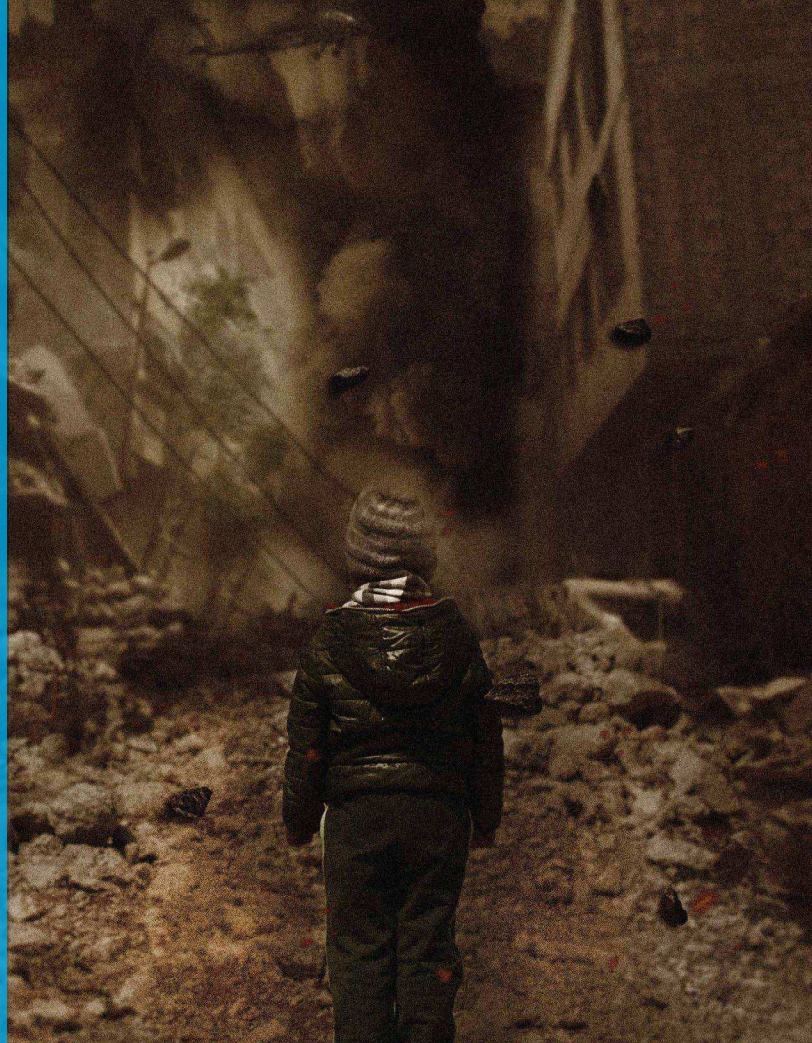


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74 Civilians, Including 21 Children, Three Women, and Seven Victims Who Died Due to Torture. Were Documented Killed in Syria in September 2022

The Syrian Regime's
Egregious Violations are
Pushing Syrians to Illegal
Migration, Risking
Drowning and Death



Saturday 01 October 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 records 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 August 2022, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical personnel, paying particular attention to those massacres committed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces which the SNHR team was able to document in this period.

We should note that in this context, we use the term “massacre” to refer to any attack that resulted in the deaths of five or more peaceful individuals in the same incident.

The report also includes an outline of the most notable incidents during this period. Finally, we maintain the full details of every incident on the SNHR database.

The documentation process to register victims killed 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 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily through Syrian regime forces’ and affiliated militias’ systematic killing of civilians, with these forces being almost the sole perpetrators of killings from the aforementioned date up to the beginning of 2012. The regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which have deployed barrel bombs, in addition to Scud missiles and chemical weapons.

The entry of several other parties into the Syrian conflict has further increased 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 continuously since the 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.

The report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the perpetrator parties in the Syrian conflict. 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 the attack in some incidents of ground bombardment, especially those in which the source of the bombardment is an area adjacent to the control of another party among the controlling forces, continuing our investigations until we are able to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

In addition, in cases where 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, the incident is categorized among 'other parties' until we have sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

The parties to the conflict who this report documents as committing extrajudicial killings are:

A. The main parties:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias)¹
- Syrian Democratic Forces

B. Other parties

We at the SNHR are keen to accurately attribute incidents to those responsible, but we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility that we carry out, 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 indicating these victims' identity has been found 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 the governorate from which they originally came. This report catalogues the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by the governorate they originally came from.

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 based on ruling the nation in an authoritarian fashion through a very limited group of individuals, primarily the President of the Republic and his selected leaders of the security services, while 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, without any decision-making power or active role; this means that the government's role is wholly subordinate and limited to serving the regime, with all the main powers being concentrated in the hands of the President of the Republic and the security services. Governance in Syria is wholly decided by the autocratic authority of the ruling family and there is no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade there for show; the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he nominally presides which are in reality under the command of the President, while the Minister of Justice cannot summon a civilian-level security agent other than the head of a security branch; the security branches, along with the president, are the true power and the governing regime in Syria.

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, 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, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights in documenting the victims can be seen at this link².

This report draws upon the ongoing 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.

This report contains one account that we've obtained through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, which is not cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided without us offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR endeavors always to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violations as much as possible, and reassures all interviewees that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias.

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, and in which the perpetrators 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 doesn't 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 within the competent official state departments, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime brutally controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to any of the families of its 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 the phenomenon of the Syrian regime's forcing victims' families to make false statements s blackmailing them into signing reports prepared by the security services stating that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the Syrian regime, killed their loved ones by withholding death certificates until they sign these false statements. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any judicial 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:

- The regime prepares a medical report in which it gives a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claims 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 of 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'.

We note 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, meaning that he or she was a dissident who opposed the Syrian regime, or of their loved one being registered as a 'terrorist' if s/he is 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 within 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 reviewed our analysis of the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

III. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in September

September saw a decrease in the death toll compared to August, with SNHR documenting the death of 74 civilians, including 21 children and three women; the Syrian-Russian alliance forces killed 15 of the victims, including two children. During our monitoring work, we noticed that the killings in September were marked by:

1- A massacre due to a Russian airstrike on Hafsarja village in the western suburbs of Idlib, which breached the Turkish-Russian Ceasefire agreement of March 2020. The attack killed 7 civilians, including 2 children, and wounded 11 others. We note that this was the second massacre perpetrated by the Russian forces in less than two months.

2- Another horrific mass-drowning of refugees attempting to flee to safety when their boat capsized. At least 55 Syrians died in a boat that set out on the morning of Tuesday, September 20, 2022, from the Minya Port in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, heading towards the Greek island of Cyprus. The boat capsized and sank on Thursday, September 22, 2022 near the Syrian island of Arwad. Since the end of 2011 up to October 2022, SNHR has documented the death of approximately 2,398 people as a result of the risks they were exposed to during their irregular migration, whether from Syria to neighboring countries or from other countries to safer areas. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [called](#) on the international community "to help improve the conditions of forcibly displaced people and host communities in the Middle East". In the same statement, Mr. Grandi stressed that this is "another tragedy," while UNICEF [announced](#) that ten children had died in the incident according to preliminary reports, adding that every child death at sea confirms the need to protect children and expand the options for children and families to move around safely without having to risk their lives.



Photo of some of the victims and missing individuals on the boat that
sunk on Thursday, September 22, 2022





Ammar al Taha and his family, victims of the boat drowning incident on Thursday, September 22, 2022

We documented the killing of 52 civilians, including 18 children and three women, at the hands of other parties, which we could not identify, with the largest percentage of victims killed at the hands of other parties being concentrated in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, followed by Daraa, Idlib and Aleppo governorates. September also witnessed continuing civilian casualties due to landmines in different governorates and regions of Syria, with SNHR documenting the deaths of 11 civilians, including nine children, due to this cause, bringing the total death toll of 'victims of mines' explosions documented by SNHR since the beginning of 2022 to 112 civilians, including 59 children and nine women.

On Monday, September 5, 2022, four child siblings aged between eight and 14 were [killed by the explosion of a landmine](#) left by an unknown party in Binnesh in Idlib governorate's northern suburbs. The children, from Jbala al Gharbiya village in southern Idlib governorate - Safa, aged 8, Nour aged 9, Randa aged 12, and 14-year-old Ahmad Bassam al-Mustafa - were killed by the blast while they were playing in an abandoned building in the city center, with the city being under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

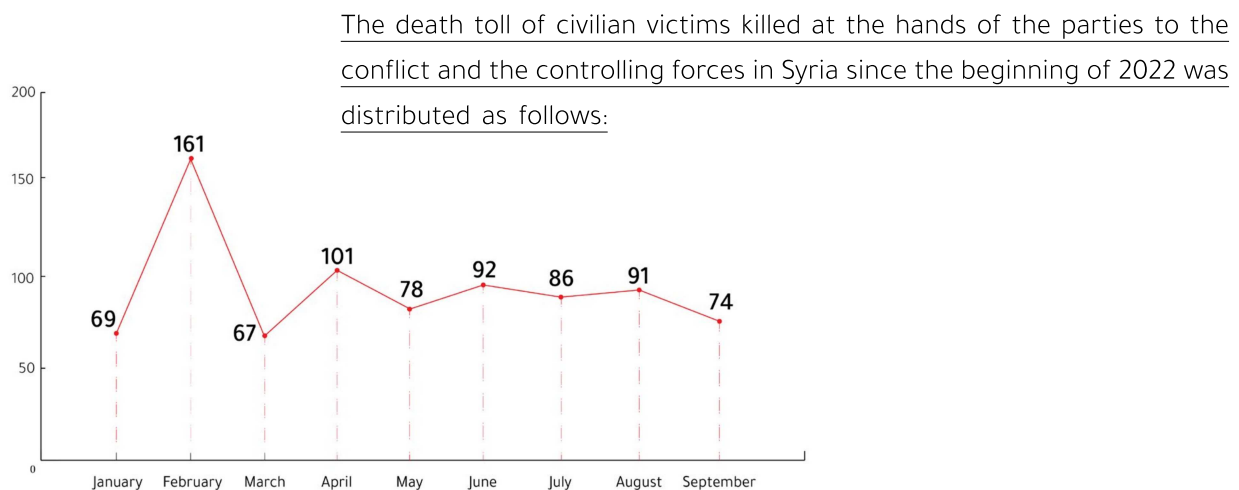
On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, [the body of 42-year-old Muhammad Ahmad Fares al Etma](#) from al Sanamayn city in northern Daraa governorate, where he worked as a philosophy teacher at a local school, was found, bearing gunshot wounds. The area was controlled by Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Friday, September 23, 2022, 50-year-old Moutaz Muhammad Abo Hamdan, from Tafas city in western Daraa governorate, where he was imam of the city's Othman bin Affan Mosque, [was shot and killed](#) by unidentified gunmen who also shot and severely wounded his wife and daughter while the family were together in the city's al Sharqi neighborhood. Tafas city is under the control of the Syrian regime forces, as it was at the time of the incident.

We have also documented the deaths of six civilians, including one child, at the hands of the Syrian Democratic Forces. On Tuesday, September 20, 2022, [Muhammad Ali al Shlash and his young son Abbadi were shot and killed](#) by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel during a raid on their home in al Baydar Fatsa Bayram village in Raqqqa governorate eastern suburbs. The SDF forces were supported by US-led Coalition forces' planes. The village was under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

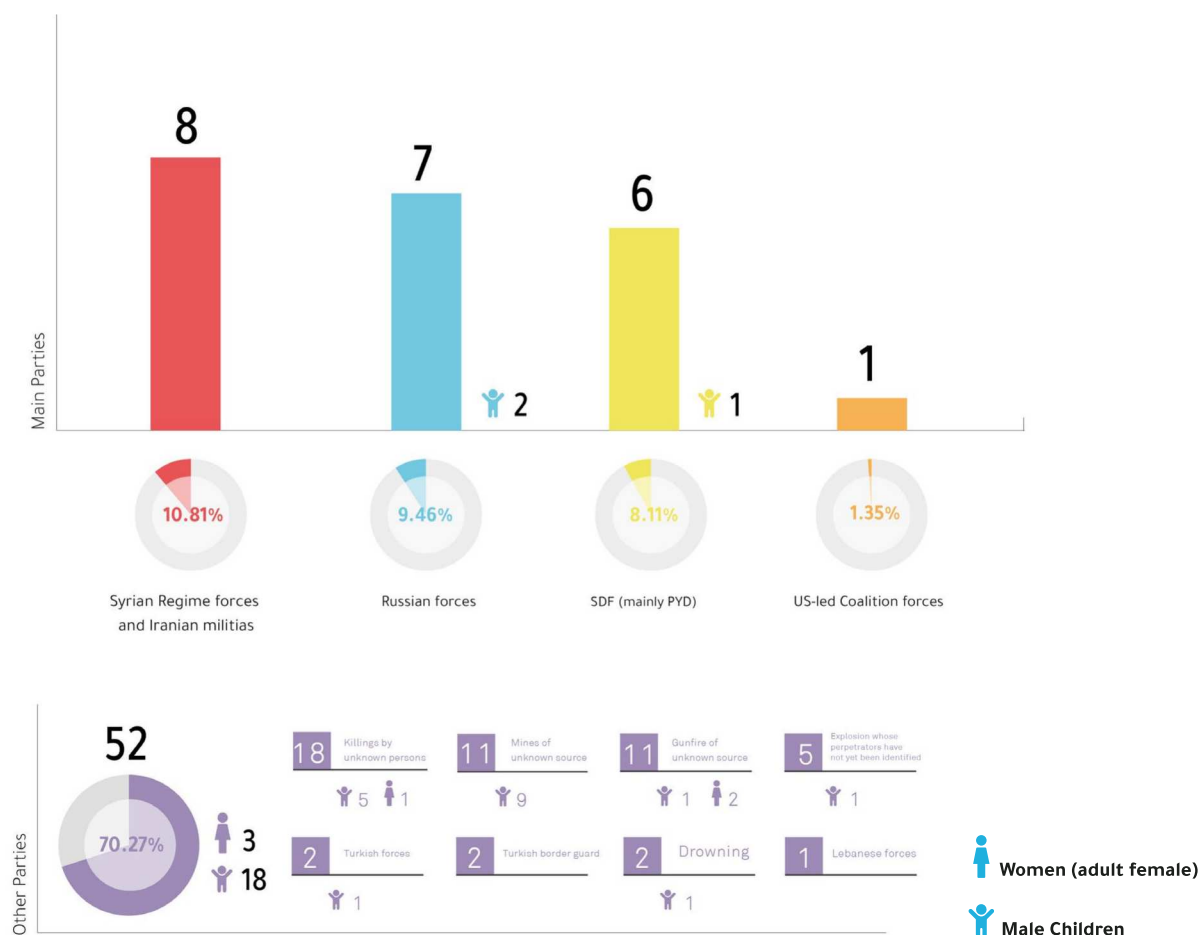
IV. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

In September, SNHR documented the deaths of 74 civilians, including 21 children and three women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented civilian death toll since the beginning of 2022 up to October 2022 to 819.



September saw a notable decrease in the monthly death toll for 2022 compared to the previous five months, accounting for approximately 9% of the total death toll documented since the beginning of the year, while we recorded the highest total of victims in the month of February, accounting for approximately 20% of the total, followed by April, accounting for approximately 13%, and then June and August, accounting for 11% each, of the total of the number of victims.

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



A. The main parties:

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

We documented the deaths of eight civilians.

- Russian Forces:

We document the deaths of eight civilians, including two children.

- Syrian Democratic Forces:

We documented the deaths of six civilians, including one child.

- US-led Coalition forces:

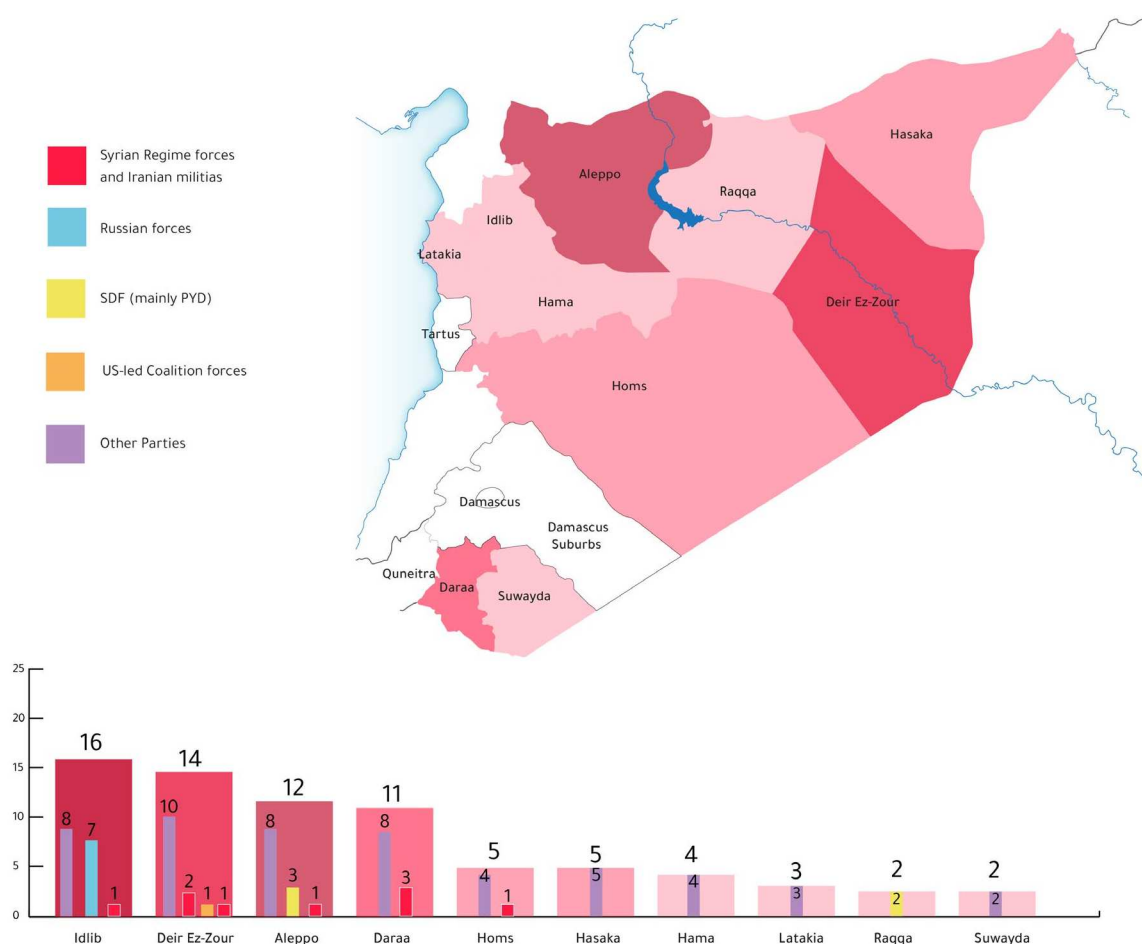
We documented the deaths of one civilian.

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 52 civilians, including 18 children and three women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 11 civilians, including nine children.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 11 civilians, including one child and two women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Five civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 18 civilians, including five children and one woman.
- Drowning: two civilians including one child.
- Lebanese forces: one civilian.
- Turkish border guards: Two civilians.
- Turkish forces: Two civilians, including one child.

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

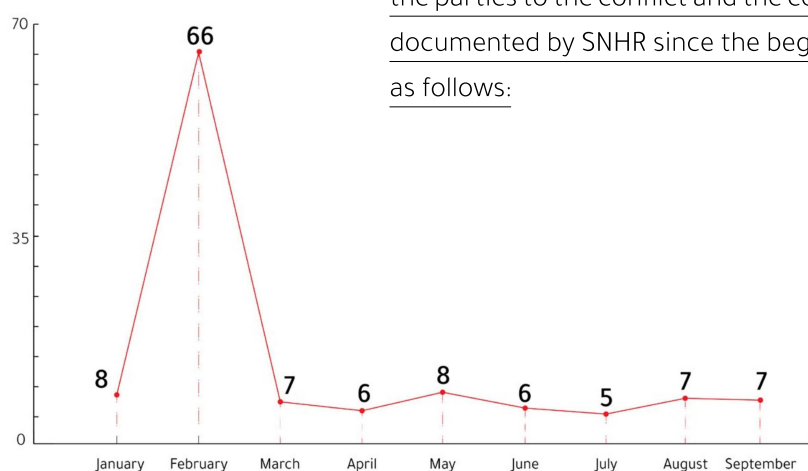


Idlib governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented killed in September compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 22% of the total death toll, followed by Deir Ez-Zour governorate with approximately 19%, then Aleppo with approximately 16%, with most of the victims in all the governorates killed at the hands of other parties.

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

SNHR documented in September 2022 the deaths of seven victims due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the death toll of victims documented as dying due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 up to September 2022 to 120.



The death toll of victims whose death due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have been documented by SNHR since the beginning of 2022 is distributed as follows:

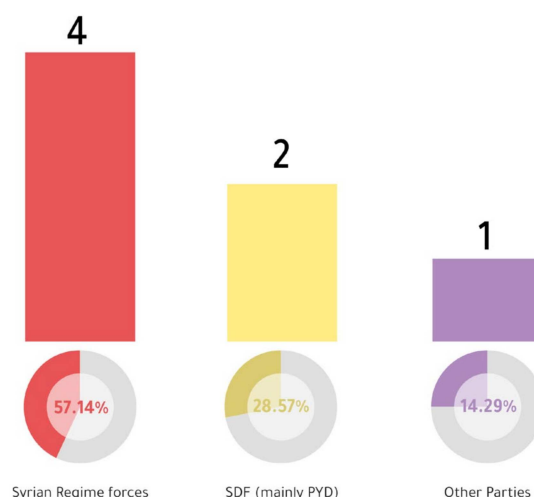
The percentage of the victims documented as being killed under torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces in 2022 is approximately 91%, compared to the total number of other victims documented as being killed under torture at the hands of all parties to the conflict and the controlling forces. Meanwhile, February saw the largest number of victims killed under torture since the beginning of 2022, accounting for approximately 55% of the total to date, meaning that more than half of the victims killed under torture so far in 2022 died in February.

The death toll of victims whose deaths due to torture were documented by SNHR at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in August was distributed as follows:

A- Main parties:

Syrian regime forces: Four.

Syrian Democratic Forces: Two.



The most notable cases are:

Ahmad Mhaidi al Saleh al Nasser, from Mouhasan city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 2015 while passing through a checkpoint in Hasaka city. He was taken to Seydnaya Military Prison in Damascus suburbs governorate and has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying his detention and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him.

On September 26, 2022, Ahmad's family learned of his death inside Seydnaya Military Prison; SNHR has obtained information confirming he was in good health at the time of his arrest, which makes it highly probable that he died due to torture and lack of medical care.



Ahmad Mhaidi al Saleh al Nasser

Nineteen-year-old Diyar Khalil Omar, a former employee of the Syrian Democratic Forces' Culture and Art Administration, from Basouta village of Afrin city in northern Aleppo governorate, was living in al Sheikh Maqsood neighborhood in Aleppo city at the time of his arrest by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) personnel on August 14, 2022. He was detained, without any court warrant being issued, after being summoned to the SDF's National Security Office in al Sheikh Maqsood neighborhood, and was taken to an SDF detention center. He wasn't allowed to contact his family or a lawyer. On September 3, 2022, an SDF member notified Diyar's family of his death in custody. Upon visiting the SDF headquarters, the family members received a medical report which stated that he had died on August 31, 2022 due to lack of oxygen. His body, which was returned to his family from the detention center where he was imprisoned in al Sheikh Maqsood neighborhood, bore various marks indicating he'd been subjected to severe torture. SNHR received several photos on September 4, 2022, clearly showing that the victim, Diyar Khalil Omar, had been brutally tortured.



Diyar Khalil Omar

B. Death toll of medical personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among medical personnel in September 2022.

C. Death toll of media workers

SNHR didn't document any deaths among media workers in September 2022.

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among Civil Defense personnel in September 2022.

VI. Record of Most Notable Massacres

SNHR documented one massacre in September 2022, perpetrated by Russian forces, bringing the total number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2022 to at least 10, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian regime forces:** One.
- **Russian forces:** Two.
- **ISIS:** One.

B. Other parties:

We documented six massacres at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Shells whose source we have not been able to identify: Three.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: One.
- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: One.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: One.

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacre documented in September resulted in the deaths of 7 civilians, including two children.

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, fixed-wing warplanes, which we believe were Russian, launched three [missiles](#)' airstrikes on a mountainous area south of Hafsarja village in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles hit a stonemason workshop and houses in its vicinity; resulting in [the killing of seven civilians](#), including two children, and the wounding of about 11 others, most of whom were stonemasons, in addition, the airstrike [severely damaged the stonemason workshop and several homes](#), causing massive destruction. Tents for displaced people, located about 200m from the stonemason workshop, were also [damaged by some shrapnel from the bombing](#). The area was under the control of factions in the armed opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham at the time of the incident.

SNHR spoke with Ahmad al Ahmad³, a media activist from Hafsarja village and a witness of the massacre. He told us that on September 8, at 11:00, the aviation observatories circulated that Russian aircrafts had taken off from Hmeimim Airbase in Lattakia suburbs, adding: **"The aircraft carried out three raids on lands and farms about two kilometers from the village - two of them were on my cousin's stonemason workshop and his house next to it, and the third was carried out by warplanes that were over 200 meters above. After the first raid, I went to the site of the bombing, and when I arrived, I entered the workshop with other men and pulled out a wounded man and two victims, then we moved away a little due to the return of the air force and they bombed the workshop again. After the bombing ended, and the warplanes leaving the airspace, the civil defense teams worked to evacuate the remaining victims and rescue the wounded."**

³ Contacted via WhatsApp on September 2022 .21

Ahmed said that the estimated time between each raid was between 10 to 15 minutes, stating that two missiles were used in the first raid, and three in the second, and added: **“The death toll is seven, including two children, three from Hafsarja village and four from other areas in Idlib, and about 12 people were wounded, some of whom are in a critical condition.”**

VII. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue

Since 2011, the SNHR has created complex electronic 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, method of killing used, 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, and enables us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates its 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 about incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly a statistic recorded on our database that does not include either, 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.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also 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 sends 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 the Syrian Network for Human Rights 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. The 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 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 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 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.

Office of the United Nations 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 more 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 opinion 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 to 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.

The 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.

The 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 Syrian Democratic Forces)

- 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/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 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.

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