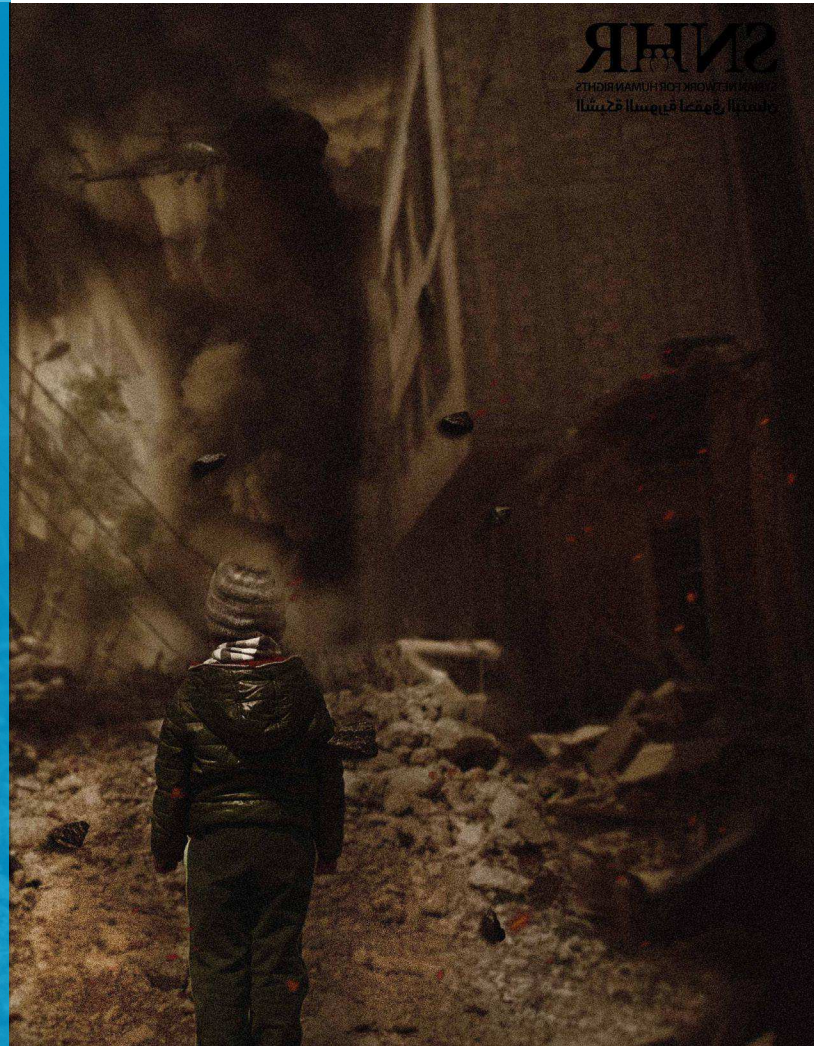


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1703
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Syrian Network for Human Rights
Titel:	101 Civilians, Including 17 Children, 14 Women, and Six Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria in April 2022 - Killing in Syria Continues Even During the Holy Months
Udgivet:	1. maj 2022
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	2. juni 2022

101 Civilians, Including 17 Children, 14 Women, and Six Victims Who Died Due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria in April 2022

**Killing in Syria Continues
Even During the Holy Months**



Sunday 01 May 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.

content:

I. Background and Methodology	2
II. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in April	5
III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims	7
IV. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel	10
V. Record of Most Notable Massacres	12
VI. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue	12
VII. Conclusions and Recommendations	13

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 April 2022, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, and victims amongst medical personnel killed by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces which the SNHR 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
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham²
- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army
- Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party)

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.

The reason behind this exclusion is the great difficulty in conclusively assigning responsibility in cases of deaths caused by mines or their remnants because, in the vast majority of cases, we are unable to decisively determine which party planted the mines, since all parties to the conflict use this type of munition, and also because of the multiplicity of controlling parties which have been present in the areas where the minefields are located. None of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria have revealed maps of the places where they planted landmines. We have recorded continuing deaths due to landmines despite repeated appeals by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, and urgent requests for the essential intervention of international teams to help uncover the locations where landmines are deployed and to put pressure on the controlling forces in Syria to determine their locations of deployment in order to reduce the number of casualties among civilians resulting from them.

The same applies in the case of remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks, which include person-borne IEDs or vehicle-borne IEDs, with the detonation process in such attacks mainly carried out either by radio or via a timer, meaning that the process of proving the responsibility of a party for a remote detonation incident is very complex and requires a great deal of effort and advanced logistical capabilities, as well as the ability to visit the site of the incident, with many of these factors being unavailable to us.

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.

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.

²The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

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.

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 link.³

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. Our team follows up on incidents and related reports in a variety of ways in the effort to verify information and collect as much relevant evidence and data as possible. In some cases, researchers are able to visit the incident location immediately. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily violation incidents. SNHR's customary policy in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, as we try to reach them promptly, and secondarily on the accounts of those who witnessed or photographed the violation in question, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the Internet and media outlets; third, by talking with medical personnel who treated the individuals injured in these incidents, examined the deceased victims' bodies, and identified the cause of death. 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.

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, and in which the perpetrators failed to issue any warnings to civilians prior to any of the attacks as required by international humanitarian law.

³ The methodology adopted by the Syrian Network for Human Rights ". SNHR . <<http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf >>

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.

II. Summary of the Most Notable Killings in April:

This year, April coincided with the month of Ramadan, which is a holy month for Muslims worldwide, with Islam being the religion of the majority of the Syrian people. This month also witnessed the Easter holidays. The continuing killing and persecution of civilians and targeting of their places of worship during this sacred period constitute two-fold violations, indicating contempt for religious belief, as well as for the victims, in addition to intensifying sectarian tension and societal division. In May 2021, we issued a [special report](#) providing a decade of records of the death toll of civilian victims killed during the months of Ramadan and the following three days of Eid al Fitr, starting from Ramadan 1432 AH corresponding to August 2011. We reiterate that the parties to the conflict in Syria must respect the sanctity of the month of Ramadan and stop committing violations against civilians during this period, and, even if they do not stop their violations, then at a minimum reduce their extent.

Despite the sacred nature of this period, however, the SNHR's Victims Documentation Team's daily monitoring and follow-up showed that extrajudicial killings continued throughout all the days of Ramadan just as at all other times; it should also be emphasized, of course, that killings and all violations must stop completely regardless of the sanctity of certain days.

Since Ramadan 1, 1443, corresponding to April 2, 2022, we have documented the deaths of at least 89 civilians, including 14 children and 12 women (adult female), bringing the death toll of victims who were killed during the months of Ramadan from 2011 to 2022 to 19,281 civilians in total, including 2,728 children and 2,365 women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, of whom 16,141 were killed by Syrian regime forces, accounting for 84% of the death toll documented in the months of Ramadan, which once again demonstrates the regime's brutality and its willingness to carry out killings and violate the sanctity of the month of Ramadan.

April saw an increase in the death toll compared to the previous month, with the total number of documented civilian victims reaching 101, including 17 children and 14 women, nine of whom were killed by Syrian regime forces.

On Monday, April 4, 2022, we [documented](#) the deaths of four children, named as Yamen Juma Yasin, Hamza Mansour Aswad, Malek Anas Dawdi, and Nasr Haj Ahmad, all from Ma'aret al Na'san village northeast of Idlib governorate, who were killed by a missile fired by Syrian regime artillery forces at al Shamali neighborhood in Ma'aret al Na'san village while on their way to the middle school in the village, which is under the joint control of Armed Opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

In April, we also documented the deaths of two civilians at the hands of all Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army. Eighty-year-old, Beyram Ma'mo, from Bulbul town of Afrin city north of Aleppo governorate, passed away in the military hospital in Afrin city [on April 21, 2022](#), as a result of wounds sustained two weeks before on Thursday, April 7, in stray gunfire during a shootout between members of al Hamza Brigade and al Sham Corps, both factions of the Syrian National Army in Bulbul town, which is under the control of the Syrian National Army.

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, Mustafa Muhammad al Bash, a taxi driver from Damascus Suburbs governorate, [was shot and killed](#), during a shootout between a member of the Third Corps and a member of al Salam Brigade, both factions of the Syrian National Army. The shootout occurred on a main street in Afrin city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which is under the control of the Syrian National Army.

Meanwhile, 81 civilians were killed at the hands of other parties in April, which also saw the continuation of civilian casualties as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria; we also documented the deaths of 13 civilians, including four children and two women, as a result of landmine explosions, bringing the death toll resulting from the explosion of landmines since the beginning of 2022, to 51 civilians, including 24 children and four women.

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, [the explosion](#) of a landmine planted by a party which we have not yet been able to identify in al Hariri village of al Shaddadi city south of Hasaka governorate, resulted in the deaths of a seven-year-old boy, Rami al Hamoud. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, [the explosion](#) of a landmine planted by a party which we have not yet been able to identify in farmland east of Um al Mayathen village in the suburbs of Daraa governorate, resulted in the deaths of a five-year-old boy, Eshaq Adham al Mahameid from Um al Mayathen village, which was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

We also documented the deaths of eight civilians, including one child, as a result of bombings whose perpetrators we have not yet been able to identify. [On Sunday, April 10, 2022](#), Adnan Bakri Haddad was killed, and several other civilians were injured, in a car bomb explosion in front of a checkpoint belonging to the Syrian National Army at the entrance to al Bab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The area was under the control of the Syrian National Army at the time of the incident.

We also documented the deaths of 46 civilians, including four children and eight women, due to gunfire by parties which we have not yet been able to identify; the governorates of Daraa and Hasaka saw the deaths of 15 civilians, while seven others were killed in Deir Ez-Zour, six in Suwayda, two in Aleppo, and one in Homs.

On April 17, 2022, unidentified gunmen [shot and killed](#) Muhammad Amin Mahmoud Sharifa, a judge at the court in the regime-controlled city of al Sanamayn in the north of Daraa governorate, as well as wounding his brother, when they opened fire at them near the judge's house in Qeita village, also in northern Daraa governorate, which was also under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

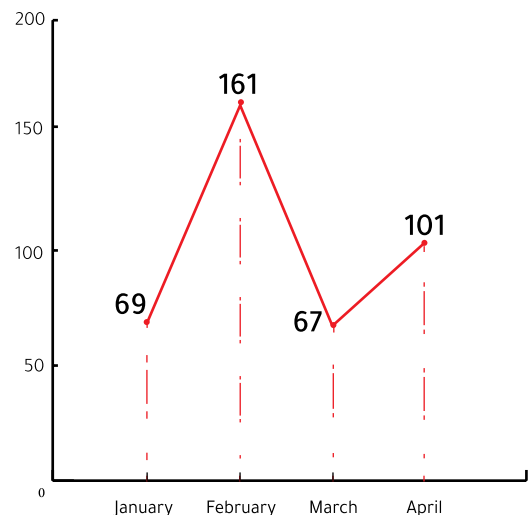
[On Tuesday, April 12, 2022](#), unidentified gunmen shot at a car in which a family was traveling on the road between al Dara village west of Suwayda governorate and al Mlaiha al Sharqiya town in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, killing Shuja al Husani, along with his two children Muhammad and Israa (who died of her injuries on April 20), in addition to causing the death of the grandfather of the two children, Ali al Remh. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

[On Thursday, April 21, 2022](#), the body of Rojin Salman al Shahin Azzam, aged 22, from Ariqa town in the western suburbs of Suwayda governorate, was found on the outskirts of the town bearing gunshot wounds. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims:

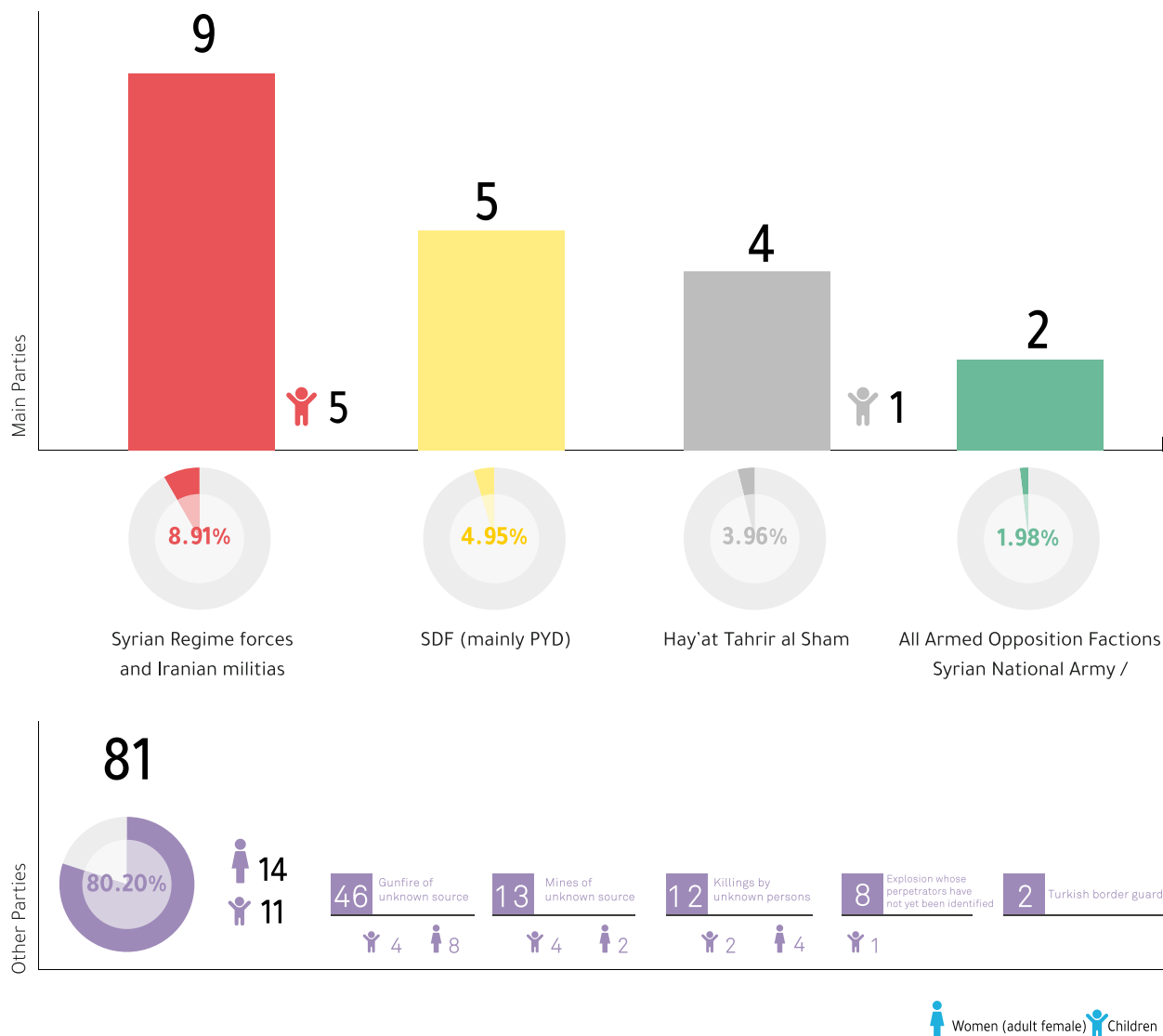
In April, SNHR documented the deaths of 101 civilians, including 17 children and 14 women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented civilian death toll since the beginning of 2022 up to May 2022 to 398.

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



February saw the largest number of deaths in 2022, accounting for approximately 40% of the total death toll since the beginning of the year, followed by April with approximately 25%.

The death toll we documented in April 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 nine civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including five children.

- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:

We documented the deaths of four civilians, including one child, at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

- All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army:

We documented the deaths of two civilians at the hands of All Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army.

- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party):

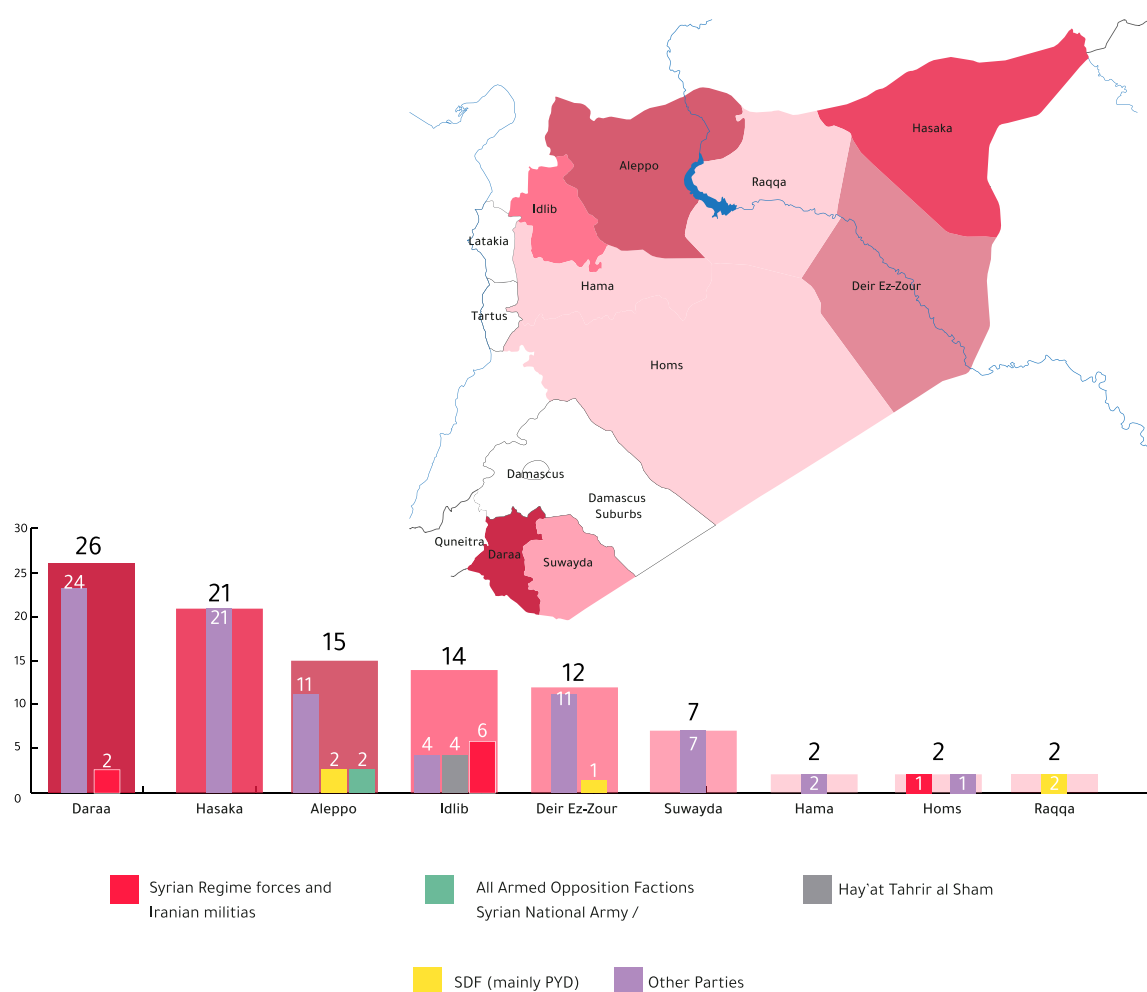
We documented the deaths of five civilians at the hands of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party).

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 81 civilians, including 11 children and 14 women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines whose source we have not been able to identify: 13 civilians, including four children and two women.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: 46 civilians, including four children and eight women.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify: Eight civilians, including one child.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 12 civilians, including two children and four women.
- Turkish border guards: Two civilians.

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



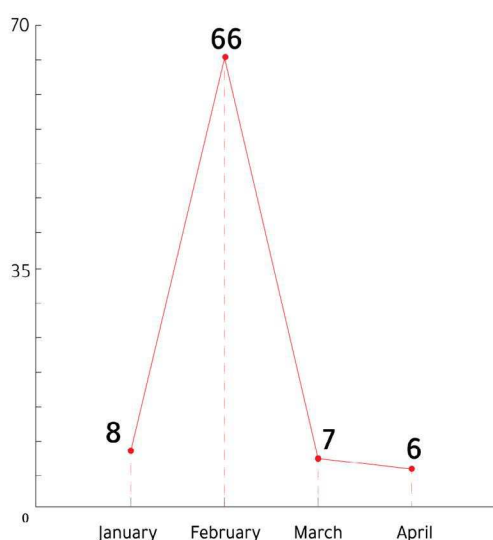
Daraa governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented in April compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 26% of the total death toll, followed by Hasaka governorate, which accounted for approximately 21%, then Aleppo and Idlib governorates, which accounted for approximately 14%, with most of the victims in these governorates killed at the hands of other parties.

IV. 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 April 2022 the deaths of six 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 who died 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 May 2022 to 87.

The death toll of victims whom SNHR documented their death due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2022 was distributed as follows:

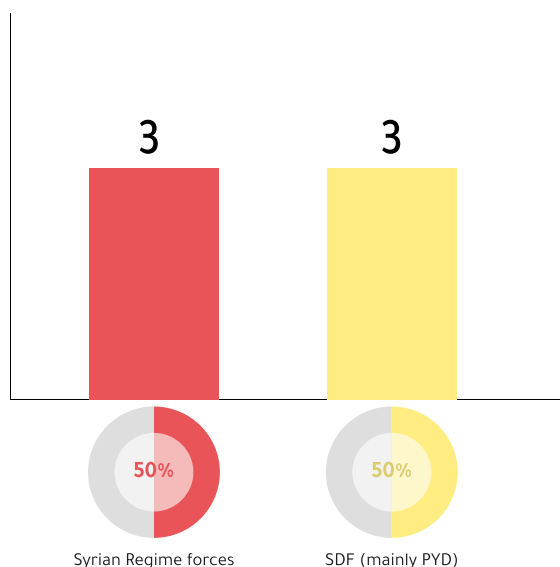


February saw the largest number of victims killed under torture since the beginning of 2022, accounting for approximately 81% of the total to date.

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 April 2022 was distributed as follows:

Syrian regime forces: Three.

Syrian Democratic Forces: Three.



The most notable cases are:

Yasin Ghazi Abo Rukba, aged 34, a former soldier who had defected from the Syrian regime army, from Nawa city in the western suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested by Syrian regime forces in 2018 after he surrendered himself in order to agree to a security settlement. Almost since then, he has been classified as forcibly disappeared, with the Syrian regime denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him. On Tuesday, April 19, 2022, Syrian regime military personnel released his body to his family, informing them that he had died inside the infamous Seydnaya military prison in Damascus Suburbs governorate; the body bore clear marks of torture. We have information confirming that he was in good health when he was arrested, indicating that he most probably died due to torture and neglect of healthcare.



Yasin Ghazi Abo Rukba

Tareq Sayyed Ahmad, aged 29, a member of the Syrian Democratic Forces, from Khank village, which is administratively a part of Ein al Arab city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, was arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces personnel in August 2021, upon his return from a security mission assigned to him by the Syrian Democratic Forces in Jarablos area, which is under the control of the Syrian National Army. Almost since then, he has been classified as forcibly disappeared, with the Syrian Democratic Forces denying his detention and preventing anyone, even a lawyer, from visiting him or knowing his fate. On Monday, April 18, 2022, a Syrian Democratic Forces officer released his body to his family, informing them that he had died inside one of the SDF's detention centers. We have information confirming that he was in good health when he was arrested, indicating that he most probably died due to torture and neglect of healthcare in one of SDF detention centers.

B. Death toll of medical personnel

In April 2022, SNHR documented the death of one medical worker at the hands of other parties, who was killed as a result of a bombing whose perpetrators we have not been able to identify.

Thaer Zeyad al Balkhi, from Mjaidel town in al Laja area in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, a pediatrician who worked at Bosra al Sham National Hospital in Bosra al Sham city in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was 40 years old when he died on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, as a result of the blast of an IED planted in his car by unknown persons, whom we were unable to identify, in Mahaja town in the northern suburbs of Daraa, which was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



Thaer Zeyad al Balkhi

C. Death toll of media workers

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

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

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

V. Record of Most Notable Massacres:

SNHR didn't document any massacres in April 2022.

VI. 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.

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.

VII. 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 violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- Factions of the Armed Opposition/Syrian National Army have violated UN Security Council Resolution 2139 through carrying out attacks that are considered to violate customary international humanitarian law, causing civilian casualties or accidental injuries.
- 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.⁴
- 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.

⁴ICRC, Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949, articles 27, 31, 32, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Treaty.xsp?documentId=AE2D398352C5B028C12563CD002D6B5C&action=openDocument>

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.

Acknowledgment:

We thank all family members and friends of the victims, along with the eyewitnesses and local activists, whose contributions have enriched this report.



www.snhr.org - info@snhr.org