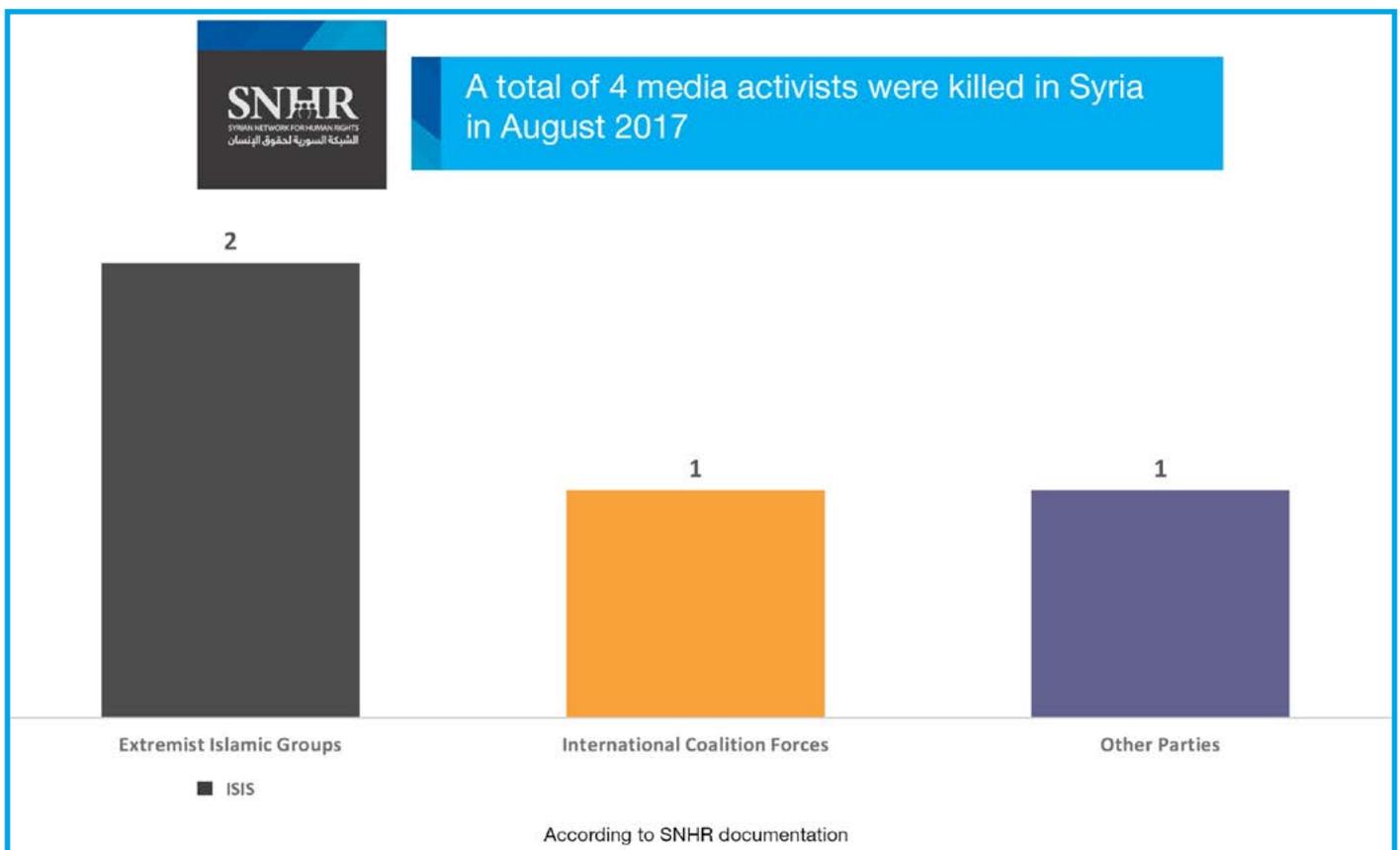
The report “[32 Individuals Died due to Torture in August 2017](#)” records an unprecedented rise in the numbers of victims who died due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces since Ankara Ceasefire Agreement came into effect on December 30, 2016, as the number of those victims have reached 27 victims, while Hay’at Tahrir al Sham practiced acts of torture as well causing the death of three individuals, one of whom was a child.

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



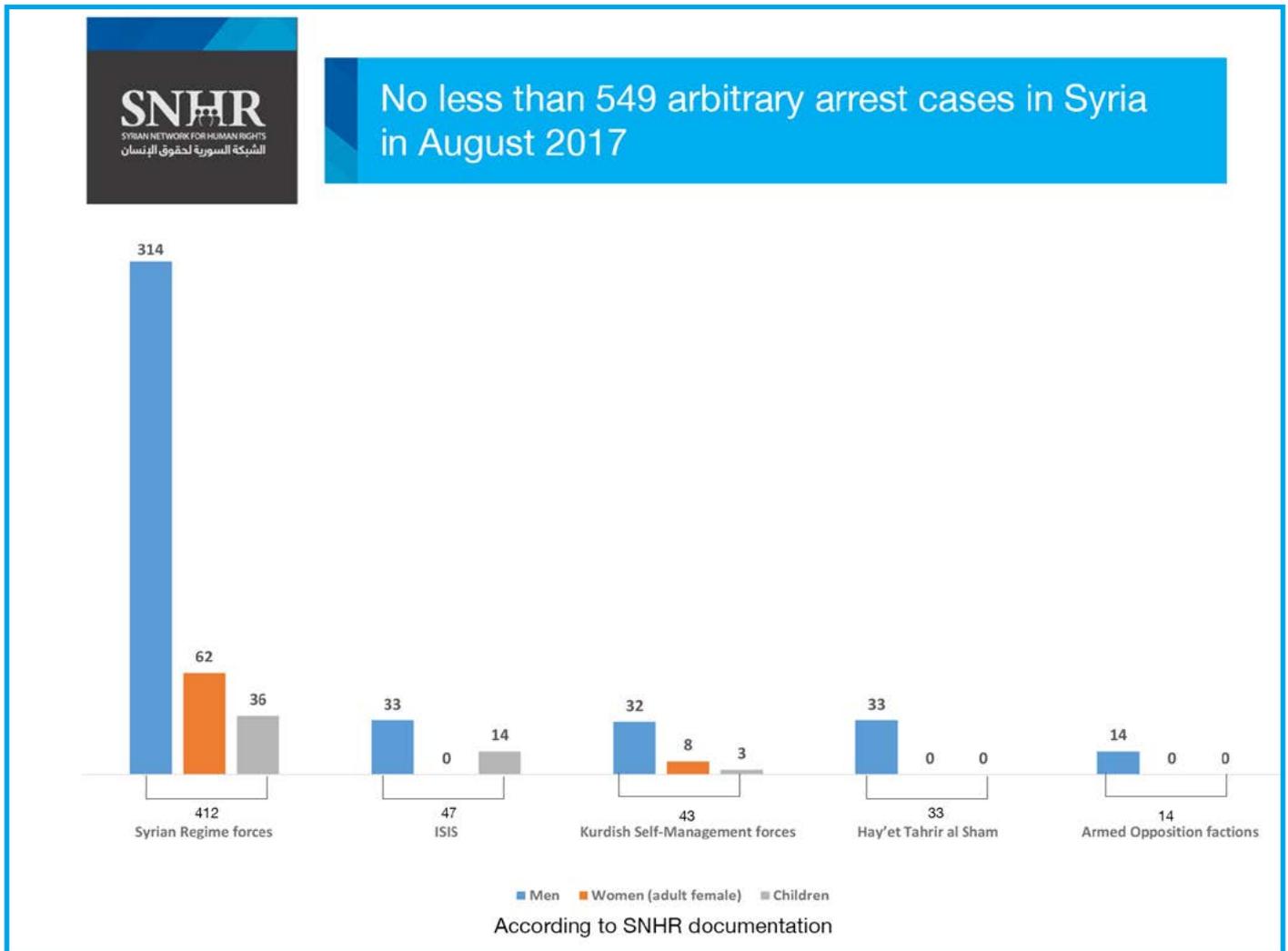
The report “[Four Media Activists Killed, Two Injured, and Eight Arrested and Abducted, toll of August 2017](#)” notes that August saw a significant drop in the toll of violations by the Syrian-Russian alliance since the de-escalation agreement commenced on May 6, 2017, while Syrian regime forces haven’t killed any media activist for the second month in a row. On the other hand, international coalition forces have killed their first media activist since their intervention in Syria started on September 23, 2017. Extremist Islamic groups were the most notable party in terms of perpetrating violations against media activists in August - in killing and arrest numbers.

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



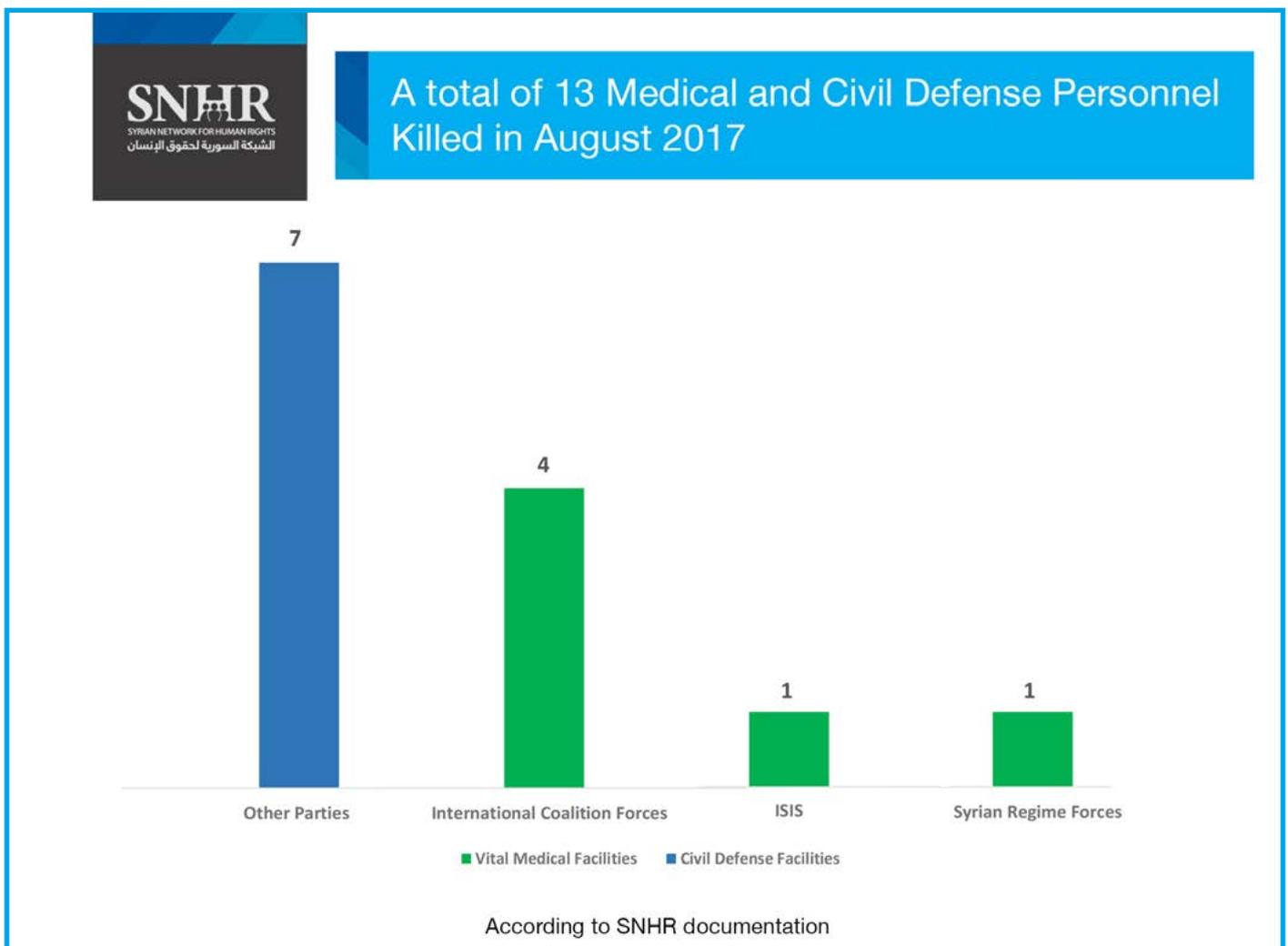
The report “[No less than 549 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest Recorded in August 2017](#)” notes that 549 individuals at least, including 53 children and 70 women, were arrested by the parties to the conflict in Syria this month. Of those, 75% were at the hands of Syrian regime forces. The report sheds light on the increase in the numbers of children and women arbitrarily arrested by Syrian regime forces in Damascus governorate.

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



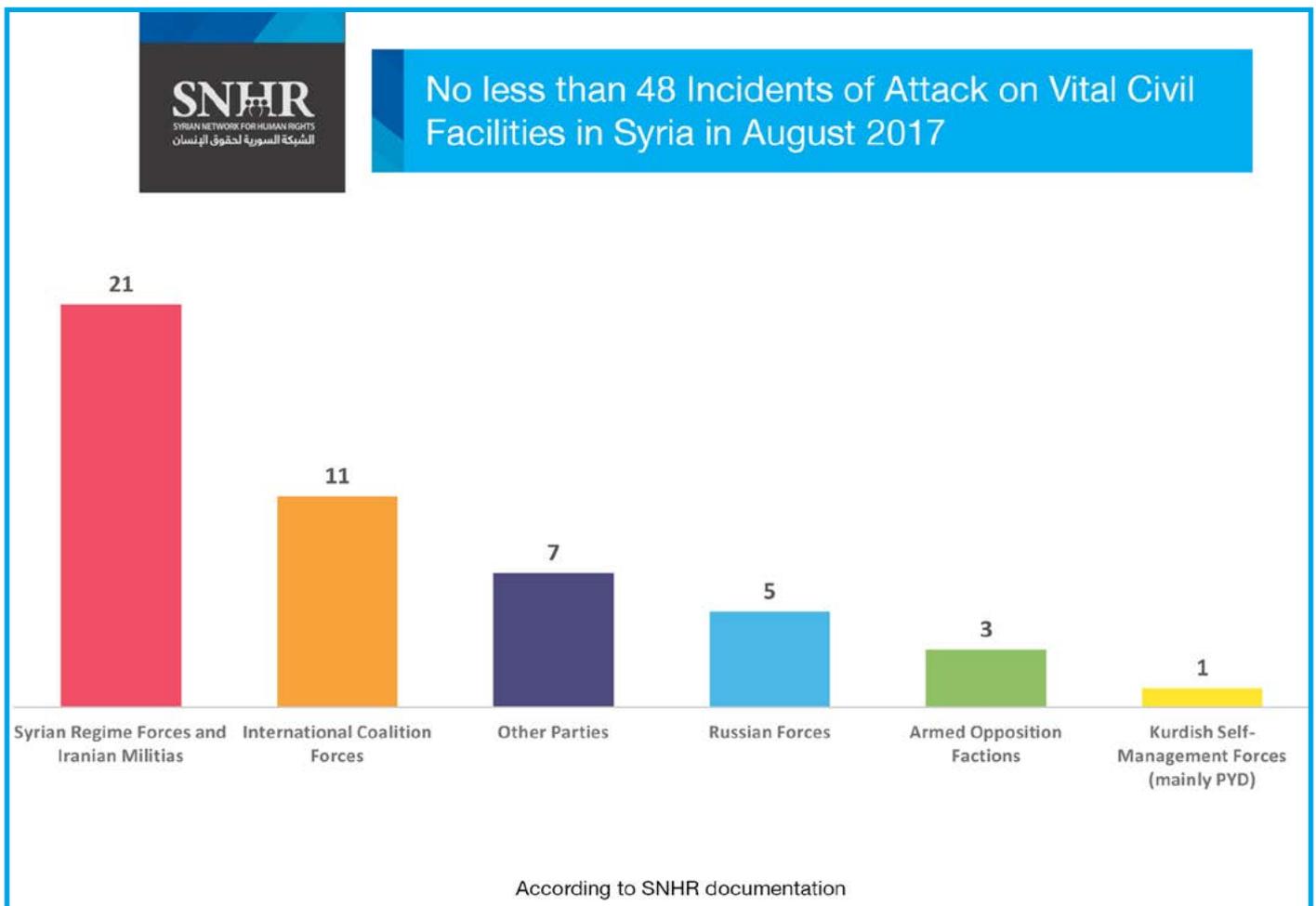
The fifth report, “[13 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed, and 14 Incidents of Attack on their Vital Facilities in August 2017](#)”, records an unprecedented rise in the number of medical personnel victims who were killed by international coalition forces since their intervention started in Syria, as four medical personnel were killed in Raqqa city in part of its vicious campaign in the city under the pretext of fighting terrorism. Also, the report notes that August saw a massacre against civil defense personnel for the second time in 2017 that was perpetrated by unknowns. Additionally, Syrian regime forces trumped all other parties in carrying out attacks on vital medical and civil defense facilities.

A chart showing violations against medical and civil defense personnel in August 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



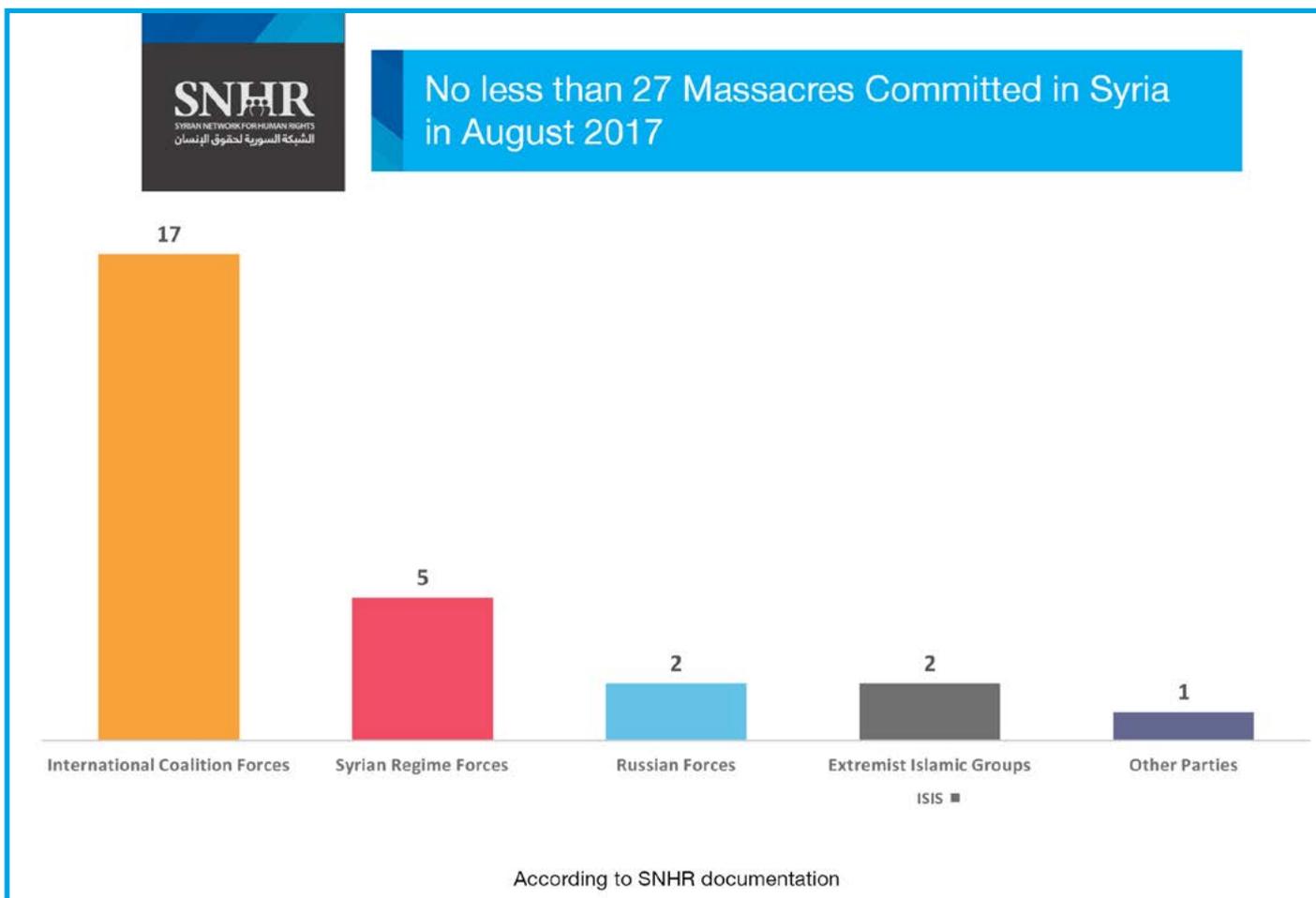
The report “[No less than 48 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in August 2017](#)” stresses that Syrian regime forces was the party that attacked the most vital civilian facilities, as 21 incidents of attack were by Syrian regime forces. Most of these attacks targeted mosques and civil defense facilities, and then markets. International coalition forces came second, attacking 11 vital civilian facilities most of which were medical facilities, and then mosques.

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



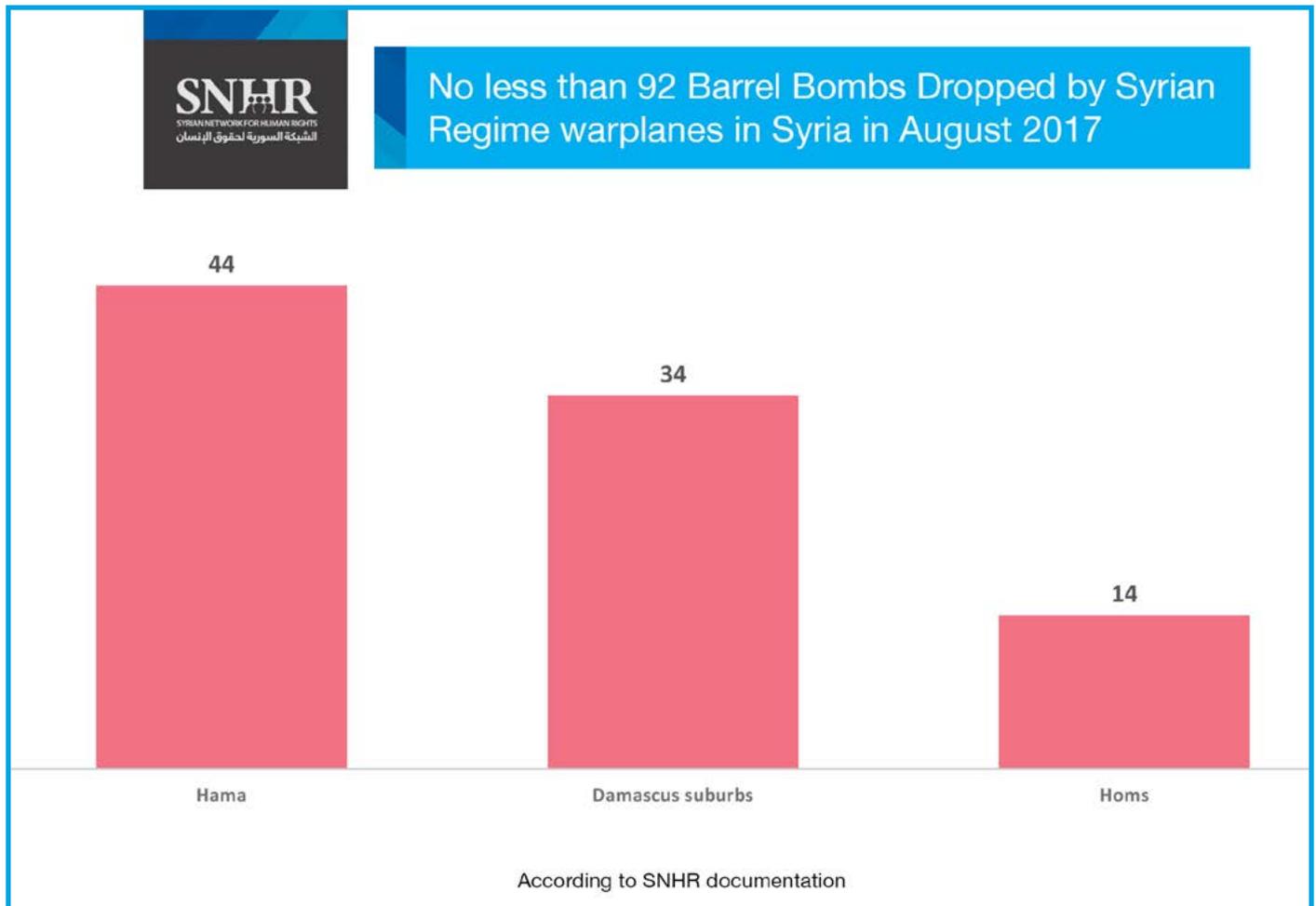
According to the report “[No less than 27 Massacres in August 2017](#)”, international coalition forces perpetrated the most massacres against civilians for the fourth month in a row, as they were responsible for 63% of all massacres in August. Of those, 95% were in Raqqa city against families and IDPs who are living under a siege imposed by ISIS. International coalition forces killed 75% of all victims that were killed in massacres in August, while Syrian regime forces was the second-most notable party in terms of massacres, committing 19% of all massacres in August.

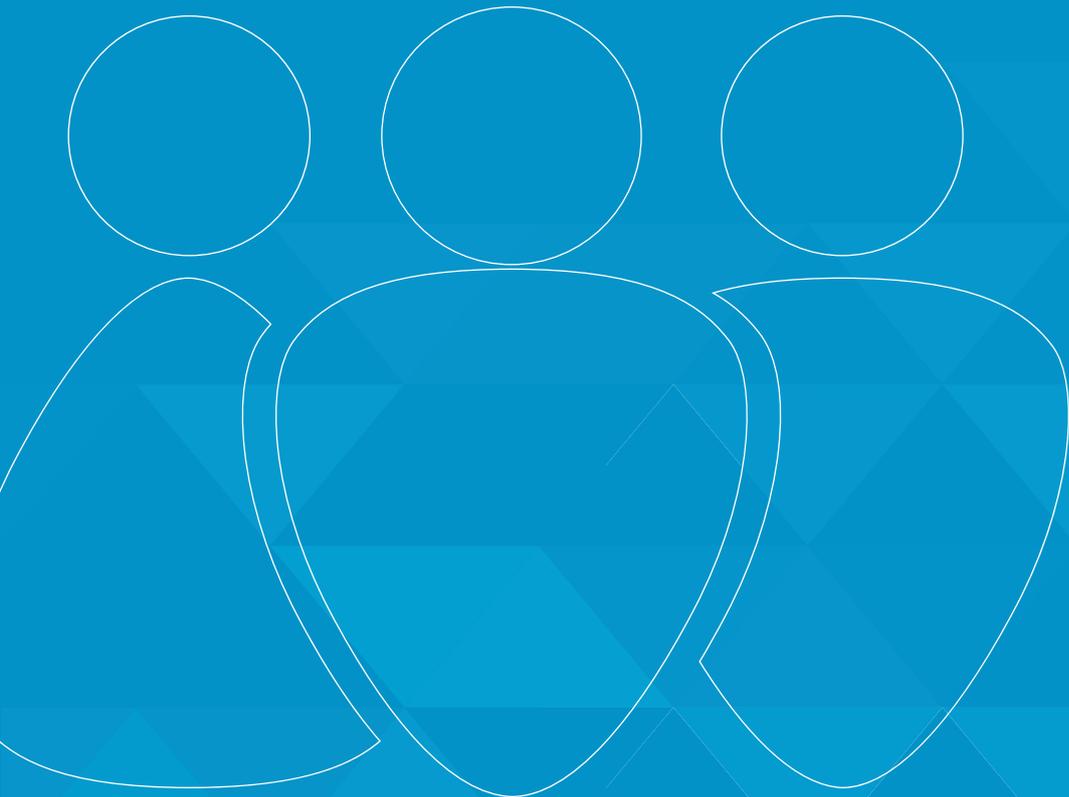
A chart showing the massacres of August 2017, and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



The report “[No less than 92 Barrel Bombs in August 2017](#)” notes that Syrian regime forces used the least barrel bombs in a month since their first documented use in late-2012. Barrel bombs were used in Hama, Damascus suburbs, and Homs governorates in August, and only killed one victim.

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





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