

Statement

Most Notable Violations of Human Rights in Syria in December 2017

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Tuesday, January 9, 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.



As usual with the start of every month, SNHR has released eight reports at the start of January 2018, documenting the most notable violations that were perpetrated by the seven main parties to the conflict in Syria in December 2017 - civilian death toll, deaths due to torture, toll of arbitrary arrests, most notable violations against media activists, most notable massacres, most notable violations against medical and civil defense personnel and their respective facilities, barrel bombs use, and most notable incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities.

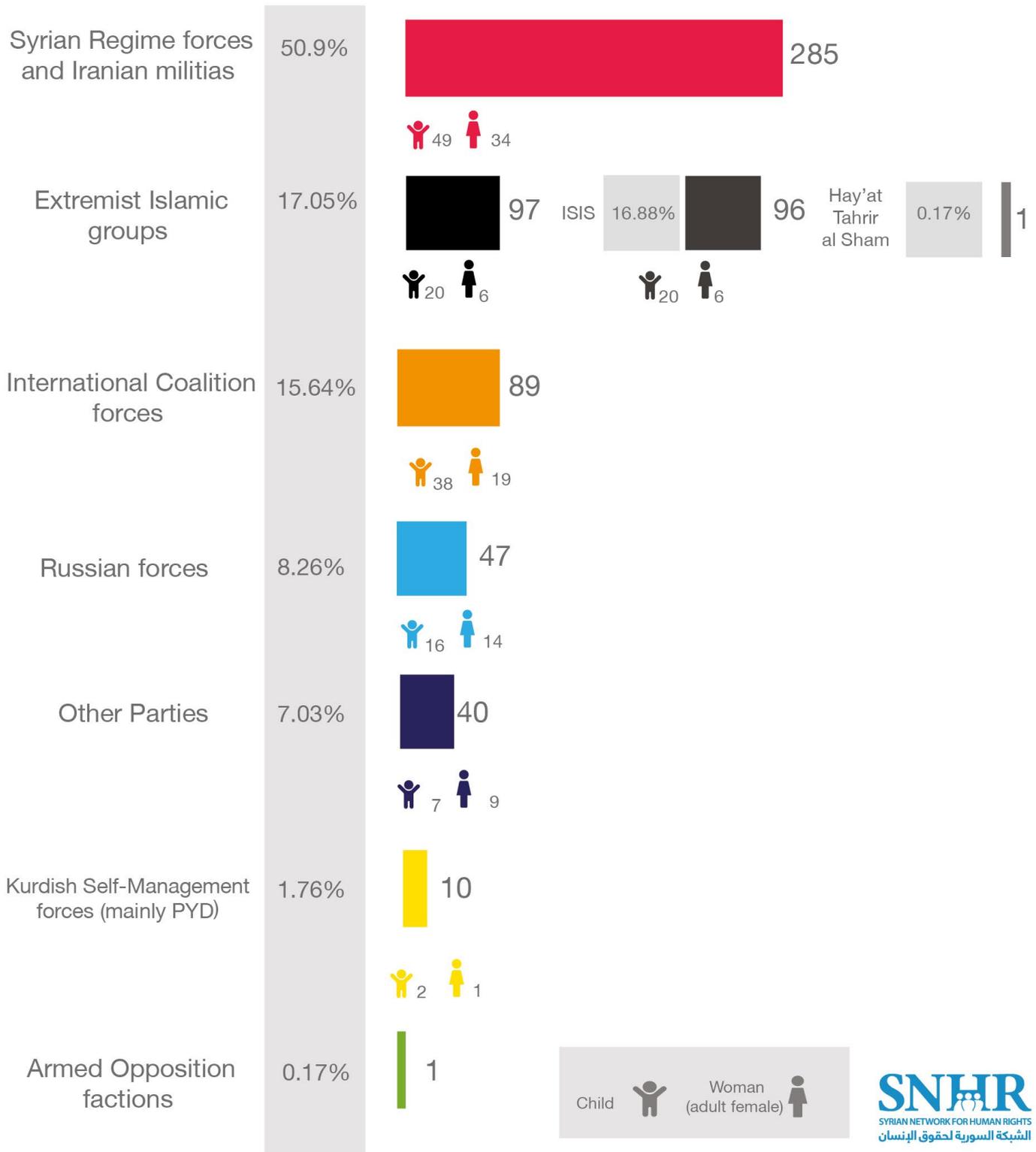
These monthly reports try to assess the impact the de-escalation agreements, such as Ankara and Astana, had, in addition to the local agreements, and their success in ceasing violations.

These reports draw upon the daily documentation efforts during November, where SNHR, through its scattered members throughout the Syrian region, monitors violations by all of the parties to the conflict, and publishes most notable news, before releasing a preliminary death toll at the end of each day. For more information, please see our documentation and archiving methodology.

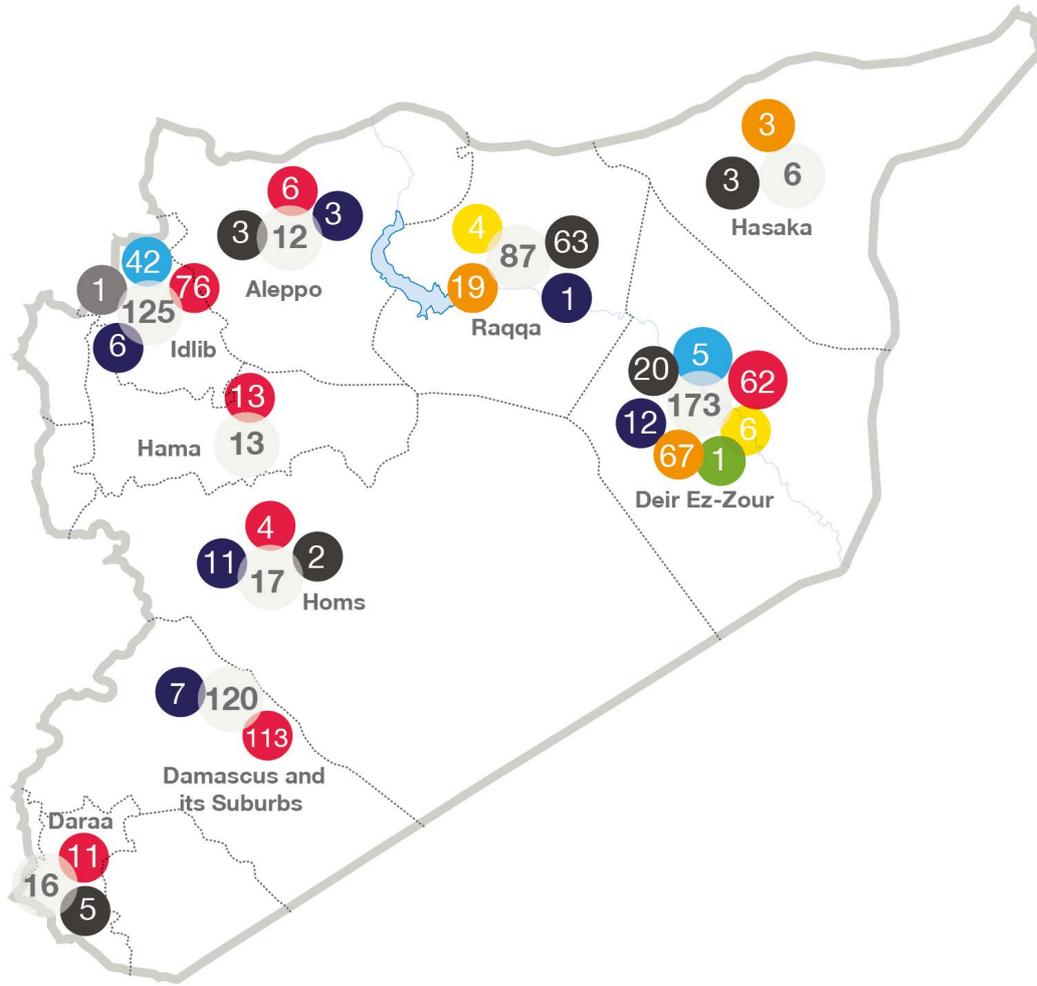
The report entitled: [“10,204 Civilians Killed in Syria in 2017”](#), outlines the civilian death toll of 2017 at the hands of the parties to the conflict, and civilian deaths in December of the same year which recorded 569 civilians killed – the lowest monthly toll of 2017. Out of the 569 civilians killed, 285 civilians were killed by Syrian regime forces. According to the report, Deir Ez-Zour saw the most deaths with 173 civilians killed, followed by Idlib governorate with 125, and then Damascus and its suburbs governorates with 120.



A total of 569 civilians were killed in Syria in December 2017



A total of 569 civilians were killed in Syria in December 2017

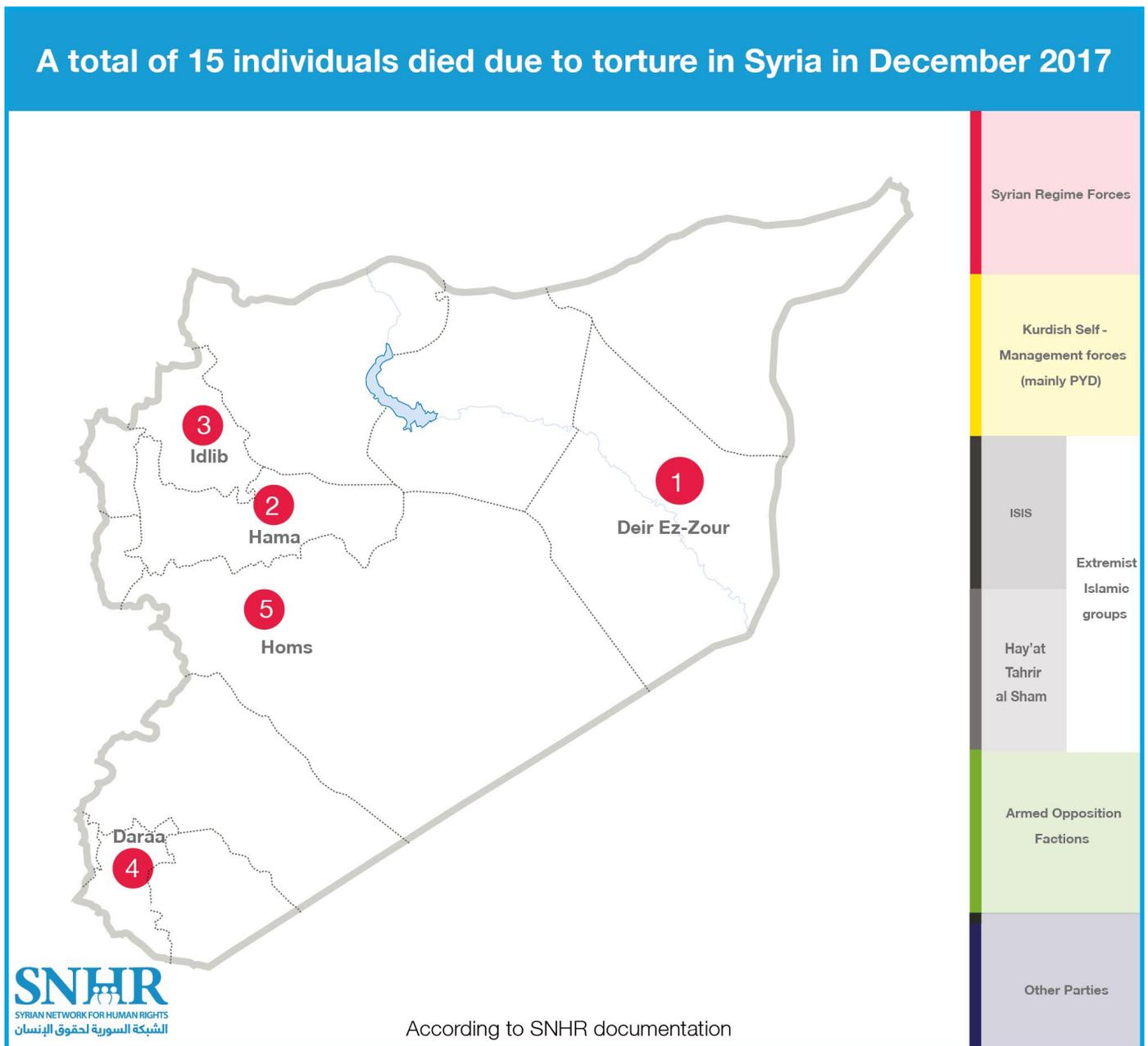


SNHR
 SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
 الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

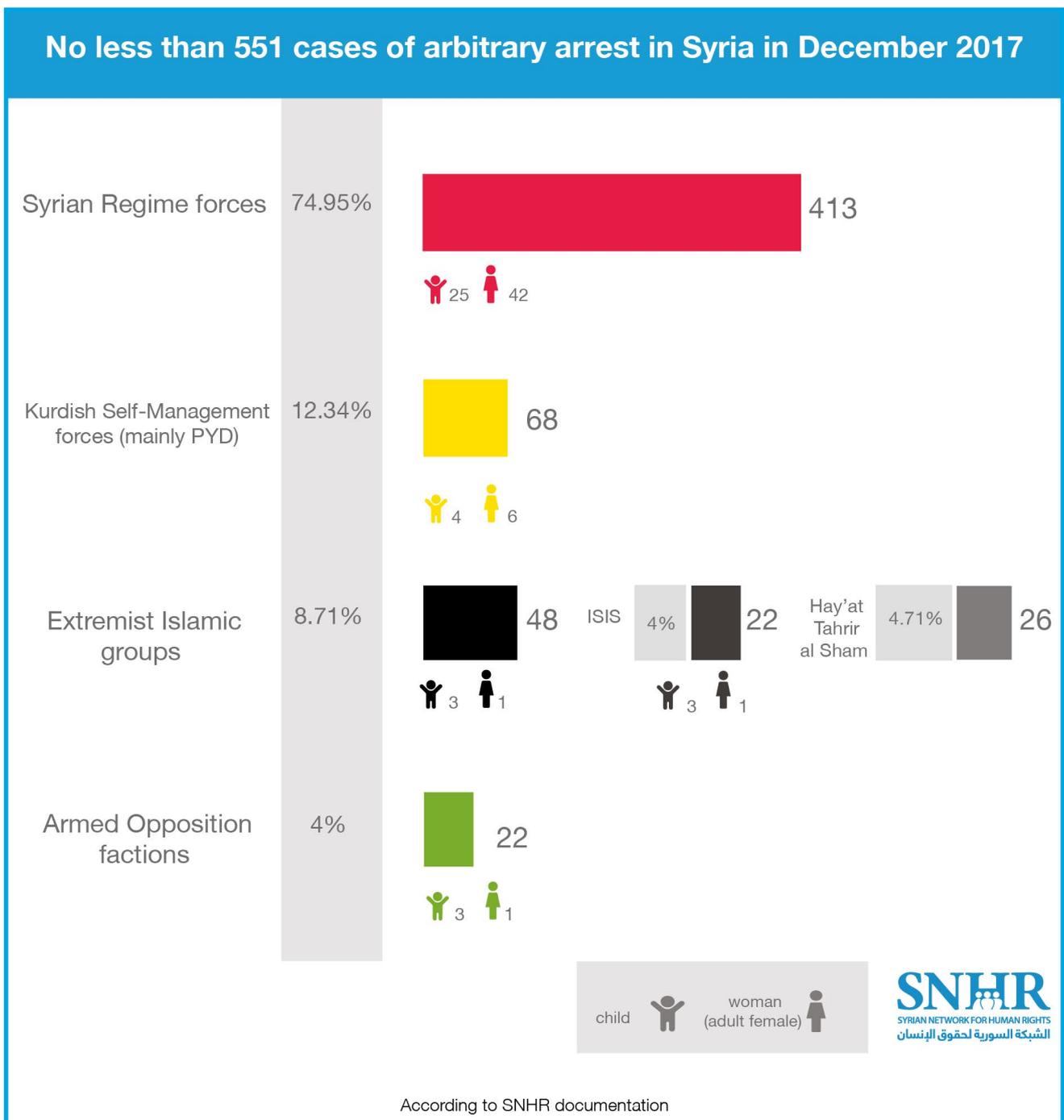
According to SNHR documentation



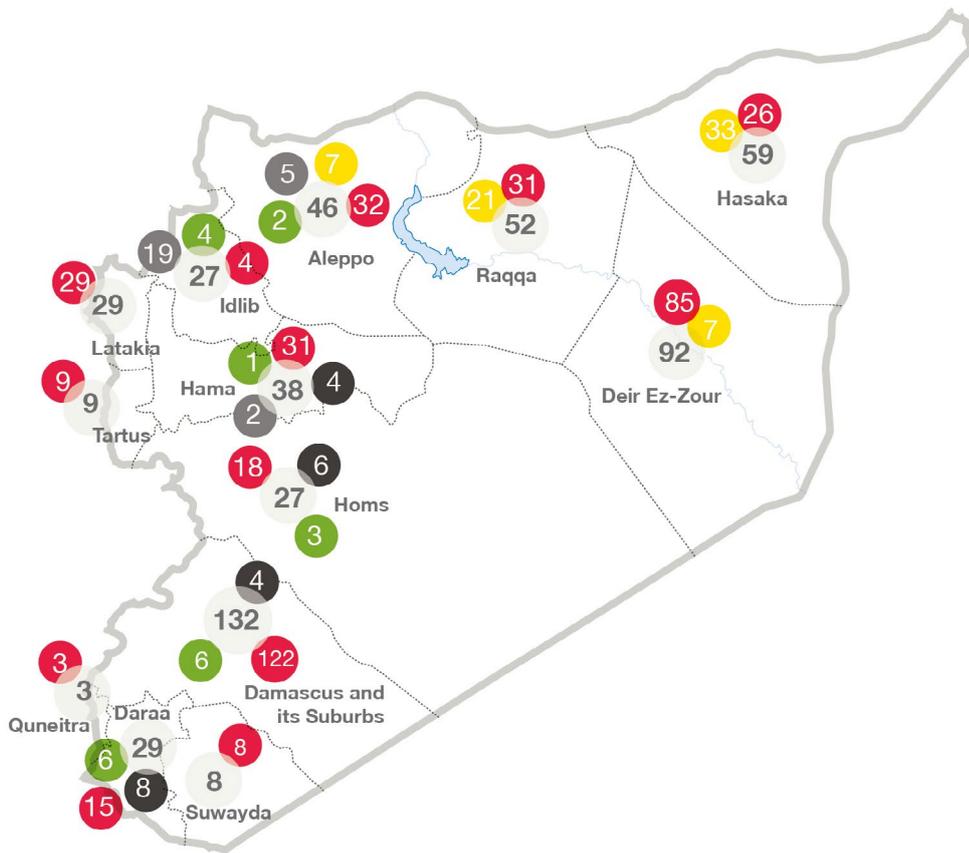
According to the report [“232 Individuals Died due to Torture in Syria in 2017”](#), Deaths due to torture at detention centers haven’t stopped throughout the year. December recorded that 15 individuals died due to torture – all of them at the hands of the Syrian regime while Homs governorate saw the most deaths due to torture with five, followed by Daraa governorate with four victims, and then Idlib governorate with three victims.



The report [“6,517 Individuals Arrested in Syria in 2017”](#), documents that the parties to the conflict in Syria have continued enforcing arbitrary arrest and enforced-disappearance policies against the civilians living in their areas of control. The report documents that no less than 6,517 individuals were arbitrarily arrested in Syria in 2017, including 551 in December. Also, the report records that Syrian regime forces have carried out raids and arrests on a daily basis for conscription purposes that targeted the age group 18-42 year old while ISIS made arrests in the neighborhoods it controls in Deir Ez-Zour city and villages and towns in suburbs of Daraa governorate.

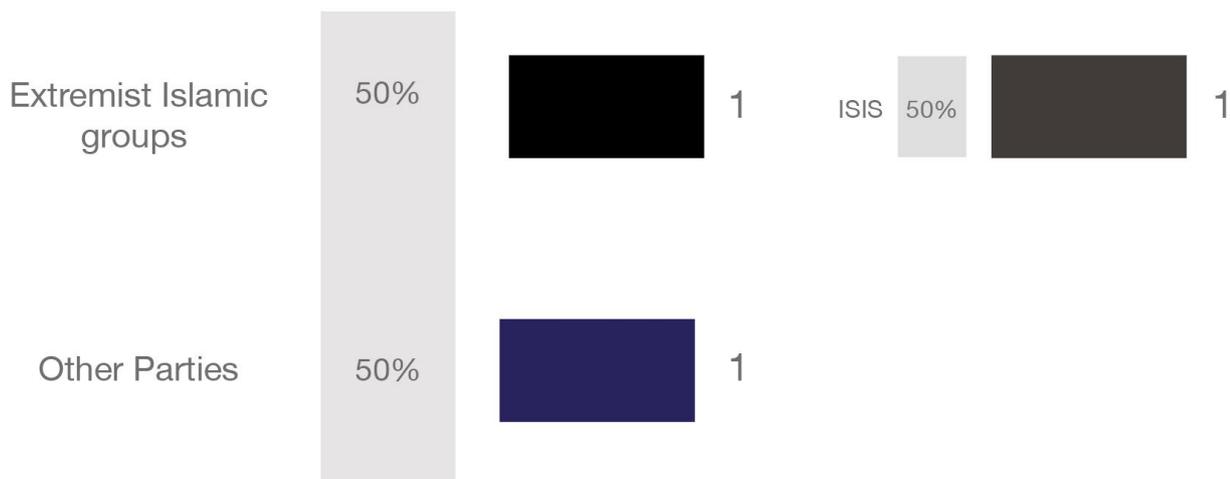


No less than 551 cases of arbitrary arrest in Syria in December 2017



The report [“42 Media Activist Killed, 47 Injured, and 93 Arrested and Abducted in Syria, Toll of 2017”](#) stresses that killing media activists haven’t stopped throughout 2017. The report records the killing of two media activists in December – one by ISIS and one by other parties. On the other hand, Self-Management forces and factions from the armed opposition continued their policy of arresting media activists for the sixth month in a row.

Two media activists were killed in Syria in December 2017

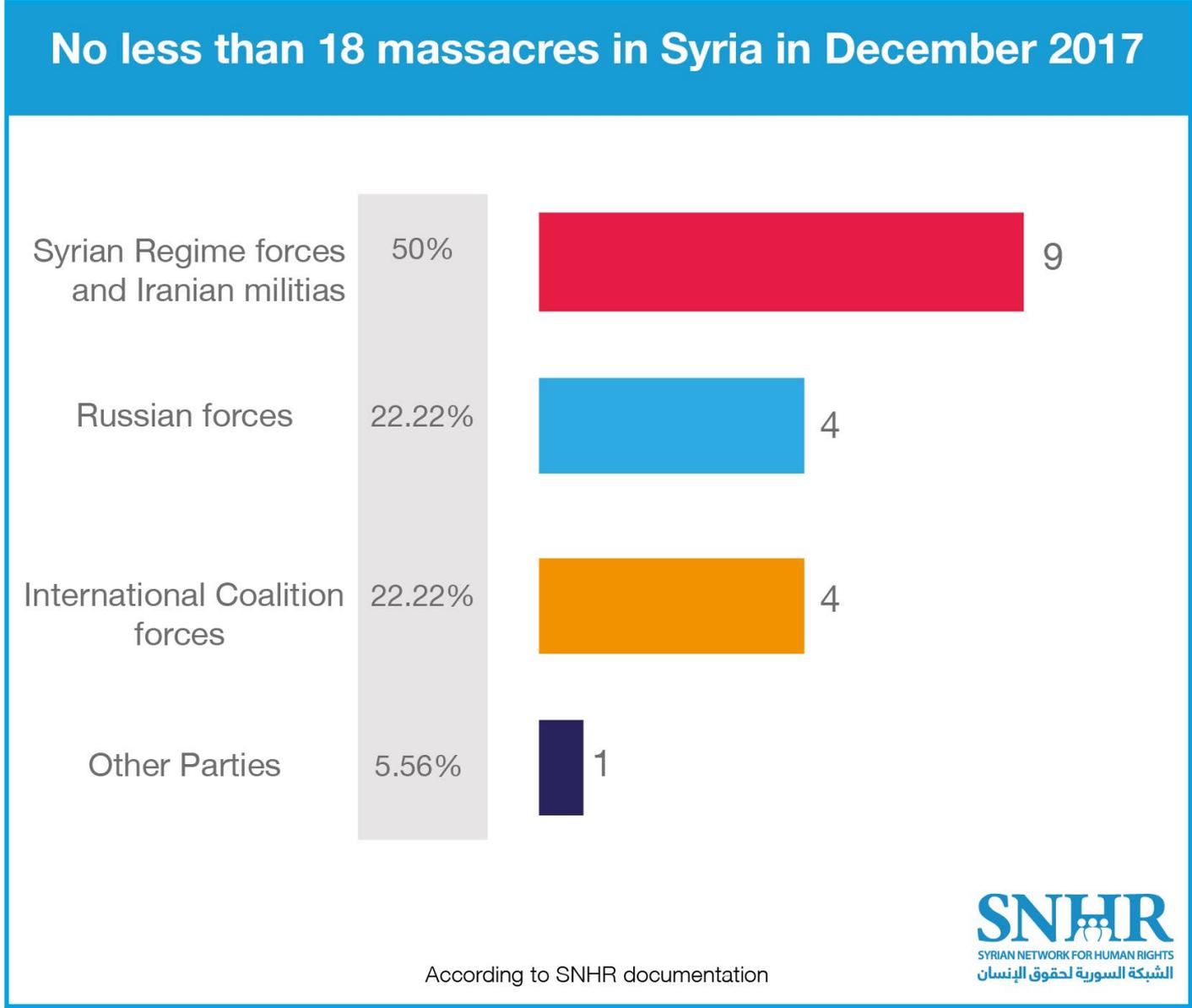


According to SNHR documentation

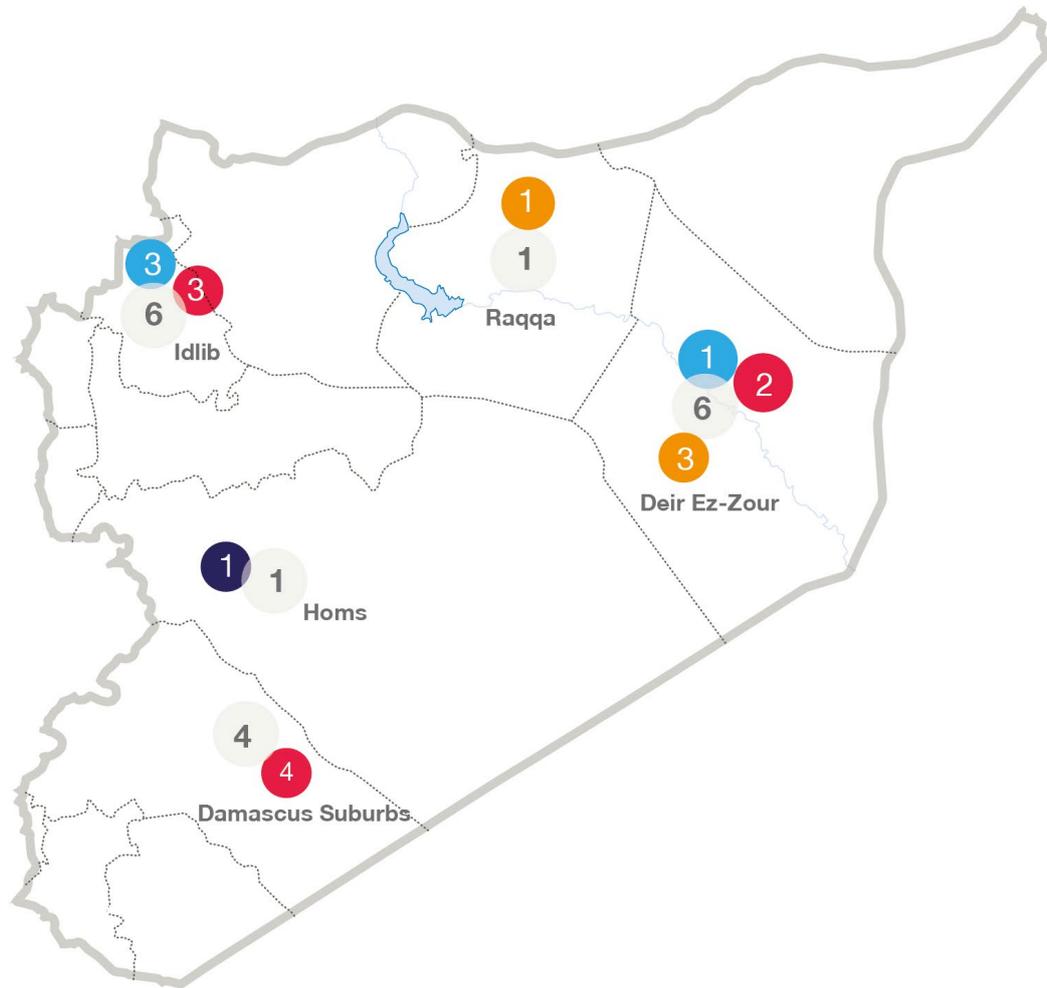
SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



The report [“No less than 374 Massacres in Syria in 2017”](#) documents that the parties to the conflict perpetrated 374 massacres in 2017, including 18 in December – the lowest monthly toll of massacres in 2017. Out of the 18 massacres, Syrian regime forces perpetrated nine massacres, including five in armed opposition-held areas. Deir Ez-Zour and Idlib governorate saw the most massacres with six each, followed by Damascus suburbs governorate with four massacres.

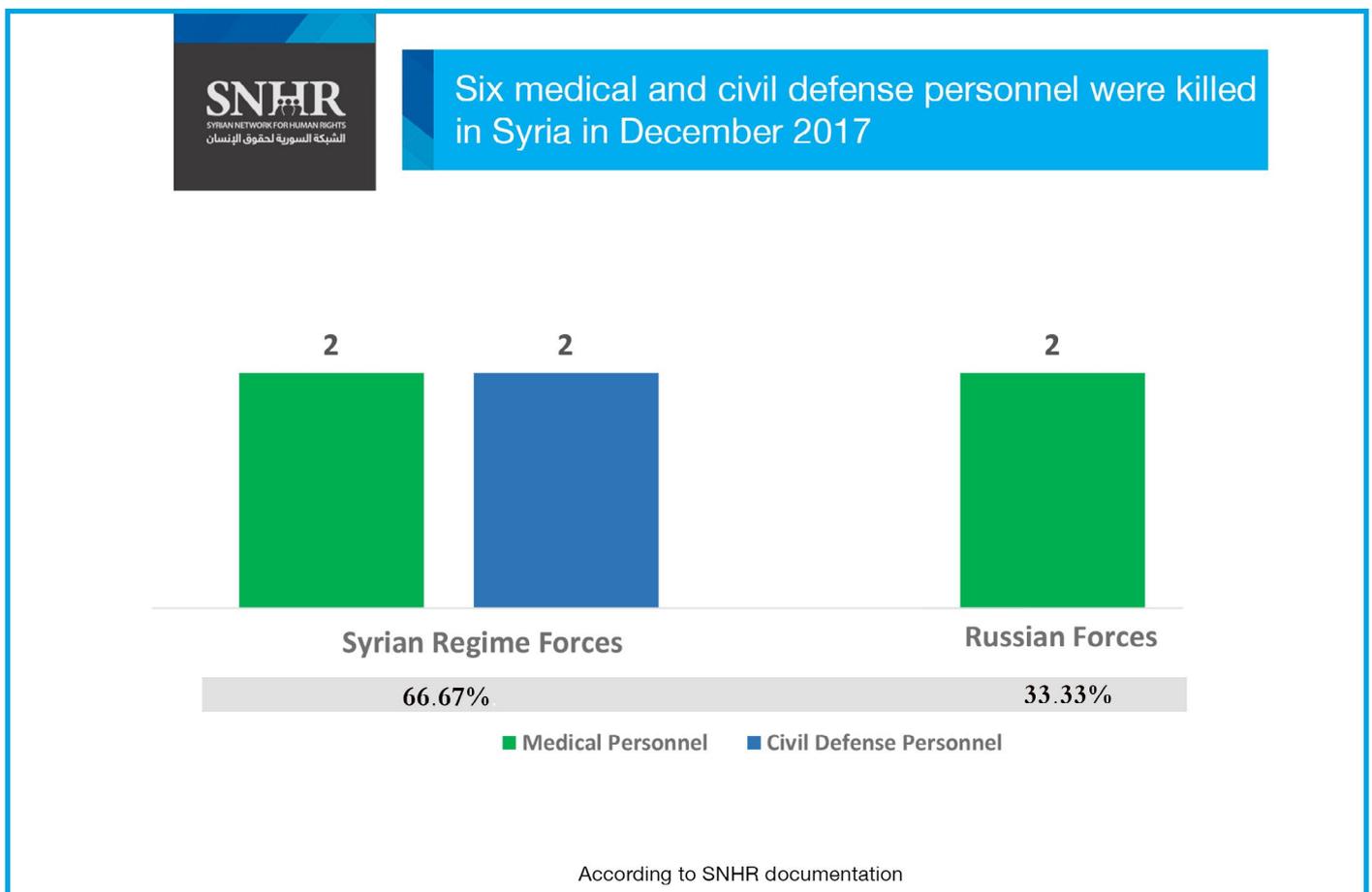


No less than 18 massacres in Syria in December 2017



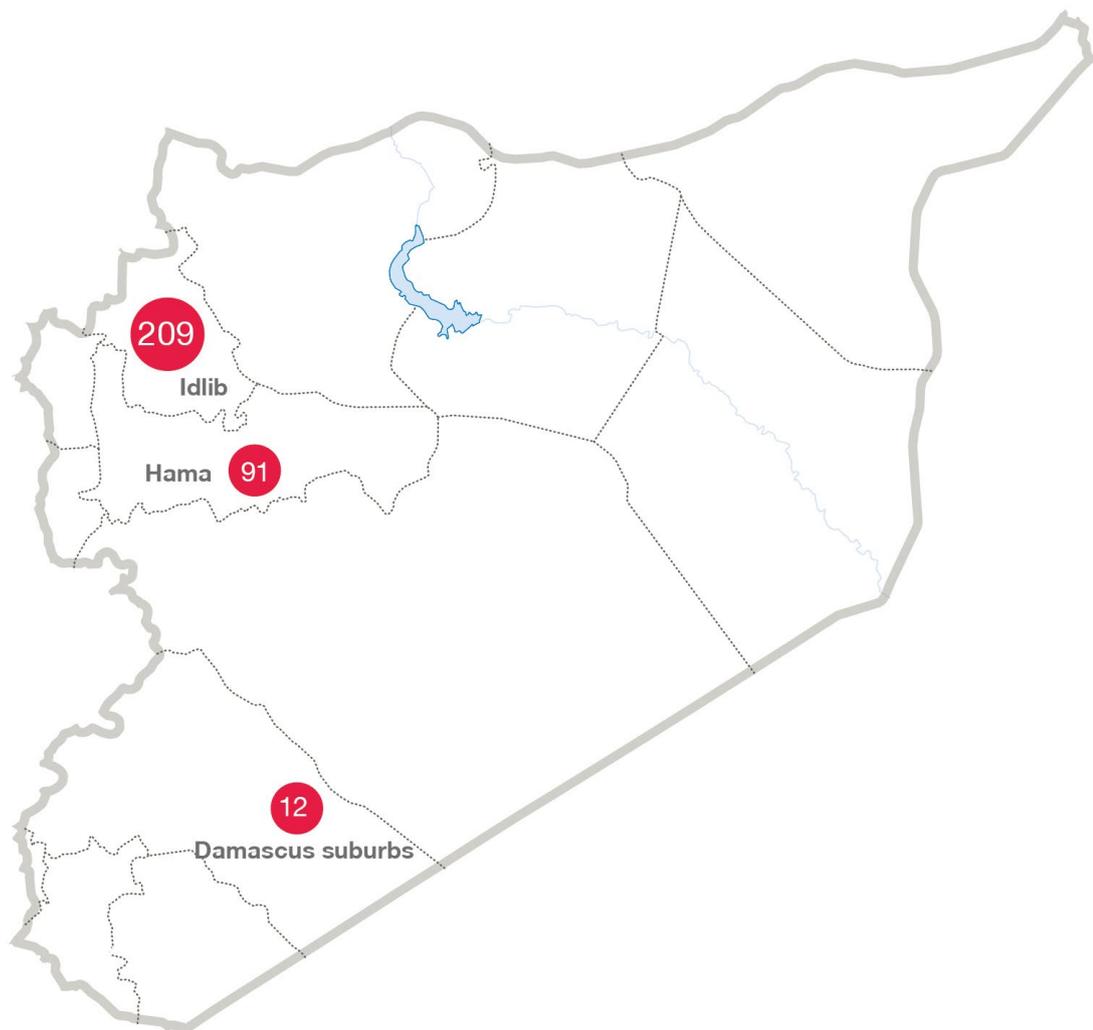
The report [“112 Medical, Civil Defense, and Red Crescent Personnel Killed, and 243 Attacks on Their Vital Facilities in Syria in 2017”](#) outlines the most notable violations against the health sector in 2017 and the toll of December where four medical personnel were killed by Syrian regime forces and Russian forces who both killed two while Syrian regime forces also killed two civil defense personnel.

Attacks on vital medical facilities, civil defense facilities, and Red Crescent dropped by half compared to last November. Russian forces surpassed Syrian regime forces by committing seven attacks out of 12, the overall number of attacks in December, while Syrian regime forces were responsible for the remaining five attacks.

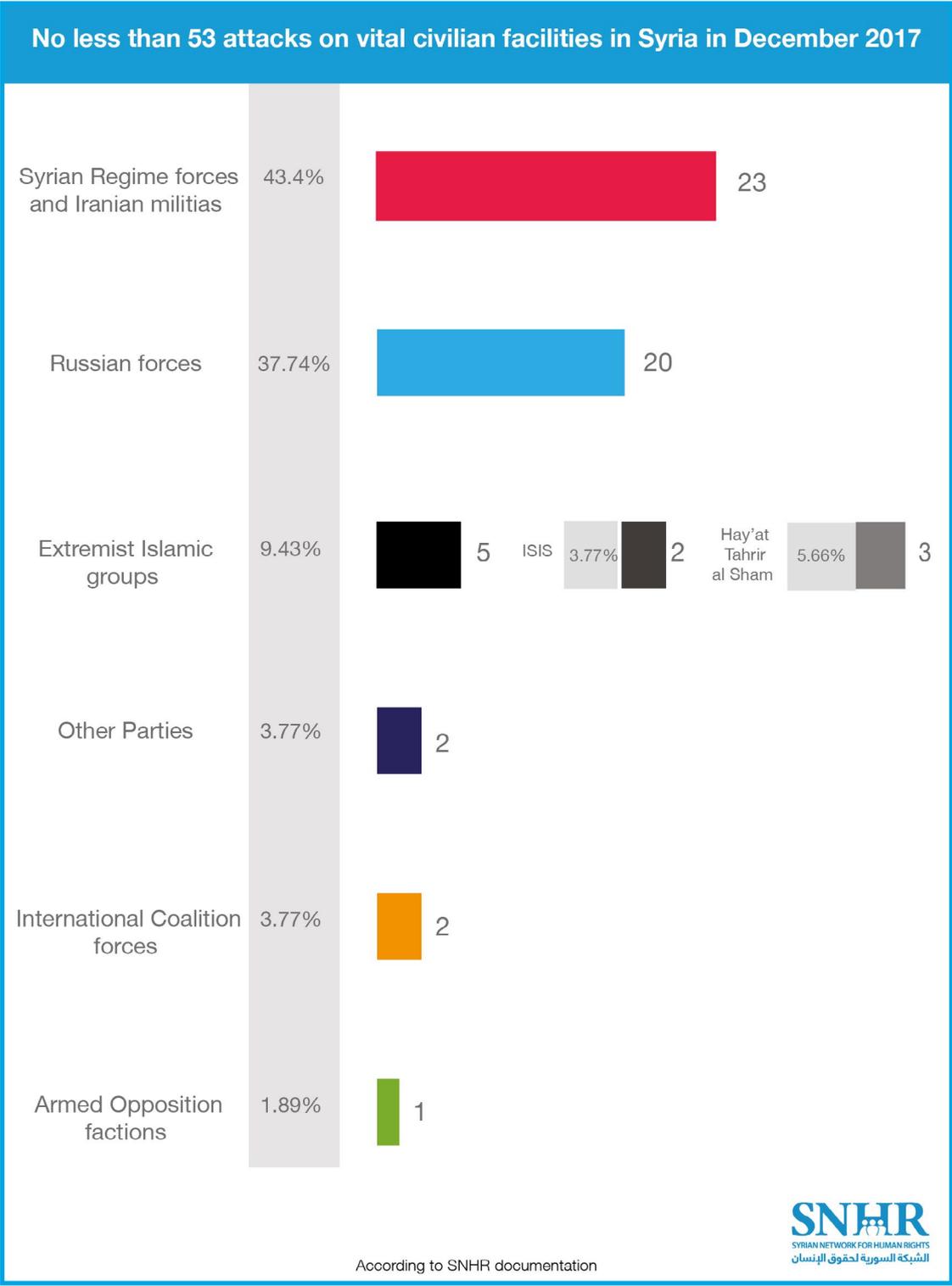


The report [“The Syrian Regime Dropped no less than 6,243 Barrel Bombs on Syria in 2017”](#) stresses that Syrian regime warplanes dropped 312 barrel bombs in December which was the lowest month in terms of barrel bomb use in 2017. Idlib governorate saw the most barrel bombs with 209 barrel bombs as the offensive against Idlib suburbs went hand-in-hand with heavy use of barrel bombs which resulted in the killing of 20 civilians, including six children and eight women.

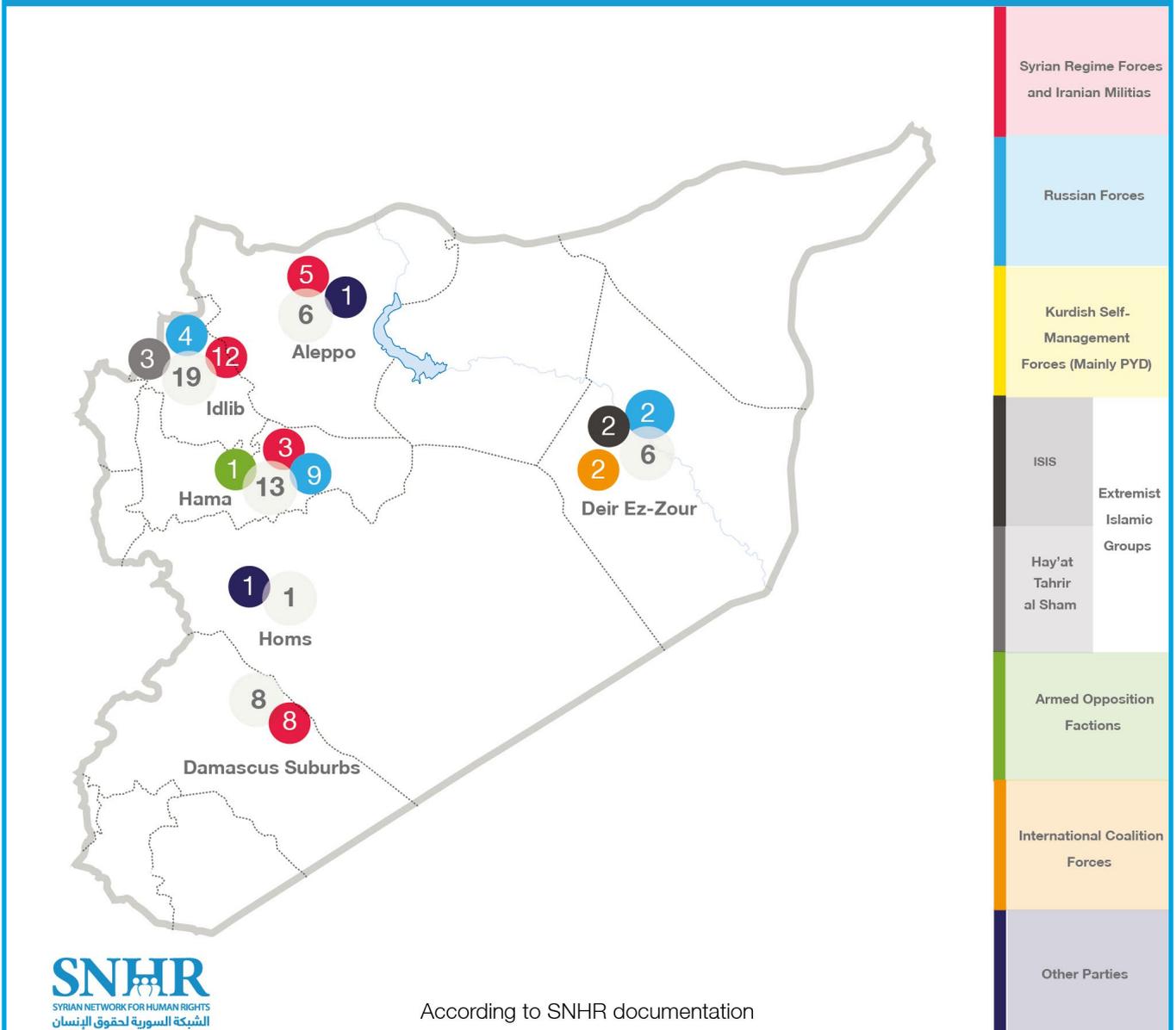
No less than 312 barrel bombs were dropped by Syrian regime warplanes in December 2017

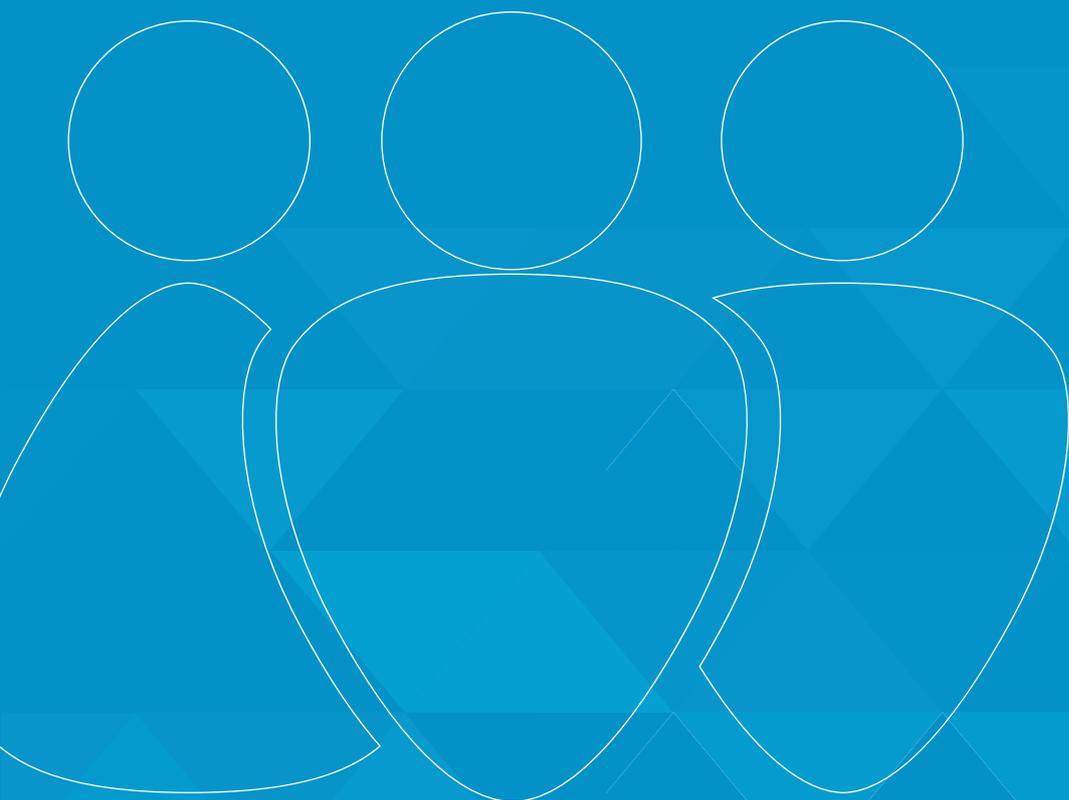


In the last report, [“No less than 898 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in 2017”](#), we recorded that the parties to the conflict were responsible for 53 attacks on vital civilian facilities in December, including 12 attacks on mosques, eight attacks on schools, and four attacks on refugee camps. Idlib governorate saw the most attacks on vital civilian facilities with 19 attacks, including 12 by Syrian regime forces, followed by Hama governorate with 13 attacks, including nine by Russian forces.



No less than 53 attacks on vital civilian facilities in Syria in December 2017





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

