

# **A total of 217,764 Civilians Killed, including 27,296 Children, 93% of them Killed at the hands of the Syrian-Russian Alliance**

Toll of Most Notable Violations of  
Human Rights on the Seven  
Anniversary of the Popular  
Uprising in Syria

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday, March 14, 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.



## Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Extrajudicial Killing
- III. Arbitrary Arrest and Enforced-Disappearance
- IV. Torture
- V. Siege
- VI. Indiscriminate Attacks and Prohibited Weapons
- VII. Attacks on Civilian Objects
- VIII. Forced Displacement
- IX. Recommendations

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## I. Introduction

The popular uprising of March 2011 formed an exceptional turn in the Syrian people fight for freedom and liberation from one of the cruelest regimes not just in the Middle East, but in the world. As the past seven years have proven the sadism, cruelty, bloodiness, and brutality that the governing regime faced the people with, these people who came out demanding change to this nepotism-based security regime, and this is the essence of the popular uprising, far from the elements and changes that manipulated it and interfered with it later on. As this nepotism-based regime obliterated any form of political activities, and his main concern became the continuity of its ruling forever, and used his complete control of the state administrations, especially the army and the security forces, and moved it against the people to oppress the Syrian community and destroy it for decades to come.

The Syrian people have suffered, especially those involved in the popular uprising against the nepotism-based ruling regime to levels of violence and brutality that are unprecedented in the modern age, and it reached the level of using chemical weapons against civilians to terrorize them and forcing them to surrender and to guarantee their return to the authori-



tarian regime, through sadistic torture in detention center that reached genocide levels, as well as siege and starvation of tens of thousands of civilians including women, children, and elders, and even though it wasn't surprising to some Syrians the levels of brutality of the Assad family ruling regime, which they witnessed for decades, through the massacres of Jisr al Shoghour, Hama, and Aleppo, as well as the murder of tens of thousands of Syrian influential individuals. But what is still not comprehensible is the level of the international silence and nihilism towards these crimes that have been unequivocally documented by local, national, and international organizations, but even worse some of the states, convoys, mediators, and officials, are advertising the idea of ending the popular demands of dignity, freedom, ending the ruling to this family regime, and democratic transition, and limit it to "realistic" demands, instead of holding the butchers enemies of humanity accountable.

Over the past seven years, the Syrian Network for Human Rights documented horrible violations, and talked to tens of thousands of survivors and witnesses, and the documentation process is still ongoing, to keep the history of Syria from changing, and in hope of reaching justice by holding the criminals accountable, and that's the reason for our motto "No Justice without Accountability".

These days have witnessed a military campaign that have been the most violent, barbaric, heaviest bombing, and destructive since the beginning of the popular movement until now. The campaign is targeting Eastern Ghouta areas, as the towns have been leveled almost completely, and their residents displaced, and these attacks and siege are threatening the lives of around 350 thousands Syrians.

We present in this report the toll of violations of human rights we were able to document in the Syrian Network for Human Rights data since the beginning of the popular movement towards democracy in Syria in March 2011 to March 2018, and these statistics represent the bare minimum in light of the difficulties and challenges of the documentation process, for more details on the methodology of the gathering and investigating the information visit our [methodology](#)

### **Chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights Fadel Abdul Ghany Said:**

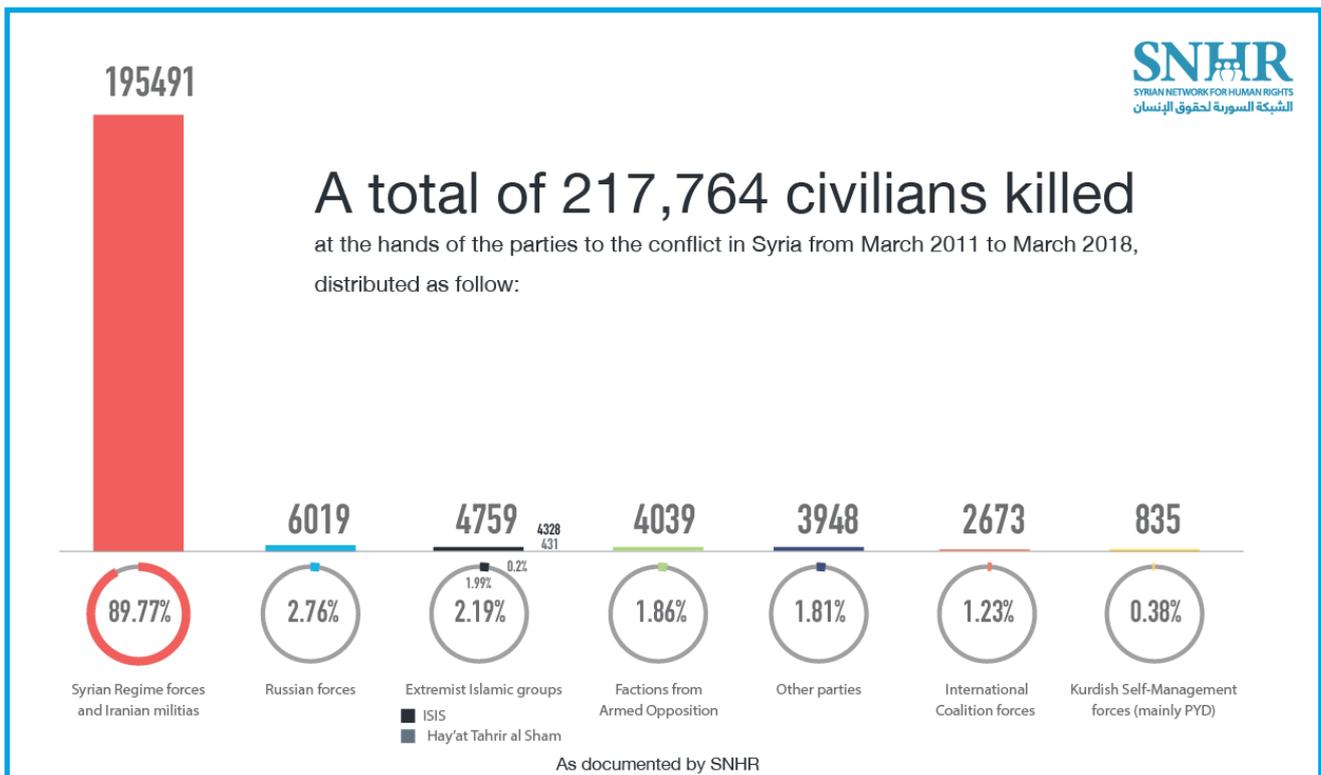
"After almost complete end of ISIS, the essence of the Syrian conflict rose to the front again, as it is a conflict between a bloody family ruling regime and a popular movement that later became armed movement, and any attempt to overlook this equation will not lead to any form of stability, but will lead to more years of displacement and killing, in light of the international community complete absence".



## II. Extrajudicial Killing

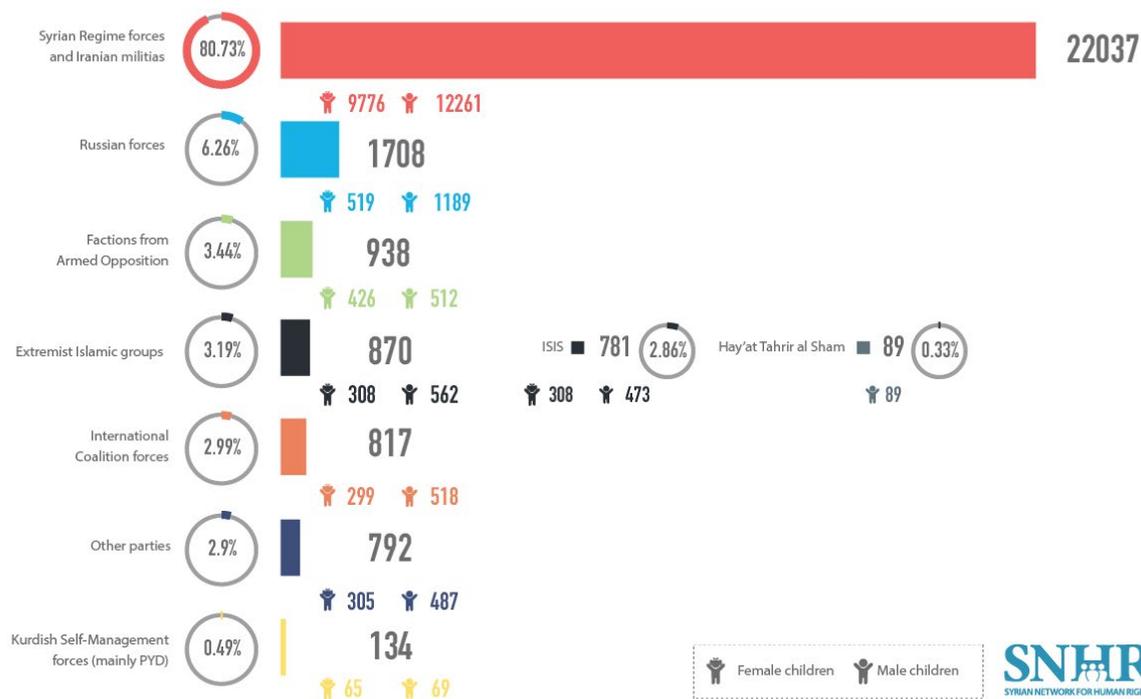
Extrajudicial killing is the most serious violations that civilians are facing in Syria, as it has been practiced ceaselessly on a daily basis for the past seven years, and in a widespread manner indiscriminate bombardment, artillery, prohibited chemical weapons, improvised ammunition, sniping, and other kinds of weapons that the Syrian regime and its two allies, the Russian and Iranian regimes, have used primarily against civilian populated areas with an utter disregard for the rules of the customary humanitarian law.

Between the start of the popular uprising for freedom in Syria in March 2011, and March 2018, no less than 217,764 civilian deaths have been recorded, including 27,296 children and 14,028 women (adult female) who have been recorded, in the course of daily, ongoing documentation efforts, in SNHR database by several details such as name, place and date of death, type of weapon, the killing party, and other details. According to the database classification, the Syrian-Russian alliance has been responsible for 92.5% of the overall death toll. Also, child and women deaths have exceeded 18% of the overall death toll, which is a considerably high percentage that indicate that Syrian-Russian alliance forces have deliberately targeted civilians. The following charts show the death toll, distributed by the perpetrator party.



# A total of 27,296 children killed

at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria from March 2011 to March 2018, distributed as follow:

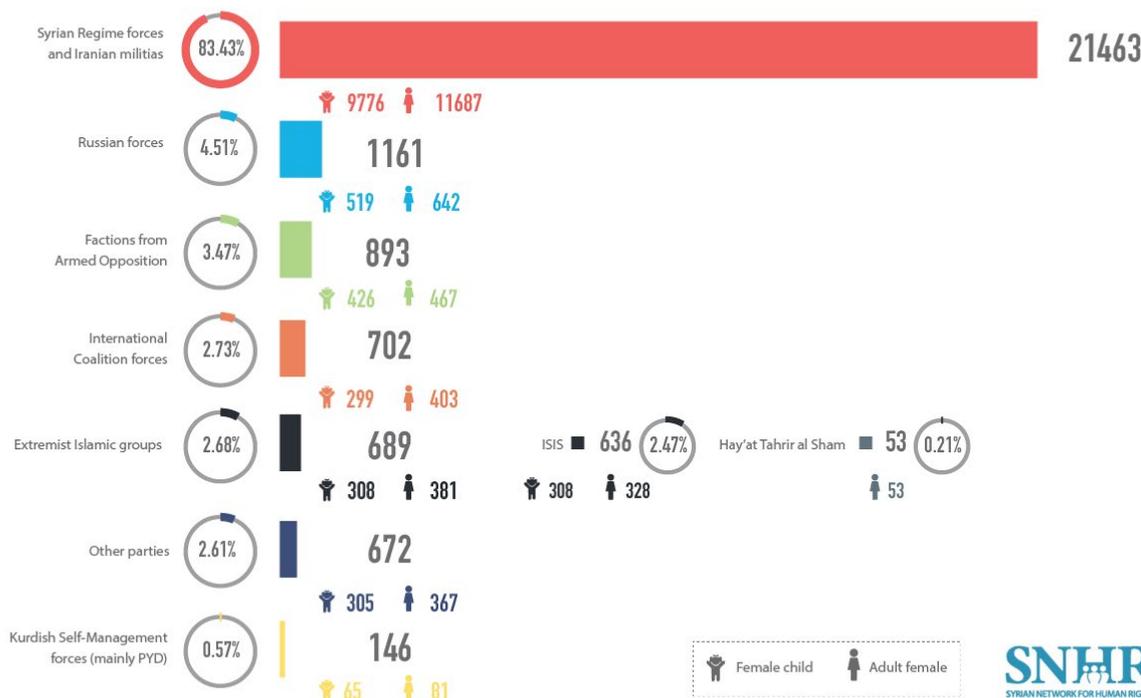


As documented by SNHR



# A total of 25,726 female killed

at the hands of the parties to the conflict in Syria from March 2011 to March 2018, distributed as follow:



As documented by SNHR



### III. Arbitrary Arrest and Enforced-Disappearance

In parallel with the extrajudicial killings, the Syrian regime since the early days of the popular uprising started a wide and extensive campaigns of arrest that led to arresting tens of people, and the arrest method of the Syrian regime was closer to the mobs methods as it was done through checkpoints, house raids, and breaking doors without warrants of arrest, the detainees aren't allowed to communicate with their families or lawyers, as the authorities doesn't even admit to their detention, and we have documented at SNHR that most cases have turned to enforced disappearance, as victims' families usually are unable to identify the specific party responsible for the arrest, due to the fact that other than the main four security branches and its subsidiaries, all the Syrian regime allied forces (Iranian militias, Hezbollah, and others) are given the authority to arrest, torture, and forcibly disappear individuals.

We recorded no less than 104,029 individuals are still under arrest or forcibly disappeared in official and non-official Syrian regime detention centers from March 2011 until March 2018.

Kurdish Self-management forces have perpetrated arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances in its area of control, targeting political activist, media workers, and policy opposition, as it also ran wide operations of arrests for conscription, arresting civilians, while not excluding women and children, we recorded the arrest of no less than 2419 since its founding until March 2018.

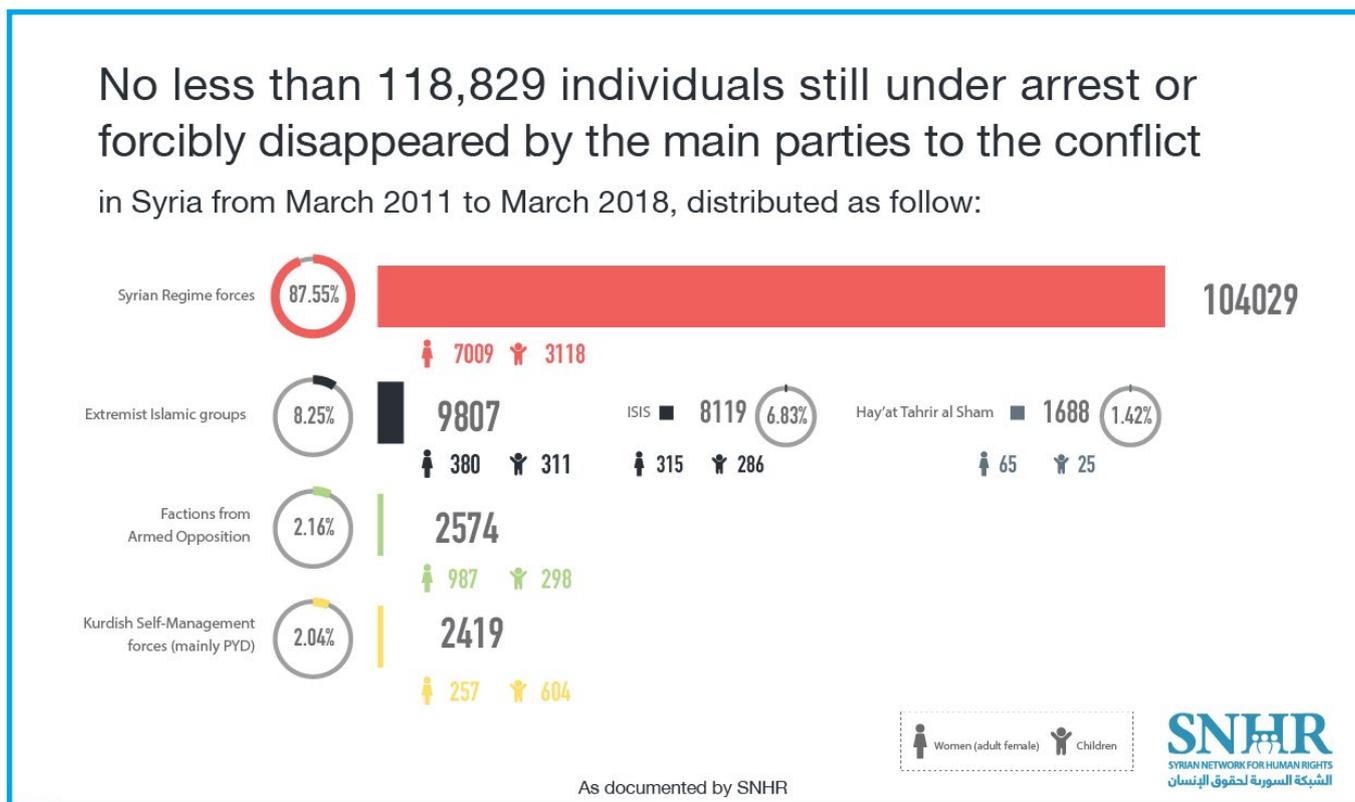
Extremist Islamic groups, especially ISIS, perpetrated arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances against civilians in its areas of control, the arrests have mainly targeted civilians who haven't complied with orders imposed by ISIS such as; smoking, dress codes for women, and individuals who are relatives of armed opposition factions members, we recorded ISIS perpetrating mass arrests of civilians trying to escape its areas of control by setting them up and through checkpoints, in addition to arresting people for forced labor, and working on forts and building tunnels, we recorded no less than 8,119 individuals were arrested by ISIS since its founding until March 2018.

As for Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (previously known as al Nusra Front) they perpetrated wide operations of arbitrary arrests, security pursuit, and subpoenas to Sharia courts, targeting activists, military personnel, and workers in humanitarian centers and vital facilities, and social community personnel, as well as personnel of local councils, and education and health administrations of the Syrian interim government, we recorded the arrest of no less than 1,688 individuals by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham until March 2018.



Armed opposition factions tended to perpetrate arrests against civilians after raiding areas under Syrian regime forces control, and in some occasions the arrests targeted media workers, doctors, and social community organizations personnel in their areas of control, we documented that 2,574 individuals are still under arbitrary arrest in armed opposition prisons until March 2018.

The following chart shows the toll of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearance distributed by the perpetrator party.



#### IV. Torture:

Syrian regime forces resorted to various methods and type of torture against all its detainees. Torture is used usually as a method of terrorizing the whole community, as many individuals have died due to torture, as the Syrian regime intentionally published the images of detainees under torture, and used verbal and sectarian abuse, and large numbers of detainees' corpses were delivered to their families with brutal torture marks on them, as later clearly shown in Caesar leaked images<sup>1</sup>, in order to force the popular uprising to kneel, terrorize, and destroy it.

<sup>1</sup> Caesar: a defected officer from the Syrian regime that his duty was to take photos of the victims' bodies, the photos were published randomly, and Caesar wasn't the publisher.



We recorded 13,029 individuals killed due to torture in Syrian regime prisons from March 2011 until March 2018.

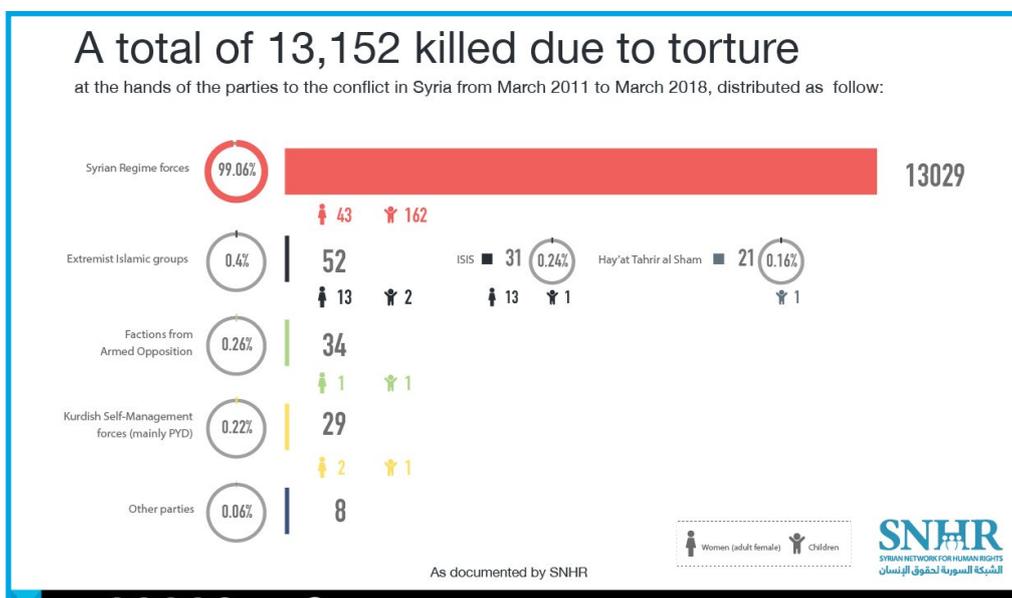
Extremist Islamic groups used brutal torture methods, especially ISIS, who have perpetrated physical and psychological torture similar to the Syrian regime's, the torture methods have varied according to the accusations, between detainees for not complying with ISIS orders, and detainees who are military personnel, such as members of armed opposition, or media workers, or human rights activist, or workers in foreign organizations, we recorded the death of 31 individuals due to torture inside ISIS prisons.

As for Hay'at Tahrir al Sham; they have practiced various methods of whipping, battering, Ghosting, and electrocuting, as this practices escalated noticeably since mid-2016, as we documented the death of 21 individuals due to torture in its prisons until March 2018.

Kurdish Self-management forces use harmful battering of the head and breaking bones by Klashinkovs or iron batons in its detention centers, we recorded the death of no less than 29 individuals due to torture in its prisons since its founding until March 2018.

Armed opposition forces resorted to severe battering by wooden and iron batons, and electric cables, mainly towards spies, or agents accused of working for the Syrian regime, or those who committed crimes such as murder, or adultery, and these practices haven't reached systematic level as it wasn't used in wide manner against civilians, we recorded the death of 34 individuals due to torture until March 2018 at the hands of all armed opposition factions.

The following chart shows the toll of victims of death due to torture distributed by the perpetrator party.



## V. Siege:

Syrian regime forces followed a policy of imposing siege on areas under the control of armed opposition factions, on everyone including women and children, as is the case in al Rastan and Talbisa cities in Homs suburbs, and the Eastern and Western Ghoutas, as well as the southern neighborhoods of Damascus, the siege still imposed on many areas such as Homs northern suburbs and Eastern Ghouta towns. The siege and the blocking of food and medicine leads to many cases of malnutrition, and dehydration, in addition to the spread of epidemics caused by pollution from garbage overload, and the damages to the sewer system, we recorded the death of 914 civilians including 398 children and 187 women (adult female), due to starvation and lack of medication in areas sieged by the Syrian regime since March 2011, as the siege on about 350 thousands individuals in Eastern Ghouta that has been ongoing for about 5 years a form of genocide.

ISIS also followed the same method in al Joura and al Qusour neighborhoods in Deir Ez-Zour city and in al Yarmouk Camp south of Damascus city, the sieged caused a deterioration in the health, life, and medical status, leading to the death of 47 civilians, including 16 children and 10 women (adult female).

Armed opposition factions also sieged towns in the suburbs of Idlib and Aleppo, most of their residents were pro-Syrian regime, as the siege led to deteriorating living status.

## VI. Random attacks and unlawful weapons:

The Syrian-Russian alliance forces alone used cluster munitions, as they used munitions dropped from the air and launched by missile launchers targeting residential areas far from the front lines.

We recorded until March 2018 no less than 431 cluster munition attacks by the Syrian-Russian alliance distributed to:

- A. Syrian regime forces: 212 attacks.
- B. Russian forces: 219 attacks.

As for the use of chemical weapons we recorded about 212 chemical attacks since its first use in December 2012 until March 2018, distributed by Security Council Resolutions as follow:

- a. Before Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on September 27, 2013: 33 attacks
- b. After Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on September 27, 2013 and until now: 179 attacks
- c. After Security Council Resolution 2209 was adopted on March 6, 2015: 110 attacks
- d. After the UN Mechanism was formed and Security Council Resolution 2235 was adopted on August 7, 2015: 54 attacks.



e. After the Russian Veto on the extension of the Joint Investigative Mechanism in November 18, 2017: 4 attacks.

All these attacks have caused the death of no less than 1,421 individuals, recorded in our lists by name and details, distributed as follow:

1357 civilians, including 187 children and 244 women (adult female).

57 armed opposition fighters.

7 Syrian regime captives in an opposition prison.

And no less than 6,684 individuals were injured.

ISIS used chemical weapons as well in Aleppo governorate, as we recorded 5 attacks and no less than 127 individuals were injured.

As for the use of barrel bombs Syrian regime helicopters and fixed-wing warplanes haven't stopped dropping them on areas out of its control targeting residential locations, and vital civilian facilities, which caused tens of massacres, and severely damaging the infrastructure, and according to our statistics the Syrian regime warplanes dropped about 69,480 barrel bombs since its first documented use in July 18, 2012 until March 2018.

The Syrian regime has used since March 2011 incendiary ammunitions and barrel bombs loaded with incendiary ammunitions but we recorded as noticeable rise in the use of this type of weaponry in the past two years, and the Russian forces were the main perpetrator of these attacks.

According to SNHR data base we recorded no less than 131 attacks by incendiary ammunitions on civilian residential areas, distributed by the perpetrator party as follow:

A. Syrian regime: 12 attacks.

B. Russian forces: 117 attacks.

C. International Coalition forces: 2 attacks against residential neighborhoods in Raqqa city.

## **VII. Attacks on civilian objects:**

In the beginning the Syrian-Russian alliance forces didn't bomb normal residential building, but rather a methodical and focused targeting of vital facilities, after they finished it they moved to bombing residential buildings, as these forces intentionally bombed hospitals, markets, schools, and other facilities, time and time again, and this proves its purposeful destruction and devastation, as this attacks caused hundreds of massacres due to this attacks.



Other parties committed similar violations, to various degrees that haven't reached the levels of violations committed by Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces.

The attacks we documented include intentional bombing of civilian facilities, theft and robbery, in addition to attacks that rendered the facilities out of service for civilians, even though there was no urgent military need, nor was it used for military purposes by any party, which would allow the other parties to target it.

### **VIII. Enforced displacement:**

About 13.5 million individuals have suffered enforced displacement, around 7.5 million of them are internally displaced in Syria, through mass displacement waves due to the military operations and conflicts between the parties, or as a result of truces and agreements imposed on the sieged cities and towns, while about 6 million refugees are outside Syria. The Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces through the various brutal violations the alliance committed, and sieges and oppression in imposing truces and agreements resulted in forcibly displacing whole cities as in Aleppo city eastern neighborhoods and Homs al Qadeema neighborhoods in Homs city, and in towns of Damascus suburbs, which clearly point to a demographic change, sought after by the Syrian regime.

Also the attacks of the Kurdish Democratic Union party forces previously, and the Syrian Democratic Forces currently led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands from Raqqa and Deir Ez-Zour governorates.

### **IX. Recommendations:**

The parties to the conflict, especially the Syrian-Russian alliance haven't taken enough precautions to avoid the suffering of the civilians due to the conflict, on the contrary they systematically perpetrated attacks against civilians, including women and children, and didn't have any regard for the articles of the International Humanitarian Law and the related Security Council resolutions, and widely targeted protected civilian facilities.

#### **Security Council and United Nations**

- The members of the Security Council must stop using the veto to protect the Syrian regime, that have been committing thousands of violations over seven years, many of which are crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- As no party to the conflict, especially the Syrian regime, committed to the Security Council resolutions on chemical weapons or barrel bombs or enforced disappearances, the Security Council have no choice after seven years but a military intervention to protect the Syrian civilians.



- The Syria case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all responsible parties must be held accountable.
- Bring peace and security and implement the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) principle, to save the Syrian souls, culture, and art from destruction, robbery, and devastation.

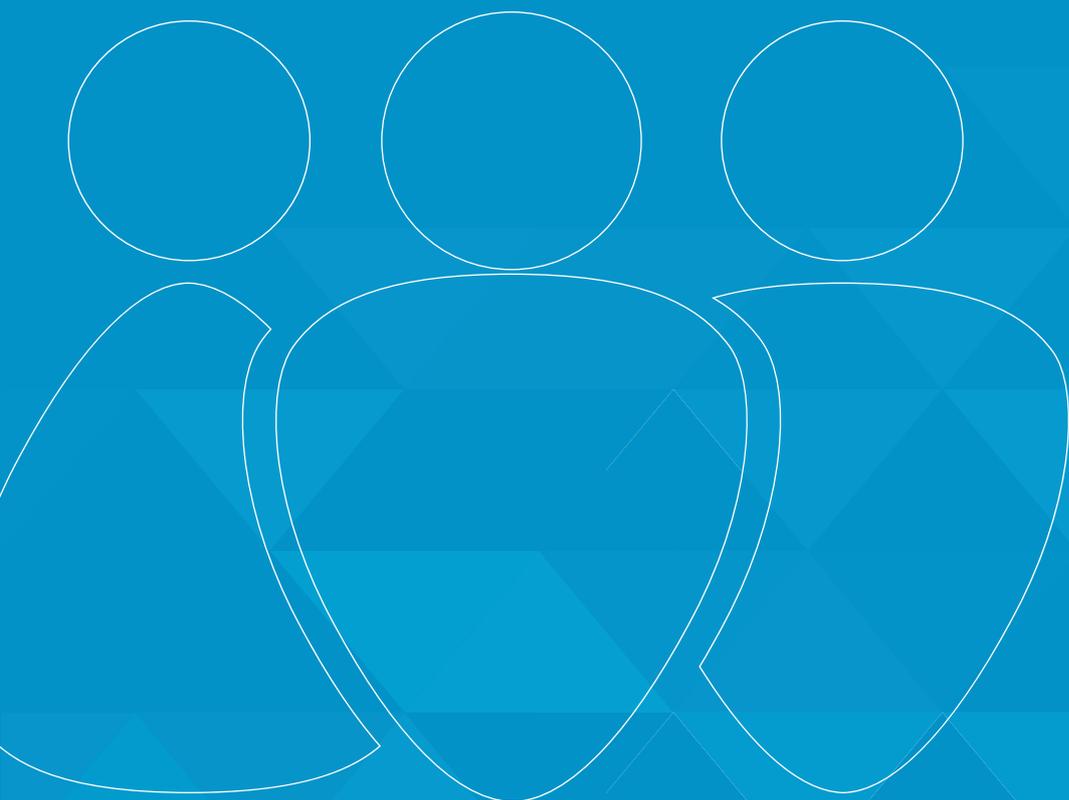
### **International Community**

- The Syrian regime didn't just fail to protect the citizens over seven years, but was the main perpetrator of every crime, and the international community must intervene immediately to protect the civilians after all this unimaginable losses.
- Apply serious pressure on Russia and Iran as they are main partners in the violations committed in Syria, and continuously supplying the Syrian regime with weapons, and for directly participating in thousands of violations against the Syrian citizen.

### **Parties of the Conflict**

Comply with the rules of the Customary Humanitarian Law, Security Council resolutions, neutralizing civilians, releasing detainees and hostages, stopping torture, reveal the fate of the missing and disappeared individuals, and lift the siege.





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