



On the 11th Anniversary of the Popular Uprising: 228,647 Syrian Civilians Documented Killed, Including 14,664 by Torture, with 151,462 Arbitrarily Detained/Forcibly Disappeared, and 14 Million Others Displaced

Massive Human Costs on the Road to Freedom and Dignity

Tuesday 15 March 2022

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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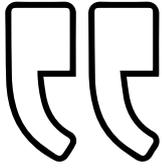
I. The Eleventh Annual Report and an Update of the Toll of the Most Significant Human Losses

The current period marks the eleventh anniversary of the outbreak of the popular uprising against the Syrian regime, headed by Bashar al Assad, in March 2011. Although the uprising's demands focused on the people's right to express opinion freely, the rotation of power, and the right to human dignity, all of which are fundamental human rights principles, without which modern societies can't survive, the Syrian regime accused the demonstrators of being 'Western agents,' creating sectarian strife, terrorism, and other false charges, in addition to confronting peaceful demonstrations with live bullets and massive campaigns of arrest, torture, and enforced disappearance, which lasted for many months. As a result, the popular uprising subsequently developed into an internal armed conflict,¹ in which many of the world's countries intervened. Despite the passage of time since those early days, however, the root of the issue in Syria remains the same, namely the Syrian people's popular demands for the fundamental right to freely and democratically elect their own leaders, to have democracy and the rule of law and be free of the tyrannical despotic rule of a hereditary dictatorship that treats the populace like livestock on its 'family farm,' to enjoy their fundamental rights, to own their wealth, and to be able to hold their government accountable.

In order to avoid the repeated narration of the sequence of events that have formed the internal armed conflict and of its continuation and the international inability to find a solution to it, we attempt in this report to remind everyone of the staggeringly immense human cost that Syrians have paid in their struggle to attain freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. To underline the vital importance of this, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) [issues an annual report on this anniversary](#) in order to update the record of the most notable violations that the Syrian people and state have been subjected to, as documented on the SNHR database. We also list other violations, besides the ones we document, based on highly credible UN and international organizations' data, in order to give a more comprehensive picture of the gravity of the catastrophe that has befallen and continues to afflict the Syrian people, in part, we hope, to provide an incentive for the international community to seek to end the armed conflict and work seriously to achieving a political transition that achieves freedom, security and stability, and guarantees the safe return of 14 million Syrian citizens, both IDPs and refugees.

¹ On February 16, 2012, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) declared a state of internal armed conflict in Syria. <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/update/2012/syria-update-2012-07-17.htm>

Fadel Abdul Ghany, Director of the Syrian Network for Human Rights, says:



Over eleven years, the Syrian people have made enormous sacrifices in order to rescue their state from monocracy and dictatorship and to restore it so that it belongs to all the people, who can choose their own rulers with democracy and dignity. The Syrian regime and its Iranian and Russian allies bear the primary responsibility for obstructing the democratic transition and perpetuating tyranny, but the West also did not make sufficient efforts to protect the Syrian people and help them achieve the transition towards democracy. After making so many immense sacrifices, Syrians cannot accept anything less than holding the perpetrators of violations accountable and fulfilling their just demands.”

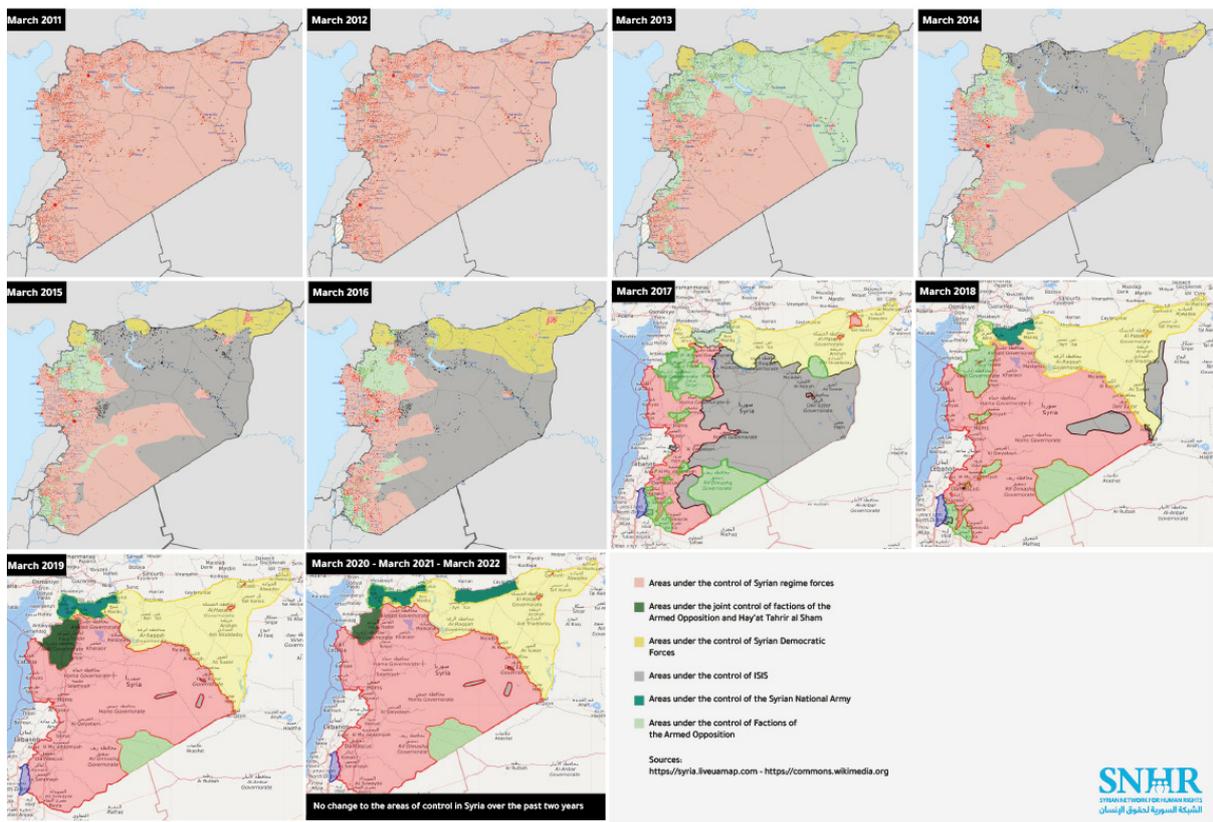


² The ceasefire agreement was reached in a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on March 5, 2020.

II. The Record of the Most Notable Violations Committed in Syria in 11 Years According to the SNHR Database

Over the next several years, the popular uprising for democracy in Syria developed into an internal armed conflict involving several parties, which saw a gradual, major change in the distribution of areas of control throughout Syria. The air forces used by both the Syrian-Russian alliance and the US-led Coalition, as well as the missiles, bombs, and barrel bombs used by the Syrian regime and its allies in bombardment, played the greatest role in bringing about this change and in inflicting the associated violations, most notably the killings, displacement and destruction of infrastructure. Despite the reduction in the pace of military operations since the ceasefire agreement² entered into force on March 6, 2020, there has been little change in the reality of areas of control compared to previous years.

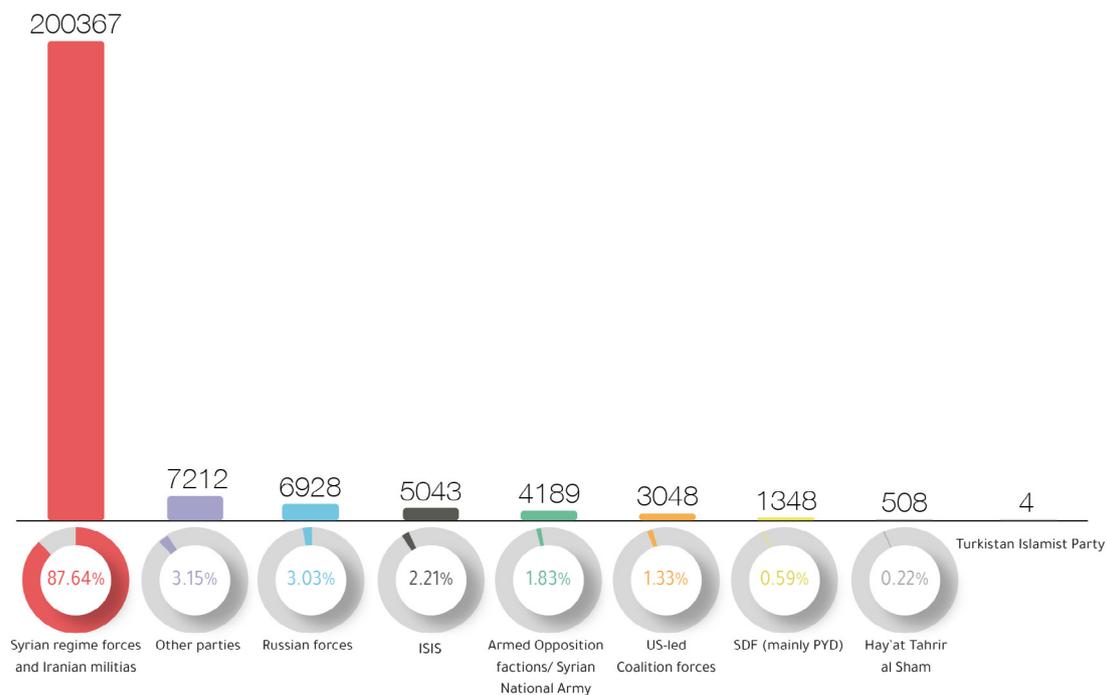
The map below shows the change in the reality of control of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces annually since 2011:



A. Extrajudicial killing: The deaths of 228,647 civilians, including 29,741 children and 16,228 women, documented:

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the eleventh consecutive year at the hands of the various perpetrator parties, with the SNHR documenting the deaths of at least 228,647 civilians, including 29,741 children and 16,228 women (adult female) in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces, between March 2011 and March 2022, distributed according to the parties as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:**³ 200,367, including 22,941 children and 11,952 women.
- **Russian forces:** 6,928, including 2,042 children and 977 women.
- **ISIS:** 5,043, including 958 children and 587 women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:**⁴ 508, including 71 children and 77 women.
- **Turkistan Islamic Party:** Four.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army:**⁵ 4,189, including 998 children and 882 women.
- **US-led Coalition forces:** 3,048, including 925 children and 658 women.
- **Other parties:** 7,212, including 1,568 children and 930 women.



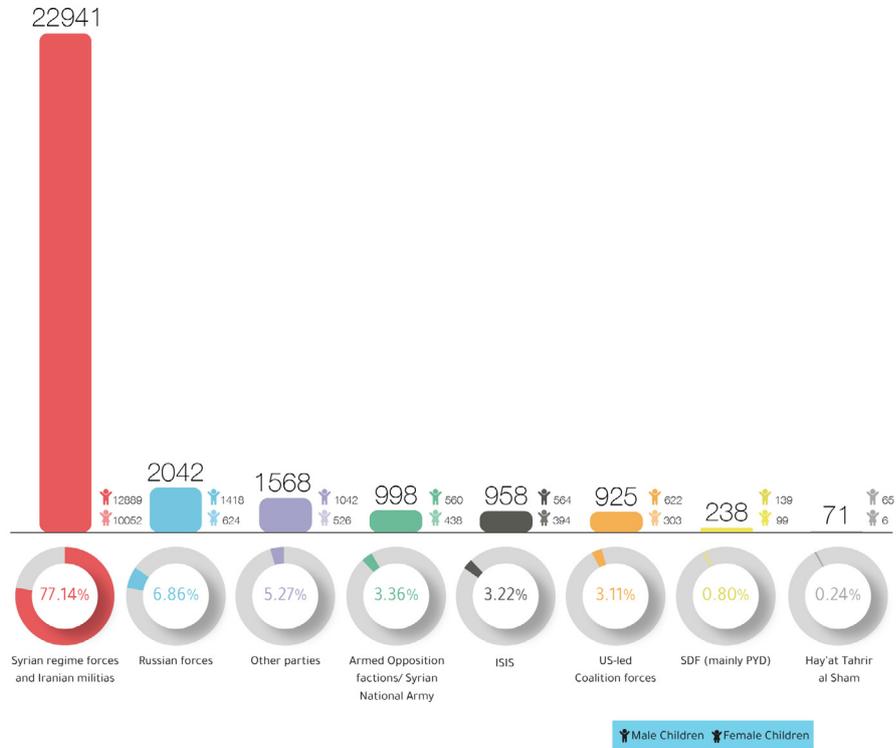
It should be noted that the Syrian regime and its allies are by far the main culprits in killing civilians in Syria, being responsible for 91% of all civilian deaths documented since 2011, with nearly 3% of this total killed at the hands of Russian forces.

³ T We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show: the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in turn under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria. Although we acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government' in general, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

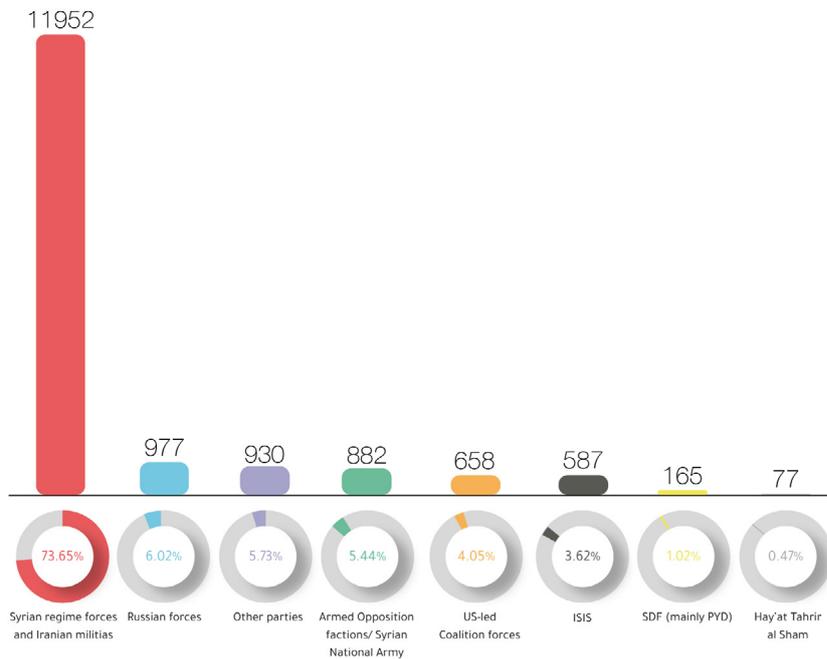
⁴ The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization.

⁵ Various Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army that emerged since 2011 to date in all areas that came under their control.

29,741 children were killed at the hands of the main parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria from March 2011 to March 2022



16,228 women (adult female) were killed at the hands of the main parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria from March 2011 to March 2022



The civilian death toll at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces was distributed over the past 11 years as follows:

Between March 2011 and March 2012: 11,793, including 1,849 children and 847 women.

Between March 2012 and March 2013: 66,046, including 5,783 children and 3,475 women.

Between March 2013 and March 2014: 61,063, including 5,417 children and 2,947 women.

Between March 2014 and March 2015: 29,970, including 3,585 children and 2,179 women.

Between March 2015 and March 2016: 18,698, including 3,852 children and 2,744 women.

Between March 2016 and March 2017: 16,782, including 3,931 children and 1,648 women.

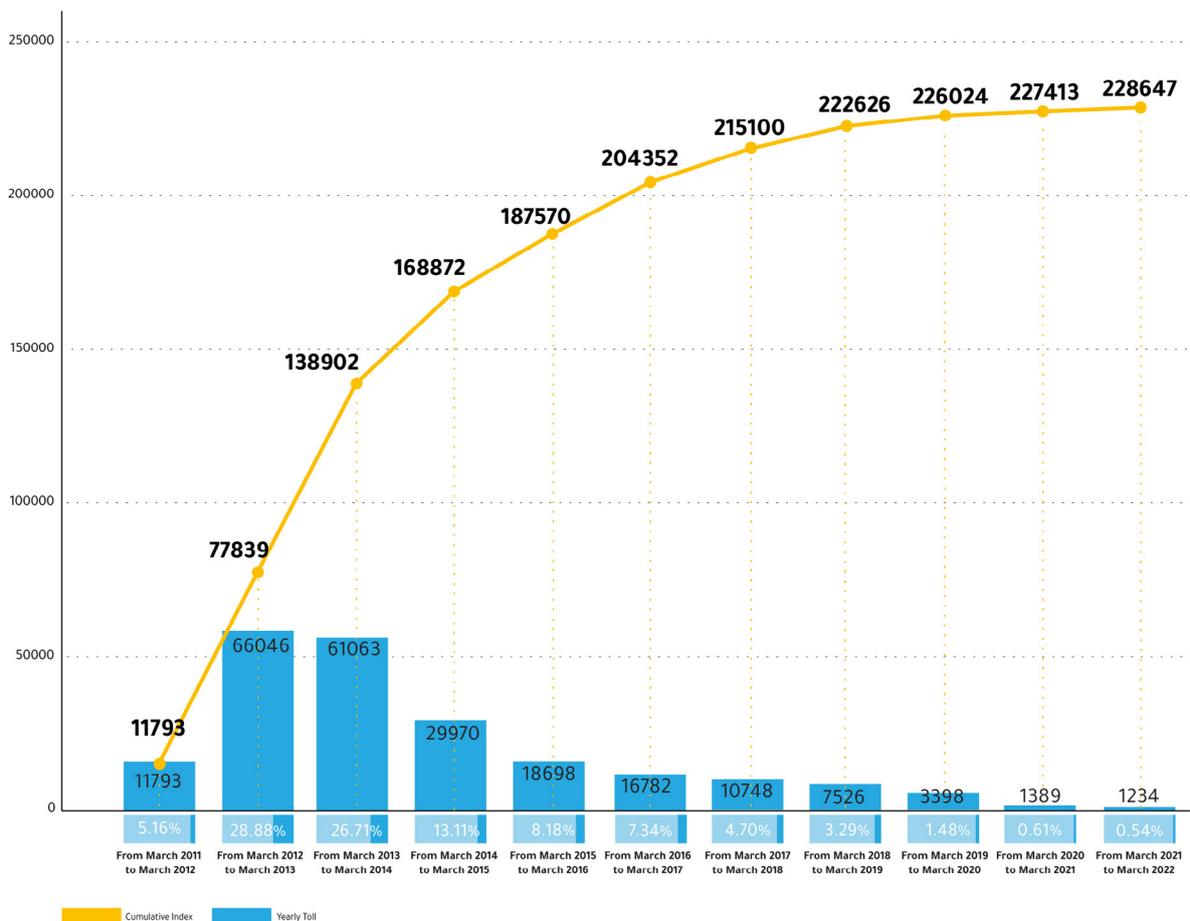
Between March 2017 and March 2018: 10,748, including 2,916 children and 1,366 women.

Between March 2018 and March 2019: 7,526, including 986 children and 534 women.

Between March 2019 and March 2020: 3,398, including 915 children and 286 women.

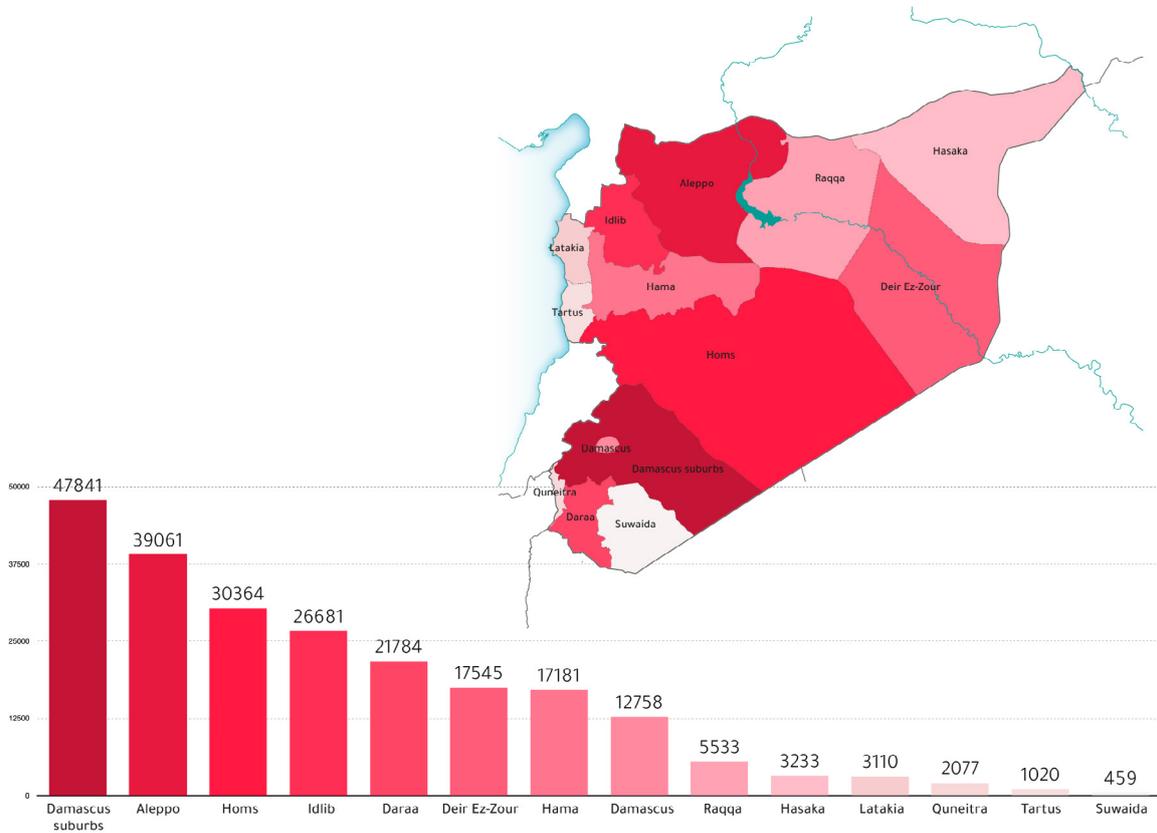
Between March 2020 and March 2021: 1,389, including 223 children and 78 women.

Between March 2021 and March 2022: 1,234, including 284 children and 124 women.



The chronological distribution of the civilian death toll shows an increase in the death toll in the second year (from March 2012 to March 2013) and then in the third year (from March 2013 to March 2014). In the second year, the death toll reached approximately 29% of the total civilian death toll, while it reached approximately 27% in the third year, meaning that approximately 56% of the civilian death toll was documented in these two years.

The civilian death toll at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria from March 2011 to March 2022 was distributed across the country's governorates as follows:

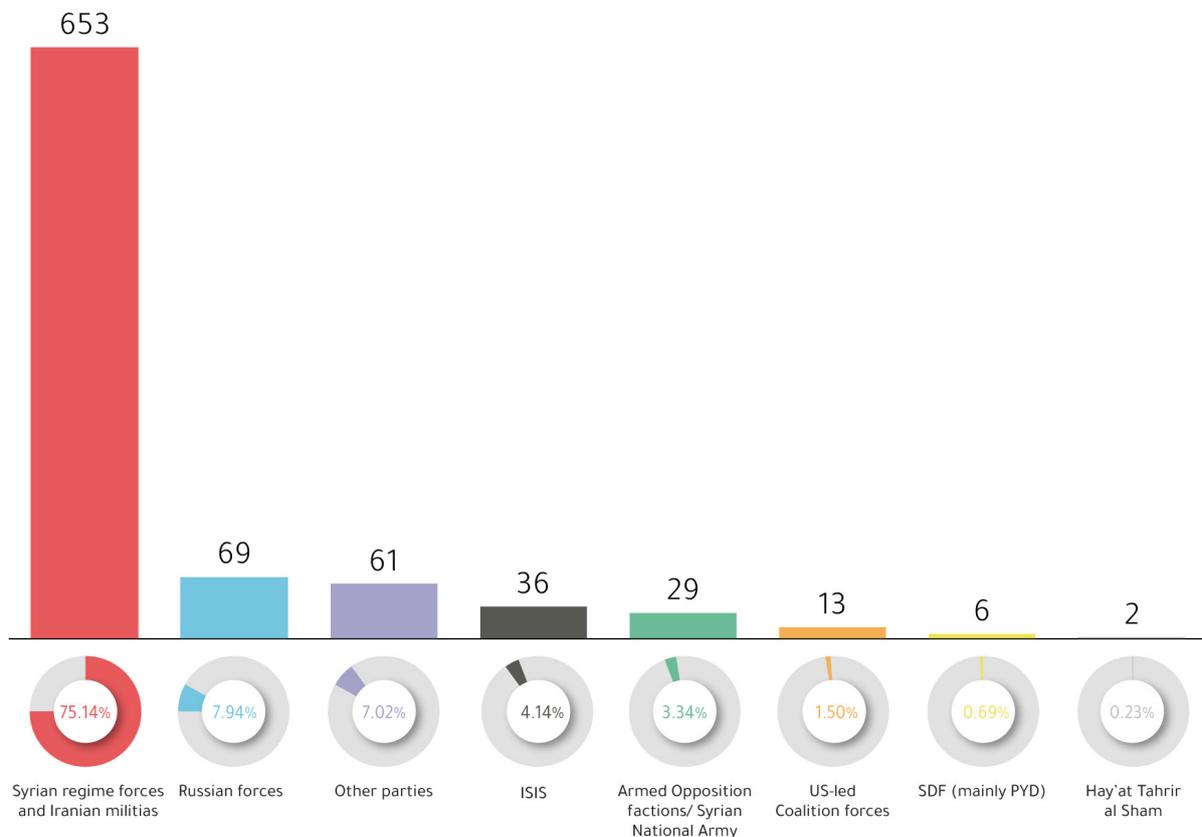


According to the distribution of the civilian death toll across all the country's governorates, every Syrian governorate has witnessed killings against civilians over the past 11 years, with the governorates of Damascus Suburbs, Aleppo, and Homs seeing the largest number of killings, where SNHR recorded approximately 52% of the total number of victims, distributed as follows: 21% in Damascus Suburbs, 17% in Aleppo, then 14% in Homs.

Death toll of medical personnel:

The SNHR documented the deaths of 869 medical personnel at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria from March 2011 to March 2022, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias:** 653.
- **Russian forces:** 69.
- **ISIS:** 36.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** Two.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 29.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** Six.
- **US-led Coalition forces:** 13.
- **Other parties:** 61.

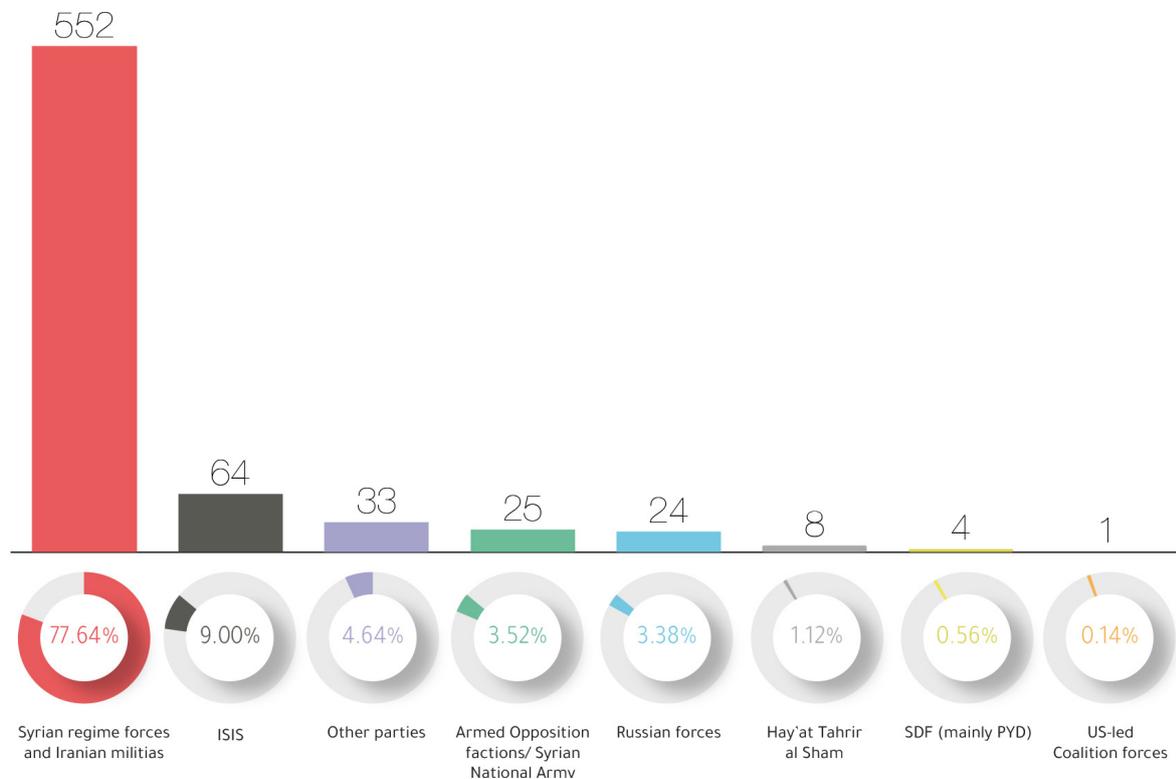


The above distribution shows that the Syrian-Russian alliance forces are responsible for the largest proportion of the death toll of medical personnel over the past 11 years, accounting for 84%, clearly indicating the Syrian-Russian alliance forces' deliberate targeting and destruction of medical personnel and medical centers where they work.

Death toll of media workers:

SNHR documented the deaths of 711 media workers at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria from March 2011 to March 2022, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias:** 552.
- **Russian forces:** 24.
- **ISIS:** 64.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** Eight.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 25.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** Four.
- **US-led Coalition forces:** One.
- **Other parties:** 33.



The above distribution of the death toll of media workers indicates that the Syrian regime is the primary perpetrator in targeting and killing media workers, accounting for approximately 78% of the total death toll among media workers, which contributed to Syria being categorized among the countries with the most dangerous environment for journalists globally, ranking 173 out of 180 countries according to [the 2021 World Press Freedom Index](#), issued by Reporters Without Borders on April 19, 2021.

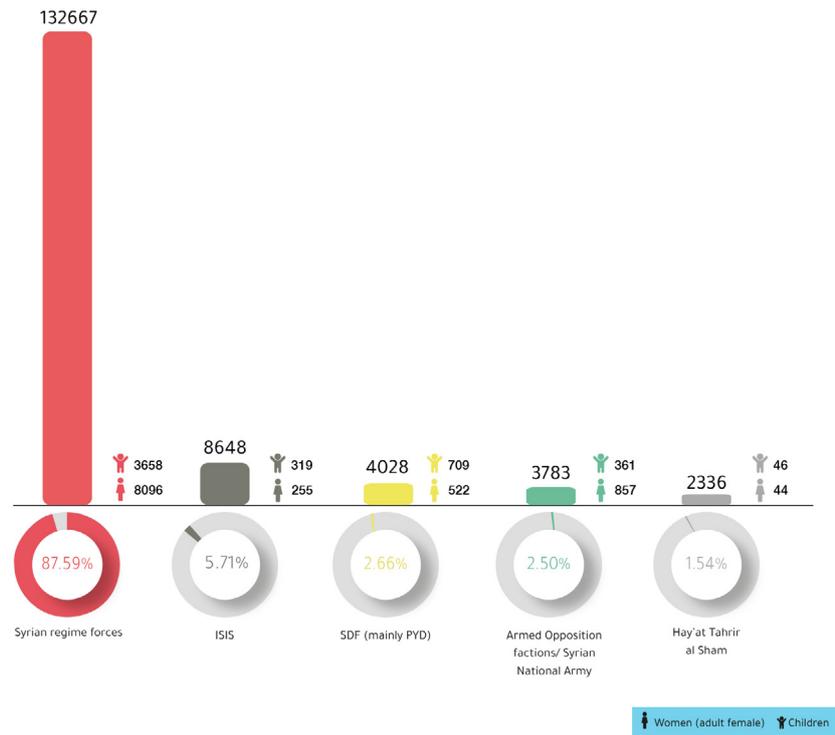
B. At least 151,462 arbitrary detainees/forcibly disappeared persons:

Since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, the Syrian regime has confronted all those protesting against its rule with widespread arbitrary arrests, which did not distinguish between age groups, gender, or religious and political affiliation. Most of those detained went on to be categorized as forcibly disappeared, with forcible disappearance becoming one of the regime's most prominent tools of oppression and terrorism that aims to spread a state of terror among protesters to discourage them from continuing their movement and to terrorize the remaining population into silence, with the early years of the mass movement witnessing the highest rate of arrests due to the intensity of the protests and their spread across a wider geographical area. The Syrian regime has harnessed the capabilities of its infamous security services which have tens of thousands of personnel, to carry out raids and arrests. After parties other than the Syrian regime became actors in the conflict, with some of these parties taking control of areas in Syria, they all practiced the same method in dealing with dissidents and critics of their policies in the areas under their control. While the intensity of military operations in Syria and the resulting killings and destruction decreased since the beginning of 2020, all parties continue to use the policy of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance, with the number of detainees or forcibly disappeared persons reaching about 152,000 Syrian citizens, and without any signs that any of the parties to the conflict are willing to reveal the fate of these forcibly disappeared detainees, despite international demands to do so.

We should emphasize that this figure includes only those cases that the SNHR's team has been able to document according to the rigorous criteria described in [our methodology](#). In most cases, the arrests are similar to kidnappings, with the personnel responsible for the arrests abducting each victim from his/her location without declaring their identity or showing any judicial warrant, actions more like a kidnapping than a legal arrest; thereafter, the parties responsible for these arrests deny responsibility for them, with the vast majority of these cases going on to become enforced disappearances.

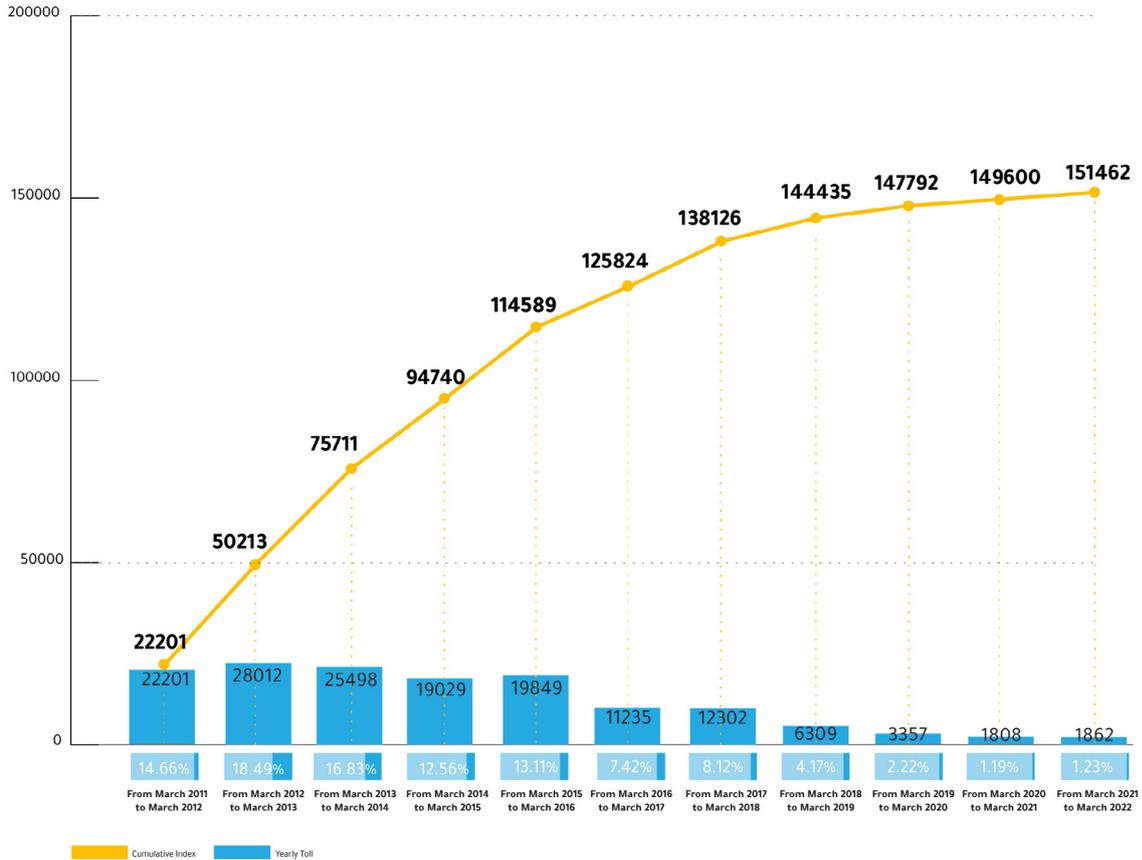
The SNHR documented that at least 151,462 individuals, including 5,093 children and 9,774 women (adult female) arrested by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces since March 2011 are still detained or forcibly disappeared by them as of March 2022, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 132,667, including 6,358 children and 8,096 women.
- **ISIS:** 8,648, including 319 children and 255 women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** 2,336, including 46 children and 44 women.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 3,783, including 361 children and 857 women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 4,028, including 709 children and 522 women.



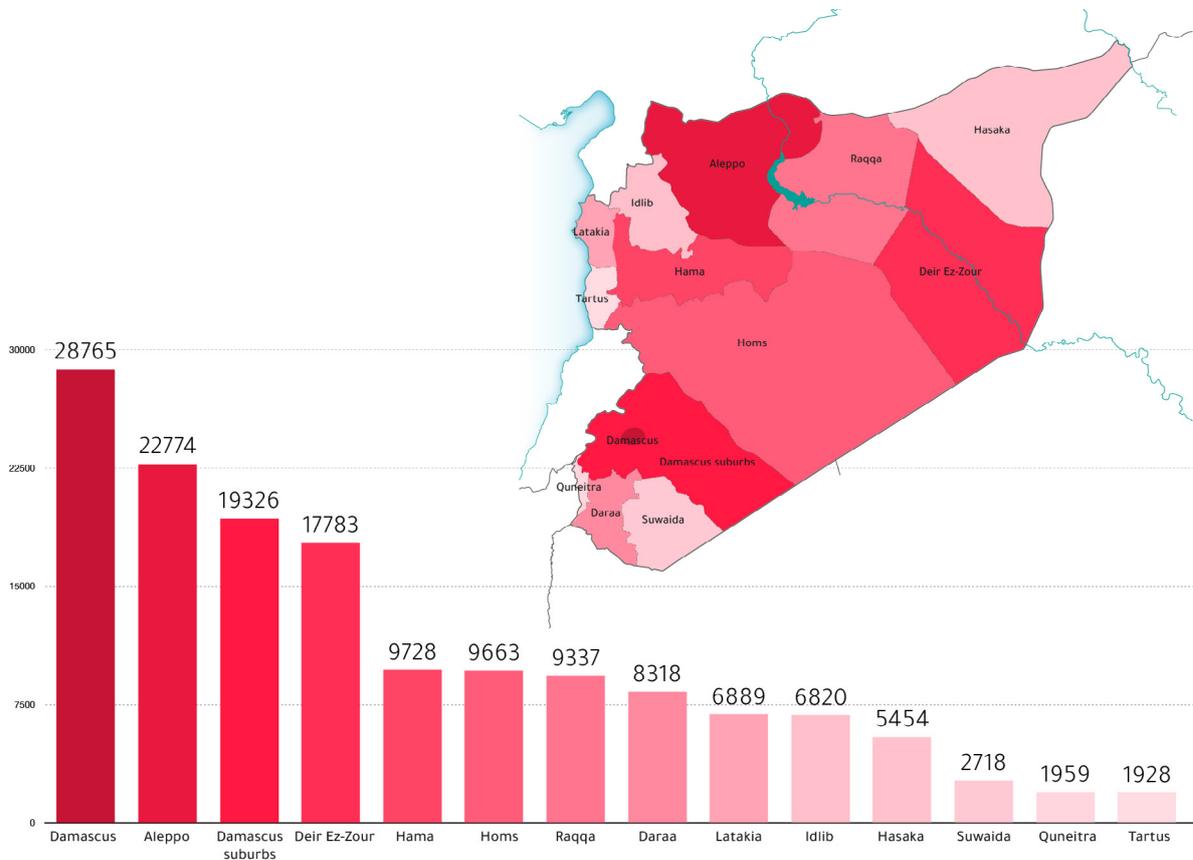
The record of persons detained or forcibly disappeared at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces was distributed over the past 11 years as follows:

- Between March 2011 and March 2012: 22,201, including 839 children and 1,607 women.
- Between March 2012 and March 2013: 28,012, including 658 children and 1,086 women.
- Between March 2013 and March 2014: 25,498, including 535 children and 1,102 women.
- Between March 2014 and March 2015: 19,029, including 584 children and 997 women.
- Between March 2015 and March 2016: 19,849, including 574 children and 1,583 women.
- Between March 2016 and March 2017: 11,235, including 443 children and 1,086 women.
- Between March 2017 and March 2018: 12,302, including 497 children and 974 women.
- Between March 2018 and March 2019: 6,309, including 386 children and 593 women.
- Between March 2019 and March 2020: 3,357, including 208 children and 391 women.
- Between March 2020 and March 2021: 1,808, including 293 children and 284 women.
- Between March 2021 and March 2022: 1,862, including 76 children and 71 women.



The above charts indicate that the first three years of the popular uprising for democracy witnessed the highest number of arrests of those still detained or forcibly disappeared; the highest percentage documented in this three-year period was seen in the second year (from March 2012 to March 2013) reaching 19%, with a further approximately 17% documented in the third year (from March 2013 to March 2014), followed by the first year (from March 2011 to March 2012), which accounted for approximately 15% of the total. As these statistics clearly underline, these first few years of the popular uprising for democracy witnessed the largest campaigns of arrests with the aim of crushing the uprising and breaking the back of the opponents.

The record of persons detained or forcibly disappeared from March 2011 to March 2022 was distributed according to the governorate where the arrests took place, as follows:



The distribution shown above indicates that Damascus governorate leads all other governorates in terms of the numbers of those still arrested/detained or forcibly disappeared, accounting for approximately 19% of the total number, followed by Aleppo governorate with approximately 15%, while Damascus Suburbs governorate is in third place with approximately 13%, then Deir Ez-Zour with approximately 12%.

C. Torture: At least 14,664 individuals were documented killed due to torture, including 181 children and 93 women:

Although all the perpetrator parties in Syria have practiced torture against their opponents over the past eleven years, the practices of the Syrian regime in the context of arresting and torturing its opponents have been on by far the largest scale and pose the gravest danger, because the Syrian regime's capabilities have enabled it to practice these crimes systematically, as the regime relied on torture to crush the popular uprising and eradicate any dissent, with the most prominent form of torture being enforced disappearance, as detainees were prevented from any form of communication with their families or lawyers, being arrested without any judicial warrant. Torture is not practiced as a matter of individual regime personnel's preference in Syria, especially in the Syrian regime's detention centers, but is a systematic, organized policy inflicted in a widespread manner, practiced by all the security services using similar methods. This confirms that all these bodies are linked to one central authority issuing orders. The count-

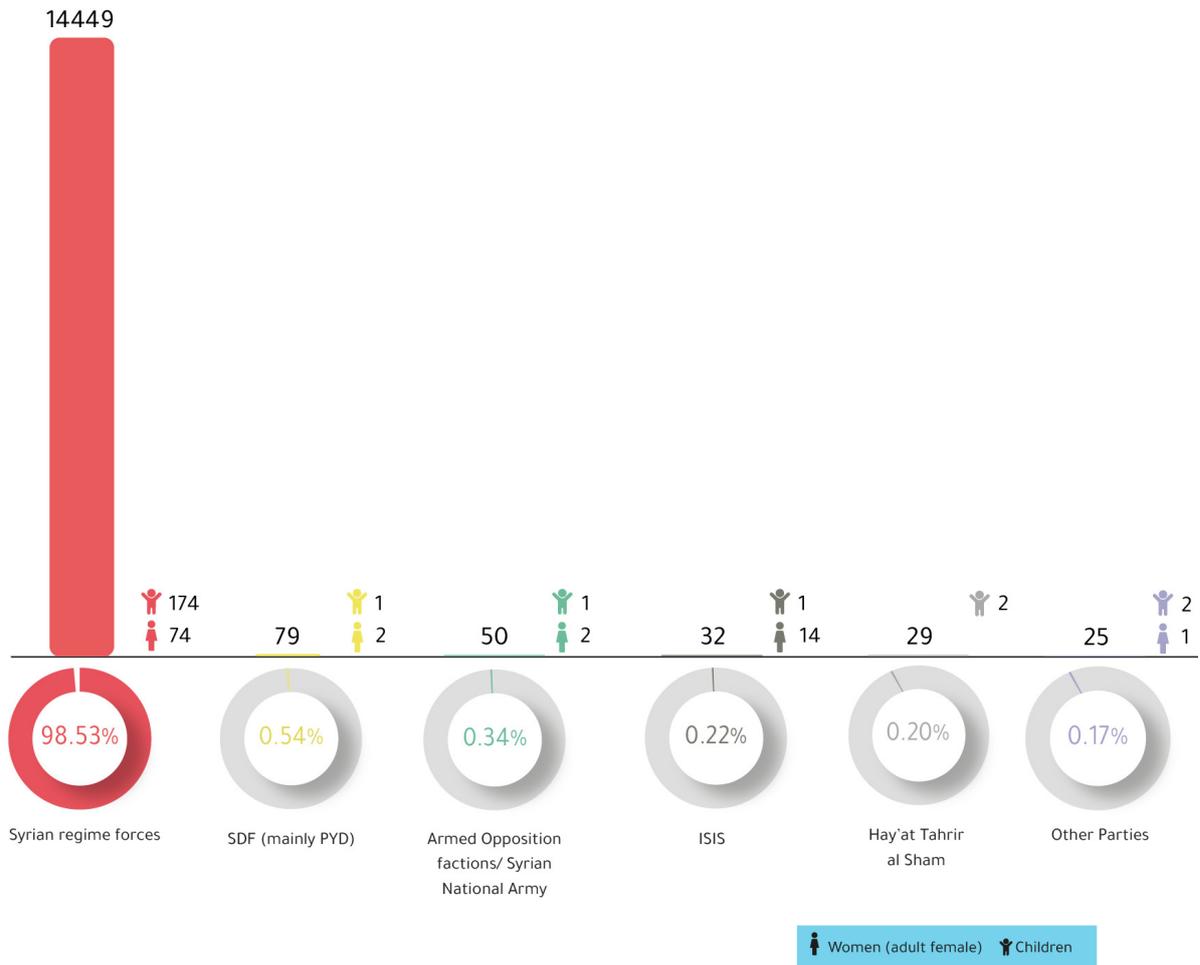
less act of torture by the Syrian regime constitute crimes against humanity. We estimate the number of survivors of this system, those arrested and released since 2011, to be nearly 1.2 million Syrian citizens. The Syrian regime is the party that perpetrated by far the largest number of killings due to torture due to the large number of arrests it has carried out, most of whom have gone on to become forcibly disappeared, and due to the presence of a large number of detention centers that are not subject to any monitoring by human rights organizations. In a previous [detailed report](#), SNHR documented the most notable methods of torture used by the regime forces in their detention centers and military hospitals, reaching 72 methods of physical, psychological, and sexual torture.

Also in [previous reports](#), we talked about the phenomenon of the Syrian regime notifying the families of persons forcibly disappeared by the regime, through civil registry departments, that their loved ones had died. The number of such cases that we documented has now reached 1,056 including nine children and two women. We stress that the Syrian regime has not handed over any of these bodies to their families. We were also able to identify nearly 1,003 Syrian citizens who appeared in the 'Caesar' photos leaked from the regime's military hospitals, which were published in March 2015.

The use of torture and of the torture methods used by the Syrian regime have not been limited to the regime itself. We have monitored the use of these and other torture methods by other parties in Syria, cataloguing in some detail the methods of torture used by [ISIS](#) and [Hay'at Tahrir al Sham](#) in two extensive reports we issued in 2022.

The SNHR has documented the deaths due to torture of at least 14,664 individuals, including 181 children and 93 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, between March 2011 and March 2022, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 14,449, including 174 children and 74 women.
- **ISIS:** 32, including one child and 14 women.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:** 29, including two children.
- **All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:** 50, including one child and two women.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 79, including one child and two women.
- **Other parties:** 25, including two children and one woman.



The Syrian regime has far exceeded all other parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in regard to the use and variety of methods of torture used inside its detention centers and the resulting casualties. The death toll due to torture at the hands of the Syrian regime accounts for nearly 99% of the total number of deaths documented by SNHR in this category.

The death toll of victims who were killed due to torture was distributed over the past 11 years as follows:

Between March 2011 and March 2012: 1,143, including 19 children and one woman.

Between March 2012 and March 2013: 3,089, including 51 children and 23 women.

Between March 2013 and March 2014: 3,952, including 36 children and seven women.

Between March 2014 and March 2015: 2,954, including 21 children and nine women.

Between March 2015 and March 2016: 1,167, including 35 children and 37 women.

Between March 2016 and March 2017: 724, including one child and four women.

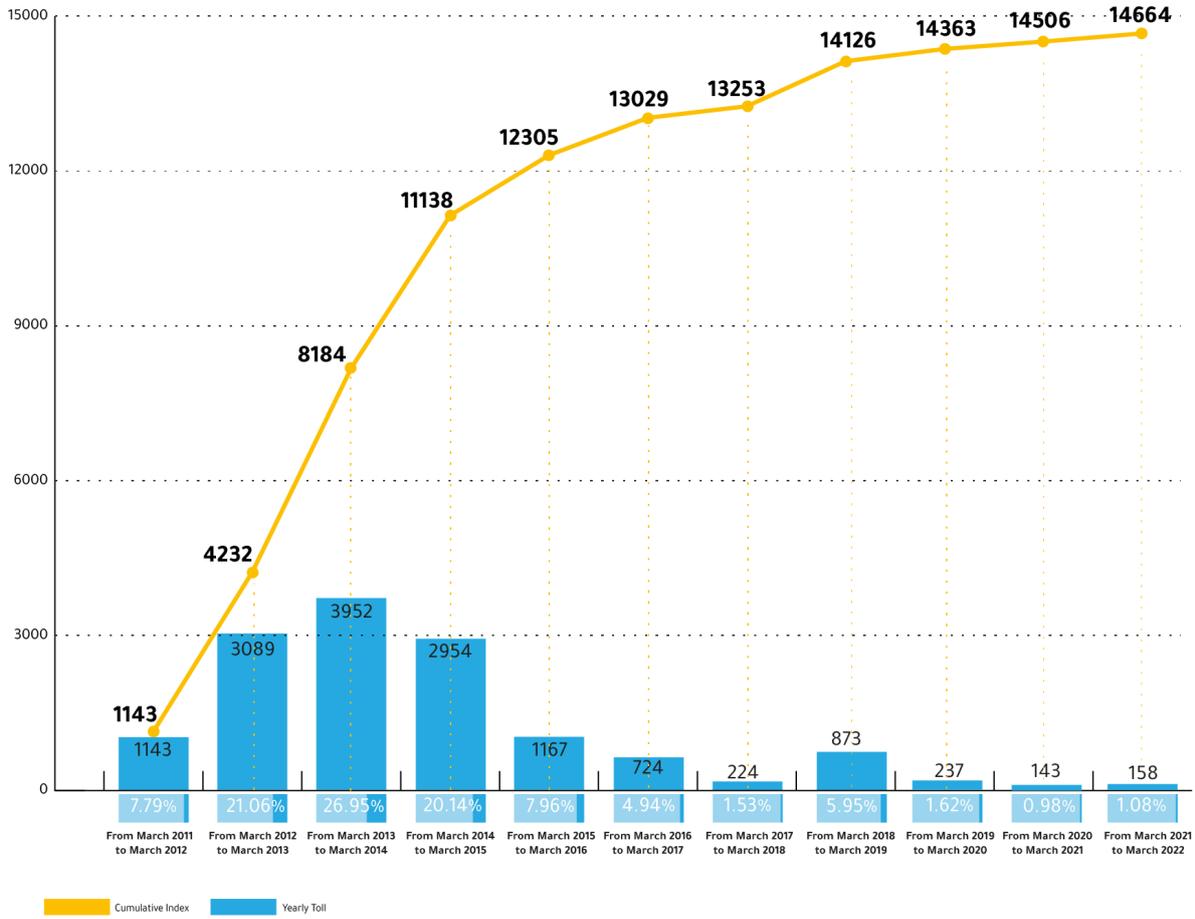
Between March 2017 and March 2018: 224, including six children and three women.

Between March 2018 and March 2019: 873, including five children and four women.

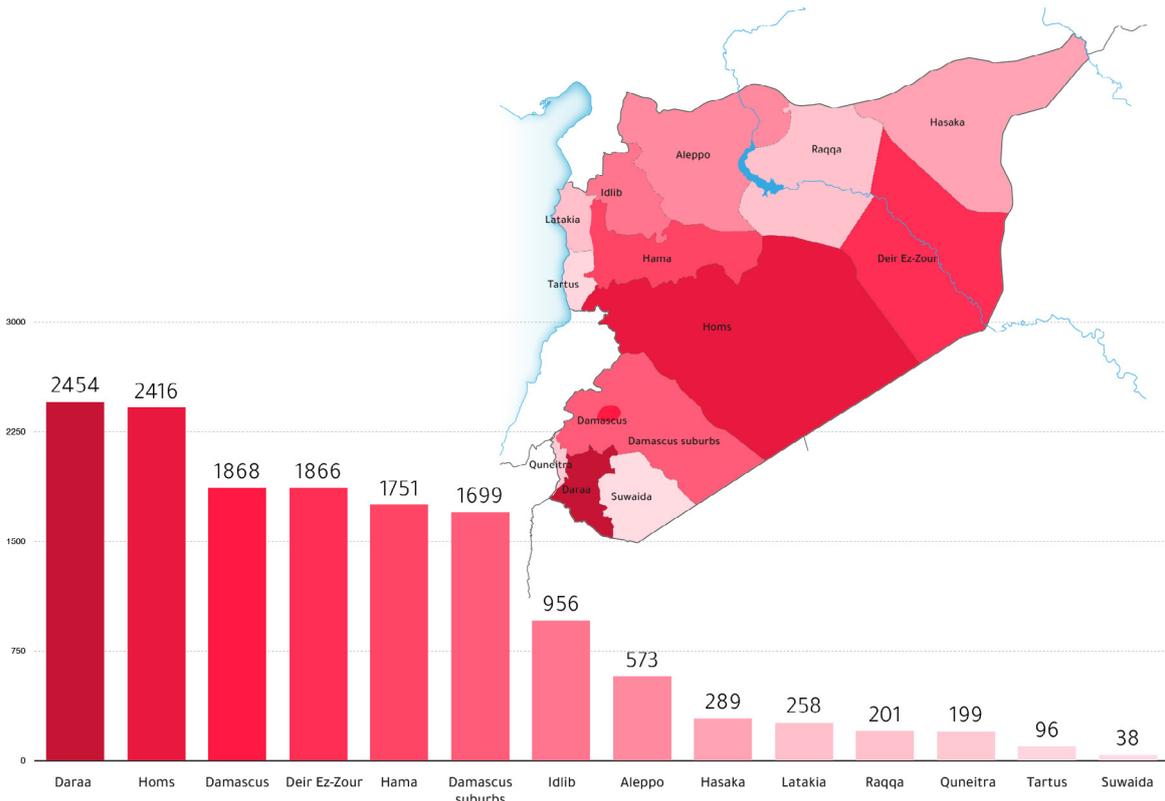
Between March 2019 and March 2020: 237, including three children and two women.

Between March 2020 and March 2021: 143, including two children and two women.

Between March 2021 and March 2022: 158, including one child and one woman.



The death toll of victims killed under torture (at least 14,664 individuals) from March 2011 to March 2022 was distributed across Syria's governorates as follows:



The above distribution shows that the highest number of torture victims was documented in the governorate of Daraa, Homs, and then Damascus, with approximately 17%, 16%, and 13%, respectively.

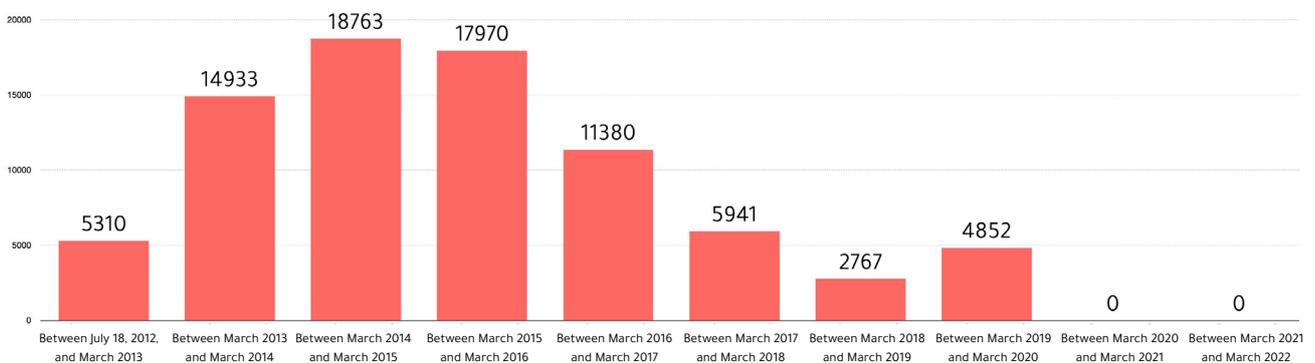
D. The record of four types of weapons: Barrel bombs, chemical weapons, cluster munitions, and incendiary weapons:

One: Barrel bombs: At least 81,916 barrel bombs were documented as having been dropped by the Syrian regime on Syria:

Barrel bombs are the least expensive weapon used by the Syrian regime's air force, being characterized by the massively indiscriminate character and enormous destructive power of their effect. The Syrian regime has used this weapon in its major military campaigns launched to regain control of areas. We have documented the Syrian regime's addition of chemicals, as well as incendiary materials, to the barrel bombs' contents.

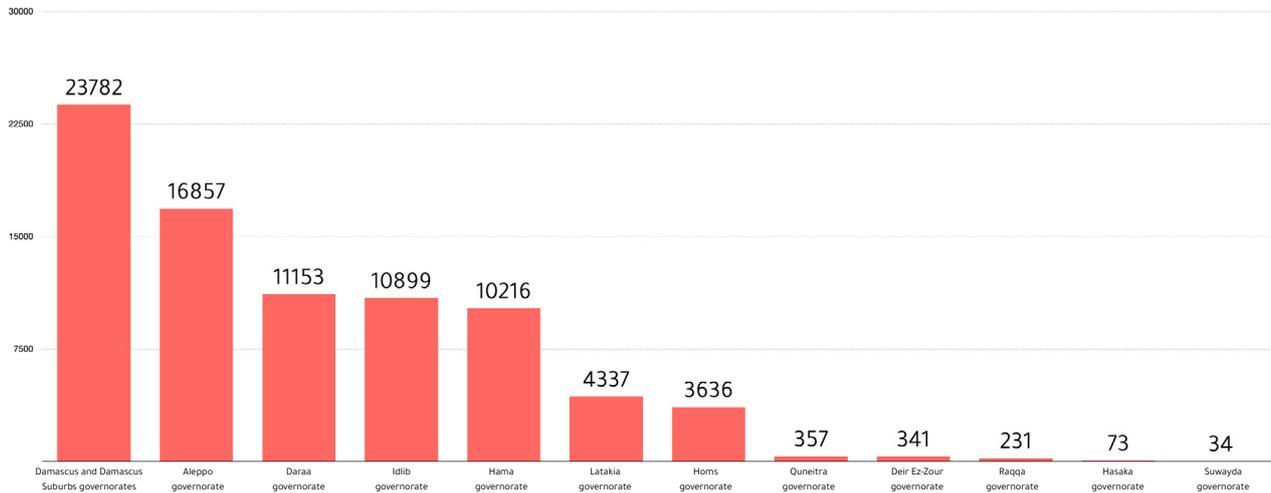
We have issued [a large number of reports](#) documenting the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs, whose number reached nearly 81,916 since these weapons' first documented use on July 18, 2012, up until March 2022, causing the deaths of 11,087 civilians, including 1,821 children and 1,780 women.

The record of barrel bombs was distributed by year as follows:



The most prolific record of the use of barrel bombs was documented in the fourth year of the popular uprising (March 2014 - March 2015), accounting for 23% of the total record of barrel bombs' use, followed by the fifth year (March 2015 - March 2016), with 22.

The deployment of the documented total number of barrel bombs used, which reached 81,916 in all, was distributed across the governorates as follows:



Two: Chemical weapons: 222 chemical attacks documented:

The Syrian regime's first goal in using chemical weapons was to spread a state of terror in the areas where it used these weapons. The Syrian regime's use of this weapon came after it had used heavy artillery, barrel barrels, and airstrikes with vacuum missiles; when the Syrian regime found that the international community didn't have any real will to stop it or put an end to its crimes, the regime committed atrocities by including chemical weapons amongst the arsenal of weapons it used against areas outside its control and has not stopped using chemical weapons despite all the UN resolutions issued in this regard, namely Security Council Resolutions No. 2118, 2209, and 2235. According to the SNHR's database, the chemical attack launched by Syrian regime forces on al Bayyada neighborhood in Homs city on December 23, 2012, was the first documented attack to be recorded on the SNHR database.

We have documented at least 222 chemical attacks in Syria since December 2012 up until March 2022, distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces** carried out 217 chemical attacks in various Syrian governorates.
- **ISIS** carried out five chemical attacks, all in Aleppo governorate.

Syrian regime forces' attacks were distributed according to the Security Council resolutions as follows:

First: Prior to Security Council Resolution 2118 of September 27, 2013: 33 attacks.

Second: After Security Council Resolution 2118 of September 27, 2013, to date: 184 attacks.

Third: After Security Council Resolution 2209 of March 6, 2015: 115 attacks.

Fourth: After the formation of the United Nations mechanism and Security Council Resolution 2235 of August 7, 2015: 59 attacks.

These attacks resulted in the deaths of 1,510 individuals, of whom 1,409 were civilians, including 205 children and 260 women (adult female), while 94 were Armed Opposition fighters, and seven were prisoners from Syrian regime forces who were being held in an opposition prison, with all of these victims killed in attacks carried out by the Syrian regime. These attacks also caused injuries to 11,212 individuals, including 11,080 individuals injured in attacks carried out by the Syrian regime, and 132 individuals injured in attacks carried out by ISIS.

The record of chemical weapon attacks was distributed over the past 11 years as follows:

Between March 2012 and March 2013: Five attacks by the Syrian regime.

Between March 2013 and March 2014: 31 attacks by the Syrian regime.

Between March 2014 and March 2015: 73 attacks by the Syrian regime.

Between March 2015 and March 2016: 60 attacks, 58 by the Syrian regime and two by ISIS.

Between March 2016 and March 2017: 37 attacks, 34 by the Syrian regime and three by ISIS.

Between March 2017 and March 2018: 13 attacks by the Syrian regime.

Between March 2018 and March 2019: Two attacks by the Syrian regime.

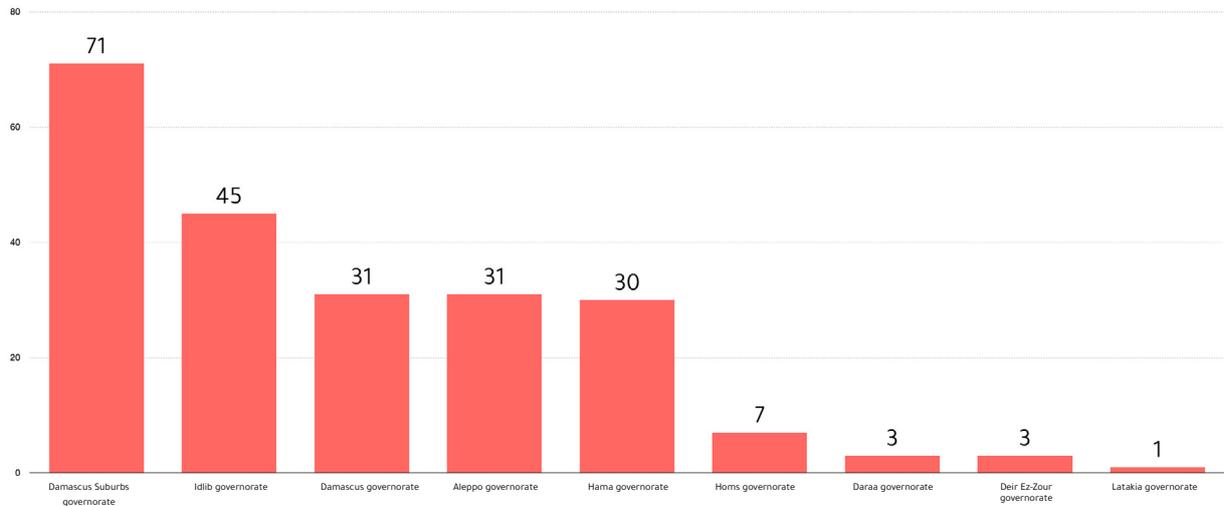
Between March 2019 and March 2020: One attack by the Syrian regime.

Between March 2020 and March 2021: ---

Between March 2021 and March 2022: ---

The above distribution shows that the fourth, fifth, and sixth years witnessed most of the chemical attacks that we were able to document, respectively, as the percentage of attacks recorded in the fourth year (from March 2014 to March 2015) reached approximately 33% of the total number of attacks, followed by the fifth year (from March 2015 to March 2016) by approximately 27%, and the sixth year (from March 2016 to March 2017) by approximately 17%.

The record of the chemical attacks was distributed across the governorates as follows:



Damascus Suburbs governorate witnessed the largest number of chemical attacks, followed by Idlib governorate, then Damascus and Aleppo governorates in third place.

Three: Cluster munitions: 495 attacks documented:

The Syrian regime, and then its Russian ally, used these munitions extensively in civilian and residential areas. Cluster munitions are among the weapons that pose a long-term danger which can last for decades. In addition to the victims who are killed by the immediate explosion of cluster munitions at the time of the attack, unexploded munitions turn into something similar to landmines, which kill or maim civilians unwittingly passing nearby, with hundreds of pieces of shrapnel penetrating the body of the injured, often necessitating amputation of limbs as a result.

The SNHR's database indicates that the first documented use of cluster munitions in Syria during the past 11 years was by Syrian regime forces in July 2012. The period following the Russian military intervention on September 30, 2015, contributed to the escalation in the use of cluster munitions, whether in the form of air or ground munitions, launched via missile launchers.

We documented at least 495 cluster munition attacks carried out by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in Syria since the first documented use of these munitions in July 2012 up to March 2022, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 250 attacks.
- **Russian forces:** 237 attacks.
- **Russian/Syrian attacks:** Eight attacks.

These cluster munition attacks launched by Syrian-Russian alliance forces between July 2012 and March 2022 have resulted in the deaths of 1,042 civilians, including 389 children and 217 women (adult female).

We also documented the deaths of at least 374 civilians, including 118 children and 31 women (adult female), as a result of the explosion of munitions left from previous cluster munition attacks. Although it is difficult to determine the total number of the injuries caused by cluster munition explosions, the SNHR estimates that approximately 4,350 civilians have been injured, many of whom have subsequently had to undergo amputation of limbs as a result, meaning that they require prosthetic limbs and a series of rehabilitation and support operations.

Four: Incendiary weapons: 171 incendiary weapons attacks documented:

Incendiary weapons are considered to pose a very high level of danger if they are used as a direct weapon on civilian and residential areas. The use of these weapons by Syrian-Russian alliance forces against populated areas and agricultural areas has had catastrophic effects and consequences, as incendiary weapons can cause severe burns in the event of contact with the human body, reaching even the bones, and leaving large scars if they do not cause death. Because of the nature of these weapons, which contain materials that continue to ignite for a long period of time, their use on agricultural areas and residential buildings also causes fires that lead to material damage to infrastructure and vital facilities. This confirms that their use by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces was intended to inflict material damage, as well as human suffering, with no clear military objective at all. Incendiary weapons are highly indiscriminate by nature, and are very similar to cluster munitions, in terms of their wide dispersal on the one hand, and their possible subsequent ignition on the other.

Incendiary weapons have been used extensively by the Syrian regime since 2012; with the intervention of the Russian forces in 2015, we noticed a sharp rise even from the already regular frequency of the Syrian regime's use of these weapons. Once again, this huge number of incidents indicates typical indifference, and sometimes deliberate use of these weapons by the Russian forces to intentionally inflict horrendous damage on the Syrian people and lands.

According to the SNHR database, we documented at least 171 attacks using incendiary weapons on civilian residential areas between March 2011 and March 2022, distributed according to perpetrators:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 41 attacks.
- **Russian forces:** 125 attacks.
- **US-led Coalition forces:** Five attacks against residential neighborhoods in Raqqa city.

E. Attacks on vital civilian facilities:

All the perpetrator parties have targeted many [vital facilities](#), with these attacks not being limited to 'only' bombing these facilities one or more times, but also turning dozens of these vital facilities into military barracks or detention centers in the areas under the various parties' control, making them vulnerable to being targeted by other parties to the conflict.

Depriving civilians of these vital facilities and the services they provide has a devastating short and long-term impact on the people and pushes them to flee to safer, more stable, and secure places where these services are available.

Since March 2011, we have documented at least 869 attacks on medical facilities and 1,407 attacks on places of worship. We also recorded that 1,597 schools were damaged, some of which were subjected to more than one attack. According to our documentation, the Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance is responsible for nearly 86% of the total record of these incidents.

E. Forced Displacement of More Than Half of the Syrian People Either IDPs or Refugees:

The level of violence witnessed in Syria by all parties to the conflict and the controlling forces against civilians in all regions generated a state of terror and intimidation among Syrians, which prompted them to flee and search for safer areas free from the indiscriminate bombing, especially by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces, that destroyed most of Syria's cities, making it impossible for residents to continue living in them. The relentless persecution by the Syrian regime's security services against Syrians opposing the regime in areas under its control played a major role in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Syrians to other areas, in addition to the siege policy implemented by the Syrian-Russian alliance forces on many areas, with these brutal sieges followed by compulsory 'reconciliation' agreements that resulted in the displacement of thousands more people from the areas where they lived.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that nearly 13.4 million Syrians have been either internally displaced or have become refugees, since the start of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011, distributed as follows:

- Nearly 6.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), some of whom have been displaced more than once.
- Nearly 6.6 million refugees, the vast majority of whom live in neighboring countries.

III. The International Community Has Failed Miserably in Resolving the Syrian Conflict and Achieving a Political Transition

Over the past eleven years, several Arab and international initiatives have been put forward to put an end to the suffering of the Syrian people, most notably the Arab League initiative, the Geneva initiative, and the Astana/ Sochi initiative; all of these initiatives have failed, with none of them even reaching the threshold of negotiations, let alone any serious progress towards forming a transitional governing body and beginning along the road to political transition and transitional justice. We addressed these processes in some detail [in our annual report issued in March 2021](#).

On June 30, 2012, the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, witnessed [the first meeting of the Action Group on Syria](#), at the invitation of Mr. Kofi Annan, the Joint Special Envoy for the UN and the League of Arab States on Syria at the time. The meeting's final statement outlined the features of the peaceful transition of power in Syria, through the establishment of a transitional governing body, the revision of the constitution, and the holding of fair elections.

Nine rounds of Geneva talks were held; starting with the third round, the implementation of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 2254 was the focus of the meetings. However, the outcomes of these meetings did not include any plan to implement this Resolution.

We believe that Russia and Iran's support for the Syrian regime is the main reason behind the Syrian regime's rejection to discuss or engage in any mechanism aimed at establishing a plan and time schedule for a peaceful transition of power in Syria. In January 2018, Russia established its own path through the Sochi Congress on January 30, 2018, which stipulated in [its final statement](#) an agreement "to form a constitutional committee comprising the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic delegation along with wide-represented opposition delegation for drafting of a constitutional reform as a contribution to the political settlement under the UN auspices in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2254."

On September 23, 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [announced](#) the formation of the Syrian Constitutional Committee after receiving the approval of the Syrian regime and the Opposition Negotiations Commission. Thus, the Geneva meetings were limited to the meetings of the Constitutional Committee, whose work was limited to "[preparing and drafting for popular approval a constitutional reform, as a contribution to the political settlement in Syria and the implementation of resolution 2254.](#)"

The meetings of the first round of the Syrian Constitutional Committee Large Body [were launched](#) on October 30, 2019, with the body consisting of 150 members. The meetings of the Constitutional Committee have continued since then without any tangible progress to date.

Moreover, [the elections that the Syrian regime unilaterally held in May 2021](#), in which it relied on the constitution that it established unilaterally in 2012, has been the archetypal evidence of the Syrian regime's complete lack of any seriousness in achieving any serious progress in the political solution process stipulated in Security Council Resolution 2254, with the international community conspicuously failing to pressure the regime to accept it. We must point out that no international sanctions have been imposed on Russia as a result of its military intervention in Syria and its committing hundreds of violations and obstructing the political process, so the responsibility for maintaining the situation in its current wholly unsatisfactory state also rests with Western countries.

IV. None of the 27 Security Council Resolutions Related to Syria Have Been Implemented, Including Those Concerning the Issue of Detainees and Chemical Weapons

During the past eleven years, the United Nations Security Council issued 27 resolutions related to the Syrian issue, but in their entirety they have remained wholly ineffectual, merely ink on paper, in particular the eight resolutions related to the political process, cessation of hostilities, and the use of barrel bombs. In four of these resolutions, the Security Council referred to the issue of detainees; it failed, however, to secure the release of even one detainee or even to reveal the fate of any detainees. Similarly, it issued three resolutions on chemical weapons, but again failed to take any steps when the Syrian regime resumed its use of these weapons after the adoption of the Security Council resolutions. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has also proven this. It is bitterly ironic that the majority of Security Council resolutions were about the delivery of UN humanitarian aid and the crossings through which aid will be delivered, issues which do not require any Security Council resolution, although this further confirms the extent to which the Security Council's role in Syria is inhibited to the point of making it wholly ineffectual and failing in every regard. In addition to all these points, the UN Security Council has actively thwarted justice by preventing the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC), despite the atrocious violations committed against the Syrian people, which constitute numerous crimes against humanity and war crimes.

V. The Syrian Regime Still Maintains Weapons of Mass Destruction

On February 8, 2022, [an investigation conducted by Foreign Policy magazine](#) quoted Gregory Koblenz, an expert on Syria's chemical weapons program, as saying that Syria's obstruction of international inspectors from the OPCW has only increased in recent years, including the denial of visas and the destruction of previous evidence of chemical attacks. He added that US intelligence has found that the Syrian regime unquestionably and repeatedly used chemical weapons against civilians in Syria.

This was confirmed by Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, during [a Security Council session](#), on January 5, 2022, in which she said, "Syria's declaration of compliance with Chemical Weapons Convention still inaccurate due to persisting gaps and inconsistencies." She added that so far, 20 of the 24 outstanding issues opened by the Declaration Assessment Team in regard to the Syrian regime's announcement that it has got rid of its chemical program remain unresolved.

In [the monthly report No. EC-99/DG.5](#) issued on January 24, 2022 by the OPCW Executive Council, the OPCW described its continued efforts to verify the complete destruction of the Syrian regime's chemical arsenal. In several sections, the report emphasized the significant magnitude of the obstacles the Syrian government places in the way of its work, which prevents the organization from smoothly continuing its operations in the country, which, the report stated, has directly led to the Executive Council's distrust of the Syrian authorities' announcement of the destruction of its chemical arsenal.

Among the obstacles mentioned in the report is the Syrian regime's repeated refusal to issue an entry visa to a member of the OPCW's Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), in addition to the lack of a response from the Syrian authorities since April 2021 to the communications of the General Secretariat to schedule the twenty-fifth round of consultations between the DAT and the Syrian National Authority. The report also mentioned that, on more than one occasion, it did not receive answers to inquiries sent by the General Secretariat to the Syrian authorities. This means that many cases remain unresolved with their closure delayed.

All of this confirms our previous statements regarding the dozens of incidents of chemical weapons use that we have documented in detail, and reminds Syrians of the glaring failure of former US President Barack Obama's "red line" pledge to the Syrian people and the peoples of the world when he vowed that the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime would be a red line that would force the US to take action. Despite the regime's repeated use of chemical weapons, there has been no action, and the Syrian regime still possesses undeclared chemical weapons, and may even use them later against the Syrian people.

VI. Syria Is Not Safe for Its Residents, Nor for the Return of Refugees

Given the continuation of many types of violations committed by the parties to the conflict, as well as by the controlling forces against the population in areas under their control, Syria is classified as one of the most dangerous countries worldwide. The eleventh report of the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#), issued on January 1, 2022, indicated that Syria's border with Turkey is the second-largest refugee gateway in the world after the US-Mexico border and that Syria is the fifth country in the global ranking among the first five countries from which asylum seekers come, followed China, Russia, Mexico, and India, all countries with vastly larger populations than Syria's, with the report estimating the number of Syrian refugees scattered around the world at 6.7 million until the end of 2020, an increase of 100,000 refugees from 2019.

Therefore, over the course of these eleven years, we see that Syrians are travelling in one direction only, which is to flee from Syria, fearing persecution for their lives and freedoms, and seeking asylum, compared to a very small percentage who returned from neighboring countries, or are forcibly returned; returned refugees are exposed to the same types of violations suffered by the population living in Syria, with the main reason for this being the absence of any rule of law, the dominance of oppression and tyranny and the concentration of powers in the hands of the all-powerful regime. There will be no free and dignified return of refugees without achieving a political transition towards a democratic system that respects human rights.

Ordered by its Russian ally, the Syrian regime blackmails European countries with the refugee issue in order to contribute to the reconstruction file:

Russia has tried to promote the notion that Syria is safe and stable in areas under the Syrian regime's control, and is ready to receive returning refugees. Russia aims by this to break the Syrian regime's international isolation, blackmail European countries through extreme right-wing parties, and return Syrian refugees in exchange for contributions to the reconstruction file, claiming that the damaged buildings and vital centers are the reason why refugees are not returning.

Russia deliberately ignores that the bombing by both Russia and its ally, the Syrian regime, is the main cause behind the destruction and displacement of millions of Syrians, in addition to the brutality of the security services that control every single detail of every Syrian citizen's life.

At the request of Russia, the regime began its promotional campaign for the "return of refugees" by holding what it called an "[International Conference on Return of Syrian Refugees](#)" in Damascus on November 11, 2020, in the presence of representatives of a number of nations, including some of those which played a major role in the displacement of the Syrian people, such as Russia, China, and Iran, either by supporting the Syrian regime militarily or politically. [The regime held several meetings on the same subject in 2021.](#)

In response to the Russian attempts, a number of reports and statements were issued confirming that Syria is a wholly unsafe country for the return of refugees, including the Amnesty International report "[You're going to your death](#)", the Human Rights Watch report "[Our Lives Are Like Death](#)", and [the recent report of the International Commission of Inquiry.](#)

Statistics compiled by the SNHR confirm that Syria is still not safe for the return of IDPs and refugees; from the beginning of 2014 until March 2022, we have documented at least 2,346 cases of arbitrary arrest, including 249 children and 194 women (adult female), against refugees who returned from asylum or residence countries to their areas of residence in Syria. All of those were arbitrarily arrested by Syrian regime forces. The Syrian regime released 1,483 detainees, while 863 of those arrested remained in detention, with 687 of them going on to be classified as forcibly disappeared. We also recorded the arrest of at least 907 IDPs who returned to areas controlled by the Syrian regime, including 22 children and 17 women. Of these, the Syrian regime released 218 of the detainees, while 689 others remained in detention, with 426 of these being forcibly disappeared.

The toll of cases of arbitrary arrest/ enforced disappearances at the hands of the Syrian regime forces against refugees who returned to their areas from the start of 2014 to March 2022

Syria is still not safe for the return of IDPs and refugees

At least

2346

including
cases of arbitrary arrest
249 children and 194 women (adult female)

against refugees who returned from asylum or residence countries to their areas of residence in Syria

The Syrian regime released 1,483 detainees, while 863 of those arrested remained in detention, with 687 of them going on to be classified as forcibly disappeared

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907

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SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

As documented by SNHR

March 2022

VII. Even After Its Committing Atrocious Violations and Using Chemical Weapons, Attempts to Rehabilitate the Syrian Regime Continue

The last two years have witnessed a number of attempts to rehabilitate the Syrian regime politically. These attempts have been led Russia and its ally Algeria. It was surprising and reprehensible that Jordan took the position that is against Syrian citizens' human rights. On October 3, 2021, the [first direct contact](#) took place between the King of Jordan, Abdullah II., with Bashar al Assad, according to the official website of the Royal Hashemite Court. This was followed by a [statement by the Director of Jordanian Intelligence](#) on October 5 that his country is dealing with the Syrian file as a fait accompli and that there is security coordination between Jordan and the Syrian regime.

On November 9, 2021, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah bin Zayed [visited](#) Syria, during which he met the Syrian regime's President to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries and develop bilateral cooperation in various fields.

On January 31, 2022, the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman [arrived in](#) Damascus on an official visit and met the Syrian regime's President.

At the request of Russia, Algeria made constant efforts to restore the Syrian regime to the Arab League, with Algeria having always stood by the Syrian regime and voted against the rights of the Syrian people 11 times in the Human Rights Council.

These attempts were not limited to countries, but extended to international organizations, **most notably recently:**

The election of the Syrian regime as a member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2021, even though the regime is accused of hundreds of incidents of attacks on medical facilities and of killing, disappearing, and displacing hundreds of medical personnel; this is what we considered the greatest insult to the organization and all its employees and members. [We issued a report in this regard.](#)

On October 15, 2021, the Interpol [website](#) published a statement in which it announced that in October it had lifted corrective measures from the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Damascus regarding the Syrian regime's use of the INTERPOL Information System in implementation of the decision taken by the Executive Committee in June 2021, after additional training for the NCB Damascus staff.

VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

- The states whose representatives attended the 2005 World Summit⁶ unanimously affirmed their responsibility to protect their own populations from crimes against humanity and war crimes. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, the prevention of incitement to commit them by all possible means, and when the state clearly fails to protect its population from atrocity crimes, or itself is committing such crimes as in the case of the Syrian regime, means that it is the responsibility of the international community to intervene to take protective measures in a collective, decisive and timely manner⁷.
- All parties to the conflict in Syria have violated both international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with the Syrian regime and its allies being the perpetrators of by far the largest number of violations.

⁶ United Nations, General Assembly, 2005 World Summit Outcome, paragraph 138. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/1>

⁷ United Nations, General Assembly, 2005 World Summit Outcome, paragraph 138. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/1>

- Syrian regime forces have perpetrated various violations that amount to crimes against humanity, ranging from extrajudicial killing to torture, forced displacement, and others, with all these crimes being perpetrated in a systematic and widespread manner at the same time. In addition, Syrian regime forces have committed war crimes through indiscriminate bombardment and the destruction of buildings and facilities. Not only did the Syrian regime's government breach international humanitarian law and customary law, but it also violated Security Council resolutions - particularly Resolution No. 2042 which is concerned with releasing detainees, and Resolution No. 2139 which is concerned with ceasing indiscriminate attacks and enforced disappearances. All of these issues have yet to be addressed with any form of accountability in light of the legitimacy conferred on the regime through Russian-Chinese protection and Western silence.
- Russian forces have violated Security Council Resolution No. 2139, as well as Resolution No. 2254, through indiscriminate bombardment. Additionally, Russian forces have violated many rules of international humanitarian law, committing dozens of violations that amount to war crimes through indiscriminate, disproportionate bombardment, particularly given the use of excessive power in these attacks, as well as violating Article 8 of the Rome Statute by committing intentional homicide, all of which constitute war crimes.
- The Russian or Syrian authorities and the other parties to the conflict have conducted no serious investigations into their attacks over all these years, as well as failing to prevent any of these attacks and to punish those responsible.
- The member states of the US-led coalition have failed during all the years of their presence in Syria, especially after the defeat of the ISIS terrorist group, to achieve political stability in northeast Syria, failing to enable democratic local elections through which power could be handed over to democratically elected local figures who are not affiliated with a particular ethnic or sectarian party.
- The repercussions of the cumulative and continuous catastrophic violations over eleven years have caused and intensified the collapse of the Syrian state because the Syrian regime is embedded in it as a primary malignant cancerous body and will not accept any political transition even if Syria turns into the most failed state in the world, leading to the fragmentation of Syrian society and the displacement of millions.
- The Syrian regime is actively hostile to any political transition process because this would lead to a transition from dictatorship to democracy, ending its absolute power.

Recommendations:

UN Security Council and the United Nations

- Members of the Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past 11 years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, "...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment,"
- Find ways and mechanisms to implement Security Council Resolutions 2041, 2042, 2139, and Article 12 of Resolution 2254 regarding detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in Syria.
- Take action under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to protect detainees from certain death inside detention centers, and to put an end to the pandemic of enforced disappearance that continues to plague Syria, posing a threat to the security and stability of society, act to end torture and deaths due to torture inside Syrian regime detention centers, and to save whoever is left among the detainees as quickly as possible.
- Disclose the fate of the nearly 102,000 persons forcibly disappeared in Syria, 85 percent of them by the Syrian regime.
- Following the failure of the parties, in particular the Syrian regime, to comply with any of the Security Council resolutions concerning the use of chemical weapons, barrel bombs or enforced disappearance, the Security Council must, after 11 years, intervene militarily in order to protect Syrian civilians.
- There is a need to refer the Syrian issue from the Security Council to the United Nations General Assembly and to implement the "Uniting for Peace" principle after 10 years of failure on the part of the Security Council to protect civilians or to help in ending the Syrian conflict.
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Ensure the safety and security of millions of Syrian refugees, especially women and children, who have been displaced worldwide, and ensure their safety from arrest, torture, or enforced disappearance if they choose to return to areas controlled by the Syrian regime.
- Request all relevant United Nations agencies to make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow-up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.

- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proving equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now spanned more than a decade in Syria.
- Expand political and economic sanctions against the Russian regime for committing war crimes in Syria, for continuing to violate sanctions imposed against the Syrian regime, and for assisting it in breaching UN Security Council resolutions, including those regarding non-recurrence of using chemical weapons and barrel bombs.
- Put real pressure on Russia and Iran, and categorize them as key partners in the violations committed in Syria since they continue to supply the Syrian regime with weapons, as well as due to their direct involvement in thousands of violations against Syrian citizens.
- Provide protection and assistance to forcibly displaced women and children, including IDPs and refugees, and take into account their specific needs, primarily for protection.
- Fulfill the commitment of pledged financial contributions:
 - o Assist neighboring countries and provide all possible support to increase the level of education and healthcare in these countries which host the largest number of female and child refugees.
 - o Establish mechanisms to end the bombing of schools and kindergartens, protect these facilities, and work to create a safe learning environment, which is the least possible level of protection that could be offered for civilians.
- At a minimum, pressure must be applied on the Syrian regime to ensure that international observers, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, are given unconditional and unrestricted access to women and girls in detention centers.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a time period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely and settled return to their homes.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be unsafe, and put pressure to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

The Parties to the Conflict

- Comply with the rules of customary humanitarian law and Security Council resolutions, ensure that civilians are treated as neutral, release detainees and hostages, stop torture, and reveal the fate of the disappeared and missing persons.
- Respect the principles of international human rights law in the areas under their control.

The Russian government:

- Stop supporting the current Syrian regime and apologize to the Syrian people for all violations committed by Russian forces.
- Support a genuine political transition away from the dynastic dictatorship of one family and its brutal security services, which is the only way to achieve security, stability, and reconstruction.
- Launch investigations regarding the incidents included in this report, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people and hold all those involved accountable.
- Reconstruct and restore the residential buildings and shops destroyed by Russian military forces, and compensate victims throughout the duration of their displacement.
- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary humanitarian law.

The US-led Coalition forces:

- Support the process of establishing a genuine local administration in the northeastern regions of Syria, in which all the inhabitants of the region may participate without discrimination on the basis of race and nationality and without the intervention of the de facto authorities in order to achieve stability and justice.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

- Create a stable and safe environment for Syrian refugee children and intensify work for their reintegration into society through long-term psychological treatment.
- Increase investment in education and health.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and local and international humanitarian and relief organizations:

- Coordinate humanitarian aid operations according to the areas worst affected and reject attempts at pressure and blackmail by the Syrian regime which is working to harness aid to its advantage.
- Allocate adequate resources for the rehabilitation of child and female survivors, especially those who have been directly affected by violations, or subjected to violence, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage, giving priority to the areas worst affected.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria:

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the party responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

Supporting States and European Union:

- Support the processes of documenting human rights violations in Syria that expose the Syrian regime's atrocious practices and their continuing nature, as well as the regime's violation of the principles of international law.
- Take further steps towards accelerating the completion of the political transition towards democracy and human rights.
- The situation in Syria is still in a critical state in terms of respecting basic rights, and any citizen may be subjected to arrest under these vague and overly broad laws. Therefore, we recommend that refugees not be returned until such a political transition is achieved, as there will be no stability and security in light of the survival of the current Syrian regime and the Counter-Terrorism Court.
- Economic sanctions imposed on the two main backers of the Syrian regime, namely Iran and Russia, must be intensified, which is something that can be effectively achieved by the European Union. While civilian protection and safe zones are still the primary demands, economic sanctions also remain an effective course of action.
- Provide every possible assistance to the active civil society groups working to rehabilitate and reintegrate female victims into their communities, and support the operations for the support and rehabilitation of female survivors in areas of displacement and asylum.

Neighboring countries:

- Ensure that refugees fleeing Syria are able to seek asylum, respect their rights, including the prohibition of refoulement, and expedite reunification. EU states and other countries should alleviate the burden on neighboring countries and receive more Syrian refugees, while donor countries should increase their assistance to the UNHCR and civil societies organizations in countries of asylum.

League of Arab States:

- Absolutely reject any possibility of the Syrian regime's return to the Arab League in light of its continued involvement up to the present date in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Humanitarian Organizations:

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, primarily widows and orphans.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank the victims' families and relatives and all the local activists from all fields who contributed effectively to this report. If it were not for their contributions and cooperation with us, we would not be able to complete this report to such an exhaustive level. In addition to this, we extend our most heartfelt condolences to the victims' families.



www.snhhr.org - info@snhr.org