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Toll of Syrian Victims Killed by Extremist Groups From Supporting Syrians to Killing Them

A- Introduction:

When the popular demonstrations started in March 2011, it was for certain demands concerning the Syrian people, demanding freedom, multi-party system, exchange of power, equitable distribution of wealth, and equality between the sects in the aspect of living in dignity, The demands remained the same and people kept going out in massive demonstrations even after the protests took the form of an internal armed conflict in April 2012, the Syrian have welcomed UN observers according to Mr. Kofi Annan plan, and that happened in the midst of huge crowds in April, May, and June of 2012, as the armed conflict gradually aggravated, the demonstration decreased, until it lost its intended effect, as it almost completely stopped in early 2013.

From Mach 2011 until Al-Nusra Front declared their allegiance to Al-Qaeda in January 2012; it had no role in the Syrian scene, but with the continuing use of force by government forces and committing crimes against humanity amid the almost dead silence of the international community, especially towards the sectarian slaughters, extremist groups started gaining legitimacy and compassion. These groups came from out of the border, claiming to want to save the people from the infidel ruling regime, and it started expanding and establishing a mass support base.

On April 9, 2013, Islamic State in Iraq and Sham (Levant) known later as ISIS/ISIL by the Syrian community, they declared their existence and made Al-Nusra Front part of the organization, but that was refused by Al-Nusra front who declared allegiance to Al-Qaeda, ISIS started expanding as well, but early after its founding, it started violating and harassing local residents, what evolved to wide spread conflicts in the early 2014 that is still ongoing.





Most notable reasons for the people's support of extremist groups:

- 1- The huge amount of crimes committed by government forces
- 2- International community's passiveness and failure to protect the civilians in all Syrian governorates
- 3- The Security Council resolutions and the alliances concentration on the extremist groups overlooking the Shiite extremist groups that adopts a martyr's rhetoric to an extreme degree.
- 4- Some extremist journalist supporting them from some specifically Arab channels, and giving them a wide media cover, and claiming all victories even the ones they barely participate in, which gave it a wide base of people support, and made many Syrians join them, and those journalists must be held responsible according to Security Council resolutions 2170 issued on August 15, 2014 and 2199 issued on February 12, 2015.

Even though the Syrian government exceeds vastly all the other parties including extremist groups by at least 150 times, and especially regarding the most serious violations, namely the extrajudicial killing or death due to torture, the extremist groups have committed several crimes against the Syrian people in the area they've controlled including killing, torturing, bombing, and harassing the people among other violations, as we mentioned vividly in previous reports and studies, and in this report we will specifically point at the toll of victims killed by extremist groups and by that we mean Al-Nusra Front and ISIS mainly, as there is other extremist groups who are small groups, and we should point at the fact that there is a huge margin between Al-Nusra's violations and ISIS's violations, as ISIS exceeds Al-Nusra front in the amount and type of crimes, also the battles between ISIS and the armed opposition are way more than those between the organization and government forces (Army, Security force, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias) to the contrary of Al-Nusra Front.

In the end, this report assures that ISIS has killed more elements of armed opposition three times than the number of civilians they killed, as they were trying to control area under the armed opposition control.

And here another difference with Al-Nusra front, as the Front allied and fought side by side with some armed opposition factions and in some cases they've even allied with ISIS itself as it has happened in Yarmouk Camp in the beginning of this April.





B- Toll of Syrian victims killed by extremist groups:

The figures include what SNHR team was able to document:

Civilians killed by extremist in both armed opposition territories and government forces territories.

Armed individuals of the armed opposition

The report doesn't have a government forces (Security forces, local militias, army, Shiite' militias) deaths toll as SNHR is unable to collect information regarding those casualties.

According to SNHR archives and as of this writing, extremist groups have killed since it was founded 4563 individuals, recorded by name, time, place, and cause of death, and some of them we have images or videos of them before and after their death, as follows:

Civilians: 1506 individuals including 219 children and 213 women

Armed individuals: 3057

Distributed by the groups as follows:

ISIS:

1. Civilians: ISIS killed 1231 civilians including 174 children and 163 women distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 479 people, including 66 children and 61 women.

Deir Ez-Zour: 233 people, including 25 children and 21 women.

Hasaka: 143 people, including 36 children and 31 women.

Raqqa: 110 people, including 10 children, and 6 women.

Hama: 91 people, including 12 children and 19 women.

Idlib: 47 people, including 10 children, 8 women.

Damascus suburbs: 43 people, including 10 children and 11 women.

Homs: 43 people, including 4 children and 2 women.

Daraa: 14 people, including a child and a woman.

Damascus: 7 people, including a woman.

Tartous: 3

Lattakia: 2

Unknown: 16





Most notable incidents of killing civilians by ISIS:

1. Hamah- Jadrine Friday, 2 May 2014:

Friday morning a car bomb driven by a gunman named (Abu Ahmed Al-Tunsi) a member of ISIS detonated it in Jadrine, Hama, one of the pro-government forces villages.

SNHR documented the death of 17 civilians, including 10 children and 3 women. Also, about 51 were wounded. In addition, the bombing caused a large and massive destruction in residential buildings.

Photographer clip, quoting the official media, showed the mass destruction in the houses as a result of a suicide truck bomb in Jadrine, Hama.

2. Deir Ez-Zour – Baseira Saturday, 31 May 2014:

ISIS mortar shells targeted the village of Baseira, which was under the control of Al-Nusra Front, the shell landed on a house in the town, and caused the deaths of four people from one family and injured nearly five others, according to SNHR documentation.

3-Deir Ez-Zour - Jura neighborhood Saturday, 21 March 2015:

ISIS shelled Jura neighborhood, controlled by government forces, with 3 mortar shells, two of which fell on the Wadi Road in the neighborhood; which caused the deaths of 4 people, including a child, and injuring nearly 10 others

4-Aleppo-Tal Ref'at- Tuesday, 24 March 2015:

At four o'clock in the afternoon almost six Katyusha rockets launched by ISIS forces stationed in the vicinity of Dabiq town north of Aleppo on the train station building in Tel Refa'at. The rockets resulted in damages in the terminal building and the damage of Farouk school nearby, and killed five civilians from the city residents, including three children and they are: Mahmoud Ibrahim, Ziad Khalil, Mohammad Alabdo (10 years), Muhammad Ammar Assaida (9 years), Mustafa al-Taha (13 years).





2. Armed individuals:

ISIS killed 2966 armed individual, distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

Deir Ez-Zour: 1152

Aleppo: 1110

Idlib: 237

Raqqa: 138

Damascus suburbs: 81

Homs: 75

Hama: 36

Hasakah: 32

Damascus: 25

Daraa: 13

Lattakia: 4

Tartous: 1

Unknown: 62

Most notable incidents where we recorded the death of armed opposition members killed by ISIS:

1. Idlib - Harem Saturday, 4 January 2014:

ISIS executed 17 individuals from Syria Revolutionaries Front battalion, where they were captives in the camp in Harem, as they've executed them before retreating from the region.

2. Aleppo - Anadan Sunday, 5 January 2014:

ISIS executed by gunshot seven armed individuals from Al-Tawhid Brigade of the armed opposition in Anadan, after seizing it as a result of armed clashes with opposition factions in the region.

3. Deir Ez-Zour- Abu Hamam village Saturday December 17, 2014:

SNHR documented killing 115 armed men that were executed by gunshots by ISIS. The victims were the of Shaetat clan and their bodies were found in a mass grave in Abu Hamam desert after about 4 months of execution, parents recognized them after members of ISIS allowed them to return to the village after their displacement during which the local residents faced the organization in the month of August 2014.





4. Aleppo - Mare' Tuesday, 7 April 2015:

Tuesday night a car bomb packed with explosives driven by a gunman of ISIS targeted a military headquarters for Al-Shamiyye Front of the armed opposition in the town of Mare. The car bomb caused the deaths of 13 armed men, including military leaders, and wounded more than 20 others, some were severely wounded, including four children, and two women that were near the site of the explosion, as houses glass shattered in a radius of 500 meters, and partly destroyed the mosque which was 100 meters away from the site where the explosion happened.

Picture of the effects of destruction at Headquarters



destruction at Headquarters

a. Al-Nusra Front:

1. Civilians: Al-Nusra Front killed 275 civilians including 45 children and 50 women distributed on Syrian governorates as follows:

Hama: 82 people, including 6 children and 20 women.

Homs: 53 people, including 14 children and 12 women.

Idlib: 48 people, including 3 children, and 10 women.

Deir Ez-Zour: 15 people, including 3 children, and 4 women.

Damascus: 13 people.

Damascus suburbs: 11 people, including a woman.

Daraa: 10 people, including a child and a woman.

Aleppo: 8 people, including a child.

Qnaitra: 2.

Suwaida: 2 women.

Lattakia: 2.

Tartous: 2.

Unknown: 27 people.





Most notable incidents where we recorded the death of civilians by Al-Nusra Front:

1. Homs, Karm Al-Louz Wednesday 9 April 2014:

On the morning of Wednesday, two car bombs exploded in Khedari St. in Karm Al-Louz interval as much as half an hour between the first and second bombing, and the neighborhood is one of the densely populated urban neighborhoods and under the control of government forces.

SNHR documented the death of 21 civilians, including 3 children and 8 women, and injuring about 104 others, including 30 serious injury, where the wounded were ministered to nearby hospitals, in addition to great damage to the property of citizens homes, shops and cars in the neighborhood as a result of the force of the blasts and fires.

Front victory adopted the bombing and published it the next day on April 10, 2014 in an official statement under the title (Al-Nusra Front - the statement number (482)), where it said it targeted a stronghold of the National Defense Army.

Nusra Front - the [statement number \(482\)](#)

2.Homs Abbasiyye neighborhood Tuesday, 29 April 2014:

A car bomb that was parked in the Abbasiyye circle in Zahra neighborhood at one o'clock at noon exploded, then a second car bomb exploded half-hour after the first car explosion at the same place; rising the number of victims as the second exposition happened after residents and rescue teams gathered.

The blasts caused massive destruction of buildings and cars and shops and ignited a large fire in the area.

Also, 39 civilians, including 3 children, 3 women, and 2 doctors were killed whereas 134 were wounded mostly children and women.

Al-Nusra Front adopted the attack through an official statement published on the same day, and said it targeted a gathering of Shabiha in the neighborhood with 2 car bombs, and they planed the time difference between the two explosions to inflict a greater number of deaths in their ranks.

LINK of [statement](#) of Al-Nusra Front No. 486, published on April 29, 2014:

3. Deir Ez-Zour-Basira - Wednesday, 25 June 2014

Al-Nusra Front members bombed Basira with 3 mortar shells, where one hit a civilian house, and caused the deaths of a woman and two children, as the bombing occurred during a clash between al-Nusra Front and ISIS.





4. Idlib city Sunday, 22 March, 2015:

Al-Nusra Front gunmen targeted Sheikh Thulth and [Thawra neighborhoods](#) with several homemade mortar (Jahnam shells); what caused the deaths of seven civilians, including a child and a woman, and injuring nearly 18 others, Al-Nusra Front adopted the shelling of government forces checkpoints in the city through the dissemination of images on Twitter.

Link of Al-Nusra Front showing several pictures on Twitter of bombarding Idlib, and confirm that the bombing targeted the city three days ago.

Idlib - civilian casualties as a result of the fall of the March 22, 2015 mortars

2. Al-Nusra Front killed 91 gunmen distributed across governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 33

Idlib: 28

Damascus suburbs: 10

Homs: 8

Daraa: 8

Hama: 3

Damascus: 1

Most notable incidents where we recorded the death of armed individuals of the armed opposition by Al-Nusra Front:

1. Jabel Al-Zawiyya, Idlib Thursday 20 October, 2014:

Al-Nusra Front executed armed rebels from Syria Rebels Front of the armed opposition in Balioun village Jabel Al-Zawiyya, Idlib, during the attack over the villages of Jabel Al-Zawiyya while trying to control them.

2. Aleppo - Alatarb Friday, February 27, 2015:

Armed forces of Al-Nusra Front Regiment 46 attacked the vicinity of the town of Alatarb, which is the military headquarters of Hazem movement of the armed opposition factions, and killed 21 militants of the movement, and wounded 31 others, the attack by Al-Nusra Front in order to seize the headquarters and the region surrounding it.





C- Conclusions and recommendations:

SNHR believes that across the documented events that there are strong grounds to believe the killings practiced by the Extremist groups amounts to crime against humanity, according to Article VII of the Rome Statute, as these groups violated international humanitarian law through indiscriminate shelling, and across the executions of prisoners, and these constitute war crimes, in addition to the shelling which caused damage to civilian objects.

SNHR calls on the United Nations and the Security Council specifically to protect civilians in Syria from all perpetrators.

The crisis in Syria must be addressed as soon as possible, and leaving the Syrian people alone in the face of the brutal killing machine and torture of government forces will push society to resort to militancy and extremism, in the complete absence of justice and violation of Security Council resolutions, and it seems that a lot of countries want and pay to get Syria to what we have reached now.

We also emphasize that the media organizations that are harboring reporters supportive of extremist organizations are partners in crime, SNHR have evidences and investigations indicate their involvement, and these organizations management must take the initiative and expel these journalists or media and hold them accountable, otherwise the entire organization is a partner, according to Security Council resolutions 2170, and 2199.

D- Condolence and Gratitude:

Our sincere condolence to the families of the victims, their relatives, and their friends, all the appreciation and gratitude to the families and the local activist and reporters whose contribution effectively helped this report

