Ramadan’s death toll during the past 5 years

The death of 18205 individuals during Ramadan months since 2011 up till now
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Introduction:

This report includes the documentation and death toll of the most notable massacres committed in the months of Ramadan since 2011 up till 2015. The report is based on SNHR’s archive, which was generated in 2011 through the network’s members in and outside Syria. You can have full access for the methodology used in documenting victims.

This report does not include the victims of government forces (including army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias) and ISIS members due to different variables and restrictions.

The chronological sequence of the violations committed in Ramadan:
Government forces started to perpetrate crimes in Ramadan 2011.
In Ramadan 2012, An-Nusra Front, PYD forces and armed opposition groups emerged.
In Ramadan 2013, ISIS (known as Daesh in Arabic) emerged and joined the aforementioned groups.
In Ramadan 2014, PYD “Self-control” regions were formed in Kurdish areas. Those forces included the Democratic Union Party. Also in 2014, the International Coalition forces took a part in the Syrian crisis.
Government forces uphold almost 93% of the total toll of committed violations (this percentage is different from one report to another). According to SNHR records, government forces killed 16879 individuals out of 18205 and committed the largest number of massacres. Ramadan 2012 was the deadliest since government forces committed a number of atrocities and massacres during it.

Since 2011 and up till 2013, people protested after the “Taraweeh prayers” (evening prayers), but as a result, they were targeted with missiles and bullets. The government forces’ strategy of shelling changed in 2014 where they started shelling regions outside their control. In 2015, government forces bombarded markets and mosques during rush hour, before “breaking the fast” time. ISIS used the same systematized strategy and bombed a mosque in an armed-opposition group region during the same time.

It should be noted that we managed to document those massacres through our network of activists who are distributed across Syria. It is very much likely that the actual death toll is larger than what we were able to document due to different restrictions and obstacles.
Executive Summary:

SNHR documented the death of 18205 individuals in the months of Ramadan since 2011 and up till now. The death toll is detailed according to the main conflict parties as follows:

**Government forces (including army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias):**

SNHR documented the death of 13879 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** Government forces killed 14958 civilians, including 1854 women and 2048 children (at a rate of killing 410 children each month.) Not less than 571 individuals were killed under torture (at a rate of killing 114 individuals under torture each month).

26% was the percentage of victims of children and women, which is a strong indicator that they were targeted deliberately by government forces.

**Gunmen:** Government forces killed 1921 Gunmen due to government shelling or clashes.

**PYD Forces:**

SNHR documented the death of 32 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** PYD Forces killed 29 civilians, amongst which 5 children and 2 women.

**Gunmen:** PYD Forces killed 3 armed opposition group members.

**Extremist Islamic Groups:**

SNHR documented the death of 796 individuals, detailed as follows according to the main extremist groups:

ISIS (or Daesh in Arabic): killed 775 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** ISIS killed 463 civilians, amongst which 31 children and 78 women.

**Gunmen:** ISIS killed 312 Gunmen. They were either executed or died during clashes.

**An-Nusra Front:** killed 21 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** An-Nusra Front killed 7 individuals, including a woman.

**Gunmen:** An-Nusra Front killed 14 individuals.
Armed Opposition Groups:
SNHR documented the death of 350 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** 330 civilians were killed, including 56 children and 94 women.  
**Gunmen:** 20 were killed.

International Coalition Forces:
SNHR documented the death of 8 civilians, including 2 children.

Unidentified Groups:
SNHR documented 140 killing incidents, including 15 children, 14 women and 7 Gunmen. Nonetheless, we were not to identify the perpetrators until the moment of writing this report.

Victims’ death analysis during the month of Ramadan of each year:

Victims’ details in Ramadan of each year

1. The death toll during Ramadan 2011 (from August 1 till August 30): According to our documentation, government forces killed 786 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** Government forces killed 734 civilians, including 54 women and 71 children (at a rate of killing 3 children daily). In addition, not less than 39 persons were killed under torture (at a rate of killing one person daily under torture).

17% was the percentage of killing civilians, which is a strong indicator that government forces targeted civilians deliberately.  
**Gunmen:** Government forces killed 52 defected soldiers.

2. The death toll during Ramadan 2012, (from 20 July till 18 August): According to our documentation, 8232 individuals were killed, detailed as follows according to the conflict parties:

**Government Forces:** killed 8231 individuals, detailed as follows: 
**Civilians:** government forces killed 7941 individuals, including 845 women and 838 children (at a rate of killing 28 children every day). 167 individuals were killed under torture (at a rate of killing 6 persons under torture daily).

21% was the percentage of killing women and children, which is a strong indicator that government forces targeted civilians deliberately.  
**Gunmen:** Government forces killed 290 Gunmen during clashes or bombardment.

**Extremist Islamic Groups:** An-Nusra Front killed one civilian.
3. The death toll during Ramadan 2013 (from 10 July till 7 August): We documented the death of 4815 individual, details as follows according to the conflict parties:

*a. Government Forces*: SNHR documented the killing of 4657 individuals detailed as follows:

**Civilians**: Government forces killed 3947 civilians, including 592 women and 725 children (at a rate of killing 24 children daily)/ 167 individuals were killed under torture (at a rate of killing 6 persons under torture every day). 33 % was the percentage of women and children killed, which is a very strong indicator that government forces deliberately targeted civilians.

**Gunmen**: government forces killed 710 Gunmen during shelling or clashes.

*b. PYD Forces*: killed 3 armed opposition members.

c. **Extremist Islamic Groups**: ISIS killed 3 armed opposition group members.

d. **Armed Opposition Groups**: killed 152 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians**: 151 civilians were killed, including 19 children and 57 women.

**Gunmen**: 1 armed man was killed by armed opposition groups.

e. **Unidentified Groups**: We recorded two killing incidents by unidentified groups whom we were not able to identify until the moment of making this report.

4. The death toll during Ramadan 2014 (from 28 June till 26 July): We documented the death of 2322 individuals, detailed as follows according to the conflict parties:

*a. Government Forces*: killed 1786 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians**: 1220 civilians were killed by government forces, including 209 women and 206 children (at a rate of killing 7 children daily). 146 individuals were killed under torture (at a rate of killing 5 persons under torture everyday). 34 % was the percentage of civilians killed, which is a strong indicator that government forces targeted civilians deliberately.

**Gunmen**: government forces killed 566 Gunmen during clashes or shelling.

*b. PYD Forces*: killed 2 civilians.

c. **Extremist Islamic Groups**: we recorded the death of 312 individuals, detailed as follows:

**ISIS**: killed 295 persons, detailed as follows:

**Civilians**: ISIS killed 61 individuals, including 13 children and 10 women.

**Gunmen**: ISIS killed 234 Gunmen during clashes with armed opposition groups or detainee executions.

**An-Nusra Front**: killed 17 persons, detailed as follows:

**Civilians**: 3 women were killed

**Gunmen**: 14 were killed during clashes or detainee executions.


**d-Armed Opposition Groups:** killed 126 individuals, detailed as follows:

**Civilians:** 107 civilians were killed, including 29 children and 24 women.

**Gunmen:** 19 were killed.

**e-Unidentified Groups:** We recorded 96 killing incidents, amongst which 89 civilians, 8 children, 9 women and 7 gunmen. We were not able to identify the perpetrators until the moment of making this report.

**The death toll during Ramadan 2015 (from 18 June till 16 July):** We documented the death of 2050 individuals, detailed as follows according to the conflict parties:

- **a. Government Forces:** SNHR documented the death of 1419 individuals, detailed as follows:
  - **Civilians:** 1116 individuals were killed, amongst which 154 women and 208 children (at a rate of 7 children daily). 52 persons were killed under torture (at a rate of killing 2 individuals under torture every day). 33% was the percentage of killing women and children, which is a strong indicator that government forces targeted civilians deliberately.
  - **Gunmen:** Government forces killed 303 gunmen during shelling or clashes.

- **b. PYD Forces:** killed 27 civilians, amongst which 5 children and 2 women.

- **c. Extremist Islamic Groups:** We recorded the death of 482 individuals, detailed as follows:
  - **ISIS:** killed 479 individuals, detailed as follows:
    - **Civilians:** ISIS killed 402 civilians, including 18 children and 68 women.
    - **Gunmen:** ISIS killed 77 gunmen during the clashes with armed opposition groups or through detainee execution.

  **An-Nusra Front:** killed 3 civilians.

- **d-Armed Opposition Groups:** SNHR documented the death of 72 individuals, detailed as follows:
  - **Civilians:** 72 were killed
  - **Gunmen:** None was documented

- **e-International Coalition Forces:** 8 civilians were killed, including 2 children.

- **f-Unidentified Groups:** 42 killing incidents were recorded, amongst 7 children and 5 women. We were not able to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.
The Most Notable Massacres in the months of Ramadan of each year:

A- Ramadan 2011:

*Government Forces:*
On 1 August 2011, government forces stormed Erbeen city in Damascus suburbs and randomly shot 6 civilians.

On 1 August 2011, government forces bombarded Hama City when they stormed it. The invasion lasted 30 days resulting in the death of 106 civilians, including 6 children and 9 women.

On 7 August 2011, government forces stormed Deir Al Zour City after besieging it for a week. During their invasion, government forces shelled the city with tank missiles killing 81 civilians, amongst 5 children and 10 women.

On 9 August 2011, government forces stormed Suran city in Hama and shelled a vehicle that transported civilians killing 18, including 4 children and 7 women.

On 10 August 2011, government forces stormed Baba Amro neighborhood and randomly shot the residents killing 11 persons at once.

On 14 August 2011, government forces stormed Al Ramel neighborhood in Lattakia. They shelled the neighborhood with artillery missiles and naval boats concurrently with random gun firing killing 51 civilians, amongst 3 children and 2 women. The raid lasted until 18 August 2011.

On 19 August 2011, government forces shot protestors in Ghabaghb town in Daraa killing 7 civilians, including 3 children.

On 22 August 2011, government forces shot the protestors in the Liberty Square in Homs killing 9 civilians.

B- Ramadan 2012:

*Government Forces:*
On 24 July 2012, government artillery forces shelled one of the shelters in Al Harak city in Daraa with mortar missiles killing 8 civilians, including 5 children and a woman.

On 24 July 2012, government forces and their militants stormed Al Share’aa town in Hama governorate and randomly shot civilians while they were leaving the mosque. As a result, 16 individuals were killed.

On 1 August 2012, government artillery forces shelled a funeral procession in Al Mahmadiyi village in Deir Al Zour killing 8 persons, including 3 children and 4 women.

On 4 August 2012, government artillery forces shelled Al Hamidiy neighborhood in Deir Al Zour with a mortar missile killing 10 civilians, including a child.

On 12 August 2012, government forces stormed Areeha town in Idlib and killed 14 individuals, including a child.

On 15 August 2012, government aviation shelled Ezzaz city in Aleppo killing 10 persons, including a child.
C- Ramadan 2013:

**Government Forces:**

On 14 July 2013, government artillery forces shelled Al Maghara town in Idlib with surface-to-surface missiles killing 14 individuals, including 4 children and 3 women.

On 20 July 2013, government aviation shelled Saraqeb city in Idlib with barrel bombs killing 9 civilians, including 4 children and 4 women.

On 29 July 2013, government aviation shelled Al Husami mosque in Homs killing 9 persons, including a child.

On 21 July 2013, government aviation stormed Al Bayda town in Tartous and shot and killed 22 persons, including 9 women and 5 children and burned some bodies.

On 25 July 2013, government aviation shelled Al Nayrab city in Aleppo with surface-to-surface missiles killing 37 individuals, including 17 children and 2 women.

On 1 August 2013, government aviation shelled the main market on Areeha city in Idlib with mortar missiles killing 35 persons, including 3 children and a woman.

On 5 August 2013, government aviation shelled the main market in Bliyoun town in Idlib with 3 barrel bombs killing 20 persons, amongst 6 children and 6 women.

On 30 July 2013, government aviation shelled a religious institute in Adnan city in Aleppo with a barrel bomb killing 18 civilians including 7 children and 11 women.

On 6 August 2013, government aviation shelled a charity market in Ein Jallout school in Al Ansari neighborhood in Aleppo killing 16 civilians, including 11 children and 5 women.
Extremist Islamic Groups:

ISIS:
On 25 July 2013, ISIS bombed a car in Al Suyuf Square in Jirmana city in Damascus suburbs killing civilians, including a child and 3 women. 66 others were injured and a fire was ignited in one of the residential buildings.

On 4 August 2013, armed opposition groups collaborated with An-Nusra front and ISIS after a clash with the government forces when the latter stormed 11 towns in Lattakia suburbs killing 132 civilians, including 18 children and 57 women. The victims were either randomly or deliberately shot.

An-Nusra Front:
On 4 August 2013, armed opposition groups collaborated with An-Nusra front and ISIS after a clash with the government forces when the latter stormed 11 towns in Lattakia suburbs killing 132 civilians, including 18 children and 57 women. The victims were either randomly or deliberately shot.

Armed Opposition Groups:
On 4 August 2013, armed opposition groups collaborated with An-Nusra front and ISIS after a clash with the government forces when the latter stormed 11 towns in Lattakia suburbs killing 132 civilians, including 18 children and 57 women. The victims were either randomly or deliberately shot.

D- Ramadan 2014:

Government forces:
On 1 July 2014, government aviation shelled Ourum Al Kobra town in Aleppo suburbs. SNHR documented the death of 7 individuals, including a woman and a child, as a result.

On 2 July 2014, government aviation shelled Al Busayra city in Deir Al Zour governorate with a missile killing 9 persons, including 2 children and a woman.

On 3 July 2014, government aviation shelled Ma’art Mesreen in Idlib with a missile. As a result, 11 persons were killed, including a child and two women. A residential building was completely destroyed.

On 20 July 2014, government aviation shelled Al Latamna city in Hama suburbs killing 9 persons, including a child and two women.

On 20 July 2014, government warplanes shelled Douma city in Damascus suburbs and killed 10 persons including 2 children and 4 women.

On 29 June 2014, government aviation shelled Silqeen city in Idlib with a number of missiles killing 29 individuals, including 4 children and a woman.
ISIS:
On 1 July 2014, ISIS artillery forces shelled Al Ruz town in Deir Al Zour with a mortar missile killing 7 related civilians, including 3 children and 2 women.

On 6 July 2014, ISIS forces stormed Al Bayadeyi town in Ein Arab (known as Kobani also) in Aleppo and killed 5 civilians, including a woman who was shot dead.

Armed Opposition Groups:
On 23 July 2014 Saint Demetrious Church in Aleppo was shelled by a rocket fired by an armed opposition group controlled region. The shelling also caused a huge hole in front of the church. 8 civilians, including 3 children and 3 women from one family, were killed and 7 others were injured according to SNHR sources.

On 30 July 2014, the backyard of Al Farah church was shelled in Al Midan neighborhood in Aleppo. The missile’s source came from an armed-opposition group controlled region. 6 civilians were killed, including 3 women and injured 11 others. The church’s windows were broke.

Unidentified Groups:
On 28 June 2014, unidentified groups bombed a car in a market in Douma city in Damascus suburbs killing 12 civilians, including 5 children and 4 women, in addition to injuring 26 others. The group who committed this crime remains unidentified up to the moment of making this report.

On 26 July 2014, an unidentified group bombed a car in the middle of a market in Ezaaz city in Aleppo killing 8 civilians, including a child. Up to the moment of making this report, the group who committed this crime remains unidentified up to the moment of making this report.

On 26 July 2014, a car bomb in the middle of a market in Ezaaz in Aleppo suburbs killed 8 civilians, including 2 children. The group who committed this crime remains unidentified up to the moment of making this report.
E- Ramadan 2015:

**Government forces:**

On 16 June 2015, government aviation shelled Al Ghariyi town in Daraa with a number of missiles killing 21 civilians including 18 children and a woman.

On 19 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Kafrsinji town in Idlib with a missile killing 7 persons at once, including 2 children.

On 21 June 2015, government aviation shelled with a number of missiles Palmyra town in Homs killing 7 persons, including 2 women.

On 22 June 2015, government aviation shelled with a number of barrel bombs Al Qusaeyli town in Old Aleppo city killing 7 persons, including 5 children and a pregnant woman.

On 11 July 2015, government aviation dropped 4 explosive barrels on Al Bab city in Aleppo killing 33 individuals, including 3 children and 4 women.

On 8 July 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs next to Eibad Al Rahman mosque in Karm Al Beik neighborhood in Aleppo killing 21 persons, including 7 children and 3 women.
On 25 June 2015, ISIS slithered into Ein Arab region (known as Kobni) in Aleppo after a car bombing in MarshadBinyar crossing and clashed with the PYD Forces. Hence, 311 civilians were killed, including 64 women. The victims were randomly shot or shot at close range, burned, slaughtered or sniped.

**Extremist Islamic Groups:**

**ISIS:**

On 25 June 2015, ISIS slithered into Ein Arab region (known as Kobni) in Aleppo after a car bombing in MarshadBinyar crossing and clashed with the PYD Forces. Hence, 311 civilians were killed, including 64 women. The victims were randomly shot or shot at close range, burned, slaughtered or sniped.

**International Coalition Forces:**

On 4 July 2015, International coalition forces shelled an ISIS vehicle next to Hamidiyt al Zaher school in Al Jmayli neighborhood in Raqqa city killing 7 civilians, including a child and injuring 10 others.

**Unidentified groups:**

1- On 25 June 2015, a mine blast in Al Joura town in Deir Al Zour killed 6 related civilians, including 3 children and a woman. Up to the moment of preparing this report, SNHR was not able to verify the identity of the perpetrators.

2- On 23 June 2015, a car bomb killed 18 individuals, including 2 children and 2 women, next to BaydarSultani mosque in Al Tal City in Damascus suburbs. Up to the moment of preparing this report, SNHR was not able to verify the identity of the perpetrators.
3-On 5 July 2015, a car was bombed next to a PYD forces checkpoint in Hashishiyi town in Sluk town in Raqqa suburbs. 5 civilians were killed, including 2 women and 2 children. SNHR could not identify the group responsible for this bombing up to the moment of making this report.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

1. The Syrian government and its militias have blatantly violated both the International Humanitarian Law and the norms of the Humanitarian law; particularly Article 3 of Geneva Conventions and the international humanitarian law and committed crimes that can be openly classified as war crimes. Our evidence, according to survivors and eyewitnesses testimonies, indicate that more than 90% of the violations and attacks were against civilians, thus contradicting the government’s allegations that it is fighting “Al Qaeda and terrorists”.
2. PYD Forces committed a number of war crimes that can be classified as crimes against humanity.
3. Extremist Islamic groups also committed war crimes that can be classified as crimes against humanity.
4. Some of the armed opposition groups also committed a number of war crimes that can be classified as crimes against humanity.

**Recommendations**

*The Security Council*

1. The Security Council should take additional measures as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution 2139 and no one committed to put an end to the indiscriminate bombing that is resulting in more blood and destruction every day.
2. To press on the states that are supporting government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the flow of weapons and expertise to government forces after it was proven that these resources are being used in crimes against humanity and war crimes which applies as well on the states and individuals that support extremist groups, PYD forces, and some of the armed opposition factions.
3. The Syrian case should be referred to the ICC and all individuals responsible for the crimes that have been perpetrated in Syria must be held accountable.
4. To enforce peace and security in Syria and implement the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in order to save the lives of the Syrians and their traditions and arts from being destroyed, stolen, or ruined.

**Acknowledgment**

Our thanks go out for the victims’ families and activists who contributed majorly to this report.