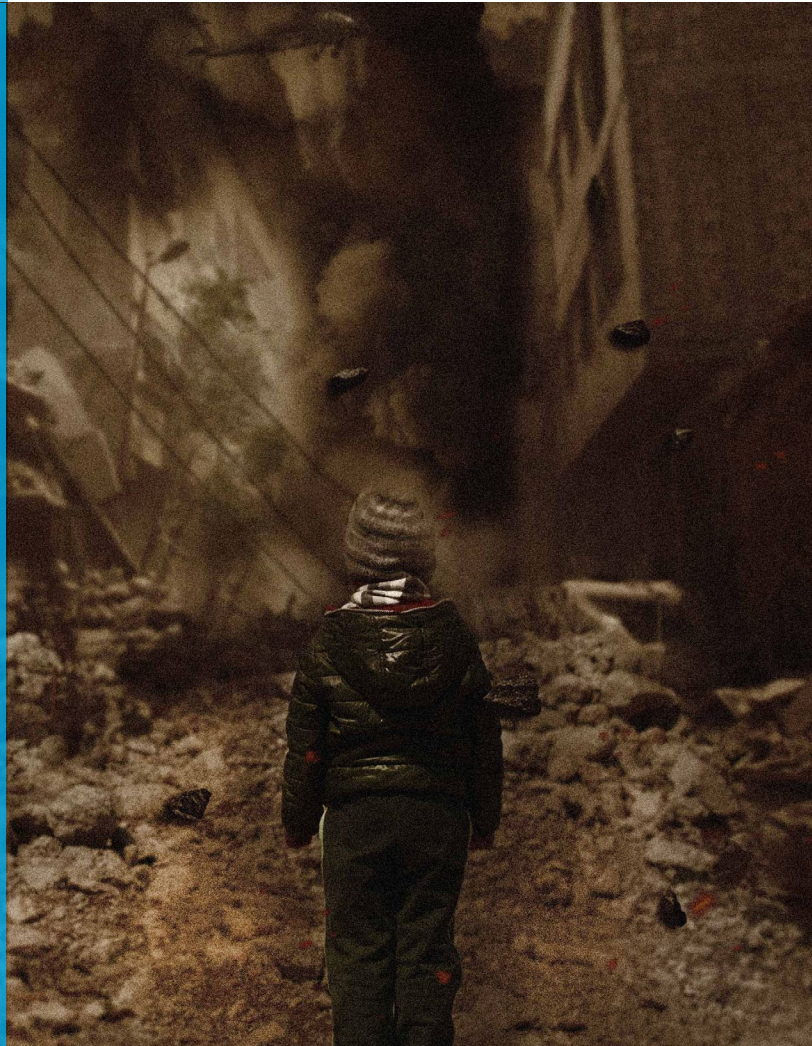


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1,057 Civilians Including 251 Children, 94 Women, and 133 Victims Who Died due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria, in 2022

55 Civilian Deaths
Documented in December
2022, including Nine Children,
Two Women, and Three Vic-
tims who Died due to Torture



Sunday 01 January 2022

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 death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in 2022, including the month of December. The report sheds light particularly on victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel. In addition, the report focuses on documenting massacres; 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 documented in December. Full details of every incident cited in the report are maintained on the SNHR database.

Documenting deaths in Syria has been one of the most important roles performed by SNHR since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of parents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily due to the systematic killing of civilians by Syrian regime forces and their affiliated militias. Between March 2011, and the beginning of 2012, Syrian regime forces were responsible for the overwhelming majority of deaths. The Syrian regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which were used in the deployment of barrel bombs, in addition to ballistic missiles and chemical weapons.

The emergence of several other parties during the Syrian conflict has further increased both the importance and complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the eleventh consecutive year, as it has done continuously since the initial outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011, resulting in casualty numbers that are among the largest worldwide; this underlines the fact that Syria is still the most dangerous nation in the world for civilians, and remains an exceptionally insecure and perilous environment wholly unsuitable for the return of refugees.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims at the hands of the active parties to the Syrian conflict. It should be noted that 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 land bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the targeted location, which is controlled by a different party. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate the incident in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite this, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties because of the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified within 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.

The parties to the conflict documented by SNHR as having as committed extrajudicial killings are:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)¹
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)
- Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army (SNA)
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

B. Other parties

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately attribute incidents to the responsible 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 haven't yet been able to determine or on whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a private archive until any information confirming those victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, and also by their governorate of origin. However, we choose in our monthly report to document the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by their place of origin.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, and 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 think the death occurred.

¹ We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship where power is concentrated in the hands of a small circle of individuals, namely the President of the Republic and the heads of the security apparatus. Conversely, the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, with no real decision-making power or active role of their own. Syria is under a personalist/family rule, with no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade merely for show. The Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he supposedly presides. The Minister of Justice cannot even summon a low-ranking security officer, let alone a security branch head. Syria is ruled by the heads of the security branches with the president.

We are aware that the United Nations and its agencies use the term 'the Syrian government'; however, we believe that this is a completely inaccurate and misleading term in the Syrian context.

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be found at this link.²

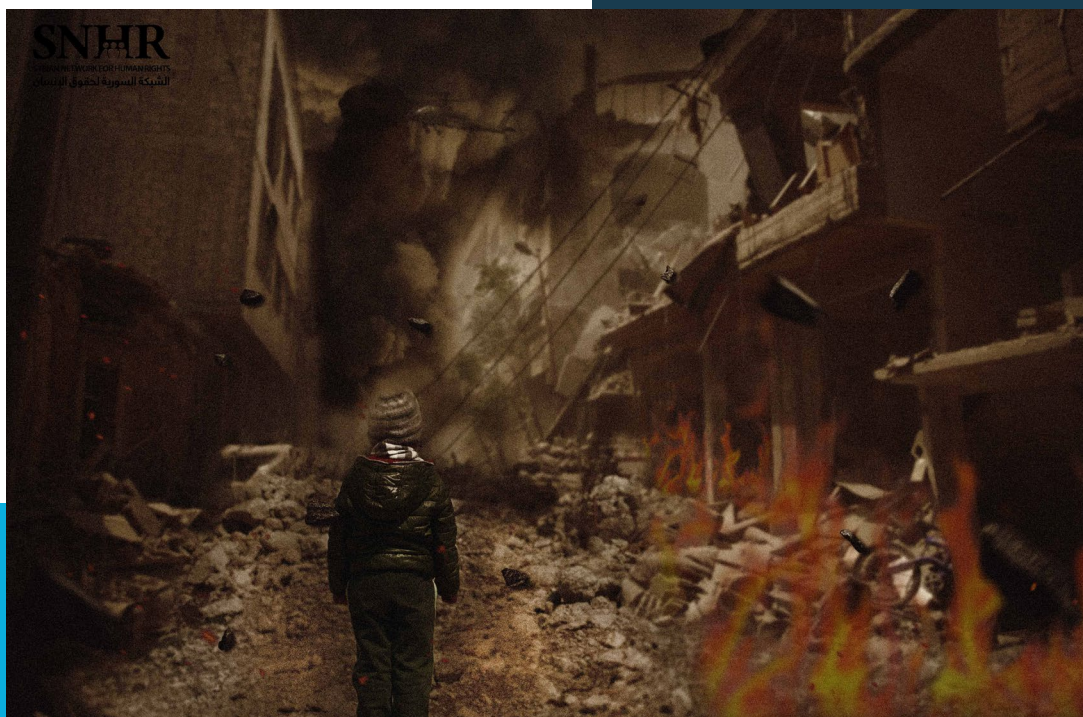
This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives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

We note that the death toll of victims detailed on SNHR's database includes extrajudicial killings by the controlling forces which occurred as a violation of either international human rights law or international humanitarian law or both, but does not include cases of natural deaths or those which occurred because of disputes between members of society or other such issues.

Our investigations confirm that all of 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 the attacks failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.



This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it does not include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



² The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights ". SNHR: <<http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>>

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

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular rising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state departments, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to any of the families of the victims, whether they were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. The Syrian regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed this phenomenon of the Syrian regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements, written by the security authorities beforehand, stating that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the Syrian 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 from 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 death and those responsible for it.

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 is worth noting that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their name with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that the victim was a dissident who opposed the Syrian regime, or of their loved one having been registered as a 'terrorist' if they were 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 Minister of Justice in the Syrian regime government 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 the death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also imposed security clearance on judicial authorities to register death cases, increasing the security services' intrusion. We issued a [report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

III. Brief Summary of the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in December

While civilian killings have not stopped in December, the month saw the lowest documented monthly death toll for 2022. We recorded no fewer than 55 civilian deaths, including those of nine children and two women, with most of the victims killed at the hands of other parties, while 11 civilians were killed by Syrian regime forces, including four children.

- On Friday, December 2, 2022, an internally displaced family of three civilians, including a 15-year-old child, [was killed](#) in artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces who fired a guided rocket at the family's house, located in Obin village, also known as al-Yunesiya village, in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The area is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and the HTS.

- On Sunday, December 4, 2022, [Murad al-Matni](#), a 26-year-old man from al-Kasib village in eastern Suwayda governorate, was killed by Syrian regime forces who opened fire at protestors attending a demonstration in Suwayda city center, with at least 18 other civilians wounded by the regime forces' gunfire. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

- Meanwhile, SNHR documented [the killing](#) of five civilians by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), affiliated with the Democratic Union Party (PYD) in Aleppo and Deir Ez-Zour governorate. On Sunday, December 4, 2022, Obada Hawadi al-Mrar, from al-Jee'a village in western Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was shot dead by SDF personnel while they were pursuing him in the badiya (desert area) around Abu Khashab village, in the northern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

We have also documented the killing of **37** civilians, including five children and two women, by other parties. This includes **15** civilian victims who were killed by parties we have so far been unable to identify, while **12** were killed by gunshots whose source we have been unable to identify. Furthermore, December saw more victims killed by landmines across Syria. In total, we documented the deaths of **six** civilians, including two children, due to landmines in December, bringing the total number of victims killed by landmines in 2022 to **128** civilians, including **69** children and nine women.

On Monday, December 5, 2022, a landmine whose source we have so far been unable to identify exploded, killing a child, [Yousef al-Hayyawai](#), in his home village of al-Arba'in, which is administratively affiliated with Ras al-Ein in the northwestern suburbs of Hasaka governorate. The area was under the control of the SNA at the time of the incident.

On Friday, December 9, 2022, [Abdul Mu'in Ahmad al-Ghajari](#), a 40-year-old man from Talbisa city in northern Homs governorate, was shot dead by gunmen who we have so far been unable to identify on the Damascus-Aleppo international highway near Talbisa city's bridge. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

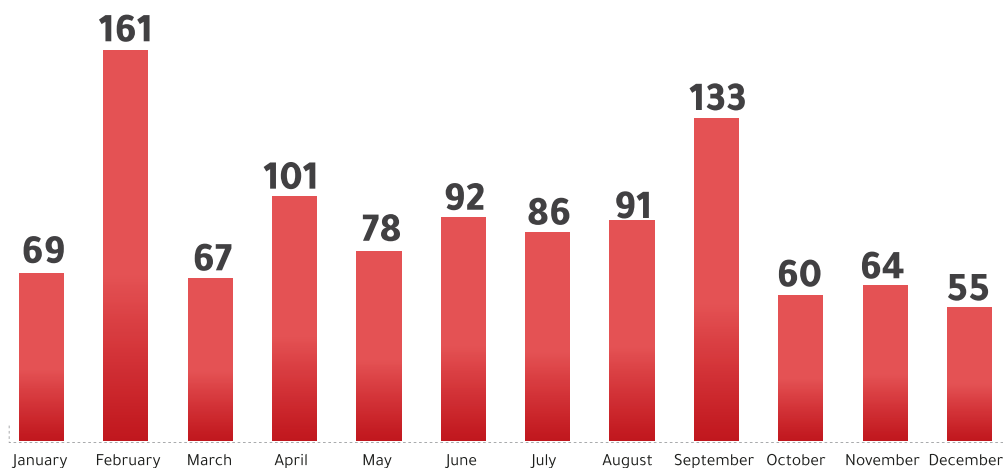
On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, [Mohammad Atta Bakkar al-Sa'di](#), the imam and khatib (orator) of a mosque in Kafr Shams town in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was shot dead by gunmen we have so far been unable to identify during a raid on his home in the town. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Friday, December 14, 2022, [Taher Nabil al-Atma](#), a 13-year-old boy from al-Karak al-Sharqi village in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was killed by the explosion of munitions left by previous bombing whose source we have so far been unable to identify on agricultural land near his home village. Four other children were also wounded in the explosion. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

IV. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

In 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 1,057 civilians, including 251 children and 94 women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and armed forces in Syria.

The documented death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in 2022 is distributed as follows:



Civilian Victims



December saw the lowest documented monthly death toll in 2022, while February saw the year's highest monthly death toll, accounting for approximately 15 percent of the total number of civilians killed in 2022; this was followed by September whose death toll accounted for approximately 13 percent of the annual total, and then by April with approximately 10 percent.

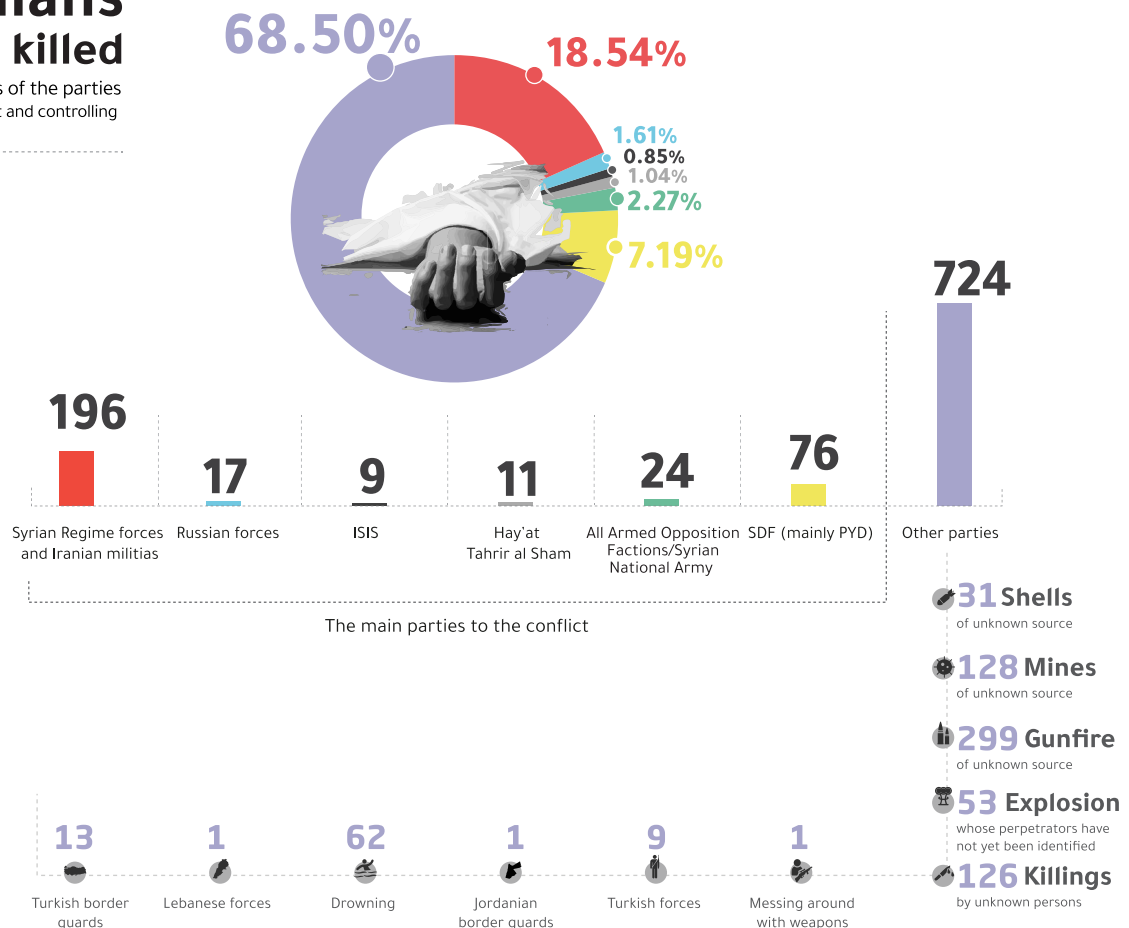
The death toll we documented in July 2022 was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

Syria in 2022

1057

civilians were killed

at the hands of the parties
to the conflict and controlling
forces



A. The main parties:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias) :**
We documented the killing of 196 civilians, including 30 children and seven women.
- Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of 17 civilians, including eight children and one woman.
- ISIS:**
We documented the killing of nine civilians.
- HTS:**
We documented the killing of 11 civilians, including two children and two women.
- All armed opposition factions/SNA:**
We documented the killing of 24 civilians, including seven children and five women.
- Kurdish-led SDF (PYD) :**
We documented the killing of 76 civilians, including 11 children and six women.

B. Other parties:

We documented the death of 724 civilians, including 193 children and 73 women at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have been unable to identify: 31 civilians, including 12 children and one woman.
- Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify: 128 civilians, including 69 children and nine women.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 299 civilians, including 18 children and 21 women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify: 53 civilians, including 18 children and three women.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 126 civilians, including 47 children and 22 women.
- Weapon tampering: one child.
- Turkish forces: nine civilians, including five children and one woman.
- Jordanian Border Guard: one child.
- Drowning: 62 civilians, including 20 children and 16 women
- Lebanese forces: one civilian.
- Turkish Border Guard: 13 civilians, including two children.

Syria in 2022

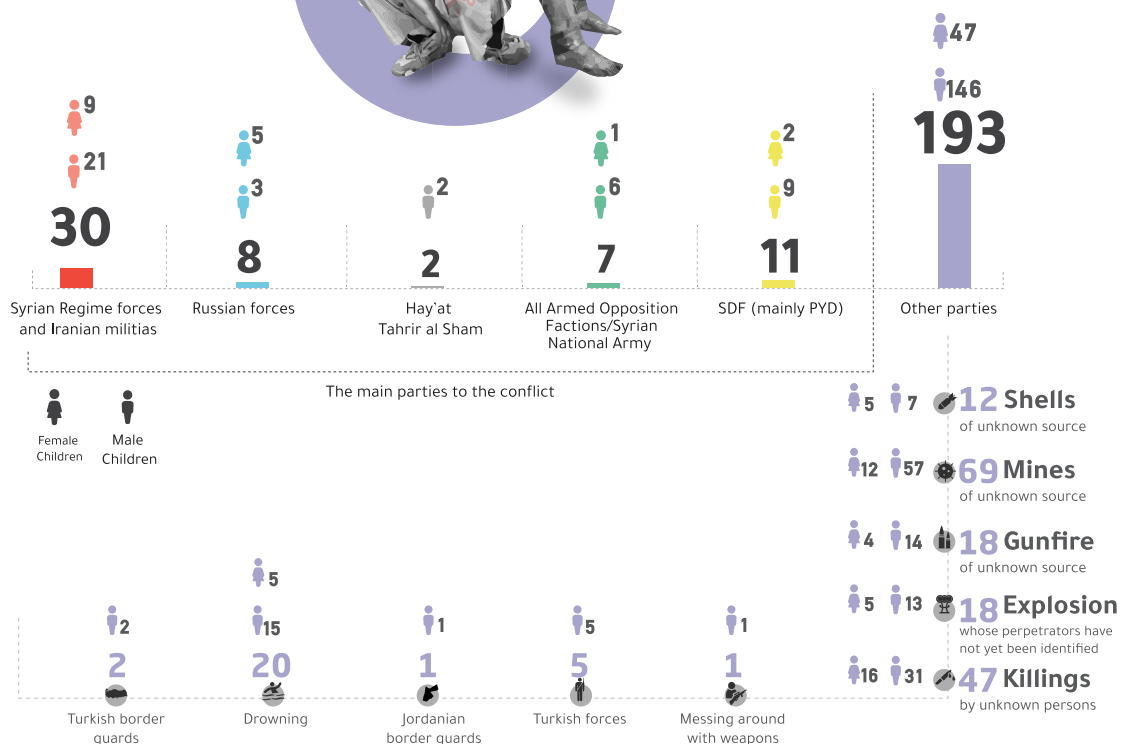
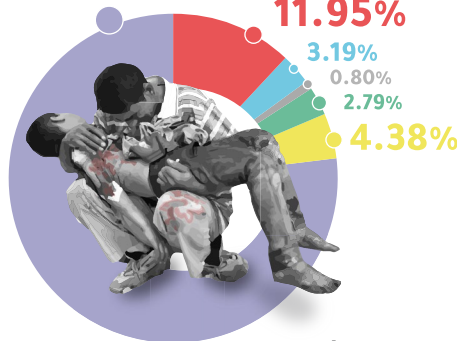
251

children

were killed

at the hands of the parties
to the conflict and controlling
forces

76.89%



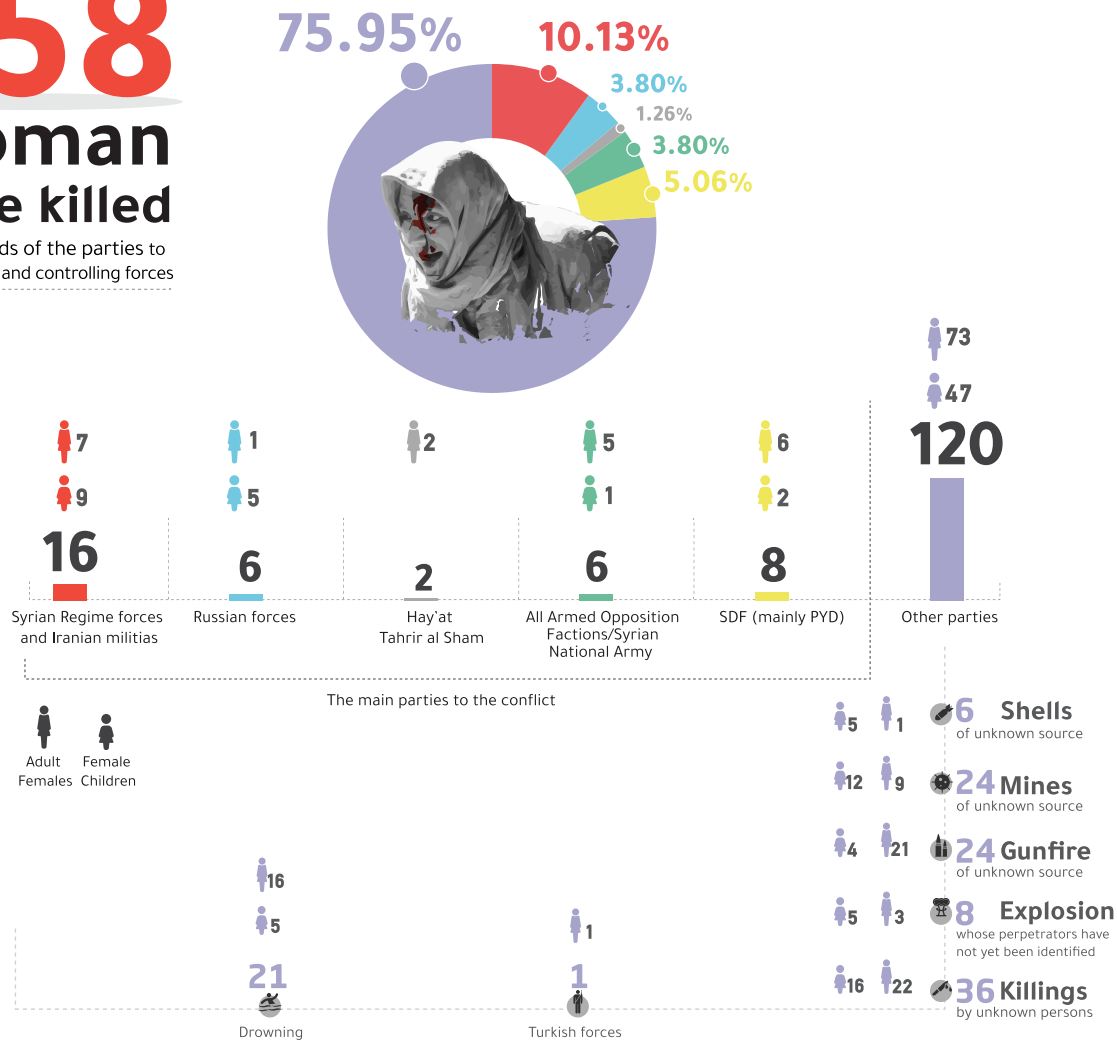
Syria in 2022

158

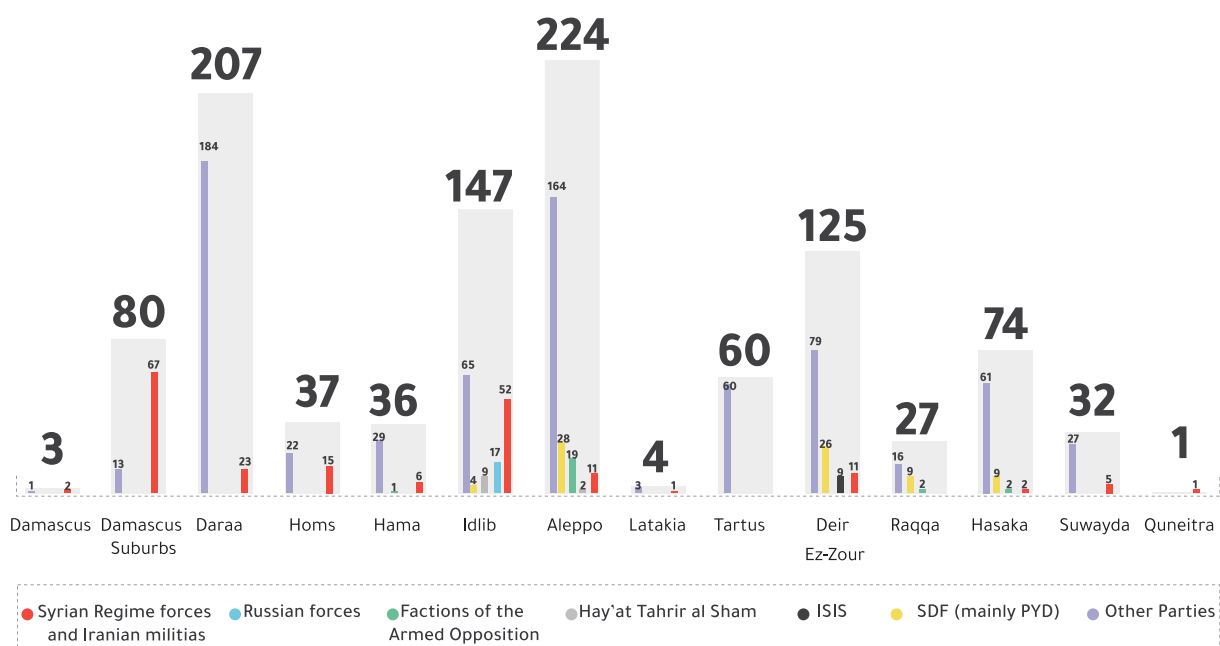
woman

were killed

at the hands of the parties to
the conflict and controlling forces



The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in July 2022 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

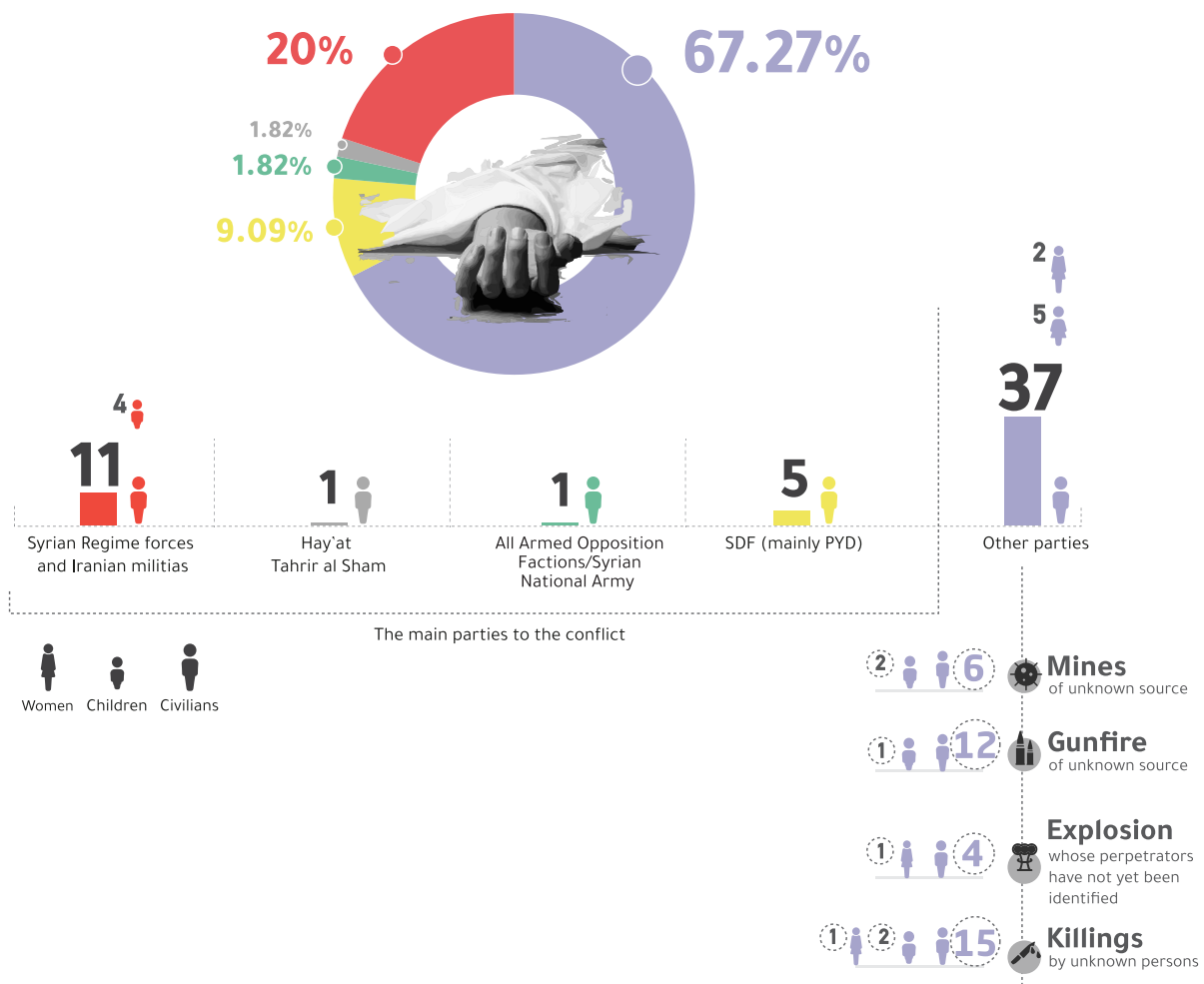


Aleppo governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented killed in 2022, accounting for approximately 21 percent of the total monthly death toll throughout the year, with most of Aleppo's victims killed by other parties; this was followed by Daraa, which accounted for approximately 19 percent of the total, then Idlib with approximately 14 percent.

B. In December 2022

In December 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 55 civilians, including nine children and two women (adult female), at the hands of the parties to the conflict and armed forces in Syria.

The documented death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in December 2022 is distributed, according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces, as follows:



A. The main parties

- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**

We documented the killing of 11 civilians, including four children.

- **HTS:**

We documented the killing of one civilian.

- **All armed opposition factions/SNA:**

We documented the killing of one civilian.

- **Kurdish-led SDF (PYD):**

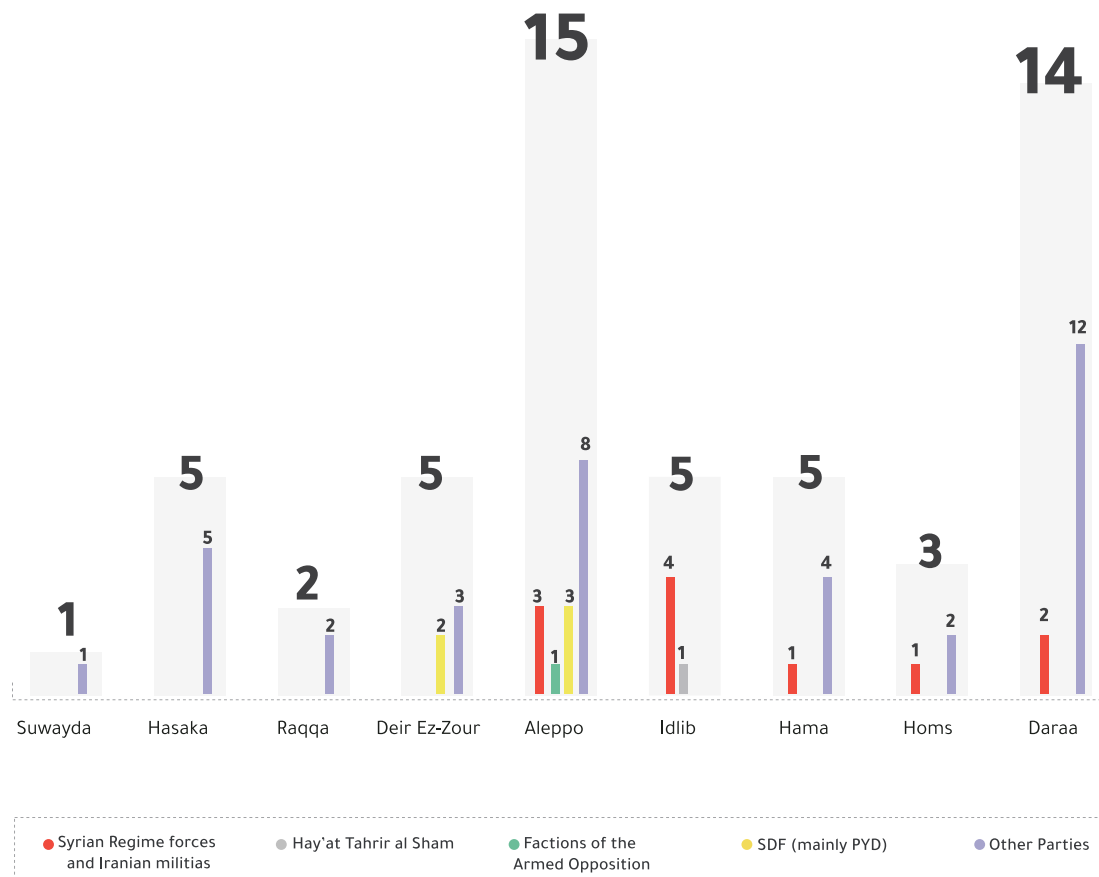
We documented the killing of five civilians.

B. Other parties

We documented the death of 37 civilians, including five children and two women at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Gunfire whose source we have so far been unable to identify: 12 civilians, including 1 child.
- Landmines whose source we have so far been unable to identify: six civilians, including two children.
- Killings by parties we have so far been unable to identify: 15 civilians, including two children and one woman.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have so far been unable to identify: four civilians, including one woman.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in December 2022 is distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



Daraa governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented killed in December 2022, accounting for approximately **58** percent of the total monthly death toll, with most of Daraa's victims killed by other parties; this is followed by Aleppo governorate, which accounted for **24** percent of the monthly death toll, then by Deir Ez-Zour with **21** percent.

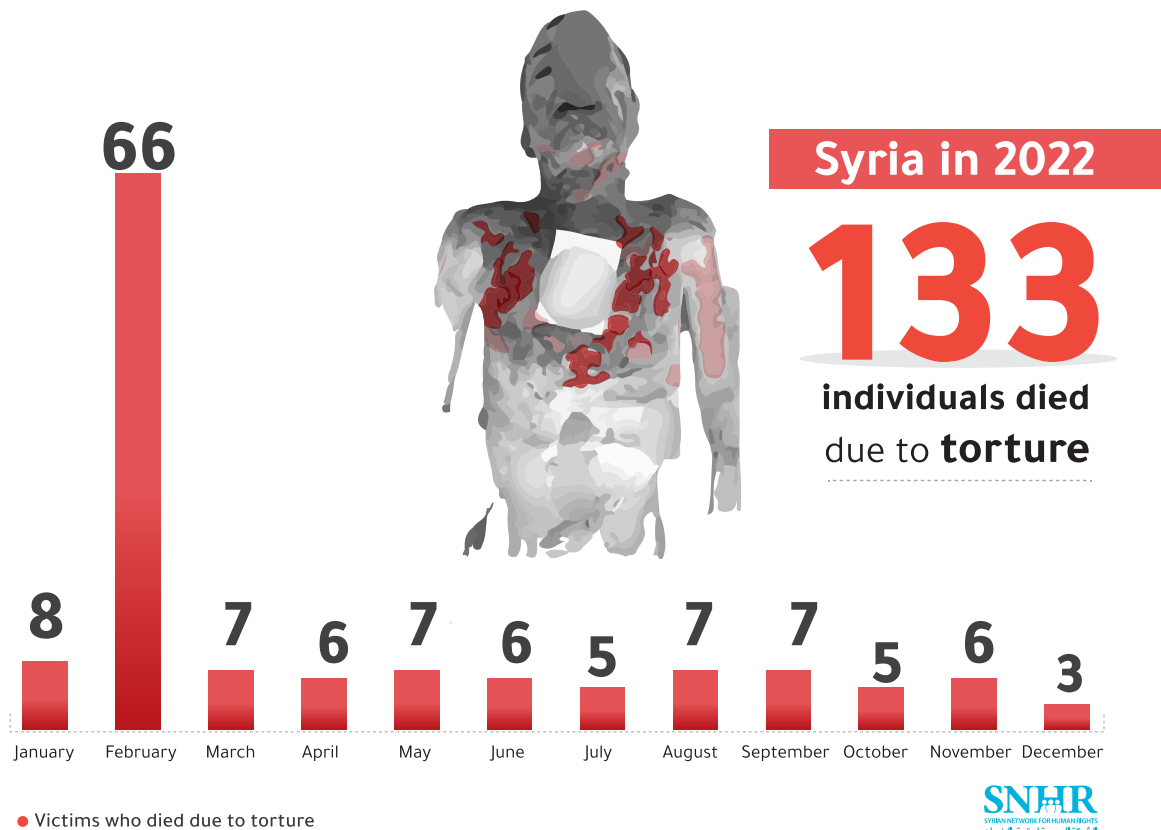
V. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel

A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

1- In 2022

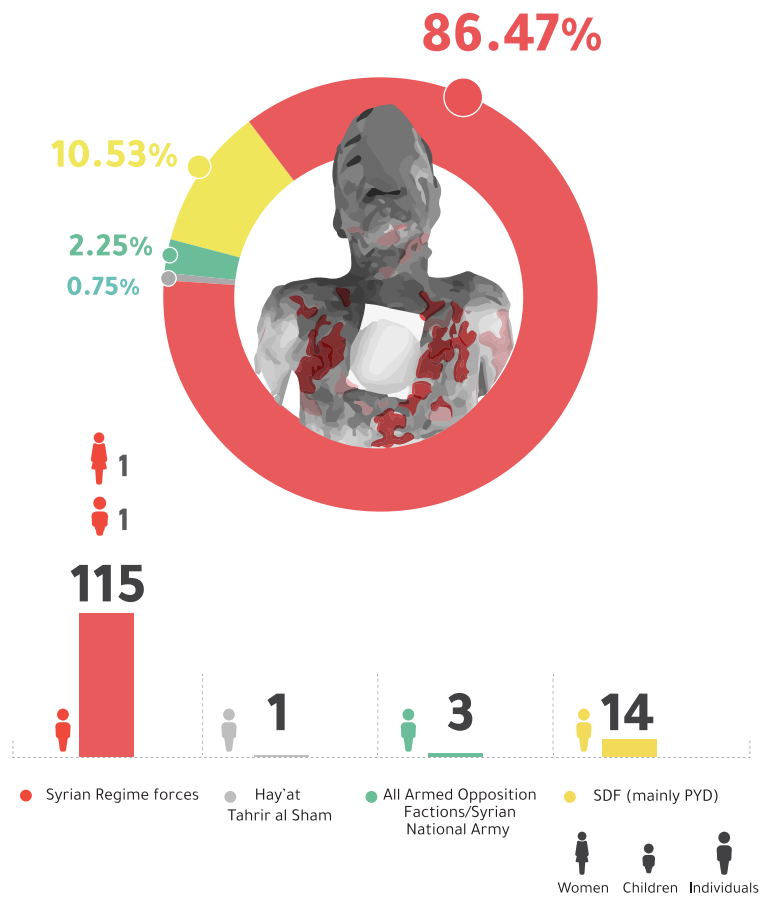
In 2022, SNHR documented the deaths of 133 victims due to torture, including one child and one woman.

As documented by SNHR, deaths due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in 2022 are distributed as follows:



As shown in the graph above, February saw the highest monthly number of victims who died due to torture in 2022, with the victims documented that month accounting for approximately 50 percent of the annual total. Approximately 86% of all victims who died due to torture in 2022 died at the hands of Syrian regime forces.

As documented by SNHR, the death toll of victims who died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in 2022 is distributed as follows:

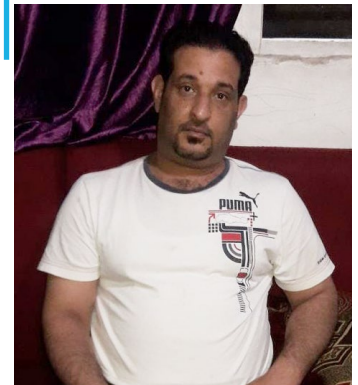


Main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces: 115 victims, including one child and one woman.**
- **HTS: one victim.**
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA: three victims.**
- **SDF: 14 victims.**

The most notable cases are:

Mohammad Hussein al-Hares al-Ammash, from al-Baghouz town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested in May 2021 by Syrian regime forces at a checkpoint in Damascus city, as he was returning from Lebanon. He was taken to a regime detention center in Damascus city, and has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying holding him and refusing to allow anyone to visit him, even a lawyer. On Saturday, December 1, 2022, Syrian regime forces returned his dead body to his family after he had died at one of their detention centers in Damascus city. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, which makes it highly probable that he died due to torture and medical negligence.



Mohammad Hussein al-Hares
al-Ammash

Hussein Ibrahim al-Dghiem, born in 1965, from Jarjanaz town in the eastern suburbs of Idlib, was an employee at the Military Housing Institution at the time of his arrest in Idlib city by Syrian regime forces on Sunday, October 26, 2014. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since that day, with the Syrian regime denying holding him and refusing to allow anyone to visit him, even a lawyer. On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, his family learnt that he was registered as dead on May 4, 2015. SNHR suspects he died due to torture in a regime detention center. Syrian regime forces have yet to return his dead body to his family as of the time of writing.



Mohammad Hussein al-Hares
al-Ammash

Tareq Sayid Ahmad, an SDF member from Khanak village, which is administratively affiliated with Ein al-Arab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was 29 at the time of his arrest by other SDF personnel in August 2021 as he was returning from a security-related mission in the SNA-controlled Jarablos area. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with nobody being allowed to visit him or know his fate. On Monday, April 18, 2022, an SDF officer notified Tareq's family that he had died in an SDF detention center, with the group returning his body to his family. SNHR can confirm he was in good health at the time of his arrest, which makes it highly likely that he died due to torture and medical negligence in an SDF detention center.

2- In December 2022

In December, we documented the deaths of three victims due to torture at the hands of parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria, distributed as follows:

- **Syrian regime forces: two victims.**
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA: one victim.**

in December 2022

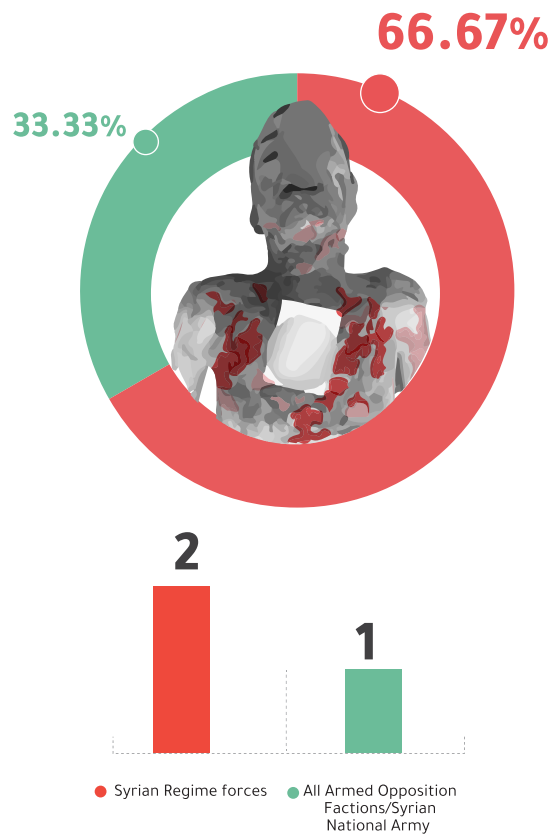
3

individuals died
due to

torture

at the hands of the
main perpetrator parties

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



The most notable cases are:

Ahmad Mahmoud Shehada Khattab, from Nawa city in western Daraa governorate, was arrested in 2018 by Syrian regime forces. His family last visited him in mid-2022 at Sednaya Military Prison in Damascus suburbs governorate, and he has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying holding him and refusing to allow anyone to visit him even a lawyer. On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, his family learnt that he had died in a regime detention center in Damascus city. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, which makes it highly likely that he died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime forces have yet to return his dead body to his family as of this writing.

Luqman Hamid Hanan, a lawyer, from Haj Qasmou village, which is administratively affiliated with Afrin city in northern Aleppo governorate, who had been living in al-Mahmoudiya neighborhood in Afrin city, was born in 1977. He was arrested on Monday, December 19, 2022, by servicemen from the Sultan Murad Division, an SNA faction, in front of his house in al-Mahmoudiya neighborhood, and taken to an SNA detention center elsewhere in Afrin city. According to the information obtained by SNHR through eyewitnesses, Luqman was detained as the result of a personal dispute between him and one of the servicemen of the Sultan Murad Division. Two days after his arrest, SNA officers requested his clothes and medications from his family since Luqman suffered from a slipped disc and neurological disorders.



Luqman Hamid Hanan

On the morning of Thursday, December 22, 2022, SNA servicemen transferred Luqman's body to the Military Hospital in Afrin city after he died in one of their detention centers. At the hospital, the cause of death was determined upon forensic examination to be a severe myocardial infarction (heart attack). His body was returned to his family on the same day.

On December 12, 2022, SNHR obtained multiple photos which clearly show and prove that Luqman was subjected to brutal torture during his detention.

B. Death toll of medical personnel

1- In 2022

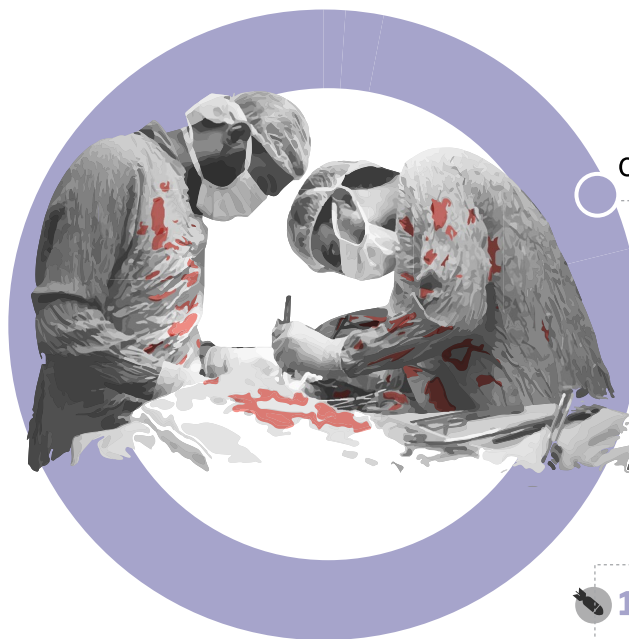
In 2022, SNHR documented the killing of six medical personnel at the hands of other parties.

Syria in 2022

The death of

6

Medical workers
at the hands of the
parties to the conflict
and controlling forces



6

Other parties



1 Shells

of unknown source



5 Gunfire

of unknown source

Other parties

We documented the killing of six medical personnel, as follows:

- **Gunshot whose source we have not yet been able to identify: five victims.**
- **Bombings whose perpetrators we have so far been unable to identify: one victim.**

The most notable cases are:

[Abdul Mufdi Ahmad al-Abd](#), a 37-year-old [general surgeon](#) from al-Salehiya town in the northern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was shot dead near his place of work in al-Kindi Hospital in al-Tayyana town, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate on December 11, 2022, by gunmen we have so far been unable to identify. The town was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.



Dr Abdul Mufdi Ahmad al-Abd

Wasim Mohammad al-Hamad, [a nurse](#) who worked at Bosra al-Sham Hospital in eastern Daraa governorate, from Mahajja town in northern Daraa governorate, was shot dead on February 15, 2022, by gunmen we have so far been unable to identify as he was driving along the Damascus-Daraa International Highway in [his car](#), specifically on the al-Ghariya al-Sharqiya-al-Msaifra road in eastern Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



Wasim Mohammad al-Hamad

On Tuesday, October 13, 2022, [Adnan Hamid al-Tu'ma Kiwan](#), a 54-year-old nurse known as Abu Ammar, who managed the Children's Wing at Tafas City's Hospital in western Daraa governorate, was [shot](#) dead by gunmen we have so far been unable to identify on the road between al-Mzayreeb town and Tafas city in western Daraa. Adnan had worked at the makeshift hospitals set up when Daraa was under the control of the opposition, and subsequently agreed to a security settlement after Syrian regime forces took control of the governorate in July 2018, working at a private health facility in al-Mzayreeb town in western Daraa.



Adnan Hamid al-Tu'ma Kiwan

2- In December 2022

We documented no deaths among medical personnel in December 2022.

C. Death toll of media workers

1- In 2022

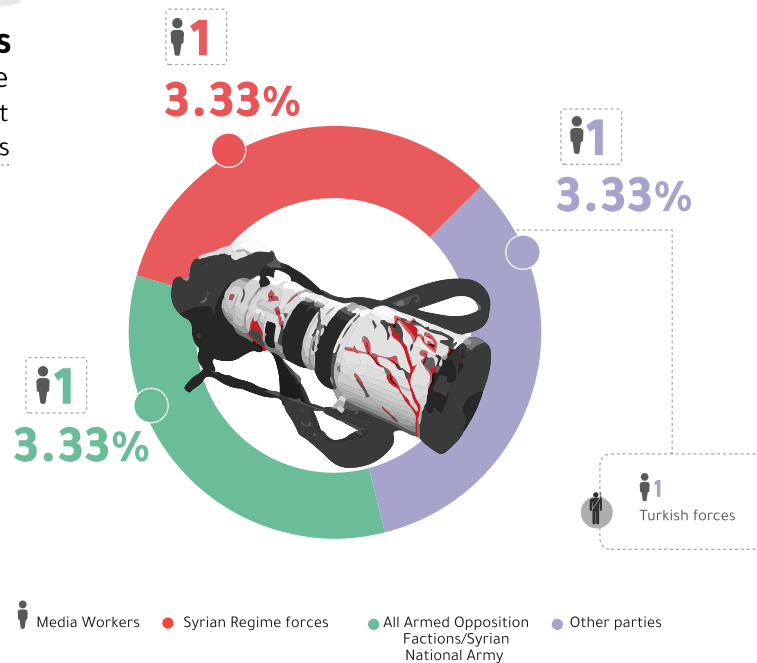
We recorded the killing of three medical personnel in 2022, as follows:

Syria in 2022

The death of

3

Media workers
at the hands of the
parties to the conflict
and controlling forces



- **Syrian regime forces:** one victim.
- **All armed opposition faction/SNA:** one victim.
- **Other parties:** one victim at the hands of other parties.

The most notable cases are:

Ahmad Tayseer al-Eisa al-Khatib, a media activist and university student studying at the Faculty of Media in Damascus University, from al-Jiza town in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was 27 Years old when he was arrested at the end of 2018 by Syrian regime forces at a checkpoint on his way from Damascus city to Daraa city. He was arrested despite having previously agreed to a security settlement. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since his arrest, with the Syrian regime denying holding him and refusing to allow anyone to visit him even lawyers. On Tuesday, August 16, 2022, his family learnt that he had died in Sednaya Military Prison in Damascus suburbs governorate. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, which makes it highly probable that he died due to torture and medical negligence. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime forces have yet to return his body to his family as of this writing.



Ahmad Tayseer al-Eisa al-Khatib

On Friday, October 7, 2022, several gunmen opened fire on the media activist “Mohammad Abdul Latif”, known as Abu Ghannoum, and his pregnant wife as they rode a motorbike near an area known as Dawwar Furn al-Majles/al-Marouha Roundabout on the eastern outskirts of al-Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo, killing them instantly. Mohammad, who was originally from Bza’a city in eastern Aleppo suburbs, had been living in al-Bab city, where he was a well-known and popular activist.



Mohammad Abdul Latif

On Monday, October 10, 2022, security officials affiliated with the SNA’s al-Failaq al-Thaleth (3rd Legion) pursued and captured suspected to have been involved in the assassination of Mohammad Abu Ghanoum. Subsequently, Ferqat al-Hamza, another SNA faction, confirmed, in a [statement](#) released on October 10, 2022, that the cell which carried out the assassination of Mohammad Abu Ghanoum and his wife was affiliated with the faction. Ferqat al-Hamza vowed in the same statement that it would sever ties with anyone who should be proven to be involved in this crime.

2- In December 2022

We documented no deaths among media personnel in December 2022.

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

SNHR documented no deaths among Civil Defense personnel in 2022/

VI. Record of Most Notable Massacres

1- In 2022

In 2022, SNHR documented no fewer than 12 massacres, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:

Syria in 2022

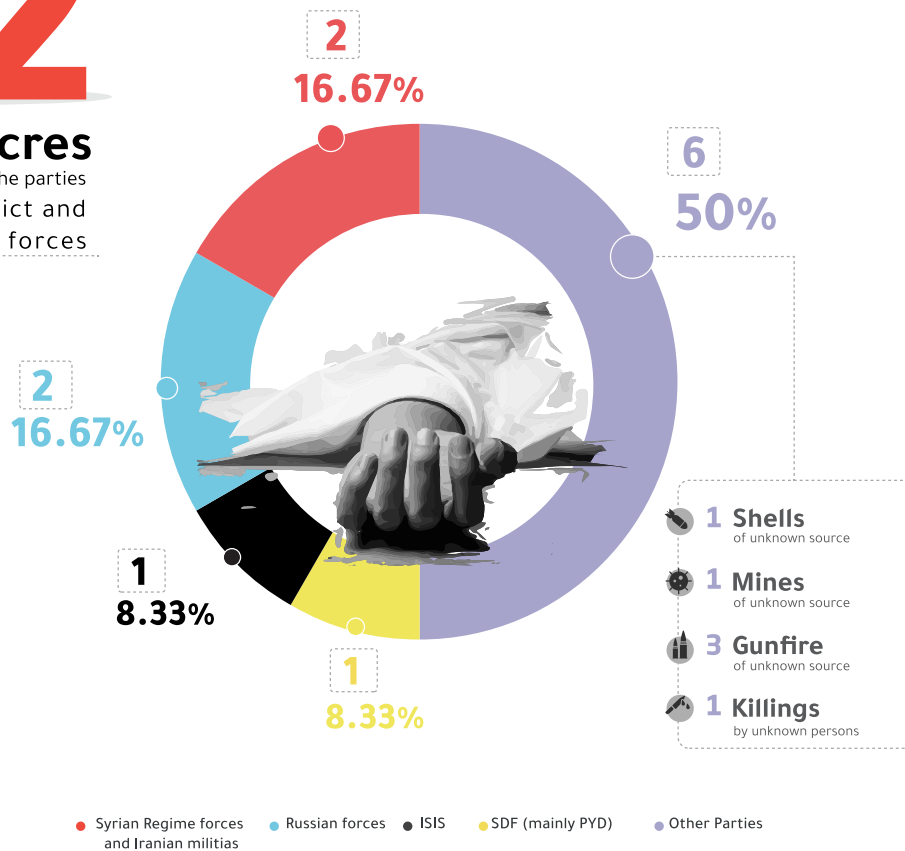
At least

12

Massacres

committed by the parties
to the conflict and
controlling forces

SNHR
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



A. The main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** two massacres.
- **Russian forces:** two massacres.
- **SDF:** one massacre.
- **ISIS:** one massacre.

B. Other parties: six massacres, as follows

- **Shelling whose source we have not been able to identify:** three massacres.
- **Killings by parties we have not been able to identify:** one massacre.
- **Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify:** one massacre.
- **Gunshot whose source we have not been able to identify:** one massacre.

The most notable cases are:

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at around 19:00, gunmen believed to be ISIS [affiliates](#) launched an attack on the home of Nouri al-Hmeish, the head of the public relations office at the Civil Deir Ez-Zour Council, which is affiliated with the SDF, in Fnejien village, located in the badiya of Abu Khashab in the northern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour. Seven civilians were killed in the attack, while five others were wounded. Fnejien village was under the control of the SDF at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, June 11, 2022, a landmine whose source we have so far been unable to identify exploded when [a car](#) transporting [civilian workers](#) (who were engaged in harvesting crops) was passing through the outskirts of Der al-Adas village in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The explosion [killed 10 civilians](#), including four [children](#) and four women, and [wounded](#) around 32 others. The village was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian carried out three airstrikes using [missiles](#) on a hilly area to the south of Hafsarja village, in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles landed on a stonemasonry workshop and some nearby houses. The bombardment [resulted in the deaths of seven civilians](#), including two children, and wounded 11 others, mostly stonemasonry workers. In addition, [the workshop and multiple houses in the vicinity were heavily destroyed](#), while [some IDPs' tents](#) located about 200 meters from the bombed site were damaged by some of the shrapnel from the missile explosions at the workshop. The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and HTS at the time of the incident.



SNHR spoke to Ahmad al-Ahmad,³ a media activist from Hasarja village who witnessed the massacre. Ahmad told us that at exactly 11:00 on September 8, observatories sent out an alert about Russian warplanes taking off from Hmeimim Airbase in Latakia suburbs. He continued: “The warplanes carried out three airstrikes targeting lands and farms located about two kilometers from the village. Two of the airstrikes targeted a stonemasonry workshop and a house nearby owned by my cousin. The third airstrike was over 200 meters away from the first two. I headed for the bombed site after the first airstrike and entered the workshop and helped other young men pull out one of the wounded and two victims. We left the scene for a bit, as the warplanes returned and bombed the workshop again. After the bombing and after the warplanes left, civil defense teams worked on pulling out the other victims and tended to the wounded.” Ahmad said that each of the first two airstrikes were separated by roughly 10-15 minutes, adding that two missiles were fired in the first airstrike, while three were fired in the second. He added, “Seven victims were killed, including two children - three were from Hafsarja village, and four from other areas in Idlib. About 12 were wounded as well, some were in critical conditions.”

On Friday, August 19, 2022, at around 10:40 am, a rocket launcher stationed in one of the areas under the control of Syrian regime forces and the SDF fired approximately six missiles targeting al-Bab city, eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The missiles reportedly originated from Sha'ala village, which is located to the west of al-Bab city and is under the control of the SDF, although Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias are also scattered in the 'Radar Sha'ala' area in the same village. One of the missiles landed in the middle of a street market on a public road located in an eastern neighborhood of the city, known as 'Souq al-Khamis', which was crowded with civilians and market vendors. The missile landed in front of a falafel restaurant known as Falafel Abu al-Kheir, while the other missiles landed in areas near the market, including the Arad Roum and Harat al-Yamani schools, and a female students' dormitory. The bombing resulted in a massacre, for which we have yet to identify the responsible party. We suspect that the perpetrator was either Syrian regime forces or the SDF since the bombing originated from the direction of territories controlled by both. Investigations are still ongoing to determine the party responsible for the attack. We documented 15 civilians killed in the attack, including six children, while over 30 were wounded, including at least 11 children.



Photos of the damage caused by a missile attack whose source we have not yet been able to identify on the Souq al-Khamis market in al-Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in a massacre - August 19, 2022

We spoke with Sharif Damkhali,³ a media activist, who provided his account of what happened on August 19, 2022

"When the bombing started, I headed immediately for the targeted site. On my way, I saw victims that were rushed by civilians to al-Fatih Women's Hospital and al-Majid Hospital. I saw also women and children grieving for their children. I saw a woman crying and looking for her child who was about 500m away from her; she did not know if he was injured or had died as he was receiving medical attention. When I arrived at the market where the missile landed, I saw widespread destruction. The missile landed in a critical place where vendors sell vegetables, bread, and household supplies, and there is Falafel Abu al-Kheir where the missile landed. Civil Defense teams rushed to the site to pull out the victims. I also saw policemen helping to transfer and aiding the victims. The areas where the missiles landed are very close to one another. On Saturday, August 20, 2022, there was a public strike in al-Bab city. Most of the shops were closed in mourning, and a demonstration was held in solidarity with the victims and their families."

On Sunday, November 6, 2022, at around 06:54 Damascus time, Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias who we believe were stationed at al-Nayrab Military Airbase used a rocket launcher to fire two batches of BM-27URGAN 220mm rockets loaded with cluster submunitions, a total of eight rockets in all, according to our estimates. The rockets exploded in rapid succession over a hilly area of western Idlib governorate covered in heavily populated IDP camps, the most notable of which are the Maram, Watan, Wadi Khaled, Mahtat Meyah Kafr Ruhin, and B'ieba camps. The area extends from the southwest of Kafrjalis town to the villages of Murin, B'eiba, and Sahl al-Roj. The remains of and submunitions from the rockets and cluster munitions were scattered randomly across the area, reaching as far as the Ahrash al-Bassil area, a military area housing an HTS military camp. The cluster munitions attack by Syrian regime forces resulted in the death of 11 individuals, including nine civilians. Of the victims, four were children, two were women, and one was an unborn baby, while the two non-civilian victims were fighters. In addition, around 75 other people were wounded.



Picture of a wounded girl who was injured in a rocket attack that involved the use of cluster munitions originating from the Syrian regime's territories. The attack targeted the IDP camps in western Idlib governorate - November 6, 2022

³ Via WhatsApp on August 20, 2022.

On Tuesday, November 22, 2022, SDF personnel stationed in Mennegh Military Airbase used a rocket launcher to fire three rockets, one of which targeted the busy Turkish Market Street in the west of Izaz city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo. The area is a lively one that houses a popular market, densely populated with civilians and shops, including dozens of stores, exchange offices, restaurant, and real estate offices. One of the rockets landed in front of a butcher's shop, resulting in a massacre, while the other two rockets landed outside the city. The shelling [killed](#) at least [five civilians](#), including two [children](#), and partially destroyed some of the shops in the market.



2- In December 2022

We documented no massacres in December 2022.

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

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex program 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, method of killing, type of weapon used, and perpetrator party, and to make comparisons between these parties. We can also distribute the death toll according to the governorate in which the incident of death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the loss 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, 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, relief and Civil Defense personnel.

For nearly 11 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.

SNHR also periodically submits a special form 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. The MoU stipulates 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 governments of states, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the path of justice, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by a large number of Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

- The evidence we've 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 Syrians were killed as a result of landmines, and none of the perpetrator forces in the Syrian conflict have revealed maps of the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates total indifference to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- 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 resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by 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 VI Convention, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We've 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.

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 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 and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request all relevant United Nations agencies to 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 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 proved 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 spanned a decade 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 time period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely and settled return to their homes.
- Stop any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be unsafe, and put pressure to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

UN Human Rights office

- 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 the 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 provide an exchange of experiences 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, 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 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 party 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 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.
- 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 coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should cease 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 the responsibility 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 planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

All Armed Opposition factions/SNA

- 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 took place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- 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, primarily widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt gratitude goes out to the victims' families and friends, eyewitnesses, and local activists for their significant and valued contributions to this report.





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