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72 Civilian Deaths, Including 18 Children and 10 Women as well as Five Deaths due to Torture, Documented in January 2024

Jordanian Forces Committed a Massacre
in Rural Suwayda, in Which Seven
Civilians, Including Two Children and
Three Women, Were Killed

Thursday 01 February 2024

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.

Contents:

I. Background and Methodology	1
II. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in January.....	3
III. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Civil Registry's Death Records	6
IV. Civilian Death Toll in January 2024	7
V. Deaths due to Torture	10
VI. Most Notable Massacres	11
VII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?	14
VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations	15
Acknowledgment.....	19

I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the civilian deaths that were recorded by the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place in Syria at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in January 2024. The report sheds light particularly on victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel, as well as focusing on documenting the massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document during this period; it should be noted that we use the term, 'massacre' to refer to an incident in which no fewer than five peaceful individuals were killed. The report also includes a summary of the most notable incidents during this month. Full details of every incident are archived on the SNHR database.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims at the hands of the parties actively engaged in the Syrian conflict. In this context, 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 attacks in some incidents of ground-based bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an area adjacent to the one targeted, which is controlled by a different party to the perpetrator. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate each incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite these efforts, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign culpability for a particular killing to one of two possible parties due to the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons by different parties, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified under the category 'other parties' until such time as we have gathered sufficient evidence to conclusively assign responsibility for the violation to one of the two parties.

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately ascribe responsibility for incidents to the relevant parties, we exclude two types of attacks from the process of assigning responsibility, namely anti-personnel landmines, and remote explosions, including suicide or forced suicide attacks. We discussed this issue previously in [detailed reports](#).

As for the anonymous victims whose names we have not yet been able to determine or regarding whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming these victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document in the last month, January 2024. 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 believe the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at this link.¹

1. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), *Syrian Network for Human Rights Methodology*
http://sn4hr.org/public_html/wp-content/pdf/english/SNHR_Methodology_en.pdf

This report draws upon the constant daily monitoring of news and developments by SNHR's team, and on information from our extensive network of various sources that has been built up over the course of our work since 2011. The SNHR also provides [a special form](#) that can be completed by victims' relatives with victims' names and personal information so that the Victims Documentation Department can follow up on the information provided, verify its accuracy and then include it in the database.

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

This report contains one first-hand account which we collected directly from an eyewitness, rather than including any second-hand sources. In this interview, we explained the purpose of the interview beforehand to the eyewitness, who gave us permission to use the information provided in the service of this report, without offering or promising any incentives. We have also tried, insofar as possible, to spare the eyewitness the agony of recalling the traumatic violations that occurred, and gave assurances that we would protect his confidentiality.

There are many additional steps and challenges to take into account in the process of documenting civilian deaths, which are detailed in our methodology that can be found on this link. We opted to shed light on some aspects of said challenges as to keep the report at a manageable length.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations documented. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these events.



II. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in January

In January, we documented the killing of 72 civilians, including 18 children and 10 women. Below are a number of observations regarding the events that marked this month:

A. Syrian regime forces

In January, Syrian regime forces killed 15 civilians, including two children and one woman, with one of their victims dying due to torture. Deaths at the hands of Syrian regime forces accounted for about 21 percent of January's total death toll. While civilian deaths at the hands of the regime were distributed across several Syrian governorates, the largest proportion of these were concentrated in northwestern Syria, which is still being targeted by regime attacks, with the two governorates of Idlib and Aleppo seeing the highest numbers of victims killed by regime forces, accounting for 53 percent of the total. Behind Aleppo and Idlib, Deir Ez-Zour governorate accounted for 20 percent of all victims killed by regime forces in January.

On Monday, January 1, a woman named [Yasmin Loay Eesou](#) was killed in an attack by Syrian regime forces who fired multiple rockets and shells at her home village of Kbashin in western rural Aleppo governorate. The attack also injured six other civilians, including two women and two children. The area, which is under the control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), is located on the dividing lines with regime-held areas.

On Friday, January 5, a boy named [Ibrahim Farid al-Mustafa](#) died of wounds sustained on December 2, 2023, when Syrian regime artillery forces fired a shell at Shuhada Afis School on the western outskirts of his home village of Afis in eastern rural Idlib governorate. The shell landed in the schoolyard during school hours. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

B. Russian forces

On December 25, 2023, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired multiple missiles at one of the farmhouses in a farming area in the Alata area to the southeast of Armanaz town in western rural Idlib governorate. [The attack resulted in a massacre, killing five members of the same family, all civilians](#), namely a man, his wife, and three of their children, and injuring another child from the same family. The bombardment also caused heavy destruction and damage to the site targeted. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions and the HTS at the time of the incident.

In late December 2023, Rear Admiral Vadim Kulit, deputy head of the Russian Reconciliation Center for Syria, [said in a press conference](#) that Russian Aerospace Forces had carried out strikes in Idlib governorate, targeting "sites of illegal armed groups that have been involved in carrying out provocative attacks against sites of the Syrian government." In reality, however, Russian forces struck a civilian house within an agricultural area, inflicting a massacre.

C. HTS

In January, Hay'at Tahrir al Shaam (HTS) killed four civilians, including one child and one woman. On January 1, the group used a rocket launcher to fire multiple rockets at Nebbel and al-Zahra towns in western rural Aleppo governorate, [killing three civilians, including one woman and one boy](#), and partially destroying multiple buildings. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident. HTS claimed responsibility for the attack on its official channels.

D. ISIS

In January, ISIS killed two civilians, including one boy, in Homs and Deir Ez-Zour governorates. On Friday, January 12, [Shokour Mahmoud al-Salbi](#), a man, was shot dead by ISIS affiliates near al-Mayadeen city in eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate while he was on his way to farm his land, over accusations that he had worked with Syrian regime forces. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

E. Other parties

In January, we documented the killing of 45 civilians, including 11 children and seven women, at the hands of other parties. These deaths accounted for approximately 63 percent of January's total death toll. Most of the victims killed by other parties were killed in Daraa governorate which accounted for 31 percent of the total, followed by Suwayda governorate with 29 percent. [These killings are distributed as follows:](#)

1. Deaths by landmine of unidentified source

As 2024 began, we've continued to document deaths caused by the explosion of landmines planted by sources we have not yet been able to identify. In January, two boys were killed by landmines.

On Sunday, January 7, a boy named as [Ahmad Abdul al-Matar](#) died of wounds sustained six days earlier on January 1, when a landmine whose source we have not yet been able to identify exploded in Mazloom village in northeastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

2. Gunfire of unidentified source

We documented the killing of 13 civilians, including one child, by gunfire whose source we have not yet been able to identify. Of these 13, eight were killed in Daraa governorate, three in Raqqa governorate, and one each in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour and Homs.

On Monday, January 8, [Osama Abdullah Hannash, a 12-year-old boy](#), was killed on by a stray gunshot during clashes between gunmen we have not been able to identify and Syrian regime forces in his hometown of Mahajja in northern rural Daraa governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, January 2, [Ahmad al-Hussein al-Khalaf and Saleh Ramadan al-Faraj](#), from al-Khumaisiya village in eastern rural Raqqa governorate, were shot dead on along with a third man, Kamal Abu Abboud from Slouk town in northern rural Raqqa governorate, by gunmen we have not yet been able to identify from a passing car, after the three had left the Sahlat al-Banat Camp in eastern rural Raqqa governorate, where they worked delivering bread. After killing the men, the gunmen loaded their bodies into the car, then dumped them between the villages of al-Assadiya and al-Yarmouk in rural Raqqa, before fleeing the scene when their vehicle broke down. The area was under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

3. Bombings by unidentified parties

Three children were killed in January in bombings whose perpetrators we have not yet been able to identify. On Tuesday, January 25, two boys named Walid Khaled al-Sfouq and Mohammad Karim al-Dleim, aged 16 and 13 respectively, were killed by the explosion of a war remnant whose source we have not yet been able to identify in Otaqa town in Rural Damascus 'Rif Dimshaq' governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

4. Drowning

In January, nine civilians, including one child and one woman, drowned on sea migration routes. On Sunday, January 14, the families of the following men who all are from Nawa city in western rural Daraa learnt of their deaths: 32-year-old Ali Muhsen al-Aqla, 24-year-old Mohammad Ahmad Jabbawi, and 30-year-old Ayham Madin al-Sholi, as well as the family of the two siblings 24-year-old Ayser Mohammad Abd Rabbo and 14-year-old Obada Mohammad Abd Rabbo from al-Sheikh Miskeen city in northern rural Daraa, were informed that their loved ones' had drowned while attempting to sail from France to the UK on a boat. The five young men originally flew to Libya from Damascus International Airport, and then travelled to Italy via sea, before taking another trip to France on their way to reach their destination in the UK. However, the boat they tried to board to cross the English Channel sank, and they met their demise, while others survived.

5. Jordanian forces

Between December 18, 2023, and January 19, 2024, SNHR documented four aerial attacks carried out by fixed-wing warplanes suspected to be affiliated with the Jordanian air force. These attacks, which were carried out by fixed-wing warplanes suspected to have originated from Jordanian territory, targeted areas in southern Syria, most of which are on the Syrian-Jordanian border. Those attacks resulted in the killing of no fewer than 18, civilians, including four children and seven women (adult female). On Thursday, January 18, fixed-wing warplanes originating from Jordan, and suspected to be affiliated with the Jordanian air force, carried out two missile airstrikes on Orman town in southern rural Suwayda governorate, targeting two sites in the town. In total, the airstrikes killed 10 civilians, including two girls and five women. SNHR has released [an extensive investigative report](#) proving Jordanian forces' responsibility for the attack on Orman town in rural Suwayda and the ensuing massacre against civilians.

On Monday, January 8, [three civilians, including one woman](#), were killed in an aerial attack of unidentified source, but suspected to be by Jordanian forces. The airstrike targeted a house in al-Sha'ab village and a farm in eastern Melh town in southeastern rural Suwayda governorate. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

III. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Civil Registry's Death Records

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular uprising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state authority, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to victims' families, whether the victims were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. In fact, the regime only allows death certificates to be issued for those who meet the narrow criteria set by the regime and its security services. In many previous reports, we have discussed the phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements written by the security authorities beforehand, stating falsely that 'armed terrorist gangs', rather than the regime, killed their loved ones, if they wish to obtain a death certificate. The Syrian regime has not only failed to launch any investigations into the causes of death for hundreds of thousands of Syrians but has also failed to hold to account even one member of its security or military forces for their involvement in these killings.

In order to obtain a death certificate, the Syrian regime relies on three things:

- Medical reports prepared by regime personnel, citing a false cause of death, such as a heart attack for those forcibly disappeared in its detention centers, or claiming falsely that the victim died as a result of injuries from war munitions.
- Statements from the local neighborhood headman or 'Mukhtar' and any witnesses, who are asked to confirm the death.
- Acknowledgement from the victims' families, who often urgently need to obtain a death certificate; for this reason, family members understandably feel they have no choice but to remain silent about the true cause of their loved ones' deaths and the identity of those responsible for them.

Through our exhaustive monitoring and investigation process, we have been able to document three methods used by the Syrian regime to register the deaths of a limited number of its victims who were killed, or forcibly disappeared then subsequently killed, which we detailed in a report we issued on August 19, 2022, entitled ['The Syrian Regime, Through Its Security Services and State Institutions, Controls the Incidents of Registering the Deaths of Victims Killed/'Disappeared' in the Armed Conflict Since March 2011'](#).

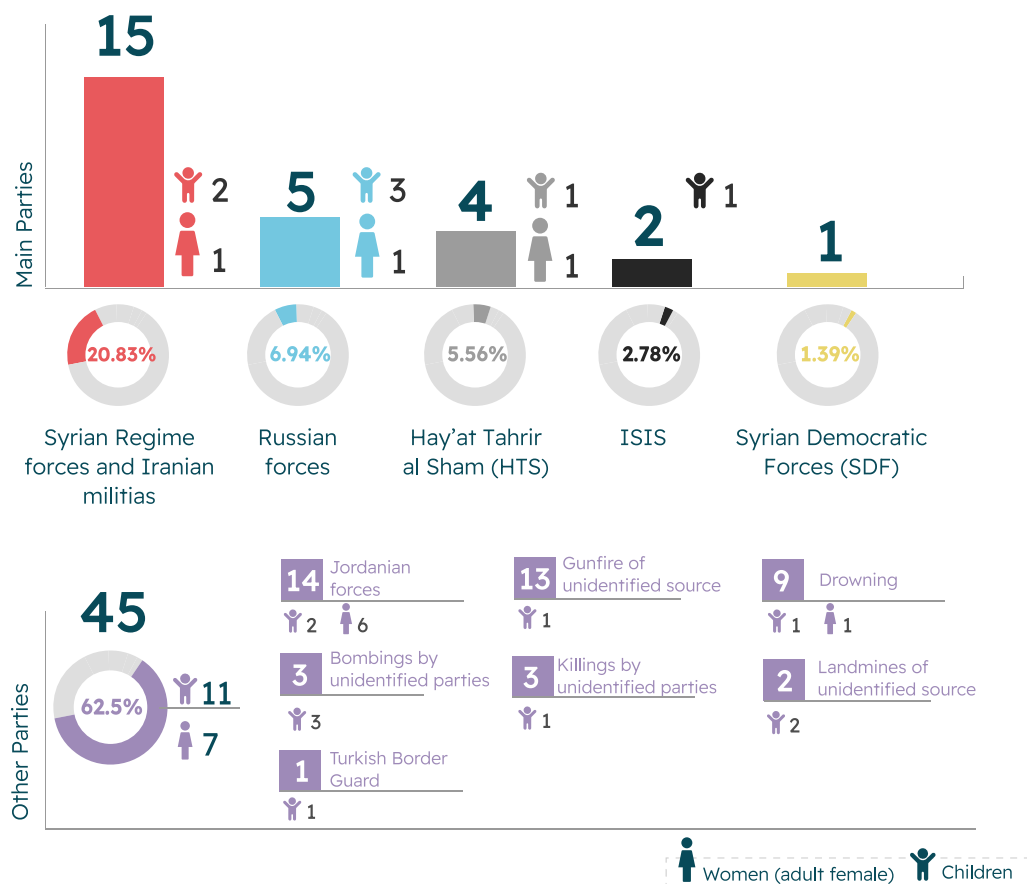
It should be noted that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates for their loved ones from the Syrian regime, for fear of linking their name with that of a person who was detained by the regime and killed under torture, which implies that their deceased family member had been a dissident who had opposed the Syrian regime, or had been registered as a 'terrorist' if he or she had been wanted by the security services. Additionally, many victims' families have been forcibly displaced outside the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

On August 10, 2022, the Syrian regime government's Minister of Justice issued [Circular No. 22](#) specifying the procedures for the conduct of proceedings related to registering deaths at Sharia courts. The circular included new conditions stipulating that five items of evidence must be submitted to and approved by the relevant judges in proceedings related to registering the death. It also requires that all relevant courts involved in death registration cases comply with the circular's content. The circular also gave security clearance to judicial authorities empowering them to register death cases, increasing the security services' intrusion. We issued [a report](#) in which we analyzed the constitutional and legal violations contained in this circular's text and the consequences thereof.

IV. Civilian Death Toll in January 2024

In January 2024, SNHR documented the killing of 72 civilians, including 18 children and 100 women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

The deaths documented in January 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. Main parties:

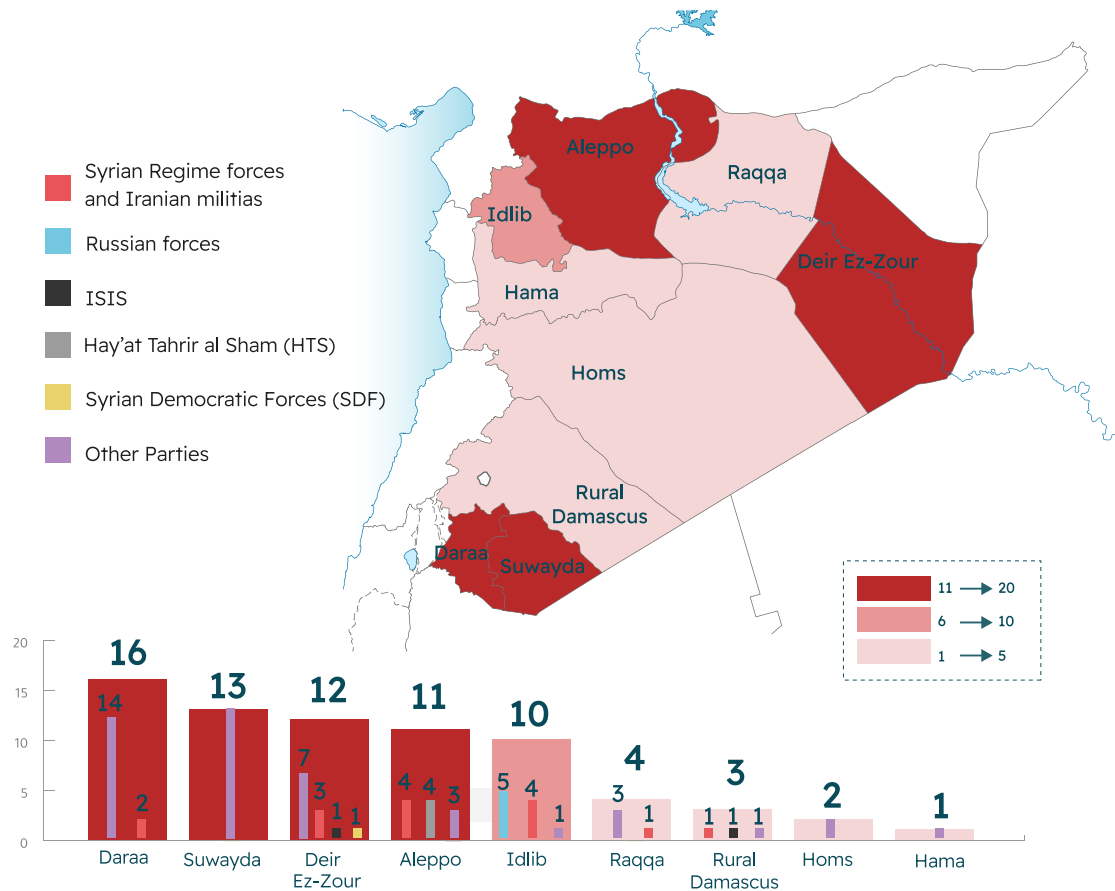
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of 15 civilians, including 12 children and one woman, at the hands of Syrian regime forces.
- **Russian forces:**
We documented the killing of five civilians, including three children and one woman, at the hands of Russian forces.
- **ISIS:**
We documented the killing of two civilians, including one child, at the hands of ISIS.
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS):**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including one child and one woman, at the hands of HTS.
- **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF):**
We documented the killing of one civilian at the hands of the SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 45 civilians, including 11 children and seven women, at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines of unidentified sources: Two children.
- Gunfire of unidentified source: 13 civilians, including one child.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: Three children.
- Killings by unidentified parties: Three civilians, including one child.
- Drowning: Nine civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Jordanian forces: 14 civilians, including two children and six women.
- Turkish Border Guard: One child.

Civilian deaths documented in January 2024 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



As the chart shows, Daraa governorate saw the most civilian deaths in January, accounting for approximately 22 percent of the total, followed by Suwayda governorate with approximately 18 percent, with most of the killings in that governorate carried out by other parties, and then by Deir Ez-Zour governorate which accounted for approximately 17 percent of the total.

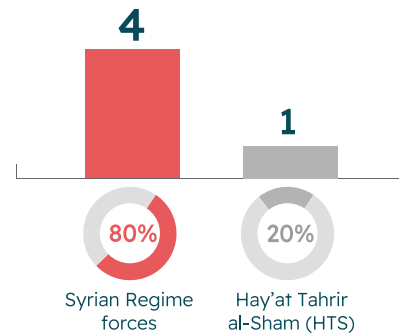
V. Deaths due to Torture

In January 2024, SNHR documented the deaths of five individuals due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

Deaths due to torture by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria that we documented in January 2024 are distributed as follows:

A. Main parties

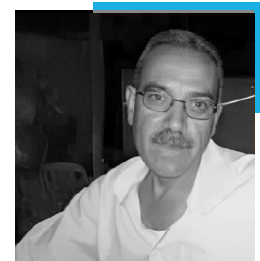
- Syrian regime forces: Four individuals.
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): One individual.



Below are the most notable cases:

Abdullah Aani al-Madi, a civil engineer and political activist born in 1957, from al-Qouriya city in eastern rural Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was arrested in May 2012 by personnel from the Syrian regime's Air Force Intelligence Directorate at a checkpoint on the road between al-Salamiya city in eastern rural Hama governorate and Homs city, while on his way to Damascus city. He has been classified as forcibly disappeared ever since, with the Syrian regime denying any knowledge of his whereabouts and refusing to allow anyone, even a lawyer, to visit him. On Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Abdullah's family was informed that he had died in a regime detention center, probably the infamous Sednaya Military Prison in Rural Damascus 'Rif Dimshaq' governorate, learning about his death from a former prisoner and eyewitness.

We are still investigating and collecting information about the circumstances of his death. We can confirm that he was in good health at the time of his arrest, indicating a strong probability that he died due to years of torture and medical negligence in various regime detention centers. SNHR can also confirm that Syrian regime authorities have not disclosed his death, nor have they returned his body to his family.



↑ 👁 Abdullah Aani al-Madi

VI. Most Notable Massacres

In January 2024, SNHR documented the deaths of five individuals due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria.

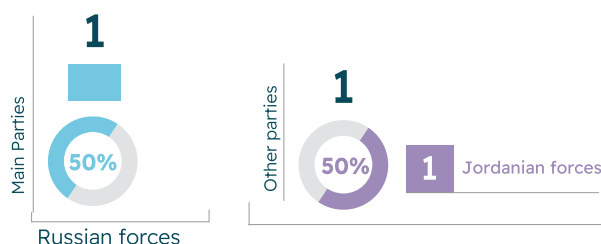
The massacres documented in January 2024 are distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria as follows:

A. Main parties

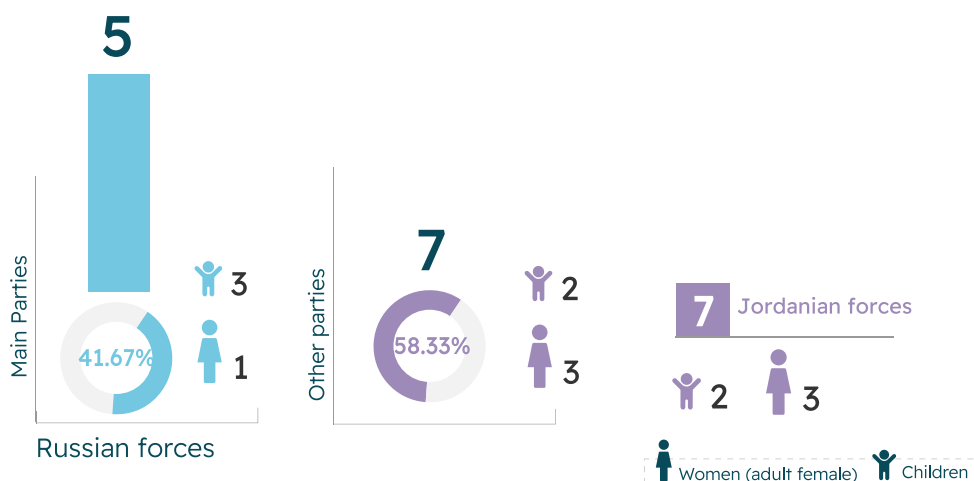
- Russian forces: One massacre.

B. Other parties

- Jordanian forces: One massacre.

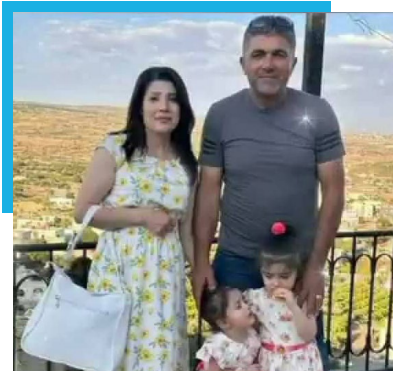


A total of 12 civilians, including five children and four women, were killed in the massacres documented in January 2024.

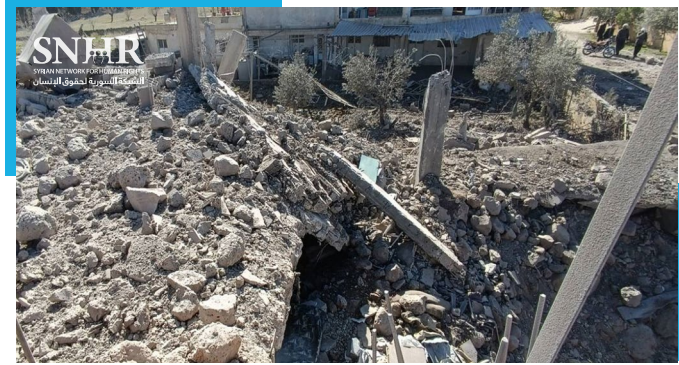


Below are the most notable massacres:

On Thursday, January 18, 2024, at around 01:00 local time, fixed-wing warplanes originating from the Jordanian territory and suspected to be affiliated with the Jordanian air force carried out two airstrikes on Orman town, targeting two sites in the town. A number of missiles, suspected to be two, struck the center of Orman town. One of the missiles directly hit [a two-story house](#) inhabited by Nazih al-Halabi and his family and Turki al-Halabi and his family, causing the massacre, where seven civilians, including two girls and three women, were killed, while another woman was injured. [This house was almost completely destroyed in the airstrikes, which also heavily destroyed a number of the surrounding houses.](#)



Turki al-Halabi, his wife Fatin Abu Shahin, and their two daughters Farah and Dima who were all killed in an aerial attack by fixed-wing warplanes suspected to be affiliated with the Jordanian air forces, which targeted a house in the center of Orman town in Suwayda on January 18, 2024



Destruction caused by an aerial attack by fixed-wing warplanes believed to be affiliated with the Jordanian air forces on a house in the center of Orman town in Suwayda, which resulted in a massacre - January 18, 2024 ©SNHR

SNHR spoke with Mr. Abu Hakim,² a resident of Orman town in rural Suwayda, who witnessed the bombardment and the massacre. He told us that, on January 18, 2024, he heard fixed-wing warplanes flying over the town, then he heard two explosions, one coming from the east of the town, and a few seconds later a second explosion near his home. He added:

“The warplanes came from the town’s south side, from the direction of Jordan. The attack occurred at 01:00 on two sites. The first in the east, and the second in the neighborhood where I live, a few meters from my home. That attack targeted four adjacent homes inhabited by al-Halabi family. I headed immediately to the attack site. Dust was everywhere and the roofs had collapsed. I found a big hole about seven meters deep, and four houses were totally destroyed. Seven martyrs died at the scene, and the dead bodies were pulled out one after another. They were in a very poor and cruel state. About 11 residents survived the attack, including an injured female university student, while the rest sustained no injuries. I could not determine the number of the missiles. I heard the sound of a strong explosion that generated massive pressure damaging over 15 houses in the vicinity of the destroyed houses, including mine, where the pressure generated by the explosion shattered the glass front. The cement and rock debris left by the bombardment even flew as far as 30 meters. Going by the assessment of the residents and from what I saw, there were two missiles. The first landed in the crater it created, and the second six meters from the same hole, striking the two-story house of Nazih and Turki al-Halabi, with the bombardment leaving a gaping hole in the roof.” Abu Hakim also told us that the victims from the al-Halabi’s victims had no links to the narcotics trade: “All of them are innocents. Everyone who knows them would testify to that. The site targeted is also in the middle of the town where there are no drug warehouses or manufacturing facilities.” When asked about the missile that landed in the east of the town, Abu Hakim said: “It targeted the home of Omar Talab. Omar died along with his mother and aunt. What I know about Omar is that he owned a water well and worked in agriculture. I have no knowledge of whether or not he was in the drug trade. I affirm that the civilian community in most of Suwayda rejects drugs and working in the drug trade. There are also a large number of Orman residents who are expatriates and support projects for farming apples and grapes. Most of the town’s residents are also self-sufficient and have no need to involve themselves in illegal activities. Furthermore, the bombardment has caused mass fear and panic among the residents, with many fleeing to outside the town in fear of more attacks.”

2. Via Microsoft Teams on January 23, 2024.

Massacres from the History of the Popular Uprising for Democracy in Syria

In this month:

On January 28, 2014, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on the vegetable market in Karm al-Maysar neighborhood in Aleppo. The attack killed **20 individuals**, including four children and three women, as well as damaging a number of residential buildings.

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be Russian fired missiles at Sarmada city in rural Idlib governorate, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The attack killed **25 individuals**, including five children and three women.

On Saturday, January 7, 2017, a suicide bomber detonated the car he was in near the Central Court building in Izaz city in northern rural Aleppo governorate, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing killed **62 individuals**, including six children and two women. We have not yet been able to identify the party behind the bombing as of this writing.

January 6, 2018

Speaking about the Massacre in Hamouriya town in Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus Governorate, in which shelling by regime forces **killed 17** civilians, including six children and six women, Abdul Rahman Yassin, a media worker at Hamouriya Media Office, said:

Account from an eyewitness

“As the dust settled, the sight was horrifying. The place was overwhelmed with dead bodies and the wounded. Children’s and women’s screams filled the place. I had to document the massacre and help aid the wounded. There were about 50 wounded people.”

Via WhatsApp on January 17, 2018.

Victims killed in a massacre in Izaz city in rural Aleppo that was caused by a car bomb of unidentified source. | Photo credit: Aleppo Media Center, February 2, 2017

VII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex 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, 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 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, enabling us to accurately ascertain the highest rates of violence documented in the case of each violation. SNHR's Victim Documentation Department team constantly updates the network's 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 with the documentation of incidents involving the killing of children and women; there is hardly any statistic recorded on our database that does not include victims in either category and usually in both, 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, and humanitarian aid personnel, and Civil Defense rescue workers.

For nearly 13 years, we have issued [daily death tolls of victims](#), as well as [daily news reports](#) on killing incidents. We also issue a [monthly report](#) detailing the death toll of victims, whose deaths were documented in Syria during the previous month, amongst civilians, as well as of those who died [due to torture](#), in addition to issuing a biannual report and annual report, as well as dozens of other special reports [documenting the total death toll](#) or the death toll at the hands of one of the parties to the conflict in particular, in addition to a [monthly report](#) and special and periodic reports documenting the [massacres](#) committed on Syrian soil.

We have also turned the victims' database into a map and interactive charts accessible on our website, which categorize the victims by governorate, gender, age group, the party responsible for their deaths, and other criteria. There are also charts detailing the death toll of victims killed at the hands of all parties to the conflict, as well as others giving information on specific groups, such as specifically detailing the death toll among women and children victims, with all of these being updated regularly.

SNHR also periodically submits special forms to the United Nations [Special Rapporteur](#) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on torture, submitting cases of killings on which we were able to document all of the available data, having obtained the consent of each victim's family members before submitting them.

It should be noted that the United Nations has relied on SNHR 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 also has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Humanitarian Outcomes on contributing to its Aid Worker Security Database \(AWSDB\)](#) project, which stipulated the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to various states' governments, to provide them with statistics from our databases, in order to serve the justice process, and ultimately to ensure the accountability and prosecution of criminals. SNHR is also used as a trustworthy source by numerous Arab and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

- The evidence we have collected regarding incidents involving deaths indicates that the attacks documented in this report were deliberately directed against civilians and civilian objects. Syrian-Russian alliance forces have committed various crimes of extrajudicial killings, including fatal torture. Their attacks and indiscriminate bombardment have resulted in the destruction of facilities and buildings. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of attacking civilians has been committed in many cases.
- A large proportion of the Syrians killed died as a result of landmine explosions, with none of the perpetrator forces involved in the Syrian conflict issuing maps revealing the locations where landmines were planted. This indicates a chilling total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, particularly children.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2139 and 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by the Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a clear violation of international humanitarian law, with the crimes of indiscriminate killing amounting to war crimes.
- The use of remote bombings to target densely populated areas reflects a criminal mindset intent on deliberately inflicting the greatest possible number of deaths, which is a clear contravention of international human rights law and a flagrant violation of the Geneva VI Convention, Articles 27, 31, and 32.
- We have documented cases of extrajudicial killings committed by various controlling forces against the populations under their control, which constitute serious violation of international human rights law.

Recommendations

UN Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional steps following the adoption of Resolution 2254, which clearly demands that all parties should, *"...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment."*
- The Syrian issue should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes should be held accountable.
- Members of the Security Council must stop using their veto to protect the Syrian regime, which has committed hundreds of thousands of violations over the past ten years, many of which constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm (R2P) in order to preserve Syrians' lives, heritage, and cultural artifacts from being destroyed, looted, and ruined.
- Request that all relevant United Nations agencies make greater efforts to provide humanitarian and food aid and medical assistance in areas where the fighting has ceased, and in internally displaced persons' camps, and follow up with those states that have pledged the necessary contributions.
- Seriously work to achieve a political transition under the Geneva Communiqué and Security Council Resolution No. 2254, to ensure the stability and territorial integrity of Syria, and enable the dignified and safe return of refugees and IDPs.
- Allocate a significant amount of money for clearing mines left over by the Syrian conflict from the United Nations Mine Action Service, particularly in areas prepared to carry out this task with transparency and integrity.

International Community

- In light of the split within the UN Security Council and its utter incapability, action should be taken at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people and increase support for relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be applied in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine (R2P) in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were exhausted, with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana talks that followed proving equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now continued for 13 years in Syria.
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to activate the principle of universal jurisdiction.
- Work to launch projects to create maps revealing the locations of landmines and cluster munitions in all Syrian governorates. This would facilitate the process of clearing them and educating the population about their locations.
- Support the political transition process and impose pressure to compel the parties to implement the political transition within a period of no more than six months so that most of the violations end and millions of displaced people can safely return to their homes without fear.
- Prevent and end any forcible return of Syrian refugees, since the situation in Syria continues to be extremely unsafe, and put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve a political transition that would ensure the automatic return of millions of refugees.

UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the violations mentioned in this report and previous reports and should shed greater light on the issue of the continuing killing in Syria.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry (COI)

- Launch extensive investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide further evidence and data.
- Focus on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions within its next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public condemnation, and end all dealings with them at every political and economic level.

International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)

- Collect further evidence about the crimes documented in this report, and facilitate an exchange of experience and expertise with Syrian organizations working in the field of documentation, data collection and analysis.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria

- Condemn the perpetrators of these crimes and of the massacres, and those who were primarily responsible for dooming the de-escalation agreements.
- Re-sequence the peace process so that it can resume its natural course despite Russia's attempts to divert and distort it, empowering the Constitutional Committee prior to the transitional governing body.
- Call for rapid implementation of democratic political change that restores victims' rights and embodies the principles of transitional justice.
- There is no sense in pursuing any political process in light of the continued bombing of hospitals and theft of UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the parties responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

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 tens 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.

Russian regime

- Completely cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect customary international law.
- As a guarantor party in the Astana talks, the Russian regime must stop thwarting de-escalation agreements, and apply pressure on the Syrian regime in order to end all indiscriminate attacks and allow the unconditional passage of humanitarian aid to besieged areas.
- Provide detailed maps of sites where Russian forces have launched cluster munition attacks, issue these to the United Nations, and inform the Syrian public about them, thus facilitating the disposal of unexploded ordnance.

The Coalition (US-led coalition and SDF)

- The states supporting the SDF should cease all forms of support until the SDF commits itself to complying with the rules of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This is primarily the responsibility of the supporting states.
- The SDF should form a special committee to investigate incidents of violations committed by SDF forces, disclose the details of their findings and apologize for them, hold those responsible accountable, and compensate the victims and affected.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the SDF has planted landmines, especially in civilian sites or near residential communities.

All Armed Opposition factions/SNA

- Ensure the protection of civilians in all areas under their control. These forces should also take care to distinguish between civilians and military targets and cease any indiscriminate attacks.
- Launch investigations into the human rights violations that have taken place, hold those responsible accountable and make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the Armed Opposition factions/Syrian National Army planted landmines, especially civilian sites or near residential communities.

Humanitarian organizations

- Develop urgent operational plans to secure decent shelter for internally displaced persons, particularly widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts towards carrying out landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

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SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



info@snhr.org
www.snhr.org

No justice without accountability

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