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Extrajudicial Killing Claims the Lives of 84 Civilians, Including 22 Children, Four Women, and Seven Victims Due to Torture, in Syria in October 2021

Killings Continue in Syria during the Constitutional Committee Negotiations

Monday 1 November 2021

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 October.....	5
III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims.....	6
IV. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel.....	9
V. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented in October.....	11
VI. The Most Notable Work Carried Out by SNHR on the Extrajudicial Killing Issue.....	13
VII. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	14

I. Background and Methodology:

The documentation process to register victims killed in Syria is one of the most important roles performed by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (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.

This report records the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by SNHR as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in October 2021, particularly focusing on those victims killed under torture, paying particular attention to those massacres committed 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 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, and if we suspect the attack to have been perpetrated by either Syrian regime forces or Russian forces, given that the bombardment comes from the areas under their joint control, we assign the responsibility for the killing to the Syrian regime, as the party that brought about the Russian military intervention, continuing our investigations until we are able to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment; the same applies if we suspect the bombardment to be by either Syrian regime forces or Iranian militias.

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

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

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 turn 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.

² The United Nations has designated it as a terrorist organization

³ "Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology", Syrian Network for Human Rights, <http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf>

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.

Also, there is great difficulty in determining which party was responsible for planting landmines, due to the multiplicity of forces controlling the areas in which these explosions occurred, and therefore we do not attribute the vast majority of deaths caused by landmines to a specific party. 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.

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 October:

Although October saw an overall decrease in the death toll of civilians, SNHR documented Syrian regime forces' continuing indiscriminate and deliberate bombardment targeting civilians; our statistics indicate that 38% of the documented death toll in October were killed by Syrian regime forces (32 civilians, including seven children, three women and six deaths due to torture), most of them (63%) in Idlib governorate.

On Friday, October 1, Ms. [Fatimah Shlash](#), from Hwair al Eys village in the southern suburbs of Aleppo, was killed while other civilians were injured in Syrian regime missile launcher bombardment near a gathering of tents where IDPs have been living to the north of Batenta village in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate.

On Monday, October 11, [three civilians](#), named as Fadi Rustum, from al Teffahiya village, Ali Qerra Faqi, from al Zweila village in Jabal al Turkman in the northern suburbs of Latakia, and Ahmad Hadid, from Marj al Zo-hour village in the western suburbs of Idlib, were killed by a missile fired by Syrian regime forces as they were working collecting woods in the outskirt of al Teffahiya village in the western suburbs of Idlib.

Meanwhile, 44 civilians (53% of the death toll documented in October) were killed at the hands of other parties.

October also saw continuing civilian deaths as a result of landmine explosions in different governorates and regions of Syria, with SNHR documenting the deaths of seven civilians, including six children, bringing the civilian death toll caused by landmines since the beginning of 2021 to 149, including 64 children and 22 women.

On Saturday, October 23, [the explosion of a landmine](#) planted by an unknown party on farmland in Wadi al Meklaf village, which is administratively a part of Manbej city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which is controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces, resulted in the death of a fifth-grade schoolchild, Ahmad al Khamis, from Rasm al Harmal al Kabir village in east of Aleppo governorate.

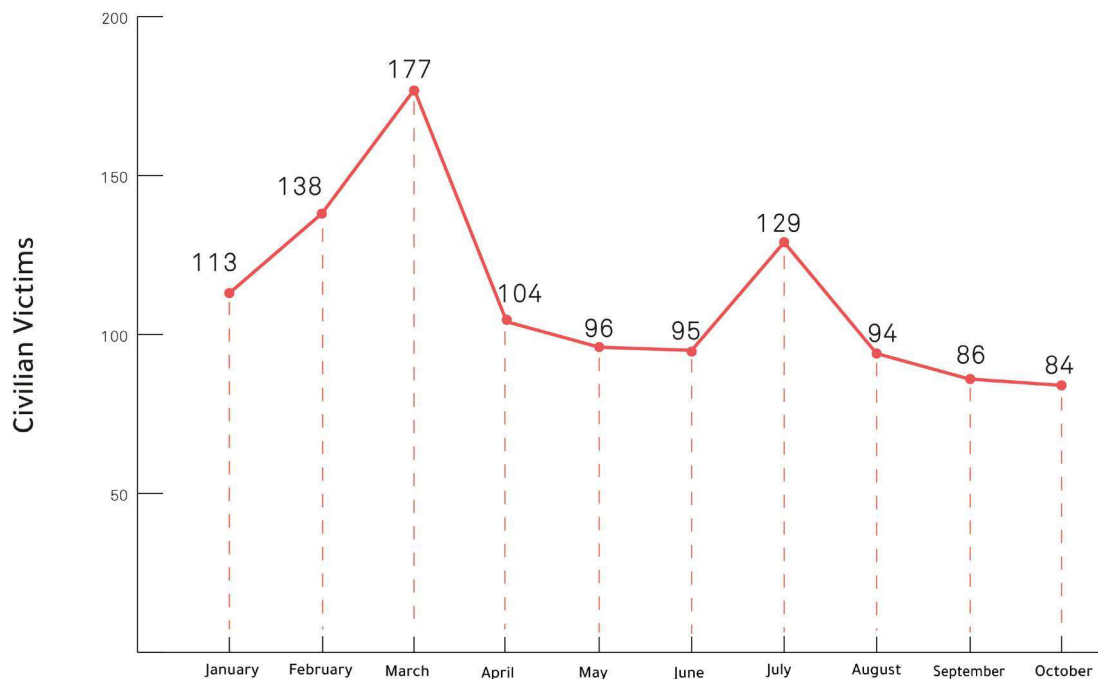
We also documented in October the deaths of victims as a result of the [explosion of munitions](#) left over from previous bombardment; on Thursday, October 21, munitions left over from previous bombing of unknown source in Tafranaz town, which is under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham, exploded while the child Kamal Muhammad Idris was playing with it near his family home, resulting in his death. The child Kamal was from Tafranaz town in the northern suburbs of Idlib.

In October, we documented two massacres, one of them at the hands of Syrian regime forces and the other as a result of an explosion whose perpetrators we have so far been unable to identify. The death toll of the two massacres was 17 civilians, including [four children](#) and one woman (adult female). The Ariha massacre, which was perpetrated on October 20 by Syrian regime forces, is the largest massacre since March 6, 2020 (the date of the entry into force of the Turkish-Russian agreement); we issued a special report documenting the massacre.

III. Death Toll of Civilian Victims:

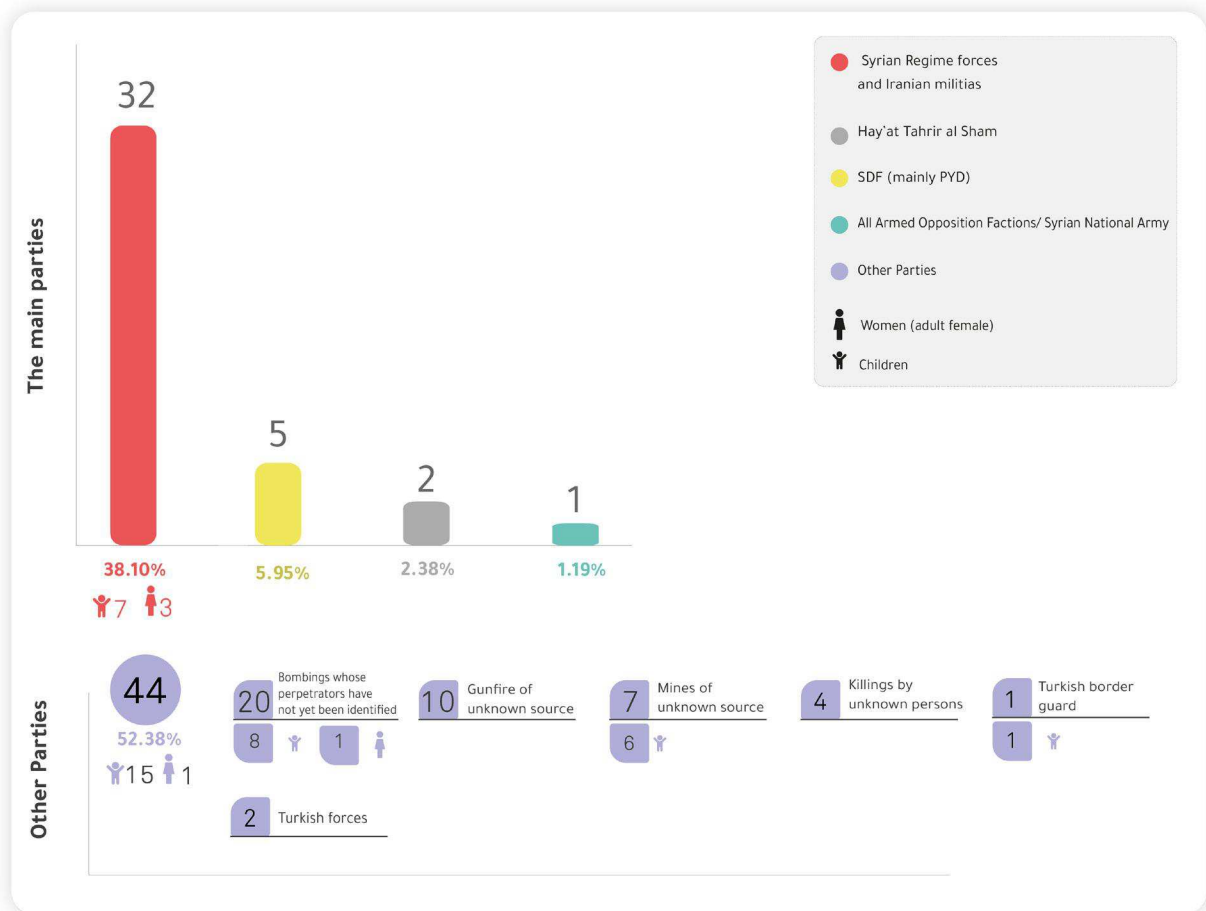
In October 2021, SNHR documented the deaths of 84 civilians, including 22 children and four women (adult female), killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the documented death toll of civilian victims since the beginning of 2021 up to November 2021 to 1,116.

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 2021 was distributed as follows:



We observed a continued decrease in the death toll, with October seeing the lowest death toll of civilian victims or approximately 7.50% of the total documented since the beginning of 2021.

The death toll we documented in October 2021 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 32 civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces, including seven children and three women.

- **Hay'at Tahrir al Sham:**

We documented the deaths of two civilians at the hands of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

- **All Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army:**

We documented the deaths of one civilian at the hands of the Armed Opposition forces/ Syrian National Army.

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

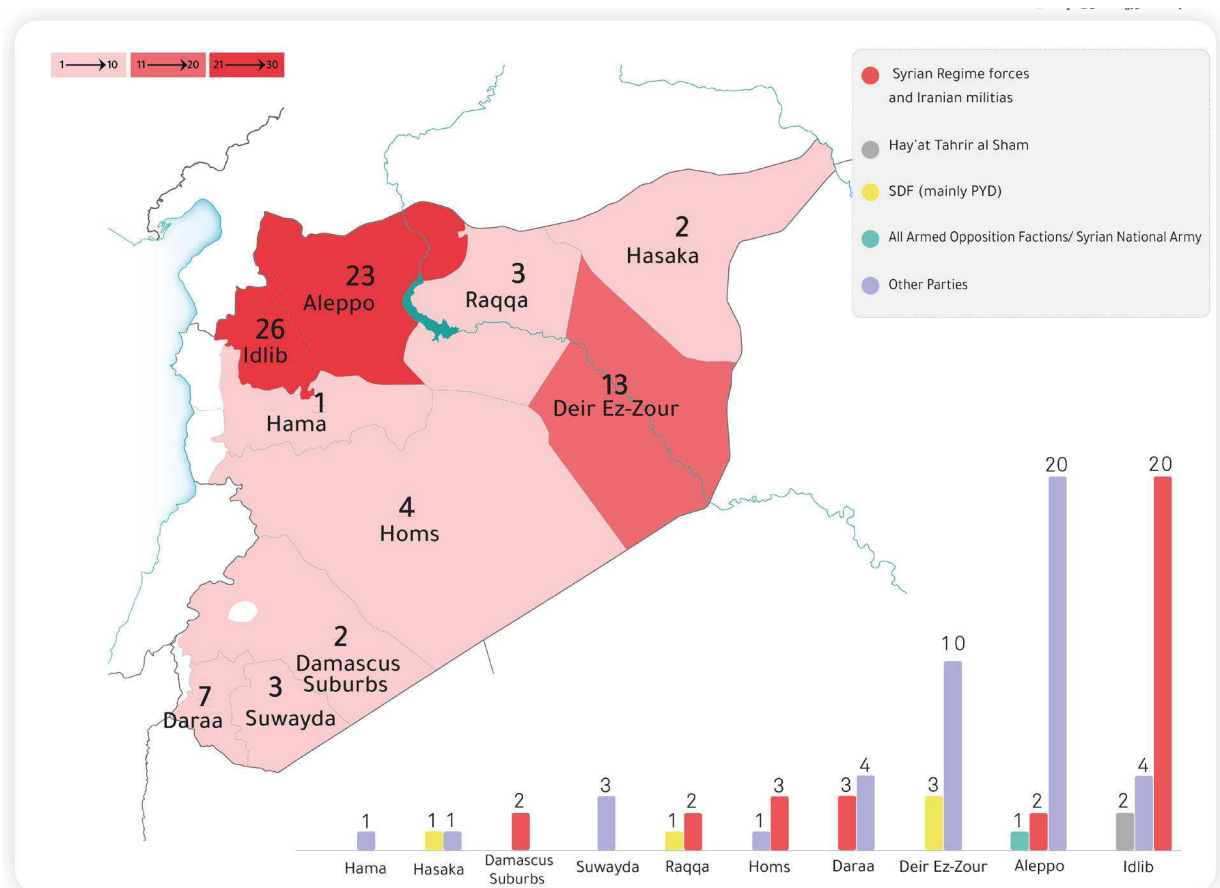
We documented the deaths of five civilians at the hands of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (the Democratic Union Party).

B. Other parties:

We documented the deaths of 44 civilians, including 15 children and one woman, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unknown source: Seven civilians, including six children.
- Gunfire of unknown source: 10 civilians.
- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: 20 civilians, including eight children and one woman.
- Killings by unknown persons: Four civilians.
- Turkish border guards: One child.
- Turkish forces: Two civilians.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in October 2021 was distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



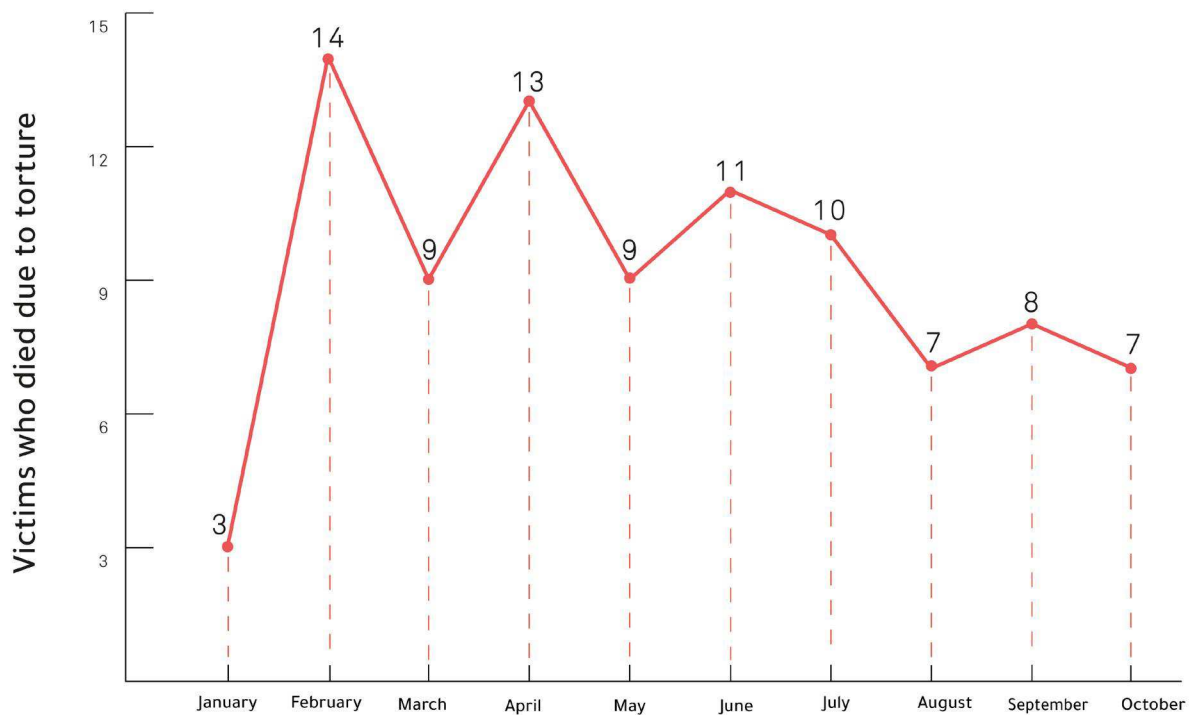
Idlib governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented in October compared to other Syrian governorates, accounting for approximately 31% of the total death toll, with most of the victims there killed by Syrian regime forces, followed by Aleppo governorate which accounted for approximately 28%, with most of the victims there being killed by 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

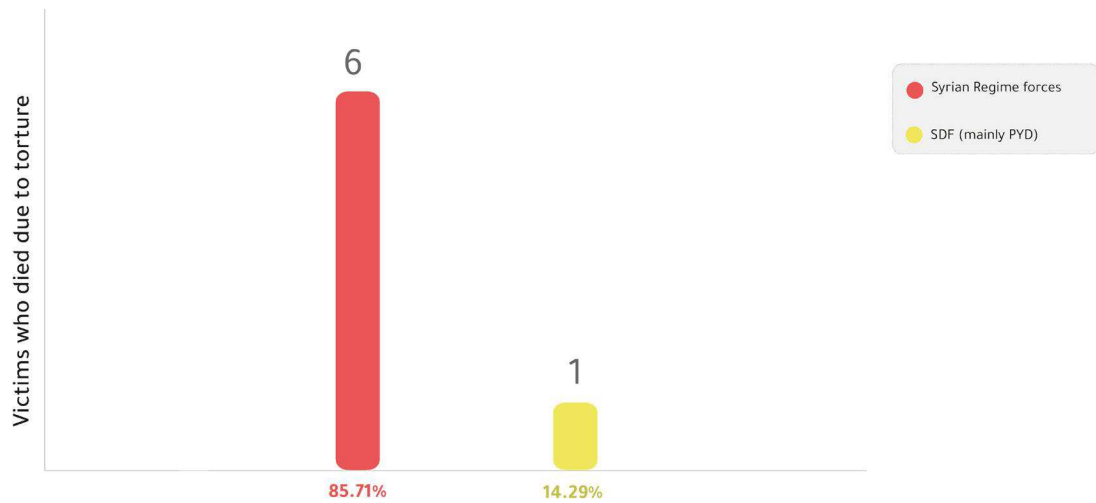
SNHR documented in October 2021 the deaths of seven victims due to torture, bringing the death toll of victims who died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2021 up to November 2021 to 91.

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 since the beginning of 2021 was distributed as follows:



Over the months of 2021, we recorded continuing deaths of victims due to torture, with January witnessing the lowest number of victims whose deaths due to torture we were able to document since the beginning of the year, with the percentage of victims whose deaths we documented due to torture in the Syrian regime's detention centers since the beginning of the year accounting for approximately 81% of the total death toll of torture victims.

The death toll of victims whom SNHR documented their death due to torture in October was distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:



Syrian regime forces: Six.

Syrian Democratic Forces: One.

The most notable cases are:

Abdul Hadi al Masri, from the Bab al Sbaa neighborhood of Homs city, was arrested by Syrian regime forces on Thursday, July 21, 2011, during a raid on his home in the neighborhood. Following his arrest, Abdul Hadi was transferred to a number of different prisons during his detention, with the last prison being Homs Central Prison in Homs city. On Friday, October 22, 2021, Syrian regime forces informed his family of his death in Homs Central Prison due to infection with the COVID-19 coronavirus. We can also confirm that Syrian regime forces failed to hand over his body to his family.



Bassam Taysir al Karshan, from Heet town in the western suburbs of Daraa, aged 33, was arrested by the Syrian regime's Military Security Force personnel on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, on charges of theft, and was taken to one of the regime's detention centers in Saham al Joulan town, west of Daraa governorate, where he was tortured to death. On Saturday, October 23, 2021, Syrian regime forces informed his family of his death in the National Hospital in Daraa city, and handed them over his body bearing signs of the torture to which he was subjected during his detention.

B. Death toll of medical personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among medical personnel in October 2021.

C. Death toll of media workers

SNHR didn't document any deaths among media workers in October 2021.

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

SNHR didn't document any deaths among Civil Defense personnel in October 2021.

V. Record of Most Notable Massacres Documented in October:

SNHR documented two massacres in October 2021, bringing the number of massacres since the beginning of 2021 to at least 16, distributed according to the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces as follows:

A. The main parties:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** Five.
- **Russian forces:** Three.

B. Other parties:

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

- Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: Four.
- Landmines of unknown source: Two.
- Killings by unknown persons: One.
- Shells from unknown source: One.

The two massacres documented in October were distributed as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** One.
- **Other parties:**

Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified: One.

The massacre perpetrated by Syrian regime forces was in areas under the joint control of the Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

According to the SNHR's Victim Documentation team, the massacres documented in October 2021 resulted in the deaths of 17 civilians, including four children and one woman (adult female). The death toll resulted from the massacres was distributed according to the perpetrators as follows:

- **Syrian Regime forces:** 11 civilians, including four children and one woman.
- **Other parties:**
- **Bombings whose perpetrators have not yet been identified:** Six civilians.

The most notable incidents are:

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at around 08:01, Syrian regime artillery forces began [bombarding](#) Ariha city in the southern suburbs of Idlib, coinciding with a Russian reconnaissance aircraft flying over the area, and in conjunction with the students heading to their schools. The [shelling](#) lasted for about ten minutes, during which ten shells fell on separate areas in the city center, resulting in [the deaths](#) of 11 civilians, including four [children](#) and one [woman](#) (a teacher), and injured about 30 others, in addition to causing damage to four vital civilian facilities.



The child Ali al Abboud was injured while on his way to school when Syrian regime artillery forces bombarded Ariha city- October 20, 2021 -Photo by Omar Haj Kadour

On Monday, October 11, 2021, a [car bomb](#) of unknown source [exploded](#) in a street in the area between Dawwar Kawa and Dawwar al Qabban at the entrance of al Hal Market in the center of Afrin city in the north-western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, resulting in the [deaths](#) of seven [individuals](#), including five [civilians](#) and two fighters, and the injury of nearly 24 other civilians. We note that the area where the explosion took place contains four military headquarters belonging to the Syrian National Army. SNHR is still trying to contact witnesses and survivors to obtain more details of the incident. Afrin city was under the control of Syrian National Army forces at the time of the incident.

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 ten 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, 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. 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 indicates that some of the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. These attacks along with 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 government 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.
- All Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army has 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.
- Hay'at Tahrir al Sham has violated international humanitarian law, causing the deaths of civilians.
- The use of explosive arms 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 Fourth Geneva Convention (articles 27, 31, 32).

Recommendations:

UN Security Council

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly states that "all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such."
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable, while Russia must stop using the veto, as it is a party to the Syrian conflict, and the UNSC states' veto power should be withheld when crimes against humanity and war crimes are committed.
- The Security Council should ensure peace and security and implement the principle of responsibility to protect civilians' lives and to save the Syrian people's heritage and historical artefacts from destruction, looting and vandalism.
- The Security Council should request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide food, medical and humanitarian assistance in areas where fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow-up with those States that have pledged voluntary contributions.

- There will be no stability in Syria without first achieving a political transition towards democracy and human rights in the country within a specific timetable, and this will only be achieved through the imposition of various pressures, mainly on the Syrian regime and its allies, because it will not give up power voluntarily.

International Community

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people by protecting them from daily killing, as well as through increasing support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted 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 in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan proved fruitless, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, while the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. By failing to do so, the Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- 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.
- Pressure the Syrian regime and its allies to compensate the displaced victims, to repair homes and vital facilities, support the political transition process, and put pressure on all the parties obliging them to implement the political transition within a period of time not exceeding six months, so that millions of displaced people can have a safe and stable return to their homes.

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 incidents mentioned in this report and previous reports since these attacks were perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces.
- Work on preparing a special report on the use of landmines in Syria and the risks they pose to civilians, and identify the most prominent locations where landmines were planted.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch 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.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report.

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Revive 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 establishment of a transitional governing body.

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.
- Begin to achieve a breakthrough in the issue of detainees by revealing the fate of 87,000 people disappeared by the Syrian regime.

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. Providing the SDF with weapons and support while knowing that the SDF is engaged in violating the rules of international humanitarian law can be seen as a contribution to these violations.

- 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.
- Take punitive action against those who commit violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/ Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

Acknowledgment

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



www.snhr.org - info@sn4hr.org