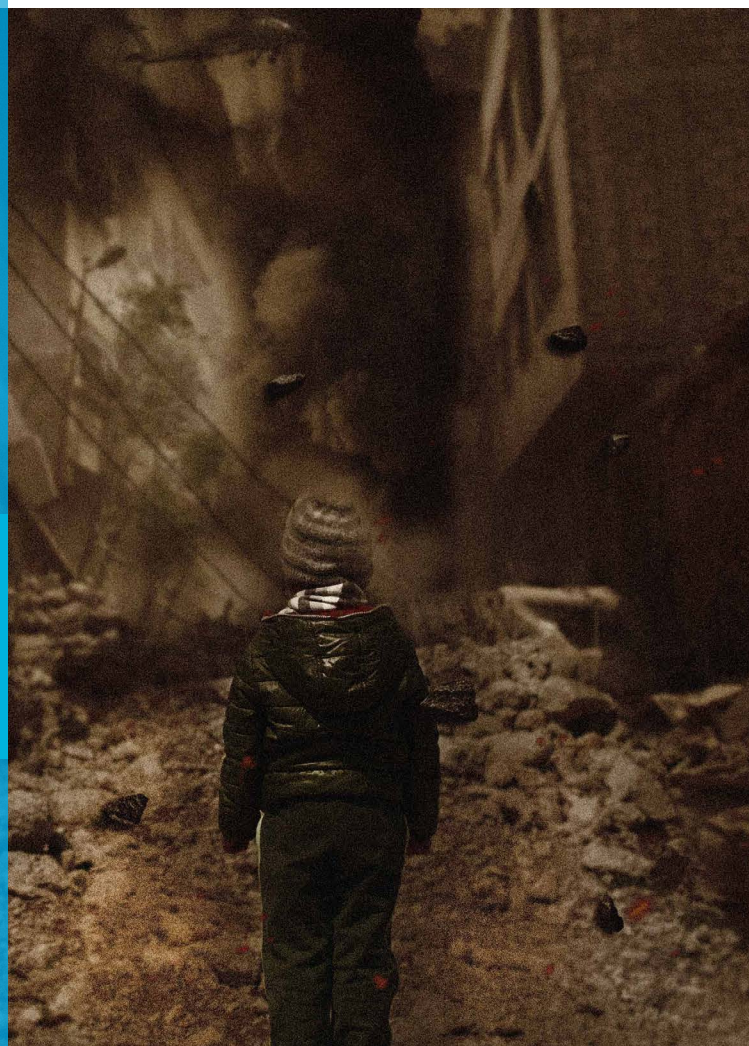


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1868
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Syrian Network for Human Rights
Titel:	96 Civilians, Including 15 Children, Six Women, and Seven Victims Who Died due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria, in March 2023
Udgivet:	1. april 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	13. juni 2023

96 Civilians, Including 15 Children, Six Women, and Seven Victims Who Died due to Torture, Were Documented Killed in Syria, in March 2023

42 Civilians, including One Child and One Woman, Killed While Collecting Desert Truffles



Wednesday 01 April 2023

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. The Syrian Regime Has Failed to Register Hundreds of Thousands of Citizens It Killed Since March 2011 in the Death Records of the Civil Registry	3
III. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in March	5
IV. Death Toll of Civilian Victims	6
V. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel	8
VI. Record of Most Notable Massacres	10
VII. What is SNHR Doing About the Extrajudicial Killing Issue?	11
VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations	12
Acknowledgment	16

I. Background and Methodology

This report documents the death toll of victims whose deaths were documented by Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as taking place at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in March 2023. The report sheds light particularly on victims who died due to torture, and victims among medical personnel. In addition, the report focuses on documenting massacres perpetrated by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria which the SNHR team was able to document; 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 maintained on the SNHR database.

Documenting deaths in Syria has been one of the most important roles performed by SNHR since March 2011. This is all the more crucial since murder is the most prevalent of all the violations perpetrated, and the one which most profoundly affects the Syrian people, with countless families suffering incalculable and irreparable trauma through the loss of parents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, etc.

These violations have become so widespread primarily due to the systematic killing of civilians by Syrian regime forces and their affiliated militias. Between March 2011, and the beginning of 2012, Syrian regime forces were responsible for the overwhelming majority of deaths. The Syrian regime began by using tanks and artillery, then proceeded to also use warplanes and helicopter gunships which were used in the deployment of barrel bombs, in addition to ballistic missiles and chemical weapons.

The emergence of several other parties during the Syrian conflict has further increased both the importance and complexity of documenting the victims killed in Syria.

The killing of civilians in Syria has continued for the eleventh consecutive year, as it has done continuously since the initial outbreak of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria in March 2011, resulting in casualty figures that are among the highest worldwide; this underlines the fact that Syria is still the most dangerous nation in the world for civilians, and remains an exceptionally insecure and perilous environment wholly unsuitable for the return of refugees.

This report catalogues the death toll of victims at the hands of the active parties to the Syrian conflict. It should be noted that 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 land bombardment, especially those in which the bombardment originates from an adjacent area that is controlled by a different party. In such cases, SNHR tries to thoroughly investigate the incident, in order to conclusively identify the party responsible for the bombardment.

Despite this, however, there are cases in which we are unable to definitively assign responsibility for a particular killing to one of two possible parties because of the area's proximity to the lines of engagement, the use of similar weapons, or other reasons. In such cases, the incident is classified within 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.

The parties to the conflict documented by SNHR as having as committed extrajudicial killings in this report are:

1. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)¹
- Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).
- All armed opposition factions/Syrian National Army (SNA).
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

2. Other parties

While we at the SNHR are keen to accurately attribute incidents to the responsible 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 haven't yet been able to determine or on whom we have so far been unable to find any identifying information or any picture or video footage, these cases are catalogued in a separate archive until any information confirming those victims' identity is received which would enable their cases to be transferred to the victims' archive, with their names and other details registered accordingly.

Through use of SNHR's extensive database, we can catalogue the victims according to the governorate where they were killed, and also by their governorate of origin. However, we choose in our monthly report to document the death toll of victims according to the governorate in which they were killed, rather than by their place of origin.

In this report, we record only the death toll of civilians whose deaths we were able to document during the last month. SNHR does not document the deaths of fighters and militants killed during the conflict, while some of the victims documented may have been killed months or even years ago, as in some cases of death due to torture; in these cases, where the deaths have only recently been confirmed, we include two dates, the date when we were able to document the victim's death, and the date on which we think the death occurred.

The methodology adopted by SNHR in documenting the victims can be found at this link.²

1. We generally use the term 'the Syrian regime' rather than 'the Syrian government', because the nature of the ruling power in Syria is a totalitarian dictatorship where power is concentrated in the hands of a small circle of individuals, namely the President of the Republic and the heads of the security apparatus. Conversely, the ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, play a restricted, largely ceremonial role, which is limited to implementing precisely what the ruling regime orders, with no real decision-making power or active role of their own. Syria is under a personalist/family rule, with no independent decision-making structure. Rather, the government is an empty façade merely for show. the Minister of Interior receives orders from the security branches over which he supposedly presides. The Minister of Justice cannot even summon a low-ranking security office, let alone a security branch head. Syria is ruled by the heads of the security branches with the president.

2. Syrian Network for Human Rights, "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.

We note that the death toll of victims detailed on SNHR's database includes extrajudicial killings by the controlling forces which occurred as a violation of either international human rights law or international humanitarian law or both, but does not include cases of natural deaths or those which occurred because of disputes between members of society or other such issues.

Our investigations confirm that all of the attacks included in this report that were carried out by the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria targeted civilian areas where we documented no military presence or armories before or during the attacks. 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 only represents the bare minimum of the actual severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

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

Although hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens have been killed, 'disappeared' or gone missing since the early days of the popular rising in March 2011, they have not been officially registered as dead by the relevant official state departments, namely the Civil Registry Department. The Syrian regime unconscionably controls the issuance of death certificates, which are not made available to any of the families of the victims, whether they were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime or by other parties, or to the families of the missing and forcibly disappeared. 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 this phenomenon of the regime's forcing victims' families to sign false statements, written by the security authorities beforehand, stating 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 from 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 death and the identity of those responsible for it.

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 is worth noting that the vast majority of victims' families are unable to obtain death certificates 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 they were a dissident who opposed the Syrian regime, or of their loved one had been registered as a 'terrorist' if they were 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 Minister of Justice in the Syrian regime government 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 imposed security clearance on judicial authorities 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.

III. Brief on the Most Notable Incidents of Killing in March

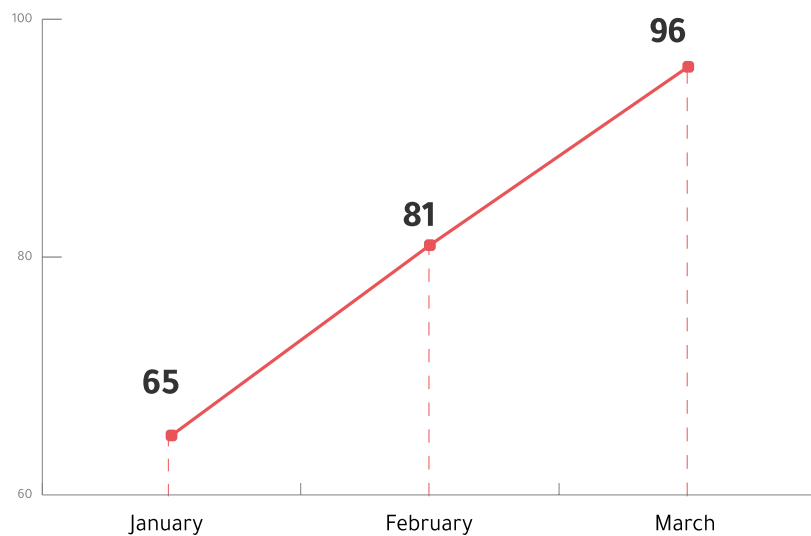
Six observations stood out in March:

1. In March, we recorded that 42 civilians, including one child and one woman, were killed while they were collecting desert truffles, bringing the total number of civilian victims killed while collecting truffles since the beginning of 2023 to 92, including five children and one woman, all of whom were killed either by the explosion of landmines planted by parties we have been unable to identify or by parties we have been unable to identify. Responsibility for those killings can be attributed to one of two parties:
 - Syrian regime forces or Iranian militias.
 - Groups affiliated with ISIS.
2. In March, we documented the killing of four civilians at the hands of personnel from Turkish Border Guard (Gendarmerie). Turkey's Gendarmerie forces assaulted and tortured eight young men after they entered Turkey illegally from the Turlaha village in the suburbs of Harem in the western suburbs of Idlib. Of the [four of these civilian victims who subsequently died](#), two young men [died](#) due to torture and assault, while a third civilian was shot dead by a Turkish Border Guard sniper while he was on agricultural land near the border line with Turkey in Kherbat al-Jouz village in the western suburbs of Idlib, and the [fourth](#) was killed as he was trying to reach Turkey via the Ras al-Ein area in northern Hasaka.
3. On March 20, 2023, four Kurdish civilians from the same family, including one child, were killed, while others were injured, by members of the SNA's 'Jaish al-Sharqiya' (The Army of the East) who opened fire at a group of civilians near al-Sena'iya city in Jendeires town in the suburbs of Afrin in northwestern Aleppo. The victims were killed while they were trying to build a fire for the celebration of the Kurdish New Year, known as Nowruz.
4. On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, four civilians were killed, while others were wounded, by an explosion of unidentified source that occurred near a center for Iran's so-called Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in al-Hamidiya city in Deir Ez-Zour city. We have not yet been able to identify the cause of the explosion.
5. In March, we documented the killing of five civilians by Syrian regime forces. One of the victims, 25-year-old Ammar Mustafa al-Mustafa from Ma'ar Shoreen village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib, an internally displaced person from Raqqa, was shot dead by regime personnels on Sunday, March 12, 2023, while driving a van through the Masaken al-Umran neighborhood in Hasaka city. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.
6. In March, SDF personnel killed five civilians, including three children. One of the children, 16-year-old Majed al-Saleh al-Hzeim from Eqerbat town in the suburbs of Hama who was displaced to Raqqa in 2016 and had lived there ever since, was shot dead on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 by members of an SDF patrol who were pursuing him for driving a motorcycle in al-Tabaqa city in western Raqqa. The fighters opened fire directly at Majed, with three bullets hitting him in the back. The area is under the control of the SDF.

IV. Death Toll of Civilian Victims

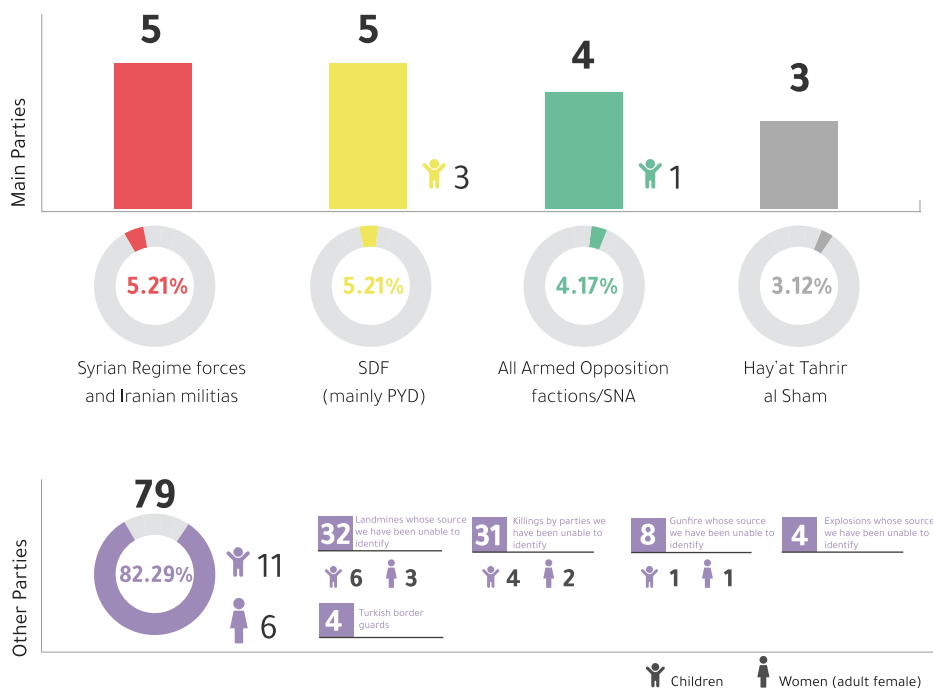
In March, SNHR documented the killing of 96 civilians, including 15 children and six women (adult female) at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria. March's death toll brings the total number of civilian victims documented killed by the different parties to the conflict and controlling forces from the beginning of 2023 up to the start of April to 242.

The documented death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria in March is distributed as follows:



March saw the highest monthly death toll of 2023 documented to date, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all recorded fatalities in 2023, compared to February's 33 percent. January saw the lowest monthly death toll, accounting for approximately 27 percent of all fatalities documented so far this year.

March's death toll is distributed by the parties to the conflict and controlling forces as follows:



A. The main parties:

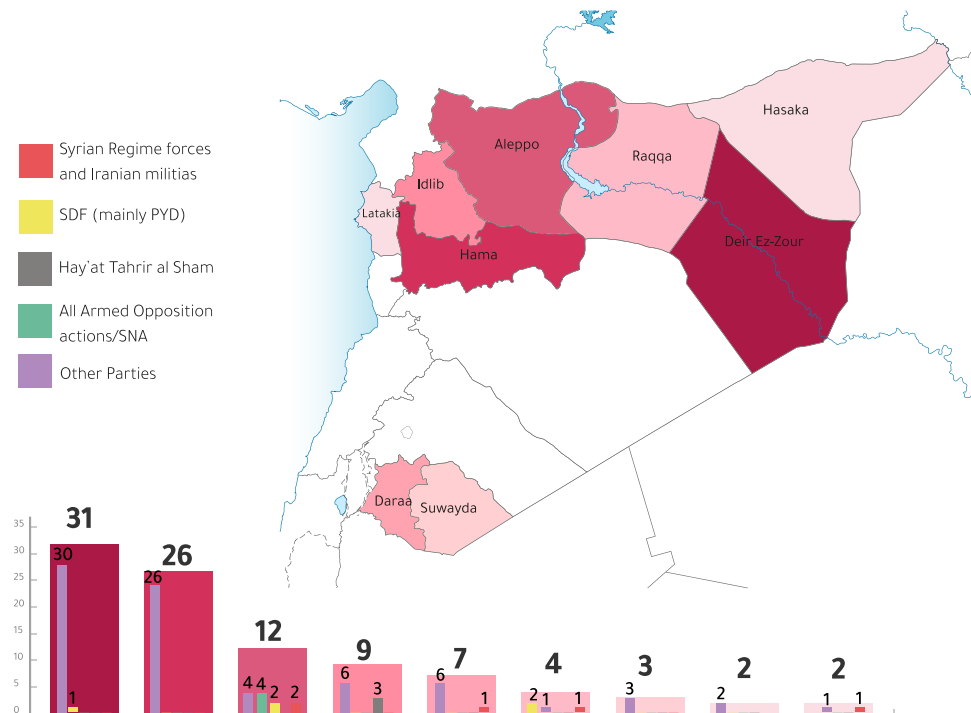
- **Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias):**
We documented the killing of five civilians at the hands of Syrian regime forces.
- **HTS**
We documented the killing of three civilians at the hands of HTS.
- **All armed opposition factions/SNA**
We documented the killing of four civilians, including one child, at the hands of the armed opposition factions/SNA.
- **SDF**
We documented the killing of five civilians, including three children, at the hands of SDF.

B. Other parties:

We documented the killing of 79 civilians, including 11 children and six women at the hands of other parties, distributed as follows:

- Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify: 32 civilians, including six children and three women.
- Gunfire whose source we have been unable to identify: eight civilians, including one child and one woman.
- Bombings whose perpetrators we have been unable to identify: four civilians.
- Killings by parties we have been unable to identify: 31 civilians, including four children and two women.
- Turkish Border Guard: four civilians.

The death toll of civilian victims killed at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces documented in March 2023 is distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



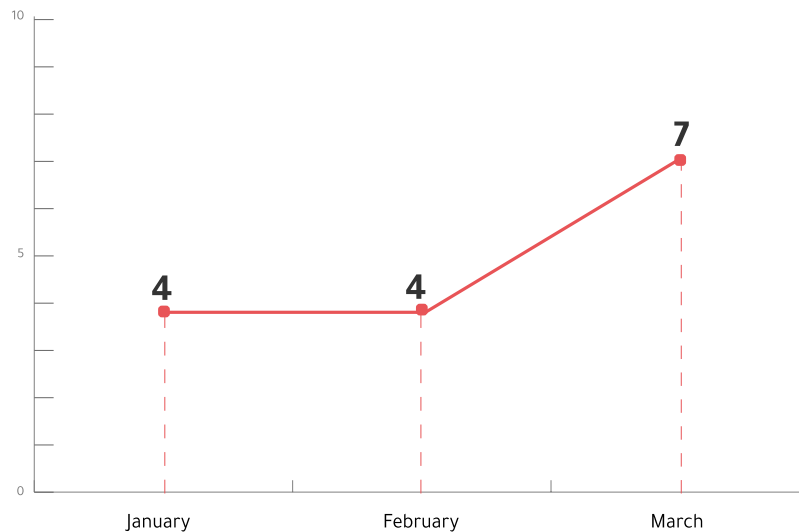
Deir Ez-Zour governorate saw the highest death toll of victims documented killed in March, accounting for approximately 32 percent of the total monthly death toll. Most of those victims were killed at the hands of other parties. Deir Ez-Zour is followed by Hama governorate with approximately 27 percent of the death toll, followed by Aleppo governorate with 12 percent.

V. Death Toll of Victims Who Died Due to Torture, and Victims Amongst Media, Medical and Civil Defense Personnel

A. Death toll of victims who died due to torture

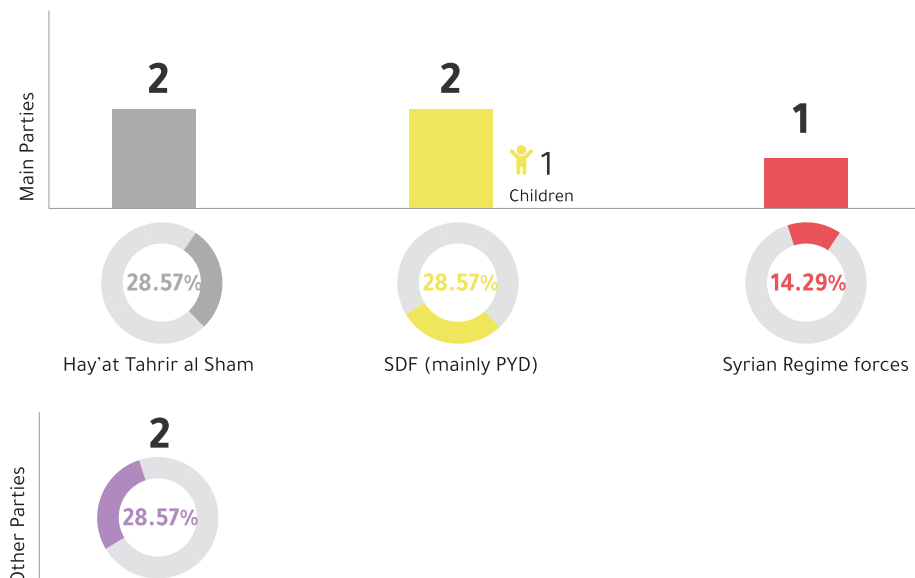
In March 2023, SNHR documented the deaths of seven victims who died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and the controlling forces in Syria, bringing the total number of victims who have died due to torture at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023 to 15.

Victims who have died due to torture at the hands of parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria since the beginning of 2023 are distributed by month as follows:



The Syrian regime is responsible for the deaths of 34 percent of all victims documented as having died due to torture since the beginning of 2023 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria. March saw the highest monthly number of victims documented as dying to torture so far this year, accounting for 47 percent of all this year's victims to date. In other words, March saw the deaths of approximately half of all victims documented as dying to torture so far in 2023.

The victims who died due to torture in March 2023 at the hands of the parties to the conflict and controlling forces in Syria are distributed as follows:



A. Main parties:

- Syrian regime forces: one victim.
- HTS: two victims.
- SDF: two victims, including one child.

B. Other parties: two victims.**The most notable cases are:**

[Abdul Hakim al-Balkhi](#), a 32-year-old man from Inkhil city in the northern suburbs of Daraa governorate, was arrested on March 8, 2023, by members of the Syrian regime's State Security forces after being shot by Syrian regime military personnel in a street in Inkhil city. He was taken to a regime detention center in Daraa governorate. On Sunday, March 19, 2023, State Security officials informed Abdul Hakim's family that he had died, with his body being returned to his family members at the State Security building in Daraa governorate. We have received information confirming that he was in good health before being shot prior to his arrest, which makes it extremely likely that he died due to torture and medical negligence.



Abdul Hakim al-Balkhi

Abdul Samad Mahmoud al-Sayel, from Theyban town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, was 16 years old when he was arrested in 2020 by SDF personnel who raided his family's home in the town over allegations of being affiliated with ISIS. He was taken to Ghwayran Prison, an SDF prison in Hasaka city.

On Monday, February 27, 2023, Abdul Samad's parents were notified by an SDF fighter that they needed to pay for surgery for their son after he contracted tuberculosis in prison.

On Sunday, March 5, 2023, Abdul Samad's parents received another message from the SDF instructing them to go to the National Hospital in Hasaka city's al-Aziziiya neighborhood to "visit" their son. On arriving, they were informed that their son had died of tuberculosis. His body was then returned to his family.

SNHR has received information confirming that Abdul Samad was in good health when he was arrested, which makes it extremely likely that he died due to torture and medical negligence in the SDF's Ghwayran Prison.



Abdul Samad Mahmoud al-Sayel, child

B. Death toll of medical personnel

SNHR documented no deaths among medical personnel in March 2023.

C. Death toll of media workers

SNHR documented no victims among media workers in March 2023.

D. Death toll of Civil Defense personnel

In March 2023, SNHR documented the killing of one Civil Defense personnel at the hands of other parties.

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, [Jneid al-Eis](#), a 34-year-old fireman with the Aleppo Firefighting Team, was killed by the explosion of a landmine left behind by earlier shelling, while he and his colleagues were responding to a call about a fire that broke out in the hall of an abandoned warehouse in al-Shqeif area near the al-Layrmoun & Bani Zaid Highway in Aleppo city. Jneid came from Aran village in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



VI. Record of Most Notable Massacres

In March, SNHR documented four massacres at the hands of other parties, raising the number of massacres documented since the beginning of 2023 to seven, as follows:

A. Main parties

- Syrian regime forces and pro-regime militias: One massacre.

B. Other parties:

- Killings by unidentified parties: Three massacres.
- Landmines whose source we have been unable to identify: Two massacres.
- Bombings by unidentified parties: One massacre.

In total, 28 civilians were killed in March's massacres, all of which were perpetrated by parties we have so far been unable to identify.

The most notable massacres are:

On Thursday, March 2, 2023, [five civilians](#), from Ayyash town in the western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, were killed by the explosion of a landmine planted by a party we have so far been unable to identify which blew up under the Inter [truck](#) they were travelling in on the public road in Kabajeb area in southern Deir Ez-Zour city, while they were on their way to collect desert truffles. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.

On March 23, 2023, the bodies of [seven civilians](#) were found by local residents in the area between Jarf Marina and Hariba in eastern Athriya in the suburbs of Salmaiya in the eastern badiya or desert area of Hama in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate. The victims were killed while they were looking for desert truffles. The area was under the control of Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias at the time of the incident.

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

Since 2011, SNHR has been developing complex program 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 incident of death occurred, and according to the governorate from which the victim originated, in order to show the extent of the loss suffered by the people of that governorate, 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, due to the vulnerability of these groups in the community, and because they give an indication of the rate of targeting of civilians. We later added other civilian groups which have played a key role in the popular uprising and later in the armed conflict, such as media, medical, relief and Civil Defense personnel.

For nearly 12 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 \(AWSD\)](#) project. The MoU stipulates the establishment of a joint coordination and cooperation mechanism aimed at documenting and archiving violations and violence affecting aid workers. SNHR has also partnered with numerous United Nations bodies, in addition to 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 a large number of 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 have 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 total indifference by all parties to the lives of civilians, and children in particular.
- The Syrian regime has not only violated international humanitarian law and customary law, but has also breached a number of UN Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2139 and resolution 2042 on the release of detainees, as well as resolution 2254, all without any accountability.
- The indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardment carried out by Syrian Democratic Forces is considered a 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 proved equally fruitless. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the norm of the “Responsibility to Protect” doctrine, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should

be implemented. The UN Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, or quickly establish a tribunal dedicated to trying crimes against humanity and war crimes to end the cycle of impunity that has now spanned 12 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.
- Stop 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 the next report.
- Work on identifying the responsibility of individuals within the Syrian regime who are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes, publish their names to expose them to international public 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 provide an exchange of experiences 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 UN aid, and the pursuit of a zero-security military solution by the Syrian regime and its allies, and the UN Envoy must acknowledge this.
- Clearly assign responsibility to the party responsible for the death of the political process, and disclose to the Syrian people the timing of the end of the political transition process.

Syrian regime

- Stop indiscriminate shelling and targeting of residential areas, hospitals, schools and markets.
- End the acts of torture that have caused the deaths of thousands of Syrian citizens in detention centers.
- Ensure compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and customary humanitarian law.
- Provide detailed maps of the locations where the regime planted landmines, especially in civilian areas or near residential communities.

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, primarily widows and orphans.
- Exert efforts in landmine clearance operations in parallel with relief operations whenever the opportunity arises.

Acknowledgment

We extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the victims' families and friends, and to eyewitnesses and local activists, for their significant and valued contributions to this report.



www.snhr.org - info@snhr.org