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429 Civilian Deaths,

Including 65 Children and 38 Women,
as well as 53 Deaths due to Torture,
Documented in Syria in the First Half
of 2024

We Documented 62 Civilians Deaths,
Including Eight Children and Four
Women as well as 10 Victims Who
died due to Torture, in June 2024

Monday 01 July 2024

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.

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I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths and attacks on vital facilities that were recorded by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in the first half of 2024, up to and including June 2024. The report sheds light particularly on those victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel, as well as focusing on documenting the massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document during this period; it should be noted that we use the term, 'massacre' to refer to an incident in which no fewer than five peaceful individuals were killed. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents that took place during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims who died at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, accurately ascribing responsibility sometimes requires more time and investigation than usual, especially in the case of joint attacks. We also face additional challenges in assigning responsibility for attacks in some incidents of ground-based bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party to the perpetrator. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite these efforts, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign culpability for a particular killing to one of two possible parties due to the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons by different parties, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified under the category 'other parties' until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in [detailed reports](#).

As for the anonymous victims whose names we have not yet been able to determine or regarding whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming these victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the past month, as well as civilian deaths that we documented in the first half of 2024. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, namely the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we believe the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at [this link](#). The report also sheds light on attacks on civilian objects that SNHR was able to document during the past month, May 2024.

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information supplied by our extensive network of various sources which has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that our Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy, and then add it in the database.

Our investigations confirm that all the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks. Also, the perpetrators of these attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

There are many additional steps and challenges to take into account in the process of documenting civilian deaths, which we've detailed in our methodology. We've opted to shed light on only some aspects of these challenges in order to ensure the report is kept to a manageable length.

The information included in this report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these events.



II. Brief on the Most Notable Killings and Attacks on Vital Facilities in June

A. Killings

- In June 2024, we documented the killing of 62 civilians, including eight children and four women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

1. Other parties

In June, we documented the killing of 42 civilians, including six children and four women, at the hands of other parties, who were responsible for about 68 percent of all civilian deaths documented in the month; Daraa governorate accounted for about 57 percent of all victims killed by other parties this month, followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate with 24 percent. Some noteworthy incidents include:

- In June, we documented three civilian deaths, including one of a child, resulting from the explosion of landmines of unidentified source. Adding June's death toll to the rest of the year's total to date, 68 civilians, including 10 children and 14 women, have been killed by landmines since the beginning of 2024.
 - On Thursday, June 20, a man, identified as [Ahmad al-Abd al-Dham al-Haj](#) from al-Shmitiya village in western rural Deir Ez-Zour, was killed by the explosion of a landmine of unidentified source while herding sheep in the badiya or 'desert' area of al-Beshri in western Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
 - In June, gunfire of unidentified source killed 21 civilians, including two women, accounting for about half of all the victims killed by other parties this month. 20 of the 21 civilians killed were killed in Daraa governorate, while one was killed in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.
 - On Thursday, June 6, two men, identified as [Bahaa and Udai al-Hmidi](#) from al-Mleiha al-Sharqiya town in eastern rural Daraa governorate, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on the outskirts of al-Mleiha al-Gharbiya town in eastern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
 - In June, bombings by unidentified parties killed four civilians, including two children and one woman. On Tuesday, June 18, [two children, identified as Mohammad Fadi al-Dali and Haytham Farhan al-Dali](#), were killed while three others were injured, by the explosion of a war remnant of unidentified source in an agricultural land to the south of Souran city. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
 - In June, 13 civilians, including two children and one woman, were killed by unidentified parties. We also documented a massacre, in which six individuals were killed by an unidentified armed group in Abu Layya village in eastern rural Homs governorate.
- On Sunday, June 16, the body of a woman, identified as 29-year-old [Laila Mahmoud al-Hmeidat](#), was found bearing gunshot wounds by local residents in Thahr al-Jabal district in eastern Suwayda governorate. The area where the body was found was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

- Moreover, one munitions-related incident was recorded this month. On Friday, June 21, [a girl, identified as six-year-old Limar Osama al-Amarin](#), was killed by the explosion of a hand grenade she was playing with, believing it to be a toy, in her family's home in their home city of Nawa in western rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
- On Sunday, June 9, a 21-day-old baby, identified as Firas Emad al-Khawwaja from Tadmur city in eastern rural Homs, died of malnutrition and lack of healthcare in the besieged internally displaced persons' (IDP) camp of al-Rukban on the Syrian-Iraqi borders, where his family currently lives. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions and the US-led International Coalition forces.



↑ 👁 Firas Emad al-Khawwaja

2. Syrian regime forces

- In June, Syrian regime forces killed nine civilians, including four who died due to torture. Victims killed by regime forces accounted for about 14 percent of all victims killed in June. These nine victims, all civilians, were killed in various Syrian governorates: Three were killed in Aleppo governorate, two in both Daraa governorate and Homs governorate, and one in both Deir Ez-Zour governorate and Suwayda governorate.
- On Saturday, June 1, Syrian regime artillery forces fired an anti-armor guided rocket at an agricultural workers' vehicle in agricultural land in al-Wasata area on the eastern outskirts of al-Atareb city in western rural Aleppo governorate, [killing three members of the Othman family](#), including one child. The Othman family is originally from al-Abzemou town in western rural Aleppo governorate. The car was also heavily damaged in the attack. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) at the time of the incident.

3. SDF

- In June, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) killed seven civilians, including two children, with three of the victims dying due to torture. Six of the seven civilians were killed in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, while the seventh was killed in Aleppo.
- On Sunday, June 16, [a girl, identified as eight-year-old Hour Mohammad Khalaf al-Doush](#), was shot dead in her home city of al-Mayadeen in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate by SDF personnel stationed in al-Hawayej village on the opposite bank of the Euphrates River. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

B. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

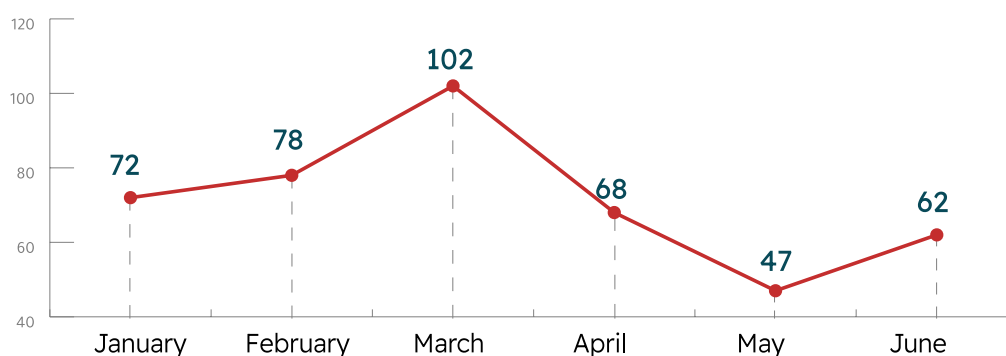
SNHR documented one attack on a vital civilian facility (a water station) during June 2024. The attack was carried out by SDF in Deir Ez-Zour governorate. Since the start of 2024 up until the end of June, SNHR has documented 57 attacks on vital civilian facilities by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

III. Civilian Death Toll

A. First half of 2024

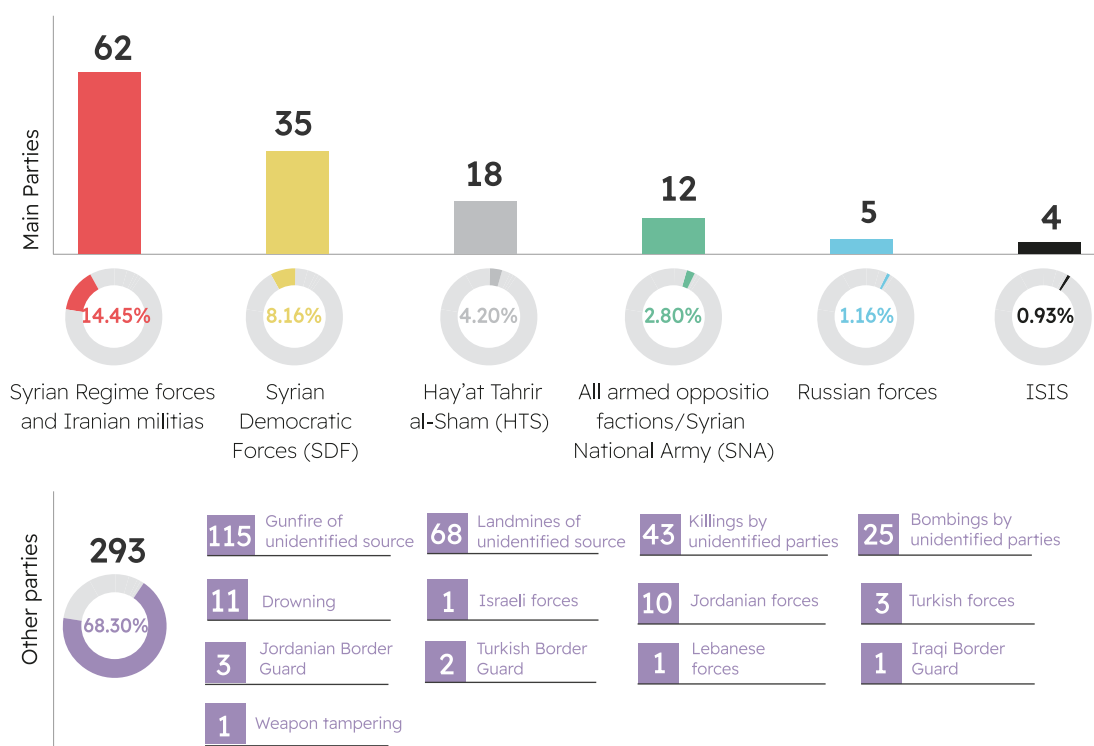
SNHR documented the killing of 429 civilians, including 65 children and 38 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in the first half of 2024.

Civilian deaths at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in the first half of 2024 are distributed as follows:

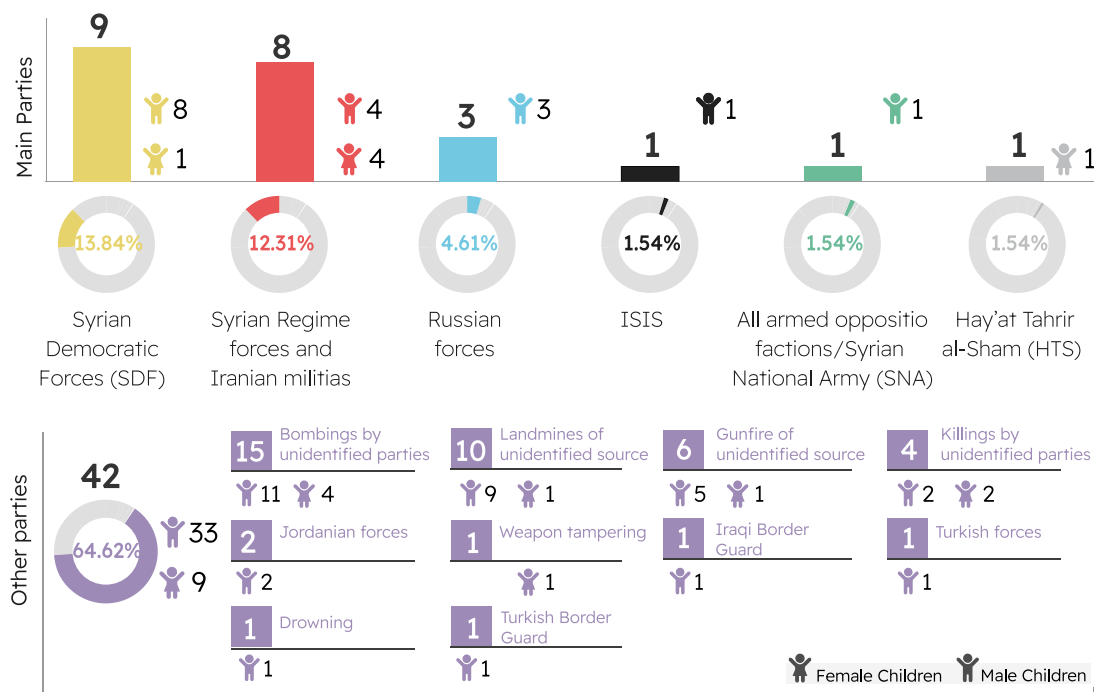


As the chart shows, March saw the highest documented number of monthly civilian deaths in the first half of 2024, accounting for about 24 percent of all victims killed to date in 2024, followed by January with 17 percent. Conversely, May saw the lowest monthly death toll in the first half of the year, accounting for about 11 percent.

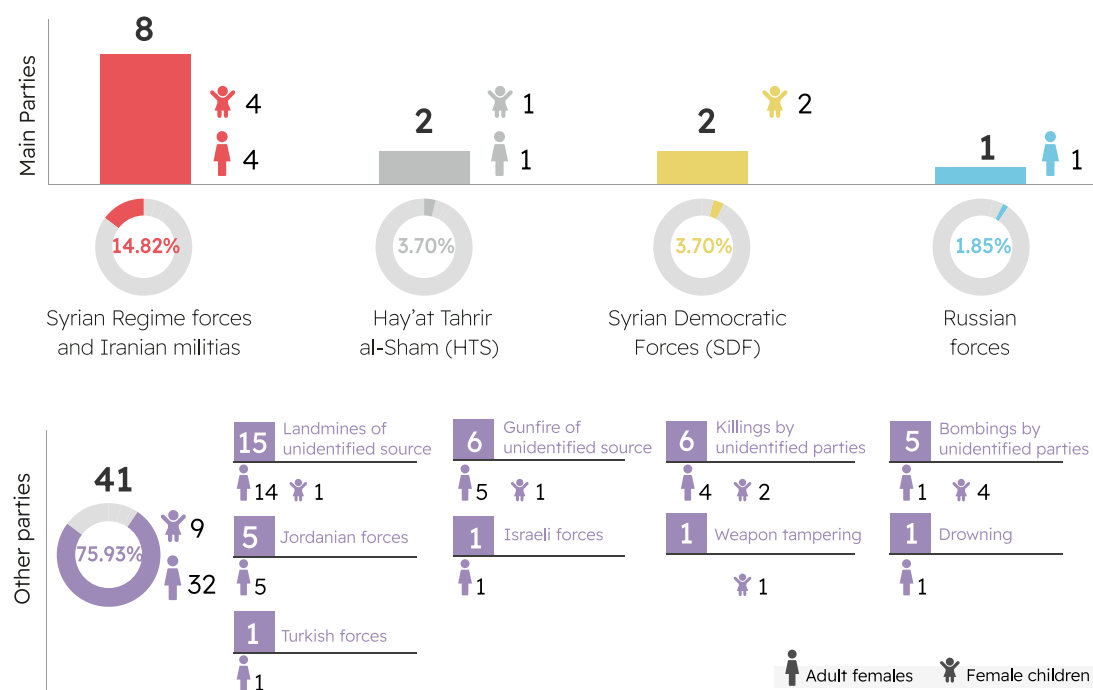
Civilian deaths documented in the first half of 2024 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



65 children killed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in the first half of 2024, Distributed as follows:



64 females killed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in the first half of 2024, Distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

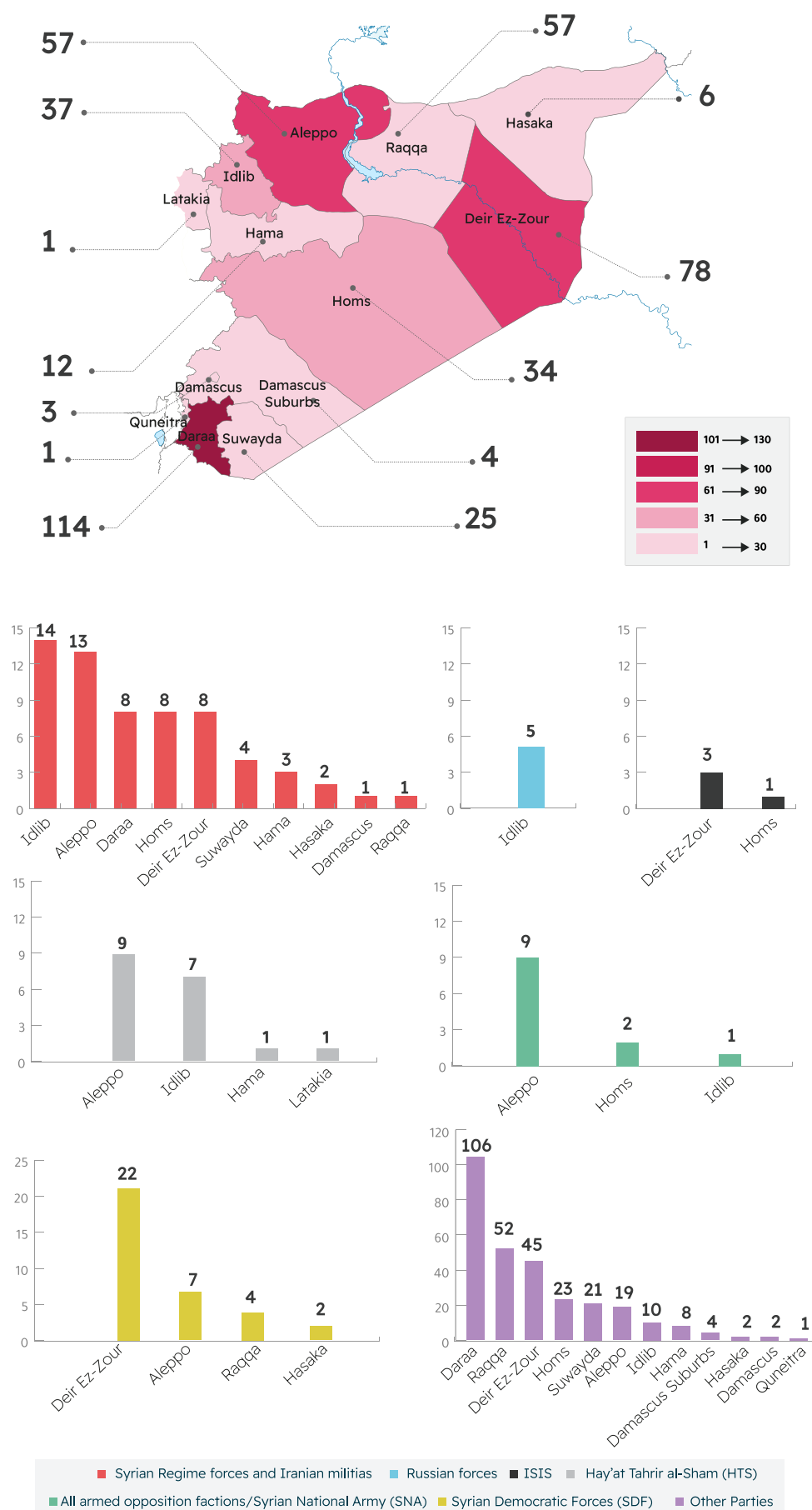
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 62 civilians, including eight children and four women (adult female), by Syrian regime forces.
- **Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including three children and one woman by Russian forces.
- **ISIS:**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including one child, by ISIS.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of 18 civilians, including one child and one woman, by HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
We documented the killing of 12 civilians, including one child, by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of 35 civilians, including nine children, by the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 293 civilians, including 42 children and 32 women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: 68 civilians, including 10 children and 14 women.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 115 civilians, including six children and five women.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: 25 civilians, including 15 children and one woman.
- Killings by unidentified parties: 43 civilians, including four children and four women.
- Weapon tampering: One child.
- Israeli forces: 10 civilians, including one woman.
- Drowning: 11 civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Turkish forces: Three civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Jordanian forces: 10 civilians, including two children and five women.
- Jordanian Border Guard: Three civilians.
- Turkish Border Guard: Two civilians, including one child.
- Lebanese forces: One civilian.
- Iraqi Border Guard: One child.

Civilian deaths documented in the first half of 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

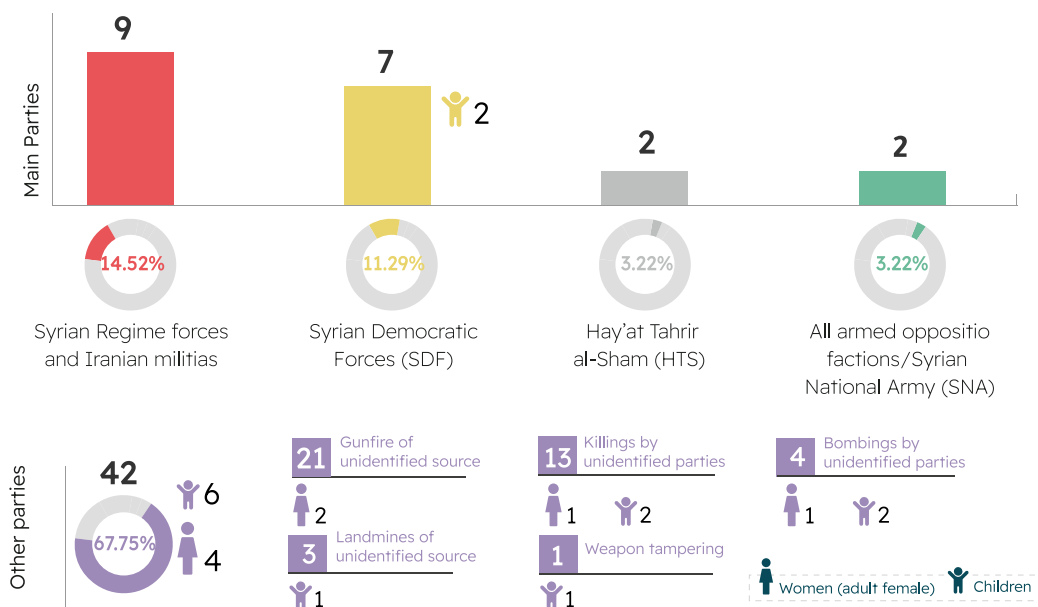


As the map shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of deaths in the first half of 2024, accounting for about 27 percent of the total, followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate with 18 percent, and then the governorates of Raqqa and Aleppo with 14 percent each. Most of the victims in those governorates were killed at the hands of other parties.

B. June 2024:

In June 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 62 civilians, including eight children and four women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Civilian deaths documented in June 2024 are distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties

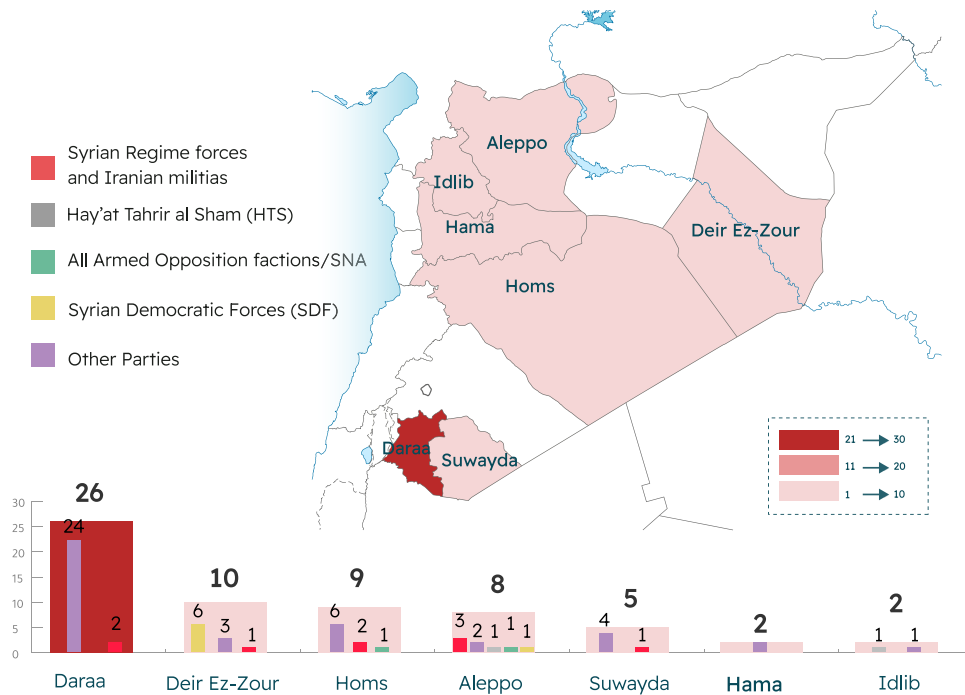
- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias):**
 We documented the killing of nine civilians, by Syrian regime forces.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
 We documented the killing of two civilians by HTS.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):**
 We documented the killing of two civilians by all armed opposition factions/SNA.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
 We documented the killing of seven civilians, including two children, by SDF.

B. Other parties

We documented the killing of 42 civilians, including six children and four women, by other parties, distributed as follows:

- **Gunfire of unidentified source:** 21 civilians, including two women.
- **Landmines of unidentified sources:** Three civilians, including one child.
- **Killings by unidentified parties:** 13 civilians, including two children and one woman.
- **Bombings by unidentified parties:** Four civilians, including two children and one woman.
- **Weapon tampering:** One child.

Civilian deaths documented in June 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



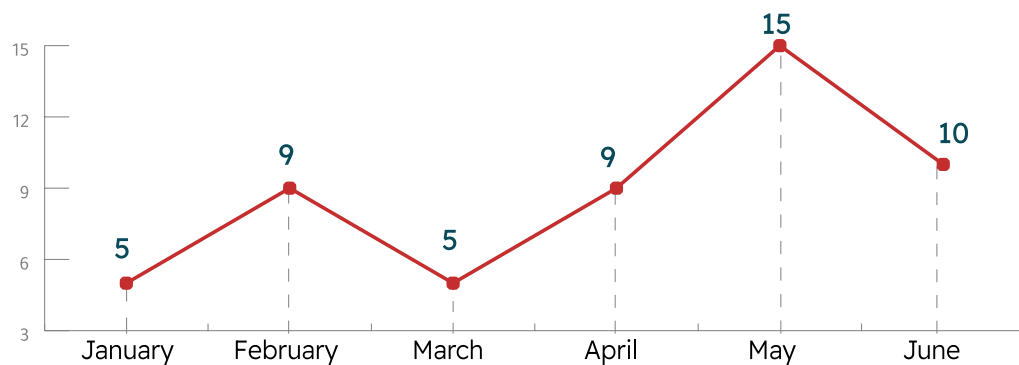
As the graph shows, Daraa governorate saw the highest number of civilian deaths in May accounting for about 42 percent of the total, followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate with about 16 percent. About 68 percent of all victims killed this month were killed by other parties.

IV. Deaths due to Torture

A. First half of 2024

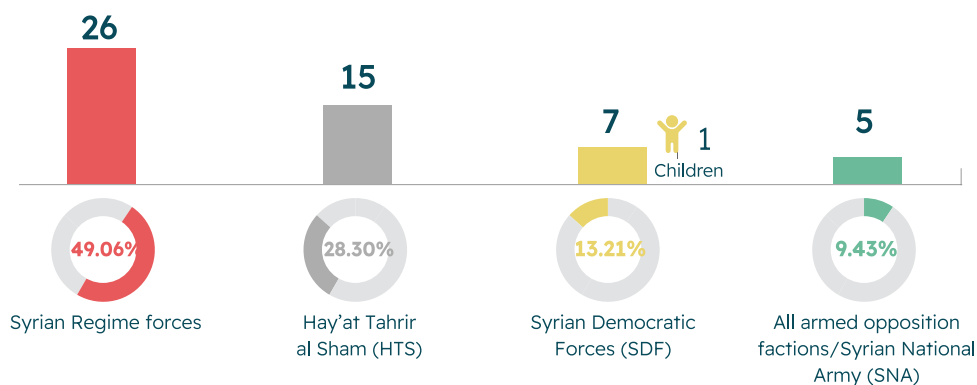
In the first half of 2024, SNHR documented 53 deaths due to torture, including one child, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in the first half of 2024 are distributed as follows:



As the chart shows, May saw the highest number of deaths due to torture documented in one month, accounting for 28 percent of all deaths due to torture documented in the first half of 2024. Meanwhile, about 49 percent of all deaths by torture documented in the first half of 2024 were at the hands of regime forces.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that were documented in the first half of 2024 are distributed as follows:

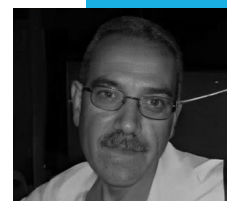


A. Main parties

- **Syrian regime forces:** 26 individuals.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):** 15 individuals.
- **All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA):** Five individuals.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):** Seven individuals, including one child.

Below are the most notable cases:

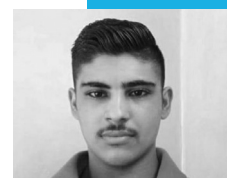
Abdullah Aani al-Madi, a civil engineer and political activist born in 1957, from al-Qouriya city in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested in May 2012 by personnel from the Syrian regime's Air Force Intelligence Directorate at a checkpoint on the road between al-Salamiya city in eastern rural Hama governorate and Homs city, while on his way to Damascus city.



↑ ⓘ Abdullah Aani al-Madi

He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Abdullah's family was informed that he had died in a regime detention center, probably the infamous Sednaya Military Prison in Rural Damascus 'Rif Dimshaq' governorate, learning of his death from a former prisoner and eyewitness. We are still investigating and collecting information about the circumstances of his death. However, SNHR can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to years of torture and medical negligence in a regime detention center. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime authorities have not disclosed his death, nor have they returned his body to his family.

Bashar Mohammad al-Salama, a boy originally from al-Qouriya city in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour, was 15 years old when he was arrested by SDF personnel in 2017 in Hasaka city, where he was living at the time. Bashar has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since with the SDF denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him.



↑ ⓘ Bashar Mohammad al-Salama

On Monday, February 19, 2024, Bashar's family received the news from an SDF-affiliated intermediary that he had died in an SDF detention center. We are still investigating and collecting information about Bashar's death. However, SNHR can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture in an SDF detention center. SNHR can also confirm that the SDF has yet to return his body to his family.

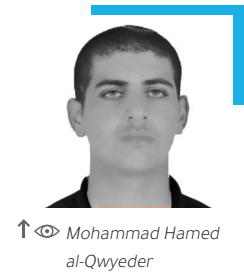
Abdul Razzaq Hafni al-Helal, from al-Mehsanli village, administratively a part of Manbij city in eastern rural Aleppo governorate, was 31 years old at the time of his arrest by personnel from the SDF's internal security division on Friday, January 10, 2020, in a raid on his house in al-Hazaouna neighborhood in southern Manbij city, where he was living at the time, over accusations of working with the SNA.

Abdul Razzaq was transferred multiple times among SDF detention centers. His last known transfer was to the Central Prison in Raqqa city in 2021.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the SDF's internal security division informed Abdul Razzaq's family of his death in the Central Prison in Raqqa city, returning his body, which showed clear signs of severe torture, to the family at al-Furat 'Euphrates' Hospital in Manbij city. On March 22, 2024, SNHR obtained a number of photos and video clips explicitly showing the marks of the brutal torture Abdul Razzaq had suffered in detention.

Mohammad Hamed al-Qwyeder from Jasim city in northern rural Daraa governorate, was a recruit serving in the Syrian regime's military forces at the time of his arrest by fellow regime troops at a checkpoint in 2013 while he was travelling from Damascus city to Daraa governorate. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, his family learned that he had died in Sednaya Military Prison in Rural Damascus governorate.

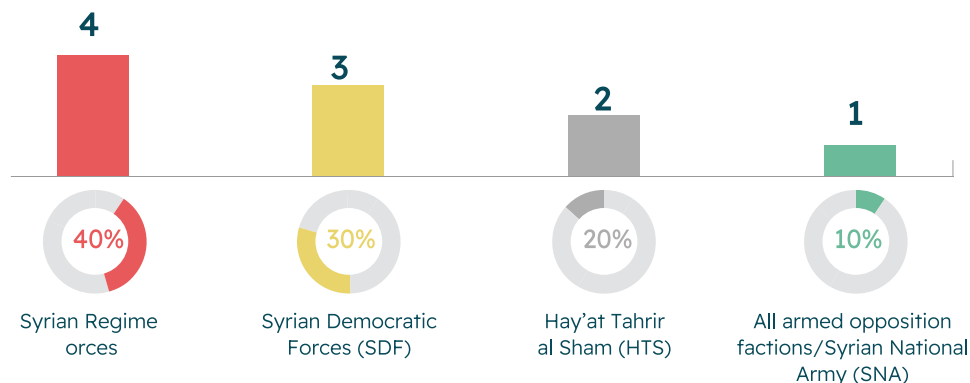
We can confirm he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR can also confirm that his body has not yet been returned to his family.



B. June 2024

In June 2024, SNHR documented 10 deaths due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in June 2024 are distributed as follows:



A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces: Four individuals.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): Two individuals.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): One individual.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Three individuals.

Below are the most notable cases:

Mohammad Marwan Yassin al-Atar, born in 1969, an employee at the state-run Agriculture Directorate in Homs city, was arrested on Monday, December 12, 2011, by Syrian regime forces in a raid on his house in his home city of al-Qsair in southern rural Homs governorate. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him.



On Saturday, June 1, 2024, his family learned that he had been registered as having died on April 22, 2013, in the civil registry's records. We can confirm he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in a regime detention center. SNHR can also confirm that his body has not yet been returned to his family.

Eighteen-year-old Ahmad Khalaf al-Nazzal was arrested in April 2024 by SDF personnel who raided his house in his hometown of al-Shahil in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, over accusations of being connected with ISIS. He was taken to an SDF detention center in Hasaka city. On Sunday, June 16, 2024, SDF informed his family that he had died in al-Sena'a Prison in Hasaka city, returning his body to them. SNHR can confirm that Ahmad was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to torture and medical negligence in al-Sena'a Prison in Hasaka city.

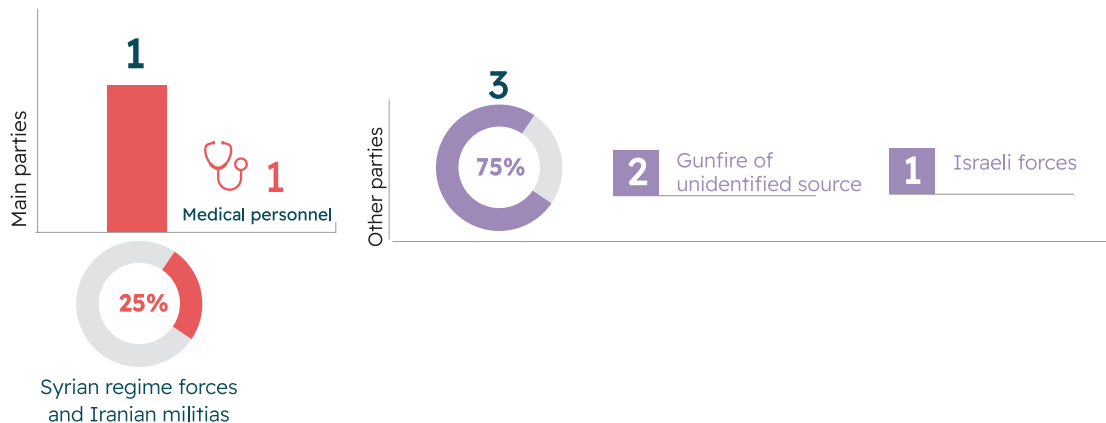


↑ Ahmad Khalaf al-Nazzal

V. Deaths Among Medical Personnel

A. First half of 2024

In the first half of 2024, SNHR documented the killing of four medical personnel, distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** One medical worker.

B. Other parties:

- **Gunfire of unidentified source:** Two medical personnel.
- **Israeli forces:** One medical worker.

Below are the most prominent cases:

On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, Eyad Abdul Nasser Awarek, a pharmacist from al-Wa'er neighborhood in Homs city, was killed in an attack by warplanes believed to be affiliated with the Israeli Air Force, which targeted five sites in Homs city and the surrounding rural areas. One of the airstrikes targeted a two-story residential building in al-Hamra neighborhood in Homs city, completely razing it, and killing the victim. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Eyad Abdul Nasser
Awarek

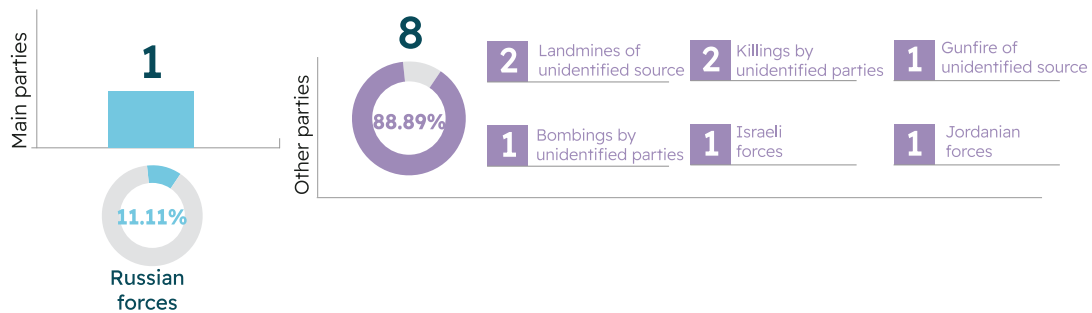
B. June 2024

No deaths among medical personnel were recorded in June 2024.

VI. Massacres

A. First half of 2024

In the first half of 2024, SNHR documented no fewer than nine massacres at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. These are distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

- Russian forces: One massacre.

B. Other parties: Eight massacres:

- Killings by unidentified parties: Two massacres.
- Landmine of unidentified source: Two massacres.
- Gunshot of unidentified source: One massacre.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: One massacre.
- Israeli forces: One massacre.
- Jordanian forces: One massacre.

Below are the most notable cases:

On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, warplanes believed to be affiliated with the Israeli Air Force bombed five sites in Homs city and the surrounding rural areas, [killing six civilians](#), including one woman, and wounding 13 other people. One of the attacks targeted a two-story residential building in al-Hamra neighborhood in Homs city, completely razing it. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, a landmine of unidentified source killed 12 civilians, including 11 women, when it exploded under the car they were travelling in between the villages of al-Shreida and al-Sabkha in eastern rural Raqqa governorate while they were on their way to gather desert truffles. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

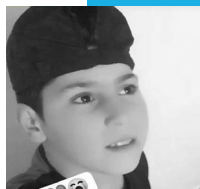


A car that was transporting civilian workers who were going to harvest desert truffles was detonated by a landmine in the badiya or desert area around al-Sabkha in rural Raqqa on March 16, 2024

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, [seven children](#), including four siblings, all members of the same family [were killed](#), while another was injured, [by the explosion of an IED](#) of unidentified source in their home city of al-Sanamayn in northern Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



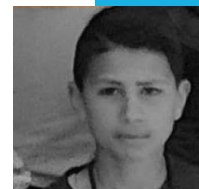
↑ 👁 Wasim Emad
al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Mohammad Firas
al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Emad Ayman
al-Labbad



↑ 👁 Munir Mohammad
al-Labbad

B. June 2024

In June 2024, SNHR documented one massacre at the hands of other parties.

The massacre carried out in June 2024 is attributed to the relevant parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Other parties: One massacre:

- **Killings by unidentified parties:** One massacre.

In the massacre documented in June, six individuals were killed (four civilians and two military men).

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, six individuals (four civilians, all shepherds, as well as two regime soldiers) were killed in attack by a group of unidentified individuals, while a number of sheep were also stolen. The attack took place in Abu Layya village in southeastern Jub al-Jarrah subdistrict in eastern rural Homs governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and pro-regime Iranian militias at the time of the incident.

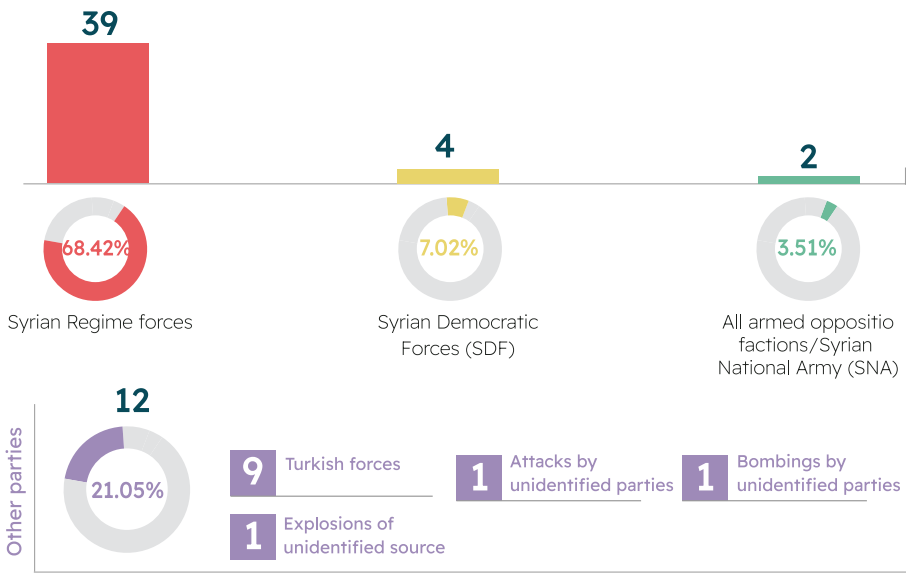
VII. Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities

A. First half of 2024

In the first half of 2024, SNHR documented at least 57 attacks on vital civilian facilities at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, including 39 attacks by regime forces, most of which were carried out in Idlib governorate.

Among the 57 attacks, we recorded 17 attacks on educational facilities (schools), two on medical facilities, and seven on places of worship.

The attacks on vital civilian facilities documented in the first half of 2024 were distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:



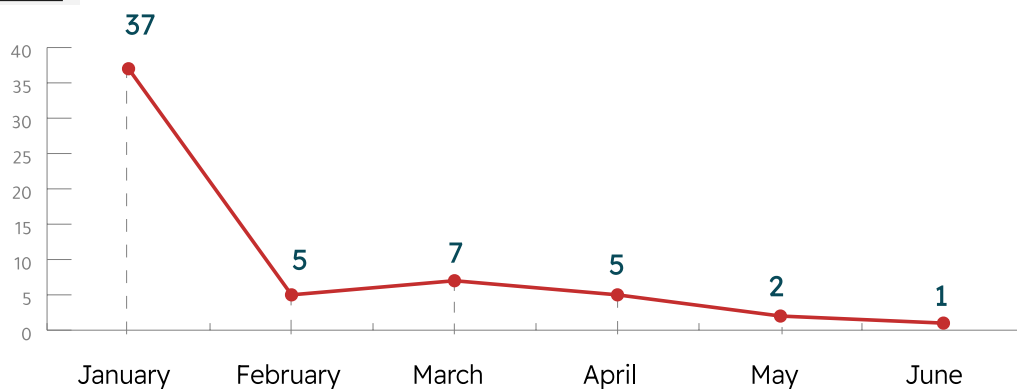
A. Main parties:

- Russian regime forces: 39 attacks.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA): Two attacks.
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): Four attacks.

B. Other parties: 12 attacks:

- **Explosions of unidentified source:** One attack.
- **Bombings by unidentified parties:** One attack.
- **Attacks by unidentified parties:** One attack.
- **Turkish forces:** Nine attacks.

Attacks on vital civilian facilities taking place in the first half of 2024 are distributed by month as follows:



As the chart shows, January saw the highest number of attacks on vital civilian facilities in one month so far this year, accounting for about 65 percent of the total. It should be noted that 39 attacks on vital civilian facilities by regime forces have been documented in the first half of 2024, all of them in Idlib and Aleppo (29 in Idlib and 10 in Aleppo).

Below are the most prominent attacks on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2024:

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, at around 19:04 local time, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to fire a rocket [loaded with incendiary substances](#), probably an M22S9 rocket carrying ML-5 incendiary ammunition, [at a shelter for internally displaced persons \(IDPs\)](#), formerly al-I'dad al-Hezbi School, on the northern outskirts of Idlib city. [The rocket left a crater in the shelter's yard](#). In total, regime forces fired six rockets in that attack, two of which at least were carrying incendiary substances. One of the rockets landed on the IDPs shelter, while another hit [a residential building on the northern outskirts of Idlib city](#). The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, at around 13:30 local time, a car bomb of unidentified source exploded in the middle of the main market in [Izaz](#) city in northwestern rural Aleppo governorate at a time when the market was crowded with civilians. [The bombing resulted in casualties, in addition to damaging about 27 shops and four houses to varying degrees](#). Izaz city was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Damages following a car bomb explosion of unidentified source in the main market of Izaz city in Aleppo - March 31, 2024

On Monday, April 1, 2024, Syrian regime forces used a rocket launcher to bomb the [Martyr Abdou Salama School](#) for Elementary Education, which consists of two buildings surrounded by a perimeter fence, in Sarmin city's al-Sharqi neighborhood in eastern rural Idlib governorate. Some of the rockets landed in the schoolyard, [partially destroying one of the buildings, and damaging a number of walls as well as the schoolyard](#). Sarmin city was under the control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



↑ 👁 Damages following a ground attack by Syrian regime forces on the Martyr Abou Salama School for Elementary Education in Sarmin city in Idlib - April 1, 2024

B. June 2024

In June 2024, SNHR documented one attack on a vital civilian facility (a water station), carried out by the SDF in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

Below are the details of the attack:

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, SDF personnel used artillery and machine guns to attack the Buqrus Water Station in [Buqrus Foqani](#) village in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The station's filters, [water tanks](#), and main electricity transformer [were moderately damaged](#), with the station going temporarily out of commission. The station resumed operations two days later, June 7, following some maintenance work. Buqrus Fuqani village was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

VIII. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Civil Registry's Death Records

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authority, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to victims' families, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. In fact, the regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime itself and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, stating falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, if they wish to obtain a death certificate. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any investigations into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to hold to account even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

In order to obtain a death certificate, the Syrian regime relies on three things:

- Medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar' and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed, which we detailed in a report we issued on August 19, 2022, entitled 'The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'.

It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates for their loved ones from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their names with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families have been forcibly displaced outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

On August 10, 2022, the Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice issued [Circular No. 22](#) specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted to and approved by the relevant judges in proceedings related to registering a death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also gave security clearance to judicial authorities empowering them to register death cases, and thereby increasing the security services' intrusion into this process. We issued [a report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

IX. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex programs to archive and categorize the victims' data, which the team collects and verifies, enabling us to catalogue the victims according to their gender, age, the date and place of death, the method of killing and type of weapon used, and the perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which each death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the losses suffered by the people of that governorate, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's comprehensive database, with all the data added to the SNHR's database being retained securely, and several backup copies being stored in different locations.

Since 2011, we have also been exceptionally concerned with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly any statistic recorded on our database that does not include victims in either category and usually in both, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, and humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For nearly 13 years, we have issued [daily death tolls of victims](#), as well as [daily news reports](#) on killing incidents. We also issue a [monthly report](#) detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died [due to torture](#), in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports [documenting the total death toll](#) or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a [monthly report](#) and special and periodic reports documenting the [massacres](#) committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims according to governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. We also provide charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically submits special forms to the United Nations [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on SNHR for all the statistics it has used in its analysis of victims in the conflict, given SNHR's prominent role as one of the most credible sources. SNHR also has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#) project, which stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the justice process, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

X. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- The evidence we have collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of the Syrians killed died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines have been planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2139 and 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva IV Convention on civilian, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We have documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

- We have documented no warnings being given by Syrian regime forces, Russian forces, or US-led International Coalition forces before carrying out any of their attacks, as required by international humanitarian law. This has been the case since the beginning of the popular uprising in Syria, which shows an utter disregard for the lives of civilians in Syria.
- The volume of violations, their repeated nature, and the excessive level of force used, as well as the indiscriminate manner of the bombardment and the coordinated nature of the regime's attacks, must be the result of orders from the higher echelons of power in accordance with a state policy.
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army forces have violated Security Council resolution 2139 through attacks that constitute violations of customary international humanitarian law, resulting in collateral civilian deaths and injuries.

Recommendations

UN Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, *"...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment."*
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Members of the UN Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria by implementing the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to protect Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and enable the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

International Community

- In light of the split within the UN Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proving equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now continued for 13 years in Syria.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely return to their homes without fear.
- Prevent and end any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be extremely unsafe, and put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed greater light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch extensive investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within its next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public condemnation, and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and facilitate an exchange of experience and expertise with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes and of the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and theft of UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the parties responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- Compensate, reconstruct, and rehabilitate the facilities that have been damaged, and compensate the families of those who have been killed and injured, by the current Russian regime.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations, and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

The Coalition (US-led International Coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should suspend all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily one of the responsibilities of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF has planted landmines, especially in civilian sites or near residential communities.

All Armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army

- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that have taken place, hold those responsible accountable, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and take punitive measures against those personnel responsible for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, particularly widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts towards carrying out landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.
- Clearly mark protected facilities and equipment, such as medical facilities, schools, and ambulances, with identifiable symbols that can be seen and distinguished from afar.
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Acknowledgment

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No justice without accountability

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