

Statement

Approximately 13,000 Civilians Killed at the Hands of Syrian Regime Forces in Eastern Ghouta, including 1,463 Children

The Ongoing Massacre

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, February 25, 2018

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.



For seven years, Eastern Ghouta has been the target of purposeful, continued marginalization efforts that targeted the people's social, economic, and mental structure there, as the Syrian regime and its allies have carried out various patterns of violations that qualify as crimes against humanity and war crimes, such as extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, enforced-disappearance, torture, siege, indiscriminate bombardment, as well as deliberate in some cases, targeting of protected objects, forced displacement, and the use of chemical weapons, as well as barrel bombs and other kinds of crimes. All of this has been going on in light of the existence of the United Nations, the Security Council, the law of war, the United Nations Commission of Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court.

As the documentation and monitoring efforts have been going on since 2011, SNHR comprised a wide data that includes thousands of files on the region of Eastern Ghouta and the entirety of its villages. These files have been archived by town, city, perpetrator, and other details. In light of the barbaric offensive that started in mid-November 2017 and escalated unprecedentedly in February 2018, we outline the violations that the people of Eastern Ghouta have witnessed since the start of the popular uprising for freedom in March 2011, according to what we have been able to document while taking into consideration the major challenges, as this only represents the bare minimum.

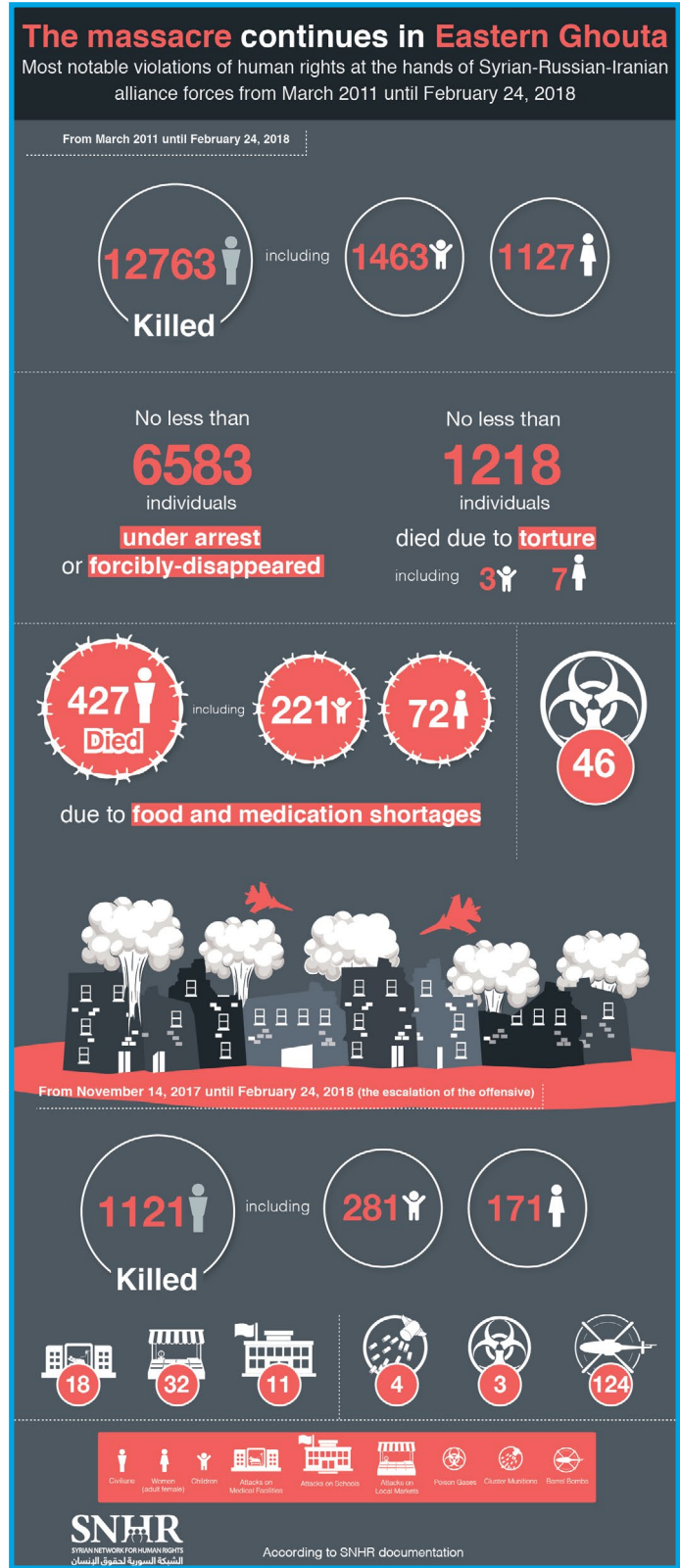
A. From March 2011 until February 24, 2018

- 1- Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces killed no less than 12,763 civilians, including 1,463 children and 1,127 women (adult female).
- 2- About 6,583 individuals from Eastern Ghouta are still under arbitrary arrest, and most of them are now pronounced forcibly-disappeared persons at the hands of Syrian regime forces and their allies.
- 3- About 1,218 individuals died due to torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including three children and seven women (adult female).
- 4- The siege that has been imposed since October 2013 resulted in a number of deaths in light of food and medication shortages in particular. We have recorded that 427 individuals died, including 221 children and 72 women (adult female).
- 5- We recorded 46 attacks using chemical weapons on areas in Eastern Ghouta. The attacks' main purpose was to terrorize the people.



B. From November 14, 2017 until February 24, 2018

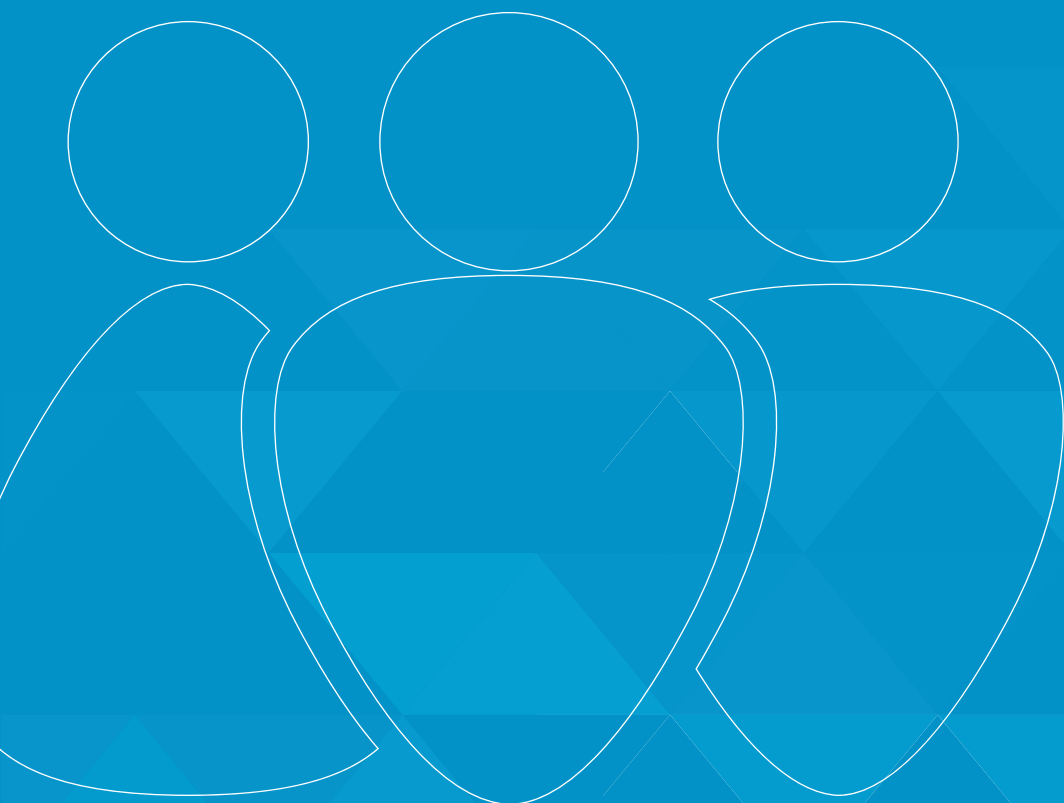
In light of the escalated offensive alone, we have recorded hundreds of violations. Briefly, the violations are outlined as follows: Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces have killed no less than 1,121 civilians, including 281 children and 171 women, and carried out 18 attacks on medical facilities, 32 attacks on local markets, and 11 attacks on schools. Also, Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces carried out three attacks using chemical weapons and four attacks using cluster munitions, while Syrian regime warplanes dropped 124 barrel bombs.



No recommendations

Considering this data on victims and the crimes that have been perpetrated against them, and in light of the recent Security Council resolution 2401, which was a disappointment to the residents of Ghouta and to us as defenders of human rights, and as a natural result of the general and non-binding nature of the resolution, Syrian and Russian regimes forces have violated the resolution mere hours after it was adopted, the same way they violated Mr. Kofi Annan's plan and all past Security Council resolutions on Syria, including the resolutions on chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and enforced-disappearance, and the same way they breached all de-escalation agreements. As no serious, effective action have been taken against them, there is no meaning to any human rights recommendations anymore.





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