

The Death Toll for March

The period covered by the report: March, 2014

The report includes:

- Civilians killed by the government forces.
- Rebels killed by the government forces.
- Civilians and rebels killed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL).
- Civilians and rebels killed by the armed opposition.

The report doesn't include the death toll in the government forces and the ISIL since there are no specific criteria to be applied in such kind of documentation as both the Syrian authorities and the ISIL ban and pursue the team of [SNHR](#).

Methodology

[SNHR](#) is a Human Rights organization that is independent of any factional or political side. The network works on documenting the human rights violations in Syria, including victims and prisoners.

Please see the following link [for information about the methodology of SNHR in documenting victims](#)

Details

[SNHR](#) has documented the killing of 2867 people during March divided as follows:

First: The Government Forces

[SNHR](#) has documented the killing of 1722 civilians by the government forces, among them 266 children (nine children a day); two of them have died under torture inside the government's detention centers, and 141 women, two of them have died under torture inside the government's detention centers. The number of victims who died under torture inside the government's detention centers was 176. (As average, six people die under torture everyday). The percent of women and children victims is 24%; a clear indicator that the government forces is directly targeting civilians.

We also documented the killing of 759 rebels by the government forces either during clashes or under shelling by the Syrian regime warplanes.

Second: The armed factions affiliated ISIL

[SNHR](#) documented the killing of 41 civilians by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL) among them nine children, seven women and two media activist. We also documented the killing of 221 rebels on the hands of ISIS either during the fight between this group and other rebels or through field executions of prisoners.

Third: Armed opposition

[SNHR](#) documented the killing of 27 people by the armed opposition; 13 of them are civilians, among them are four women and two children. Also we documented the killing of four rebels during internal conflicts within the armed opposition

Fourth: Unknowns

We also documented 97 incidents of killing which we were not able to name the side responsible for them.

We would like to mention that this is the death toll we could document accurately by name, place and time through our members who are distributed in different Syrian governorates. However, there are lots of cases which were out of our reach, especially in the cases of massacres in some towns and villages where the Syrian government usually cuts all connections and surrounds the targeted town or village, which will probably increase the actual number of victims. All of this is because the Syrian government precedents Human Rights organizations from working on its lands.

Legal Conclusions

- 1) [SNHR](#) affirms that the government forces violated the articles of the International Law for Human Rights which guarantee the right to live. In addition to that, there are tens of cases which include elements referring to acts of killings that can be classified as war crimes. According to clear-cut evidences and the accounts of eyewitnesses, more than 90 % of the individual and comprehensive attacks were against civilians and civic targets.
This goes against the claims of the Syrian government that it is fighting “Al Qaeda and terrorism”.
- 2) [SNHR](#) indicates that the documented incidents include the crime of killing, which is considered as a crime against humanity. The element of systemized or comprehensive attack against groups of residents was checked out and the purpose in each case was killing.
- 3) The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) works to establish a Caliphate that includes the whole world. Its goals are totally different from the goals of the Syrian people who aspire to build a pluralistic and democratic state. Consequently, ISIS can't be legally classified as an advocate of Syrian people, especially after what the report has shown, depending on evidences and numbers, concerning what this organization has done to the Syrian people.

Condemnation and Liability:

- Every illegal act by a given government holds this government internationally responsible for it. The International Common Law, as such, states that governments are responsible for all the acts of their military and security members. Consequently, the Syrian government is responsible for the illegal acts committed by members of its military and security forces, including crimes against humanity.
- In this context, the government of Iran, Hezbollah and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria are real partners in the acts of killings and share legal and judicial responsibility. In addition to these, all who supply and support the Syrian regime are equally responsible since the regime is committing massacres on daily and systemized bases, day and night with no stop. We hold all of them responsible for any reactions that might be shown by members of the Syrian people, especially the families and relatives of the martyrs.

Recommendations

The Security Council:

- 1) Adopting a decision to transfer all those who are involved, including the criminals themselves to the International Criminal Court.
- 2) Warning the Syrian government of the results of the violent behavior and systemized killing and sending clear messages in this regard.
- 3) The Security Council must impose weapons ban on the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and pursue all who are involved in supplying this organization with arms. Syrian opposition must cooperate, with all possible means, to stop the flow of men and weapons to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and all the similar organizations. Every individual who supplies those organizations with money or weapons must be considered as a war criminal that must be brought to court.

Human Rights Council

- 1) Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning instant killings that don't stop for even one sole hour.
- 2) Applying pressure on the Syrian government in order to stop the operations of deliberate and arbitrary shelling of civilians.
- 3) Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.
- 4) Human Rights Council must be more interested and serious concerning the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.

The Arab League

- 1) Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest and attention to the case of deliberate and arbitrary killing in Syria.
- 2) Applying political and Diplomatic pressure on the main allies of the Syrian government: Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.