

The Death Toll for April

*Period of time covered by the report:
April, 2014*

This report includes:

Civilians killed by government forces.

Rebels killed by government forces.

Civilians and rebels killed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Civilians and rebels killed by the armed opposition.

The report doesn't include the death toll in the government forces and the ISIS since there are no specific criteria to be applied in such kind of documentation as both the Syrian authorities and ISIS 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 more information about [the methodology of SNHR in documenting victims](#)

Details

SNHR has documented the killing of 3397 people during April divided as follows:

First: Government Forces

SNHR has documented the killing of 1851 civilians by government forces, among them were 363 children (12 children a day), and 194 women at least. The number of victims who died under torture inside the government's detention centers was 229. (As average, six people die under torture every day.)

The percentage of women and children victims is 31%; a clear indicator that government forces is deliberately targeting civilians.

We also documented the killing of 1033 rebels by government forces either during clashes or under shelling by the Syrian regime warplanes.

Second: The armed factions affiliated to ISIS

SNHR documented the killing of 24 civilians including seven children and one woman.

We also documented the killing of 229 rebels on the hands of ISIS either during clashes between this group and other rebels or through field executions of prisoners.

Third: Armed opposition

SNHR documented the killing of 204 people by the armed opposition; 196 of them are civilians including 54 children and 38 ladies.

Also, we documented the killing of eight rebels during internal conflicts within the armed opposition

Fourth: Unknowns

We also documented 57 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 make the actual number of victims higher than the documented number. All of this is because the Syrian government prevents Human Rights organizations from working on its lands.

Legal Conclusions:

1. **SNHR** affirms that 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 civil 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 every 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 pl

- realistic and democratic state. ISIS has perpetrated many crimes that can be classified as war crimes.
4. Some of the armed opposition factions were involved in several extrajudicial killing cases that can be classified as war crimes

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 systematically, 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.

