



Victims Killed in May 2015 2223 The Death Toll of May 2015

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First: Introduction

The month of May witnessed a notable rise in the number of victims killed by Daesh where we documented 197 victims who were killed by the extremist group.

Also, May had the largest number of Syrian civilians who were killed by the international coalition forces.

Nevertheless, government forces have killed 100 times more victims than any other influential party in Syria as it remains the primary perpetrator of crimes in Syria.

This report includes the number of casualties who were killed by the influential main parties in Syria:

Government forces

PYD forces

Extremist groups

Armed opposition factions

The International Coalition forces

Unidentified groups

Second: SNHR Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent human rights organization. SNHR works on documenting human rights violations in Syria as well as victims and detainees.

For more information on SNHR [methodology](#), click on the following URL

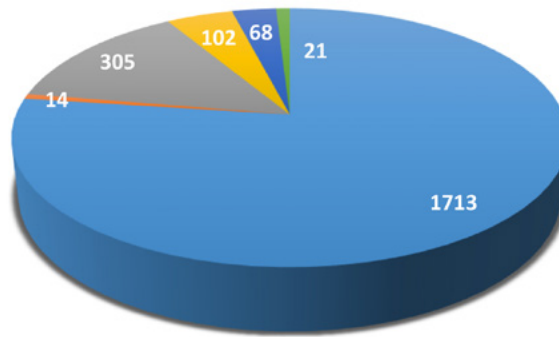
This report doesn't cover victims from government forces side or Daesh side as there is no clear criteria to follow in order to document those victims.





Third: Details

Victims



A. Government forces

SNHR documented the killing of 1713 victims at the hands of government forces as follows:

1- Civilians:

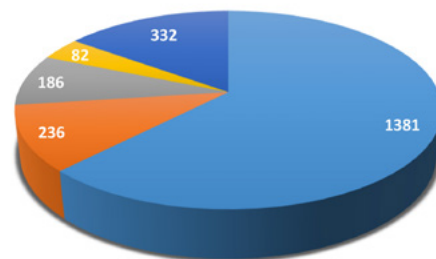
Government forces killed 1381 victims including 236 children (averagely eight children a day) and 186 women. Also, 82 victims were tortured to death (averagely three victims were tortured to death per day).

31% of the total number of civilian victims were children and women which indicates blatantly that government forces are deliberately targeting civilians,

2- Gunmen

Government forces killed 332 gunmen by bombing or during clashes.

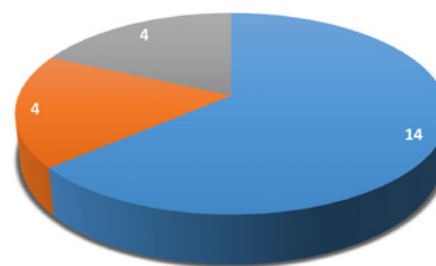
Government Forces



B. PYD forces

Killed 14 civilians including four children and four women

PYD forces





C. Extremist groups

305 victims were killed by extremist groups:

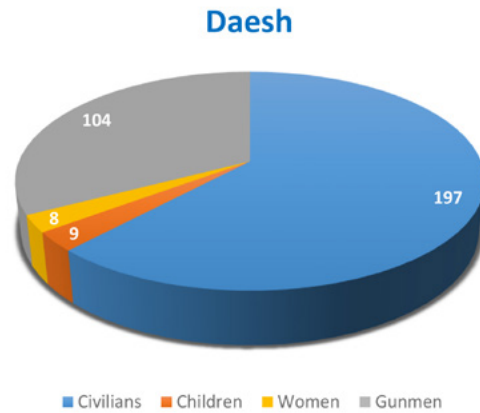
Daesh killed 301 victims as follows:

1- Civilians

197 civilians, including nine children and eight women, were killed by Daesh

2- Gunmen

104 gunmen were killed during clashes with armed opposition faction or by executing prisoners



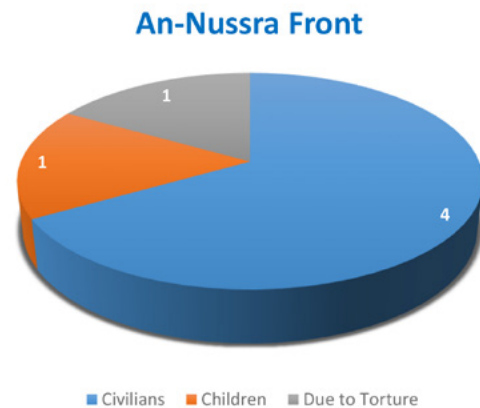
An-Nusra Front killed four victims as follows:

1- Civilians

Killed four civilians including a child and one victim who was tortured to death

2- Gunmen

No cases were recorded



D. Armed opposition factions

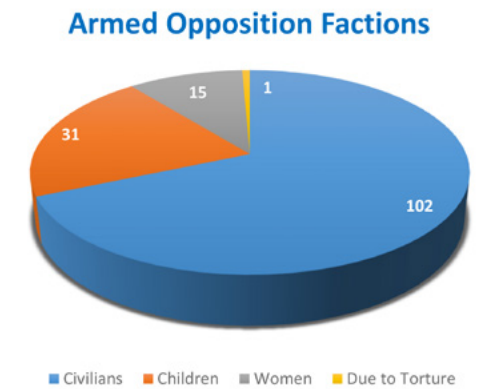
SNHR documented 102 victims killed by armed opposition factions as follows:

1- Civilians

We documented that armed opposition factions killed 102 civilians including 31 children, 15 women, and one victim who was tortured to death.

2- Gunmen

No cases were recorded



E. International Coalition Forces

SNHR documented the killing of 68 civilians including 32 children and 19 women by the international coalition forces

F. Unidentified groups

We recorded 21 killing incidents that we weren't able to identify the party responsible for.





Among those incidents were five children and four women.

It should be noted that we managed to document those victims through our network of activists who are distributed across Syria. Those victims are documented by full name, place, and date of death. There are many other cases that we weren't able to reach and document especially in the cases of massacres and siege where government forces besiege a town or a village and cut off communication. It is very much likely that the actual death toll is larger than what we were able to document mainly because government forces don't allow any human rights organization to operate in its territories.

Fourth: Conclusions and Recommendations

1- SNHR affirms that government forces and its militias (Shabiha) have violated the principles of the human rights international laws which protect the right to life.

All the evidences and eyewitnesses' testimonies prove that more than 90% of the wide and individual attacks targeted civilians and civil points.

This contradicts with the Syrian government forces' claims that it is fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists"

2- PYD forces perpetrated the crime of extrajudicial killing which is considered a war crime.

3- The incidents of killing are crimes against humanity as it involve, in many cases, widespread and systematic attacks against civilian residents.

4- Daesh has perpetrated many crimes of extrajudicial killing that can be classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

5- Armed opposition groups perpetrated a number of extrajudicial crimes that can be classified as war crimes.

Liability

Every internationally wrongful act by a State inflicts an international responsibility on that State. Similarly, the customary international law stipulates that the state is responsible for all acts committed by members of the military and security forces. And therefore the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, committed by members of the military and security forces.

As such, the government of Iran, Hezbollah and ISIS are actual participants in the killings, and bear the legal and judicial responsibility, in addition to all funders and supporters of the Syrian regime, which is committing massacres almost daily and systematically without stopping day or night. All of these parties must be held responsible for the consequences and reactions on the Syrian people's part especially by the victims' families and relatives.





Recommendations

The Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional measures as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution 2139 and no one committed to put an end to the indiscriminate bombing that is resulting in more blood and destruction every day.
- To press on the states that are supporting government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the flow of weapons and expertise to government forces after it was proven that these resources are being used in crimes against humanity and war crimes which applies as well on the states and individuals that support extremist groups, PYD forces, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the ICC and all individuals responsible for the crimes that have been perpetrated in Syria must be held accountable.
- To enforce peace and security in Syria and implement the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in order to save the lives of the Syrians and their traditions and arts from being destroyed, stolen, or ruined.

Acknowledgment

Our thanks go out for the victims' families and activists who contributed majorly to this report.

