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MONTHLY REPORT FOR VICTIMS OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING IN SYRIA

The Death of 3666 Individuals Including 328 Children and 312 Women, and 32 Deaths due to Torture Recorded in the year 2025 in Syria

The Death of **80 Civilians** Including Eleven Children and Eight Women, and Two Deaths due to Torture Recorded in December 2025

Thursday 01 January 2026

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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 reviews the toll of victims whose deaths were documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria during 2025 and December 2025. The report highlights in particular the toll of victims who died under torture, medical personnel, media personnel and civil defense personnel, with a focus on the massacres committed, while keeping the full details in the Syrian Network for Human Rights database.

This report is limited to victims whose deaths the team was able to document during 2025. Some of the documented deaths may have occurred months or years earlier, so the date of documentation and the estimated date of the incident are included.

We have taken into account the radical change that occurred in power and control centers after the fall of the Assad regime on December 8, 2024, and the formation of a Syrian transitional government. Despite the fall of the Assad regime, we continue to document the killing of citizens by Assad's forces in various forms, most notably:

- Militias affiliated with the Assad regime are killing civilians or members of the Syrian security forces.
- Cluster munitions, remnants of Russian or Assad regime airstrikes, have exploded.
- Civilians injured in previous Assad regime shelling later died.

The report breaks down casualties according to the perpetrators, sometimes requiring additional time for investigation, especially in cases of joint attacks. Investigations continue until the perpetrator is definitively identified; if this proves impossible, incidents are listed under «unidentified actors» until sufficient evidence is obtained.

SNHR is careful to attribute incidents to those responsible, with the exception of two cases: anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced attacks, which have been addressed in separate reports.

For unidentified victims whose names or any information indicating their identity has not been identified, the network keeps their data in a special archive until new information is obtained.

SNHR documents deaths resulting from drowning during irregular migration attempts as a direct consequence of the deteriorating conditions caused by the conflict and human rights violations. The Network also monitors incidents involving the mishandling of weapons and unexploded ordnance, particularly those involving children. These incidents are cited as examples of lawlessness and the mismanagement of weapons but are not included in the list of violations committed by parties to the conflict.

This report is based on the continuous monitoring of incidents and news by the Syrian Network for Human Rights team, and through a wide network of relationships with dozens of diverse sources through the accumulation of relationships that have extended since the beginning of our work since 2011 until now. SNHR provides [a special form](#) that can be filled out with the name and information of the victim, so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on this information, verify its accuracy, and then include it in the database.

All the attacks documented in this report targeted civilian areas, with no military presence recorded at the attack sites. No prior warning was given to civilians by the attacking forces, as required by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

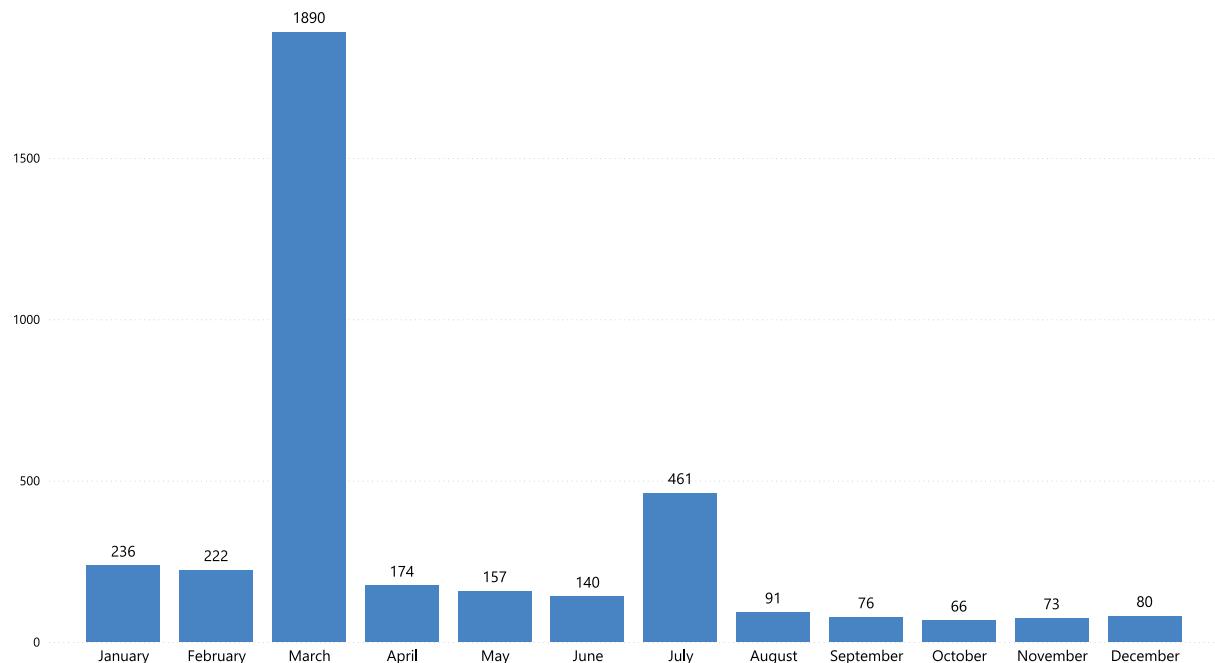
Finally, we emphasize that what is presented in this report represents the minimum extent and severity of the documented violations, without covering the social, economic, or psychological dimensions.

II. TOLL OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS:

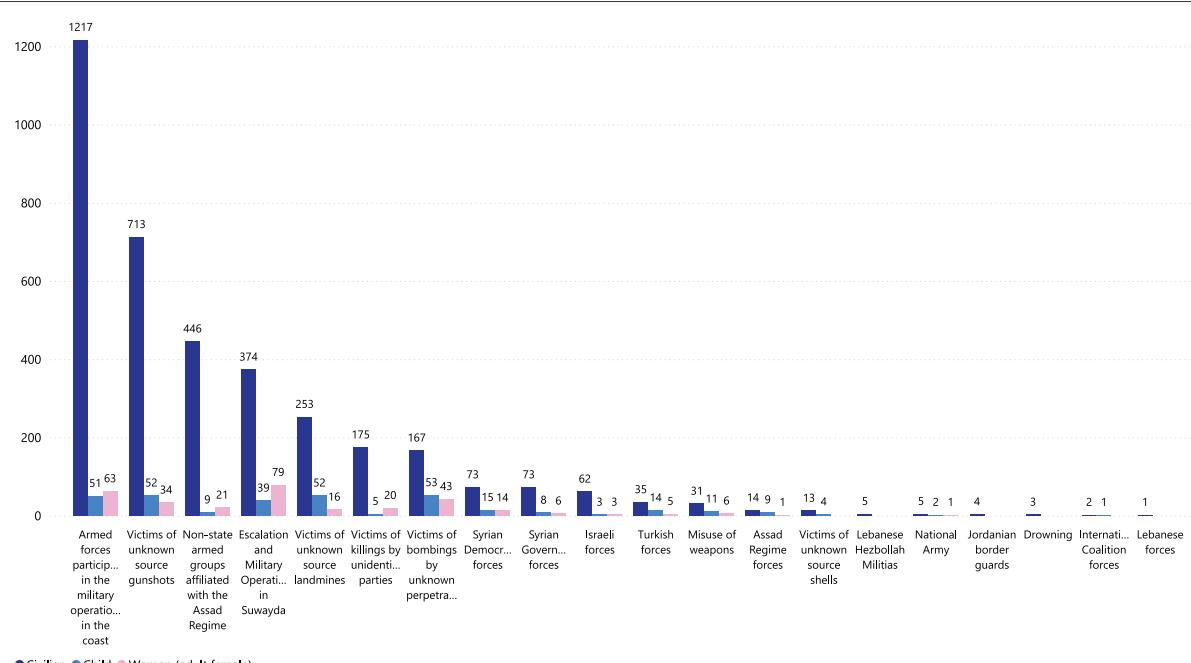
1. In the year 2025:

In 2025, SNHR documented the killing of **3,666 civilians**, including 328 children, 312 women (adult females), and 32 people due to torture, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria.

The toll of victims distributed by the parties, as follows:



SNHR



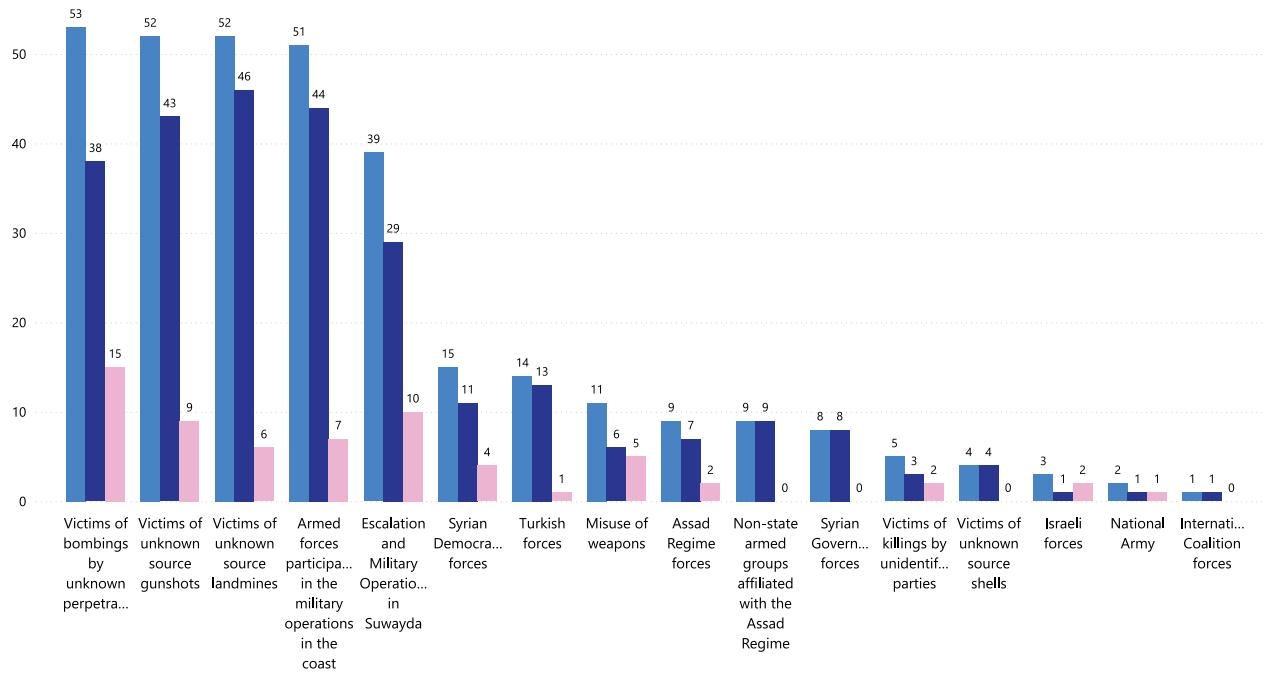
●Civilian ●Child ●Woman (adult female)

SNHR

- **Syrian Government Forces:** 73 civilians killed, including 8 children and 6 women; 2 massacres; 16 people killed due to torture.
- **Assad Regime Forces:** 14 civilians killed, including 9 children and 1 woman; 1 Civil Defense worker killed; 1 person killed due to torture.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 73 civilians killed, including 15 children and 14 women; 12 people killed due to torture.
- **National Army:** 5 civilians killed, including 2 children and 1 woman; 1 person killed due to torture.
- **International Coalition Forces:** 2 civilians killed, one of whom was a child.
- **Armed Forces Participating in Military Operations in the Coast (March):** 1217 individuals killed, including 51 children, 63 women, and 32 medical personnel; 53 massacres.
- **Non-state armed groups affiliated with the Assad regime:** 446 people killed, including 9 children, 21 women, and 1 medical worker; 4 massacres.
- **Victims of unknown source shells:** 13 civilians killed, including 4 children; 1 massacre.
- **Victims of unknown source landmines:** 253 civilians killed, including 52 children, 16 women, and 3 Civil Defense personnel; 1 massacre.
- **Victims of unknown source gunshots:** 713 civilians killed, including 52 children, 34 women, 1 media worker, 1 Civil Defense personnel, and 6 medical personnel, 5 massacres.
- **Victims of bombings by unknown perpetrators:** 167 civilians killed, including 53 children and 43 women, 9 massacres.
- **Victims of killings by unidentified parties:** 175 civilians killed, including 5 children, 20 women, 3 media personnel, 3 medical personnel, and 1 massacre.
- **Victims of accidents resulting from the mishandling of weapons:** 31 civilians killed, including 11 children and 6 women.
- **Israeli forces:** 62 civilians killed, including 3 children and 3 women.
- **Turkish forces:** 35 civilians killed, including 14 children, 5 women, and 3 medical personnel, and 1 massacre.
- **Lebanese Hezbollah Militias:** 5 civilians killed.
- **Jordanian border guards:** 4 civilians killed.
- **Drowning:** 3 civilians killed.
- **Armed forces involved in the escalation and military operations witnessed in Suwayda Governorate in July (elements affiliated with the Syrian government's Ministries of Defense and Interior, Bedouin tribes, local armed groups outside the state's control that are led by Hikmat al-Hijri, and armed civilians):** 374 civilians killed, including 39 children, 79 women, 4 media personnel, and 10 medical personnel; 11 massacres; and 2 deaths due to torture.
- **Lebanese Forces:** 1 civilian killed.

328 children were killed by the main actors in Syria in 2025.

Distributed as follows:

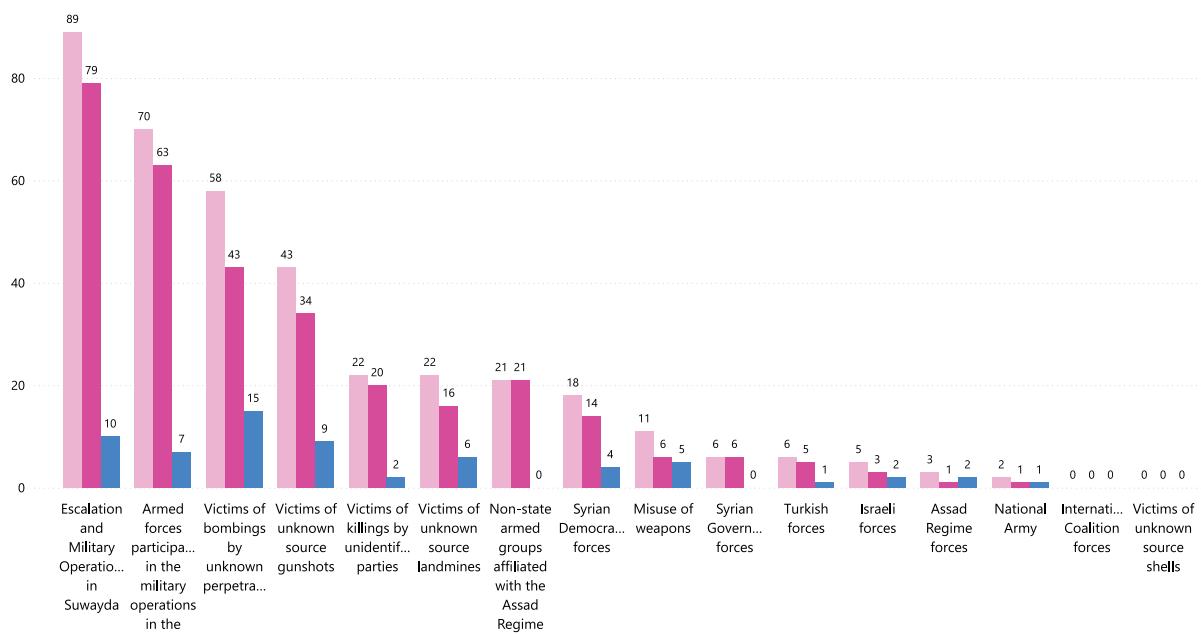


● Child ● Male child ● Female child

SNHR

376 females were killed by the main actors in Syria in 2025.

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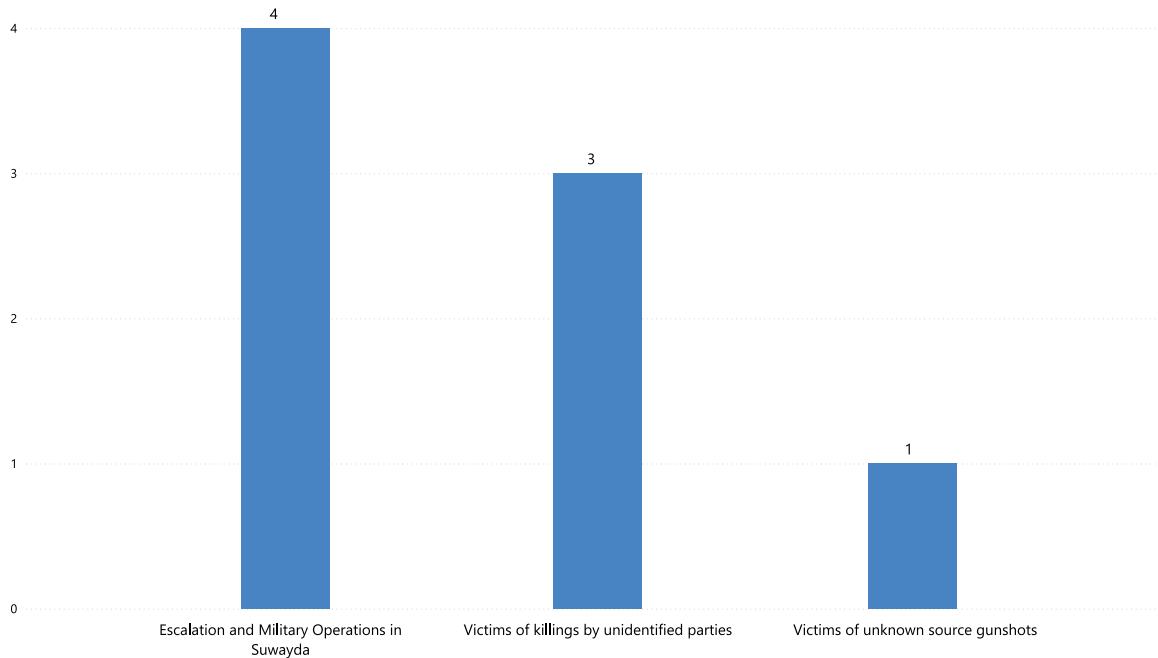


● Female ● Adult female ● Female child

SNHR

Eight media workers were killed by parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in 2025.

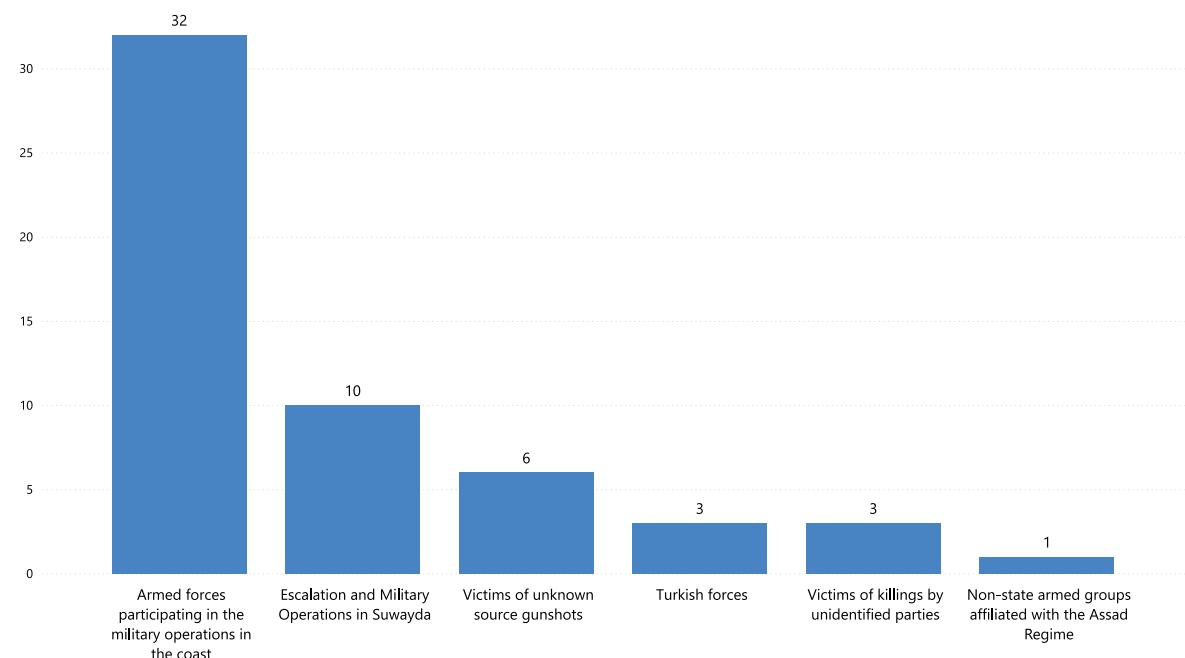
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SNHR

55 medical personnel were killed by parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in 2025.

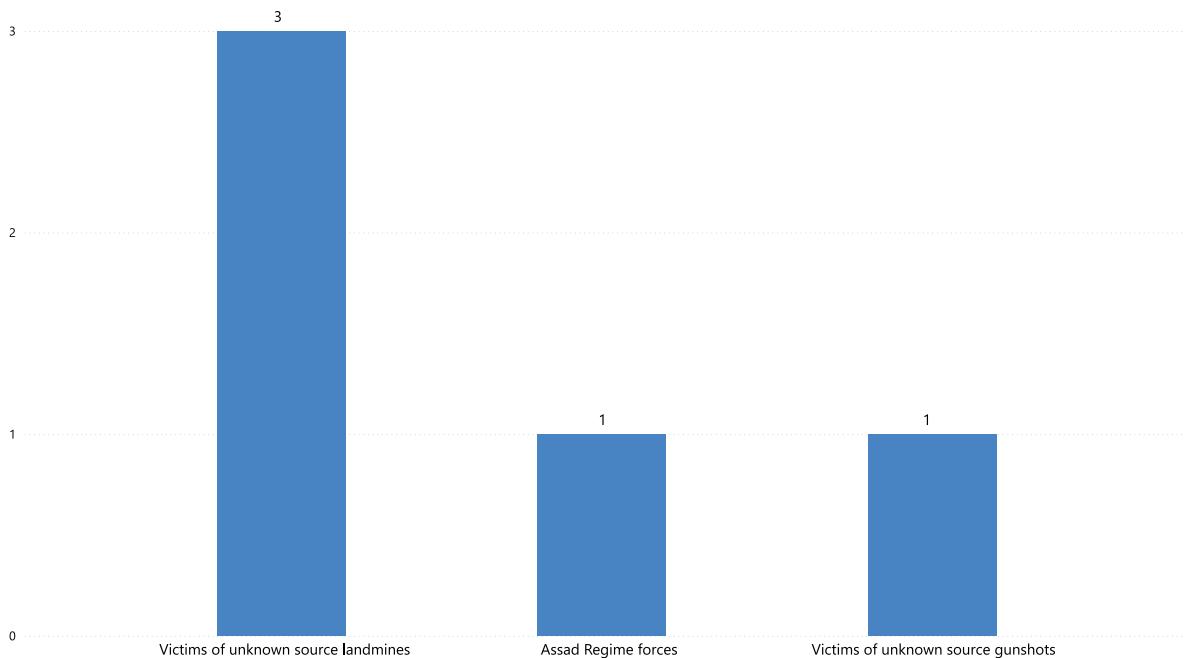
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SNHR

Five civil defense workers were killed by parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in 2025.

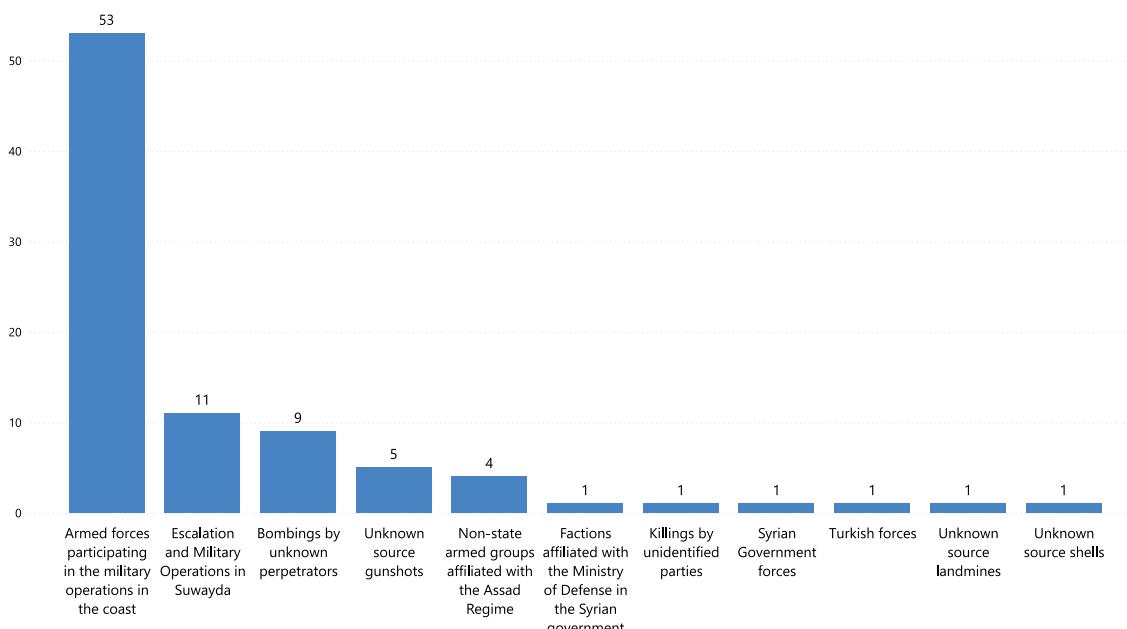
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SNHR

At least 88 massacres were committed by parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria in 2025.

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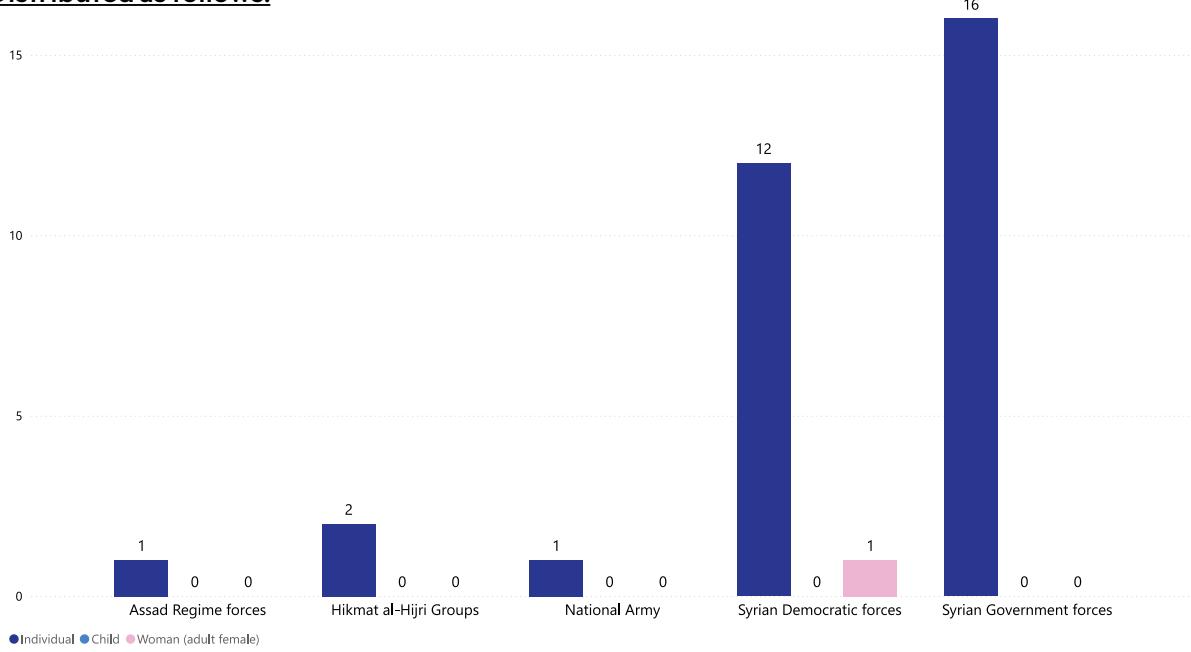


SNHR

The Death of 3666 Individuals Including 328 Children and 312 Women, and 32 Deaths due to Torture Recorded in the year 2025 in Syria

32 people killed by torture in 2025

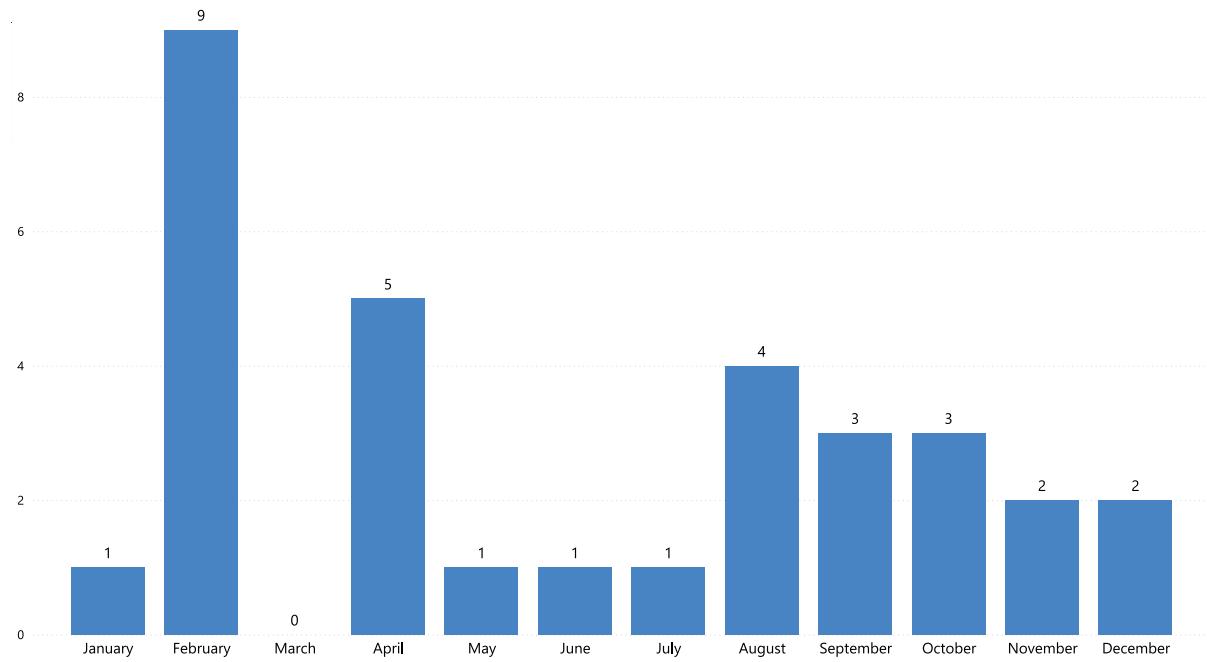
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SNHR

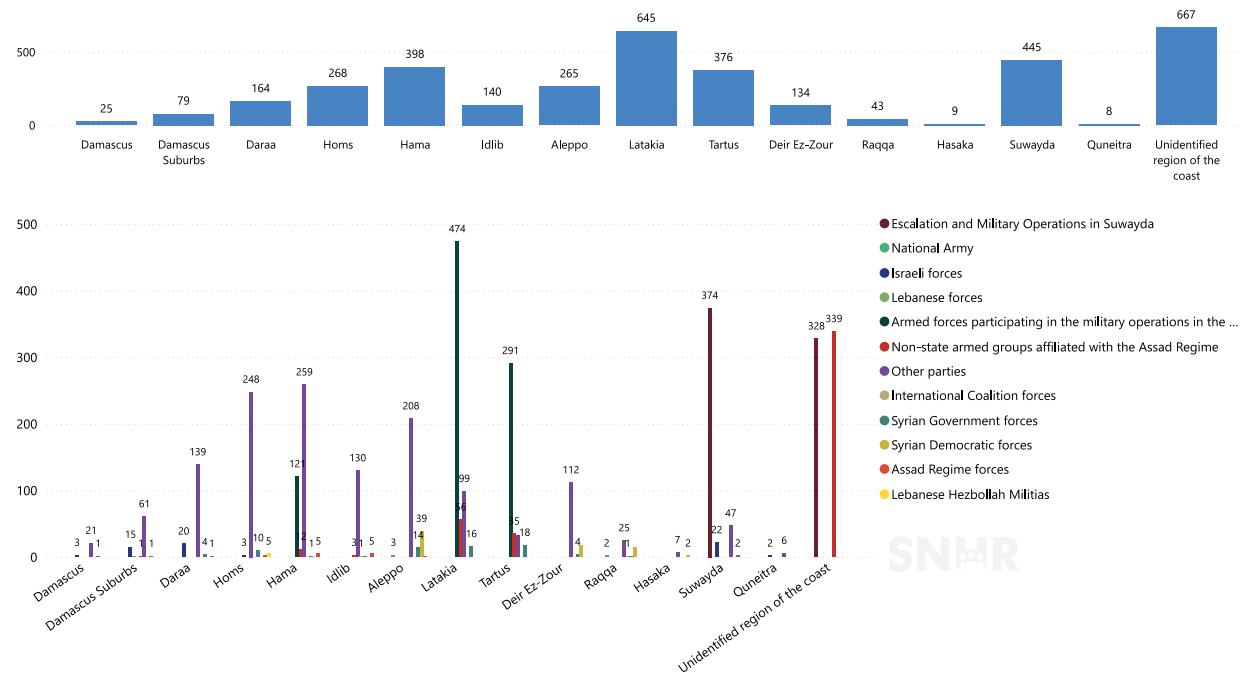
32 people killed by torture at the hands of the main actors in Syria in 2025

Distributed as follows:



SNHR

Distribution of the toll of victims of extrajudicial killings in 2025 at the hand of the different parties across the Syrian governorates:

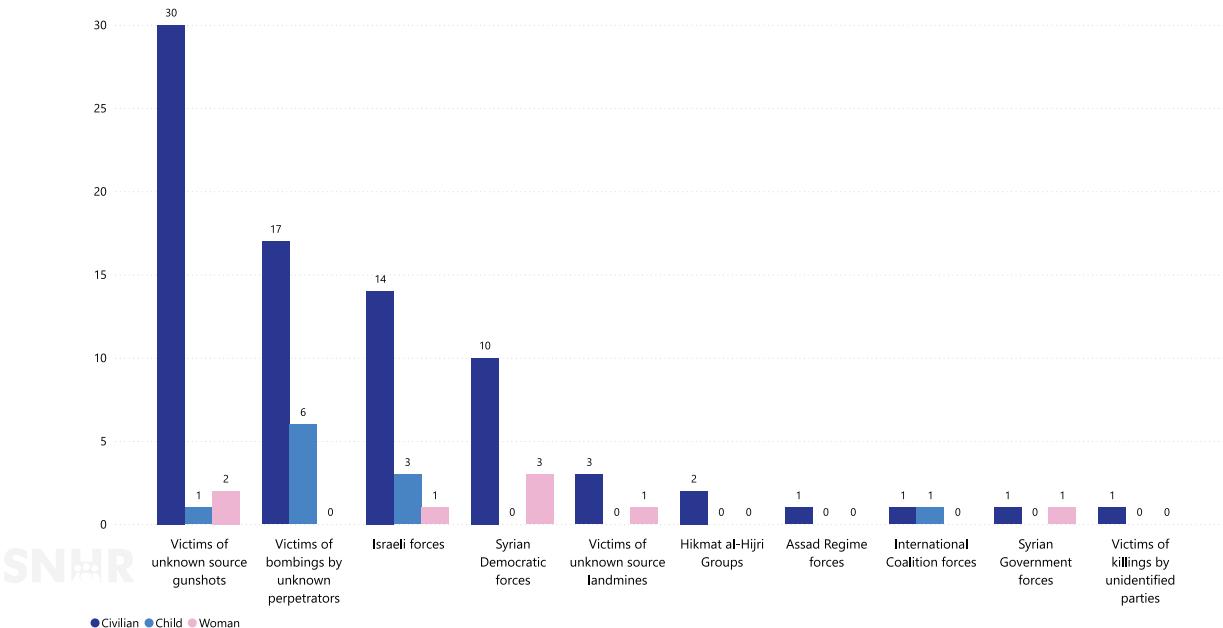


The graph above shows that the percentage of victims in Latakia Governorate reached approximately 17.59% of the total victims, followed by Suwayda Governorate with approximately 12.14%, then Hama Governorate with approximately 10.86%, and Tartus Governorate came with approximately 10.26% of the total victims registered in the Syrian governorates.

2. In December:

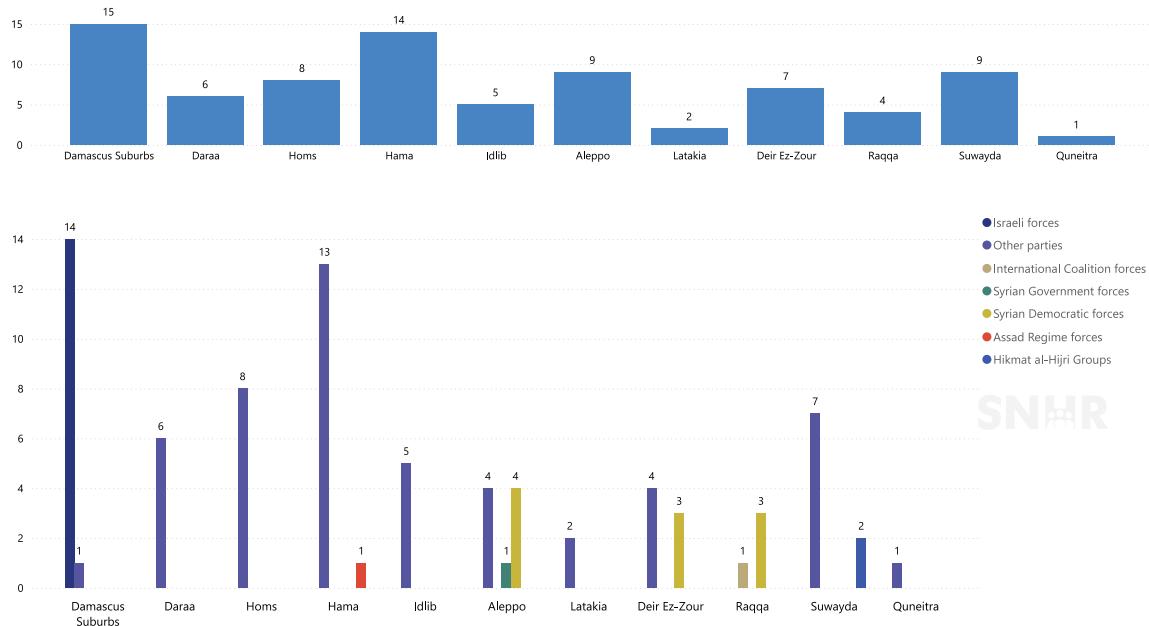
In December, SNHR documented the killing of **80 civilians**, including 11 children, 8 women (adult females), and 2 people due to torture, at the hands of the different parties in Syria.

Distribution of victims documented in December by the different parties in Syria:



- **Syrian Government Forces:** We documented the killing of 1 woman by Syrian government forces.
- **Bashar al-Assad Regime Forces:** We documented the killing of 1 Civil Defense worker by cluster munition explosion.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 10 civilians killed, including 3 women.
- **International Coalition Forces:** 1 child killed by International Coalition forces.
- **Landmines:** 3 civilians killed, including 1 woman.
- **Victims of gunfire from unidentified sources:** We documented the killing of 30 civilians, including 1 child and 2 women.
- **Victims of bombings by unidentified perpetrators:** 17 civilians killed, including 6 children. We also documented a massacre.
- **Victims of killings by unidentified individuals:** 3 civilians killed.
- **Israeli Forces:** We documented the killing of 14 civilians, including 3 children and 1 woman.
- **Local armed groups outside the framework of the state, led by Hikmat al-Hijri:** Two people were killed under torture.

Distribution of the toll of victims of extrajudicial killings in December at the hand of the different parties across the Syrian governorates:



The previous map shows that the governorates of Rif Dimashq and Hama topped the ranking with a percentage of approximately 18%, followed by the governorates of Aleppo and Suwayda with a percentage of 11%.

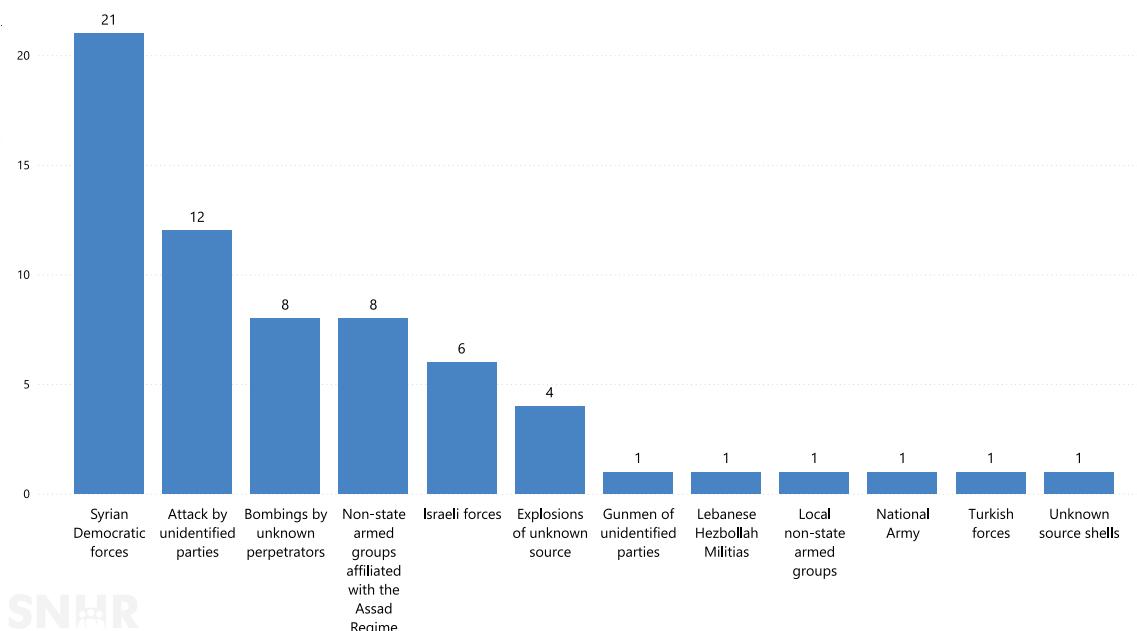
III. ATTACKS ON VITAL CIVILIAN FACILITIES:

1. In the year 2025:

In 2025, the Syrian Network for Human Rights documented at least **65 attacks** on vital civilian facilities in Syria.

Among these attacks, we documented 11 attacks on educational facilities (schools), 8 on medical facilities, and 9 on places of worship (mosques and churches).

These attacks were attributed to the following perpetrators:



- **Syrian National Army forces:** 1
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 21
- **Turkish forces:** 1
- **Israeli forces:** 6
- **Hezbollah:** 1
- **Non-state armed groups affiliated with the Assad regime:** 8
- **Local non-state armed groups:** 1
- **Explosions of unknown origin:** 4
- **Bombings of unknown perpetrators:** 8
- **Attacks of unknown perpetrators:** 12
- **Shelling of unknown origin:** 1
- **Armed groups of unknown affiliation:** 1

This tally reflects the continued targeting of vital civilian centers in Syria during 2025, with a notable concentration of attacks on essential facilities such as education, healthcare, and places of worship, indicating the ongoing and serious challenges related to the protection of civilian objects. The data also reveals the multiplicity of perpetrators of attacks; analysis shows that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) were the most documented perpetrators of attacks on vital civilian centers during 2025, with 21 incidents, representing approximately 32% of the total documented incidents. Conversely, incidents where the perpetrator could not be identified constituted a significant percentage, estimated at around 40% of the total.

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights database, January 2025 saw the highest number of attacks on vital civilian centers, accounting for approximately 28% of all documented incidents during the year (14 out of 65 incidents), followed by March with approximately 22% (11 incidents). The data also shows that Aleppo Governorate was the most affected during 2025, recording 22 incidents, followed by Latakia Governorate with 8 incidents.

2. In December:

SNHR recorded at least **two attacks** on vital civilian centers in December.

Of these two attacks, we documented one attack on a place of worship.

These attacks were carried out by the following parties:

- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** 1
- **Israeli Forces:** 1

IV. SNHR MOST NOTABLE WORK WITH REGARDS TO THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING FILE:

Establishment and documentation since 2011

Since it began operating in 2011, SNHR has dedicated its efforts to documenting all forms of extrajudicial killings in Syria, including field executions, deaths due to torture, massacres, indiscriminate bombardment, and the deliberate targeting of civilians.

SNHR developed an advanced electronic documentation system that enables the archiving of victim data and their classification by gender, age, geographic location, date of death, method of killing, type of weapon used, and responsible party. This system has served as the backbone for tracking patterns of violence, analyzing the geographic distribution of victims, and providing accurate data to support justice and accountability efforts both locally and internationally.

Focus on vulnerable civilian groups and expanding documentation categories

SNHR has given special attention to documenting violations against children and women, due to the symbolic significance of these groups in armed conflicts and the degree to which they reflect systematic targeting of civilians. The database later expanded to include victims among media workers, medical personnel, humanitarian workers, and civil defense volunteers, i.e., individuals who played central roles in the civil and humanitarian efforts.

Producing periodic reports and visual and qualitative data analysis

SNHR has consistently issued daily, monthly, semi-annual, and annual reports documenting victim tolls, along with dozens of thematic reports on specific patterns or perpetrators. In an effort to enhance transparency and public accessibility, the database has been transformed into interactive maps and charts published on SNHR's official website which are updated regularly. This enables researchers, journalists, and institutions to track the evolution of violations and filter the data using various criteria.

International partnerships and data submissions to the United Nations

Since the early years of the conflict, SNHR has sent detailed forms to UN Special Rapporteurs concerned with extrajudicial killings and torture, with the consent of victims' families. This coordination continues to this day.

SNHR has become one of the most trusted and recognized sources of information for UN agencies, international human rights organizations, and global media outlets. It has also signed memoranda of understanding with entities such as Humanitarian Outcomes as part of the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) project, in addition to other partnerships that reinforce its status as a principal reference source in this field.

Post-Assad regime phase and expanding the scope of work

With the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, SNHR entered a pivotal stage in documenting extrajudicial killings. A significant portion of its work has shifted to monitoring new patterns of violations, which are no less serious but are tied to the post-conflict reality, including:

- Civilian casualties caused by war remnants such as landmines and UXOs.
- Collapses of buildings previously damaged by shelling, as in the case of the death of Mrs. Sanaa Al-Darwish in Abu al-Dohour town in Idlib after she returned to her damaged home.
- Killings resulting from the proliferation of weapons and the breakdown of security.
- Killings under mysterious circumstances or by unknown parties.

With these new major developments, SNHR was able to expand its operations, allowing access to previously restricted locations, reopening delayed investigations, reviewing new testimonies, and collecting additional material evidence. It also strengthened its presence by forming local documentation teams and providing extensive training in documentation, testimonial collection, and safe data handling.

SNHR's role in supporting transitional justice and accountability

Through this continuous and diligent work, SNHR has become a key reference in supporting mechanisms of transitional justice and contributing to the building of a national memory that preserves victims' rights and promotes accountability for those involved in violations.

The data provided by SNHR forms a cornerstone for building legal case files that can be used before national and international courts, whether through UN mechanisms or through independent domestic investigations that may emerge during Syria's transitional phase.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

- 1. Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** Evidence gathered by the Syrian Network for Human Rights indicates that the majority of attacks directly targeted civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities.
- 2. Landmines:** A large number of Syrians have been killed by landmines, and none of the forces involved in the conflict have provided maps showing where they were planted. This demonstrates a disregard for civilian lives, especially children.
- 3. Indiscriminate shelling by the Syrian Democratic Forces:** The indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law and amount to war crimes.
- 4. Remote bombings:** The use of remote bombings to target densely populated residential areas demonstrates a premeditated intent to kill as many civilians as possible and is a clear violation of international human rights law and the Fourth Geneva Convention (Articles 27, 31, 32).
- 5.** Turkish forces have failed to respect the principle of proportionality, as prescribed in international law, in their attacks on SDF sites, which resulted in civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the SDF has violated international humanitarian law by stationing its personnel in civilian areas.
- 6.** Despite the efforts made during the transitional phase, significant gaps remain in the protection of civilians, particularly in areas of tension and military operations. This deficiency, if it persists, violates legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and necessitates strengthening preventive measures and effective responses, especially for the protection of women and children.
- 7. Continued lack of security oversight even after the regime change**

Despite the downfall of the Assad regime, killings and armed attacks continue. This indicates that the transitional phase has yet to establish security and stability, underlining the imperative need for reforming and restructuring the security apparatus into a human rights-based, effective entity.

- 8. Ongoing patterns of violations linked to the post-conflict reality**

July 2025 witnessed patterns of killings related to the misuse of weapons and drowning incidents resulting from migration. These reflect post-conflict

challenges that require a different type of response, one that goes beyond documentation of violations to include prevention and community education.

Recommendations

These recommendations represent a practical roadmap for addressing the consequences of extrajudicial killings in Syria. They contribute to advancing the path of transitional justice, building institutions that respect human dignity and rights, and preventing the recurrence of violations.

Transitional Syrian government

1. Cooperate with international mechanisms

- Issue official invitations to independent UN and international mechanisms, including:
 - International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)
 - Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
 - International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).
 - International Red Cross, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and Amnesty International.
- Enable these organizations to have unrestricted access to detention centers and crime scenes.

2. Protect evidence and crime locations

- Take urgent measures to safeguard evidence, including documenting mass graves and detention facilities and preventing any tampering or trespassing.
- Register and clearly mark important sites to ensure they can serve as legal evidence in the future.

3. Promote justice and accountability

- Collect evidence on violations, including official records and crime sites.
- Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and grant the court retroactive jurisdiction.
- Adopt comprehensive transitional justice policies, including holding perpetrators accountable, compensating victims, and ensuring transparency and credibility.

4. Protect civilians and cultural sites

- Ensure the safety of civilians and minorities and protect their fundamental rights to live securely.
- Prioritize the removal of mines and remnants of war, allocate the necessary funding, and raise awareness of related risks.
- Protect cultural and heritage sites from looting or destruction..

5. Governance reform

- Build an inclusive governance structure representing all components of Syrian society, including women and minorities, as well as civil society organizations.
- Document and safeguard abandoned properties to ensure their rightful owners receive compensation in the future.
- Improve essential services and ensure they're accessible to all citizens, including those with disabilities.

6. Prevent further violations

- Ensure respect for fundamental rights and freedoms for all without discrimination.
- Reform the judiciary and security apparatus in accordance with international human rights standards.

7. Support affected populations and rehabilitation

- Provide psychological and social support to families of missing persons and conflict victims.
- Develop comprehensive programs for the rehabilitation of survivors and released detainees.

UN Security Council and the international community

1. Refer crimes to the ICC

- Refer the Syrian dossier to the ICC or establish a special tribunal to prosecute those involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Pressure international actors, including the Russian government, to hand over individuals responsible for crimes, including Bashar Assad and his family, to international courts.

2. Freeze and confiscate the former regime's funds

- Work on freezing the financial assets of the former Assad regime and its affiliates and allocate them to support transitional justice efforts and humanitarian aid, as well as for the victims and their families.

3. Enhance humanitarian efforts

- Urge UN agencies to intensify the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, in affected areas and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.
- Ensure humanitarian aid reaches northeastern Syria, in coordination with local authorities, to meet the needs of IDPs and facilities detaining individuals accused of formerly belonging to or being affiliated with ISIS.
- Guarantee that aid provided to the current or future government promotes respect for human rights and creates conditions for free and fair elections.

4. Remove mines and war remnants

- Allocate funding from the UN fund to support landmine removal efforts in affected areas to reduce long-term risks and ensure a safe environment for civilians.

5. Support the missing persons issue and national reconciliation

- Provide resources to strengthen the efforts of the ICMP, including training local staff and using advanced technologies to identify missing persons.
- Support initiatives contributing to national reconciliation and offer psychological and social support to families of missing persons.

6. Lift sanctions to ensure they don't adversely affect humanitarian operations

- Review economic sanctions imposed on Syria to ensure they do not adversely affect humanitarian operations while maintaining sanctions targeting designated terrorist groups.

7. Ensure protection of Syrian refugees

- Urge host countries to refrain from forcibly deporting refugees or pressuring them to return.
- Work to create conditions within Syria for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees in accordance with international standards, prioritizing infrastructure improvement and security stability.

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

Submit reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN on documented violations in this and previous reports, highlighting that killing is still going on in Syria.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)

1. Open comprehensive investigations into the violations mentioned in this and previous reports. SNHR is willing to collaborate in such endeavors and share more evidence.
2. Work to identify individuals responsible for war crimes and publish their names to expose them internationally and halt political and economic dealings with them.

International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

Collect further evidence of the crimes documented in this report and share expertise with Syrian organizations working on documentation and data collection.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

1. Establish an internal committee to investigate violations committed by the SDF, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims.
2. Refrain from positioning military forces in civilian areas, which poses a threat to their lives.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by SDF personnel in civilian areas.

Armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA)

1. Protect civilians in all areas under their control.
2. Launch investigations into human rights violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and disclose the investigation results to the local community.
3. Provide maps indicating the locations of landmines planted by the factions in civilian areas.

Turkish forces

Launch investigations into the incidents documented in this report, compensate the victims, and respect the principles of international law, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality.

Humanitarian organizations

1. Develop urgent plans to provide decent shelter for IDPs, particularly widows and orphans.
2. Intensify efforts to remove landmines alongside relief operations.
3. Equip vital facilities, such as medical facilities and schools, with ambulances marked with clear, recognizable signs visible from long distances.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SNHR wishes to thank survivors, and victims' families and friends, as well as eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and invaluable contributions to this report.



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No justice without accountability
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