

47 Civilian Deaths,

Including Eight Children and Three Women as well as 15 Deaths due to Torture, Documented in Syria in May 2024

32% of All May's Deaths Were Victims Who Died due to Torture

Saturday 01 June 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 and attacks on vital facilities 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 May 2024. The report sheds light particularly on those 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 that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims who died at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, 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.

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.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the past month, May 2024. 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.¹ The report also sheds light on attacks on civilian objects that SNHR was able to document during the past month, May 2024.

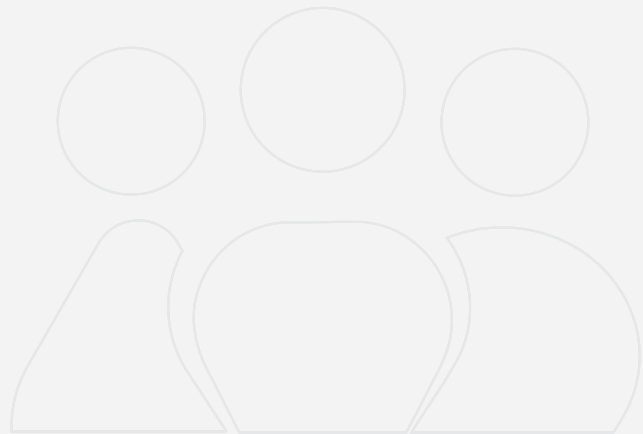
1. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), *Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology*
http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information supplied by our extensive network of various sources which 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.

Our investigations confirm that all 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 these attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

There are many additional steps and challenges to take into account in the process of documenting civilian deaths, which we've detailed in our methodology. We've opted to shed light on only some aspects of these challenges in order to ensure the report is kept to a manageable length.

The information included in 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.



II. Brief on the Most Notable Killings and Attacks on Vital Facilities in May

A. Killings

- In May 2024, we documented the killing of 47 civilians, including eight children and three women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

1. Other parties

In May, we documented the killing of 21 civilians, including four children and three women, at the hands of other parties, who were responsible for about 45 percent of all civilian deaths documented in the month; Daraa governorate accounted for about 57 percent of all these victims, followed by Aleppo governorate with 24 percent. Some noteworthy incidents include:

- In May, we documented two civilian deaths resulting from the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. Adding May's death toll to the rest of the year's total to date, 65 civilians, including nine children and 14 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of 2024.
 - On Friday, May 17, a man, [identified as Ahmad Abdullah al-Kousani](#), was killed by the explosion of a landmine of as yet unidentified source, while he was driving his tractor through agricultural land in the vicinity of his home village of Deir al-Adas in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- In May, gunfire of unidentified source killed 10 civilians, including one child and one woman, accounting for about 48 percent of all the victims killed by other parties this month. Seven of the 10 civilians killed were killed in Daraa governorate, while two were killed in Aleppo governorate, and one in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.
 - On Saturday, May 25, a man, identified as [Azmat Jamal al-Labbad](#) who was a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) volunteer, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near the al-Nassar Fuel Station in his home city of al-Sanamayn in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- In May, bombings by unidentified parties [killed two civilians, one of them a child](#). On Thursday, May 9, a three-year-old boy, identified as Rami Mohammad al-Faraj, was killed, while three other children were injured, by the explosion of a bomb left by unidentified parties. The bomb exploded after the children found it and began playing with it near their homes in Rami's home village of al-Mentar in a rural area near Jisr al-Shoghour city in western rural Idlib governorate. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

- On Sunday, May 19, a 13-year-old boy, [identified as Faris Fadel Ibrahim](#) from al-lwyeja village in northern Aleppo governorate, died of wounds sustained the day before, Saturday, May 18, 2024, when an artillery detachment affiliated with Turkish forces and the Syrian National Army (SNA) fired multiple shells that landed near an area of agricultural land beside Smouqa village in the vicinity of al-Shahba Well in al-Shahbaa area north of Aleppo city, where regime and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) troops are stationed. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Faris Fadel Ibrahim

2. Syrian regime forces

- In May, Syrian regime forces killed 13 civilians, including one child and 10 individuals who died due to torture, including one US national. Victims killed by regime forces accounted for about 28 percent of all victims killed in May. These 17 victims, all civilians, were killed in various Syrian governorates: Four were killed in both Homs governorate and Idlib governorate, two were killed in both Aleppo governorate and Hasaka governorate, and one was killed in Damascus governorate.
- On Sunday, May 5, Syrian regime artillery forces fired multiple shells at al-Abzemou town in western rural Aleppo governorate. One of the shells landed on a house, killing a 12-year-old boy identified as [Qais Yousef Haj Sha'ban](#), and critically injuring his mother, and causing extensive destruction to their home and the surrounding area. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

3. SDF

- In the month of May, the SDF killed eight civilians, including three children, as follows: Two civilians were killed in Aleppo governorate and six in Deir Ez-Zour. Of the eight civilians, six, including three children, were shot dead by SDF patrolmen, while one was killed in an SDF artillery attack, and another died due to torture in SDF custody.
- On Wednesday, May 22, SDF patrolmen opened fire indiscriminately at civilians using a 12.5 mm machine gun mounted on a military vehicle in Darnaj village in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, [killing three children, two of them siblings](#). This followed an attack on an SDF checkpoint in the village by unidentified parties. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

4. HTS

- Also in May, three civilians died due to torture at the hands of HTS, two of them in Idlib governorate and one in Latakia governorate. On Monday, April 29, HTS informed the family of Habib Allah Ahmad, a Malaysian national known as "Hamza al-Malizi", that a death sentence (known by the Islamic term 'Qesas') had been issued against him. HTS has not returned his dead body to his family, who live in Idlib governorate. Habib Allah, an aviation engineer, was arrested by HTS personnel in 2019 over accusations of planning an attack against the Russian Hmeimim Airbase in Latakia governorate.




↑ 👁 Habib Allah Ahmad

B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

SNHR documented no fewer than two attacks on vital civilian facilities during May 2024. One attack targeted an educational facility, while the other targeted a camp housing internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since the start of 2024 up until the end of May, 56 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria have been documented.

On Wednesday, May 8, an SDF artillery detachment fired multiple mortar shells at the Ard al-Amal 'Land of Hope' village camp, which is designated for internally displaced persons (IDPs), in Jabal al-Khaldiya near Trandeh village to the east of Afrin city in northern rural Aleppo governorate. [A pregnant woman was injured](#) in the attack, [which also partially destroyed a cement-built IDPs' residence in the camp](#). The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

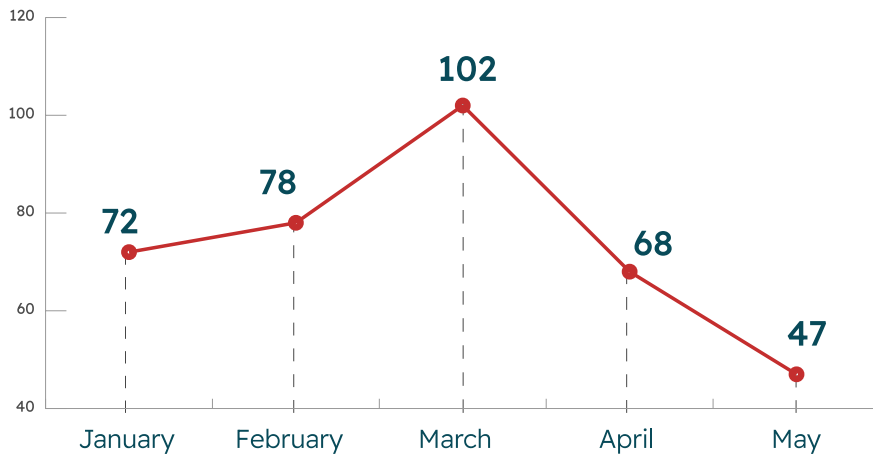


↑  Damage in a temporary IDP residential unit in the Ard al-Amal 'Land of Hope' village following an artillery attack by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) - May 8, 2024

III. Civilian Death Toll in May 2024

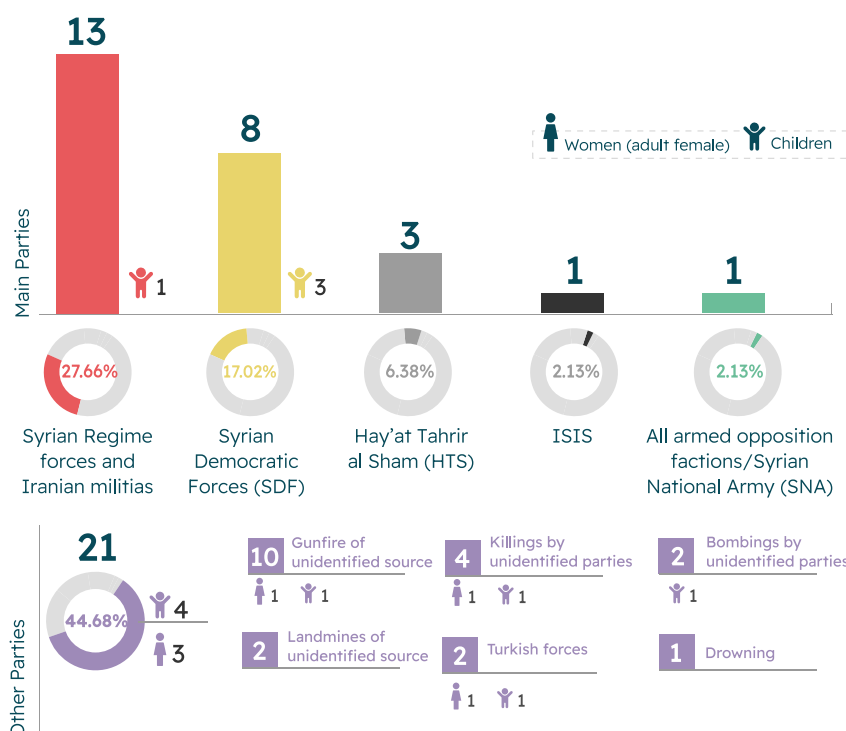
In May 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 47 civilians, including eight children and three women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until the end of May, to 367.

Civilian deaths documented since the beginning of 2024 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, May saw the lowest number of civilian deaths documented in one month since the start of the year, accounting for about 13 percent of all victims killed in 2024 so far. Conversely, March recorded the highest monthly death toll to date, accounting for about 28 percent of all victims killed so far this year.

Civilian deaths documented in May 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties:

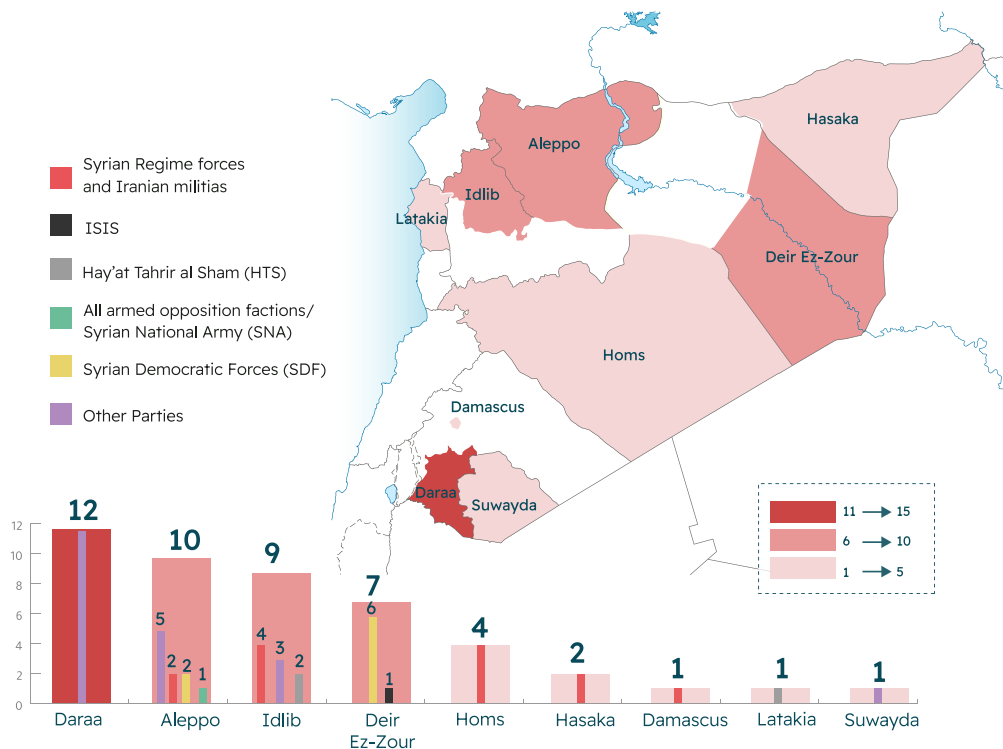
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 13 civilians, including one child, by Syrian regime forces.
- **ISIS:**
We documented the killing of one civilian by ISIS.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of three civilians by HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of one civilian by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of eight civilians, including three children, by the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 21 civilians, including four children and three women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: Two civilians.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 10 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Two civilians, including one child.
- Killings by unidentified parties: Four civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Drowning: One civilian.
- Turkish forces: Two civilians; one child and one woman.

Civilian deaths documented in May 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



As the graph shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths in May accounting for about 26 percent of the total, with all the victims killed in the governorate being killed by other parties. Daraa governorate was followed by Aleppo governorate with approximately 21 percent, then and then Idlib governorate which accounted for approximately 19 percent of the total.

IV. Deaths due to Torture

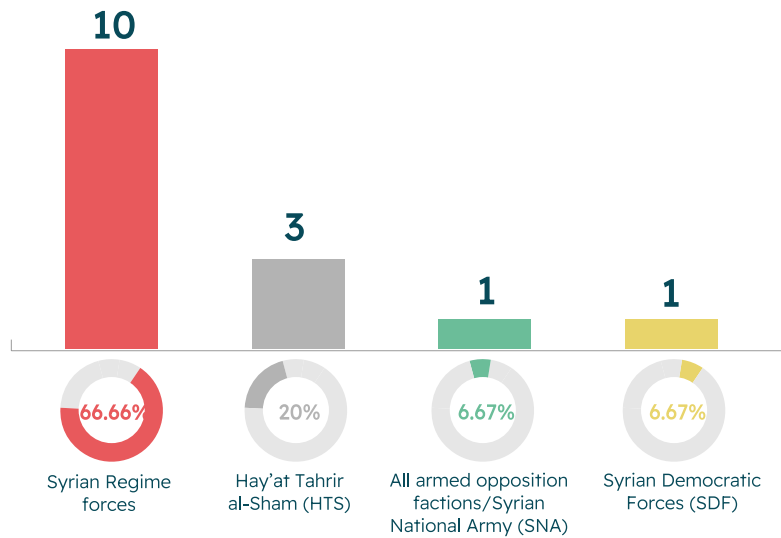
In May 2024, SNHR documented 15 deaths due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. This brings the total number of victims who died due to torture since the beginning of 2024, up until the end of May, to 43.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in 2024 so far are distributed as follows:



Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 60 percent of all deaths due to torture recorded to date in 2024. In other words, more than half of all victims who died due to torture in 2024 have died at the hands of regime forces. The month of May has seen the highest monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting for about 35 percent of the total so far this year.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in May 2024 are distributed as follows:

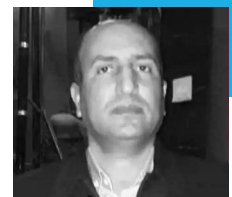


A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: 10 individuals..
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): Three individuals.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One individual.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): One individual.

Below are the most notable cases:

[Thamer Habib al-Talla](#), a lawyer from Hasaka city, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in late April 2024, outside the Palace of Justice in the city, where he was working. He was then taken to the local branch of the regime's Criminal Security branch in the city.



↑ 👁 Thamer Habib al-Talla

According to intelligence gathered by SNHR, Thamer's family learned that his health began to deteriorate a few days after his detention. Although family members urged Criminal Security personnel to transfer him to Hasaka city for urgent medical treatment, all of their appeals were turned down.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Thamer's family was notified by a Syrian regime officer that he had died at the Criminal Security branch in Hasaka city. His body was returned to his family at the city's Shabou Hospital later that day. SNHR can confirm that Thamer was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in the Criminal Security branch in Hasaka city. On May 10, 2024, [SNHR released a statement](#) condemning the killing of Thamer.

V. Deaths Among Medical Personnel

In May, we documented the killing of two medical personnel at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. They are distributed as follows:

A. Main parties:

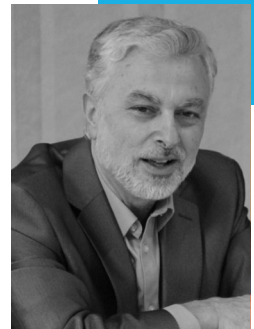
- Syrian regime forces: One medical worker

A. Other parties:

- Gunfire of unidentified source: One medical worker

Below are the most notable incidents:

Dr. Majd Marwan Kamalamz was an American psychotherapist known for his extensive humanitarian activism. Originally from Damascus city, he was aged 59 at the time of his arrest. Dr. Majd arrived in Damascus city from Lebanon on February 14, 2017, and was arrested the next day, February 15, 2017, at a checkpoint in al-Mazza neighborhood. Since then, he has been categorized as a forcibly disappeared person, with the Syrian regime denying having him and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. In May 2024, Dr. Majid's family began receiving information of his death in a Syrian regime detention center. This came after many attempts by his family to find out anything about his whereabouts since he was first arrested by regime forces. According to intelligence received by SNHR from his family, Dr. Majd 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 did not disclose Dr. Majid's death to his family at the time it took place, nor have they returned his body to his family. [SNHR released a statement](#) condemning the killing of Dr. Majd.



↑ 👁 Majd Marwan Kamalamz

Massacres from the History of the Popular Uprising for Democracy in Syria

In this month: May

- ▶ On Thursday, May 15, 2014, **44 individuals**, including eight children, were killed by the explosion of a car bomb of unidentified source at the Sajjou Garage at Bab al-Salama Border Crossing in Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Friday, May 27, 2016, **11 civilians**, including one child, were killed in an airstrike by Russian warplanes that targeted the automated bakery in Hraitan city in rural Aleppo governorate with missiles. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Saturday, May 12, 2018, **11 civilians**, including two children, all of whom were being held prisoner by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), were killed, and about 20 others were injured, in the explosion of a car bomb of unidentified source in front of the Palace of Justice in Idlib city center, which was being used by HTS as a security headquarters. The city was under the control of the HTS at the time of the incident.



VI. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities

SNHR documented at least two attacks on vital civilian facilities during May 2024. One of these attacks targeted an educational facility, and the other targeted an IDPs' camp.

The attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in May 2024 were distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

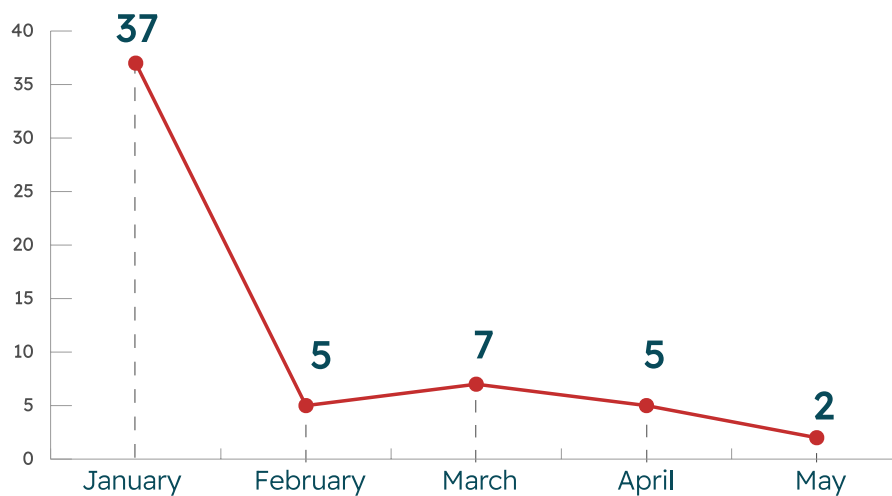
A. Main parties

- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): One attack.

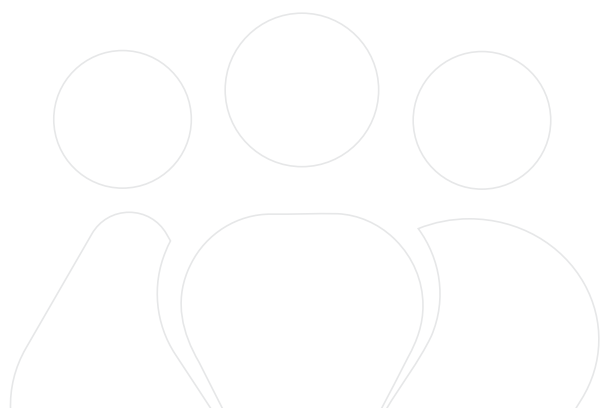
B. Other parties

- Bombings by unidentified parties: One attack.

Since the start of 2024 up until the end of May, 56 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria have been documented. These are distributed by month as follows:



As shown on the graph, the month of May saw the lowest monthly number of attacks on vital facilities since the start of the year. According to SNHR's database, Idlib governorate has seen 39 attacks on vital civilian facilities out of 56 attacks recorded since the start of 2024, making it the worst affected of all Syria's governorates.



VII. 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 uprising 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 itself 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 should be noted 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 names 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 Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice 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 a 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 empowering them to register death cases, and thereby increasing the security services' intrusion into this process. We issued [a report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

VIII. 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, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses 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 13 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 according to governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. We also provide 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 \(AWSDB\)](#) 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.

IX. 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 have been 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 IV Convention on civilian, 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.

- We have documented no warnings being given by Syrian regime forces, Russian forces, or US-led International Coalition forces before carrying out any of their attacks, as required by international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising in Syria, which shows an utter disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The volume of violations, their repeated nature, and the excessive level of force used, as well as the indiscriminate manner of the bombardment and the coordinated nature of the regime's attacks, must be the result of orders from the higher echelons of power in accordance with a state policy.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army forces have violated Security Council resolution 2139 through attacks that constitute violations of customary international humanitarian law, resulting in collateral civilian deaths and injuries.

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 13 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 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (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 facilitate an exchange of experience and expertise 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.
- Compensate, reconstruct, and rehabilitate the facilities that have been damaged, and compensate the families of those who have been killed and injured, by the current Russian regime.
- 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 International Coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should suspend 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 one of the responsibilities 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/Syrian National Army

- 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, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and take punitive measures against those personnel responsible for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- 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.
- Clearly mark protected facilities and equipment, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with identifiable symbols that can be seen and distinguished from afar.
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No justice without accountability

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