



The Killing of 1557 Civilians in July 2016 Including 1008 Civilians at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian regimes

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Introduction

The report includes only the death toll of civilians that were killed by the main six influential parties in Syria:

- Government forces (Army, Security, local militias, Shi-ite foreign militias)
- Russian forces
- Self-management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)
- Extremist Islamic groups
- Armed opposition factions
- International coalition forces
- Unidentified groups

Report Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) is an independent human rights organization that is not affiliate of any political or partisan side. SNHR works on documenting human rights violations by the six main parties in Syria. We have been able to document the civilian victims who are being killed by the six main parties to a great extent, whereas armed victims are divided into two categories:

Victims from the armed opposition: We face additional difficulties as many of those victims are killed on battle-fronts and not inside cities. Also, we aren't able to obtain details such as names, pictures and other important details on account of the armed opposition forces' unwillingness to reveal such information for security concerns among other reasons. Therefore, the actual number of victims is much greater than what is being recorded.





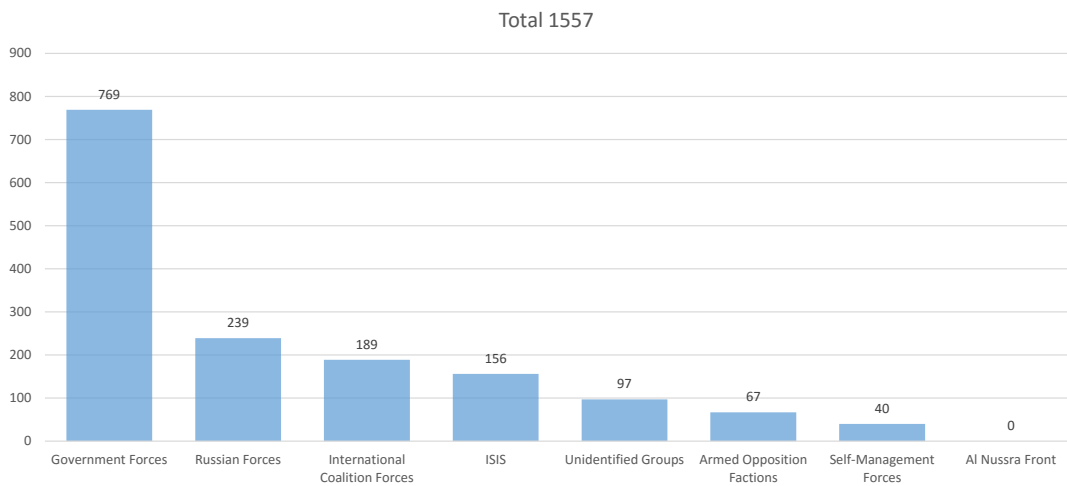
Victims from government forces and ISIS: It is almost impossible to access information about this kind of victims and the margin of error is considerably higher due to the lack of any applicable methodology in this type of documentation. The Syrian government and ISIS don't publish, reveal, or record their victims. From our perspective, the statistics published by some groups on this category of victims are fictitious and are not based on any actual data.

Therefore, we are only going to include civilian victims who were killed by all parties and compare them

Please see [SNHR methodology](#) in documenting victims.

Details

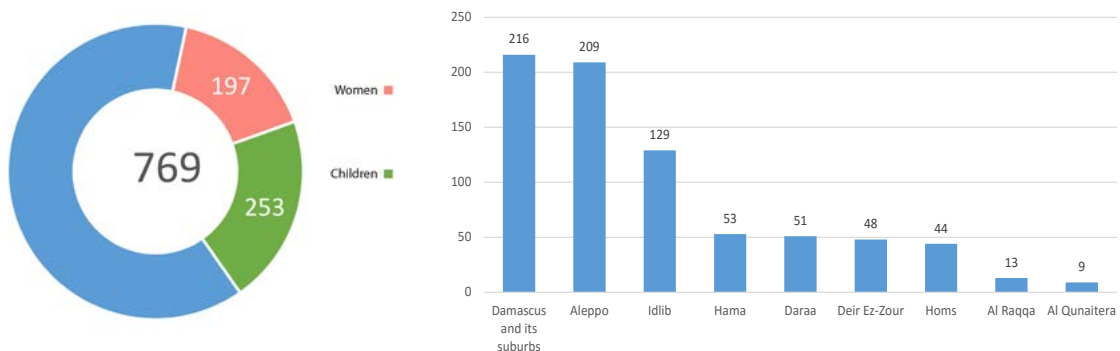
SNHR has documented during June 2016 the killing of 1557 civilians. The death toll is distributed by the main influential parties as follows:



First: Government forces (Army, Security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

SNHR documented the killing of 769 civilians at the hands of government forces including 253 children (nine children are killed averagely every day) and 197 women. 59% of all civilian victims were children and women which is an explicit indicator on the targeting of civilians by government forces.

Death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:



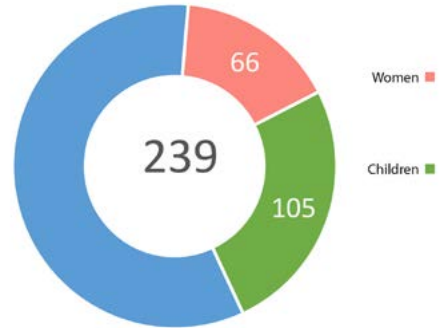


Second: Russian forces

We recorded the killing of 239 civilians including 105 children and 66 women as a result of bombardment by alleged Russian forces.

Distribution of death toll across governorates:

Idlib: 41
Aleppo: 193
Homs: 5

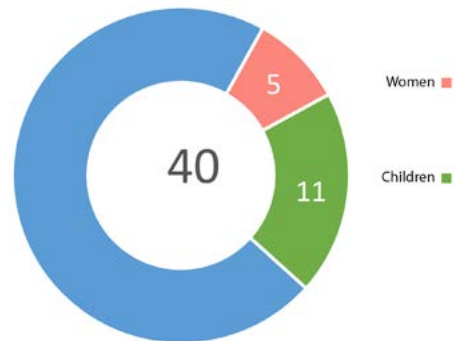


Third: (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces, a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

Killed 40 civilians including 11 children and five women

Distribution of death toll across governorates:

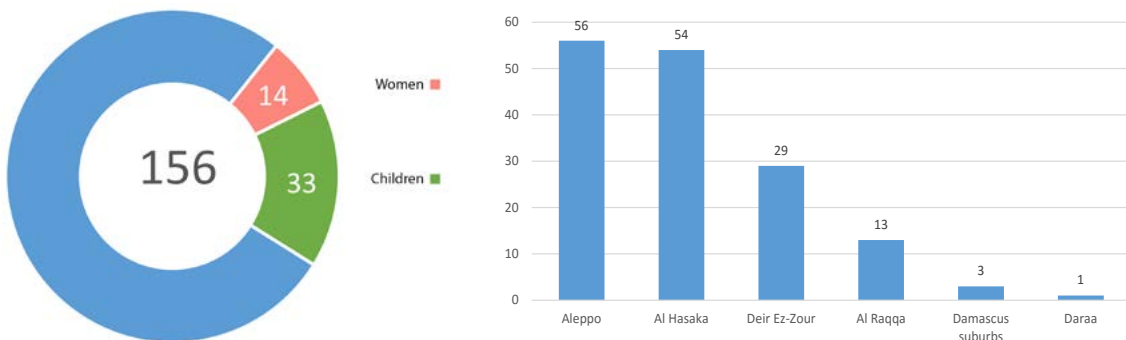
Aleppo: 37
Al Hasaka: 2
Al Raqqa: 1



Fourth: Extremist Islamic groups

• ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State):killed 156 civilians including 33 children and 14 women

Distribution of death toll across governorates:

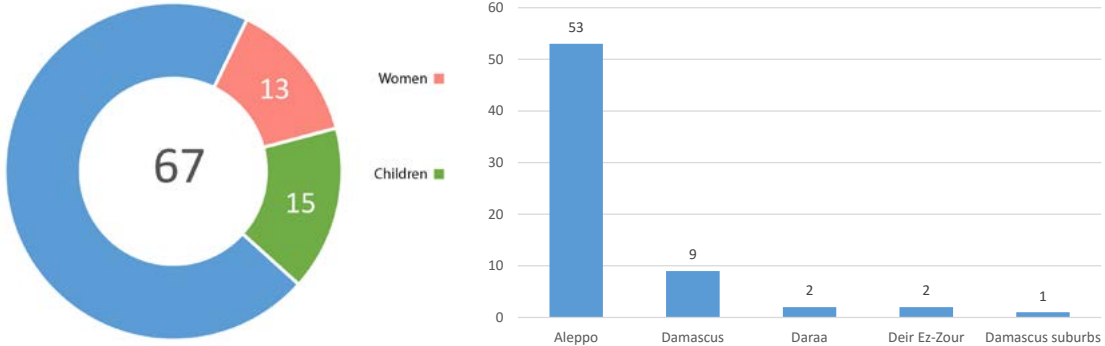




Fifth: Armed opposition factions

SNHR documented the killing of 67 civilians including 15 children and 13 women.

Distribution of death toll across governorates



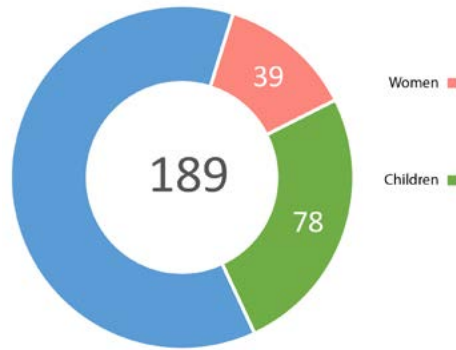
Sixth: International coalition forces

We recorded the killing of 189 civilians including 78 children and 39 women by the international coalition forces warplanes.

Distribution of death toll across governorates

Aleppo: 187

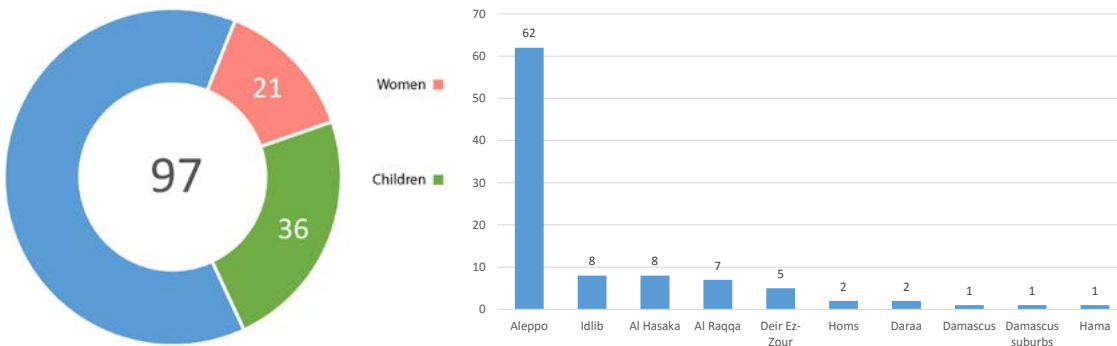
Homs: 2



Seventh: Unidentified groups

We recorded the killing of 97 civilians including 36 children and 21 women by groups that haven't been identified at the time of this writing.

Distribution of death toll across governorates



We would like to note that this what we were able to document and verify with full names, place, and time through our members who are spread across Syria. It also should be noted that there are many cases that we couldn't access and documents





especially in the event of massacres where towns and villages are enclosed and communication is cut off which is what the Syrian government repeatedly does every time. This suggests that the actual number of civilian deaths is greater. All of this is because the Syrian government bans any human rights organization from working on its grounds.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. SNHR affirms that government forces and Russian forces have violated the international human rights law which guarantees the right to life.

Evidences and proofs, according to hundreds of eyewitnesses' accounts, suggest that 90% at least of the widespread and single attacks were directed against civilians and civilian facilities.

All of this discredits the Syrian government's claims that it is fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists"

SNHR notes that these incidents of killing constitute crimes against humanity where most of these incidents involved the element widespread or systematic attack against group of civilian residents.

2- Kurdish Self-management forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.

3- Extremist Islamic groups have conducted extrajudicial killings as well that qualify as a war crime.

4- some of the armed opposition factions have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.

5- International Coalition forces have conducted extrajudicial killings that qualify as a war crime.

Condemnation and liability

Every internationally unlawful act committed by the state will entail a legal responsibility on that state. Equally, the customary international law states that the state is responsible for all the acts committed by the elements of its security and military forces. Consequently, the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, that have been perpetrated by the members of its military and security forces.

Additionally, the Russian regime and all Shiite militias as well as ISIS are all foreign parties who were effectively involved in acts of killings and are all responsible legally and judicially in addition to the funders and supporters of the Syrian regime that is perpetrating massacres systemically and ceaselessly on a daily basis.





Recommendations:

The Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps as it has been a year since Resolution 2139 was adopted with no obligations to stop the indiscriminate bombing, which causes daily destruction and killing, have been made.
- To press on the states that support government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the weaponry and expertise supply for government forces as it has been proven that government forces have been involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as states and individuals who are supplying extremist groups, the Democratic Union Party, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable.
- To instill security and peace in Syria and implement the principle of Responsibility to Protect in order to save the Syrians' lives, history, and culture, from being destroyed and ruined.

Acknowledgment

We gratefully thank all the families and local activists who majorly enriched this report with their contribution.

