

Statement

Most Notable Violations in October 2017

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, November 11, 2017

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.



As usual with the start of every month, SNHR has released eight reports at the start of November 2017, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven main parties to the conflict in Syria in October 2017 - civilian death toll, deaths due to torture, most notable violations against media activists, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, most notable massacres, barrel bombs use, and most notable incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities.

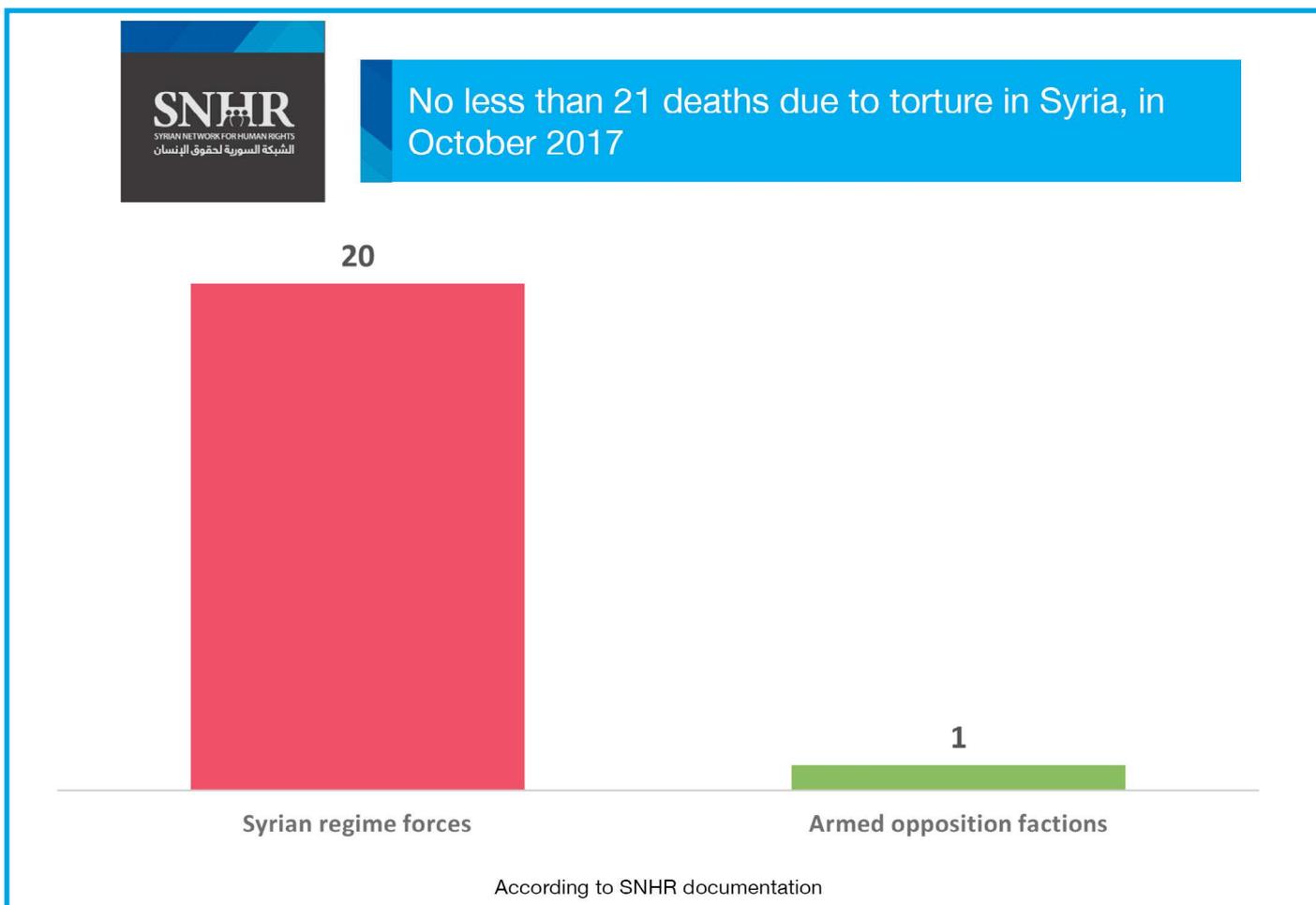
These monthly reports try to assess the impact the de-escalation agreements, such as Anqara and Astana in addition to the local agreements, had, and their success in ceasing violations.

These reports draw upon the daily documentation efforts during October, where SNHR, through its scattered members throughout the Syrian region, monitors violations by all of the parties to the conflict, and publishes most notable news, before releasing a preliminary death toll at the end of each day. For more information, please see our [documentation and archiving methodology](#).



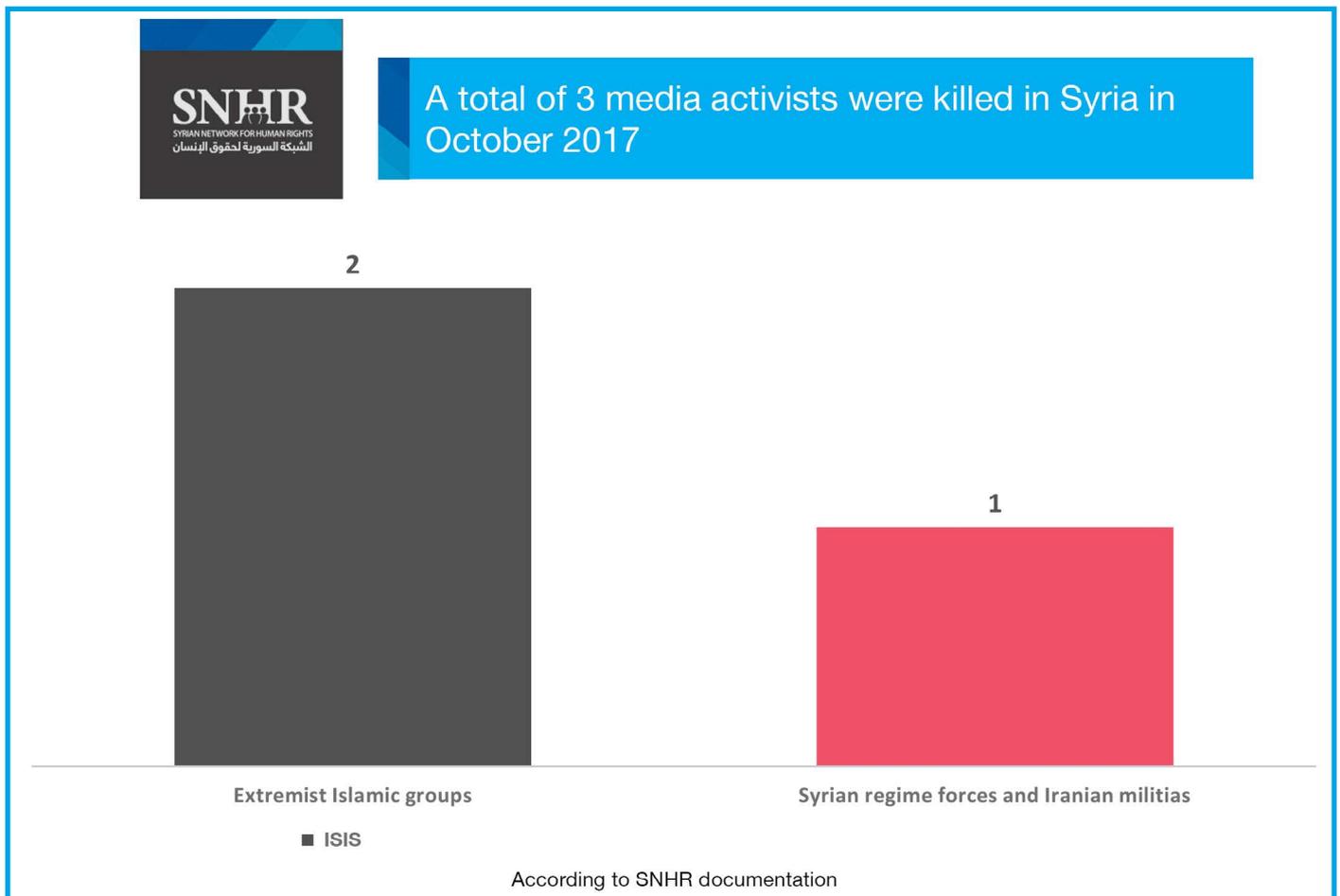
The report “[21 Individuals Died due to Torture in October 2017](#)” notes that de-escalation agreements, such as Anqara and Astana among others, had no impact on deaths due to torture, where we documented that 20 individuals died due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces in October, including eight from Daraa governorate, while one individual died due to torture at the hands of armed opposition factions.

A chart showing deaths due to torture in Syria in October 2017, and their distribution by the main parties to the conflict



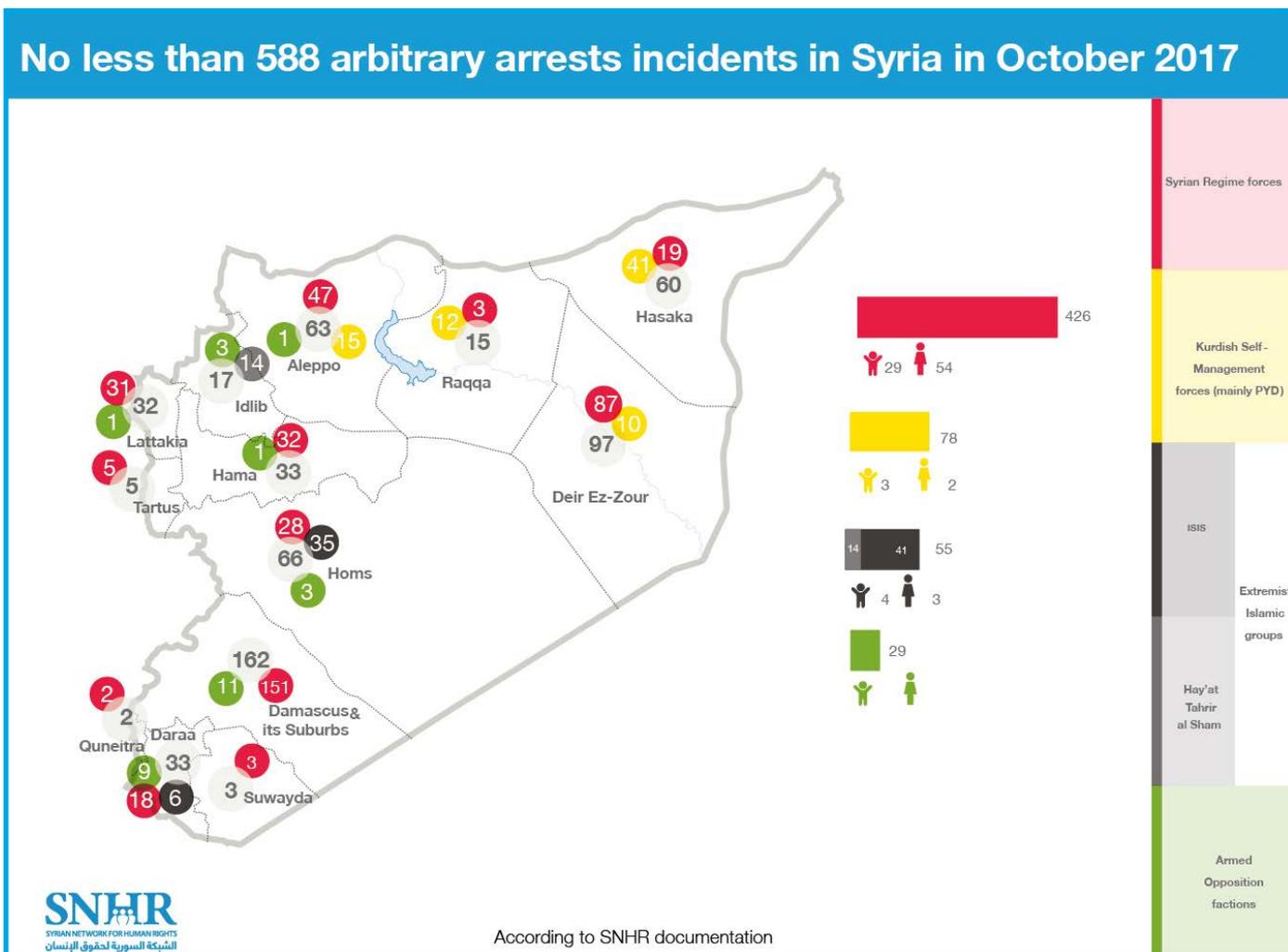
The report “[Three Media Activists Killed, One Injured, and Three Arrested, Toll of October 2017](#)” stresses that media activists are still being killed in Syria every month by the different parties to the conflict, as ISIS killed the most media activists in October with two media activists – one of whom was a woman. Arrest policy also continues, as the report records three cases of arrest followed by release, where armed opposition factions were responsible for two of the three cases.

A chart showing the death toll among media activists in October 2017, and its distribution by the main parties to the conflict



The report “[No less than 588 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in October 2017](#)” stresses that all Geneva and Astana rounds have failed so far to reveal the fate of one missing or forcibly-disappeared person. We recorded in October 6% increase in the rates of arbitrary arrests and enforced-disappearance at the hands of Syrian regime forces compared to last September. Also, we recorded that Syrian regime forces enforced a policy of enforced-disappearance in a retaliatory manner against the residents in the areas they managed to take control of – especially in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

An infographic showing the toll of arbitrary arrests in October 2017, and their distribution by the main parties to the conflict



The fifth report, "[Four Medical Personnel Killed, and Six Incidents of Attack on Vital Medical and Civil Defense Facilities in October 2017](#)", records an unprecedented drop in the rates of violations against medical personnel and their facilities since the start of 2017. The report notes that one medical personnel died due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces at one of their detention centers, while international coalition forces killed medical personnel for the third month in a row.

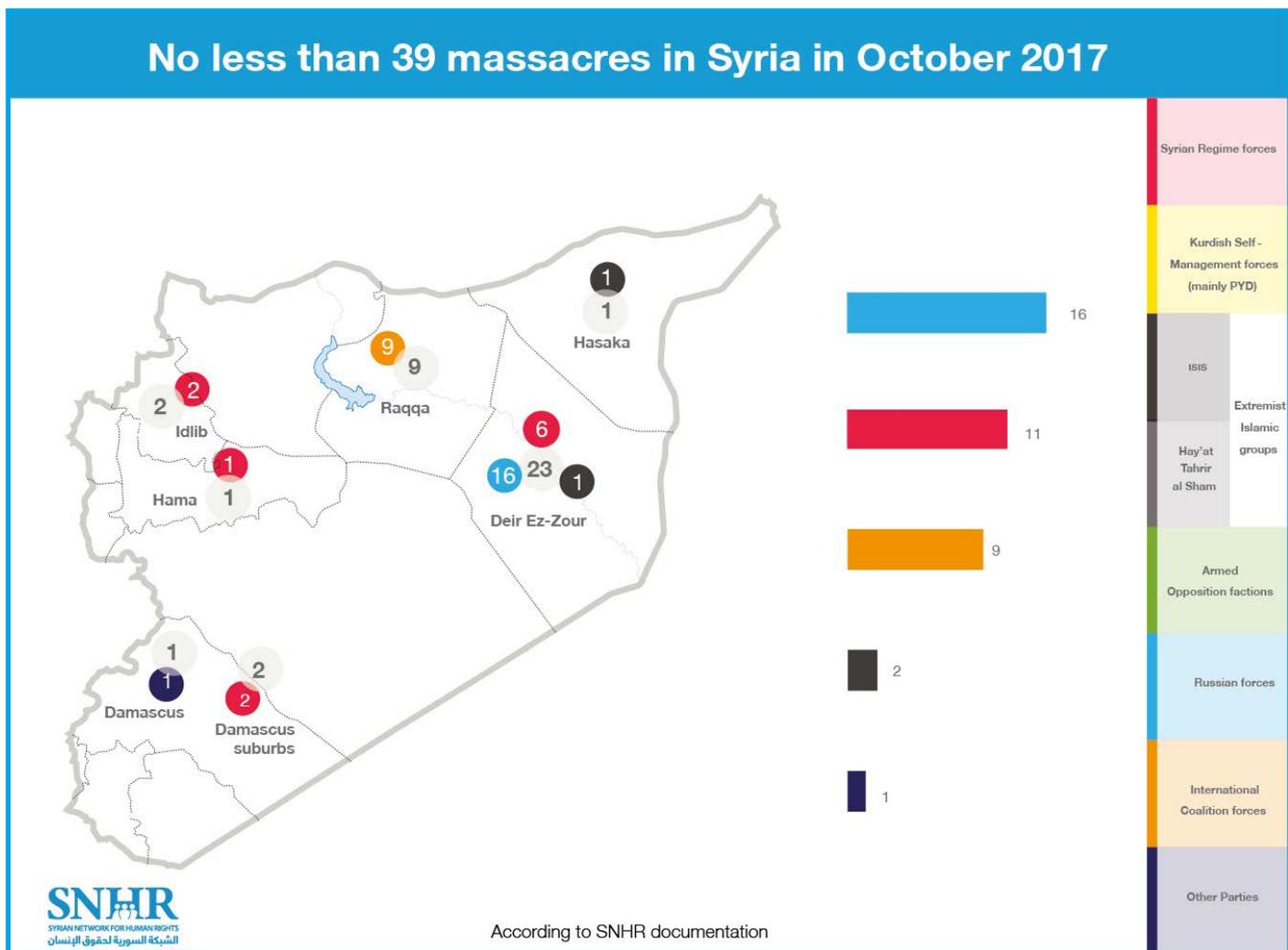
The six attacks on vital medical and civil defense facilities, on the other hand, were divided as follows: five by Syrian regime forces and one by Russian forces.

A chart showing deaths among medical and civil defense personnel in October 2017 and their distribution by the main parties to the conflict



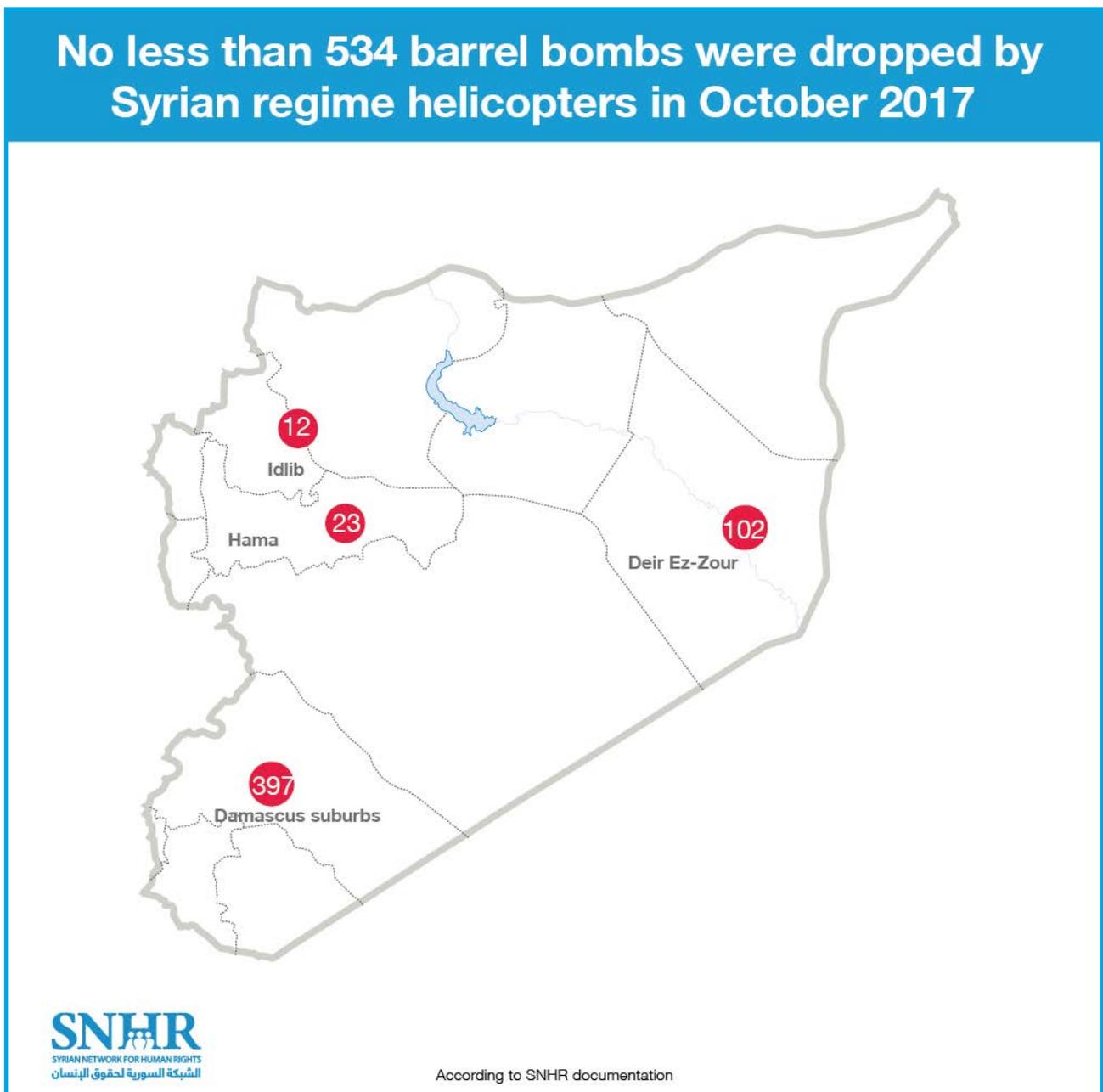
According to the report “[No less than 39 Massacres in October 2017](#)”, Russian forces have again topped all parties in terms of violations -the first time in a year- while Syrian regime forces came second, followed by international coalition forces. The report notes that 30 massacres were in ISIS-held areas, as Deir Ez-Zour governorate saw the most massacres with 23 massacres, followed by Raqqa governorate with nine massacres.

An infographic showing the massacres of October 2017, and their distribution by the main parties to the conflict



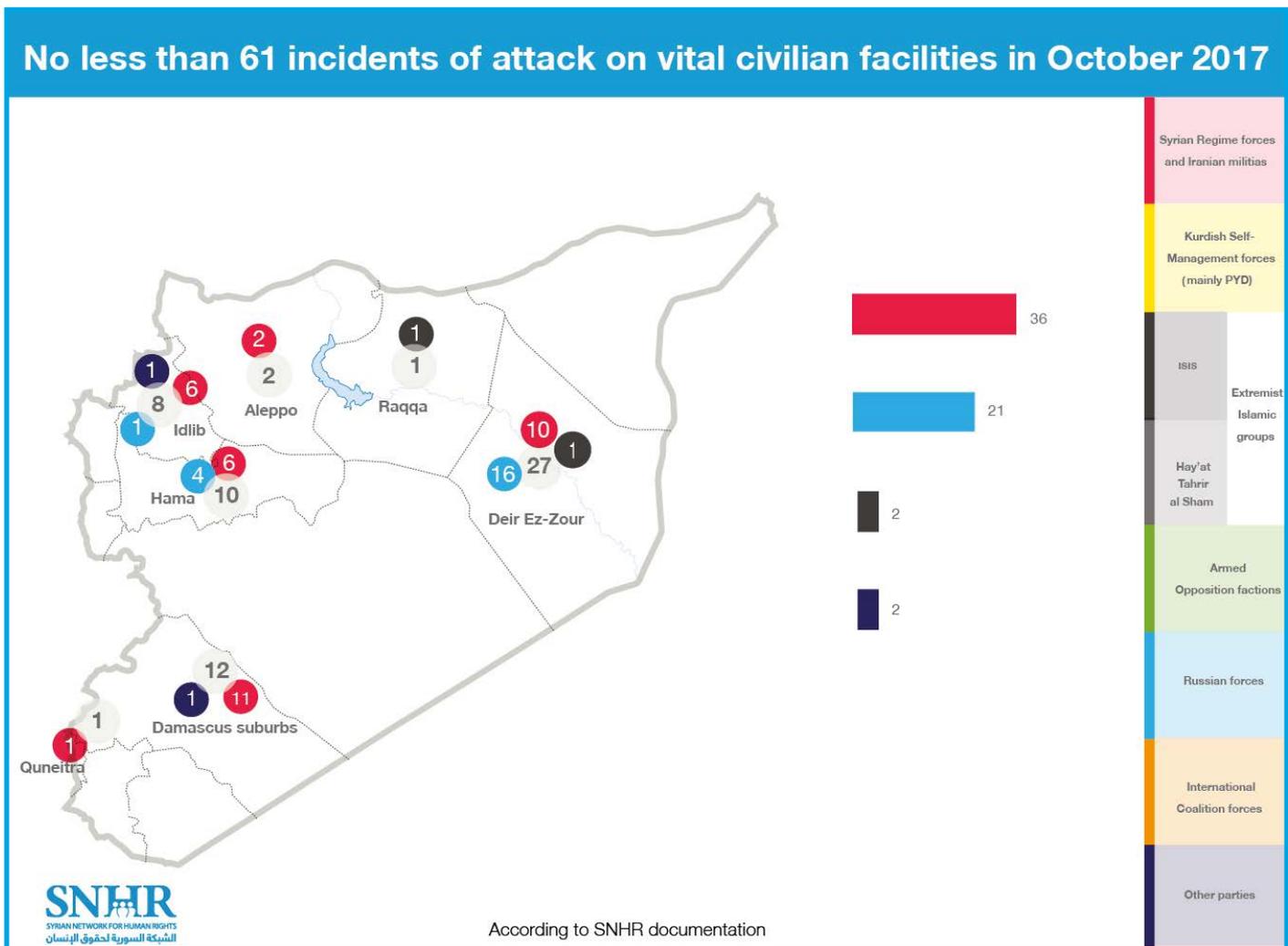
The report “[No less than 534 Barrel Bombs in October 2017](#)” stresses that the Syrian regime is still using barrel bombs, as the number of dropped barrel bombs nearly doubled since last September. Damascus suburbs governorate saw the most barrel bombs with 397 barrel bombs, followed by Deir Ez-Zour with 102 barrel bombs -five times the number recorded in the governorate in last September-

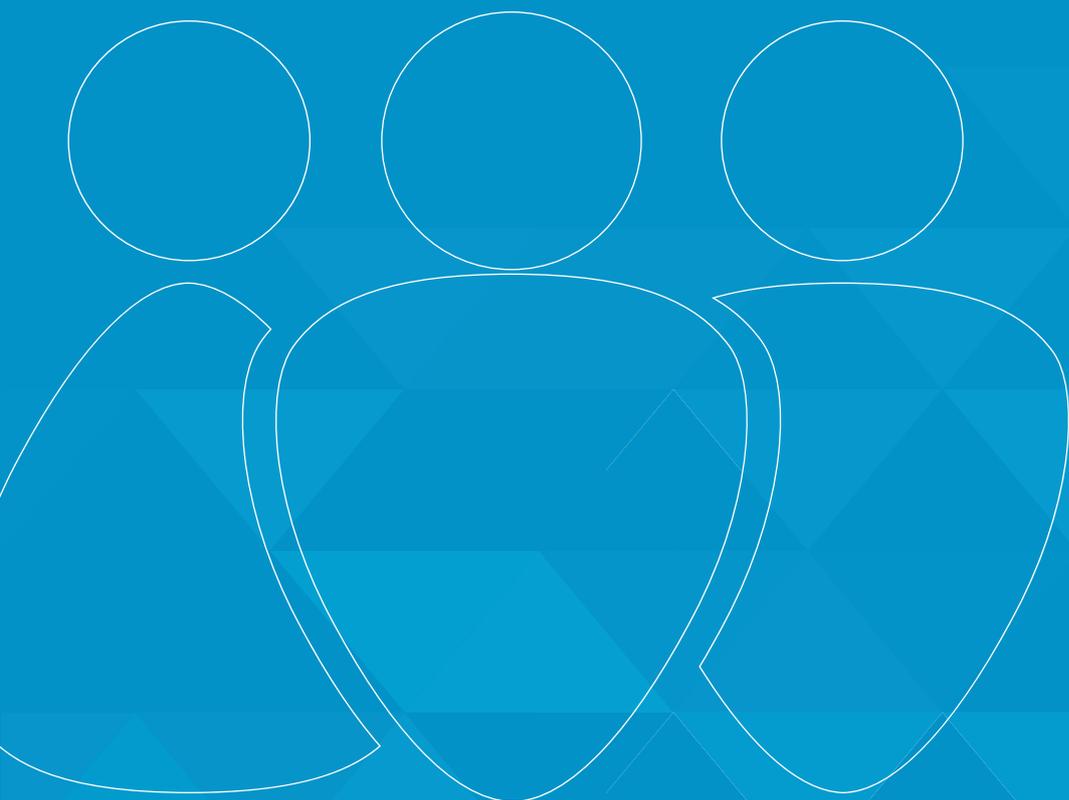
An infographic showing the toll of barrel bombs use in October 2017



The report “[No less than 61 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in October 2017](#)” records that attacks on vital civilian facilities dropped by 34% compared to last September. The Syrian-Russian alliance topped all parties for the second month in a row with 57 incidents of attack in October, including 26 in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, 11 in Damascus suburbs governorate, and 10 in Hama governorate.

An infographic showing the incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in October 2017 and their distribution by the main parties to the conflict





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

