The Seven Main Parties that Kill Civilians in Syria in 2016

The Syrian-Iranian-Russian Regime is Responsible for the Killing of 76% of Civilian Victims

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria.

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I. Introduction
This report contains a number of charts for the death toll of 2016, and the death toll of women, children, victims who died due to torture, medical personnel, and lastly, media activists. Additionally, the report presents a number of infographics that compare the death toll at the hands of the influential parties to the Syrian conflict.

The data shown in these charts draws upon the daily documentation processes that have been ongoing since 2011, where SNHR, through its members who are scattered throughout Syria, monitors killings and highlights most notable news and massacre. This is followed by a preliminary toll that is published at the end of every day, and then a preliminary toll at the end of every month. Over the course of six years, our cumulative work has enabled us to establish a database for the victims who are being killed in Syria. For more information, please see our documentation and archiving methodology.
II. The Syrian-Iranian-Russian regime is overwhelmingly the main party responsible for the killing of civilians

Being responsible for 52% of the totality of the crimes that were committed in 2016, the Syrian-Iranian regime surpasses all other parties, including its Russian allies. The Syrian regime possesses an air force composing of fixed-wing warplanes and helicopters that are capable of firing missiles and dropping barrel bombs. Aerial bombardment alone has killed 55% at least of the total number of victims, while shelling using heavy artillery and tanks killed 14%. The remaining death toll is divided between various kinds of weapons ranging from machine guns, to snipers, to mortar shells, to chemical weapons, to cluster munitions, and then slaughtering using white weapons.

Kurdish Self-management forces, primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party, a branch for The Kurdistan Workers' Party in Syria, killed no less than 146 Syrian civilians.

All armed opposition factions, including Islamic factions, have killed no less than 1048 civilians.

Other parties, a category that includes bombings we couldn’t identify the groups behind them, and bullets of unknown source, landmines of unknown source, and drowning in addition to Jordanian, Lebanese, and Turkish forces, were responsible for the killing of 951 civilians in 2016.

Comparisons between two sides provide a closer look. For example, when comparing the Syrian regime with ISIS, we find that the Syrian regime has killed six times more civilians than ISIS, while Russian forces, who claimed that they have entered Syria for the purpose of fighting the group, have killed three times more Syrians than ISIS. We believe these figures came to be because both the Syrian and Russian regimes have the resources of a military state including an air force, which these two regimes use on a daily basis to bomb civilian-populated neighborhoods that are controlled by the armed opposition. In many cases, this bombardment is being carried out in a random manner, while it is being conducted deliberately in other cases, for the sole purpose of killing before anything else. In contrast, ISIS uses artillery and mortar shells. It is a very likely possibility that had ISIS possessed a deadlier arsenal, the death toll it would cause would have been considerably bigger.
It is also beneficiary to compare Russian forces’ death toll and the US-led international coalition forces’ death toll. Russian forces have killed eight times more civilians that the international coalition forces. Granted, the international coalition forces made so many mistakes, but the brutality seen in Russian attacks immensely surpasses these mistakes, as Russian forces, in many of their attacks, deliberately target hospitals and more than once as we outlined in past reports. The savagery of the Russian attacks approaches the savagery of their ally, the Syrian regime.

Given the extraordinary challenges and difficulties, in light of the ban, pursuit, and threats, we encounter, we always note that this is the minimum, which we were able to document at SNHR, as there are undoubtedly a large number of cases that we couldn’t access and record.

III. Charts for Civilian Victims, Children Victims, Women Victims, Victims of Torture, Medical Personnel, and Media Activists

1- A chart illustrates the civilian death toll in Syria in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:
2- A chart illustrates the death toll of children in Syria in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:

3923 children were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016
Distributed as follows:

According to SNHR’s documentation

3- A chart illustrates the death toll of women in Syria from in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:

2562 women were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016
Distributed as follows:

According to SNHR’s documentation
4- A chart illustrates the death toll of victims who died due to torture in Syria in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:

**476 individuals died due to torture at the hands of the main influential parties in Syria in 2016** Distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>CHILDREN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Regime Forces</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremist Islamic Groups</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Opposition Factions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurdish Self-management Forces</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Parties</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to SNHR’s documentation

5- A chart illustrates the death toll among medical personnel in Syria in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:

**112 Medical personnel were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016**

Distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Syrian Regime Forces</th>
<th>Russian Forces</th>
<th>Extremist Islamic Groups</th>
<th>ISIS</th>
<th>Armed Opposition Factions</th>
<th>Other Parties</th>
<th>Kurdish Self-management Forces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Regime Forces</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>35.72%</td>
<td>34.82%</td>
<td>16.07%</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
<td>6.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to SNHR’s documentation
6- A chart illustrates the death toll among media activists in Syria in 2016 and its distribution among the seven main influential parties:

86 media activists were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

Distributed as follows:

- Syrian Regime Forces: 41 (47.67%)
- Extremist Islamic Groups: 20 (23.26%)
- Russian Forces: 11 (12.39%)
- Armed Opposition Factions: 8 (9.3%)
- Other Parties: 4 (4.65%)
- Kurdish Self-management Forces: 2 (2.33%)

According to SNHR’s documentation
III. Comparing Sides

1- An infographic showing a comparison between the number of civilians killed by the Syrian regime and the number of civilians killed by ISIS in 2016.

Comparison between the toll of civilian victims killed by Syrian Regime forces and ISIS in 2016

**Syrian Regime Forces**
Killed
no less than
8736
civilians
including
1984 children
1237 women
40 medical personnel
41 media activists

**ISIS**
Killed
no less than
1510
civilians
including
258 children
213 women
18 medical personnel
20 media activists

According to SNHR documentation
2- An infographic showing a comparison between the number of civilians killed by Russian forces and the number of civilians killed by ISIS in 2016

Comparison between the toll of civilian victims killed by Russian forces and ISIS in 2016

**Russian Forces**
- **Killed**
  - no less than 3967 civilians
  - including:
    - 1042 children
    - 684 women
    - 39 medical personnel
    - 11 media activists

**ISIS**
- **Killed**
  - no less than 1510 civilians
  - including:
    - 258 children
    - 213 women
    - 18 medical personnel
    - 20 media activists

According to SNHR documentation
3- An infographic showing a comparison between the number of civilians killed by the international coalition forces and the number of civilians killed by Russian forces in 2016.

**Comparison between the toll of civilian victims killed by International Coalition forces and Russian forces in 2016**

**Russian Forces**
- Killed no less than **3967** civilians
  - Including 1042 children
  - Including 684 women
  - Including 39 medical personnel
  - Including 11 media activists

**International Coalition Forces**
- Killed no less than **537** civilians
  - Including 158 children
  - Including 98 women

According to SNHR documentation.
4- An infographic showing a comparison between the number of civilians killed by the international coalition forces and ISIS in 2016

Comparison between the toll of civilian victims killed by International Coalition forces and ISIS in 2016

**ISIS**
Killed no less than
**1510**
civilians
including
- **258** children
- **18** medical personnel

**International Coalition Forces**
Killed no less than
**537**
civilians
including
- **213** women
- **20** media activists

According to SNHR documentation
IV. Who is Responsible for Protecting Civilians in Syria?

First and foremost, the responsibility falls upon the state and its apparatuses to protect the people. However, when the state apparatuses are merely a tool for violence in the hands of the ruling regime who is killing and destroying the people and the state and continues to do so for days, months, and years with no one to put an end to the crimes, there has to be an international system in place which was one of the main reasons behind the establishing of the norm of the Responsibly to Protect - established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. The Syrian state has failed to protect the people and, even more, the current regime insists on perpetrating crimes systematically according to the reports of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which is affiliated to the Human Rights Council. Thus, the burden, weeks after the popular uprising broke out, had shifted to the international community who must, in accordance with paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, takes action collectively through the Security Council in accordance with articles 41 and 42 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Nonetheless, the Security Council didn’t take any steps due to the protection provided by Russia and China for the Syrian regime which sends a message to the totalitarian states of the world that by only signing a deal with a totalitarian state who is a permanent member of the Security Council, you can enjoy immunity, care, and diplomatic and political support.

In light of this situation and the international failure, the Syrian people realized that they have to protect themselves on their own.

V. Recommendations

The responsibility to protect civilians in Syria is still on the international community’s shoulders, which is represented by the Security Council. The Security Council’s delinquency doesn’t relieve the Council of its duties. History and the people of Syria will memorialize every last bit of what happened and will always haunt the criminals and their accomplices to the end of time.