

The Society's Holocaust

Most Notable Sectarian and Ethnic Cleansing Massacre



THE SOCIETY'S HOLOCAUST

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56

Sectarian massacres

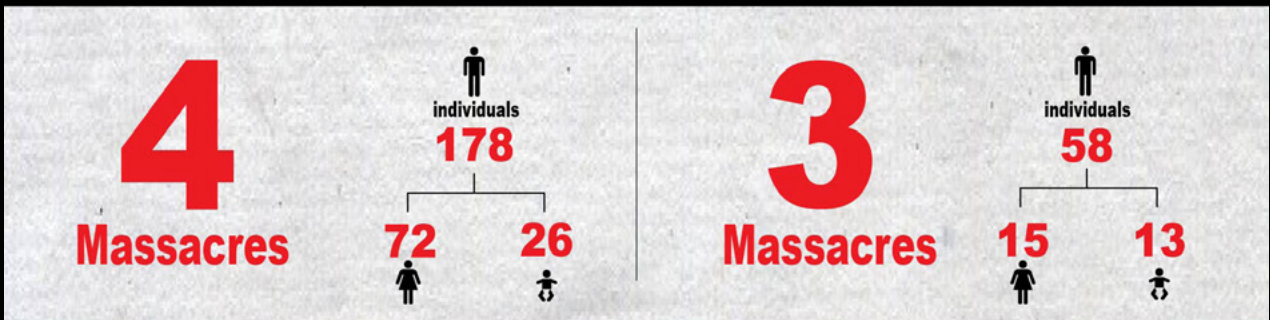
since March 2011 to 13 June 2015

government forces (Military forces, security forces, local and foreign militias)



Massacres perpetrated by other parties
(armed opposition, Daesh, and An-Nusra Front)

Daesh



3

Ethnic massacres

since March 2011 to 13 June 2015

Kurdish self-administration forces



13th June 2015

Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

According to SNHR documentation

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First: Introduction and Terminology

Over the past four years, thousands of massacres have been perpetrated in Syria. However, there are some massacres that involve certain patterns and practices where the aggressor forces don't only kill victims by shooting them but carry out other criminal acts such as slaughtering whole families, including women, children and women, burning bodies, deforming bodies, sexual crimes, looting and burning homes. All of these crimes possess sectarian or ethnic traits.

From March 2011 until June 2013, no other party other than government forces, or its local and foreign militias, has perpetrated this kind of massacres. Government forces perpetrated 35 massacres that involved a pattern of sectarian killing. Nevertheless, other parties, such as extremist groups, armed opposition, or Kurdish self-administrated forces, have resorted to this form of primitive sectarian and ethnic violence although government forces and its allies remain the most major perpetrator as it perpetrated 87% of such crimes.

It is clear that the Syrian authority is trying to provoke the other party to commit such crimes in light of the lack of any form of accountability on the international community's part or the Security Council's willingness to stop these massacres which some of were perpetrated before the eyes of the Arab and international monitors' as well as the whole world. This drove some of the opposing Syrian Sunnis to resort to extreme measures and redefine itself and the ongoing conflict based on sectarian affiliations after it entered this conflict based on political reasons.

In previous studies, we referred to the foreign militias that are fighting with the regime as "Shiite militias" given that most of its leaders and fighters are known to be affiliated to the Shiite groups which was what our friends at Amnesty International did too. Also, we referred to Daesh and An-Nusra Front as "Sunni" factions considering that most of these two factions' fighters and leaders are Sunnis.

A small comparison between the former factions and militias on one hand and the local militias the other fighting with government forces, whether it was Shi-ite or Alawite, on the other hand shows that the sectarian allegiances are similar of these groups are similar to that of the Shiite militias or the Jihadist groups. However, it is not possible to describe it as sectarian due to the fact that we have no knowledge of its hierarchy and its leaders' sectarian affiliations. Therefore, we will refer to it as "local militias" instead of Alawite or Shiite militias in this report.

Every incidents included in this report has been documented by SNHR in a separate and extensive report. In this study, we have collected these incidents, sorted them based on their chronological order, governance, the perpetrator party and we listed the total death toll of these massacres. Therefore, the methodology of this report, including the casualties numbers and other facts, are based on the daily monitoring and documentation that SNHR have been working on since 2011 through its members inside and outside Syria. For more information on our methodology please visit the following [URL](#).

Most of these incidents -90%- have been done through by the help and coordination of government forces while some of it happened without the knowing of the central command in Damascus or the Syrian authorities. Also, some crimes were perpetrated by government forces alone. It is worth noting that 90% of the security branches and military teams are Alawites. However, we can't classify all the massacres perpetrated by government forces as sectarian violence or ethnic acts. We described the massacres perpetrated by government forces' militias, Qaeda's extremist groups, or armed opposition factions, as "sectarian violence". When a massacre is perpetrated by "The Kurdish self-administration" forces against Arabs, it has ethnic traits rather than sectarian ones because Kurdish forces have fighters from different sectarian groups even though most of them are Sunnis. This also applies in cases where extremist groups perpetrated massacres in Kurdish areas.

In most of the cases, the ruling authorities' militias loot homes, destroy it, or occupy it which is considered as acts of enforced-displacement that can be classified as war crimes whereas the purpose of these acts is to prevent its Sunni residents from coming back. This is certainly a form of collective punishment. Furthermore, Daesh adopted a similar policy against Christians in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassaka, and Der Ezzor where it seized a number of churches and used it as bases. You can read [SNHR study on violations against churches in Syria](#). The tyrannical ruthless authorities have taken advantage of the sectarian groups and evoked it to fight against each other in order to further its political agenda or for personal gains. Some of the sectarian groups have become even more violent than the tyrannical authorities itself or these authorities wanted these sectarian groups to reach such a high level of extremism and criminality so it can give the local community the notion that it is fortified against these sectarian groups' violence and to present itself for the international community as an active force in the war on terror. However, in reality, totalitarian, tyranny, and exploiting sectarian groups is the main reason behind the problems of sectarianism and terrorism.

Exploiting the historical sufferings, in its various forms, of these sectarian groups and supporting it unconditionally have turned these local militias into brutal inhumane killing machines that don't respect any national, religious, or moral values and take great pleasure in shredding its victims into pieces even if they were children and then proudly publish videos and pictures of its extremely sickening and inhumane crimes.

SNHR aspires that Syria will become a national modern state one day where all citizens have equal rights and duties, a state where people makes decisions freely. This freedom justifies the existence of the state itself as the framework in which the people's will manifests in its finest forms in order to reach the highest possible levels of peace, security and justice.

The rules of the international humanitarian law apply to the non-international

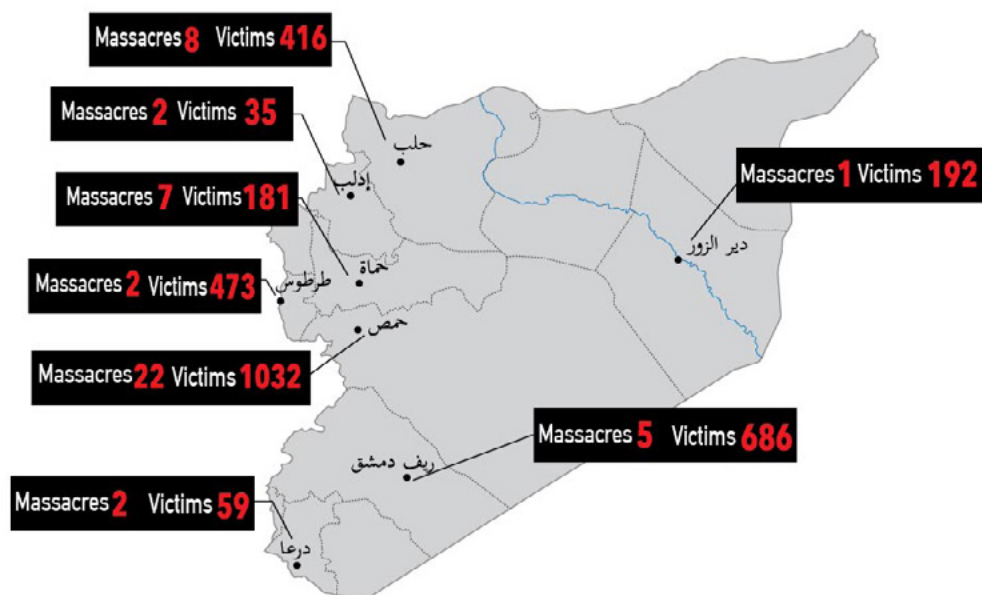
armed conflicts and are considered binding to all the relevant parties including the foreign Shiite and Sunni militias. The most important rules are to protect those who are uninvolved in combat and the principles of Proportionality and discrimination. Also, these rules prohibits the torture and killing of prisoners, whether they were civilians or combatants, targeting civil facilities and the other violations stated in the international humanitarian law which we mentioned several times in previous reports. According to the international humanitarian law, military personnel and civil leaders can be held accountable for the crimes perpetrated by their subordinates in case they were the ones who issued the orders, encouraged these crimes, or were aware of these crimes and didn't take action to stop it. The incidents included in this study, and all the other studies done by SNHR for that matter, indicates that these crimes are of a frequent nature and widespread scales which makes it impossible that the Syrian authorities are not aware of it. Despite all these crimes that have been perpetrated, the Syrian authorities have never held anyone accountable for these crimes even low-rank officials and, instead, it provides full support and protection for those who perpetrate these crimes.

1. SNHR documented 56 sectarian massacres since March 2011 as follows:

A. Government forces: 49 massacres that resulted in the killing of 3074 victims as follows:

- 3004 civilians including 526 children and 471 women.
- 70 armed. (The percentage of civilian victims is no less than 98%)

The regional distribution of these massacres is as follows:



civilians including 204 women and 209 children.

Aleppo: eight massacres that resulted in the killing of 416 victims: five rebels and 411 civilians including 34 women and 63 children.

Hama: seven massacres that resulted in the killing of 181 civilians including 15 women and 16 children.

Damascus suburbs: Five massacres that resulted in the killing of 686 victims: 55 rebels and 631 civilians including 113 women and 120 children.

Tartus: Two massacres that resulted in the killing of 473 civilians including 75 women and 98 children.

Idlib: Two massacres that resulted in the killing of 35 civilians including eight women and seven children.

Daraa: Two massacres that resulted in the killing of 59 civilians including 10 women and six children.

Der Ezzor: a massacre in Al-Qosour and Al-Joura neighborhoods that resulted in the killing of 192 civilians including 12 women and seven children.

B. Other parties

SNHR documented four massacres that involved factions from the armed opposition, Daesh, and An-Nusra Front. 178 were killed in these massacres including 26 children and 72 women.

C. Daesh

SNHR documented three sectarian-cleansing massacres that were perpetrated by Daesh. Those massacres resulted in the killing of 58 victims including 13 children and 15 women.

2. Ethnic massacres

SNHR documented three ethnic-cleansing massacres that were perpetrated by the Kurdish self-administration forces. 58 victims were killed in these massacres including 13 children and 15 women.

Third: Details

A. Sectarian massacres

- [Massacres perpetrated by government forces \(Military forces, security forces, local and foreign militias\)](#)

Homs

1. Az-Zahraa neighborhood, Thursday 6 December 2011

On 6 December 2011, government forces' local militias kidnapped a number of the nearby neighborhoods residents and gathered them in the main square before torturing them and shooting them. Afterwards, the bodies were deformed. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 19 civilians including eight victims who were from the same family.

2. Karm Az-Zaitoun massacre, Thursday 26 January 2012

On 26 January 2012, government forces' local militias raided some of the homes located in Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood and killed two families where signs of stab wounds were seen on the dead bodies.

SNHR documented the killing of 19 civilians including six women and 10 children. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds. SNHR published two reports in which the details of this massacre were documented: "Families slaughtered in Homs – Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood in a sectarian-cleansing massacre"

["The slaughtering and execution of Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood families in a sectarian-cleansing massacre."](#)

3 - As-Sabil neighborhood massacre, Tuesday 7 February 2015

Government forces' sectarian militias raided a number of homes in Homs – As-Sabil neighborhood and killed three families. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 14 civilians including four children and five women

SNHR published a report: ["Sectarian-cleansing massacres against a number of families on one day in Homs – As-Sabil neighborhood"](#) which documented the details of this massacre.



4. Ar-Refa'ie Al-Adawiya, and Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood in Homs city, Friday 9 March 2012 and Sunday 11 March 2012

Government forces started a siege against those three neighborhoods at the morning of Friday 9 March 2012. Afterwards, government forces used its artillery to heavily bomb these neighborhoods for about 18 hours.

On Sunday 11 March 2012, government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided Ar-Refa'ie neighborhood, Al-Adawiyia neighborhood, and then Karm Az-Zaitoun neighborhood. Women were raped and killed, and the dead bodies were burned and deformed.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces. SNHR documented the killing of 224 victims including 44 children and 48 women.

5- Der Ba'lba, Monday 2 April 2012 and Monday 9 April 2012

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided Der Ba'lba at the beginning of April 2012 and perpetrated a number of massacres against the residents of the neighborhood. These massacres involved looting homes, killing civilians, and widespread rapes of women which were followed by deforming and burning dead bodies which were then buried in mass graves.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 200 civilians including 21 children and 20 women.

SNHR published a report: "[Der Ba'lba massacre in April](#)" to document the details of this massacre



6- The first Ash-Shamas massacre, Tuesday 15 May 2012

Government forces' local militias raided Ash-Shamas neighborhood and looted a number of homes and then they killed and arrested tens of young men without any charges.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of 11 massacres including an Imam of a mosque.



7- Al-Houla massacre, Friday 25 May 2012

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, bombed Al-Houla villages on Friday 25 May 2012. The bombing lasted for 14 hours and was followed by the raiding of the civilians' homes which were located at the borders of Taldou town in Al-Houla. Tens of victims were killed after they were handcuffed and slaughtered. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 107 victims including 97 civilians and 10 rebels. Among the civilians were 49 children and 32 women.

SNHR documented the complete details of Al-Houla massacre in the report: [“Al-Houla planes drown with blood”](#)



8- Eastern Bouyida massacre, Thursday 31 May 2012

Government forces kidnapped at Qtiena military checkpoint, a bus that was transporting workers at Al-Azouti fertilizer plant in Eastern Bouyida village. They were taken to a nearby farm and then they were tortured, killed, and their bodies disfigured. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 12 victims.

SNHR documented this massacre in the report: [“The fertilizer factory massacre in Homs suburbs – Al-Bouiyda”](#)

9- Qal’t Al-Hesn massacre, Thursday 28 June 2012

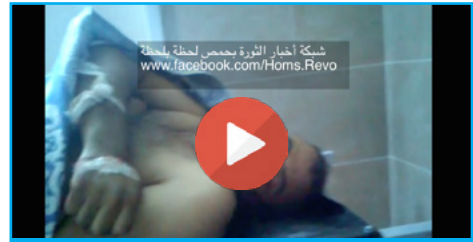
Military forces, reinforced by local militias, raided the house of Dr. Ahlam Emad, which is located in Qal’t Al-Hesn town, and killed the whole family. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of six victims including three women.

SNHR published a report documenting this incident: [“An entire family slaughtered in Qal’t Al-Hesn”](#)

10- The Second Ash-Shmas massacre, Saturday 11 August 2012

Local militias raided Ash-Shmas neighborhood in southern Homs after the neighborhood was sieged and bombed for hours. Firstly, the militias arrested many people, gathered them in the neighborhood mosque and beat them with electric wires before shooting all of them.



Video footage documenting the victims

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 22 civilians including seven children and three women.

11- Tasnien massacre, Saturday and Sunday 5-6 January 2013

Government forces, reinforced by local militias from Jabourien, Kafnran, and Tesnien villages, besieged Tasnien village before it heavily bombed the area and then raided it and killed tens of residents. Most of the dead bodies were tossed in Al-Assi River. The bodies were found a few days later in Ghernata village which is located next to Tasnien village.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented about 105 people who were either killed or counted as missing including 19 women and 10 children.

12- Al-Mshierfa, 6 January 2013

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, stopped a number of travelers on Homs-Lebanon road before they tortured them and slaughtered them with knives.

SNHR documented the killing of 11 victims including three Christians. Also, among the victims was a woman.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

13- Al-Haswiya massacre, Tuesday 15 January 2013

Government forces raided Al-Hswiya village, which houses a number of IDPs who came from Homs neighborhoods including Der Ba'lba and Baba Amrou neighborhoods, and killed a number of people before they burned most of the dead bodies which became almost unrecognizable. According to SNHR documentation, 100 civilians died in the massacre including entire families. Among the victims were 20 women and 25 children. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

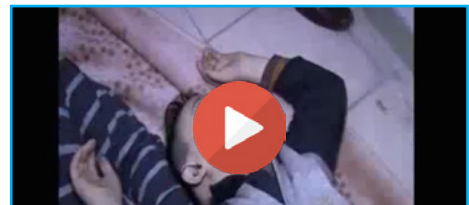
14- Abel massacre, Monday 25 March 2013

After clashing with armed opposition factions, government forces withdrew from Abel village. However, before completely withdrawing, government forces arrested two families who were tortured, killed, and their dead bodies were burned. SNHR documented the killing of 14 civilians including six women and four children. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

[Video footage documents the massacre](#)

15- Al-Burj massacre in Talkalkh city, Sunday 31 March 2013

Local militias from Ain Al-Haramiya area raided a house in Al-Burj neighborhood in Talkalh city and slaughtered all the residents with knives. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.



Video of the dead bodies from the government media

SNHR investigated the incident to find out that these armed militias perpetrated the massacre after one of them was killed in Aleppo suburbs at the hands of the armed opposition.

As usual, the government media took picture of the dead bodies after they were transferred to Tal Kalkh governmental hospital and accused the armed opposition of perpetrating this massacre.

SNHR documented the killing of 10 victims including four children and two women.

16- Baba Amrou massacre, March 2013

Government forces raided Baba Amrou neighborhood in March 2013 after armed opposition withdrew from the neighborhood. In the raid, government forces killed tens of victims, burned houses and dead bodies. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 58 civilians including 21 women.

17- Kherbat At-Tin massacre, Wednesday 10 April 2013

Government forces' local militias, from Kherbat Ghazi and Nouhiya villages, raided Kherbat At-Tin village in Homs western suburbs and killed an entire family using knives and guns. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of 10 victims including seven children and one woman.

[Video footage of the victims](#)

18- “Malouk” family massacre, Friday 17 May 2013

Government forces local' militias from Al-Mazr'a village raided a nearby farm located in Al-Wa'r neighborhood – Khaled ben Al-Walid Street and executed two families using knives before they burned the dead bodies and looted the place. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds. SNHR documented the killing of 13 civilians including nine children and three women.

19- The Second Al-Haswyia massacre, Saturday 13 July 2013

Government forces' local militias raided Al-Haswiya village and killed people from “Al-Mazarea” and “Al-Mohammad” families. Also, people from “At-Tayyar” family were killed and their dead bodies were deformed according to eye-witnesses who told SNHR. This was the second massacre perpetrated by local militias in Al-Haswyia area. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of 18 victims including nine children and three women.

20- As-Sakhna massacre, Monday 22 July 2013

As-Sakhna city is located in Eastern Homs suburbs

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided As-Sakhna city clashed with armed opposition. The clashes came to an end when the Military Security building was bombed. Consequently, the local militias killed three brothers from “Merza” family in addition to killing an entire family. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 18 victims including two women.

21- Wadi Al-Mawla massacre, Friday November 2013

Government forces raided Wadi Mawla village in Talkalkh western suburbs before they gathered a number of residents and killed them all. Also, the village was shelled by tanks and mortar shells. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 21 victims including eight children and seven women. One of the victims was a pregnant woman.

22- Ash-Shniya village massacre, Wednesday 23 July 2014

Government forces’ local militias from Ash-Shniya village killed 20 soldiers who were trying to flee Al-Qabou village to Homs suburbs – Al-Houla city before they were captured by militias from Ash-Shniya village who slaughtered them and deformed their bodies in brutal ways. Afterwards, they tossed the decapitated heads in Al-Assi village. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of 20 recruits.

Aleppo

1- Al-Malkiya village massacre, Wednesday 27 February 2013

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided Al-Malkiya village and killed a large number of residents including children, women, elders, and young men in addition to physical torturing a number of people and burning houses. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 69 civilians, from Al-Malkiya town, including five children and three women.

2- Tal Shghieb village massacre in Eastern Aleppo suburbs, Friday 1 March 2013

Hezbollah militias killed six young men from the village before they burned their dead bodies according to what was documented by SNHR. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved foreign Shiite militias that fight with government forces.

3- Al-Adnaniya village massacre in Aleppo suburbs, Wednesday 13 March 2013

Hezbollah militias killed five victims. The dead bodies were found tossed in the village. According to SNHR documentation, the victims were armed opposition fighters who were captured by Hezbollah militias.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

[Video footage show three victims with signs of torture on the dead bodies](#)

4- Um Amoud village massacre in Aleppo suburbs, April 2013

Hezbollah militias killed 15 young men from the village before throwing the dead bodies in a well in Um Amoud village. The locals found the dead bodies in May 2013. Hezbollah controls a military checkpoint near the As-Sfiera in Aleppo suburbs. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved foreign Shiite militias.

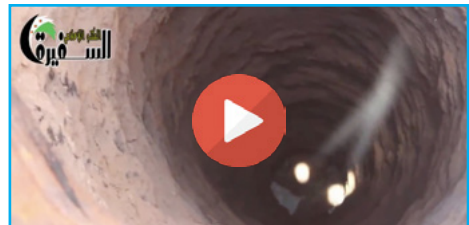
[Video footage shows one of the wells in which the dead bodies were thrown as armed opposition fighters trying to pull out one of the dead bodies](#)

5- Rasm An-Nafl village massacre in Aleppo, Saturday 21 June 2013

Government forces and its local militias managed to take over Rasm An-Nafl town in Aleppo suburbs and carried out tens of extrajudicial killings acts against women, children, men, and elders. More than 192 civilians, including 27 children and 21 women, were killed according to SNHR. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

6- Al-Mazr'a massacre, Saturday 21 June 2013

Government forces, reinforced with Hezbollah militias, killed tens of victims, including women and children, from Al-Mazr'a As-Saghira village. A number of dead bodies were thrown in the village well while other dead bodies were burned.



Video footage shows the well in which the dead bodies were thrown and one of the residents talking about the massacre details

This incident entails a pattern of killing, carried out by foreign militias, based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 55 victims including 21 children and five women.

7- Khnaser massacre in Aleppo suburbs, Saturday 22 February 2014

Abulfadel Al-Abbas arrested a number of young men inside the cultural center building in Khnaser town before they gathered them in the public square while they were blindfolded. Afterwards, they put them against the wall and opened heavy fire on them. 26 young men were killed according to SNHR. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved foreign Shiite militias.

8- Hardantien village massacre, Saturday 21 February 2015

Government forces and its Shiite local militias perpetrated a massacre in Aleppo – Hardantien village where it kidnapped 320 people from Ratyan village and used them as human shields while retreating from the village. SNHR documented the killing of 48 civilians from Ratyan and Hardantien villages, including 10 children and five women, while the other hostages were set free. Most of the dead bodies were found inside a school in the village after it was taken over by the armed opposition. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved foreign Shiite militias with the facilitation of government forces.

[Picture of civilian victims who were field-executed](#)

[Testimonies of residents of Ratyan and Hardantien villages](#)



Hama

1- Al-Qbier massacre in Hama suburbs, Wednesday 6 June 2012

Government forces besieged Al-Qbier farm and then shelled it using tanks, heavy and medium machine guns. Afterwards, tens of fighters, reinforced by local militias who came from nearby areas, raided the area and killed people including women and children and looted and burned houses. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 50 civilians including 10 children and nine women.

2- At-Trymsa massacre, Thursday 12 July 2012

On Thursday 12 July 2012, more than 200 government forces military vehicles besieged At-Trymsa village in Hama suburbs and bombed it for about four consecutive hours using tanks, heavy machine guns, and mortar shells to kill tens of victims. This was followed by raiding some of the houses and killing whoever was inside. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 67 civilians including six children and one woman.

3- Northern Al-Fan village massacre, Sunday 2 September 2012

Government forces, reinforced by Northern Al-Fan village (this village is resided by Sunnis and surrounded by other villages that are resided by Alawites), besieged the village for hours. The siege was accompanied by heavy bombing using tanks and heavy weapons. Several hours later, the village was raided and government forces killed victims and deformed their dead bodies. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 31 civilians including one woman.

SNHR published a report documenting this massacre: [“Sectarian massacre... that will affect the process of transitional justice and co-existence”](#).

4- Aqrab massacre, Tuesday 11 December 2012

Government forces' local militias besieged Aqrab village in Hama suburbs. Consequently, the village residents agreed to form a committee in order to negotiate with the militias and ease the siege.

The local militias killed the members of the delegation which were six civilians according to SNHR.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR published a statement regarding this incident: [“even meditation committees are being killed”](#)

5- Mesyaf city massacre, Friday 1 March 2013

Government forces' local militias in Mesyaf city, which is resided by mostly Alawites, stopped a civil car that were heading to Hama city from Lebanon before they emptied the car and slaughtering all the civilians. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of five civilians.

6- Jub Al-Khasara village massacre, 22 May 2013

Local militias from As-Saboura village, which is mostly resided by Alawites, killed 16 civilians from Jub Al-Khasara, which is mostly resided by Sunnis, including three women. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

7- Mesyaf massacre, Wednesday 19 June 2013

Government forces' local militias in Mesyaf city, which is resided by mostly Alawites, stopped a civil car that were heading to Hama city from Lebanon before they emptied the car and slaughtered everyone, and then they deformed the dead bodies. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of six civilians including one woman.

SNHR published a report on this massacre: [“Citizens slaughtered as they were passing from villages loyal to the Syrian regime”](#)

Damascus suburbs**1- Saqba massacre, Saturday 16 June 2012**

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided Saqba city and stationed in Al-Mahfra, Al-Jam'iya, Al-Jouza, and Al-Maqsam. During the raid, hundreds of homes were looted and many were killed. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of five civilians at the hands of these militias.

2- Douma massacre, Thursday 28 June 2012

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, besieged Doma city and bombed it for a few days before they raided the city and killed entire families. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the facilitation of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 52 civilians including 13 children and 11 women.

3- Jadedat Al-Fadl, Tuesday 16 April-Tuesday 23 April 2013

Government forces and its local militias besieged Jadedat Al-Fadl town and cut off power and communication and then shelled the town targeting Al-Mwali neighborhood in the town before it raided the city from the northern side in conjunction with heavy and focused shelling by squad 100 and 135 who were stationed at Kawkab hill in Artouz city.

Government forces and its local militias killed victims using primitive methods such as stoning and slaughtering in addition to gunfire. Entire families were killed. SNHR documented the killing of 191 victims; 17 rebels and 174 civilians including nine children and eight women in addition to tens who were counted as missing. Additionally, more than 120 prisoners who were later considered forcibly-disappeared persons. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the support of government forces.

SNHR published a report documenting this massacre: "Jadedat Al-Fadl massacre is one of the most horrible massacres in the modern age"

4- Ath-Thyyabiya massacre, Thursday 8 November 2013

Government forces, reinforced by foreign Shiite militias affiliated to Abulfadl Abbas Brigade, besieged Ath-Thyyabiya town and indiscriminately bombed the town before it was raided where entire families were killed. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the support of government forces.

SNHR documented that 13 families were either killed or counted as missing.

SNHR documented the details of this massacre in the report: "The military campaign against Ath-Thyyabiya town in Damascus suburbs exhibits sectarian-cleansing characteristics"

5- An-Nabak massacre, Wednesday 20 November 2013 – Friday 27 December 2013

Government forces, reinforced by foreign Shiite militias, besieged the city of Nabak for 13 days before they raided the city and killed entire families. SNHR documented the killing of 399 victims; 38 rebels and 361 civilians including 98 children and 94 women. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the support of government forces.

[Pictures document some of the victims who were killed in An-Nabak massacre. These dead bodies were found on 24 December 2013 being a gas station where they killed and burned.](#)

Tartus

1- Banyas, Thursday 2 May – Saturday 4 May 2013

Government forces, reinforced by local militias and Hezbollah militias, besieged Al-Bayda city before they raided the city and killed entire families. Residents found little children's legs that were cut off with knives. The dead bodies were burned and disfigured. This massacre was one of the biggest massacres in 2013. The massacre took place in two areas: Al-Bayda and Ras An-Naba'. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds with the support of government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 459 civilian citizens, who were either slaughtered or shot at, including 92 children and 71 women in addition to tens of people who were kidnapped or considered missing.

SNHR documented the massacre of Banyas in the report: "A blatant example of sectarian cleansing"

2- Banyas, Friday 21 July 2013

"The National Defense Army" militias raided Al-Bayda village and headed directly to Osama Fatouh's house and killed him before they burned his wife and kids to death. Also, they executed Osama Taufiq Al-A'sar who was the imam of the village mosque. SNHR documented the killing of 14 victims including six children and four women. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

Idlib

1- Kafrzyba, Wednesday 18 May 2013

In May 2013, government forces raided Kafrzyba village which is located at the northwestern entry point to Ariha city after the village was shelled with heavy weapons.

Government forces killed tens of the village residents, including women and children, deformed their dead bodies, and crucified them on electricity poles. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

2- Qarsaya massacre, Saturday 28 February 2015

A number of government forces sneaked into Qarsaya village, located on the Latakia - Ariha highway, and raided some of the homes at the border of the village and killed a number of people including the entire family of Mr. Mohammad dib. SNHR documented the killing of 11 victims including two women.

[Video footage shows the victims of the massacre](#)

Daraa

1. As-Sanmien city massacre, Wednesday 10 April 2013

Government forces, reinforced by local militias, raided As-Sanmien city with heavy vehicles and killed entire families using knives and gunfire before they brutally disfigured the dead bodies. This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

SNHR documented the killing of 48 citizens, who were either slaughtered or shot at, including six children and seven women.

2. Al-Jbiela massacre, Monday 22 July 2013

Government forces raided Al-Jbiela village in Daraa northern suburbs after it was bombed heavily for hours. During the raid, many were killed and their bodies were deformed. Also, some of the houses were looted.

SNHR documented the killing of 11 victims including three women.

Der Ezzor

Al-Joura and Al-Qosour neighborhoods massacre, Thursday 27 May 2012 – Wednesday 3 October 2012

Government forces, reinforced with local militias, raided Al-Joura and Al-Qosour neighborhoods after the two neighborhoods were bombed with heavy weapons for hours.

After the raid, many houses were looted in Al-Wadi, Jam'yat Ar-Rasafa, and Masaken Al-Mu'lamien Streets. Also, during the raid many men were arrested, beaten, and insulted.

The raiders gathered all the prisoners, including children, to the public square and handcuffed them, tortured them, and beat them while saying sectarian remarks. Afterwards, most of the prisoners were shot while others were taken to other street and got shot as well.

SNHR documented the killing of 192 civilians including 12 women and seven children. Most of the dead bodies were found several weeks after the massacre. Also, many of the dead bodies were burned.

This incident, which entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds, involved only government forces.

Conclusions

Government forces violated several rules of the international humanitarian law through perpetrating crimes that can be classified as war crimes. These crimes included mainly extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, enforced-displacement, enforced-disappearance, looting and destroying properties. All of these crimes were perpetrated in a widespread and systematic manner. Furthermore, extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, and torture are considered crimes against humanity according to Article 7 of Rome Statute.

- **Massacres perpetrated by other parties**

1- Hatla village in Der Ezzor eastern suburbs, Wednesday 12 June 2013

On Tuesday 11 June 2013, government forces' local militias from Hatla village (mostly resided by Shiites), located 2 Kilometers to the east of Der Ezzor city, attacked an armed opposition checkpoint (Al-Qadisiya battalion) which was at As-Siyasiya Bridge in Der Ezzor and killed three armed opposition fighters.

On the next day, Wednesday 12 June 2013, An-Nusra Frony and other armed opposition factions (Al-Qadisiya battalion, Jund Ar-Rahman battalion, Al-Qasas battalion, Mou'ta battalion, Al-Mujahdien Fe Sabil Allah battalion and As-Sad-eq Al-Amin battalion) raided the village and engaged with the armed militias in Hatla village. The clashes lasted for five hours during which 21 rebels were killed while 19 militias from Hatla village were killed including armed women. Many other militias escaped to Al-Jafra village through Euphrates River road. Eventually, the armed opposition and An-Nusra Front managed to raid the village and executed retaliatory acts against some of the village residents where they raided a number of homes, killed a number of armed and civilian people, and burned some of the dead bodies. Additionally, An-Nusra Front and the armed opposition factions destroyed and looted properties and houses and even confiscated some.

SNHR documented the killing of 14 civilians including four women and three children who were all killed by getting shot at from a close distance. Among the victims, were an entire family (A father, his wife, and two kids). This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

2- Sadd city massacre in Homs southeastern suburbs, Monday 21 October 2013

On Monday 21 October 2013, An-Nusra Front and Daesh, in addition to a number of armed opposition factions (Maghawier Der' Al-Islam battalion, Ahl Al-Athar battalion, Al-Haq battalion, and Al-Khadraa' squad) raided Sadd city, which is mostly resided by Christians and located in Homs southern suburbs. These forces took over the city for a week before withdrawing from the city. During this period of time, they killed a number of people either through indiscriminate shelling or gunfire. SNHR documented the killing of 44 civilians

including three children and eight women.

We contacted some of the village residents who told us that among the victims were 10 Christian civilians including one child and four women who were all killed by getting shot at from a close distance. Also, among the victims were six members of the same family (one child, four women, and one man). The residents told us that they found the dead bodies, which were blindfolded and handcuffed with signs of being shot at from close distance, in an abandoned well in the village. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

3- Maksar Hesan village massacre in Homs eastern suburbs, Tuesday 15 May 2013

On Tuesday 15 May 2013, An-Nusra Front fighters besieged Maksar village (the majority of the village residents are Alawites in addition to some Sunni Bedouin families). An-Nusra Front clashed with local militias from the village. Ultimately, An-Nusra Front managed to take over the village at 3:30 AM approximately and killed a number of its residents. SNHR documented the killing of 22 civilians including four children and seven women. Most of the victims were Alawites and among them were five elders who were older than 75-year-old. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

4- Latakia suburbs massacre, 4 August 2013

A number of armed opposition factions (Mainly Ahrar Ash-Sham Movement, Al-Muhajrien Wal Ansar army, and Soqoue Al-Ez) and extremist groups (An-Nusra Front and Daesh) carried out an armed assault against some of the Syrian coast village in Latakia suburbs as a part of a battle that came to be called: "Ahfad Aisha Um Al-Mu'mnien". The goal of the battle was to take over these areas.

The attack started at 5:00 on the first day of Eid Al-Fetr and targeted government forces military sites in Ash-Shaikh Nabhan area, which is located at the border of Al-Barouda village in Latakia suburbs. The attack forced government forces to retreat from its locations after hours of combat.

Eventually, armed opposition, An-Nusra Front, and Daesh managed to take

over many villages (Barouda, Nabata, Al-Hamboushiya Balouta, Abu-Makka, Bait Ash-Shakouji, Briemsa, Estrba, Obien, and Khrata villages). All of these villages are resided majorly by Alawites. Many were killed in these villages either by getting shot, indiscriminate shooting, or stabbing. Also, no less than 312 were arrested, mostly civilians, including children and women.

SNHR documented the killing of 132 civilians including 18 children and 57 women. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

- **Massacres perpetrated by Daesh**

Since its emergence in April 2013, SNHR has documented that the extremist faction have perpetrated three massacres that involved killings based on sectarian backgrounds given that these massacres involved victims from other sectarian groups specifically the Alawite and Druz sectarian groups. Even though these massacres were perpetrated in areas that are considered bases for local militias, Daesh killed children and women and didn't distinguish between civilians and combatants.

There were also incidents that involved Daesh sending bombed cars. Daesh sends bombed cars to all areas without indiscriminately. The percentage of victims from the Sunni sectarian group, which Daesh claims to part of, is 97% while only 3% of the victims killed by Daesh were from other sectarian groups according to our archives.

1- At-Taliela village in Al-Hassaka, Thursday 29 May 2014

Daesh fighters raided Taliela village at approximately 3:00 AM. The village is located to the southwest of Ras Al-Ain city in Al-Hassaka suburbs. The village is resided by Kurds who are affiliated to the Ezdean sectarian group and also Sunni Arabs whose roots go back to As-Sfiera area in Aleppo suburbs. The raid was in the context of the clashes between Daesh and the Kurdish self-administration forces which took place near At-Taliela village and the neighboring villages such as Ar-Rawya and Tmad. After the raid, Daesh fighters killed a number of residents including women and children.

This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

SNHR documented the killing of civilians including seven children and three women. Most of the victims were from As-Sfiera town who worked in agriculture.

2- Al-Mzer'a village massacre in Hama suburbs, 4 August 2014

Some of Daesh fighters sneaked to the outskirts of Al-Mzer'a village in Hama suburbs at approximately 11:30 PM. They raided a house at a farm in the village and killed seven civilians from the family of Hassan Izzou Abu-Qasem while they were asleep. The victims were killed using gunfire and knives. Among the victims were two children. Also, we recorded that three children were injured in the attack. Additionally, before retreating, they stole an agricultural tractor, a water tank, and a number of cows and sheep who were originally for the family. It should be noted that the victims are from the Ismaili sectarian group and they work in the field of agriculture. Most of the village residents are from this sectarian group in addition to some Sunni Bedouins. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

3- Al-Mab'oujda village massacre in Hama, Tuesday 31 March 2015

Daesh raided on Tuesday Al-Mab'ouja vilaage in Hama suburbs – As-Salmiya suburbs, which is mostly resided by Ismailis. Daesh killed entire families. SNHR documented the killing of 36 civilians including 12 women and three children in addition to kidnapping a large number of residents including women. We estimate the number of the people who were kidnapped at 84 at least. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on sectarian backgrounds.

Conclusions

Some of the armed opposition factions have violated the rules of the international humanitarian law by perpetrating crimes that can be classified as war crimes. These crimes include extrajudicial killing, sexual violence, enforced-displacement, enforced-disappearance, collective punishment, and looting and destroying properties.

B. Ethnic-cleansing massacre

Ethnic-cleansing massacre perpetrated by the Kurdish self-administration forces. In the beginning of 2012, government forces withdrew from many areas located in Northern and Northeastern Syria and stayed only at some vital point. Consequently, the Kurdish self-administration forces took over these areas.

SNHR documented many crimes that involved characteristics of ethnic-cleansing crimes perpetrated by the Kurdish self-administration forces in villages and towns resided by an Arab majority.

Al-Hassaka

1- Al-Aghbiesh village, Thursday 21 November 2013

Kurdish self-administration forces raided Al-Aghbiesh village, located in Al-Hassaka city – Tal Nemer town, after some of the armed opposition fighters attack one of the Kurdish self-administration forces military checkpoints.

Following the raid, Kurdish self-administration forces detained a number of young men. According to some of the village residents, Kurdish self-administration forces insulted the detainees, beat them, and said some remarks that implied a form of ethnic discrimination given that the detainees were Arabs. Afterwards, they executed them and burned many houses in the village. SNHR documented the killing of six civilians including one child. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on ethnic backgrounds.

[Video report on Tal Brak massacre](#)

2- Tal Brak town massacre, Saturday 23 February 2014

Kurdish self-administration forces raided Tal Brak town, has an Arab majority, and imposed a curfew before establishing a number of military checkpoints at the entry points to the village. Afterwards, the Kurdish forces started looting houses and arresting many residents and killed a number of the detainees. SNHR documented the killing of 43 victims including one female child and four women. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on ethnic backgrounds.

[a video report on tal Brak Massacres](#)

3- Al-Hajiya and Tal Khalil massacre, Saturday 13 September 2014

Kurdish self-administration forces raided Al-Hajiya and Tal Khalil villages and killed many of the village residents including children and women. SNHR documented the killing of 42 victims including 15 children and three women. Among the victims were teachers at the village school. This incident entails a pattern of killing based on ethnic backgrounds.

[Video footage showing the victims of the massacre](#)

Conclusions

Kurdish self-administration forces have violated a number of the rules of the international humanitarian law through perpetrating crimes that can be classified as war crimes. These crimes included mainly extrajudicial killing, enforced-displacement, enforced-disappearance, collective punishment, and looting and destroying properties.

SNHR contacted YPG on their official e-mail (YPG is considered the main Kurdish self-administration force which carried out these attacks) in order to find out if they launched any investigations or to acquire any additional information.

YPG denied perpetrating any kinds of crimes or violations and question the authentication of the victims' families and the eyewitnesses and said that they are promoting for Daesh. The following is YPG's response:

"The claims included your report and all your previous reports with respect to YPG are completely untrue considering that all your sources, which we know well, are dishonest and can't be deemed credible because they are with Daesh and are trying, as hard as they can, to evoke mayhem and sectarian prejudices, and to justify the presence of Daesh in the area through false fabrications and claims."

On the next day, YPG issued a statement accusing SNHR of working to further their supporters' agenda and trying to incite national strife and promoting chaos.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- The list of individuals on whom sanctions are to be imposed must be expanded to include the involved individuals within the Syrian authorities and local and foreign militias.
- Iran is the main weapon supplier for the Syrian authorities. Therefore, an arm embargo should be imposed on the Syrian authorities and Iran should be held accountable for the crimes perpetrated by the Syrian authorities and its militias given that Iran is fully aware of how these weapons are being used.
- All necessary measures should be taken in order to insure the implementation of Security Council resolutions and especially resolutions 2042 and 2139. The vast violations of the Syrian authorities and its militias must be stopped.
- The Syrian people should be assisted in getting rid of all the extremist groups and all the factions that are perpetrating violation against it.
- The Security Council should work on establishing security and safety and protect civilians. This can't be done unless through putting an end to the killing and dissolving all the militias.

United Nation bodies

- Human Rights Council should highlight the crimes perpetrated by the local and foreign militias and adopt a resolution that clearly states that.
- Special Raptures should play a more effective role with regard to what happening in Syria.

The World:

- To support the Syrian people in its distress that affected every aspect of life in Syria immeasurably. Also, states of the world should press on the Security Council in order to take immediate action.
- To issue clear statements rejecting all the individuals responsible for human rights violations in Syria and to refuse to receipt them under any circumstances.
- To urge the Security Council to transfer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court immediately.