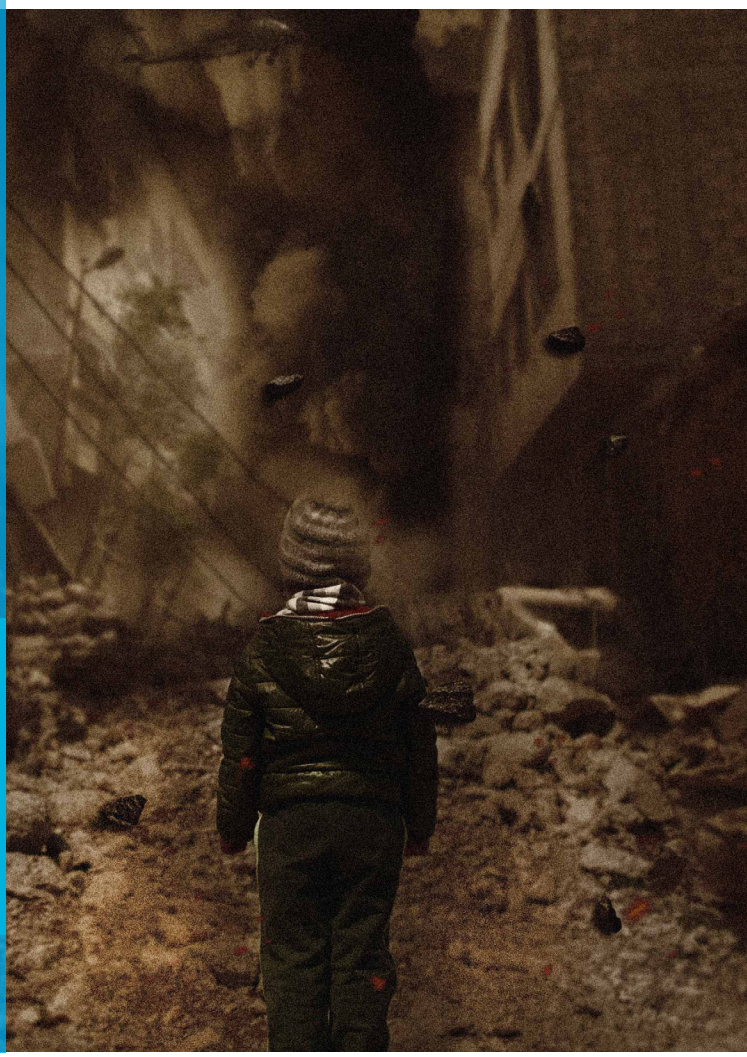
SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

55 Civilians,

Including 16 Children, Four Woman, and Three Individuals Who Died due to Torture Documented Killed in July 2023 in Syria

Bombings by Unidentifie Parties Accounted for 24 Percent of all July's Deaths and Resulted in Two Different Massacres



Tuesday 01 Augut 2023

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.

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I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in July 2023. The report sheds light particularly on victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel. In addition, the report focuses on documenting massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document during this period; it should be noted that we use the term, 'massacre' to refer to an incident in which no fewer than five peaceful individuals were killed. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents during this month. Full details of every incident are maintained on the SNHR database.

Documenting deaths in Syria has been one of the most important roles performed by SNHR since March 2011. This task is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of parents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily due to the systematic killing of civilians by Syrian regime forces and their affiliated militias. Between March 2011, and the beginning of 2012, Syrian regime forces were responsible for the overwhelming majority of deaths in Syria. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which were deployed in attacks using barrel bombs, in addition to ballistic missiles and chemical weapons.

The emergence of several other parties during the Syrian conflict has further increased both the importance and the complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the 12th consecutive year, as it has done continuously ever since the initial outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011, resulting in casualty figures that are among the highest worldwide; this underlines the fact that Syria is still the most dangerous nation in the world for civilians, and remains an exceptionally insecure and perilous environment wholly unsuitable for the return of refugees.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. It should be noted that accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for attacks in some incidents of ground-based bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite these efforts, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties due to the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified within the category 'other parties' until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

The parties to the conflict documented by SNHR as having as committed extrajudicial killings in this report are:

1. Main parties:
   - Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)[1]
   - Russian forces
   - Armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA)
   - Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
   - International coalition forces
2. Other parties

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in detailed reports.

As for the anonymous victims whose names we have not yet been able to determine or on whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming those victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, as well as by their governorate of origin. However, we choose in our monthly report to document the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by their place of origin.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at this link.[2]

1. The Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he supposedly presides. The Minister of Justice cannot even summon a low-ranking security office, let alone a security branch head. Syria is ruled by the president assisted by the heads of the security branches.

   While we are aware that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government', we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

2. Syrian Network for Human Rights, "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology" http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides a special form that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

We note that the death toll of victims detailed on SNHR's database includes extrajudicial killings perpetrated by the controlling forces which occurred as a violation of either international human rights law or international humanitarian law or both, but does not include cases of natural deaths or those which occurred because of disputes between members of society or other such issues.

Our investigations confirm that all of the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks. Also, the perpetrators of the attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

II. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Death Records of the Civil Registry

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular rising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authorities, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to any of the victims' families, whether they were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. The regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, stating falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, if they wish to obtain a death certificate. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any investigations into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to hold to account even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

In order to obtain a death certificate, the Syrian regime relies on three things:

- Medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar› and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of death and the identity of those responsible for it..

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document **three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed,** which we detailed in a report we issued on August 19, 2022, entitled 'The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'.

It is worth noting that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their name with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families have been forcibly displaced outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

On August 10, 2022, the Minister of Justice in the Syrian regime government issued Circular No. 22 specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted to and approved by the relevant judges in proceedings related to registering the death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also gave security clearance to judicial authorities to register death cases, increasing the security services' intrusion. We issued a report in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

III. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in July

SNHR documented the killing of 118 civilians, including 15 children, 19 women, and four victims who died due to torture in the month of June 2023. Through our daily monitoring, seven observations stood out in June:

In July 2023, SNHR documented the killing of 55 civilians, including 16 children and four women. Of those, eight civilians, including one child, one woman, three individuals who died due to torture women, and a Civil Defense (White Helmets) personnel were killed by Syrian regime forces.

A woman, identified as Radayya al-Othman, died on July 5, 2023, of wounds sustained the previous day, July 4, in artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces, who fired multiple shells at the southern neighborhood of her hometown of al-Bara in Jabal al-Zawiya in southern rural Idlib governorate. The area is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

In July, three civilians, including two children, were killed by all armed opposition factions/SNA. All three victims were killed in the same incident on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The three civilians - two 11-year-old boys named as Abdul Rahman Hamid al-Ahmad and Hassan Ali al-Ibeid, and a civilian police officer, Ismail al-Jad'an al-Abboud - were shot dead when they were caught in crossfire at an SNA checkpoint in Ras al-Ein city in rural Hasaka governorate during armed clashes between personnel from the SNA's 'Ferqat al-Sultan' (Al-Sultan Squad), and the civilian police officers manning the checkpoint. The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

Meanwhile, the SDF was responsible for the killing of four civilians, including three children. On Friday, July 14, 2023, a 10-year-old boy, identified as Moatesm Sayyad al-Stouf from al-Hzaouna neighborhood in southern Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo neighborhood, died on July 14, 2023, when he fell into a six-meter-deep tunnel dug for military purposes by the SDF near the city's mills, and left exposed. Moatesm had been missing for three days at the time of his death. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

The largest percentage of July's victims, however, were killed at the hands of other parties. A total of 38 civilians, including 10 children and two women, were killed by other parties. Of these, five civilians, including one child and one woman, were killed by the explosion of landmines, bringing the total number of victims killed by landmines in Syria since the start of 2023 to 91 civilians, including 20 children and eight women.

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, a woman, identified as Hanan al-Dreib, was killed by the explosion of a landmine whose source we have not yet been able to identify while collecting firewood in Tishreen village, administratively a part of al-Ashara city, in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The explosion also injured a second woman, identified as Suhaila al-Mohammad. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, July 16, 2023, a boy, identified as 16-year-old Ahmad Mohammad al-Salim al-Abd al-Safira from Ma'dan town in the rural Raqqa governorate, was killed by the explosion of a landmine whose source we have not yet been able to identify that exploded under the car he was in, along with his father, while they were on their way to their work as shepherds in al-Qasabi 'badiya' (desert) in western rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The explosion also wounded the boy's father. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

We also recorded the killing of 12 civilians, including one child, by gunshots of unidentified source, with 10 of these victims killed in Daraa governorate. On Sunday, July 16, 2023, a man, identified as 31-year-old Ahmad Subhi al-Aqil, was shot dead by gunmen we have not yet been able to identify in front of his house in his hometown of Mahajja in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

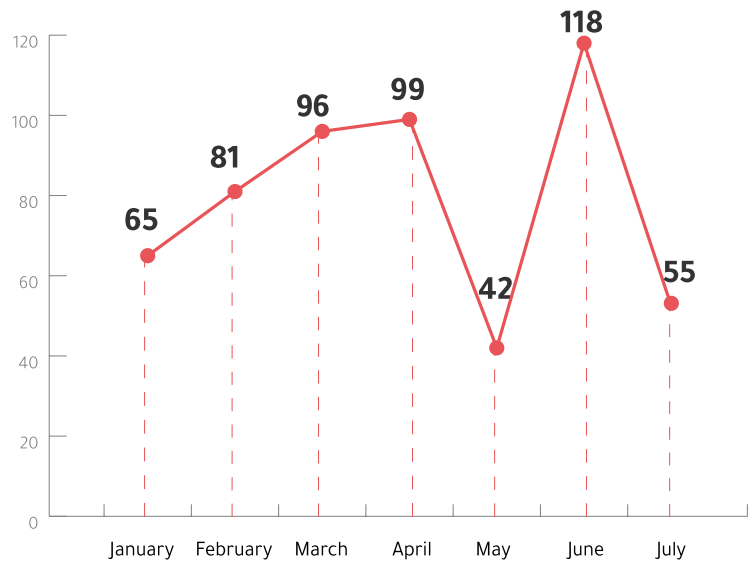
July also saw two massacres caused by massacres whose perpetrators we have not yet been able to identify in al-Sayyidah Zaynab in Rural Damascus governorate and Shawa village in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. A total of 13 civilians, including five children and one woman, were killed in the two massacres.

IV. Civilian Death Toll

In July, SNHR documented the killing of 55 civilians, including 16 children and four women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. July's death toll brings the total number of civilian victims killed by the different parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023 up to the start of August to 556 in total.

The death toll of civilians killed since the beginning of 2023 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria is distributed by month as follows:

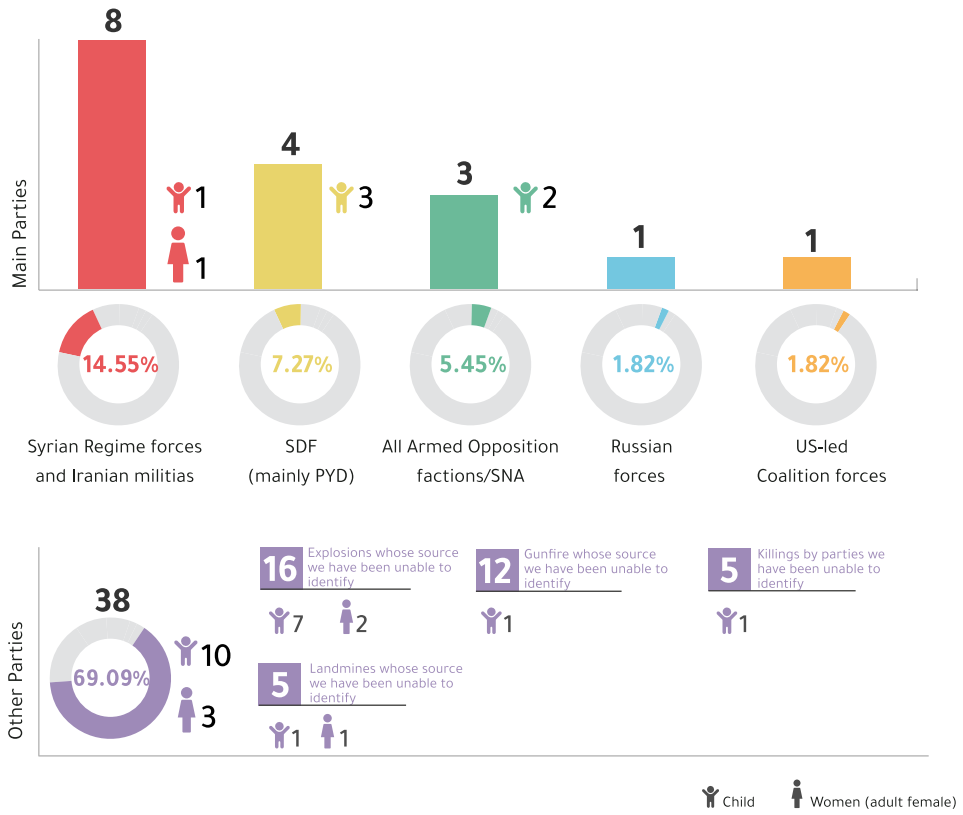
556 Civilians were killed in Syria From January to August



As the chart shows, July saw a decrease in the number of civilian deaths. As it stands, July and May respectively have seen the lowest numbers of civilian deaths since the beginning of the year, with each accounting for approximately 10 percent of the total number of civilian deaths documented so far in 2023.

The death toll of civilians killed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, in the month of July is distributed as follows:

55 Civilians were killed in Syria in July 2023



A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**

  We documented the killing of eight civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including one child and one woman

- **Russian forces:**

  We documented the killing of one civilian at the hands of Russian forces.

- **All armed opposition factions/SNA:**

  We documented the killing of three civilians, including two children, at the hands of all armed opposition factions/SNA.

- **SDF**

  We documented the killing of four civilians, including three children, at the hands of SDF.

- **International coalition forces**

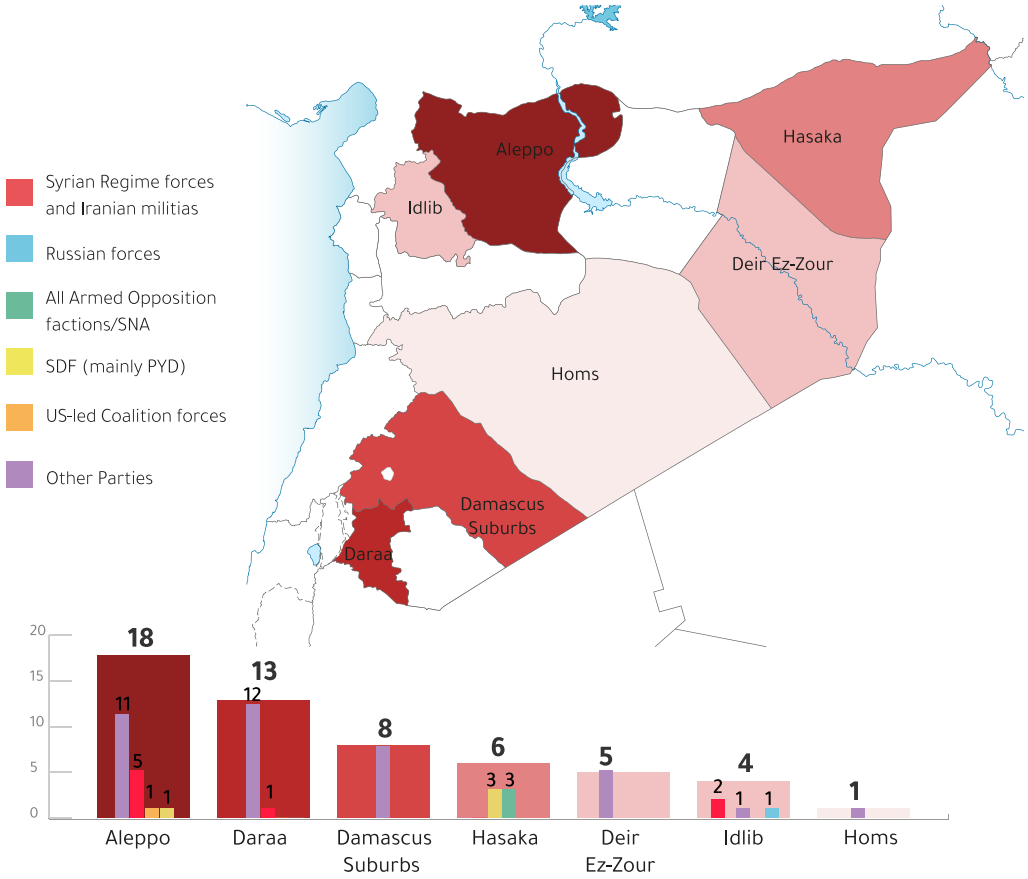
  We documented the killing of one civilian at the hands of international coalition forces.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 38 civilians, including 10 children and three women at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify:** Five civilians, including one child and one woman.
- **Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify:** 12 civilians, including one child.
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify:** 16 civilians, including seven children and two women.
- **Killings by parties we have been unable to identify:** Five civilians, including one child.

The death toll of civilians killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, in July 2023 is distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



Aleppo saw the highest number of victims this month, accounting for approximately 37.5 percent of all victims killed in July, followed by Daraa governorate with approximately 25 percent. Most of the victims killed in the two governorates were killed by other parties.

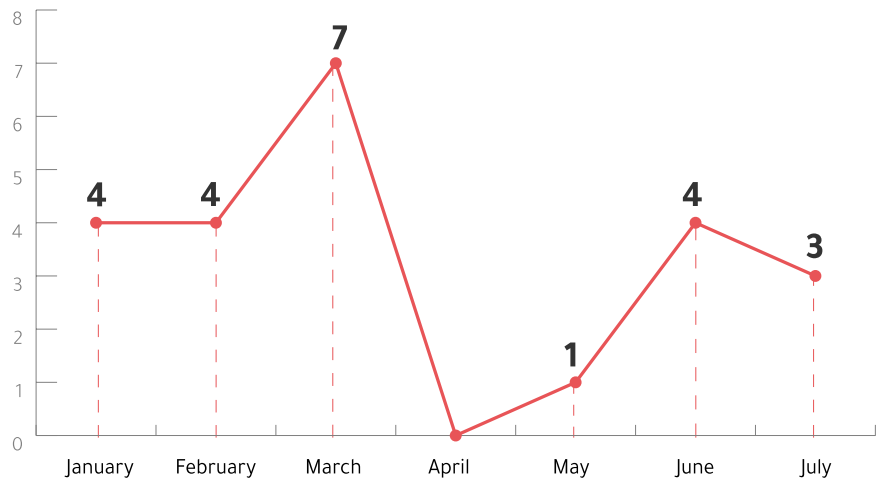
V. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel

A. Toll of victims who died due to torture

In July, SNHR documented that three individuals died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of victims who have died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023 to 23 victims.

The victims who we documented as having died due to torture since the beginning of 2023 are distributed as follows:

23 individuals died due to torture in Syria in 2023 From January to August



As the chart shows, Syrian regime forces are responsible for the deaths of approximately 39 of all victims who died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023. March saw the highest monthly number of victims documented as dying due to torture so far this year, accounting for approximately 31 percent of all this year's victims to date.

The victims who died due to torture in July are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:

A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** Three victims.

Below are the most notable cases:

A man, identified as 34-year-old Moyaed Yahya Shakoush from Jasim city in northern rural Daraa governorate, was arrested on July 7, 2023, by personnel from the Syrian regime's State Security agency in Tadmur town, also in northern rural Daraa governorate while he was travelling to Quneitra governorate. He was taken to a regime detention center in Nemer town, where he was tortured to death. On July 8, 2023, his body was returned to his family in al-Sanamin city's hospital in northern rural Daraa governorate, bearing signs of torture. Moayed, who had agreed previously to a security settlement, held no military status when he was arrested.

Moyaed Yahya Shakoush

B. Death toll of medical personnel

We recorded no deaths among medical personnel in July 2023.

C. Death toll of media workers

We recorded no deaths among media workers in July 2023.

B. Death Toll of Civil Defense personnel

SNHR documented the killing of one Civil Defense (White Helmets) personnel at the hands of Syrian regime forces in July.

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, Abdul Basit Ahmad Abdul Khaleq, from al-Atareb city in western rural Aleppo governorate, a Civil Defense (White Helmets) volunteer who worked at the White Helmets' al-Atareb Center, was killed in an attack by Syrian regime artillery forces who fired an anti-armor rocket at the car Abdul Basit was travelling in on the road between al-Atareb city and Kafr Nouran town near al-Jina crossroad in southeastern al-Atareb city, while he was on his way to examine a site targeted in earlier regime artillery bombardment. The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

Abdul Basit Ahmad Abdul Khaleq

VI. Most Notable Massacres

In July, SNHR documented two massacres at the hands of other parties, raising the number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2023 to 14 massacres, as follows:

A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces and pro-regime militias: One massacre.

B. Other parties:

- Killings by unidentified parties: Four massacres.
- Landmines of unidentified source: Three massacres.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: Two massacres.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Three massacres.
- Jordanian forces: One massacre.

A total of 13 civilians, including five children and one woman, were killed in the massacres perpetrated in July 2023.

Below are the most notable massacres:

On July 9, 2023, five civilians, including a child, were killed, and three others, also including a child, were injured by a car bomb whose source we have not yet been able to identify, which exploded immediately after stopping in front of a car repair workshop in Shawa village in al-Ra'ie area in eastern rural Aleppo. The area was under the control of SNA at the time of the incident.

A car bomb exploded in front of a car repair workshop in Shawa village in rural Aleppo - July 9, 2023

VII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, method of killing, type of weapon used, and perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which the death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the loss suffered by the people of that governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, and several backup copies being stored in different locations.

Since 2011, we have also been exceptionally concerned with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly any statistic recorded on our database that does not include victims in either category, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, and relief workers, and Civil Defense personnel.

For nearly 12 years, we have issued daily death tolls of victims, as well as daily news reports on killing incidents. We also issue a monthly report detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died due to torture, in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports documenting the total death toll or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a monthly report and special and periodic reports documenting the massacres committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically submits special forms to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on SNHR for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR also has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) project. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the justice process, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- The evidence we have collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of the Syrians killed have died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva VI Convention, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We have documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

Recommendations

UN Security Council

- 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."*
- 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.
- 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 ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies 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.
- 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 enable the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

International Community

- In light of the split within the UN 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 proved 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 12 years in Syria.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely return to their homes without fear.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be extremely unsafe, and put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed greater light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch extensive investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within the next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public condemnation, and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and provide an exchange of experiences with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria

- Condemn Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes and of the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- 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.

Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

The Coalition (US-led coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF has planted landmines, especially in civilian sites or near residential communities.

All Armed Opposition factions/SNA

- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that have taken place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, primarily widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

Acknowledgment

We extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the victims' families and friends, and to eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and valued contributions to this report.

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

www.snhr.org - info@snhr.org