



The Killing of 1378 Civilians in February 2016 382 amongst which were killed by Russian Forces

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I. Introduction:

This report encompasses the casualties' death toll of who were killed by major conflict parties in Syria:

- A. Governmental forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias)
- B. Russian Forces
- C. Kurdish Self Management Forces
- D. Extremist Islamic Groups
- E. Armed opposition Groups
- F. International Coalition Forces
- G. Unidentified groups

II. Report Methodology:

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is an independent human rights organization that documents the violations of human rights by the six major conflict parties in Syria.

To a certain extent, we are able to document the civilians who are killed by all major conflict parties in Syria, however, armed victims are divided into two categories:

a. Armed opposition victims: It is difficult to document the precise number of armed opposition members since they are killed in battle fields not cities. In addition, some armed opposition groups keep the victims' names confidential due to security reasons. Hence, we cannot obtain their names, images or any other details and therefore, the number of killed armed opposition members is far more than what we were able to record.





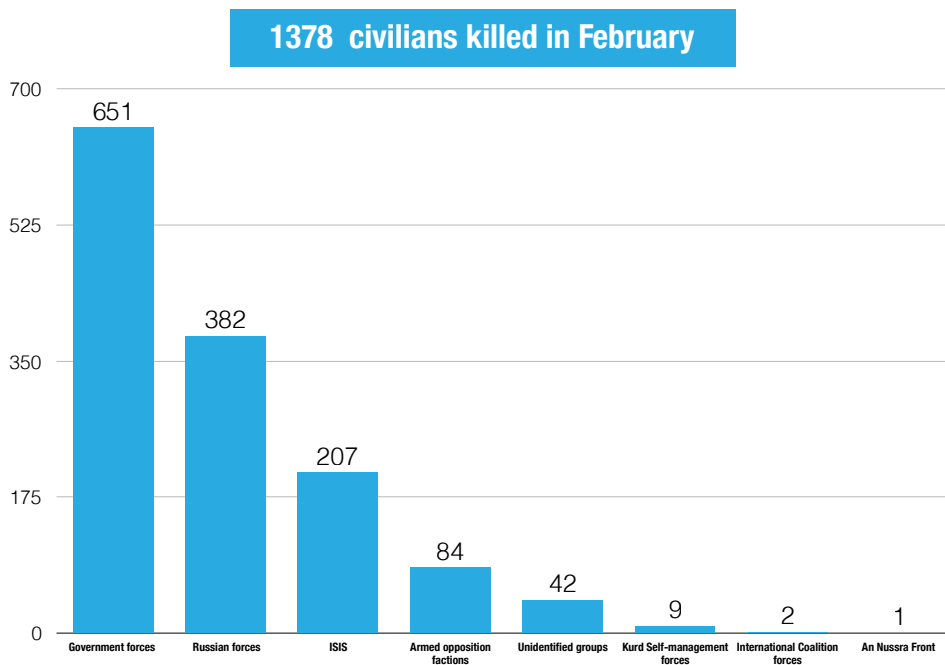
b. Government forces' or ISIL victims:

It is nearly impossible to obtain information about those kinds of victims due to the absence of any clear methodology, for several reasons. Neither Government forces nor armed opposition groups do not declare their victims' names or record it. Therefore, there is no clear and credible data to rely on while documenting ISIL or government forces' members. Therefore, we will record the civilians who were killed by all conflict parties and compare between it.

For more information on SNHR [methodology](#)

III. Report Methodology:

SNHR documented the killing of 1378 civilians in February 2016 detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties in Syria:



A. Government Forces:

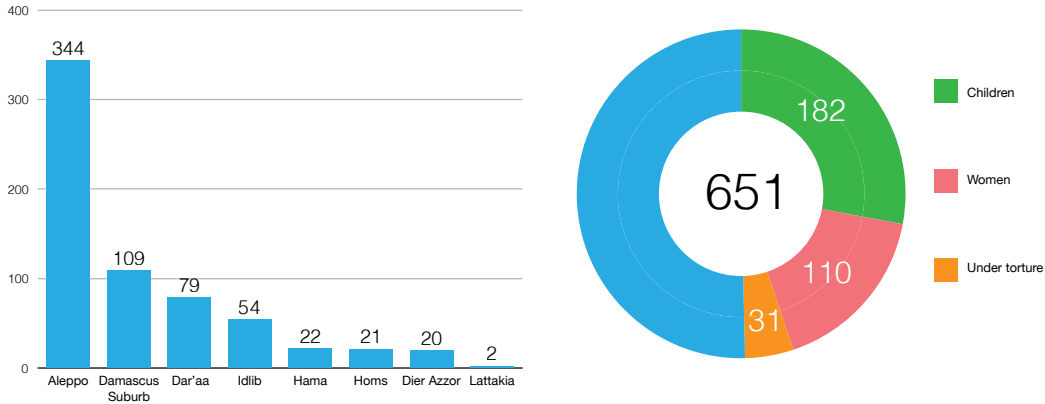
SNHR documented the killing of 651 individuals who were killed by government forces, including 110 women and 182 children (with a rate of killing 7 children every day). Additionally, not less than 31 individuals were killed under torture (with a rate of killing an individual under torture every day).





The percentage of women and children who were killed in this month reached 45% among the total victims' death toll; which is a strong indicator that government forces deliberately targeted civilians.

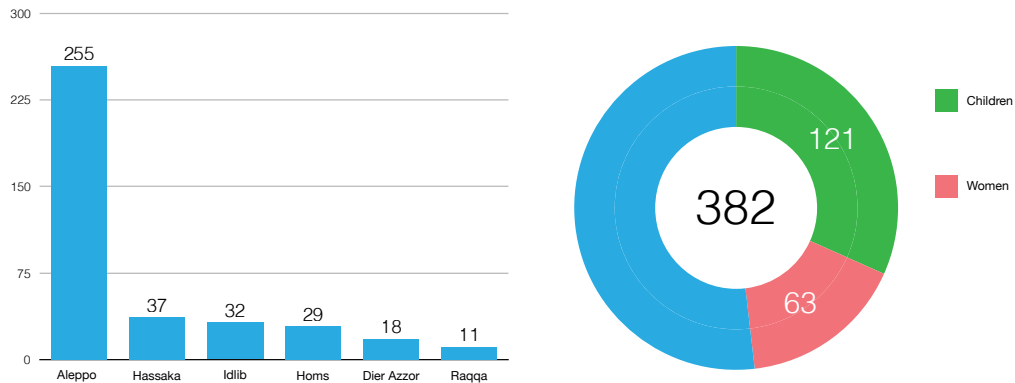
651 civilians killed by government forces



B. Russian forces:

We recorded the killing of 382 civilians including 121 children and 63 women due to the alleged Russian shelling. Distribution of the victims according to the Syrian governorates:

382 civilians killed by Russian forces



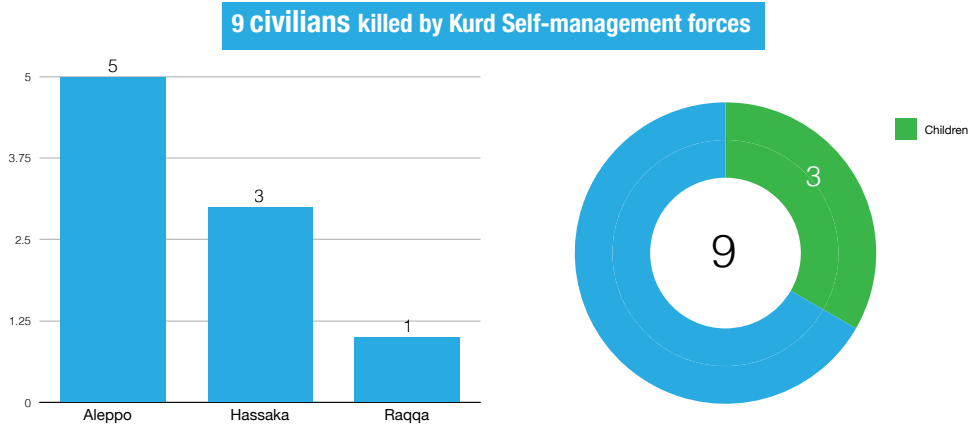


C. Kurdish Self Management Forces (PYD and Assayesh forces):

KSM forces killed 9 civilians including 3 children.

Distribution according to Syria governorates:

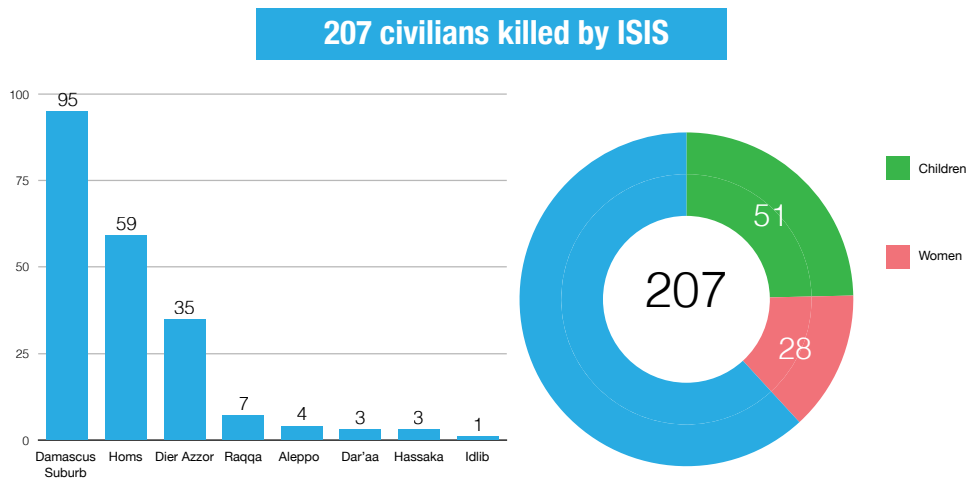
Aleppo: 5, Al Hassaka: 3, and Raqqa: 1



D. Extremist Islamic Groups: killed 208 civilians detailed as follows:

- ISIL killed 207 civilians including 28 children and 51 women

Distribution according to Syrian governorates:



- Al Nusra Front: killed one civilian under torture

Distribution according to Syrian governorates:

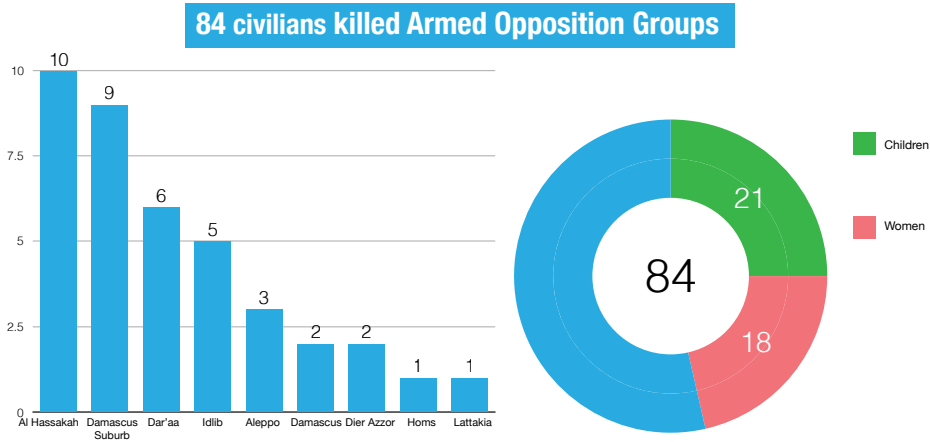
Idlib: 1





E. Armed Opposition Groups

SNHR documented the killing of 84 civilians including 21 children and 18 women at the hands of armed opposition groups.



F. International Coalition Forces:

SNHR documented the killing of two civilians including a child due to the international coalition shelling

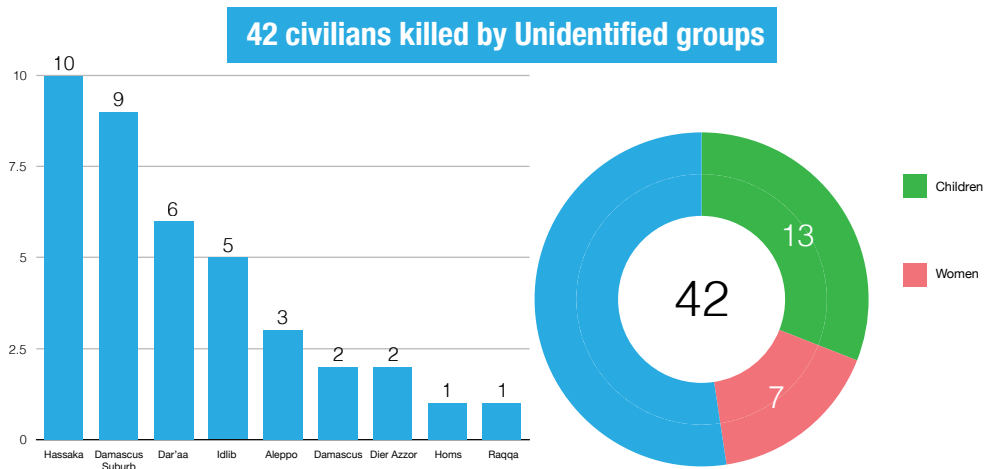
Victims' Distribution:

Homs: 1

Deir Al Zour: 1

G. Unidentified Groups

SNHR recorded the killing of 42 civilians including 13 children and 7 women by unidentified groups.





It should be noted that we managed to document those victims through our network of activists who are distributed across Syria. Those victims are documented by full name, place, and date of death. There are many other cases that we weren't able to reach and document especially in the cases of massacres and siege where government forces besiege a town or a village and cut off communication. It is very much likely that the actual death toll is larger than what we were able to document mainly because government forces don't allow any human rights organization to operate in its territories.

IV- Conclusions and Recommendations:

SNHR affirms that government forces, its militias (Shabiha) and the Russian forces have violated the principles of the human rights international laws which protect the right to life. All the evidences and eyewitnesses' testimonies prove that more than 90% of the wide and individual attacks targeted civilians and civil points.

This contradicts with the Syrian government forces' claims that it is fighting "Al-Qaeda and terrorists". SNHR implies that those killing actions amount to crimes against humanity which are committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack directed against civilians.

- Russian Forces, Kurdish Self Management forces, extremist Islamic groups, International coalition forces and armed opposition groups committed extrajudicial crimes that amount to war crimes.
- International Coalition forces committed unlawful killings that amount to war crimes.

Liability

Every internationally wrongful act by a State inflicts an international responsibility on that State. Similarly, the customary international law stipulates that the state is responsible for all acts committed by members of the military and security forces. And therefore the state is responsible for the unlawful acts, including crimes against humanity, committed by members of the military and security forces.

As such, the government of Iran, Hezbollah and ISIL are actual participants in the killings, and bear the legal and judicial responsibility, in addition to all funders and supporters of the Syrian regime, which is committing massacres almost daily and systematically without stopping day or night. All of these parties must be held responsible for the consequences and reactions on the Syrian people's part especially by the victims' families and relatives.





Recommendations

The Security Council

- The Security Council should take additional measures as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution 2139 and no one committed to put an end to the indiscriminate bombing that is resulting in more blood and destruction every day.
- To press on the states that are supporting government forces such as Russia, Iran, and Lebanon in order to stop the flow of weapons and expertise to government forces after it was proven that these resources are being used in crimes against humanity and war crimes which applies as well on the states and individuals that support extremist groups, PYD forces, and some of the armed opposition factions.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the ICC and all individuals responsible for the crimes that have been perpetrated in Syria must be held accountable.
- To enforce peace and security in Syria and implement the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in order to save the lives of the Syrians and their traditions and arts from being destroyed, stolen, or ruined.

Acknowledgment

Our heartfelt thanks go out for the victims' families and activists who contributed majorly to this report.

