

Press Release

**A New Update to the World's
Most Comprehensive Database
on the Syrian Conflict, Now
Including the Data of the Syrian
Network for Human Rights and
Airwars for 2018**

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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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.

The Data Analysis Project on human rights violations in Syria, coordinated by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), has issued a new update for 2018, primarily focusing on newly added data which was shared by the Syrian Network for Human Rights with the Center in accordance with an agreement signed between the two parties, as well as the data from Airwars for 2018.

The international center, which specializes in analyzing data from conflicts worldwide, confirmed that the data which it has included from the Syrian Network for Human Rights on the Syrian conflict in 2018 led to the inclusion of more than 1,100 additional events to its database for 2018, with this information mostly covering events which were not previously documented in the Center's database for the year. The Center added that these events illustrate in detail the violence perpetrated by a wide range of actors in the Syrian conflict, covering 13 areas across the territory of Syria. Finally, the Center said that this information received from the Syrian Network for Human Rights for 2018 has contributed to enhancing the coverage of more than 1,150 events in the overall data analysis project, which contributed significantly to increasing precision in the identification of the actors responsible for violations and reported fatalities.

According to the [statement](#) issued by the Center, the overall conflict levels and reported fatalities were as follows:

- More than 88,200 conflict-related fatalities are reported in Syria from January 2017 through March 2019¹, including 54,800 in 2017; 30,200 in 2018; and 3,200 so far in 2019.
- As levels of violence fell throughout 2018, reported fatalities decreased by approximately 45% from 2017.
- Overall reported fatality rates have continued declining into the first three months of 2019, with around a quarter of the number of reported fatalities recorded during the same period in 2018 (approximately 3,200 compared to 12,800).

¹ Fatality numbers are frequently the most biased and poorly reported component of conflict data. While ACLED codes the most conservative reports of fatality counts to minimize over-counting, this does not account for biases that exist around fatality counts at-large



Violence targeting civilians was documented as follows:

- Between January 2017 and March 2019, ACLED records more than 13,500 direct attacks targeting civilians, resulting in approximately 30,600 reported fatalities², including approximately 19,900 in 2017; 10,100 in 2018; and 600 so far in 2019.
- Responsibility for the highest number of reported civilian fatalities in Syria is linked to military forces loyal to the Syrian regime, with over 11,700 reported fatalities from January 2017 to March 2019, including approximately 5,500 in 2018, stemming from the direct involvement of these forces.

Percentage of reported civilian fatalities from direct targeting, 2017-2019 (approximate) is distributed by actor as follows:

- o Syrian Regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias): 38%
- o International Coalition forces: 15%
- o Extremist Islamist groups:
 - o ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): 11%
 - o Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (an alliance composed of Fateh al Sham Front and a number of factions of the Armed Opposition): 0.6%
- o Russian forces: 9%
- o Turkish forces: 3%
- o Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party): 2%

For more information about the project, its objectives and its participants, please see [the following article](#)

² This figure includes only civilians killed as a result of direct civilian targeting. It does not include collateral civilian fatalities. As such, the number is assumed to represent an underestimate of the total conflict-related civilian fatalities in Syria.





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