

65 Civilian Deaths,

Including of 23 Children and Three Women, as well as Six Deaths due to Torture, Documented in Syria in July 2024

Lebanese Group Hezbollah Most Likely Responsible for Killing 12 Children in Majdal Shams Village in the Occupied Golan

Thursday 01 August 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 documented 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 July 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 that SNHR's 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.

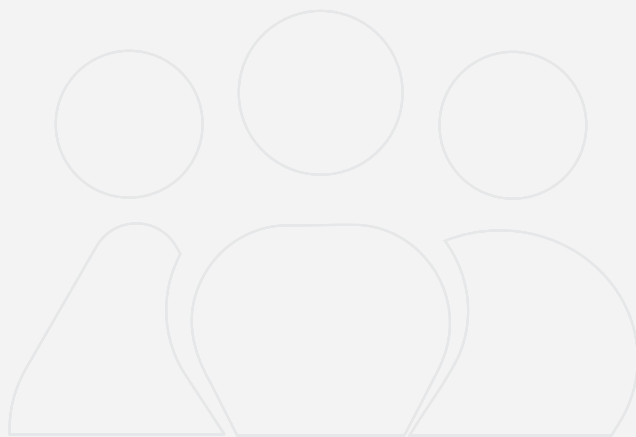
In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the past month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, namely the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we believe the death occurred. The report also sheds light on attacks on civilian objects that SNHR was able to document during July 2024.

This report draws upon the SNHR team's constant daily monitoring of news and developments in Syria, and on information supplied by our extensive network of various sources across the country, 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 our Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy, and then add 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 this file detailing our methodology](#) that can be found at this link. 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 July

A. Killings

- In July 2024, we documented the killing of **65 civilians**, including 23 children and three women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

1. Other parties

In July, we documented the killing of **50 civilians**, including 18 children and two women, at the hands of other parties, who were responsible for about 77 percent of all civilian deaths documented during the month; Daraa governorate accounted for about 36 percent of all victims killed by other parties this month, followed by the Occupied Golan with 24 percent, and then Aleppo governorate with 16 percent. Some noteworthy incidents include:

- In July, we documented five civilian deaths, including those of two children and one woman, resulting from the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. Adding July's death toll to the rest of the year's total to date, a total of 73 civilians, including 12 children and 15 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of 2024.
 - On Saturday, July 13, a woman, identified as [Khawla Jasim al-Hassoun](#), from Arab Hassan Kabir village to the north of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while she was gathering shafлах (caper berries) in agricultural land near her home village. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) at the time of the incident
- In July, gunfire of unidentified source killed 22 civilians, including one child, accounting for about 44 of all the victims killed by other parties this month. Seventeen of the 22 civilians killed were killed in Daraa governorate.
 - On Thursday, July 11, a man, identified as [Taleb Hassan al-Nassar](#), from al-Sanamayn city in northern rural Daraa governorate, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in his home city. The area is under the control of Syrian regime forces.
- In July, bombings by unidentified parties **killed five civilians**, including one child. On Saturday, July 27, a man, identified as 30-year-old Mohammad Ahmad Qaddour from Bdama town in western rural Idlib governorate, was killed by the explosion of a war remnant of unidentified source on agricultural land adjacent to his home village. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.
 - On documented the killing of two civilians, one of them a child, by Turkish forces. On Tuesday, July 16, a boy, identified as Khaled Rashid al-Omar, died of wounds sustained on July 1 when he was shot by Turkish forces stationed at Bab al-Salama Border Crossing, when demonstrators headed to the border terminal to protest at the assaults on Syrian refugees that had taken place in Türkiye's Kayseri city. Khaled, from al-Sheikh Eisa village in rural Aleppo, had been living in the Bab al-Salama Camp in northern Izaz city. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) at the time of the incident.



↑ ⓘ Khaled Rashid al-Omar

- On Saturday, July 27, at around 18:20, a rocket attack struck the local football pitch in Majdal Shams village in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The attack resulted in a massacre, in which 12 children, four girls and eight boys, were killed. Another 36 people were also injured in the attack. The accounts gathered by SNHR, along with the video footage of the rocket attack, the resulting explosion, the dimensions of the crater, and the rocket remnants, all indicate that the attack originated from the north. Judging from the geography of Majdal Shams village, we suspect that the rocket was fired from southern Lebanon by the Lebanese group Hezbollah. SNHR has released a statement on this incident.

2. Syrian regime forces

- In July, Syrian regime forces killed **eight civilians**, including one child, and four people who died due to torture, accounting for about 12 percent of all victims killed in July. These eight victims, all civilians, were killed in various Syrian governorates: three were killed in Rural Damascus governorate, two in Daraa governorate, and one each in the governorates of Damascus, Deir Ez-Zour, and Suwayda.

- On Tuesday, July 2, a Syrian regime forces artillery detachment, stationed in Brigade 121 on the outskirts of Kanaker town in western Rural Damascus governorate, fired multiple shells targeting the town. One of the shells struck a bus transporting workers, [killing three civilians from the town](#); identified as Ramadan Hassan Zina, Belal Taha al-Masri, and a boy named Suhaib Emad Hejazi. The shells also partially destroyed or inflicted minor damage to a number of houses. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, July 25, a boy, identified as 12-year-old Maher Awad al-Awad from Deir al-Adas village in northern rural Daraa governorate, was killed by the explosion of a cluster bomb left by previous Syrian regime bombardment. The bomb detonated when Maher found it near a pond in the village center. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

3. SDF

- In July, the SDF killed **four civilians**, including two children and one woman, with two of the victims killed in Aleppo governorate, and the other two in Deir Ez-Zour governorate. Three of the four victims (the two children and the woman) were killed by gunshots fired by SDF patrolmen.
- On Tuesday, July 2, [an unnamed woman, identified only as the wife of Saleh al-Madid](#), died of wounds sustained three days earlier, June 29, 2024, when she was shot by SDF personnel while she was in al-Baghliya village in western rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate on the opposite bank of the Euphrates River to the SDF personnel who shot her. The area is under the control of Syrian regime forces.

B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

In July, SNHR documented no fewer than **eight attacks** on vital civilian facilities, five of them by Syrian regime forces, with most of these attacks carried out in Idlib governorate. Of these eight attacks, two were on schools, and two were on places of worship. Since the start of 2024 up until the end of July, SNHR has documented 65 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

On Tuesday, July 2, a Syrian regime artillery detachment fired an artillery shell that struck [al-Zubair ben al-Awwam Mosque](#) in the middle of Afis village in eastern rural Idlib governorate, partially destroying the mosque's minaret, [and causing moderate damage to its interior furnishing and windows](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

On Monday, July 15, Syrian regime forces launched nine kamikaze drones at M'arzaf village in Jabal al-Zawiya in southern rural Idlib governorate. One of the drones hit a civilian car beside the M'arzaf School for Elementary Education, [heavily damaging the vehicle, although the school building sustained no damage](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.

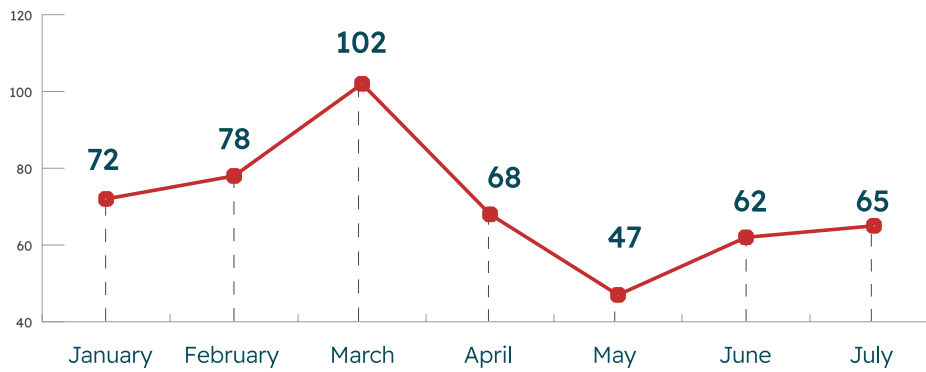


↑👁️ *Syrian regime forces bombs a civilian car near M'arzaf School for Elementary Education using a kamikaze drone - July 15, 2024*

III. Civilian Death Toll in July 2024

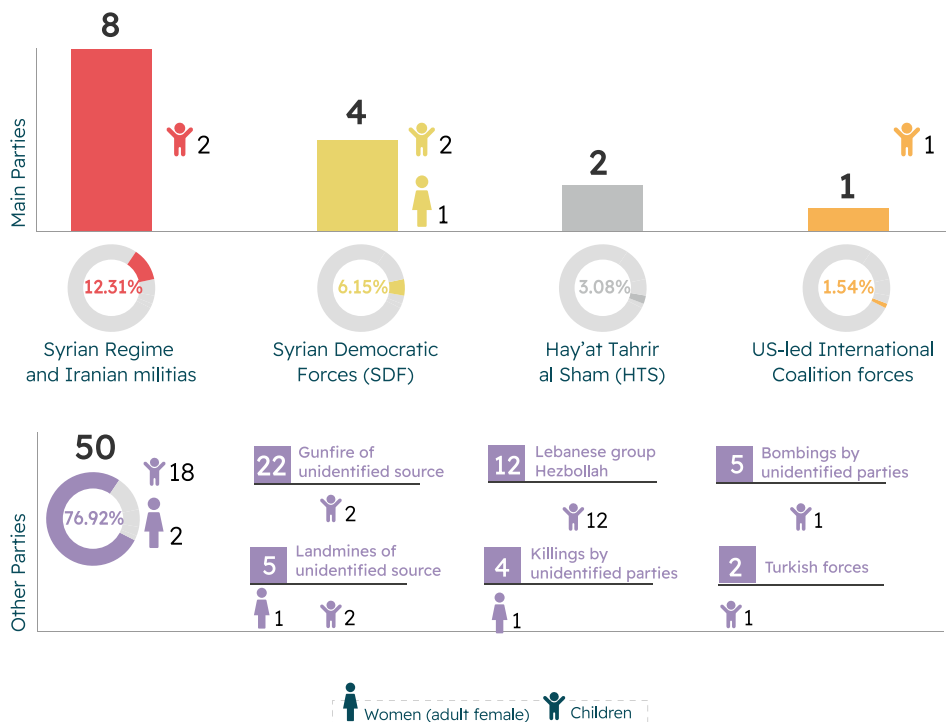
In July 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 65 civilians, including 23 children and three women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of civilian deaths since the start of the year, up until the end of July, to 494

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



July accounted for about 13 percent of all civilian deaths documented to date this year, while March saw the highest number of civilian deaths in one month so far this year, accounting for about 21 percent. Conversely, May saw the lowest documented number of monthly civilian deaths so far this year, accounting for about nine percent of the total.

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



A. Main parties:

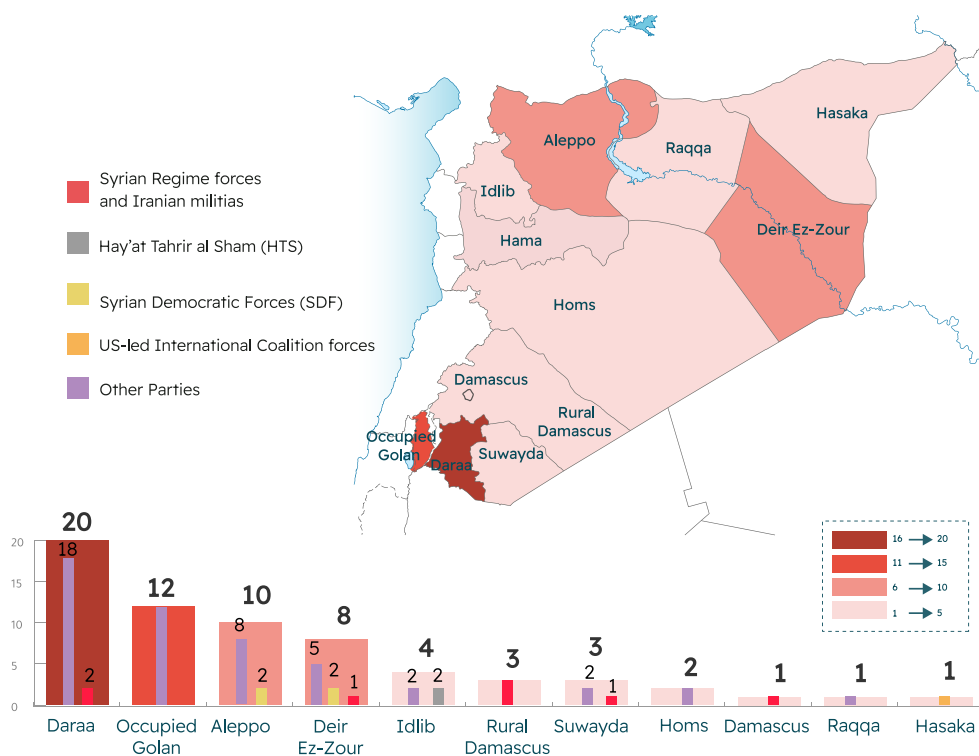
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of eight civilians, including two children, by Syrian regime forces.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of two civilians by HTS.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including two children and one woman, by SDF.
- **US-led International Coalition forces:**
We documented the killing of one child by the US-led International Coalition forces.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 50 civilians, including 18 children and two women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: Five civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 22 civilians, including two children.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Five civilians, including one child.
- Killings by unidentified parties: Four civilians, including one child.
- Lebanese group Hezbollah: 12 children.
- Turkish forces: Two civilians, including one child.

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

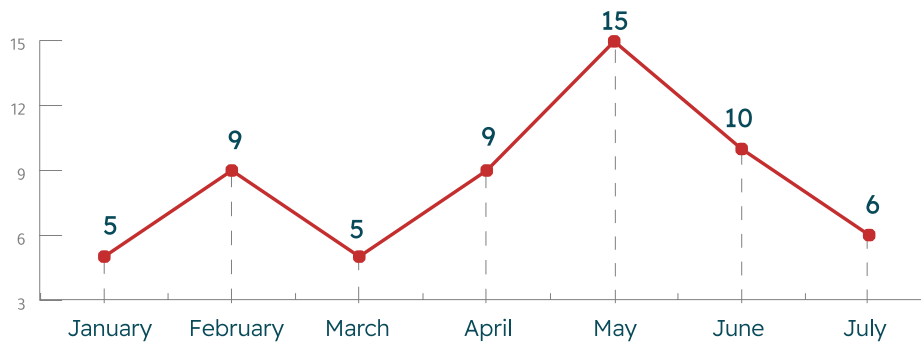


As the graph shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths in July, accounting for about 31 percent of the total. Of all the victims killed in Daraa this month, 18 were killed by other parties. Daraa was followed by the Occupied Golan Heights, which accounted for about 18 percent of the total, and then Aleppo governorate with 15 percent.

IV. Deaths due to Torture

In July 2024, SNHR documented six 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 July, to 59.

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

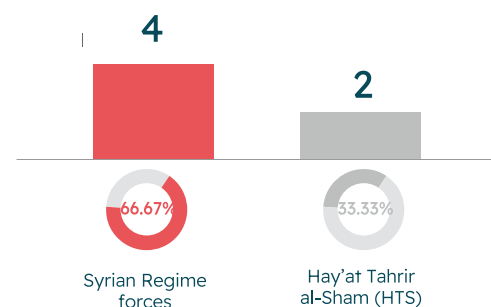


Syrian regime forces have been responsible for about 51 percent of all deaths due to torture recorded to date in 2024. In other words, more than half of all victims who died due to torture in 2024 have died at the hands of regime forces. The month of May has seen the highest documented monthly number of deaths due to torture to date in 2024, accounting for about 25 percent of the total so far this year.

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

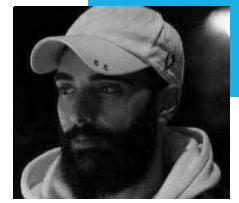
A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: Four individuals.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): Two individuals.



Below are the most notable cases:

[Ahmad Nemer al-Halli](#), from the Barza neighborhood of Damascus city, was arrested in early June 2024 by Syrian regime forces at a checkpoint in Damascus city. He was taken to the Military Security Intelligence Directorate's infamous Palestine Branch, or Branch 235, in Damascus city.



↑ 👁 Ahmad Nemer al-Halli

According to intelligence received by SNHR from local activists in Damascus city, Ahmad, who had been a refugee in Lebanon, had been forcibly deported by personnel from Lebanon's General Security to the Lebanese-Syrian border along with a group of fellow refugees a short time before. These deportations form part of a continuing security crackdown by the Lebanese authorities against Syrian refugees in Lebanon that has been going on since the start of this year. Ahmad has previously agreed to settle his security situation with the regime before seeking asylum in Lebanon.

Ahmad was arrested as soon as he was deported from Lebanon, without any legal arrest warrant being presented. His family was not informed of his arrest, and he was denied any opportunity to contact his family or a lawyer. At the end of June 2024, we documented his transfer from the Palestine Branch to a hospital elsewhere in Damascus city. At the time of his transfer to the hospital, he was extremely unwell due to the brutal torture to which he had been subjected in detention. He remained in the hospital's intensive care unit until his death on Saturday, July 6, 2024, as we reported at the time.

V. Deaths Among Medical Personnel

In July 2024, we documented the killing of one medical worker at the hands of other parties.

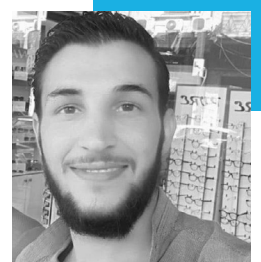
Medical personnel killed in July 2024 are distributed as follows:

A. Other parties:

- Gunfire of unidentified source: One medical worker.

Below are the most prominent cases:

On Wednesday, July 3, a surgeon, identified as [Muntaser Abdul Hakim al-Falah](#), was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in al-Sanamayn city in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

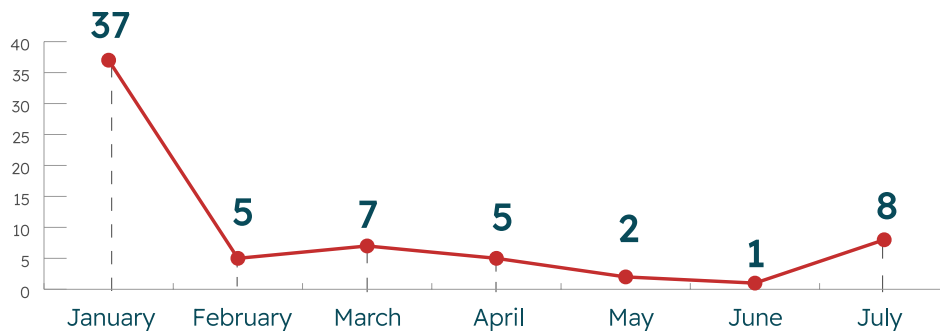


↑ 👁 Surgeon Muntaser Abdul Hakim al-Falah

VI. Massacres

In July 2024, SNHR documented one massacre at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of massacres perpetrated since the start of the year to 10.

The massacre carried out in July 2024 is attributed to the relevant parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:



A. Other parties: One massacre.

- Lebanese Group Hezbollah: One massacre.

In the massacre documented in July, 12 children were killed.

On Saturday, July 27, 2024, at around 18:20, a rocket attack struck the local football pitch in Majdal Shams village in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The attack resulted in [a massacre](#), in which [12 children](#), [four girls](#) and [eight boys](#), were [killed](#). Another 36 people were also injured in the attack. The accounts gathered by SNHR, with the video footage of the rocket attack, the resulting explosion, the dimensions of the crater, and the rocket remnants, all indicate that the attack originated from the north. Judging from the geography of Majdal Shams village, we suspect that the rocket was fired from southern Lebanon by the Lebanese group Hezbollah.



↑ 👁 Victims of the rocket attack on the local football pitch in Majdal Shams village in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights - July 27, 2024

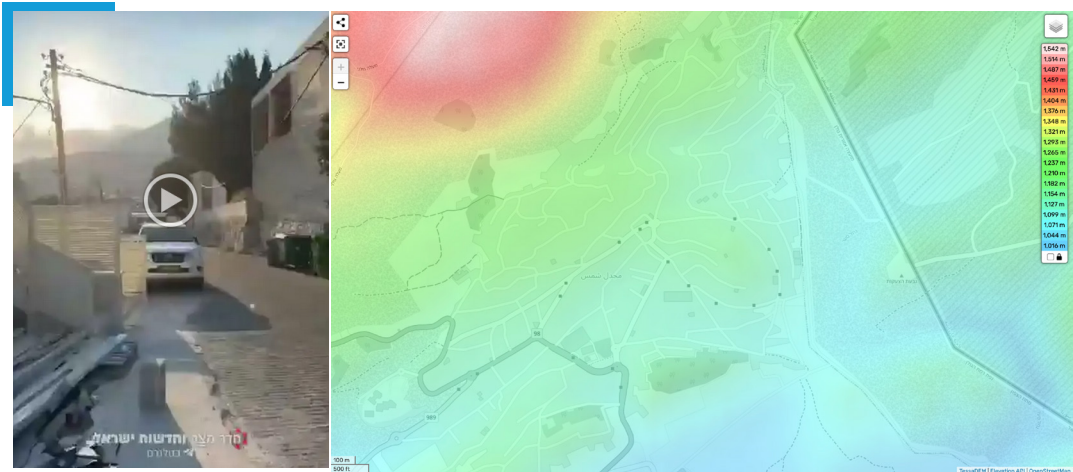
One photo shows the site hit by the rocket, and another shows the smoke cloud rising following its explosion. The photos are stills taken from video footage filmed by a local resident



First photo shows the site of the explosion and its north-to-south trajectory. Second photo shows the direction of the explosion and the resulting crater



Video footage recorded by a local resident shows that he was looking north at the time of the attack, with the footage also showing the general vicinity and the moment of explosion, with the horrified cameraman immediately heading for the attack site. The area's topographical maps confirm the video's authenticity.



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

In this month: July

- ▶ On July 10, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the main street in Aleppo city's al-May-sar neighborhood. The barrel bomb fell amidst a crowd of civilians, including street vendors, **killing 19 people**, including one child and three women, and destroying a number of shops and residential buildings. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Sunday, July 2, 2017, Syrian-Russian alliance fixed-wing warplanes (investigations are continuing to precisely determine which of the two parties was responsible for the attack) fired missiles at a gathering of IDPs in al-Haqqaf subdistrict, to the west of Tal al-Assfar in northeastern rural Suwayda governorate, **killing 16 people**, including three children and six women. Al-Haqqaf was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Friday, July 14, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired a missile at a residential building in the center of Ein Tarma town in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Rural Damascus governorate, **killing 14 civilians**, including three children and six women. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.
- ▶ On Sunday, July 21, 2019, fixed-wing Su-24 Syrian regime forces warplanes fired multiple missiles that landed in front of al-Iman Mosque in the Garage area in the center of Urm al-Jawz village in southern rural Idlib governorate, **killing 10 civilians**, including three children (two males and one female) and one woman, and wounding **22 other** people. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.
- ▶ On Sunday, July 19, 2020, a car bomb of unidentified source exploded at the Sejjou Roundabout, located about one kilometer from the Bab al-Salama border crossing with Türkiye, near Sejjou (al-Salama) village, administratively a part of Izaz city, in northern rural Aleppo governorate. The bombing **killed 13 civilians**, including one child, and wounded **60 others**. SNHR notes that the bombing site is in a vital trade area that is a connection hub for the various IDPs camps scattered around the area. We are still trying to locate eyewitnesses and survivors to obtain more information about the incident. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army (SNA) at the time of the incident.

Recalling the massacre, eyewitness Adnan al-Shami, head of the media office in Ein Tarma town, said:¹

“ We pulled a woman from under the rubble. She refused to go to the hospital until we rescued her baby, who was still alive. One of the elderly women rushed back from the hospital and helped the Civil Defense to dig, so she could make sure that her grandchild, who was under the rubble, was still alive. ”

1. Via his personal Facebook account.

August 24 2024

As documented by SNHR



VII. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities

In July 2024, SNHR documented no fewer than eight attacks on vital civilian facilities, including five attacks by regime forces, most of which were carried out in Idlib governorate.

Among the eight attacks documented by SNHR, two targeted schools, and two others targeted places of worship.

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

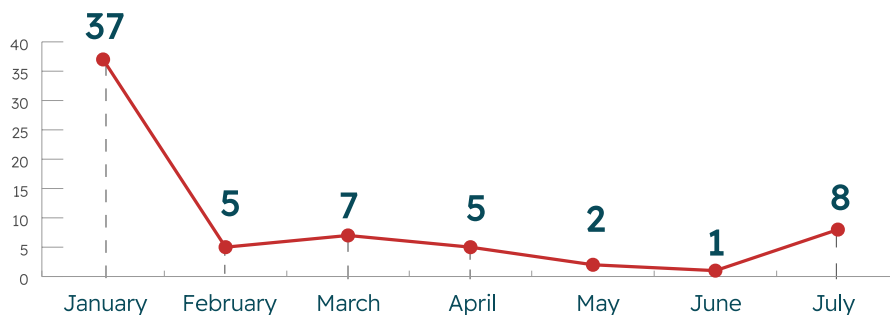
A. Main parties

- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Five attacks.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One attack.

B. Other parties

- Lebanese group Hezbollah: Two attacks.

Since the start of 2024 up until the end of July, 65 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 the chart shows, July saw an increase in the number of attacks on vital civilian facilities from the two months before. In fact, July saw the second-highest number of attacks on vital civilian facilities in one month, accounting for about 13 percent of all attacks recorded since the start of the year.

VIII. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of the 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 or the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties. 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, which state falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, and which the families must sign if they wish to obtain death certificates. 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 for deceased victims' family members to obtain death certificates, the Syrian regime requires 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 deaths, 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.

IX. 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 our 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 the one from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered by the people of each governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in relation to 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 categories 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 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 \(AWSD\)](#) 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 regional and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

X. 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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