



1521 Civilians Killed in August 2016 Including 1082 at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian Regime

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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, Shiite 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

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 battlefronts 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.





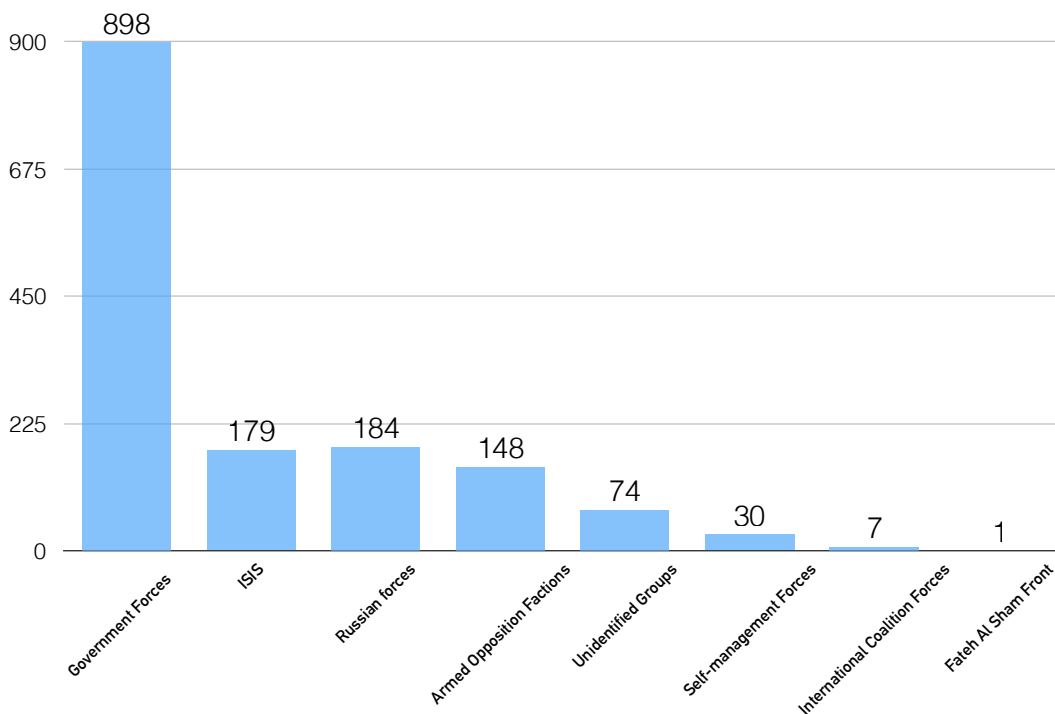
Victims from government forces and ISIS: It is almost impossible to access information about this kind of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation. The Syrian government and ISIS don't publish, reveal, or record 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:

II. Details

SNHR documented during the month of August 2016 the killing of 1521 civilians. Death toll is distributed by the influential party as follows:



A. Government forces

SNHR documented the killing of 898 civilians at the hands of government forces including 247 children (Eight children are killed every day) and 193 women.





The percentage of women and children victims is 49% which is an explicit indicator on the deliberate targeting of civilians by government forces

Distribution of victims across Syrian governorates

Idlib: 274

Aleppo: 236

Damascus and its suburbs: 196

Deir Ez-Zour: 51

Hama: 42

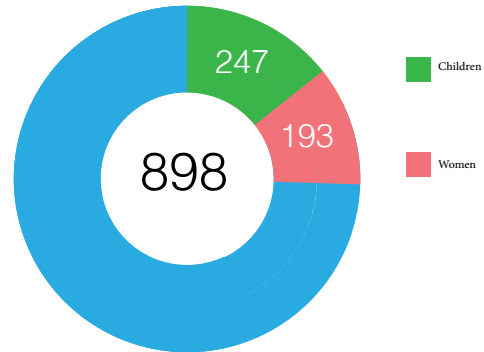
Homs: 39

Daraa: 34

Al Raqqa: 22

Al Qunaitera: 4

898 civilians killed by Government Forces



B. Russian Forces

We documented the killing of 184 civilians including 49 children and 29 women by the bombardment of alleged Russian forces

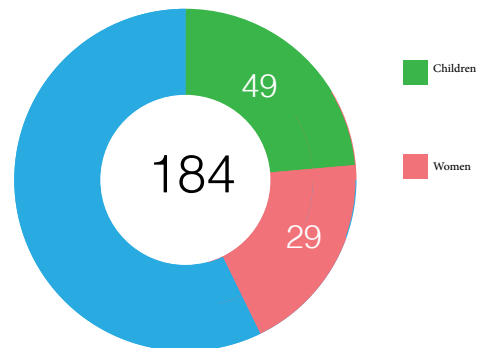
Distribution of victims across Syrian governorate:

Al Raqqa: 1

Aleppo: 182

Idlib: 1

184 civilians killed by Russian Forces



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

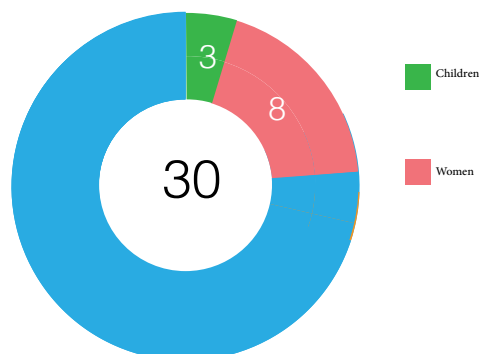
Killed 30 civilians including three children and eight women

Distribution of victims across governorates

Aleppo: 28

Al Hasaka: 2

30 civilian killed by Self-management Forces





D. Extremist Islamic groups

- **ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): Killed 179 civilians including 37 children and 13 women.**

Distribution of victims across governorate:

Aleppo: 122

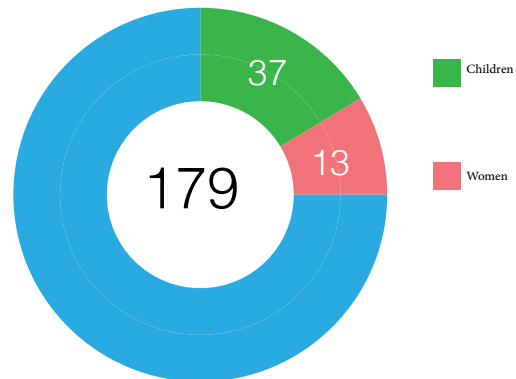
Deir Ez-Zour: 51

Al Raqa: 5

Latakia: 1

- Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nuss-ra Front): Killed one civilians in Idlib

179 civilians killed by ISIS



E. Armed opposition factions

SNHR documented the killing of 148 civilians including 50 children and 25 women.

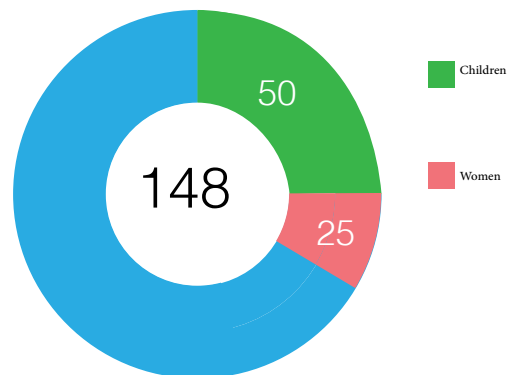
Distribution of victims across governorate

Aleppo: 144

Daraa: 3

Homs: 1

148 civilians killed by Armed Opposition Factions



F. International coalition forces:

We recorded the killing of seven civilians including one child and one women by the bombardment of the international coalition forces warplanes.

Distribution of victims across governorate

Aleppo: 3

Al Raqqa: 3

Al Hasaka: 1





G. Unidentified groups

We documented the killing of 74 civilians including 19 children and 10 women by unidentified groups.

Distribution of victims across governorates:

Aleppo: 33

Al Hasaka: 21

Deir Ez-Zour: 10

Idlib: 3

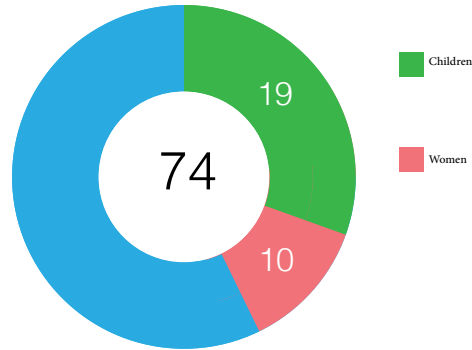
Daraa: 3

Hama: 2

Damascus suburbs: 1

Al Raqqa: 1

74 civilians killed by Unidentified Groups



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 incidents 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 with no obligations to stop the indiscriminate bombing, which causes daily destruction and killing, have been made.
- To press 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.

