

**Statement**

# **Most Notable Violations of Human Rights in March 2018**

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Thursday, April 12, 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.



As usual with the start of every month, SNHR released eight reports at the start of April 2018, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven main parties to the conflict in Syria in March 2018 - civilian death toll, deaths due to torture, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against media workers, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities, most notable massacres, and barrel bombs use.

These monthly reports try also to assess the impact of the de-escalation agreements, such as Ankara and Astana, had, in addition to the local agreements and how successful they were in ending violations.

These reports draw upon the daily documentation efforts during March, 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 entitled: [“1,241 Civilians Killed in March 2018”](#) stresses that Syrian regime forces and their allies killed the most civilians in March, being responsible for 74% of the overall death toll. Eastern Ghouta saw most of the victims, 68%, in light of the vicious offensive by Syrian regime forces and their allies, which resulted in them seizing control of 80% of the areas of the besieged Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs and forcibly displacing its residents. As of the end of March 2018, 3,404 civilians have been killed in 2018. Of those, 80% were killed at the hands of Syrian-Russian alliance forces.

According to the report [“12 Individuals Died due to Torture in Syria in March 2018”](#), there has been 26 deaths due to torture in Syria in the first quarter of 2018, including 24 at the hands of Syrian regime forces. March saw 12 deaths due to torture, all at the hands of Syrian regime forces.



The report [“No less than 1,096 Cases of Arbitrary Arrest in March 2018”](#) records in the number of arbitrary arrests made by Syrian regime forces, as March saw the most arbitrary arrests since the start of 2018. Arrests targeted particularly civilians from Eastern Ghouta areas in wide raid and arrest campaigns or through arresting them from shelters in the vicinity of Damascus.

On the other hand, Self-Management forces continued their arbitrary arrest policies in March for the purpose of conscription, particularly in the governorates of Hasaka and Deir Ez-Zour.

According to the report [“Five Media Workers Killed and Three Injured, Toll of March 2018”](#), violations that resulted from the vicious offensive by Syrian regime force and their allies against Eastern Ghouta involved media workers for the second month in a row, as four media workers were killed in March, all by Syrian regime forces and their allies. This places Eastern Ghouta at the top as the most region who saw media worker deaths this year, as seven were killed by Syrian regime forces out of 10 that have been killed across Syria since the start of 2018.

The report [“24 Medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent Personnel Killed, and 27 Attacks on their Facilities in Syria, Toll of March 2018”](#) stresses that 61 medical, civil defense, and Red Crescent personnel have been killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria since the start 2018, including 40 who were killed by Syrian regime forces.

In addition, the report records that 24 medical and civil defense personnel were killed in March, including 19 at the hands of Syrian regime forces. The 19 were killed in Eastern Ghouta. On the other hand, Syrian regime forces also topped all parties in terms of attacks on vital medical and civil defense facilities with 18 attacks, including 10 attacks on medical facilities, followed by Russia with five attacks, including three attacks on medical facilities.

The report [“No less than 56 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in March 2018”](#) records that Eastern Ghouta suffered the most attacks on vital civilian facilities for the second month in a row despite the drop in numbers of attacks compared to last February. Eastern Ghouta saw 23 attacks in March, all at the hands of Syrian regime forces and their allies.

Most attacks by Syrian-Russian alliance forces targeted infrastructures with 16 attacks. Vital medical facilities came second with 13 attacks, followed by places of worship with nine attacks. Between the start of 2018 and April of the same year, 348 attacks on vital civilian facilities were carried out, the majority of which were carried in February which recorded 156 attacks.



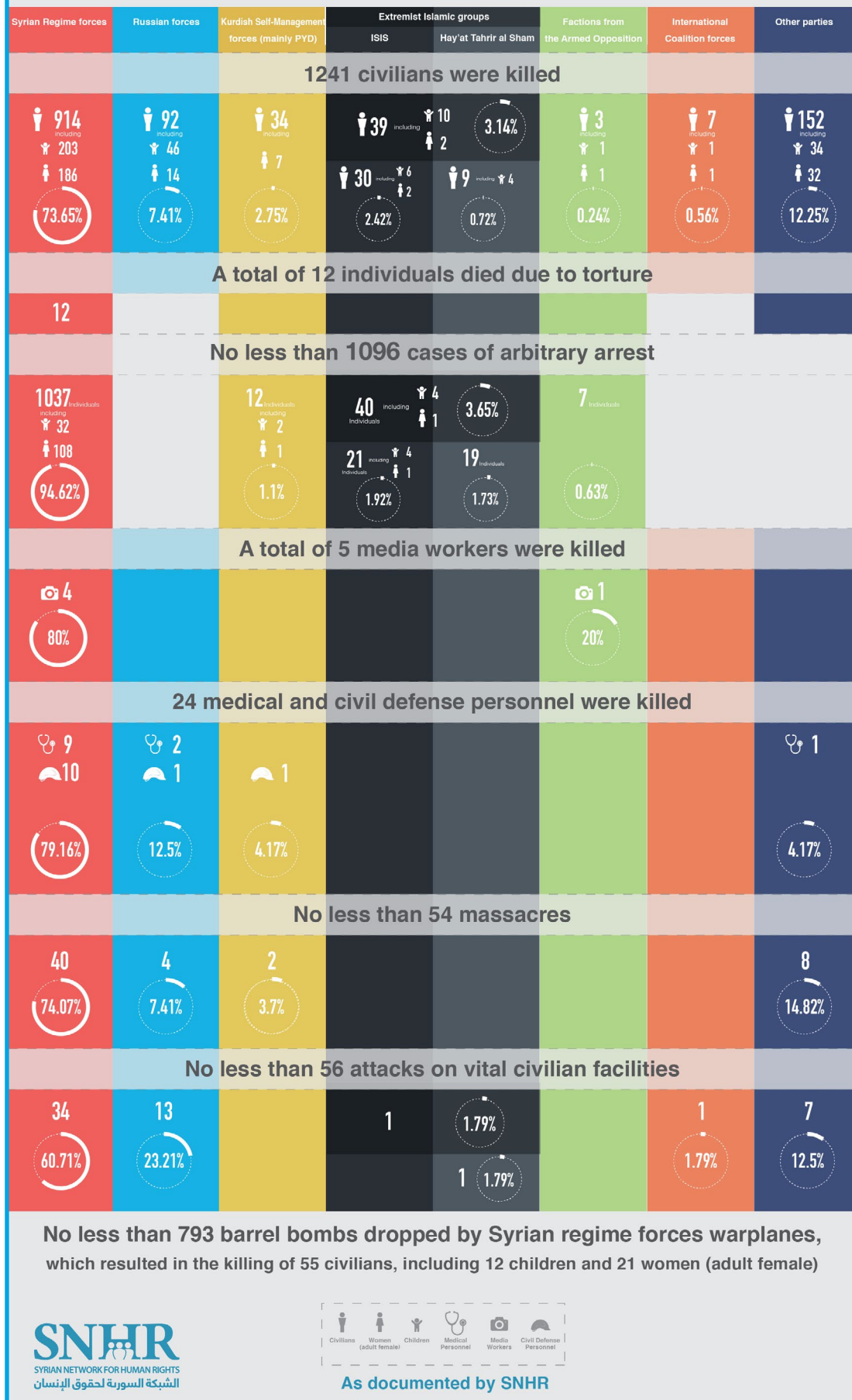
The report [“No less than 54 Massacres in March 2018”](#) stresses that Eastern Ghouta suffered the most killing and massacres in March at the hands of Syrian regime forces and their allies who are trying to tighten their grip on the region that saw 39 massacres, out of 40 massacres by Syrian regime forces which resulted in the killing of 620 civilians, including 142 children. Russian forces were responsible for four massacres in March, all in Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of 78 civilians, including 41 children. According to the report, 151 massacres were committed in the first quarter of 2018.

In the final report, [“No less than 793 Barrel Bombs Dropped by Syrian Regime Forces in March 2018”](#), we recorded that Syrian regime forces continued their heavy use of the improvised weapons of barrel bombs in Eastern Ghouta, Damascus suburbs governorate as part of its usual policy to submit the residents of an area to agree to forced displacement. 712 barrel bombs were dropped on Eastern Ghouta in March, including a poison gas-loaded barrel bomb that was dropped by a Syrian regime helicopter on Hamouriya town in March 5, injuring 25 civilians, including two civil defense volunteers, who exhibited symptoms that included breathing difficulties.

We have recorded that Syrian regime air forces dropped 1,627 barrel bombs in the first three months of 2018, the majority of which were dropped in March.



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