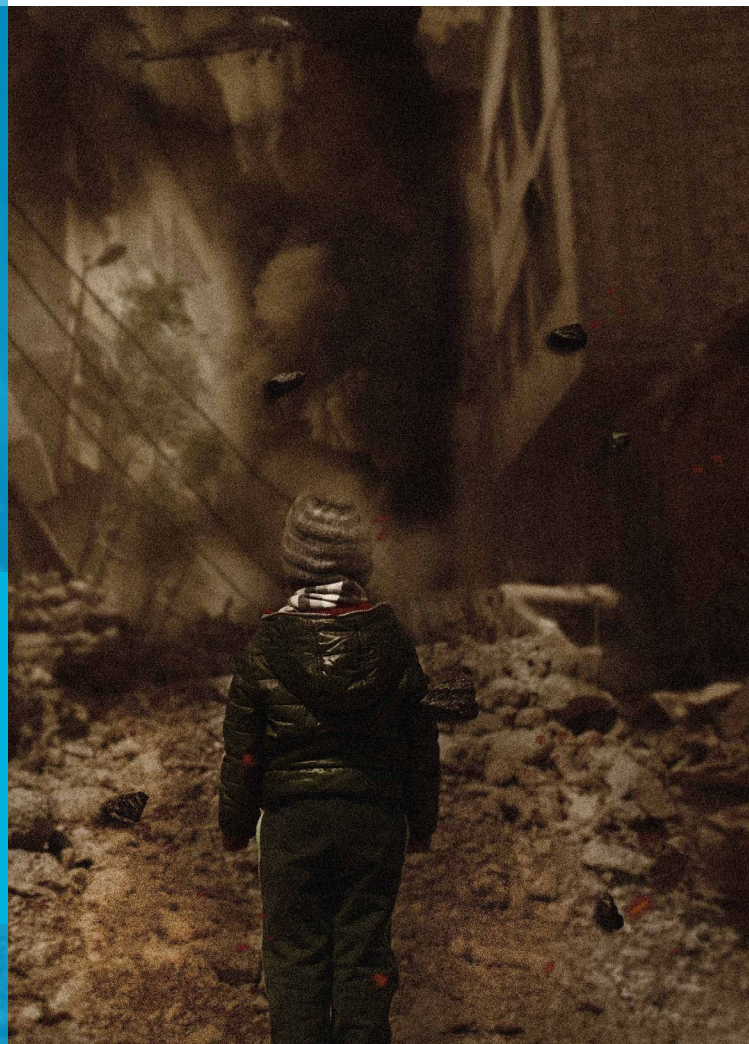


1,032 Deaths,
Including 181 Children
and 150 Women as well as
57 Deaths due to Torture,
Documented in 2023

We Documented 91 Civilian
Deaths, Including 14 Children
and 13 Women, as well as 11
Deaths due to Torture,
in December 2023



Monday 01 January 2024

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 civilian deaths that were recorded by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in 2023, including the month of December. The report sheds light particularly on victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel, as well as focusing on documenting the 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 archived 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 in the country, 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 as ever since, 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 13th 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 to the perpetrator. 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 culpability 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 by different parties, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified under 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
- ISIS
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)
- Armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA)
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
- US-led 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 regarding 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 these 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.

1. We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is that of a totalitarian dictatorship where power is concentrated in the hands of a small circle of individuals, namely the President of the Republic and the heads of the regime's security apparatus. As a result, 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, with no real decision-making power or active role of their own. Syria is under autocratic/family rule, with no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade merely for show. 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

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document during the year since our last annual report, including the past month, December. 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 believe the death occurred.

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

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 due to 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 contains two first-hand accounts which we collected directly from eyewitnesses, rather than including any second-hand sources. Neither of the interviewees received any financial compensation for their interviews, nor were they promised any such compensation. We informed both individuals interviewed of the purpose of the report beforehand, and they gave us permission to use the information they revealed in the service of its goals. SNHR has also attempted, insofar as possible, to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of recalling the traumatic violations they experienced, and we gave assurances to eyewitnesses who requested the use of an alias that we would conceal their identity.

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 of these events.

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

II. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in December

In December, we documented the killing of 91 civilians, including 15 children and 14 women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

A. Syrian regime forces

In October, In December, Syrian regime forces killed 31 civilians, including four children and four women, as well as seven who died due to torture. Deaths at the hands of Syrian regime forces accounted for about 34 percent of December's total death toll. There was an overall reduction in the number of victims documented killed by regime forces in various Syrian governorates during December, with the highest proportion of cases concentrated in northwestern Syria; Idlib saw the most deaths at the hands of regime forces, accounting for 48 percent of the total number of fatalities, followed by Aleppo governorate with 32 percent. Despite the overall reduction nationwide, the death rate in northwestern Syria rose again compared to the previous month as regime forces re-intensified their ground attacks, while some victims died of wounds sustained in earlier attacks. This most recent escalation in regime violence forms part of the still-ongoing offensive launched by regime forces on October 5, with 95 civilians documented killed since that date up to the end of 2023.

In his briefing to the UN Security Council on December 21, Geir O. Pederson, the UN special envoy to Syria, [said](#), "This [the year 2023] has been another tragic year for Syrian civilians, who were killed, injured, displaced, detained and abducted in alarming numbers, and who saw no tangible moves towards a better future."

On Saturday, December 9, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to [fire multiple rockets](#) at a number of neighborhoods and vital facilities in Idlib city. The areas bombed include al-Salibiya neighborhood, sites near the fire station in al-Jbara neighborhood, al-Najjarein Market in al-Sena'iya city, and areas around the Abna al-Shuhada camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in eastern Idlib city. Eight civilians, including one child and one woman, were killed in these attacks, and 35 others were injured, including seven children and one woman. The attacks also caused widespread destruction in several neighborhoods, as well as destroying vital facilities.

On Friday, December 15, [Manal Mazen Shaqhabi](#), a woman from Homs city, died of wounds sustained in an attack that took place just over nine weeks earlier, on October 8, 2023, when Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets at residential neighborhoods in Idlib city. The attack killed five civilians at the time, including Manal's brother, Malath Shaqhabi. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to [fire multiple rockets](#) at Darat Ezza city in western rural Aleppo governorate. The rockets hit al-Janoubi neighborhood in the city, killing three civilians, including a child, with the bombardment causing a fire that incinerated their bodies. Regime forces also targeted al-Sharqi neighborhood, killing one man and a pregnant woman, with the attacks also causing widespread destruction in the areas targeted. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

B. HTS

In December, HTS killed five civilians, including one child and two women. On December 9, 2023, the group used a rocket launcher to [bomb](#) the towns of Nebbel and al-Zahra in western rural Aleppo governorate, killing two women and a child, and injuring 22 other civilians. This attack was launched in retaliation for a regime rocket launcher attack that targeted Idlib city and Sarmin town, killing nine civilians and injuring dozens of others.

C. SDF

In December, the SDF killed seven civilians, including one woman, as well as one individual due to torture, in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Aleppo. We documented the killing of six civilians (five in Deir Ez-Zour and one in Aleppo), all of whom were shot dead by SDF personnel, while one civilian died due to torture at the hands of the group in Deir Ez-Zour city.

On Sunday, December 3, a woman identified as [Faransa Hamad al-Rouzaq](#), was shot dead by SDF personnel in Abu Hamam town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, with a boy, identified as Ayham Yasser al-Askar, being injured in the same shooting incident. Faransa and Ayham were directly shot while riding through the town on Ayham's motorbike.

D. Other parties

In December, we documented the killing of 47 civilians, including nine children and six women, at the hands of other parties. These deaths accounted for approximately 51 percent of December's total death toll. Most of the victims killed by other parties were killed in Daraa governorate with 28 percent of the total, followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate with 19 percent. [Those deaths include:](#)

1. Deaths by landmine of unidentified source

We documented the killing of 10 civilians, including one child and two women, by the explosion of landmines whose source we have not yet been able to identify. These 10 deaths brought the total number of victims documented killed by the explosion of landmines in 2023 to 114, including 26 children and 11 women.

On Monday, December 11, [three civilians, including two women, were killed](#), and another 16 wounded, by the explosion of a landmine whose source we have not been able to identify. The landmine exploded under a tractor trailer the victims were travelling in, on their way to harvest olives near their home village of al-Yalni, northwest of Manbij city, in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

2. Gunfire of unidentified source

We documented the killing of 16 civilians, including one child and two women, by gunfire whose source we have not yet been able to identify. Of these 16, 10 were killed in Daraa governorate and two each in the governorates of Suwayda and Idlib each, with the other two fatal shootings taking place in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Aleppo.

On Sunday, December 3, [Khansa Mohammad al-Sayyed](#), a 35-year-old woman from Taldao village in Sahl al-Houla northwestern rural Homs governorate, and her two-year-old daughter, identified as Nour al-Saleh, were shot dead by gunmen we have not yet been able to identify in Sheen village in western rural Homs governorate. Khansa was shot dead, along with her youngest daughter, while she was trying to irregularly cross the border from rural Homs governorate to Lebanon by car, along with her four children. The area was under the control of the Syrian regime and pro-regime militias at the time.

On Monday, December 4, [Manal al-Metwali](#), a woman from Tafas city in western rural Daraa governorate, was shot dead by gunmen we have not yet been able to identify while she was travelling to Daraa al-Balad city. The gunmen stopped the bus she was travelling in near Tal Shehab town in western rural Daraa governorate, and proceeded to force her off the bus, then shot her. It should be noted that Manal had been accused by local residents of dealing in witchcraft and sorcery. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

3. Killings by unidentified parties

In December, five civilians, including two children and one woman, were killed by parties we have not yet been able to identify. On Monday, December 18, [four civilians, including one woman and two children, were killed](#) in aerial bombardment of areas near the Syrian-Jordanian border by parties we have not yet been able to identify, but suspect to have been the Jordanian air force. The aerial bombardment targeted a number of locations in Suwayda governorate, including a farm near Thebien village in southern rural Suwayda governorate, Salkhad city, a house in Um Shama village in southeastern Suwayda governorate, and a site near Um al-Rumman village in southern Suwayda governorate.

On the next day, December 19, [Reuters](#) reported, citing what the news agency described as “regional intelligence sources”, that “Jordan on Monday [December 18] launched several aerial raids into its northern neighbour Syria against hideouts of Iranian-backed drug smugglers in retaliation against a large-scale smuggling operation.”

4. Bombings by unidentified parties

In December, 15 civilians, including five children and a woman, were killed in bombings staged by parties we have not been able to identify. On Sunday, December 10, a [group of gunmen attacked workers](#) collecting stones for use in construction in the ‘badiya’ desert of al-Bouhamad in eastern Raqqa governorate. One worker was killed in the initial gunfire, while the rest were able to escape. When the workers who had fled returned to the scene, accompanied by regime soldiers, to recover the body of their slain colleague, however, they discovered, on trying to move it that the killers had rigged the body with explosives, with the resulting explosion killing three of the workers and two regime soldiers, and wounding three other people in the vicinity. The area was under the control of regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, December 14, [Majd Nuri al-Fares](#), a 15-year-old boy, was killed by the explosion of a war remnant whose source we have not yet been able to identify in al-Mray’iya town in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

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

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 authority, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to victims' families, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. In fact, 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 their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

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 for their loved ones 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.

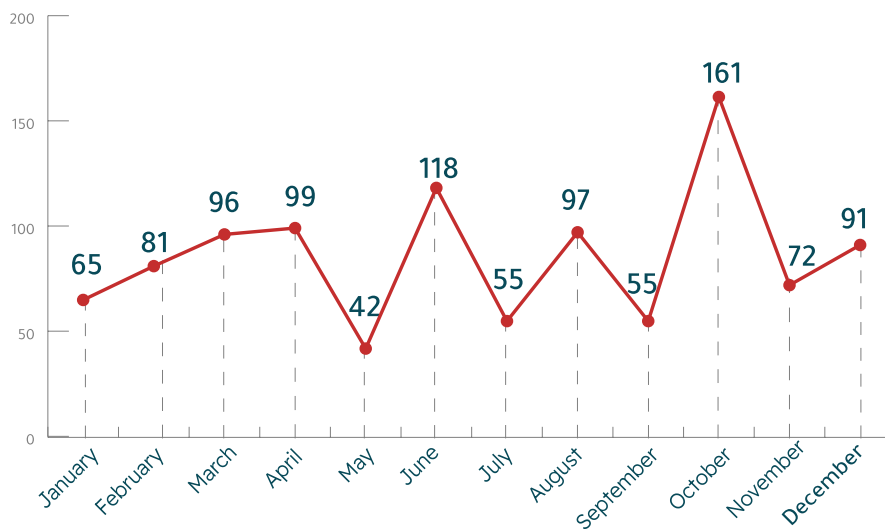
On August 10, 2022, the Minister of Justice in the Syrian regime government issued [Circular No. 22](#) specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted 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.

IV. Civilian Death Toll

A. In 2023

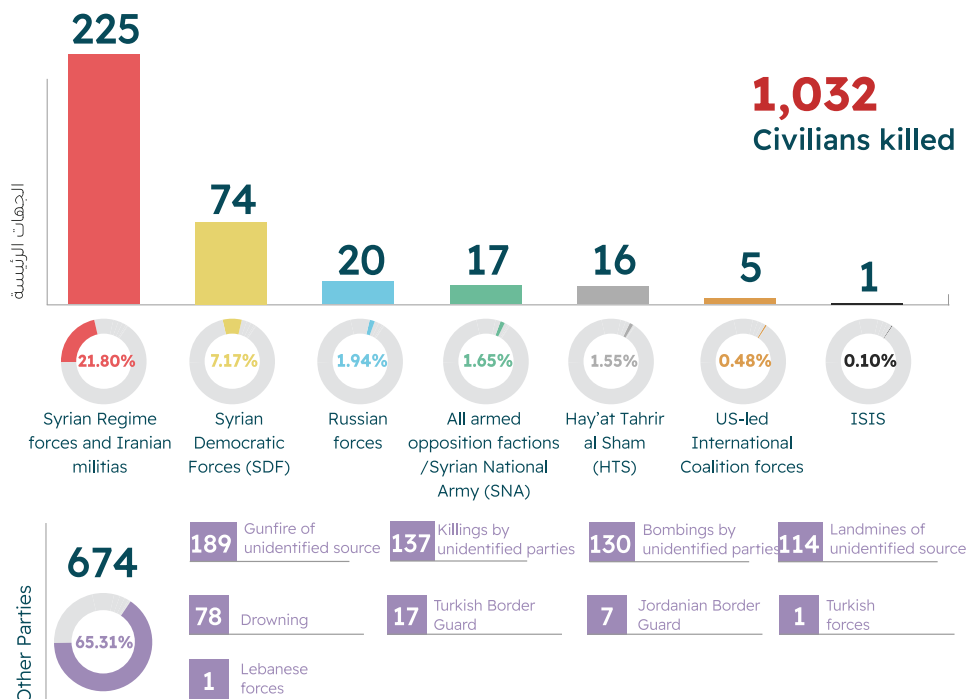
In 2023, SNHR documented the killing of 1,032 civilians, including 181 children and 150 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

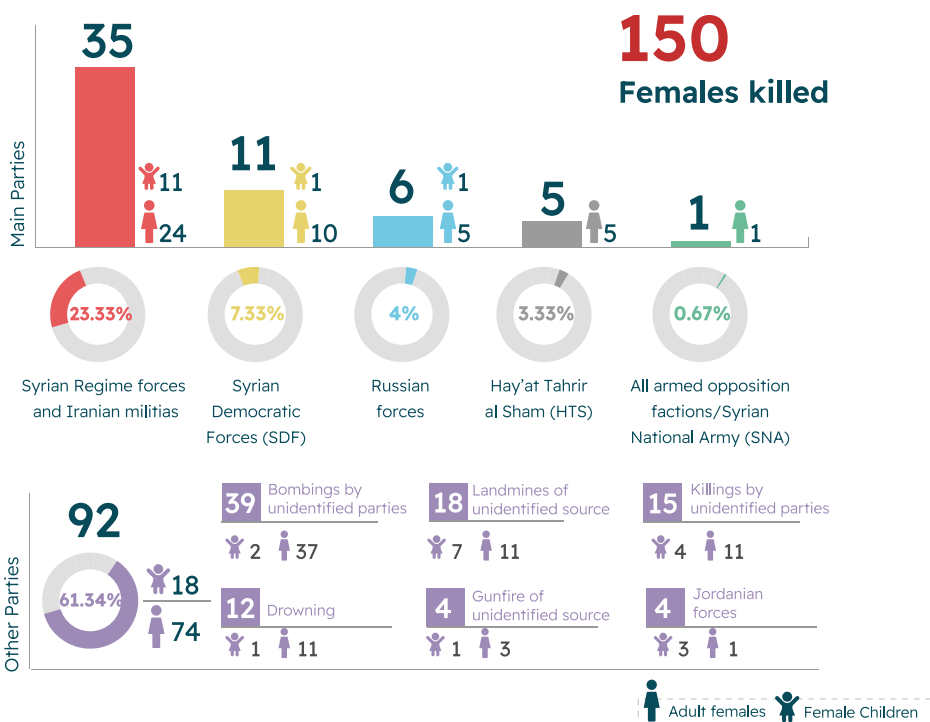
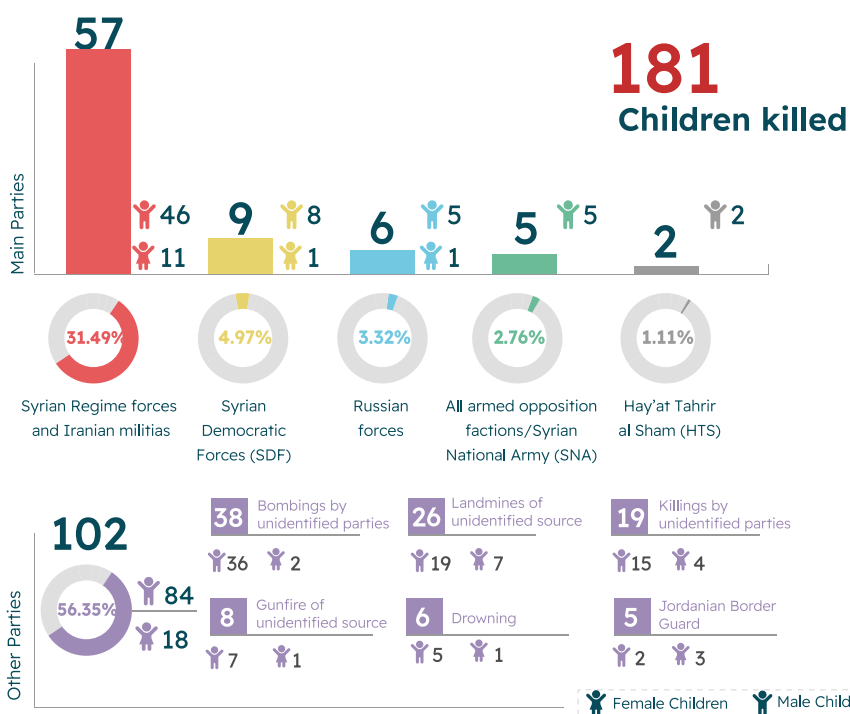
This year's civilian deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, October saw the highest number of deaths in one month, accounting for approximately 16 percent of the total, followed by June with 11 percent, and then April with approximately 10 percent. Meanwhile, May saw the lowest number of monthly deaths accounting for approximately four percent.

The deaths documented in 2023 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:





A. Main parties:

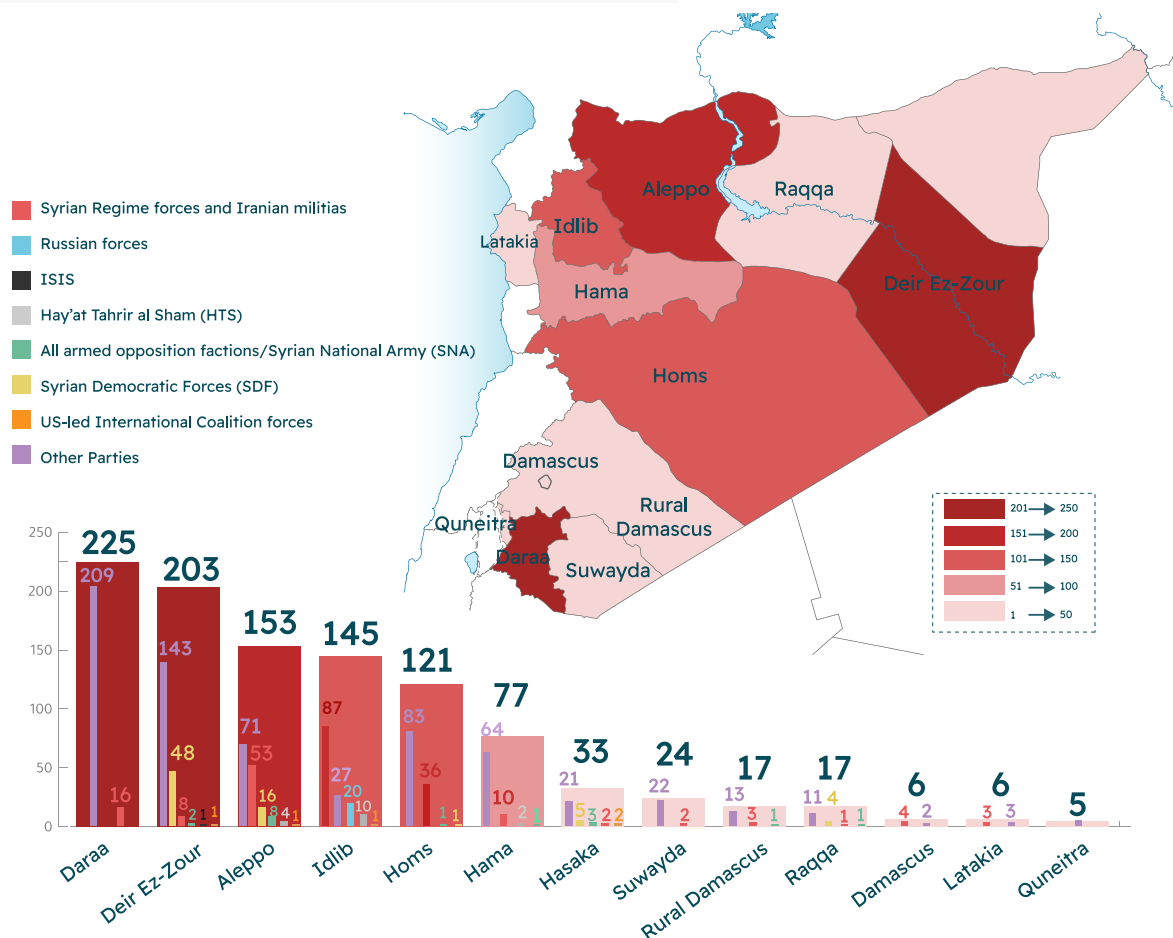
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 225 civilians, including 57 children and 24 women (adult female), at the hands of Syrian regime forces.
- **Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of 20 civilians, including six children and five women, at the hands of Russian forces.
- **ISIS:**
We documented the killing of one civilian at the hands of ISIS.
- **HTS:**
We documented the killing of 16 civilians, including two children and five women, at the hands of HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA:**
We documented the killing of 17 civilians, including five children and one woman, at the hands of the SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of 74 civilians, including nine children and 10 women, at the hands of the SDF.
- **US-led International Coalition forces:**
We documented the killing of five civilians at the hands of the US-led International Coalition forces.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 674 civilians, including 102 children and 74 women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: 114 civilians, including 26 children and 11 women.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 189 civilians, including eight children and three women.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: 130 civilians, including 38 children and 37 women.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 137 civilians, including 19 children and 11 women.
- Turkish forces: One civilian.
- Jordanian forces: Seven civilians, including five children and one woman.
- Drowning: 78 civilians, including six children and 11 women.
- Turkish Border Guard: 17 civilians.
- Lebanese forces: One civilian.

Civilian deaths documented in 2023 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

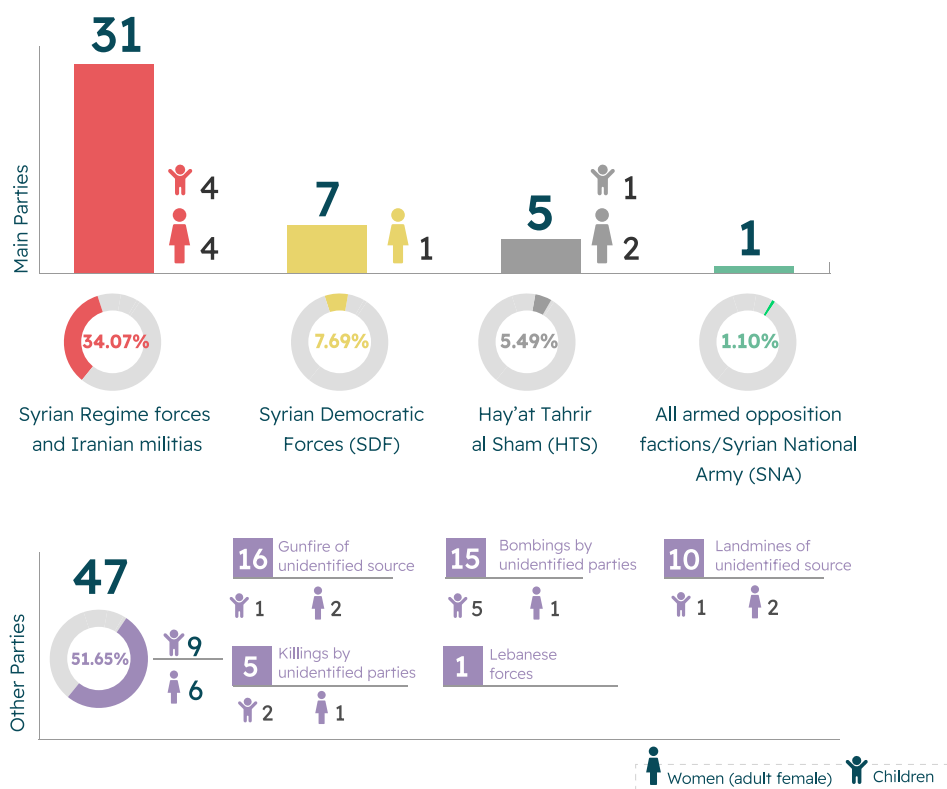


As the chart shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of deaths in 2023, accounting for approximately 22 percent of the total, followed by Deir Ez-Zour with approximately 20 percent, and then by the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib with approximately 14 percent each. Most of the victims in these governorates were killed by other parties.

B. in December 2023

In December, SNHR documented the killing of 91 civilians, including 14 children and 13 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The civilian deaths we documented in the month of December are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties:

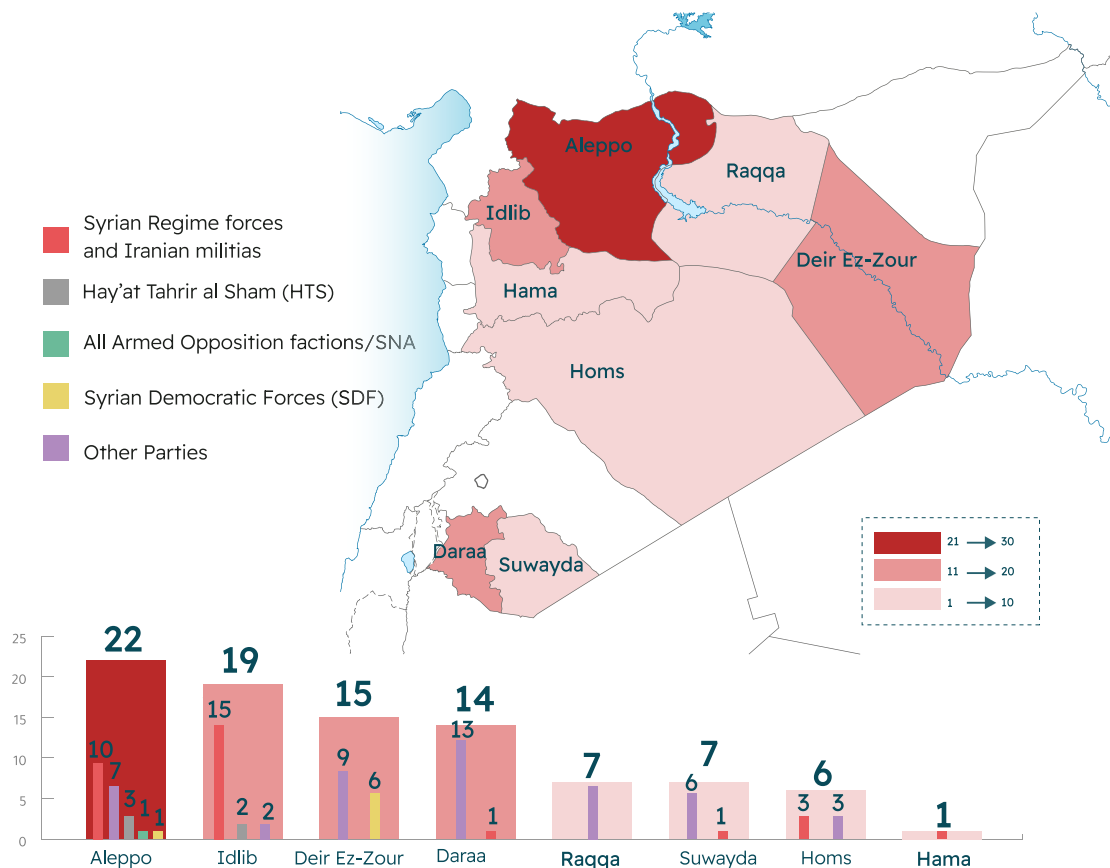
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 31 civilians, including four children and four women, at the hands of Syrian regime forces.
- **HTS:**
We documented the killing of five civilians, including one child and two women, at the hands of the HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA:**
We documented the killing of one civilian at the hands of armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **(SDF):**
We documented the killing of seven civilians, including one woman, at the hands of the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 47 civilians, including nine children and six women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Gunfire of unidentified source: 16 civilians, including one child and two women.
- Landmines of unidentified source: 10 civilians, including one child and two women.
- Killings by unidentified parties: Five civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Three civilians.
- Lebanese forces: One civilian.

December's civilian deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syria's governorates as follows:



As the graph shows, Aleppo governorate saw the highest number of deaths documented, accounting for approximately 24 percent of December's total death toll, followed by Idlib governorate with 21 percent. About 61 percent of all deaths in the two governorates were at the hands of regime forces.

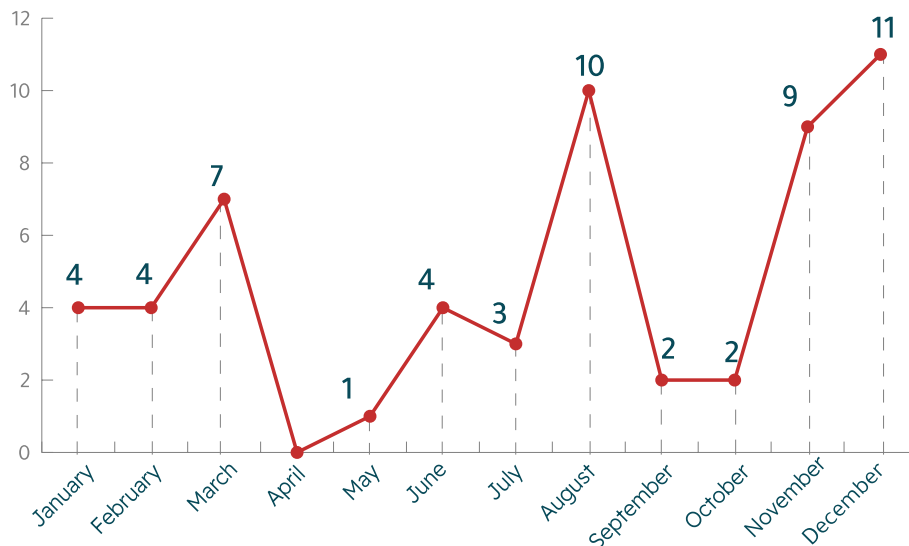
V. Deaths due to Torture and Deaths among Medical Personnel, Media Workers, and Civil Defense

A. Deaths due to torture

1. In 2023

In 2023, SNHR documented that 57 individuals, including one child and two women, died due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Deaths due to torture that were documented in 2023 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, December saw the highest monthly number of deaths due to torture, accounting for approximately 19 percent of all such deaths documented in 2023. Victims who we have documented in 2023 as dying due to torture in regime detention centers account for 56 percent of the total.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in 2023 are documented as follows:

A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** 32 individuals, including one woman.
- **HTS:** eight individuals, including one woman.
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA:** three individuals.
- **SDF:** 10 individuals, including one child.

B. Other parties: four individuals

Most notable deaths due to torture in 2023

Abdul Samad Mahmoud al-Sayel, from Theyban town in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was 16 years old when he was arrested in 2020 by SDF personnel in a raid on his family's home in the town over allegations of being affiliated with ISIS. He was taken to Ghwayran Prison, an SDF prison in Hasaka city.

On Monday, February 27, 2023, Abdul Samad's parents were notified by an SDF fighter that they needed to pay for surgery for their son after he contracted tuberculosis in prison.

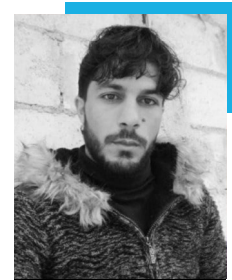


↑ 👁 Abdul Samad Mahmoud al-Sayel, child

On Sunday, March 5, 2023, Abdul Samad's parents received another message from the SDF instructing them to go to the National Hospital in Hasaka city's al-Aziziyia neighborhood to "visit" their son. On arriving, they were informed that their son had died of tuberculosis. His body was then returned to his family.

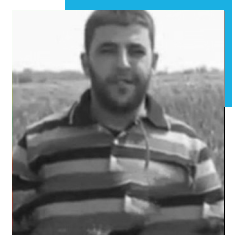
SNHR has received information confirming that Abdul Samad was in good health when he was arrested, suggesting a strong possibility that he died due to torture and medical negligence in the SDF's Ghwayran Prison.

Moyaed Yahya Shakoush, a 34-year-old man from Jasim city in northern rural Daraa governorate, was arrested on Friday 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 Saturday, July 8, 2023, his body was returned to his family in al-Sanamini city's hospital in northern rural Daraa governorate, bearing signs of torture. Moayed, who had agreed previously to settle his security situation with the regime, held no military status when he was arrested.



↑ 👁 Moyaed Yahya Shakoush

Faraj Foad al-Jamous, a 38-year-old man born in 1987 from Dael city in rural Daraa governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 2018 at a checkpoint while traveling from Dael city to Damascus city. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Monday, August 7, 2023, his family learned he had been registered in the civil registry's records as having died on December 23, 2019. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong possibility that he died due to torture and medical negligence in a regime detention center.



↑ 👁 Faraj Foad al-Jamous

Abdul Rahman al-Hanini, a university student from Kafranbel city in southern rural Idlib who was studying information engineering in Aleppo University, was arrested on January 26, 2014, by Syrian regime forces in a raid on his place of residence near the university in Aleppo city. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On August 30, 2023, his family learned he had died in a regime detention center in 2015. We can confirm he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence.



↑ 👁 Abdul Rahman al-Hanini

Mohammad al-Awwad al-Bou'ali, from Mahkan town in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested in 2019. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Sunday, October 22, 2023, his family learned he had died in Sednaya Military Prison in Rural Damascus governorate in 2021. We can confirm that Mohammad was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime forces have not yet returned his dead body to his family.



↑ 👁 Mohammad al-Awwad al-Bou'ali

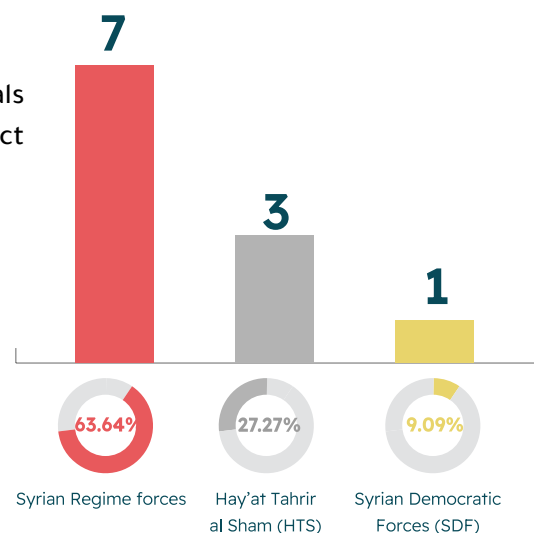
Tahani Ahmad al-Hamidi, a 27-year-old woman from al-Qosour neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, was arrested on Saturday, July 23, 2022, by Syrian regime forces in a raid on her husband's family's house in Damascus city over accusations of working with the SNA. She was held in Adra Central Prison in Rural Damascus governorate. Her family was able to last visit her in August 2023 in the same prison, finding her in poor health, with fractures to her hand and nose, and unable to stand up on her feet due to the brutal torture, starvation, and medical negligence she'd been subjected to. Her body also showed signs of torture at the time.

On Friday, November 3, 2023, her family learned, while trying to request another visit to see her, that she had died in Adra Central Prison on October 27, 2023. Her family has not yet received her body.

2. In December 2023

In December, SNHR documented the deaths of 11 individuals due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces:** Seven individuals.
- **HTS:** Three individuals.
- **SDF:** One individual.



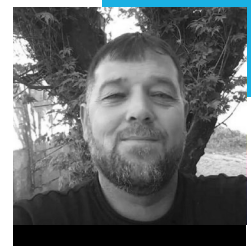
Most notable deaths due to torture in December 2023:

Abdul Rahman Mustafa al-Sawwah, a man born in 1970 from Kafrlaha town in northern rural Homs governorate, who worked as a blacksmith, was arrested in July 2018 by Syrian regime forces at a checkpoint in al-Tabaqa city in rural Raqqa governorate while on his way back to Homs governorate following his displacement one month earlier, in May 2018, from his home town of Kafrlaha to northern Syria. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Friday, December 15, 2023, his family learned he had been registered in the civil registry records as having died. We can confirm that Abdul Rahman was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in a regime detention center. SNHR can also confirm that regime forces have not yet returned his dead body to his family.



↑ 👁 Abdul Rahman
Mustafa al-Sawwah

Mukhles Khaled Jnedo, a man born in 1973 from Aqrab village in southern rural Hama governorate, was arrested on Sunday, November 11, 2018, in Hama city, even though he had previously agreed to settle his security situation with the regime. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Sunday, December 10, 2023, his family learned he had been registered in the civil registry records as having died. We can confirm that Abdul Rahman was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in a regime detention center. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime forces have not yet returned his dead body to his family.



↑ 👁 Mukhles Khaled Jnedo

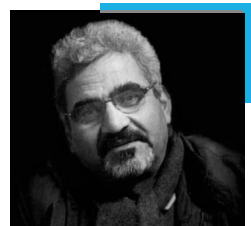
B. Death toll among medical personnel

1. In 2023

In 2023, SNHR documented the killing of four medical personnel, including one woman, at the hands of Syrian regime forces.

Most notable deaths among medical personnel in 2023

On Sunday, February 19, 2023, Asif al-Mahmoud, an internist and cardiologist, was killed when the Syrian regime's air defense systems stationed in Mount Qasyoun and al-Mazza Military Airbase fired rockets in response to Israeli airstrikes, with some of the rockets hitting residential neighborhoods of Damascus, including al-Mazra'a Square in the center of the Syrian capital.



↑ 👁 Doctor Asif al-Mahmoud

On Monday, October 30, 2023, Abdul Hamid Fatah Zaywani, a nurse, was killed by Syrian regime forces who fired two anti-armor missiles at a civilian car he was travelling in on a road between the cities of Binnish and Taftanaz in eastern rural Idlib governorate as it was passing through al-Talheya village to the south of Taftanaz, which is a Turkish military point. The three passengers in the car were all members of the same medical team working at the Relief International-supported medical complex in Binnish city. The first missile directly hit the rear of the car, while the second landed in the middle of the road near the vehicle. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Abdul Hamid Fattah Zawyani

2. In December 2023

We documented no deaths among medical personnel in December.

C. Deaths among media workers

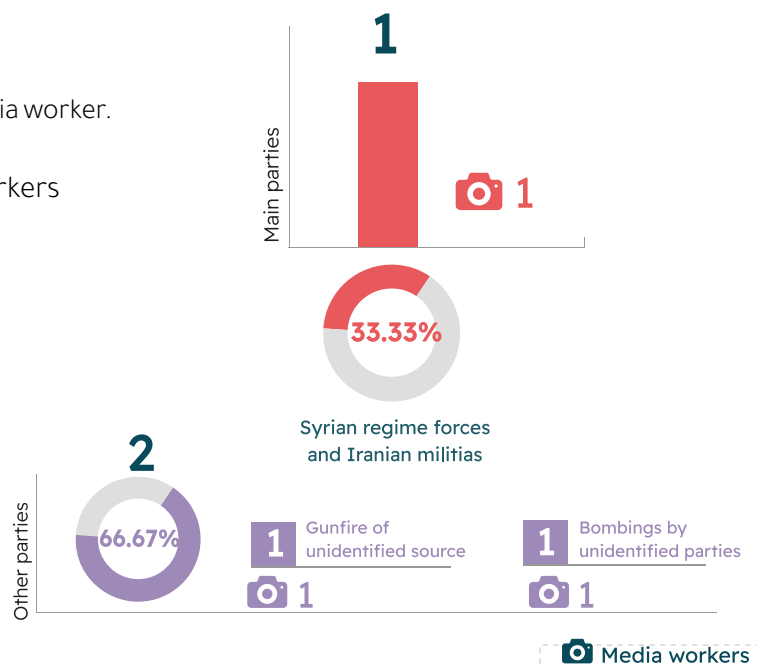
1. In 2023

In 2023, SNHR documented the killing of three media workers, distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: One media worker.

B. Other parties: Two media workers



Most notable cases

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023, Firas Ghassan al-Aqayla, a 38-year-old man who worked as a reporter for the pro-regime Sama TV Channel was killed along with four others when a car they were travelling in with a number of regime servicemen was targeted using an IED planted by unknown parties in al-Shayyah area in southern Daraa city. The car was returning from the Syrian-Jordanian border where they had been filming footage for a report on Syrian regime forces purportedly protecting the borders and combating drug trafficking to neighboring countries. Firas, originally from al-Sheikh Maskin city in northern rural Daraa, was a resident of Daraa city at the time of his death. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Firas Ghassan al-Aqayla

On Friday, November 10, 2023, Mahmoud Saeed al-Kafri, a 37-year-old media worker, was shot dead by an armed group affiliated with the Syrian regime's Air Force Intelligence Directorate. The group, headed by a figure known as Abu Ali al-Lahham, shot Mahmoud in Ma'raba town in eastern rural Daraa. Mahmoud was a member of the Daraa 24 Network team, and had worked prior to 2018, when regime forces took control of Daraa city, in the relief and educational fields. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Mahmoud Saeed al-Kafri

2. In December 2023

We documented no deaths among media workers in December.

D. Death Toll of Civil Defense personnel

1. In 2023

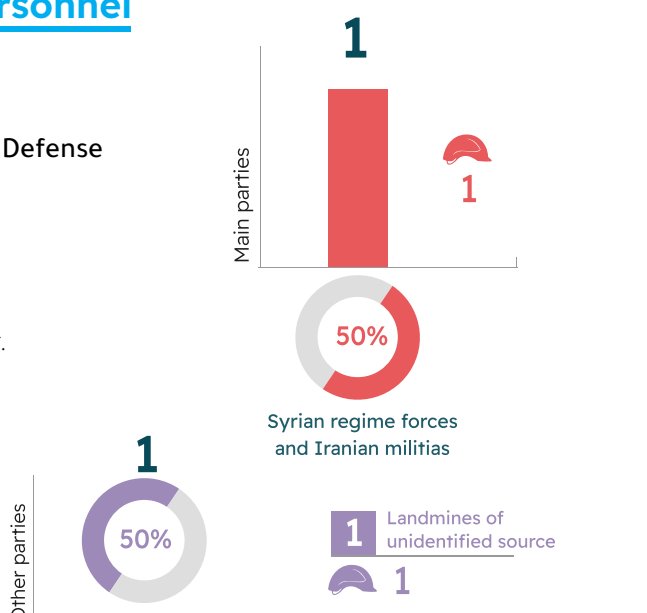
In 2023, SNHR documented the killing of two Civil Defense personnel, distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: One Civil Defense worker.

B. Other parties:

One Civil Defense worker.



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 rescue vehicle 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 control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Abdul Basit Ahmad Abdul Khaleq

2. In December 2023

We documented no deaths among Civil Defense personnel in December 2023.

VI. Most Notable Massacres

1. In 2023

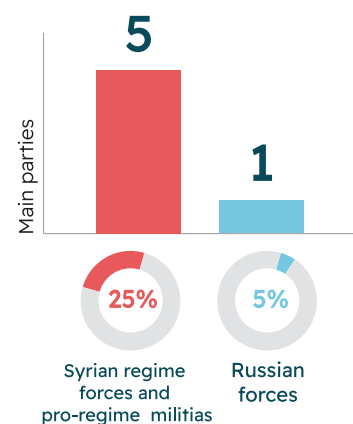
In 2023, SNHR documented 20 massacres, distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces and pro-regime militias:** Five massacres.
- **Russian forces:** One massacre.

B. Other parties: Two media workers

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



Most notable massacres in 2023:

On Friday, February 17, 2023, the bodies of at least 40 [civilians](#), including three children, were [found](#) in an area 20 kilometers east of the eastern Tadmur suburbs, which is administratively part of Homs governorate in central Syria. The victims had been [killed](#) by pro-Syrian regime Iranian-backed militias following disputes over the harvest of desert truffles whose sale forms a vital source of income for the residents of the Syrian badiya (desert area) at that time of year. The Iranian militias, however, prohibited the collecting of desert truffles without their supervision, and ordered that all the truffles harvested must be handed over to and sold through them, so they could dictate the prices. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and Iranian-backed militias at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, March 2, 2023, five civilians, from Ayyash town in the western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, [were killed](#) by the explosion of a landmine planted by a party we have so far been unable to identify which blew up under the [truck](#) they were travelling in on a public road in Kabajeb area in southern Deir Ez-Zour city, while they were on their way to collect desert truffles. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, April 16, 2023, pro-regime sources reported that 26 dead bodies (12 fighters and 14 civilians), including one child and one woman, had arrived in al-Salmiyya Hospital in eastern rural Hama after they had been found in Dwezien area in the badiya 'desert' in eastern rural Hama. The 26 victims had been shot dead while searching for desert truffles by parties we have been unable to identify as of this writing. The 12 non-civilian victims were personnel from the Syrian regime's National Defense forces, with the reason for their presence in the area still unknown - either to harvest desert truffles or having been deployed by regime forces on a military mission- while the 14 civilians included one child and one woman. The area is under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias who had imposed a monopoly over the harvesting of desert truffles, a move that led to heated disputes over the control of those areas, which also have an ISIS presence. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, 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 the vehicle stopped](#) 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 the 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

On Friday, September 1, 2023, [five children from the same family were killed](#) in an artillery attack originating from Syrian regime forces' sites, while eight others were wounded, including six children and one woman, all from the same family. The shelling hit civilians' homes in al-Mahsanli village, northwest of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate. The village, which is located on the dividing lines between areas controlled by the SDF and others controlled by the SNA, also contains a checkpoint run by Syrian regime forces. The shelling followed infighting between SNA factions. The area was under the joint control of the SDF and Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

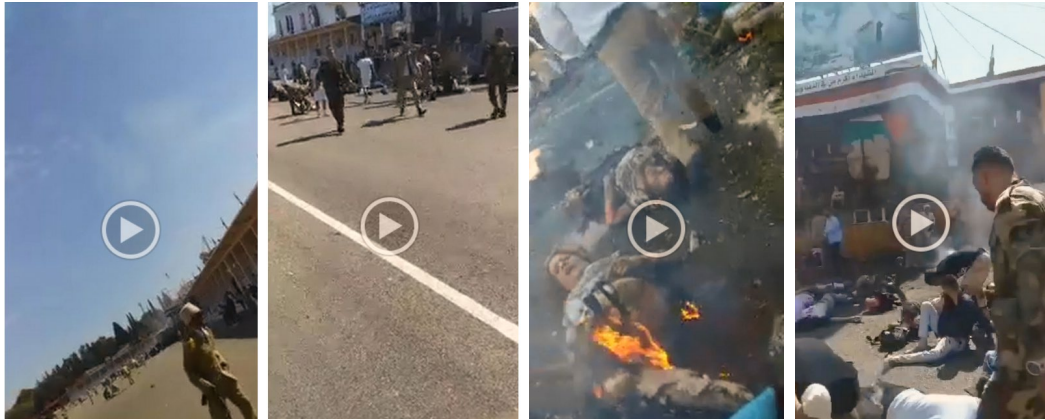


↑ 👁 A child injured in an artillery attack by the Syrian regime in al-Mahsanli village - September 1, 2023

On Thursday, October 5, 2023, [an explosion](#) whose source we have not been able to identify at the Syrian regime's Military Academy in Homs governorate caused a massacre in which [84 individuals](#), including three children and [29 women](#), were [killed](#), with 28 of the victims being military servicemen. The explosion took place during a graduation ceremony attended by hundreds of graduating students and their families. The area was under the control of regime forces at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Families and military servicemen following the graduation ceremony at the Syrian regime's Military College before the bombing took place - October 5, 2023



↑ 👁 Videos showing civilians' and military servicemen's bodies following the bombing that hit the Military Academy in Homs - October 5, 2023

On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, [six civilians](#) - [two children](#), three women, and an unborn child - were [killed](#), while five others, including three children, were injured, in [airstrikes](#) by fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian at around 12:17 p.m. The airstrike targeted al-Masbah IDPs Camp, also known as Ahl Saraqeb IDPs Camp, in the agricultural lands on the southwestern outskirts of al-Hamama village in the rural areas of Jisr al-Shoghour in western rural Idlib, hitting two adjoining concrete-block buildings, used as a private swimming facility directly adjacent to the main camp, along with a number of surrounding tents. The buildings and more than seven of the tents were also partially destroyed in the bombardment. It should be noted that the area houses a number of camps spread across the agricultural land surrounding the town, including Ahl al-Iz Camp and al-Karout Camp, with these camps being located about a kilometer away from each other. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 The bodies of the victims killed in an airstrike by Russian warplanes that targeted Ahl Saraqeb Camp near al-Hamama town - October 24, 2023

At around 10:35 a.m. local time on Saturday, November 25, Syrian regime artillery forces, stationed in Shourlin village in Jabal Shahshabo in northern rural Hama, [fired](#) three laser-guided Krasnopol shells, with the attack taking place in tandem with overflights by a Russian Orlan-30 reconnaissance aircraft, hovering over the area. The three shells [landed](#) in rapid succession on agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in Jabal al-Zawiya in southern rural Idlib, when families were harvesting olives during the olive season. The attack killed [10 civilians](#) from the same family, including seven [children](#) and one woman, ([a man and his own family](#), along with his sister and [her children](#)), as well as injuring an [elderly woman](#). The first two shells hit agricultural land nearby where the family members were working, while the third one hit the targeted site, resulting in the massacre. While the area was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident, it is located in close proximity to and exposed to regime-held areas.



↑ 👁 Preparations for the burial of civilians killed in a massacre caused by an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces who fired a shell at agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in southern rural Idlib - November 25, 2023 © SNHR



↑ 👁 Civilian victims killed in a massacre caused by an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces who fired a shell at agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in southern rural Idlib - November 25, 2023 © SNHR

SNHR spoke to 'Observer Abu Amin 80',³ who is a civilian observer tasked with eavesdropping on the regime's wireless communications and monitoring the movement of warplanes and artillery. He told us:

"I was in the observatory in southern rural Idlib on Saturday, November 25, 2023. At 10:20, I picked a conversation between regime personnel on wireless communication devices in al-Ftatra site in rural Hama. They were talking about detecting movement at a site that they did not specify. They requested the preparation of artillery to target this movement immediately. In turn, we alerted all areas in southern rural Idlib to take precautions. I should add that the areas of the southern sector in Jabal al-Zawiya are targeted on a daily basis since they are close to the dividing lines. At 10:30, the strikes began from the regime sites in Shourlin in Jabal Shahshabo in northern rural Hama, after they received the coordinates from the point in al-Ftatra. The attack was initiated using an Akatsiya 152 gun that fired Krasnopol shells, in tandem with a Russian Orlan-30 reconnaissance aircraft flying over the area. The first two shells landed in Qoqfin area, while the third landed in an area with civilians present according to the reports we received, as aid was requested. We sent out a public alert, and the nearby Civil Defense teams moved after receiving the alert."

3. Via WhatsApp on November 25, 2023.

SNHR spoke to Osama Haj Hussein,⁴ leader of the Center 1218 (Balyoun) rescue team of the Civil Defense (White Helmets). He told us:

“On Saturday, November 25, 2023, we received a report from civilians at around 10:45 about agricultural land near Qoqfin village that had been targeted, with deaths and injuries among the civilians who were harvesting olives at the targeted site. The aid and rescue teams moved immediately at around 10:50, and we arrived there in about 10 minutes. We faced some difficulties since the area is exposed to a regime site in Jourien in rural Hama, as well as another site on Jabal Shahshabo. We left our vehicles at a nearby location in fear of another attack. Before arriving, we met a young man riding a motorbike and transferring an injured elderly woman whose injuries were moderate, but she was not aware of the nature of what had happened. All she knew was that they had been bombed, but she did not realize that she had lost her sons and her brother’s family. Another car was transferring an injured girl and an injured young man whose condition was critical. We received those cases and delivered them to the aid team behind us, who in turn transferred them to medical facilities in the villages of Jabal al-Zawiiya. We arrived at the massacre site, and found body parts everywhere. A number of civilians arrived before we did. We started collecting the scattered body parts. Almost all the dead bodies, there were eight that were dismembered. As far as I could see, one shell directly struck the site where the family was. It seems that everyone, the adults and children, were in one place under an olive tree. The body parts were scattered over 15 meters, so we collected the big parts, but the small ones were everywhere. When we were working at the site, which took about 30 minutes, another shell landed about 300 meters from where we were to the west on top of the hill. However, we found no remnants of the shell, not even an electrical circuit, but at the impact site there was a very small hole. In my experience with such attacks, the shells used have been Krasnpool, but we found no proof, parts, or electrical circuits in the area. The children that were taken to the dispensary died from their critical injuries, but the woman stabilized and was in good health. With the two children, the death toll reached 10 deaths.”



👁 Preparations for the burial of civilians killed in a massacre caused by an artillery attack by Syrian regime forces who fired a shell at agricultural land to the west of Qoqfin village in southern rural Idlib - November 25, 2023© SNHR

4. Via WhatsApp on November 27, 2023.

2. In December 2023

SNHR documented no massacres in December.

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 and usually in both, 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 humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

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 civilian victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, as well as of those who died [due to torture](#), in addition to issuing both a biannual 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 according to 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 in which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting these.

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 on Syria. SNHR has also signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#) project, which stipulated 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 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 a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- 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 resolutions 2139 and 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the 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 UN 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 by implementing the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ norm (R2P) in order to protect 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 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 continued for 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.
- Prevent and end 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 its 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 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 theft of 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 parties 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 tens 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, particularly widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts towards carrying out 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 invaluable contributions to this report.



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