



# 1176 Civilians Killed in September 2016 Including 993 at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian Regimes

## Report Contents:

- I. Introduction and Methodology
- II. Details
- III. Conclusions and Recommendations
- Acknowledgment

## I. Introduction

The report includes only the death toll of civilians that were killed by the main six influential parties in Syria:

- Government forces (Army, Security, local militias, Shi-ite foreign militias)
- Russian forces
- Self-management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)
- Extremist Islamic groups
- Armed opposition factions
- International coalition forces
- Unidentified groups

## II. Report Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent human rights organization that is not affiliate of any political or partisan side. SNHR works on documenting human rights violations by the six main parties in Syria.

We have been able to document the civilian victims who are being killed by the six main parties to a great extent, whereas armed victims are divided into two categories:

Victims from the armed opposition: We face additional difficulties as many of those victims are killed on battle-fronts and not inside cities. Also, we aren't able to obtain details such as names, pictures and other important details on account of the armed opposition forces' unwillingness to reveal such information for security concerns among





other reasons. Therefore, the actual number of victims is much greater than what is being recorded.

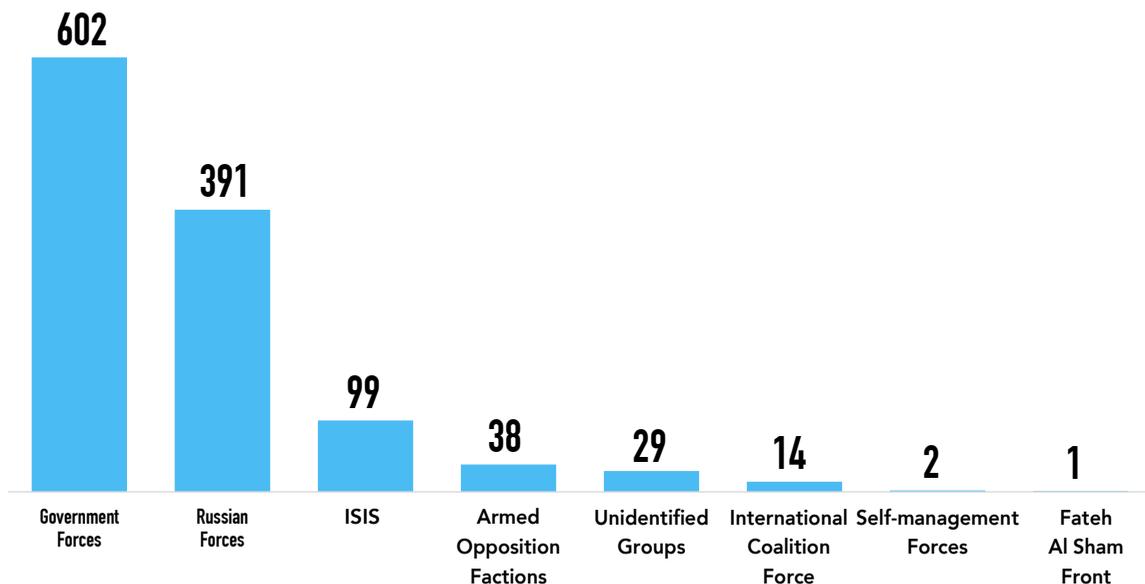
Victims from government forces and ISIS: It is almost impossible to access information about this kind of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation. The Syrian government and ISIS don't publish, reveal, or record their victims. From our perspective, the statistics published by some groups on this category of victims are fictitious and are not based on any actual data.

Therefore, we are only going to include civilian victims who were killed by all parties and compare them

Please see SNHR [methodology](#) in documenting victims:

### III. Details

SNHR documented during the month of September 2016 the killing of 1176 civilians. Death toll is distributed by the influential party as follows:





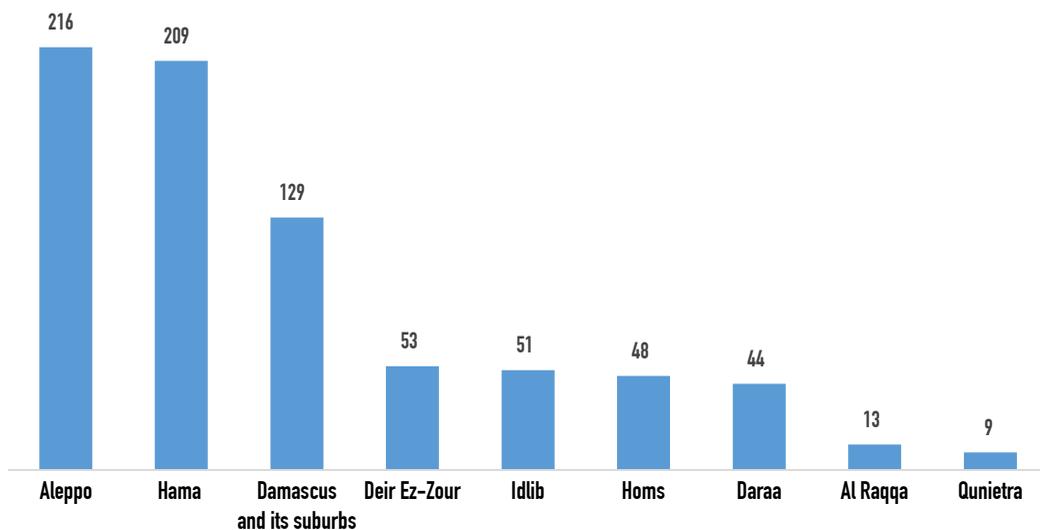
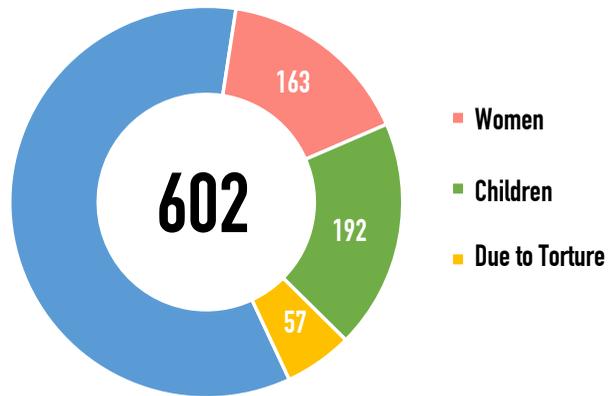
## A. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

SNHR documented the killing of 602 civilians at the hands of government forces including 192 children (Seven children are killed every day) and 163 women in addition to 57 individuals who died due to torture.

The percentage of women and children victims is 59% which is an explicit indicator on the deliberate targeting of civilians by government forces

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates

## Government Forces





### B. Russian Forces

We documented the killing of 391 civilians including 114 children and 54 women by the bombardment of forces we believe are Russian.

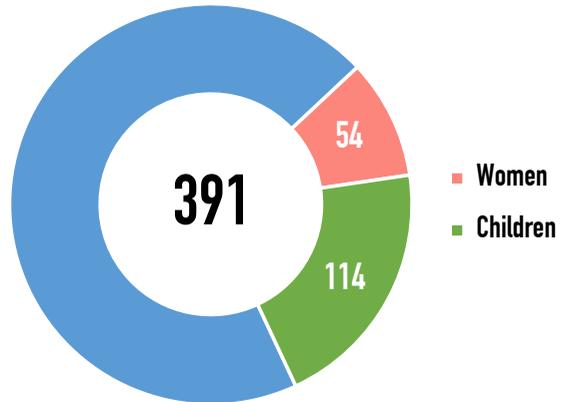
Distribution of victims across Syrian governorate:

Aleppo: 245

Idlib: 144

Hama: 2

### Russian Forces



### C. Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party)

Killed two civilians; one of whom was a woman

Distribution of victims across governorates

Al Raqqa: 1

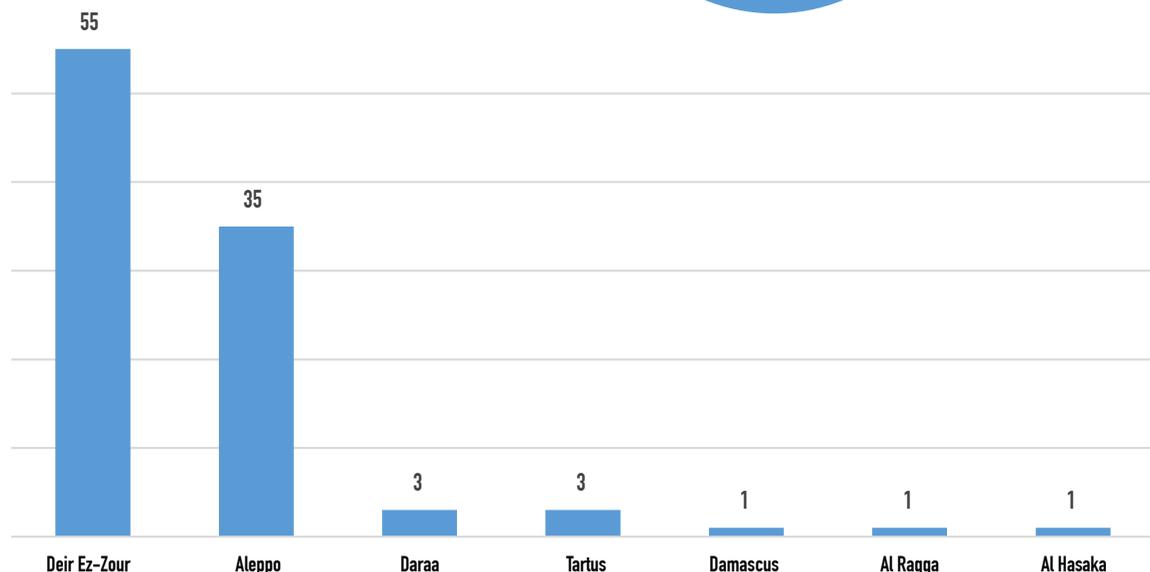
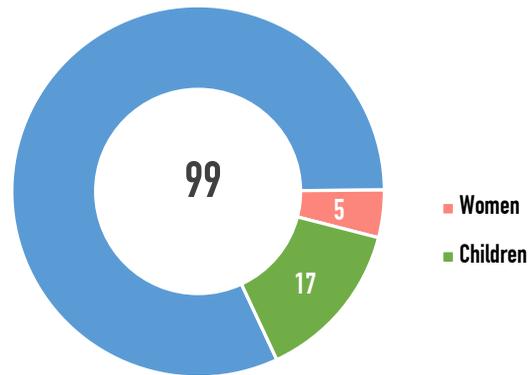
Al Hasaka: 1

### D. Extremist Islamic groups

• **ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): Killed 99 civilians including 17 children and five women.**

Distribution of victims across governorate:

### ISIS





- Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nussra Front): Killed one civilian due to torture who is from Hama

### E. Armed opposition factions

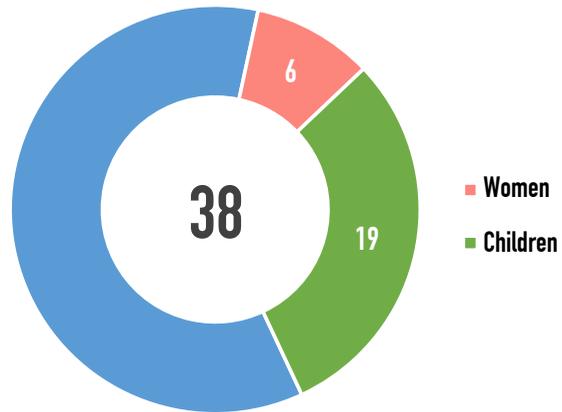
SNHR documented the killing of 38 civilians including 19 children and six women. Distribution of victims across governorate:

Aleppo: 36

Damascus suburbs: 1

Deir Ez-Zour: 1

### Armed opposition factions



### F. International coalition forces:

We recorded the killing of 14 civilians including six children and two women by the bombardment of the international coalition forces warplanes.

Distribution of victims across governorate

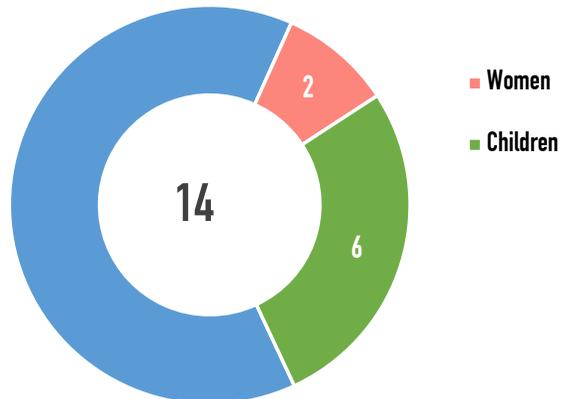
Aleppo: 8

Al Hasaka: 3

Deir Ez-Zour: 2

Al Raqqa: 1

### International coalition forces

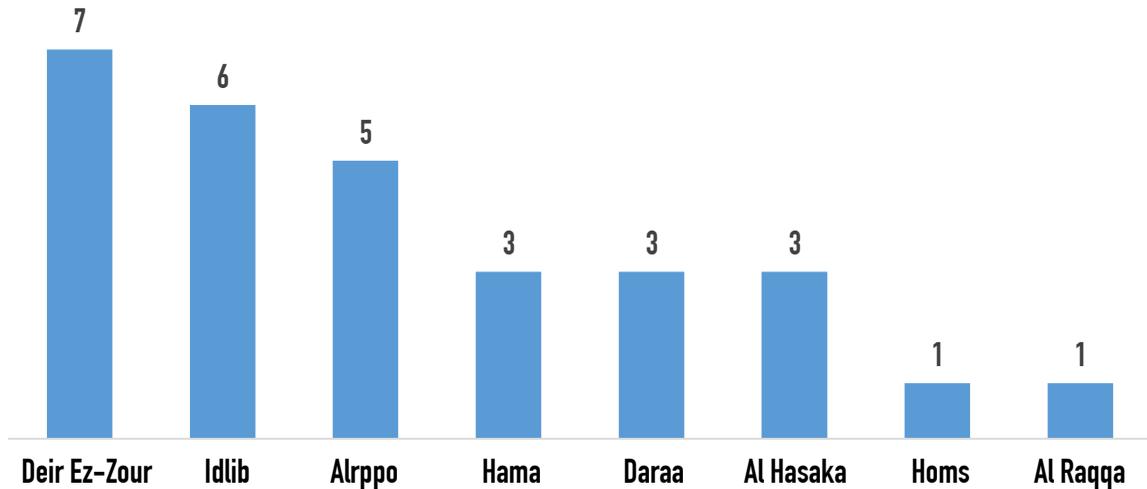


### G. Unidentified groups

We documented the killing of 29 civilians including eight children by unidentified groups.

Distribution of victims across governorates:





We would like to note that this what we were able to document and verify with full names, place, and time through our members who are spread across Syria. It also should be noted that there are many cases that we couldn't access and documents especially in the event of massacres where towns are villages are enclosed and communication is cut off which is what the Syrian government repeatedly does every time. This suggests that the actual number of civilian deaths is greater. All of this is because the Syrian government ban any human rights organization from working on its grounds.

### III. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. SNHR affirms that government forces and Russian forces have violated the international human rights law which guarantees the right to life.

Evidences and proofs, according to hundreds of eyewitnesses' accounts, suggest that 90% at least of the widespread and single attacks were directed against civilians and civilian facilities.

All of this discredits the Syrian government's claims that it is fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists"

SNHR notes that these incidents of killing constitute crimes against humanity where most of these cases involved the element widespread or systematic attack against group of civilian residents.

2- Kurdish Self-management forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.

3- Extremist Islamic groups have conducted extrajudicial killings as well that qualify as a war crime.

4- Some of the armed opposition factions have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.





5- International Coalition forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.

## **Condemnation and liability**

Every internationally unlawful act committed by the state will entail a legal responsibility on that state. Equally, the customary international law states that the state is responsible for all the acts committed by the elements of its security and military forces. Consequently, the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, that have been perpetrated by the members of its military and security forces.

Additionally, the Russian regime and all Shiite militias as well as ISIS are all foreign parties who were effectively involved in acts of killings and are all responsible legally and judicially in addition to the funders and supporters of the Syrian regime that is perpetrating massacres systemically and ceaselessly on a daily basis.

## **Recommendations:**

### **The Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps as it has been a year since Resolution 2139 was adopted and no obligations to stop the indiscriminate bombing, which causes daily destruction and killing, have been made.
- To apply pressure on the states that support government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the weaponry and expertise supply for government forces as it has been proven that government forces have been involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as states and individuals who are supplying extremist groups, the Democratic Union Party, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable.
- To instill security and peace in Syria and implement the principle of Responsibility to Protect in order to save the Syrians' lives, history, and culture, from being destroyed and ruined.

## **Acknowledgment**

We gratefully thank all the families and local activists who majorly enriched this report with their contribution.



