



## The Main Conflict Parties Who Are Killing Civilians in Syria Civilian's Death Toll up to the end of October 2015

Since the beginning of the uprising in Syria in 2011, SNHR has been documenting, classifying, and archiving the victim's death toll according to different criteria and characteristics. We record the victims' names, age, date and cause of death. Further, SNHR classifies whether the victims were civilians or gunmen and records other relevant information as well. However, it should be noted that what we have been documenting is the bare minimum of what we were able to record regarding different documentation criteria and challenges that we face. To read more about SNHR's [methodology](#), please visit the following link.

In the past years, we provided the High Commissioner for Human Rights with files that contained all victims' data; however the commission that is headed by Prince Zeid Bin Ra'ad Al Houssein has ceased to continue to update the casualties' death toll in May 2014, and we hopefully wish that it will be resumed in the near future.

Since March 2011 and for several months afterwards, the main conflict party that killed Syrian civilians was government forces represented by security forces, army and local militias. Al Nusra Front announced its formation on 24 January 2012 and then the PYD Kurdish Forces started to emerge. Also, ISIL announced its creation on 9 April 2013; two years after the uprising had started.

The Syrian government forces are considered to be one of the major conflict parties who have been killing civilians in Syria for several reasons:

- I. Regime forces killed protestors and shot at them, arrested and killed civilians under torture and used mortar and artillery weaponry.
- II. ISince 2012, regime forces started to use its military aviation (helicopters and war-planes) where rocket shelling killed the greatest number of Syrian civilians. In the end of 2013, government forces started to use barrel bombs.
- III. Syrian regime forces shells different governorates and cities at the same time.
- IV. Shelling, arrests campaigns, death under torture, displacement have continued to occur almost on a daily basis since 2011.
- V. Government forces committed large scale massacres that harvested the lives of hundreds of individuals in few hours like when it [shelled Al Ghouta with Toxic Gasses](#), stormed Jdaydat Al Fadel town in Damascus suburbs, [and committed massacres in Banyas and Al Bayda in Tartous](#).





The Syrian regime is the main party to be accused of committing widespread massacres and extrajudicial killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Nonetheless, media and some political leaders shed light on ISIL's heinous crimes and tend to neglect crimes that are being committed by government forces. This fact helped ISIL spread even more due to the kind of publicity and attention it received while the Syrian regime continued to perpetrate crimes and take the blame on Al Qaeda and "the terrorists". Kurdish forces joined other conflict parties in Syria when YPG forces, (the armed wing of the PYD party), established the Kurdish Self-Management Forces in January 2014 and seized control over some regions in north and east of Syria. The PYD party constitutes the main core of the movement that was called later on the "Kurdish Self-Management Forces".

On 23 September 2014, the international coalition forces joined the conflict parties in Syria. On 30 September 2015, the Russian forces announced the commencement of its military attack to support the Syrian government's fight against terrorism and extremism and therefore have joined the main conflict parties.

The first diagram depicts the civilian's death tolls who were killed by the major conflict parties since the uprising and up till the end of October 2015.

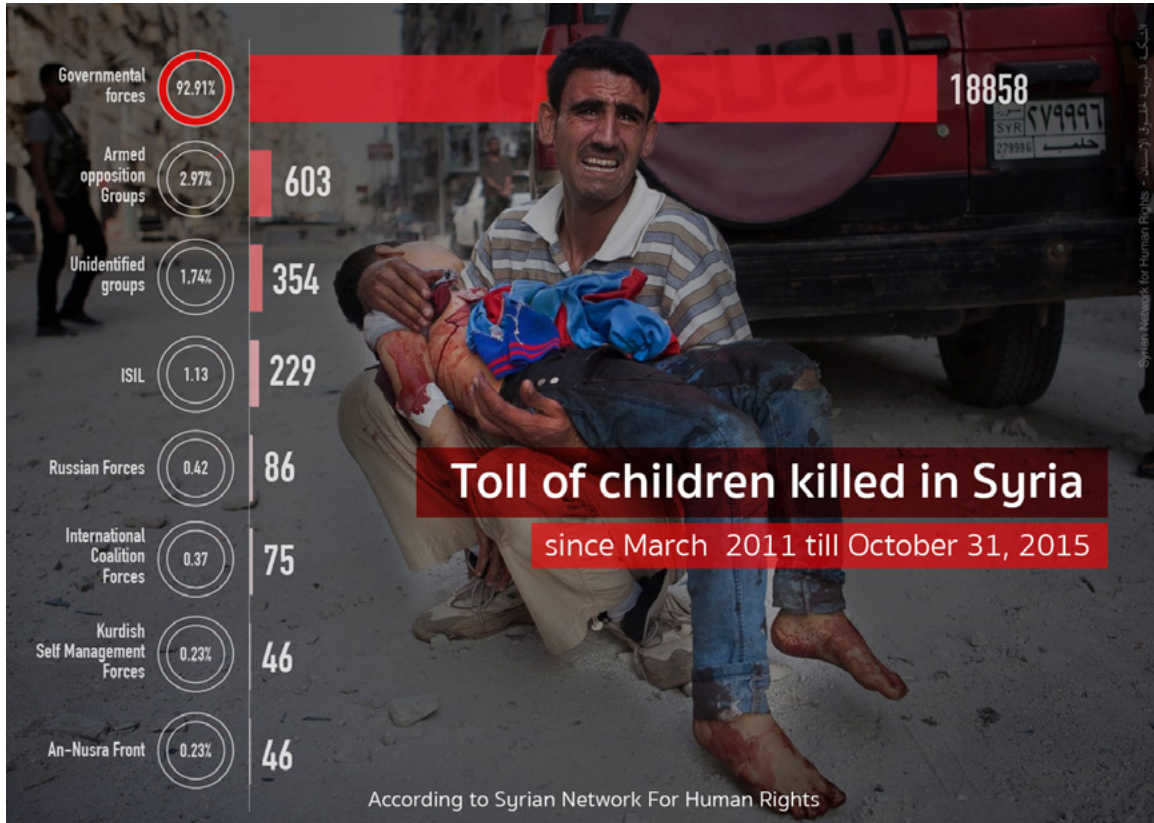
The following diagrams depict the children's death toll, death under torture documentation, and death toll of the medical and media personnel.

### **Civilian's death toll in Syria since March 2011 and till the end of October 2015:**

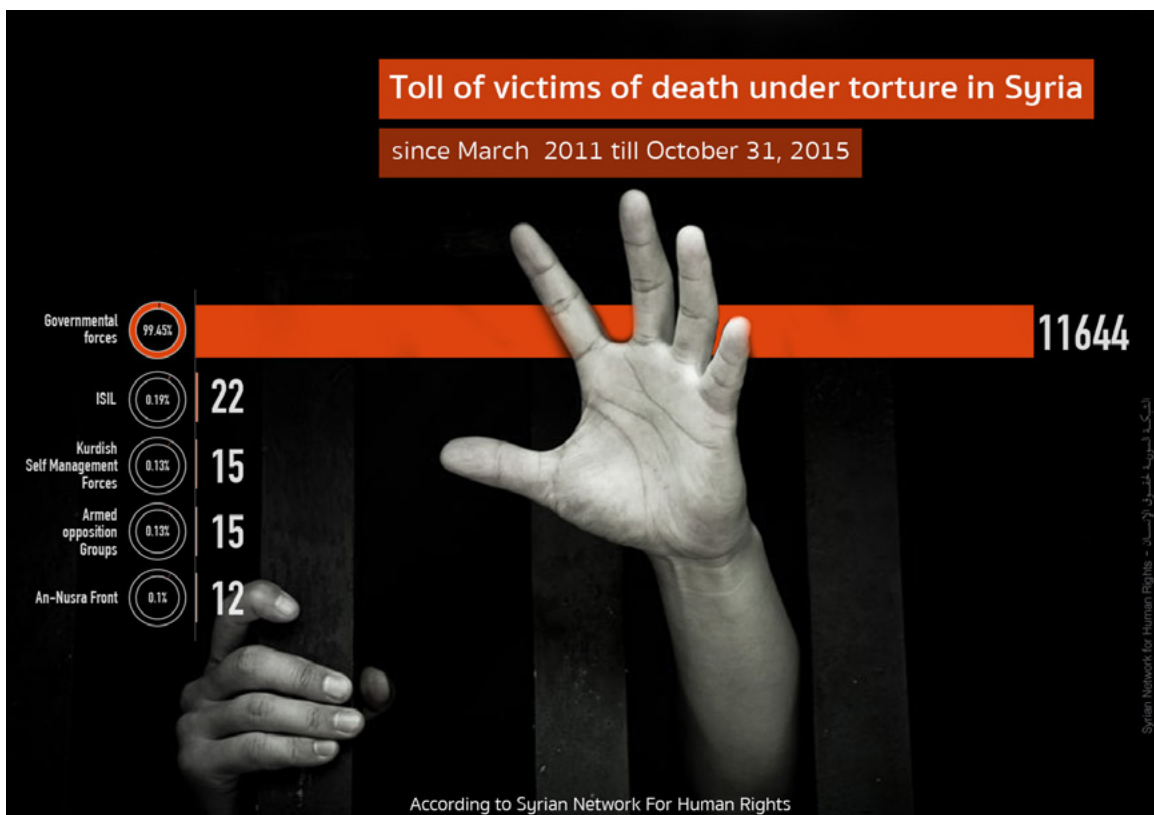




## Children's death toll in Syria since March 2011 and till the end of October 2015:

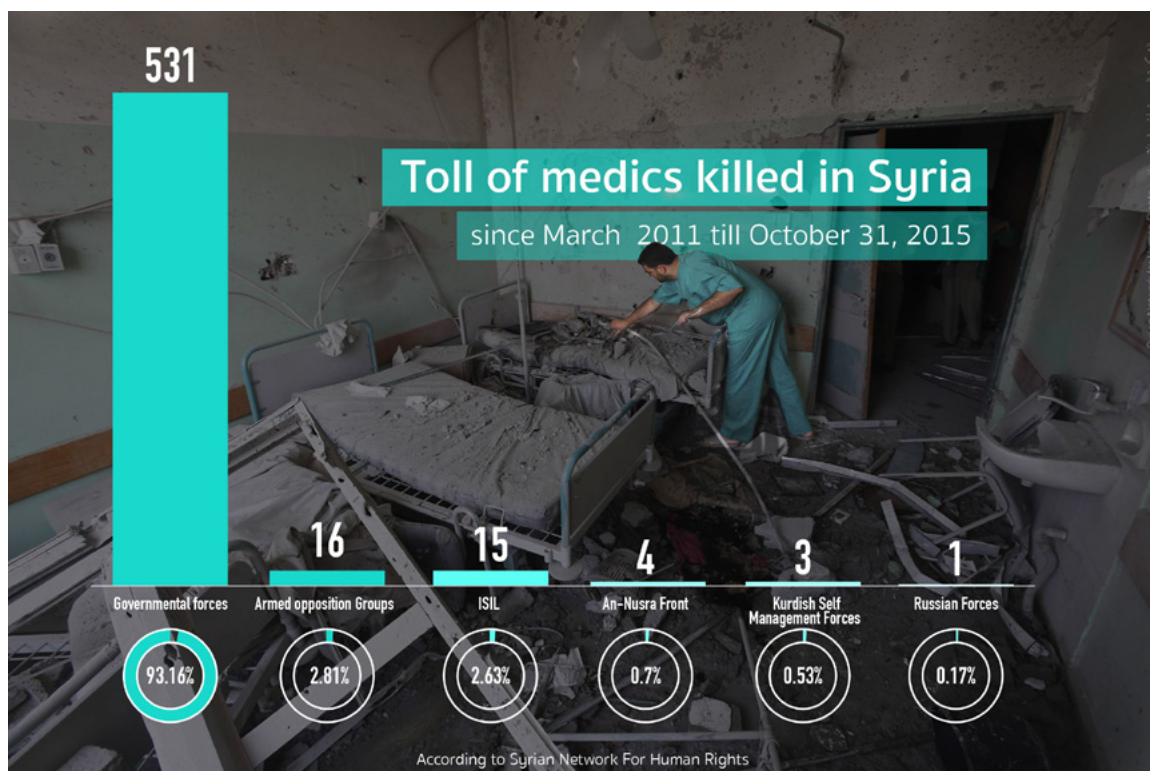


## Under torture victims' death toll in Syria since March 2011 and till the end of October 2015:

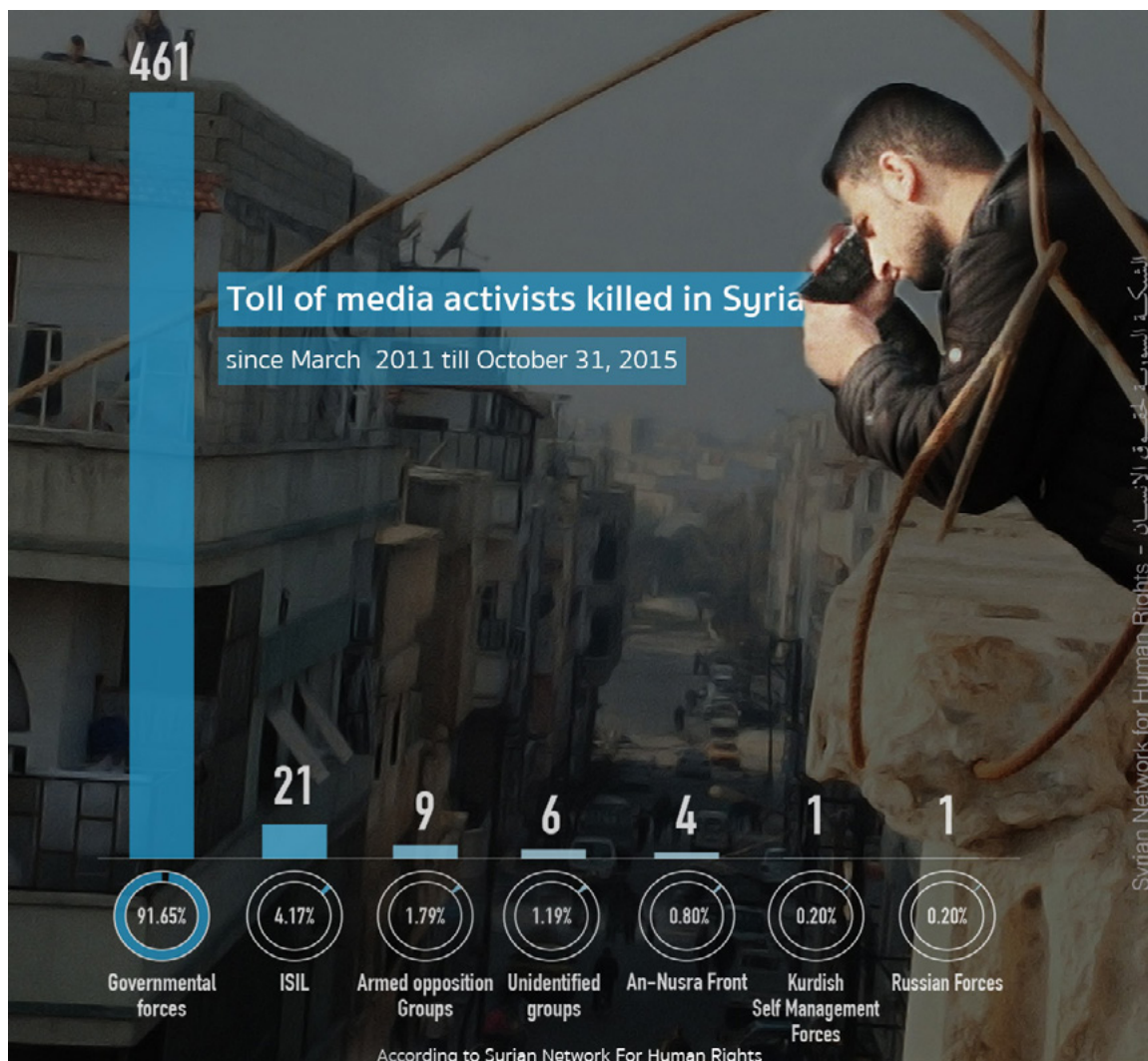




**Medical personnel's death toll in Syria since March 2011 and till the end of October 2015:**



**Media personnel's death toll in Syria since March 2011 and till the end of October 2015:**





## Recommendations:

### To the UN Security Council:

- The UN Security Council must take further action as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution No. 2139 without the Assad regime showing the least commitment to halting indiscriminate shelling, which has caused destruction and daily killings.
- It must put pressure on the Assad regime and its allies like Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hizbollah militia to stop supplying it with arms and military experts after its proven involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes. It also must pass a resolution to condemn the sides that supply it with weapons.
- The Syrian file must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in war crimes and violations must be held accountable.
- The UN Security Council must establish peace and security and protect Syrian civilians and their heritage from looting, destruction and vandalism.
- Since the Security Council failed to stop the bloodshed in Syria, safe zones must be established where civilians can resort to in order to feel protected from the daily shelling, shooting, and massacres.



Syrian Network For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

