



## The Killing of 6567 Civilians in the First Half of 2016 civilians killed in June 2016 1271

### Report Contents:

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

## I. Introduction

The report includes only number 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

After the commencement of the Cessation of Hostilities statement on 27 February 2016, Most of the Syrian governorates have seen a notable and a relatively good decline in killing rates compared to the previous months since 2011. The main focus is the areas controlled by the armed opposition given that other territories such as areas controlled by the Democratic Union Party and the Syrian regime are not targeted with a heavy and daily aerial bombing which is the main cause behind the killing of more than 60% of the victims, the destruction of buildings, and displacement of residents.





Nevertheless, one day after the High Negotiation Committee decided to postpone its participation in Geneva talk on 19 April, government forces and Russian forces resumed bombing areas outside the Syrian regime's control and the killing rates increased back to its former levels before the Cessation of Hostilities.

## Report Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent human rights organization that doesn't follow 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 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 that 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

### A. Civilian victims killed during the first half of 2016; 1 January 2016 – 30 June 2016:

SNHR documented the killing of 6567 civilians during the first half of 2016, death toll is divided by the main influential parties as follows:

First: government forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

SNHR documented the killing of 3417 civilians at the hands of government forces including 590 children (four children killed are killed every day) and 422 women while the number of victims who died due to torture is no less than 230 individuals (two individuals die under due to torture every day).

The percentage of children and women among civilian victims is 30% which is a blatant indicator on the government forces' deliberate targeting of civilians.

Second: Russian forces:

We recorded the killing of 1378 civilians including 370 children and 179 women as a result of the bombing carried out by allegedly Russian forces.

Third: Self-management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party):

Killed 78 civilians including 10 children, three women, and two individuals due to torture.

Fourth: Extremist Islamic groups:

Extremist Islamic groups killed 785 civilians divided as follows:

- ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): killed 764 civilians including 103 children, 146 women, and seven individuals due to torture.
- Al-Nusra Front: killed 21 civilians including two children, one woman, and two individuals due to torture.

Fifth: Armed opposition factions:

SNHR documented the killing of 462 civilians including 118 children, 109 women, and two individuals due to torture.

Sixth: International coalition forces:

We recorded the killing of 127 civilians including 54 children and 22 women as a result of the international coalition bombing.



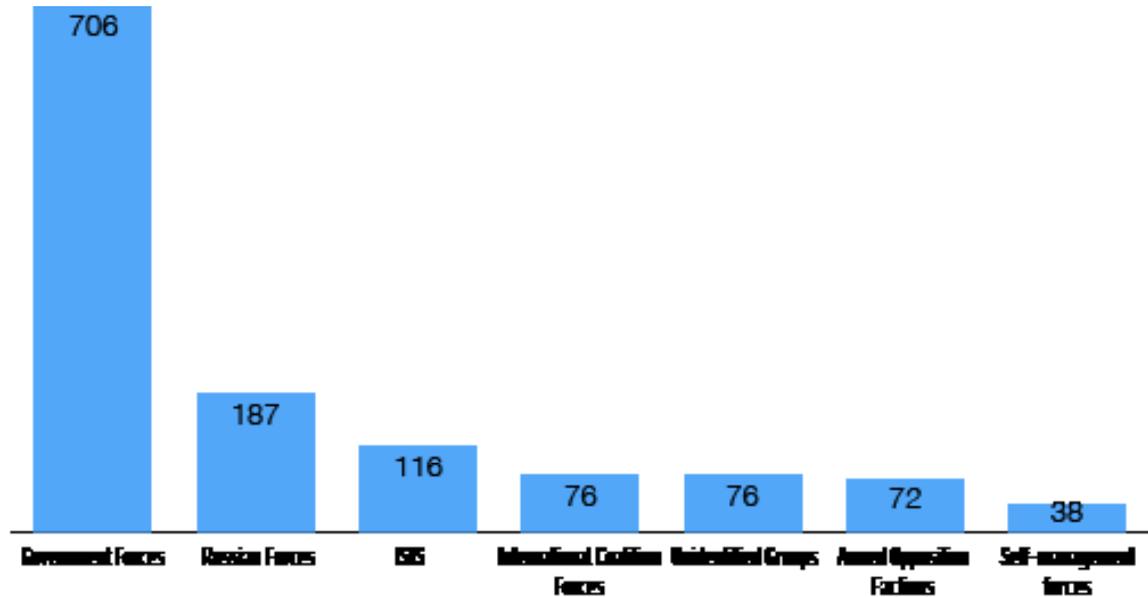


Seventh: unidentified groups:

We recorded the killing of 266 civilians including 70 children and 38 women by groups that we have not been able to document at the time of this writing.

B. Civilian death toll of June 2016:

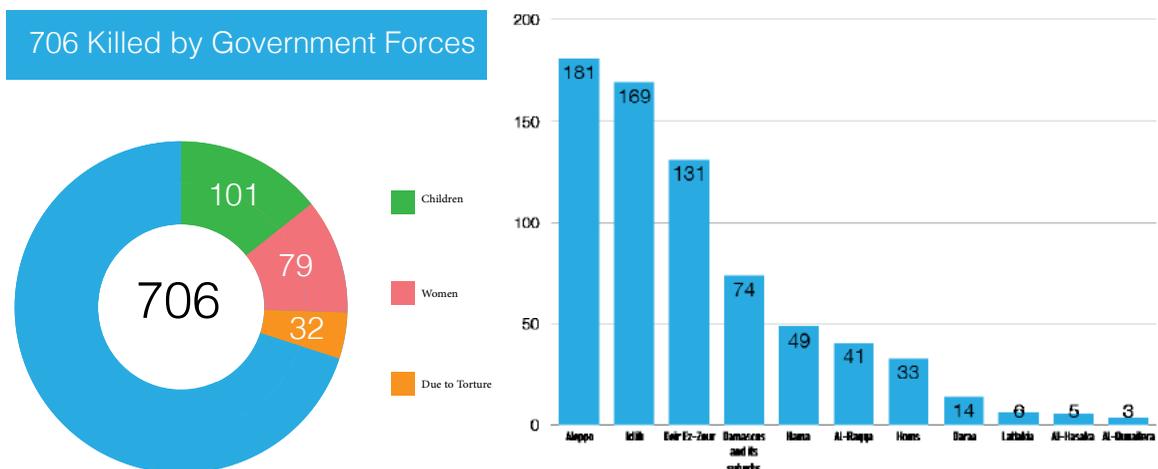
**SNHR documented the killing of 1271 civilians during the month of June 2016. The death toll is divided by the main influential party as follows:**



**First: Government forces (Army, security, local militias, foreign Shiite militias):**

SNHR documented the killing of 706 civilians at the hands of government forces including 101 children (four children are killed every day), 79 women, and no less than 32 individuals due to torture (one victim is killed every day).

Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:





### Second: Russian forces:

We recorded the killing of 187 civilians including 57 children and 23 women as a result of the bombing carried out by allegedly Russian forces.

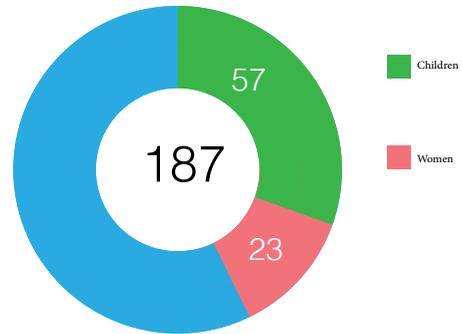
Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 177

Idlib: 9

Al-Raqqa: 1

187 civilians Killed by Russian Forces



### Third: Self-management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

Killed 38 civilians including four children, two women.

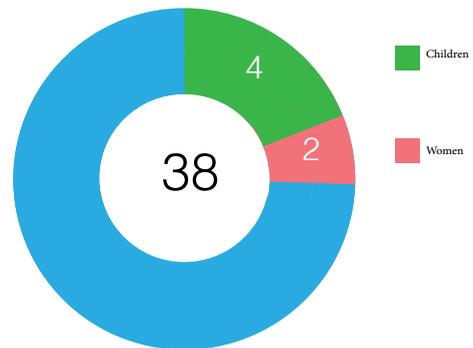
Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 35

Al-Hasaka: 2

Al-Raqqa: 1

38 civilians Killed by Self-management forces



### Fourth: Extremist Islamic groups:

ISIS (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): killed 116 civilians, including 19 children and ten women.

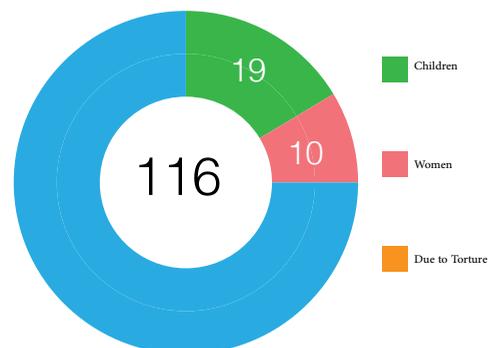
Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 59

Deir Ez-Zour: 31

Al-Raqqa: 14

116 civilians Killed by ISIS



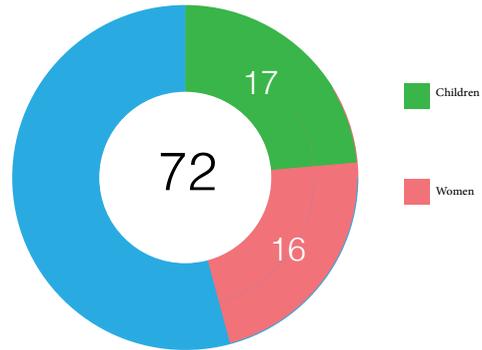


Daraa: 5  
Damascus suburbs: 4  
Damascus: 1  
Homs: 1  
Idlib: 1

Fifth: Armed opposition factions:  
SNHR documented the killing of 72 civilians including 17 children and 16 women divided by governorates as follows:

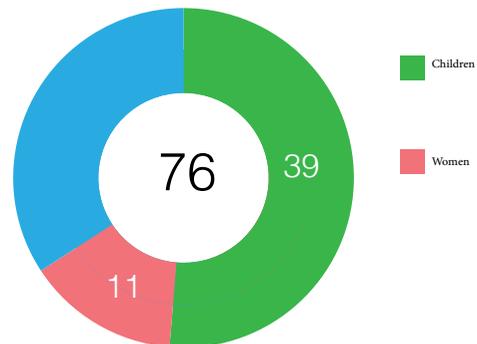
Aleppo: 71  
Latakia: 1

72 civilians killed by  
Armed opposition factions



Sixth: international coalition forces  
We recorded the killing of 76 civilians including 39 children and 11 women in Aleppo governorate as a result of the international coalition bombing

76 civilians killed by  
International Coalition Forces

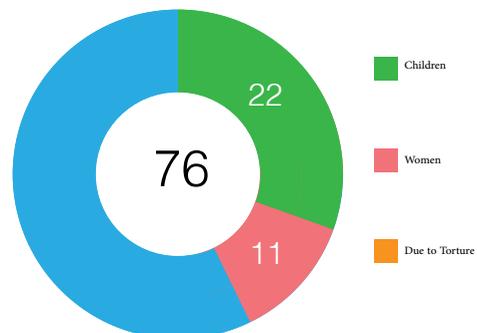


Seventh: unidentified groups:  
We recorded the killing of 76 civilians including 22 children and 11 women by groups that we have not been able to document at the time of this writing.

Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 36  
Deir Ez-Zour: 14

76 civilians Killed by  
Unidentified Groups





Idlib: 13  
Homs: 4  
Al-Hasaka: 3  
Al-Raqqa: 3  
Damascus suburbs: 2  
Daraa: 1

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 and all of this is because the Syrian government ban any human rights organization from working on its grounds.

### III. Conclusions and Recommendations

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 carried out by government forces and its loyal forces 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 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- ISIS have conducted extrajudicial killings as well that qualify as a war crime as well.

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.

