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MONTHLY REPORT for Victims of Extrajudicial Killing in Syria

**The Death of 89 Civilians
Including 13 Children and 10 Women,
and One Death due to Torture
Recorded July 2025**

The Death of **1013 Syrians** – Civilians and Militants –
Were Recorded as A Result of the Events
in Suwayda Governorate

Friday 01 August 2025

89





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 outlines the victims documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as having been killed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in the month of July 2025. The report focuses particularly on deaths due to torture, victims among medical personnel, media workers, and Civil Defense personnel, and the massacres committed during the period covered by this report. Furthermore, the report outlines the most notable incidents. SNHR stores the full details of these incidents on its database. It also includes the documented attacks on civilian vital facilities during these two periods.

The fatalities recorded in this report are limited to civilian deaths documented in the month of July. Some of these deaths may have taken place months or years before and only have been formally confirmed or documented during the past month, in which case we list the date on which the death was officially documented, as well as the estimated date of death.

We have taken into consideration the major changes in Syria with the downfall of the Assad regime on December 8, 2024. However, we are still recording civilian deaths at the hands of pro-Assad forces in various forms, despite the ousting of the Assad regime. These forms include:

- Pro-Assad militias killing civilians or Syrian security personnel.
- Explosion of cluster bomblets left from past attacks carried out by Russian forces or Assad regime forces.
- Citizens injured in attacks by Assad regime forces and died later from their injuries.

This report catalogues the civilian deaths according to the parties responsible. In some cases, this may require additional time to properly investigate, especially in cases of joint attacks. To address this, our teams continue investigations until accurately identifying the perpetrators. In the event that identifying the perpetrator was found to be not possible, however, we catalogue such incidents under other parties until new evidence comes to light.

While we, at SNHR, are keen to assign culpability to the parties responsible, two types of cases are excluded: **anti-personnel landmines (APLs)** and **remote bombings**, with the latter including suicide or forced bombings. We have explained our reasoning behind this in detail in separate reports.

As for anonymous victims, that is, victims whom we have not been able to identify or obtain any information indicating their identity, we store these cases in a separate archive until we can obtain new information.

SNHR also documents deaths from drowning during irregular migration attempts, since the group views those attempts as a result of the overall conditions in Syria being worsened by the conflict and violations. Additionally, SNHR monitors munition-related incidents and unexploded ordnances (UXO) incidents, particularly those involving children. Similarly, such incidents underline the unregulated security situation and poor management of the weapon circulation issue but are not considered violations committed by a party to the conflict.

This report draws upon the continuous monitoring of news and developments carried out by SNHR, and through an extensive network that includes dozens of resources that SNHR has fostered since 2011. In this regard, SNHR has created [a special form](#) that can be filled out with the names and information of victims, so our victim documentation team can follow up and verify these information before adding them to our database.

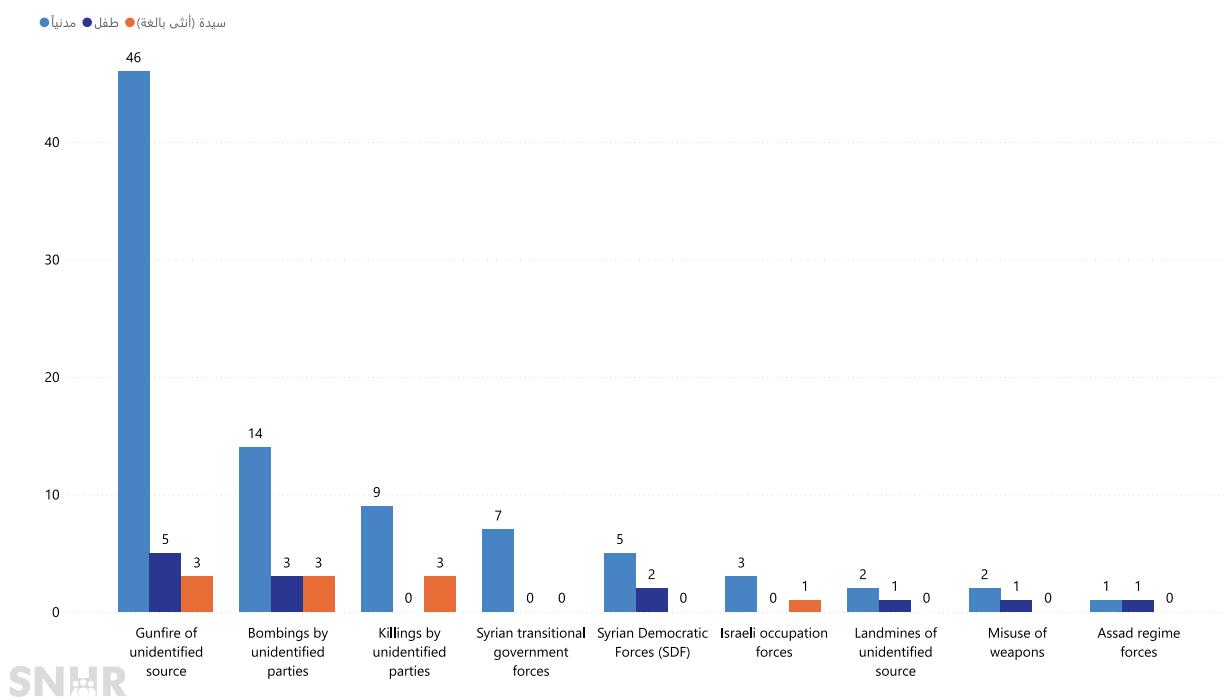
Most of the attacks included in this report have targeted civilian areas. We recorded no military presence in the attack sites. Civilians have also not been alerted prior to the attack by the aggressor forces as required by **international humanitarian law and international human rights law**.

In the end, it is important to note that this report only covers the bare minimum of the volume and magnitude of the violations that occurred, which SNHR was able to document. It also does not cover the social, economic, and psychological of these violations.

II. EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS IN JULY:

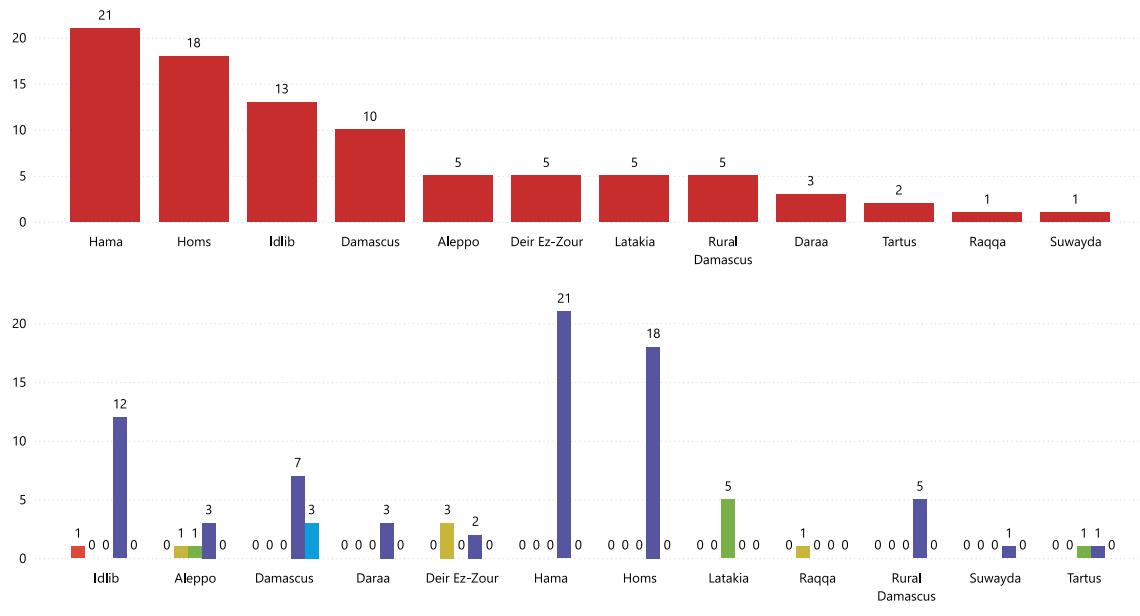
SNHR documented the death of **89 civilians**, including 13 children and 10 women (adult females), two medical workers (one of them a woman), and one death due to torture, at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria

The death toll we documented in the month of July is distributed by conflicting parties and controlling forces as follows:



- **Transitional Government Forces:** seven civilians killed, including one due to torture.
- **Assad Regime Forces:** one child.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces:** five civilians killed, including two children.
- **Landmine victims (of unknown origin):** 2 civilians killed (one of them a child).
- **Victims of Unknown Source Gunshots:** 46 civilians killed, including five children and 3 women, and two medical workers (one of which is a woman).
- **Bombing victims whose perpetrators were not identified:** 14 civilians killed, including three children and three women – a massacre was also recorded.
- **Victims killed by unidentified individuals:** nine civilians killed, including 3 women.
- **Victims of accidents resulting from mishandling weapons:** two civilians killed, one of them a child.
- **Israeli forces:** three civilians killed, including one woman.

The civilian death toll in the month of July at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces was distributed by Syrian governorate as follows:



● Assad Regime forces ● Syrian Democratic Forces ● Syrian transitional government forces ● Parties we were unable to identify ● Israeli Forces



The previous chart shows that Hama governorate topped the list with 24% of the total, followed by Homs governorate with 20% of the total. All victims in both governorates were documented as having been killed by parties we were unable to identify.

III. BRIEF ON THE MOST NOTABLE KILLINGS IN JULY 2025

A. Events in Suwayda Governorate: The death of 1,013 individuals in the governorate was documented since July 13, 2025, and the identity of the victims and the circumstances of their deaths are still being verified

SNHR documented the killing of at least **1,013 people** in Suwayda Governorate since July 13, 2025, and up to the date of publication of this report. The recorded deaths were from various parties and included civilians, security forces, the army, the Suwayda Military Council, tribes, and Bedouins. Among these victims, 26 children and 47 women were documented, in addition to 6 medical personnel (including 3 women) and 3 media personnel. The death toll also included an elderly woman who had a heart attack and died after receiving news of her grandson's death. The escalating violence also resulted in at least 986 people being injured, with varying degrees of severity, from various sides, in a context of clashes and violent incidents of various forms, including extrajudicial killings, mutual shelling between local factions, and airstrikes carried out by Israeli occupation forces in various areas of the governorate.

SNHR reiterates that this toll is preliminary and subject to continuous updating. It reflects only what has been verified up to the time of writing this report. Additional documentation and investigations are currently underway to determine the identities and characteristics of the victims, determine whether they were civilians or combatants, and determine the circumstances of their deaths and the parties responsible. This comes amid exceptional challenges, a complex security landscape, and a multiplicity of parties involved in the violence.

Based on SNHR's methodology, which is based on international human rights law, cases of the killing of armed men involved in clashes are not included in the victims' database unless there is evidence that they were extrajudicially killed, such as field executions or deaths in custody. Also, all serious violations that constitute a breach of international law are documented, regardless of the identity of the perpetrator.

SNHR continues to monitor and document violations in Suwayda Governorate on a daily basis, based on direct testimonies and available evidence, as part of its efforts to determine legal responsibility for the crimes committed and ensure that impunity does not prevail. SNHR has issued several statements providing updates on the number of documented victims, developments on the ground, and ongoing violations.

B. Israeli Occupation Forces:

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, [Israeli occupation forces launched a series of airstrikes targeting the Ministry of Defense HQ building in Umayyad Square](#), in central Damascus, one of the city's most densely populated areas.

The first raid began at 12:30 p.m., likely carried out by a drone, with no direct casualties. This was followed, at approximately 3:15 p.m., by three consecutive airstrikes on the same building. The third resulted in the death of three people, including Ms. Areej Ayman al-Rai'i, and the injury of at least 34 civilians with varying degrees of severity, in addition to widespread destruction to the Ministry's building. A fourth raid also targeted the vicinity of the People's Palace, with no confirmed reports of casualties.

SNHR continues to monitor and document violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces inside Syrian territory, including airstrikes, incursions, ground invasions, and their associated repercussions. This includes civilian casualties, arbitrary arrests, attacks on medical and media personnel, destruction of property, and encroachment on agricultural land and infrastructure within the targeted areas. The targeting of the General Staff building in Umayyad Square constitutes a serious escalation, both in terms of the nature of the target and its location within a vital civilian area.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. International partnerships and data submissions to the United Nationsations

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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

- 1. Attacks on civilians and civilian objects:** The evidence collected by SNHR indicates that most of the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians, including the destruction of civilian facilities.
- 2. Landmines:** A large proportion of the Syrians killed in February died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict, past or present, issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines have been planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- 3. Indiscriminate bombing by SDF:** The indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks carried out by the SDF are clearly violations of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- 4. Remote bombings:** 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 IV Convention on Civilians of 1949, Articles 27, 31, and 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,** there remain clear gaps in the protection of civilians, particularly in areas of tension and military operations. These shortcomings, if they persist, would violate legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and require enhanced preventive measures and effective responses, particularly to protect 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.

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

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No justice without accountability

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