

Statement

Most Notable Violations in the First Half of 2017

International Coalition Forces
Tops Multiple Parties in
Perpetrating Violations

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, July 10, 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 June 2017, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven parties to the conflict in Syria in the first half of 2017 - civilian death toll, victims due to torture, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against media activists, most notable massacres, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, most notable incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities, and barrel bombs use. The reports outline the most notable violations documented by SNHR in the first half of 2017, and highlight the impact of the de-escalation agreement on the rates of violations perpetrated by the parties to the conflict in June. The de-escalation agreement was announced at the end of the fourth round of negotiation in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital, and came into effect on Saturday, May 6, 2017

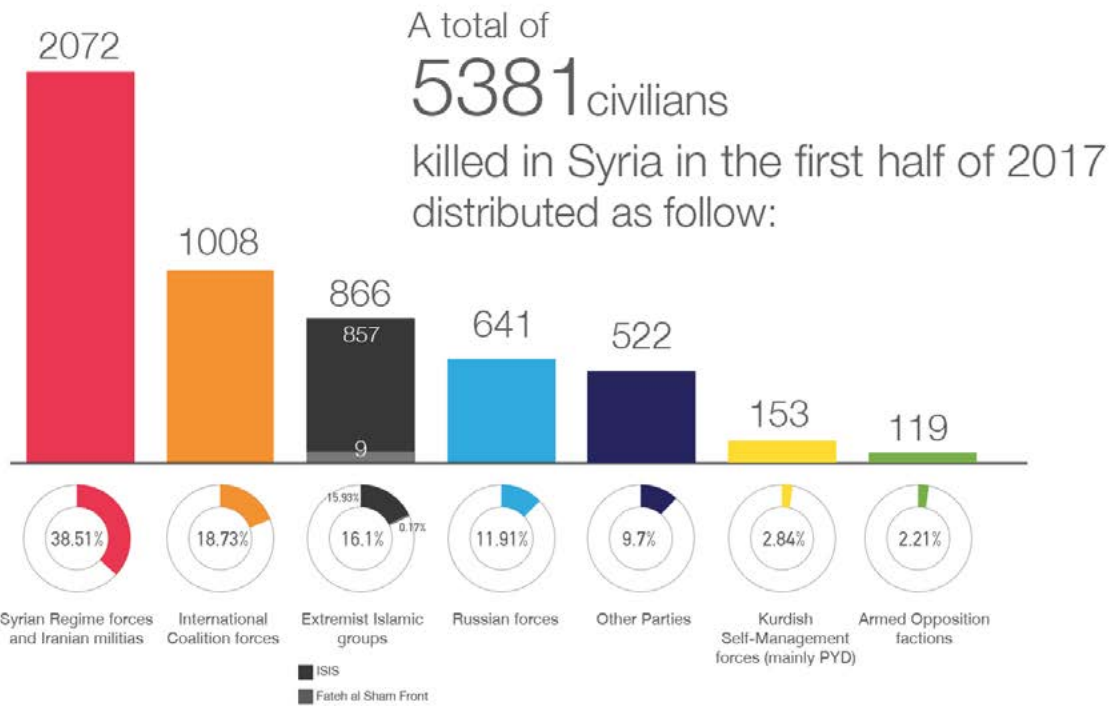
These reports draw upon the daily documentation processes during June, where SNHR, through its scattered members throughout Syria, monitors violations by the parties to the conflict, and publishes most notable news, before releasing a preliminary death toll at the end of each day. For more information,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

The first report, entitled: [“5381 Civilians Killed in the First Half of 2017”](#), documents the civilian deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict in the first half of 2017, showing a significant rise in the numbers of civilians killed by international coalition forces, the second-most party responsible for killing civilians in that period of time topped only by Syrian regime forces and its Iranian militias. International coalition forces have killed in the first half of 2017 twice as many as what was documented in the entirety of 2016.

Furthermore, the figures on civilian death toll in June, which are included in the report, showed a notable drop in the number of civilians killed by Russian forces for the second month in a row, while international coalition forces maintained the same pace in killing civilians during the month of June compared to May, as they killed 265 civilians in June; 42% of those were children and women. The only party to kill more than international coalition forces were Syrian regime forces at 278 civilians killed.

A chart showing the toll of civilian deaths in the first half of 2017 and its distribution by the parties to the conflict.

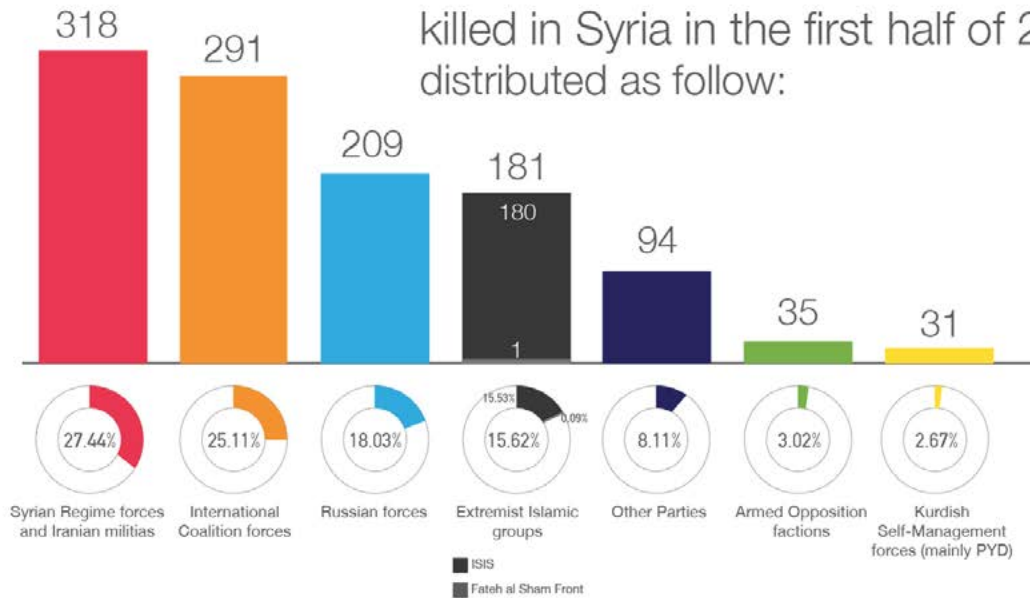




According to SNHR documentation

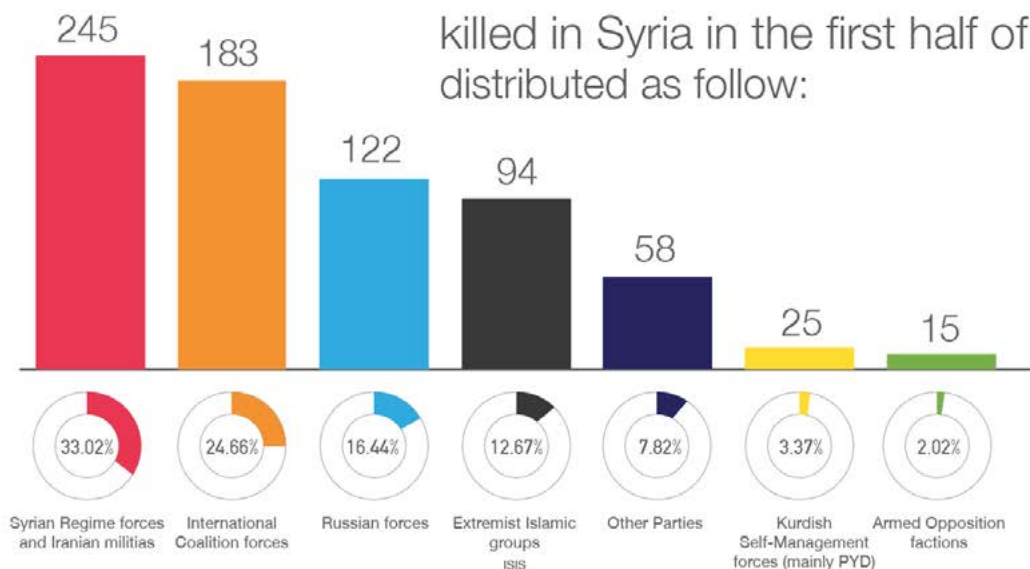


A total of
1159 children
killed in Syria in the first half of 2017
distributed as follow:



According to SNHR documentation

A total of
742 women (adult female)
killed in Syria in the first half of 2017
distributed as follow:



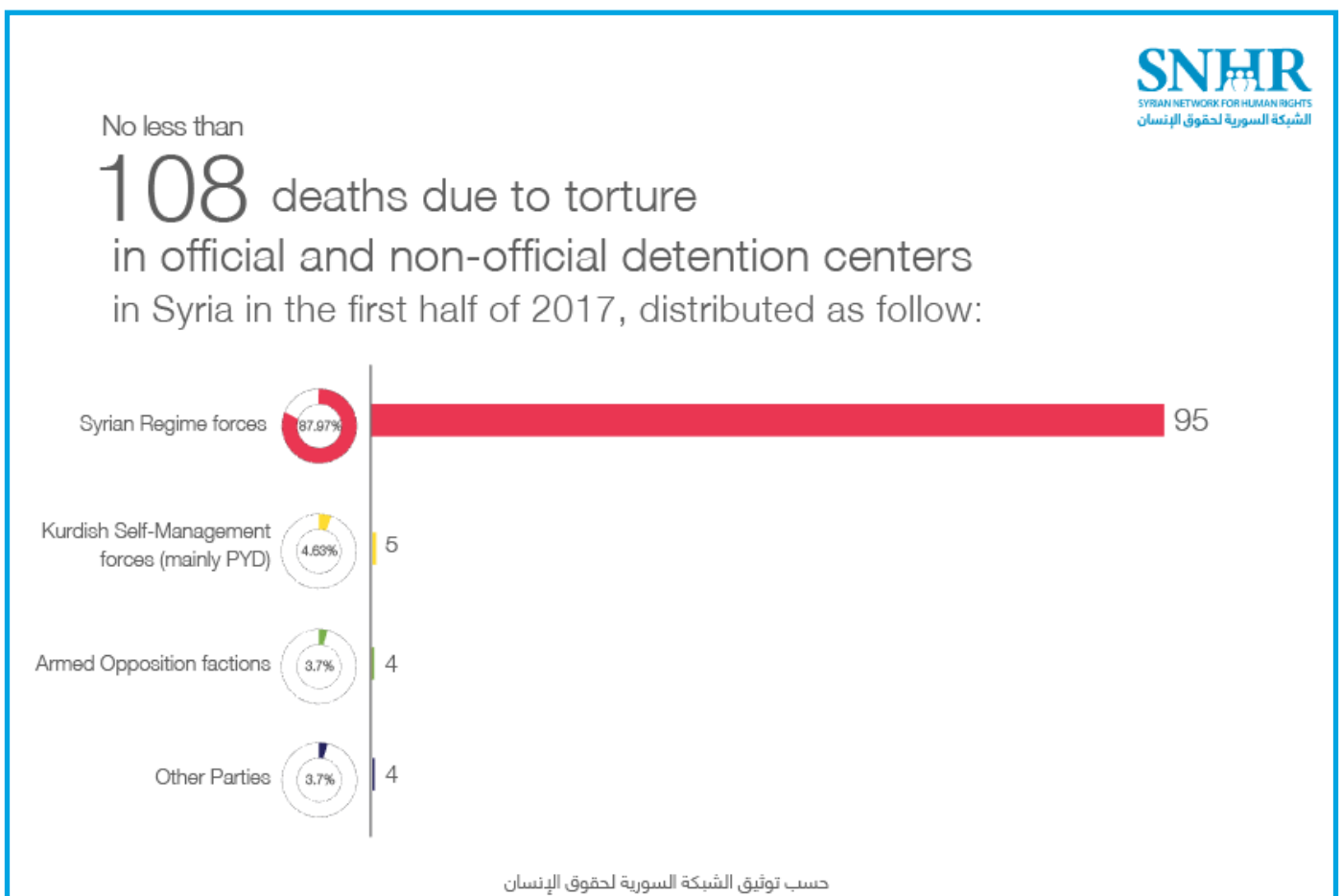
According to SNHR documentation



The report [“108 Individuals Died due to Torture in the First Half of 2017”](#) outlines the toll of victims who died due to torture in the first half of 2017. 108 individuals died due to torture in that period of time, including 95 at the hands of Syrian regime forces, while Self-Management forces killed five, and armed opposition factions and other parties were responsible for four deaths due to torture each.

The report also notes that 26 individuals died due to torture in June. 85% of those died at the hands of Syrian regime forces. Among the victims were a university student, a nurse, an athlete, and an elder.

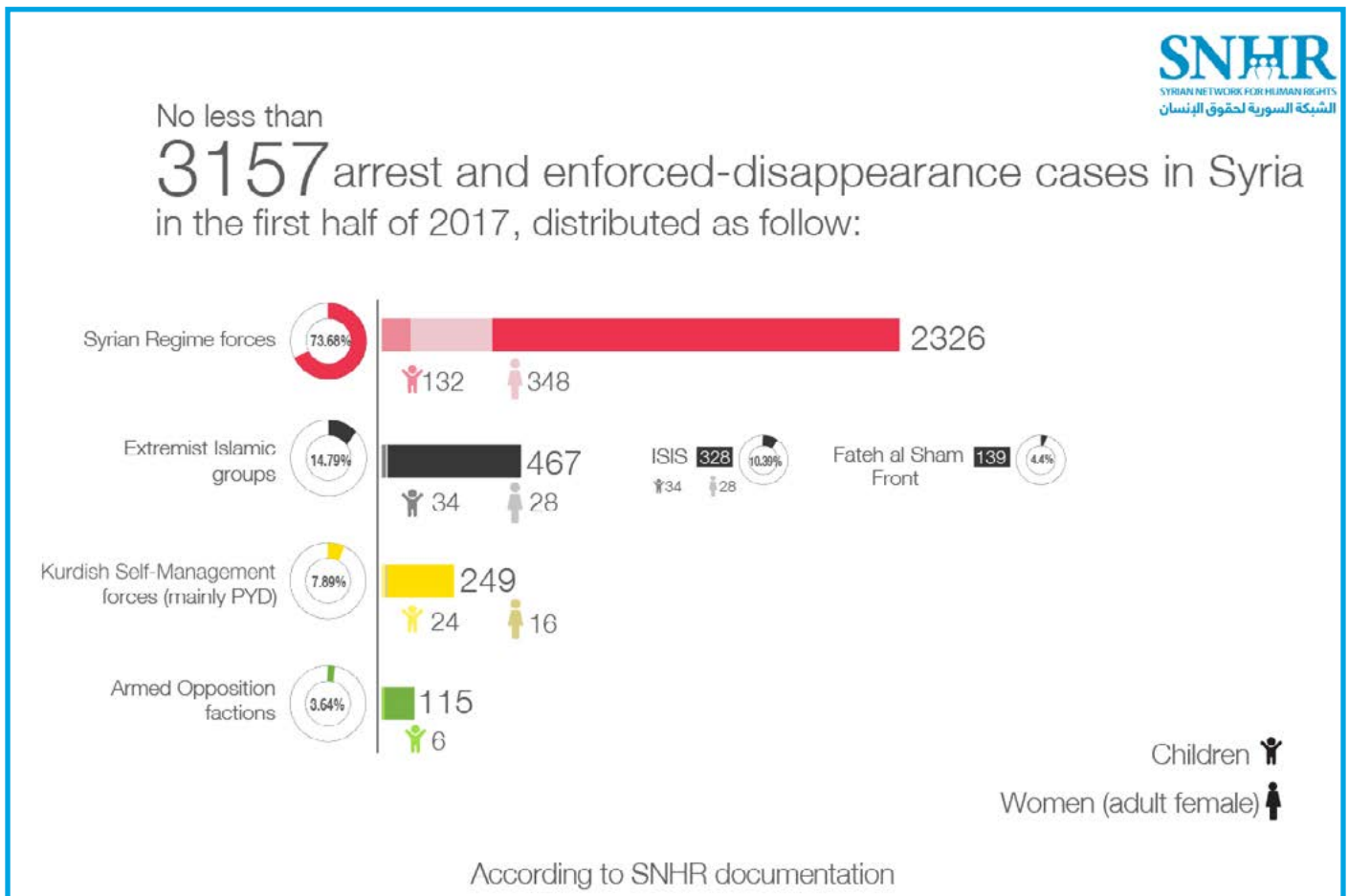
A chart showing the deaths due to torture in Syria in the first half of 2017, and its distribution by the parties to the conflict



The third report, [“No less than 3157 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest Recorded in the First Half of 2017”](#), stresses that Syrian regime is the primary responsible party for arbitrary arrests and enforced-disappearances in the first half of 2017, as Syrian regime forces were responsible for 74% of such violations. The report didn't record any drops in arbitrary arrest and enforced-disappearance rates for the parties to the conflict in that period of time.

The report also notes that arbitrary arrest campaigns for the purpose of conscription and to oppress and perish the activists of the opposition movement or those who are related to armed opposition fighters continued in June at the hands of Syrian regime forces and also Self-Management forces. Also, the report records a rise in the number of arrests by Fateh al Sham Front against armed opposition fighters in Idlib governorate.

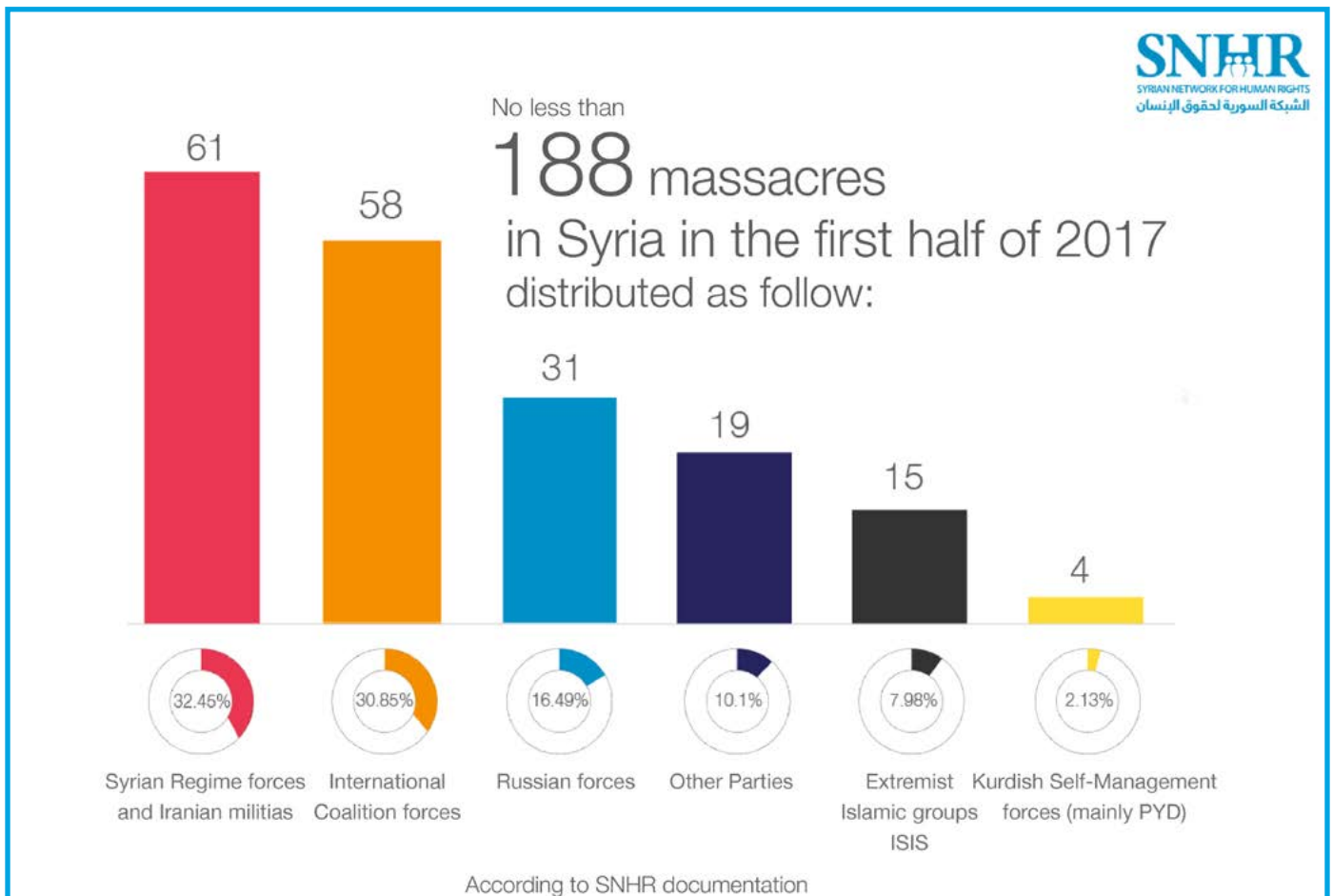
A chart showing the toll of arbitrary arrests in Syria in the first half of 2017 and its distribution by the parties to the conflict



The report [“No less than 188 Massacres in the First Half of 2017”](#) says that Syrian regime forces topped all other parties in terms of massacres in the first six months of 2017, committing 61 massacres including 15 in Deir Ez-Zour. International coalition forces came second with 58 massacres, including 47 in Raqqa governorate, while Russian forces committed 31 massacres, including 22 in Idlib governorate.

The report says that international coalition forces committed more massacres than any other party in June with 17 massacres, including 13 massacres who were against families, which demonstrates an explicit deliberateness in targeting civilians, while Syrian regime forces committed 11 massacres this month.

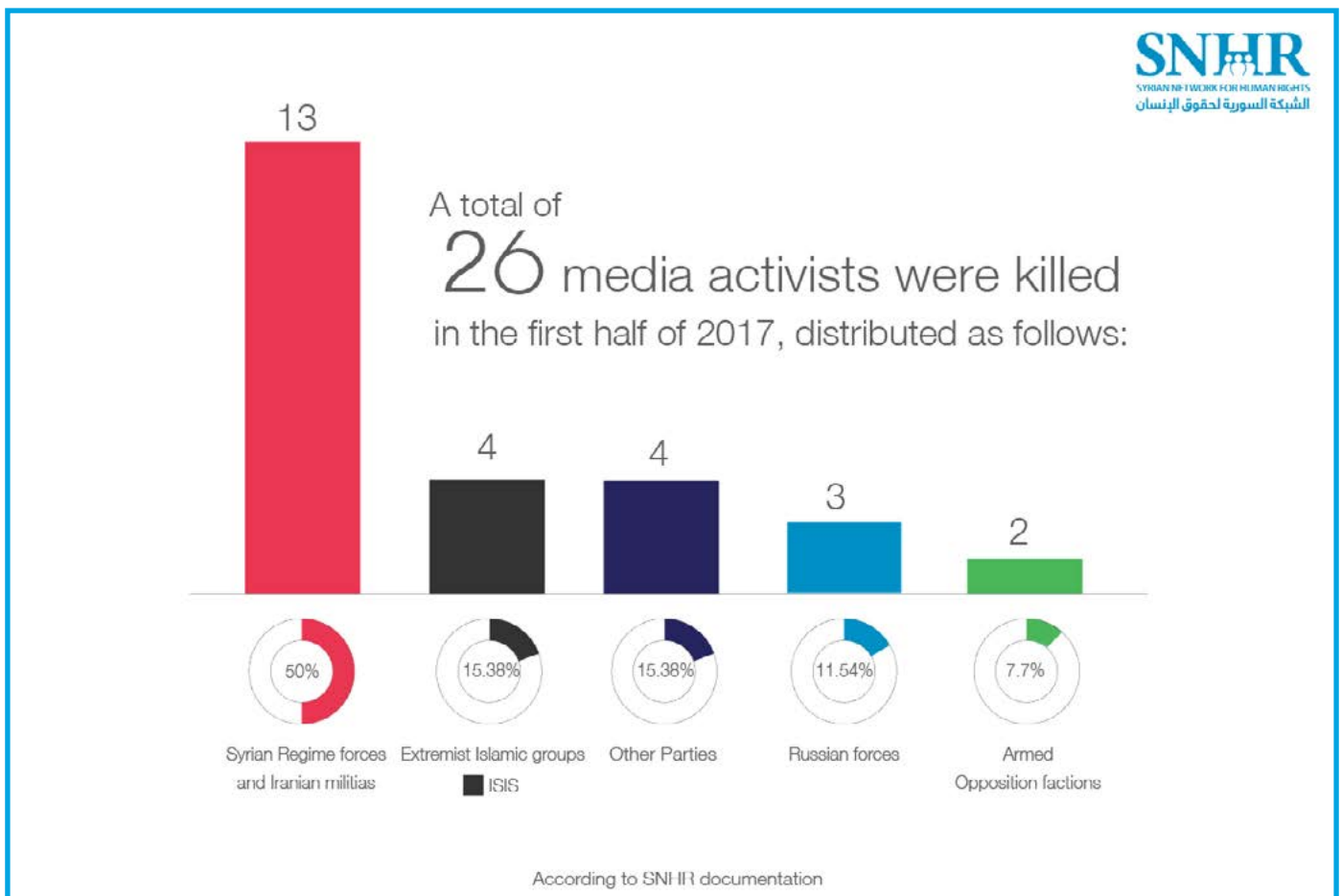
A chart showing the massacres of the first half of 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



The report "[26 Media Activists Killed, 34 Injured, and 20 Arrested and Abducted, Toll of the First Half of 2017](#)" notes that Syrian regime forces killed 50% of the media activists killed in the first half of 2017, while Fateh al Sham Front topped all parties by arresting 35% of the media activists in same period of time.

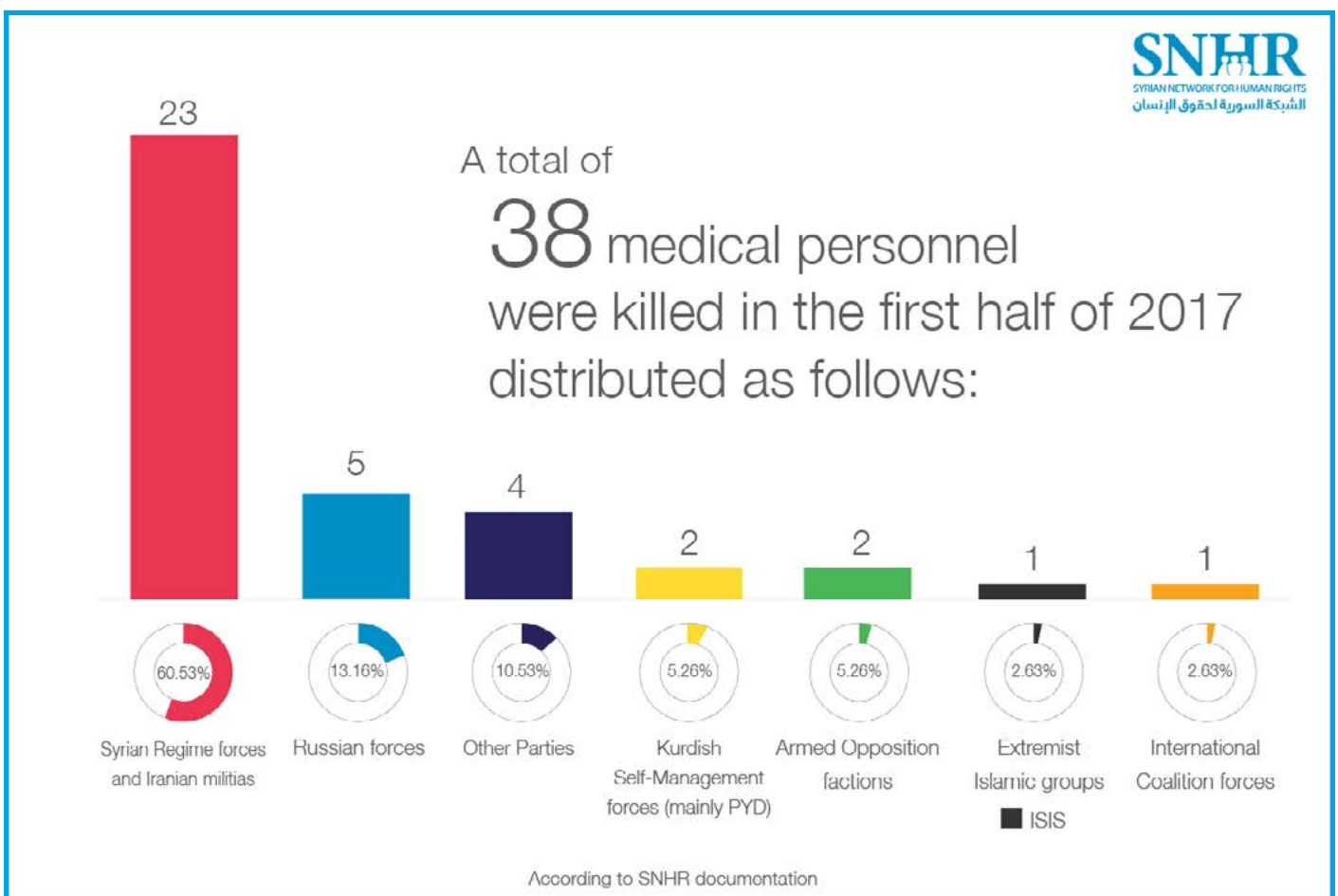
The report sees that June is the least fatal month for media activists, as only one media activist was killed by Syrian regime forces, while no media activists were arrested.

A chart showing violations against media activists in the first half of 2017 and its distribution by the perpetrator party

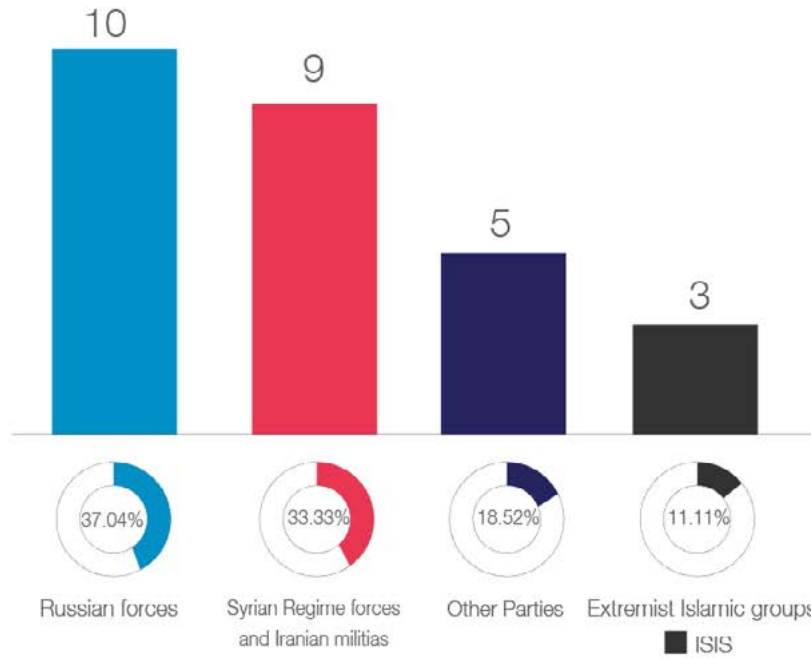


The report [“69 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed and 135 Incidents of Attack on their Operable Vital Facilities in the First Half of 2017”](#) records that 72% of media personnel, civil defense personnel, and Red Crescent personnel killed in the first half of 2017 were killed at the hands of the Syrian-Russian alliance. Also, these forces were responsible for 88% of the incidents of attack on their respective operable vital facilities in the same period of time. Also, the report documents the first incident of a medical personnel being killed at the hands of international coalition forces since their intervention started in Syria on September 23, 2014. In addition, the report records an unprecedented drop in the number of incidents of attack on vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent facilities, as the report records 12 incidents, including 10 at the hands of Syrian regime forces, while international coalition forces were responsible for the other two.

An infographic showing the medical and civil defense personnel who were killed in the first half of 2017 and their distribution by the parties to the conflict



A total of **27** civil defense members were killed in the first half of 2017, distributed as follows:



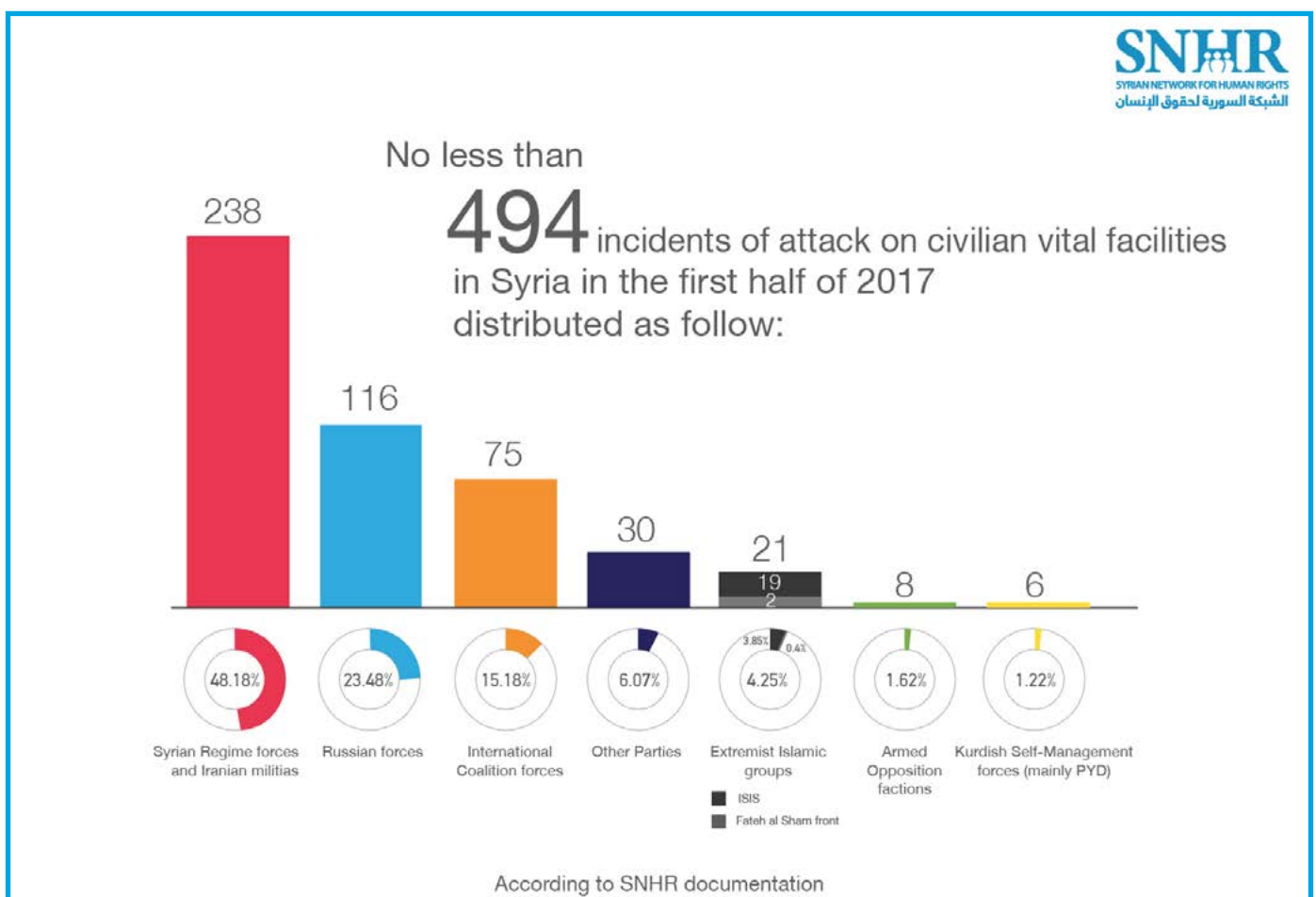
According to SNHR documentation



The report [“No less than 494 Incident of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in the First Half of 2017”](#) stresses that Syrian regime forces attacked more vital civilian facilities than any other party in the first half of 2017, where 49% of the incidents recorded in that period of time were at the hands of Syrian regime forces, while Russian forces came second with 24% of all incidents, followed by international coalition forces at 16% of all incidents.

According to the report, Syrian regime forces were responsible for 44% of all incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities that were documented in June, while international coalition forces were responsible for 34%. The report didn't record any incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities at the hands of Russian forces for the first time since the Russian intervention started in Syria on September 30, 2015.

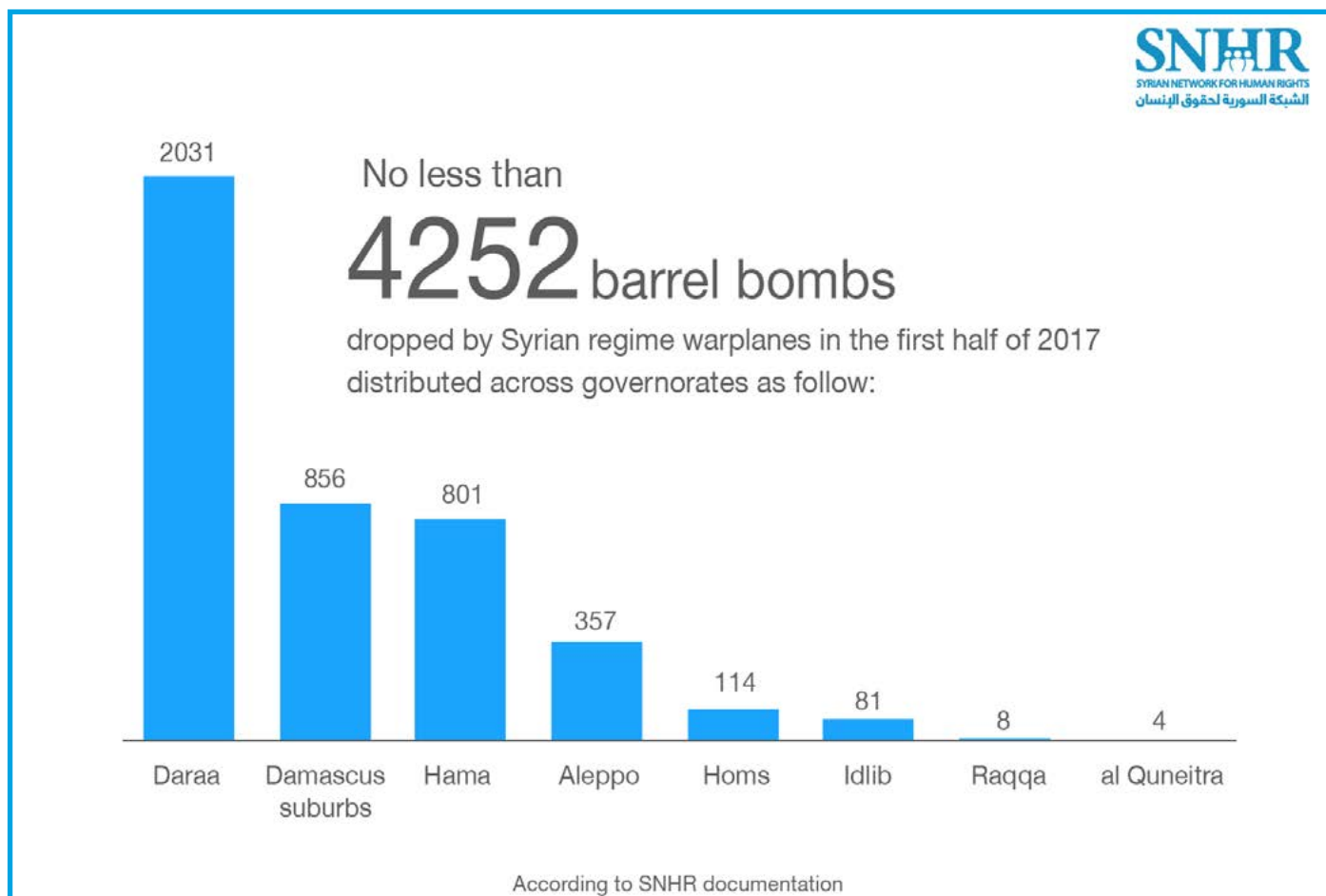
A chart showing the toll of incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2017 and its distribution by the parties to the conflict



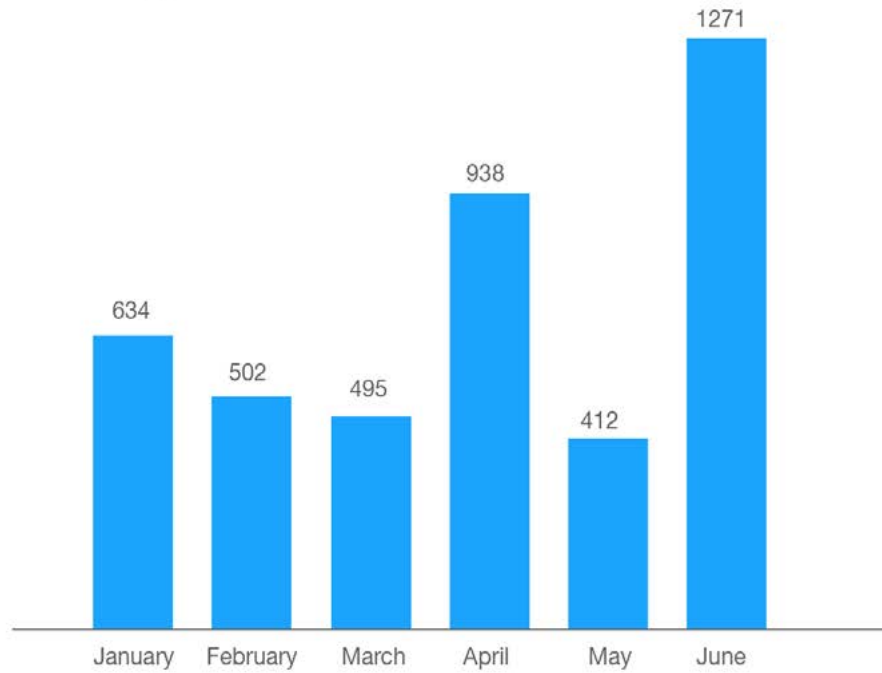
The report [“No less than 4252 Barrel Bombs in the First Half of 2017”](#) notes that 48% of the barrel bombs dropped by Syrian regime forces in the first half of 2017 were in Daraa governorate. Barrel bombs attacks in that period of time resulted in the killing of 94 civilians, including 41 children and 20 women (adult female) and damaged 13 vital civilian incidents.

The report says that barrel bombs use was at its highest in June since the beginning of 2017, as 1271 barrel bombs were dropped in June, including 1229 barrel bombs dropped on Daraa governorate by Syrian regime helicopters. Barrel bombs attacks in June resulted in the killing of 14 civilians, including two children and five women, in Daraa governorate.

A chart showing the toll of barrel bombs in the first half of 2017



Distribution of barrel bombs dropped by Syrian regime warplanes throughout the first half of 2017:



According to SNHR documentation





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