

The Yearly Report for 2016



SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



I. Methodology

The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a human rights group that was founded in June 2011. SNHR is a non-governmental non-profit independent organization that primarily aims to document the violations that occur in Syria, and publish periodic studies, researches, and reports in order to expose the perpetrators of violations as a first step towards holding them accountable and insure victims' rights.

It is worth noting that the United Nations have relied in all of the statistics they published to analyze the conflict victims on SNHR as the leading source. In addition, SNHR is cited as a source by a large number of Arabic and international news agencies and many international human rights organizations.

In all of its reports and researches, SNHR draws upon the investigations conducted by the Network's members across Syria and abroad. These investigations are conducted through field-visits or interviews with survivors or eyewitnesses. All of the incidents referred to by this report are addressed in extensive reports and studies that are available in Arabic and English on SNHR website. The report sheds light on the most notable violations in 2016.

The international humanitarian law, and the customary international law in parallel with the international human rights are the applicable laws where these sets of laws are binding to all the parties to the conflict.

We should emphasize that the incidents and statistics included in this study are only the bare minimum of the magnitude and severity of the violations that have occurred and have been occurring in Syria since the beginning of 2016.

Our monthly reports that we published in the end of 2016 feature detailed yearly statistics for the most notable violations that were perpetrated by all parties to the conflict in Syria.



II. A Summary of 2016

SNHR has monitored an alarming rise in the violations of human rights by the influential parties in Syria that didn't consider laws of war and armed conflicts committing crimes of murder, arrest, enforced-displacement, and demographic changes.

2016 saw the first Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire under a Russian sponsorship on 27 February that excluded the extremist Islamic groups' areas of control. Despite the initial drop in the intensity of the bombing and airstrikes, we have recorded [hundreds of breaches](#) that were committed by the signing parties and most notably by the Syrian regime and its ally Russia. In mid-April 2016, bombardment and massacre rates soared after the High Negotiation Committee announced that they will be postponing their participating in Geneva Talks.

On 12 September 2016, the second Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire went into effect. In the first week, we [recorded](#) 242 breaches at least before aerial and lands offensives were resumed across Syria.

At 00:00 of 30 December, the Cessation of Hostilities statement, signed by both the Syrian regime and armed opposition factions, went into effect under a Russian-Turkish sponsorship.

In 2016, Syrian regime forces continued [besieging](#) areas that were under siege and imposed new sieges on new areas. Also, ISIS and the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces were involved in besieging a [number](#) of [areas](#) in [Aleppo and its suburbs](#).

Through crimes, and operations of siege, submission, and oppression, the Syrian regime managed to enforce truces, agreements, and reconciliations that resulted in enforced-displacement and demographic change operations. According to SNHR's estimations, no less than 125,000 were displaced from different areas in Damascus suburbs ([Darayya city](#), Mua'adamiyet Al Sham, Qudsayya and Al Hama towns, and Khan Al Sheih town), Al Wa'er neighborhood in Homs, and [the eastern neighborhoods](#) of [Aleppo to Idlib governorate](#), which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The agreement to evacuate civilians from the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo in late-December 2016 included a clause to evacuate a number of the civilians of the pro-regime Kafraya and Al Fou'a towns which are under a siege imposed by armed opposition factions to Aleppo city which was an explicit manifestation of the demographic change that the Syrian regime is keen on making a reality.

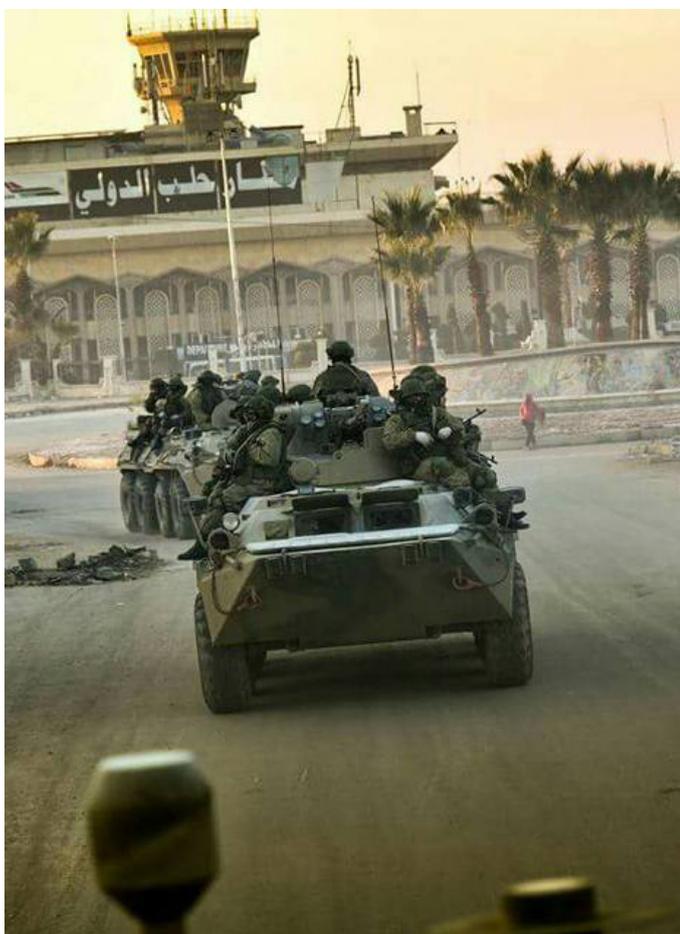


The unstoppable displacement waves to the areas of northern Syria were a pressure on the evacuation centers and camps that were built with a less capacity that they had to take in, which led to a heating and food supplies shortages in light of the poor medical and educational resources. All of this has created very rough humanitarian conditions for the residents living in those camps

Russian airstrikes in 2016 focused on northern Syrian especially Aleppo and [Idlib, where armed opposition forces are in control](#), and at a less rate on [ISIS-held areas](#). SNHR monitored that the military operation was escalated in [Sarageb city](#) after a Russian airstrike was tumbled in August 2016 by armed opposition factions.

The Russian ministry of defense, in an unprecedented step, announced on Friday 23 December that the first detachment of Russian military police has arrived in Aleppo to help maintain security. Many video footages showed land Russian forces in Aleppo in conjunction with the operation in which the Syrian regime forces took over Aleppo city's neighborhood that were formerly under the control of armed opposition factions.

Pictures showing Russian soldiers and experts in Aleppo



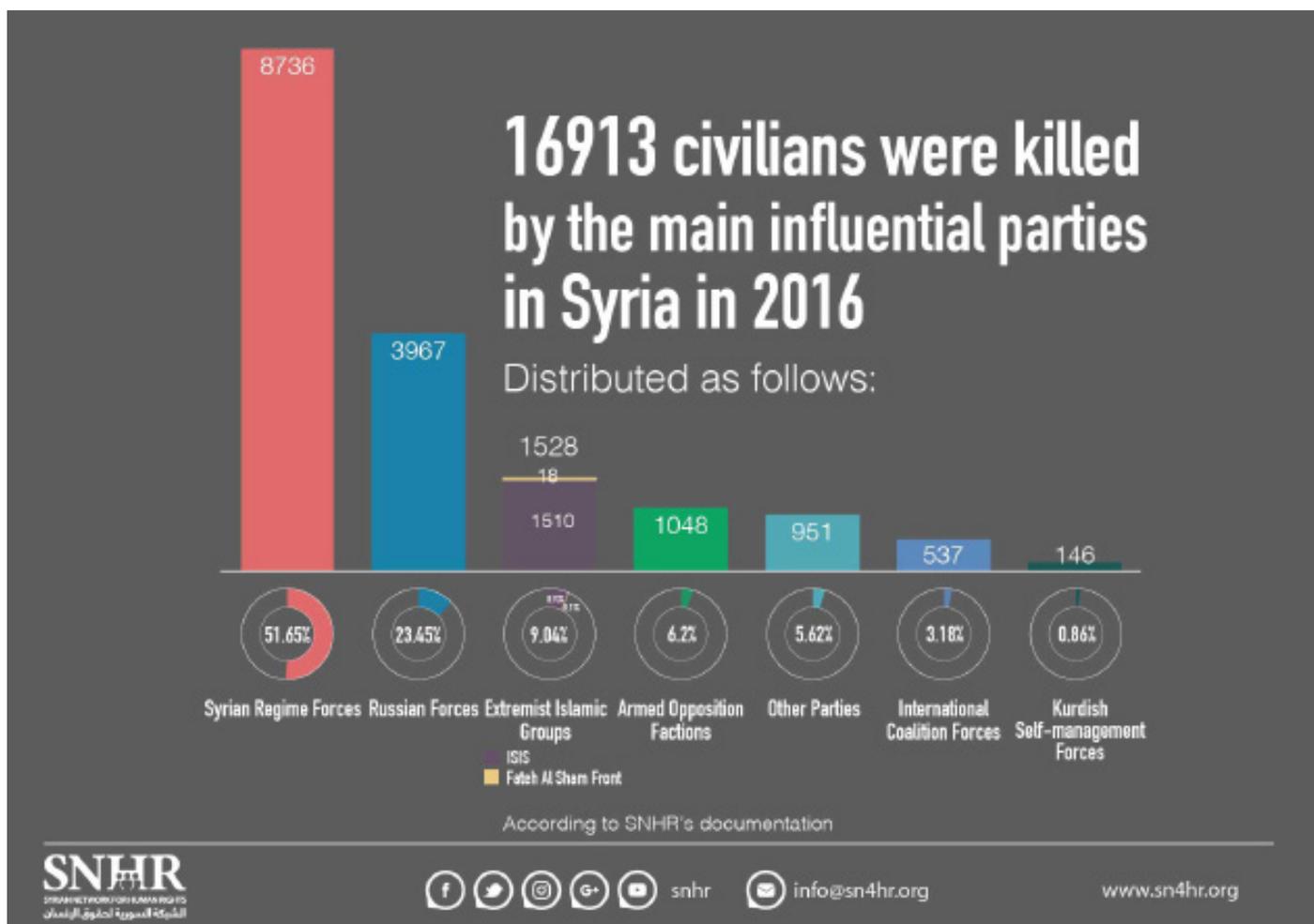
In 2016, we documented violations and indiscriminate bombardment by [armed opposition factions](#) especially in Aleppo city and an increase in the number of civilian victims who were killed as a result of [airstrikes](#) by [the international coalition warplanes](#) who intensified their targeting of vital facilities especially bridges in the eastern areas.

In this year, specifically on 24 August, we saw the launching of Operation Euphrates Shield “Der’ Al Furat” whose goal was to liberate some areas from ISIS’s grip by armed opposition factions with the support of land and air Turkish forces. We documented that a number of civilians have been killed in the shelling operations on ISIS forces that are stationed inside the civilians’ residential neighborhoods.

Land and air Syrian regime forces’ targeting of Ain Al Fija in Wadi Barada, Damascus suburbs governorate which rendered it out of commission was the most significant attack at the end of this year. The spring of Ain Al Fija is the main source of drinking water that supplies a large section of Damascus city and the surrounding areas

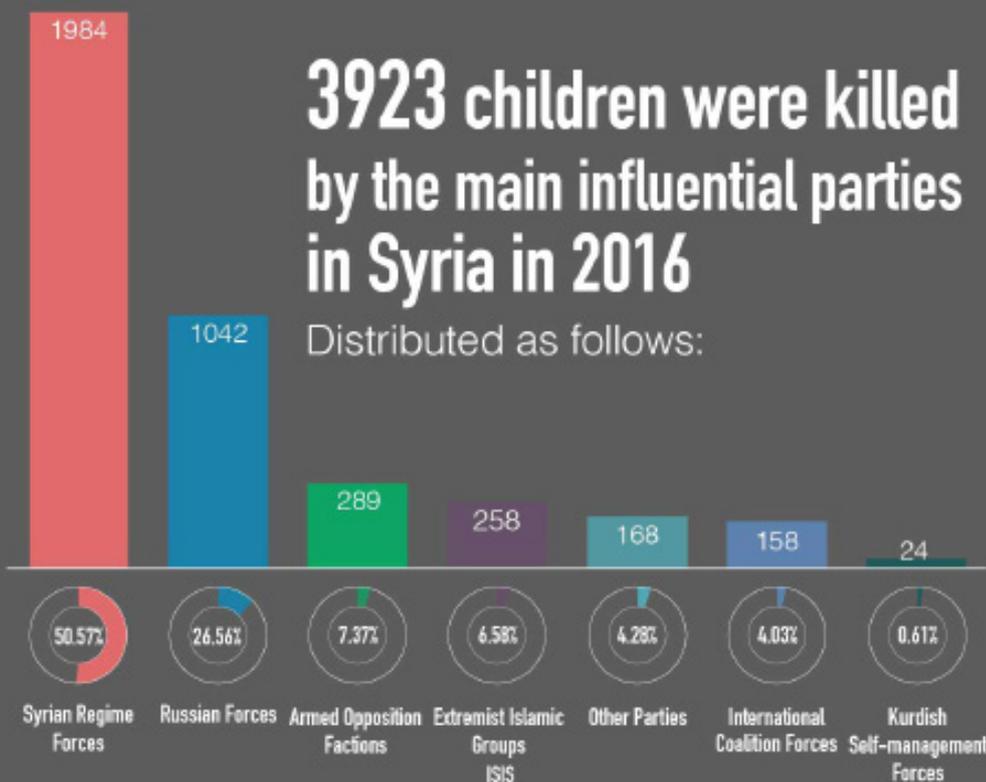
III. Executive Summary

The report covers the period of time between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 where we monitored the most notable violations of human rights by the influential parties on the ground.



3923 children were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

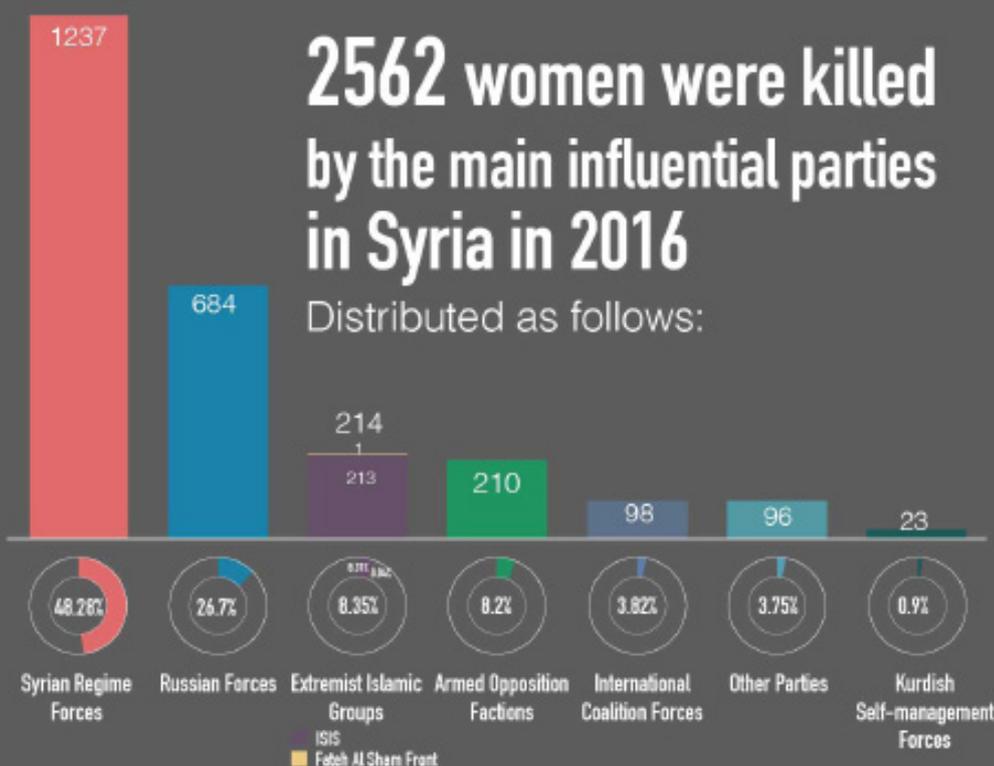
Distributed as follows:



According to SNHR's documentation

2562 women were killed by the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

Distributed as follows:

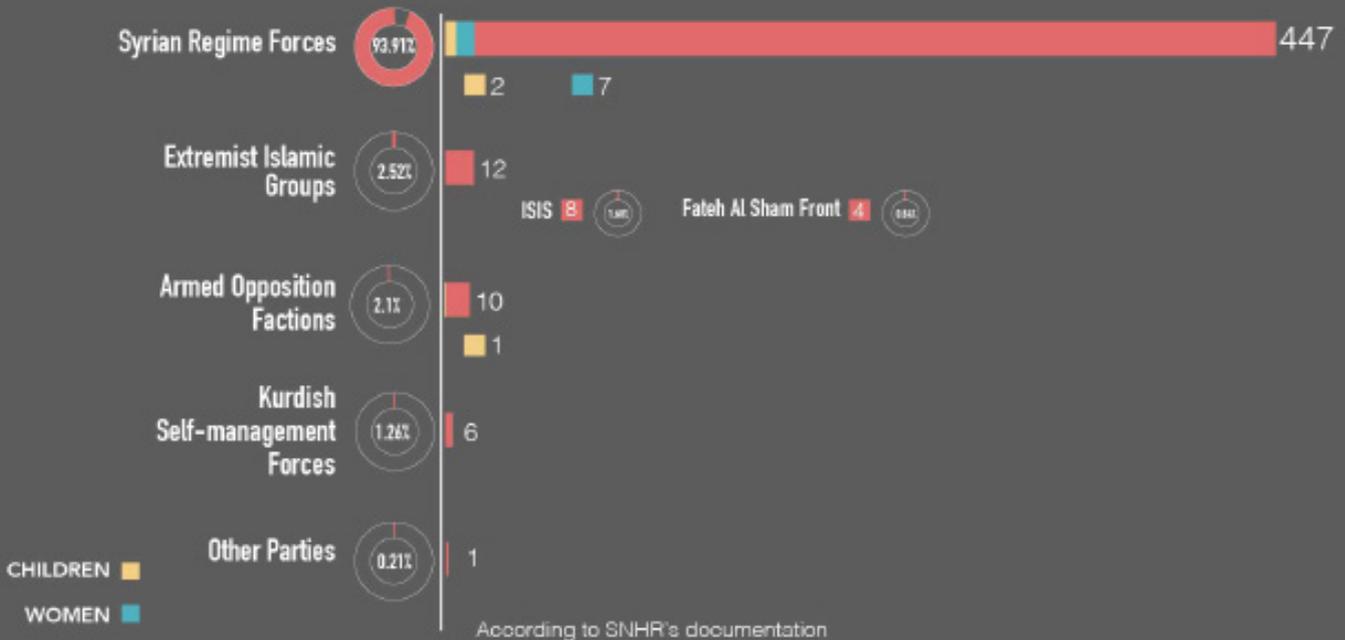


According to SNHR's documentation



476 individuals died due to torture at the hands of the main influential parties in Syria in 2016

Distributed as follows:



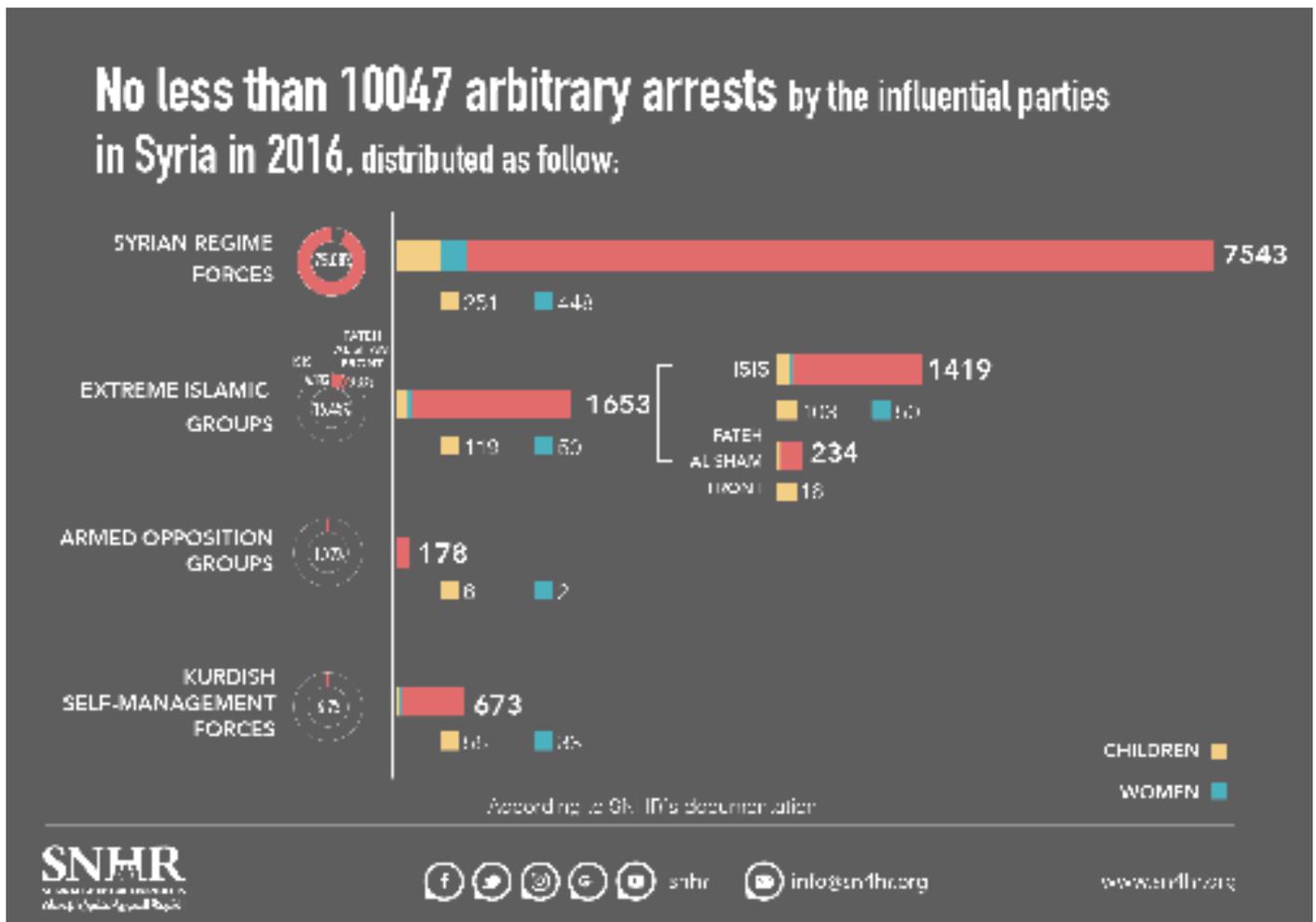
A. Extrajudicial killing

SNHR documented no less than 16,913 civilians that are distributed by the influential party:

- The Syrian regime (Security, army, local and foreign militias): 8736 civilians including 1948 children and 1237 women.
- Russian forces: 3967 civilians including 1042 children and 684 women.
- Kurdish Self-management forces: 146 civilians including 24 children and 23 women.
- Extremist Islamic groups: 1528 civilians that are distributed as follows:
 - ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic state): 1510 civilians including 258 children and 213 women.
 - Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nusra Front): 18 civilians including one woman.
- Armed opposition factions: 1048 civilians including 289 children and 210 women.
- International coalition forces: 537 civilians including 158 children and 98 women.
- Other parties: 951 civilians including 168 children and 96 women



B. Arrest and enforced-disappearance



SNHR documented no less than 10,047 cases of arbitrary arrest in 2016 including 431 children and 533 women as follows:

- Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

Syrian regime forces arrested 7543 individuals including 251 children and 448 women.

-Extremist Islamic groups

- ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): arrested 1419 individuals including 103 children and 50 women.

- Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nusra Front): arrested 243 individuals including 16 children

- Armed opposition factions

Armed opposition factions 178 individuals including six children and two women.

- Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

Self-management forces arrested 673 individuals including 55 children and 33 women.



C. Unlawful attacks

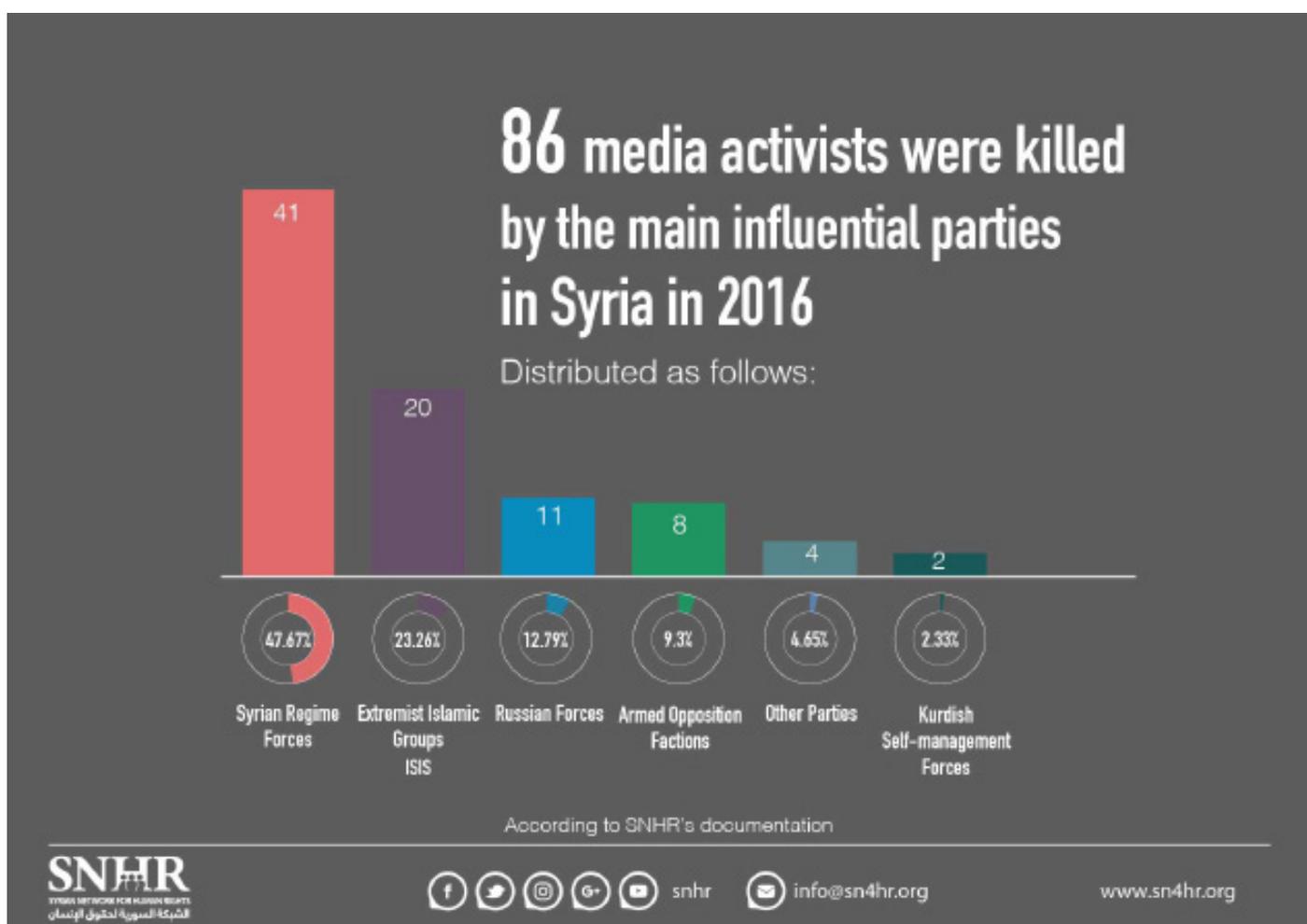
- Chemical weapons: We recorded 15 attacks using chemical weapons that are disturbed by the influential party as follows:

- 14 attacks by Syrian regime forces
- 1 attack by ISIS

- Cluster munition: We recorded 171 attacks using cluster munition that are distributed by the influential party as follows:

- 22 attacks by Syrian regime forces
- 149 attacks by Russian forces

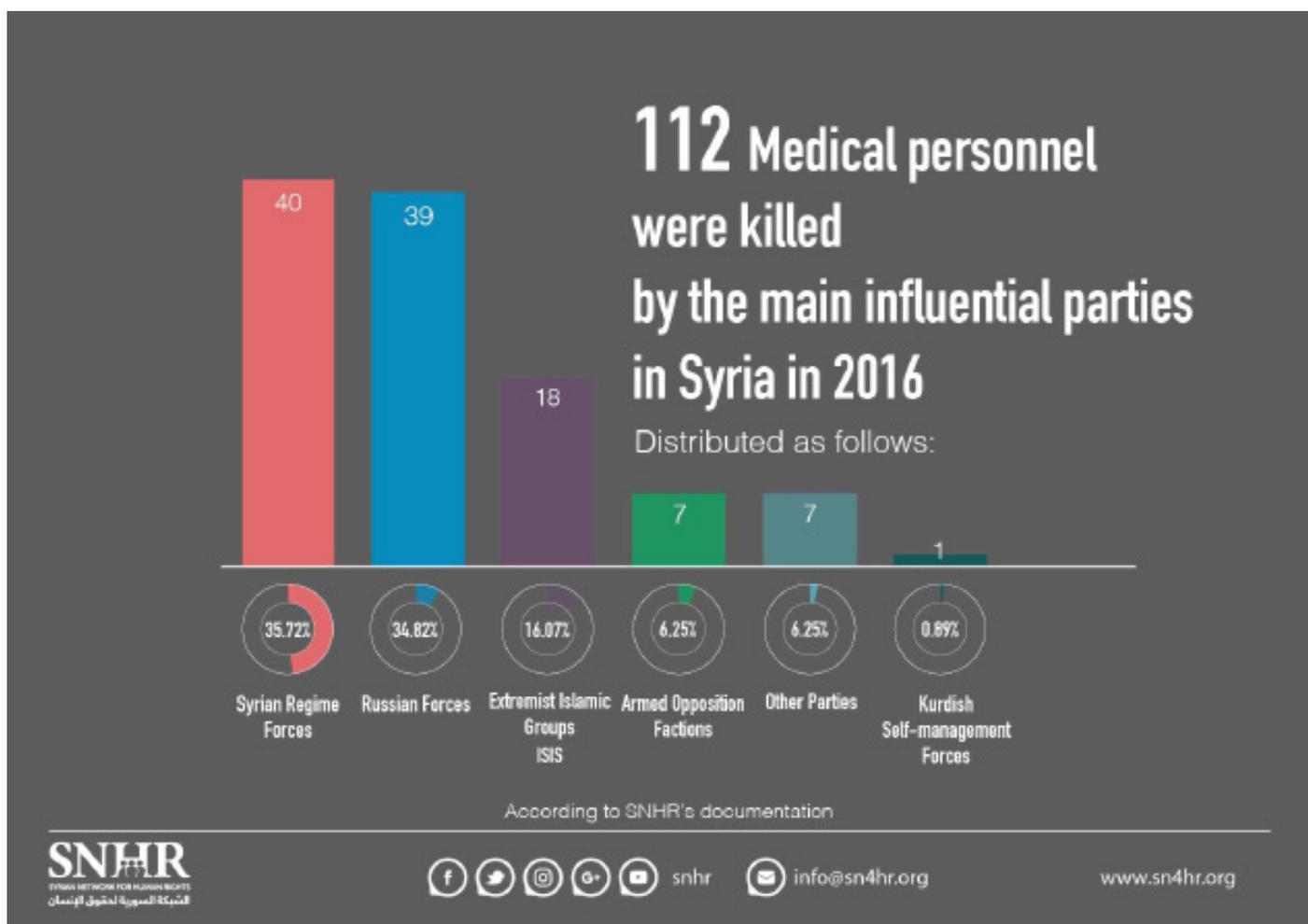
D. Targeting media activists



SNHR documented the killing of 86 media activists, distributed by the responsible party as follows:

- Syrian regime forces: 41
- Russian forces: 11
- Kurdish Self-management forces: 2
- Extremist Islamic groups
 - ISIS: 20
- Armed opposition factions: 8
- Other parties: 4

E. Targeting medical personnel



SNHR documented the killing of 112 medical personnel, distributed by the responsible party as follows:

- Syrian regime forces: 40
- Russian forces: 39
- Kurdish Self-management forces: 1
- Extremist Islamic groups:
 - ISIS: 18
- Armed opposition factions: 7
- Other parties: 7

IV. Influential Parties

a. Syrian Regime Forces (Army, security, local militias, (Shiite foreign militias))

1- Violations in treating civilians and unable-to-fight fighters

A. Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killing

At the time of this writing at the end of 2016, SNHR has documented the killing of 8736 civilians including 1984 children and 1237 women since Friday 1 January 2016.

The percentage of women and children victims of the total number of victims amount to 37% which is an explicit indicator on the deliberate targeting of civilians by regime forces in bombardment and execution operations.

Wednesday 6 January 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime war-planes fired missiles in Zamalka city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 13 individuals including one child and one woman. Additionally, about 50 others were wounded.



Thursday 14 January 2016, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of shells at Al Latame-na city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals most of whom were from the same family including three children and one woman.

Friday 11 March 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile at a passenger bus near Hleihla area in the suburbs of Al Sekhna city, located in Homs governorate and is under the control of ISIS, as the bus was heading for Damascus from Al Raqqa. The bombing burned the bus and killed 15 individuals including four children and three women. Most of the dead bodies were burned.

Saturday 23 April 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at a residential building near Al [Halwaniya](#) circle in [Tareeq Al Bab](#) neighborhood in Aleppo city, which resulted in [the killing of 10 individuals](#) including [two children](#). In addition, about 12 others were wounded. Currently, Tareeq Al Bab neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces while the neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition faction at the time of the [massacre](#).



Thursday 2 June 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles in Thieban town, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals most of whom from the same family including three children and two women. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

Thursday 30 June 2016, Syrian regime rocket launchers fired a number surface-to-surface rockets at Otaqa town in Al Marj area, located in the Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition, which resulted in [the killing of 18 individuals](#) including seven children and five women. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.

Saturday 23 July 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles in Al Tabni town, located in the western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians including five children and two women. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Monday morning 25 July 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the residential building in the vicinity of Al Mash-had neighborhood square in Aleppo city that resulted in the killing of eight individuals including one child and three women. Al Mash-had neighborhood is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the [massacre](#).



Thursday 11 August 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes carried out two missile airstrikes in Al Dana city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. One of the airstrikes targeted residential buildings in the southern neighborhood of the city, which resulted in the killing of eight individuals at once including three children and two women. Additionally, about 17 others were wounded.

Monday 29 August 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at a civilians gathering on the outskirts of Helfaya city, located in the suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, as they were trying to flee the city, which resulted in the killing of 12 individuals including three children and two women.

Sunday dawn 20 November 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings [in Al Sakhour neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of six civilians, including four children from the same family, (A father, a mother and their four children). Al Sakhour neighborhood is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the [massacre](#).



Sunday 4 December 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes of the Su-24 type carried out three missile airstrikes that targeted the western neighborhood of Kafr Nabbol city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Two airstrikes targeted Al Khatib street from the south side which resulted in [the killing of 20 individuals](#) including four children and two women.



B. Arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention

Syrian regime forces and pro-regime foreign and local militias continued to practice an arbitrary arrest and enforced-disappearance policy against civilians in their areas of control. 2016 saw a great rise in these operations in order to spread fear and panic within the Syrian society. Furthermore, Syrian regime forces carried out arrest operations for conscription purposes that involved government employees, university students, and civilians in the age group 20-42 year old.

SNHR documented the arrest of 7543 individuals including 251 children and 448 women by Syrian regime forces.

Arbitrary arrest operations that were carried out by Syrian regime forces concentrated on activists and their families in addition to dissident doctors, engineers, and artists. Arbitrary arrest operation didn't exclude women or children, and targeted civilians living in the Syrian regime's areas of control who descend from areas that are outside the regime's control especially residents of areas in Damascus suburbs governorate and the eastern neighborhood of Aleppo city.

The Syrian regime forces practiced various method to carry out arrests through raids or abductions from the streets and at checkpoints. Moreover, Syrian regime forces carried out wide raids in public places, markets, and gathering centers in the main cities that fall under the Syrian regime's control. Additionally, Syrian regime carried out arrests at inspection points in airports or border points that connect Syrian and Lebanon.

We noticed that many detainees become gradually forcibly-disappeared persons where we lose gradually any means for information about them, and contact with most of them cuts off alarmingly even by their families and friends.

In 2016, we recorded that pro-regime local militias, especially National Defense militias and Al Baath Brigades have carried abduction in a widespread manner for ransom money. These abductions targeted various social segments even women and children especially in Hama city.

Also, we monitored in 2016 many arrests and abductions of civilians by Hezbollah militias in the areas they are active in in the areas of Damascus suburbs governorate that are adjacent to Lebanon.



Syrian regime forces have released many women detainees in 2016 as part of captive exchange deals with armed opposition factions. Most of these women were released from Adra central prison in Damascus suburbs which confirms that the Syrian regime does arrest women even though the regime denies doing so.

Even though Syrian is not part of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, it is a part of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights whose rules forbid enforced-disappearance. Syrian regime forces have perpetrated serious violations that amount to crimes against humanity through the systematic and widespread practice of the crime of enforced-disappearance. No less than 5174 individuals have been forcibly-disappeared in 2016 alone as the total number of forcibly-disappeared persons since 2011 exceeds no less than 76,328 individuals



Dr. Mahmoud Satou, from Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city, a human doctor who works at the neighborhoods that are under the control of opposition factions in Aleppo city. He was arrested by Syrian regime forces along with his wife as he was passing a checkpoint for regime forces. They were taken to the Military Security branch in Aleppo city on 14 December 2016.

University student Emad Kamel Al Sha'ar, from Tartus city, 25-year-old. Syrian regime forces raided his place of residence in Tartus city on 11 September 2016, and arbitrarily arrested him before taking him to an unknown location to SNHR as well as his family.

Muntaha Ramadan, women, from Tadmour city in the suburbs of Homs governorate, a nurse at Tadmour national hospital. She was arrested by Syrian regime forces in Homs city on Wednesday 20 July 2016, and was taken to the Military Security branch in Homs city. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.



Human rights activist Marwan Hamza, from Shahba city in Al Suwayda city, an activist in the human rights and political field. He was arrested by the Syrian regime forces as he was passing an inspection point for regime forces in the industrial district on Damascus-Al Suwayda international road on 9 April 2016.



C. Torture inside detention centers

Every day, we record averagely two new detainees who die due to torture.

In 2016, SNHR has recorded that 447 individuals have died due to torture at the hands of the Syrian regime forces including two children and seven women.

SNHR publishes eight monthly reports. One of these reports is on the most notable cases of death-due-to-torture for each month.



Umran Eissa Al Fadel, a university student at the petrochemical engineering faculty, from Al Shadadi city in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. He was arrested by regime forces on 15 June 2014 from the Al Baath university campus in Homs. Umran was sound and in good health at the time of arrest. On Wednesday 6 January 2016, his family informed us that they confirmed that he died under torture inside Sydanay military prison in Damascus.

Ghadir Ismail Hamidou, from Minnigh town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1996, lives in Damascus city, married and a mother of one. On Friday 25 December 2016, she was arrested by Syrian regime forces at a checkpoint in Kafrsousa neighborhood in Damascus city. She was sound and in good health at the time of the arrest. On Saturday 16 January 2016, her family were able to confirm, via a member of the regime forces, that she died due to torture inside a detention center.



Ubaid Suliman Al Hassouni, elder, from Eqerbat district in Hama governorate and a resident of Tadmour city in Homs suburbs, 70-year-old. In June 2015, he was arrested by Syrian regime forces, and on 21 March 2016, we received information conforming his death due to torture inside a Syrian regime detention center.





Hussein Ali Thyab Al Sabrouji, engineer, from Sahm Al Joulan village in Daraa governorate. He was arrested by the Syrian regime forces in 2014. On Thursday 11 August 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a Syrian regime detention center in Damascus city.

In 2016, Syrian regime forces continued to use the weapon of sexual violence in order to retaliate and spread fear and panic within the Syrian society. Operations of sexual violence in 2016 exhibited sectarian and regional traits and was conducted especially against residents from areas that are not the Syrian regime forces' control and during raids of such areas.

We documented a number of cases during the raiding of the besieged neighborhoods of eastern Aleppo on 24 November by the Syrian regime forces.

Also in 2016, we noticed a rise in the rates of sexual violence operations that are carried out by pro-regime local militias which were practiced in a widespread manner inside unofficial detention centers after abductions.

SNHR's estimations suggest that Syrian regime forces have perpetrated no less than 34 sexual violence cases in 2016 alone.

E. Violations of children's rights

Indiscriminate or deliberate bombardment, especially on residential areas, doesn't distinguish between a child, a man, or a woman. However, the huge number of children victims indicates that residential areas are being targeted, the indiscriminate nature of the bombardment, and the lack of distinction and proportionality in these attacks.

Syrian regime forces have killed in 2016 no less than 1984 children. What is even more brutal and atrocious is that two of these children were killed inside detention centers where they were subjected to acts of torture that doesn't take into consideration their special human nature. You can see our report "[The Bleeding Innocence](#)" which documents the violations against children in Syria since March 2011.



Thursday 5 May 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes carried out two missile air-strikes on [Kamouna camp](#) near [Sarmada city](#), located in Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in [the killing of 13 individuals](#) including six children and five women.



Thursday 19 May 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missile at Hamrat Naser village, located in the eastern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of six individuals from the same family – five children and their mother.

Tuesday 14 June 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped six barrel bombs on the gold market in [Al Bara town](#), located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. Most of the barrel bombs fell in front of an arcade which resulted in the killing of eight children.



Friday 5 August 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at a residential building in Madyara town Eastern Ghouta, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians from the same family including three children and one woman. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

2- Violations pertaining to conducting combat operations

A. Unlawful attacks

1- Artillery and aerial bombardment

Syrian regime used the blind barrel bombs, scud missiles, and other indiscriminate bombing weapons throughout Syria. 95% of these attacks were excessively indiscriminate as it doesn't distinguish between fighters and civilians, while the remaining 5% targeted bases for fighters or military centers. Furthermore, these attacks didn't adhere to the principle of proportionality in the case where the military base was surrounded by non-military buildings.

Friday noon 20 May 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped eight barrel bombs on the residential buildings in the southern parts of [Khan Al Asal town](#), located in the western suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of six individuals](#) including one child and one woman. Additionally, about 12 others were wounded.



Sunday 18 September 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on [Dael city](#), located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 10 individuals including one child.

Wednesday 28 September 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Wadi neighborhood in Al Mqielbiya town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of five individuals at once including two female children and one woman. Additionally, eight others were wounded. The town is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

2- Snipers' attacks

Killing by sniping within cities is notable due to the fact that a sniper can clearly track and see his victim through the binocular, and can confirm his victim before killing him. In that regard, sniping is similar to executions where the murderer knows exactly the identity of his victim and kills him deliberately without caring or distinguishing between a child, an elder, a woman, or even a disabled person, and certainly without knowing the victim's religion.

In 2016, we recorded the killing of 124 civilians including 12 children and four women by Syrian regime snipers.

Sunday 3 April 2016, we recorded the killing of the child Mohammad Abd Al Aal, Palestinian and a resident of Daraa camp, at the hands of a Syrian regime sniper.

Thursday 27 November 2016, we recorded the killing of Khaled Ass'ad Al Khaldi, a relief activist at "Palestine Charity Group", at the hands of a Syrian regime sniper as he was trying to deliver bread to Khan Al Sheih camp. It should be noted that the camp has been under a siege imposed by Syrian regime forces since the end of September 2016.

B. Objects and individuals under special protection

1- Hospitals and medical workers

Syrian regime continued to target hospital, medical points, and pharmacies in addition to the frequent targeting of medical workers either by direct murder, torture inside prisons, kidnapping, or harassing. Civil defense teams who work on aiding the wounded in areas under the control of armed opposition have been increasingly targeted.



In 2016, we recorded that Syrian regime forces have killed 40 medical personnel at least.

[Shadi Hamouda](#), a paramedic with Sham Aiding Network and a nurse at Douma clinics that are affiliated to the “Union of the Free Syrian Doctors”, from Douma city in Damascus suburbs governorate. He was killed on 12 January 2016 by fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes that bombed Douma city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, with missiles.



Ali Abd Al Aziz Al Subeh, nurse, from Al Yadouda town in the suburbs of Daraa governorate, he was 35-year-old at the time of his arrest. He was arrested in the beginning of 2014. On 12 July 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a Syrian regime detention center.



[Mohammad Suliman Kalou](#), doctor, from Homs city, born in 1990, works as an intern doctor at Al Amin hospital in Homs city. He was killed on Sunday 28 August 2016 by a mortar shell fired by Syrian regime artillery that fell near Khaled ben Al Walid stadium in Al Hamraa' neighborhood in [Homs](#) city.



[Yousef Ahmad Al Traf](#), a general [surgeon](#), from Hass town in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1980, works at Hass makeshift hospital, married and a father of kids. He died on Friday 28 October 2016 of wounds sustained in a missile bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes that bombed his car at the Martyr Kamal Qal'aji school complex in the southern neighborhood of Hass town on Wednesday 26 October 2016 as he was tending to wounded from a previous bombing.



Tareq Mustafa Akrad, a civil defense member in Daraa governorate, from Tareeq Al Sad neighborhood in Daraa governorate, married. He died on Thursday 11 February 2016 at a Jordanian hospital of wounds sustained during a mortar shelling by Syrian regime artillery on Tareeq Al Sad neighborhood in Daraa city on Tuesday 9 February 2016.



[Mohammad Dib Awwad](#), one of the founders of the Syrian civil defense in Al Zabadani city, from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs governorate, 40-year-old, married and has four kids. He was killed on Friday 25 March 2016 by a Syrian regime sniper who was stationed at the dispensary checkpoint in Al Zabadani city as [Mohammad](#) was walking in the street.



[Yaser Al Sayed Hussein](#), a civil defense member in Aleppo governorate, from Der Hassan village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, he is the head of the fire-fighting team at the civil defense center in Urm Al Kubra town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1963, has an elementary education certificate, married and a father of five. [He](#) was killed on Saturday 11 June 2016 by a barrel bomb dropped on Urm Al Kubra by Syrian regime helicopters as he was putting out a fire that broke out in Al Alamiya press western Aleppo which resulted from a previous bombing.

Moreover, SNHR documented no less than 89 incidents of attack on hospitals and medical points that were targeted in 2016. It should be noted that we devote one of the eight monthly reports we publish to the targeting of medical personnel and hospital.

We noticed that Syrian regime forces have deliberately targeted some of the medical facilities consecutively for a number of times in a glaring sign of the deliberate intentions of damaging these facilities as much as possible and denying civilians of their services. We documented that a number of vital facilities, which were the last of their kind in their respective areas, were rendered out of commission such as the last hospital or school because of the targeting of these facilities by the Syrian regime and its allies. This scenario was seen in various areas.



Friday 5 February 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of [barrel bombs](#) on the makeshift hospital in Al Ghariya Al Gharbiya town, located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission.



Saturday 12 March 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile at the dispensary in Al Sekhna city, located in the suburbs of Homs and is under the control of ISIS. The southern front of the building was heavily damaged, and the dispensary garage was heavily destroyed. Also, the main power generator broke down. As a result, the dispensary was rendered out of commission.

Friday 29 April 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at the dispensary in [Al Marja neighborhood](#) in [Aleppo](#) city. Some of the dispensary sections were [destroyed](#) almost completely while the other sections were heavily [damaged](#). As a result, the dispensary was rendered out of [commission](#). The neighborhood is currently under the control of the Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the [incident](#).



Tuesday noon 29 November 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the vicinity of Al Zarzour surgical hospital in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building was slightly damaged. Additionally, the structure of an ambulance belonging to the [hospital](#) was moderately [damaged](#) as well as its [equipment](#).

2- Workers in the religious field and cultural assets

Syrian regime forces didn't show any sort of respect for places of worship such as mosques, churches and others in their daily bombardment. Even more, in some cases Syrian regime forces deliberately bombed these places. Also, we recorded that Syrian regime forces used some places of worship as military bases from which it carried out attacks on nearby areas. We have recorded no less than 129 incidents of attack on places of worship by Syrian regime forces in 2016. It should be noted that the targeting of places of worship is a part of the monthly report that documents the targeting of vital facilities which is one of the eight monthly report we publish.

Tuesday 10 May 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Al Nabi Shu'aeb in Binnish city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. [The mosque](#) minaret [crumbed](#) as well as some of its walls and also [the main gate](#).



Monday 5 September 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Al Ayoubi mosque in Ibtat town, located in the western suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the [mosque walls](#) was [partially destroyed](#), and the building's cladding materials and [furniture](#) were [heavily damaged](#). As a result, the mosque was [rendered out of commission](#).



Saturday 1 November 2016, Syrian regime forces opened fire from machine guns at Ammar ben Yasser mosque in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The mosque walls](#) were moderately [damaged](#), and [the glass windows shattered](#).

3- Media activists

As with past years, the Syrian regime's policy to target media activists and journalists. Syrian regime's violations against media activists vary including killing and arrest where Syrian regime forces have killed in 2016 alone 41 media activists.



Thursday 5 May 2016, media activist Mohannad Zreiq was killed by shrapnel from barrel bombs dropped by Syrian regime helicopters on Um Al Karamail village, located in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, where he was on his way to Khan Touman village in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate to cover the clashes between armed opposition factions and regime forces.



[Mohannad](#), a [photographer](#) for Ahrar Al Sham movement, an armed opposition faction, from Sarja village in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1987, a fourth-year student at the information engineering faculty in Aleppo University, married.



Monday 31 October 2016, media activist [Abd Al Salam Nayef Kan'an](#) was killed by shrapnel in his head from a missile fired by fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes in Al Za'farana town, located in the suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [Abd Al Salam](#), a [photographer](#) for Al Jesr TV channel, from Deir B'alba neighborhood in Homs governorate, born in 1982, has an intermediate education certificate, married.



Sunday 6 November 2016, journalist Ammar Mustafa Al Bakkour died of injuries in the chest and neck after a missile fired by fixed-wing Syrian regime warplane fell near him as he was issuing identification cards for the health administration employees of Idlib governorate in Al Dana city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front "Formerly Al Nusra Front".

Ammar director of the media office at the health administration in Idlib governorate and a reporter for Zaman Al Wasel website, from Al Mouzra town in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1980, has a degree from the faculty of media in Damascus University, married and a father of one.

C. Use of prohibited weapons

1- Chemical weapons

According to SNHR's archive, the Syrian regime perpetrated 14 attacks using poison gases in 2016. Therefore, the regime breached all relevant Security Council Resolutions: 2118, 2209, and 2235.

These attacks resulted in the death of eight civilians including five children and one woman.



Monday 29 February 2016, Syrian regime forces targeted the clash line with armed opposition fighters in Irbeen city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, with a number of bombs. One of the bombs was loaded with a poison gas which resulted in two suffocation cases among armed opposition fighters.



Wednesday 10 August 2016, around 20:30, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas on Al Zebdiyea neighborhood in Aleppo which resulted in the killing of one child and six other injuries including children. The injured exhibited symptoms such as suffocation and coughing. The neighborhood is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday 6 September 2016, around 13:30, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with poison gases near “Wafaa Kharsa” pharmacy in Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city where we documented the killing of one individuals as a result of the attack who was “Mohammad AbdulKarim Afifa”. Additionally, no less than 80 individuals were injured and suffered suffocation and heavy breathing. The neighborhood is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



2- Cluster munition

SNHR documented no less than 22 cluster attacks by the Syrian regime in 2016. The Syrian regime is considered to be the worst regime in the world in terms of using cluster munition in the modern age.

Douma city, Saturday 9 January 2016

Syrian regime artillery in Al Dreij area fired rockets carrying cluster submunition on Al Masaken neighborhood in northern Douma city which resulted in a number of injuries among the civilians. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.



Douma city Saturday 16 January 2016

Syrian regime artillery fired five shells carrying [cluster submunition](#) on Douma city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. 15 individuals were injured in the shelling.

Thursday 15 September 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired a number of RBK-500 missiles loaded with ShO-AB-0.5 cluster submunition targeting the garage in Al Mayadeen city, located in Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS. The garage is a vital area where passenger buses and stalls can be found. The bombing resulted in the killing of 25 civilians including nine children and three women. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.



D. Siege

The Syrian regime followed the siege policy on areas under the control of armed opposition factions such as Madaya town in Damascus suburbs and Al Wa'er neighborhood in Homs. The ongoing siege caused a number of malnutrition and drought cases in addition to the spread of a number of diseases due to the pollution that resulted from the piles of trash and a damaged drainage network. All of this resulted in the killing of 114 civilians including 32 children and 17 women.

Infant Borouj Al Zybaq, 4-day-old. Died on 12 April 2016 due to lack of medical care in light of the siege imposed by the regime forces and the pro-regime militias on Madaya town in Damascus suburbs.

Kholoud Khaz'a, woman, from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs governorate. She died on 27 January 2016 due to food shortage in light of the siege imposed by the regime forces and the pro-regime militias on Biqeen town in Damascus suburbs.

• Violations perpetrated by the fighting Shiite militias in Syria

The first signs of Shiite fighters and factions fighting with the Syrian government began to appear in late-2011 when rebels arrested fighters from Al Mahdi Army which is affiliated to the Iraqi Shiite leader Muqtada Al Sadr as a number of reports surfaced about him recruiting fighters and sending them to Syria even though he publicly denied being involved in the conflict until recently. The most major turn of events on that front, however, was in the summer of 2012 when Liwa Abu Al Fadhal Al Abbas emerged in Syria and a lot of calls for fighting in Syria to protect Shiite shrines, especially the Sayyidah Zaynab shrine, started to go around which were in synchronization with an amassing propaganda adopted by various media outlets that ranged from daily newspapers to TV channels to social media.

Various Shiite factions continued to send Shiite fighters to Syria to fight under Liwa Abu Al Fadhal Al Abbas. Hezbollah entering the conflict publicly in April 2013 in Al Qseir and its suburbs was a major turn of events for the nature of the regional pro-regime fighting Shiite entities. In later months, more developments followed regarding the presence of Shiite factions in Syria where factions that are more clearly affiliated to their mother factions in Iraq started to emerge and what this implies of publicly fighting with the regime forces for most of the political and military Shiite forces in Iraq, and for the Iraqi government that facilitated this influx of fighters in addition to evidences suggesting the direct involvement of the Iraqi government itself in the conflict.



While most of the nationalities that are fighting with the government on sectarian basis were Iraqi and Lebanese, we documented the existence and the killing of fighters from various nationalities: Afghani, Pakistani, Yamani, and even African nationalities.

Shiite militias were explicitly involved in the military operation that was carried out, under an aerial support from Russia, in mid-November 2016 that resulted in the takeover of the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo and the displacement of no less than 240,000 residents from Aleppo.

Conclusions

Syrian regime forces have perpetrated various crimes from extrajudicial killing to sexual violence, torture, and other crimes that constitute crimes against humanity considering the systematic and widespread nature of these crimes. Also, Syrian regime forces perpetrated war crimes that manifested in siege, indiscriminate bombardment, and destruction of facilities and buildings. The Syrian government didn't only violate the international humanitarian law and the customary law, but also violated Security Council Resolutions especially Resolution 2118 on the cease of the use of poison gases, and Resolution 2139 as well as Resolution 2042 that addressed the release of detainees. All of this was perpetrated without any form of accountability, and is even being perpetrated with legitimacy under the Russian-Chinese cover and in light of the western silence.



B. Russian Forces

1- Extrajudicial killing

Russian forces commenced their military attacks on Wednesday 30 September 2015. Russia announced that its airstrikes would target extremist Islamic groups (ISIS, Al Nusra Front, and Jund Al Aqsa). However, reality shows otherwise, as all the statements by the Russian politicians were true considering that many of the attacks deliberately killed civilians. According to SNHR's victim documentation team, Russian attacks in 2016 resulted in the killing of 3967 civilians including 1042 children and 684 women.

Tuesday afternoon 12 January 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [Agha Joq mosque](#) in Qadi Askar neighborhood in Aleppo city which resulted in the killing of seven individuals who were inside the mosque. The neighborhood is currently under the control of regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the [massacre](#).

Friday 22 January 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles in Al Dallou neighborhood in Al Bolail town, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 12 individuals including one child and two women. Additionally, around 10 others were wounded.

Saturday 23 January 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at a farm on the road of Qbasein town near Al Bab city, located in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of six individuals from one family – a mother and her five kids.

Sunday 14 February 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at a tent on the outskirts of Al Hrak city, located in eastern Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals most of whom were from the same family including two female children and one woman.

Tuesday 2 February 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [Burj Qa'ie village](#), located in Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of eight individuals (four children and four women).



Thursday 11 August 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at Al Idekhar neighborhood, located in Al Raqqa and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 13 civilians including three children and one woman. Additionally, about 20 others were wounded.

Thursday 17 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at a residential building in the middle of Kafr Jales town, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family including three children and two women.

Monday 5 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [Mansour](#) district, located in the northern neighborhood of Idlib city and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 11 individuals [including seven children and three women](#). Additionally, about 15 others [were wounded](#).

2- Targeting medical personnel

We documented the killing of 39 medical personnel in attacks we believe are Russian from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2016.



[Abdurrahman Ebied](#), assistant surgeon, from Ifreen city in Aleppo governorate, works at the charity hospital in Anadan city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, married and a father of two. [He](#) was killed on Wednesday 27 January 2016 by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian that fired missiles [carrying cluster submunition](#) at Anadan city, located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, targeting [the charity hospital there](#).



Batoul Al Aloush, woman, nurse, from Al Thakna neighborhood in Al Raqqa city, works at Al Teb Al Hadith hospital in Al Raqqa city, 28-year-old, married and a mother of two. She was killed on Sunday 10 April 2016 in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian that targeted Al Teb Al Hadith hospital.



[Mohammad Wasim Khalded Ma'az](#), pediatrician, from Aleppo city, born in 1980, single, works at the children's wing in Basel Aslan makeshift hospital (Al Quds hospital) in Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city. [He](#) was killed on Wednesday 27 April 2016 by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian that fired missiles at Basel Aslan makeshift hospital (Al Quds hospital) in Al Sukkari neighborhood.

3- Targeting media activists

We documented the killing of 11 media activists in attacks we believe were carried out by Russian forces from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2016.



Monday 8 February 2016, media activist Zakariya Orfalli was killed by a missile shrapnel that went into different parts of his body as he was covering the bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian in Hraitan city, located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Zakariya, known as Al Nesr Al Soury or Mazen Al Hur, worked previously as a media activist for Aleppo Media Center and Aleppo News Network. He recently joined Fajr Movement, an armed opposition faction, as a media activist, from Aleppo city, born in 1991, a second-year student at the political sciences institute in Damascus.



Monday 11 July 2016, media activist [Ibrahim Mohammad Omar](#) was killed by shrapnel from cluster bombs that hit him in the abdomen and head as he was covering the bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Termanein city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.



[Ibrahim](#), a cooperating photographer with [Al Jazeera Mubasher](#) and worked before as a [reporter](#) for Al Itihad Press network. Ibrahim is from Kafr Hamra town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1978, has a high school diploma, married and a father of a girl.



Monday 1 August 2016, media activist [Mohammad Sayyed Hasan](#) died of wounds caused by shrapnel to his head and upper and lower limbs after a missile fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fell near him, as [he](#) was covering the bombing on Al Atareb city, located in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Sunday 24 July 2016.

[Mohammad](#), chief editor for Naba e-newspaper and a [reporter](#) for all4syria website. Mohammad is from Al Atareb city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1962, has a high school diploma. Married and has kids.

4- Cluster munition

Russian forces have expanded their use of cluster munition, especially those that are dropped from the sky. Also, we documented a number of attacks in which cluster munition were fired from the ground.

We documented no less than 149 cluster attacks from 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016.

Monday 4 July 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT cluster submunition in the northwestern parts of Darat Ezza city, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in three civilians getting injured.



Sunday 21 August 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition in a residential neighborhood in the western parts of Jesr Al Shoghour, located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.



Wednesday 26 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a RBK-500 missile carrying a ShOAB-0.5 submunition in the western side of Al Mansroua town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions.



5- Incendiary weapons

SNHR documented no less than 73 attacks using incendiary weapons by forces we believe are Russian from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2016. Most of these attacks took place in June, July, and August of 2016.

Saturday 11 June 2016, fixed-wing warplanes used incendiary weapons to target residential houses in eastern [Qebtan Al Jabal](#), located in Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing injured four civilians.

Monday 28 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons to target the road leading to Kafr Hamra town from [Ma'arat Al Arteeq](#), located in Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions.



Sunday 7 August 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons that fell in the yard of Haroun Al Rashid school in the western parts of Idlib city. [The city is under the joint control](#) of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.



6- Displacement and enforced migration

After more than one year since Russia intervened in Syria, the Russian military operations have forced no less than 2.2 million Syrians to displace including nearly 350,000 from Aleppo governorate alone given that it was the governorate that was the target for the widest and most of the attacks. Also, we recorded wide displacement waves in Idlib city and enforced migrations that were caused by the Russian airstrikes.

In the beginning of February 2016, airstrikes we believe were Russian forced tens of thousands of residents from the northern suburbs of Aleppo to displace to the border areas with Turkey.

In the beginning of August 2016, Saraqeb city saw a large displacement wave that included no less than 1800 families as the city suffered from heavy attacks we believe are Russian after a Russian warplane was toppled.

In mid-November 2016, thousands of civilians were displaced from the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo. Some of the residents fled to Syrian regime-held areas while others fled to the Democratic Union Party's areas of control, whereas no less than 45,000 civilians were evacuated to the western suburbs of Aleppo in accordance with an agreement that was struck between the Russian regime and armed opposition factions.



Pictures of Aleppo's eastern neighborhoods' civilians as they are fleeing at the end of 2016



Conclusions

Russian forces have, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 in indiscriminate bombardment operations, in addition to violation many rules of the international humanitarian law where they perpetrated tens of crimes that constitute war crimes which manifested in the indiscriminate random bombardment that was also disproportionate in terms of the use of excessive force.

C. Kurdish Self-management Forces

1- Extrajudicial killing

Kurdish forces have been one of the main influential parties in Syria since July 2012 when the People's Protection Units "The armed wing of the Democratic Union Party" surfaced in Syria. Later on, the party and its forces joined the Self-management forces which was founded in January 2014, and managed to take over some areas in northern and eastern Syria. The Democratic Union Party comprises the main core of what was late came to be called the Self-management which is the Syrian branch for the Kurdistan Workers Party.

SNHR documented in 2016 the killing of 146 civilians including 24 children and 23 women at the hands of the Self-management forces. Among the victims were 68 individuals killed by snipers including 10 children and 13 women.

Sunday 14 August 2016, Mrs. Ra'fat Al Hamidi Al Mawwas was killed by a sniper from the Self-management forces before the group managed to take Manbej city.

Female child Adla Qaddour Al Majid Al Jadryat, nine-year-old, she was killed on Friday 18 March 2016 by a sniper from the Self-management forces who was stationed on the water tank in Al Fatsa village in Al Raqqa.

2-Arrest and enforced-disappearance

Self-management forces (Consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) continued carrying out arbitrary arrests and committing crimes of enforced-disappearances in their areas of control. Arbitrary arrests targeted political and media activists who oppose their policies. Some of the arrests were based on an ethnic background. Also, Self-management forces carried out wide arrest for the purpose of conscription where they arrested civilians even including children of 14 years of age as well as women.



In 2016, arbitrary arrests were concentrated in Ifreen area in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, and Al Qamishli and Amouda cities in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate as well as the areas that were taken over by Self-management forces in the northern suburbs of Aleppo.

SNHR documented the arrest of no less than 673 individuals at the hands of Self-management forces including 55 children and 33 women from the beginning of 2016 until the end of December 2016.



Media activist [Roni Mohammad Bakji](#), from Al Hasaka governorate, a media activist and a reporter for Yekiti media website in Al Hasaka governorate. On Monday 11 April 2016, he was arrested by gunmen affiliated to the Kurdish Self-management forces as he was coming of a church in Al Malikiya city in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate where he was covering a seminar on civil peace that was held in the church. He was released on the same day after being severely beaten which forced him to go to Al Malikiya hospital in Al Hasak governorate for treatment.



Political activist Abd Al Wahhab Mohammad, from Amouda city in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. Head of the National Kurdish Local Council and a member of the municipal committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party – Syria branch. He was arrested by Self-management forces in Amouda city in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate, and took him to an undisclosed location in on 13 November 2016.

3- Torture inside detention centers

Mainly during interrogating detainees and abductees, Self-management forces beat detainees on the head and break their bones using a Kalashnikov or a metal bar. Furthermore, former detainees at the Self-management forces detention centers spoke to SNHR about them using methods such as biting, electric shock, sexual harassment, and sexual blackmail.



SNHR documented the killing of no less than six individuals, including one woman, due to torture at the Self-management forces' detention centers in 2016.



Lawyer Nasir Al Naji Al Abd, from Kriefati Al Shrayeen in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. He was arrested by gunmen affiliated to the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces in Al Hasaka city in November 2015. On 31 January 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a detention center for Self-management forces.

[Moayed Mousa Al Kallah](#), from Al Bhiera village in the suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate. He was arrested by Self-management forces in Al Bhiera town over being near an explosive device that detonated where he was accused of planting the explosive device. On Tuesday 9 August 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a detention center for Self-management in Al Hasaka governorate.

Conclusions

Self-management forces violated a number of basic rights such as the right to life. Moreover, Self-management forces perpetrated violations such as torture and self-disappearance which all constitute crimes against humanity, in addition to a number of war crimes that manifested in indiscriminate shelling, displacement, looting, abduction, and torture.

D. Extremist Islamic Groups

1- ISIS

1- Extrajudicial killing

SNHR documented the killing of 1510 civilians including 258 children and 213 women in 2016 at the hands of ISIS.

Monday 25 January 2016, ISIS artillery fired a number of shells that fell in Dar Al Alson area in Al Qosour neighborhood, located in Deir Ez-Zour city and is under the control of Syrian regime forces, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including one child and five women. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.



Monday 23 May 2016, ISIS detonated two car bombs inside “Tartus garage” in Tartus governorate, under the control of regime forces, which resulted in the killing of 26 civilians including five children and four women. Additionally, about 50 others were wounded.

Tuesday 5 July 2016, ISIS slaughtered five civilians with knives in front of Al Faisal shop near Al Dalla circle in Al Raqqa city, under the control of ISIS, over accusation of treason and working for the international coalition forces.



Monday 3 October 2016, an ISIS member blew himself using an explosive vest that he was wearing inside Al Sanabel wedding hall in Sfayya town, located in the northern suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate and is under the control of Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party) which resulted in the killing of 35 civilians including 10 children. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

2- Arrest, enforced-disappearance and torture

ISIS continued its arbitrary arrest and enforced-disappearance policies in 2016 against the civilians living in its area of control. The arrest operations targeted mainly civilians violating the group’s regulations on clothing and workers at exchange houses. Also, ISIS focused on and people who go to internet cafes and their owners, and individuals who are related to members of armed opposition factions. Additionally, the group carried out wide arrests targeting the civilians fleeing its area of control by setting ambushes and inspection points in areas neighboring armed opposition factions’ area of control in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate.

SNHR documented in 2016 the arrest of 1419 individuals including 103 children and 50 women at the hands of ISIS.



Baraa Al Assali, from Al Assali neighborhood in Damascus city, media activist for Damascus's Al Assali neighborhood coordination and a member of the reconciliation committee in the neighborhood. On Monday 12 August 2016, he was arrested by gunmen affiliated to ISIS who raided his place of residence in Al Assali neighborhood in Damascus city. He was released on the same day after being severely beaten and tortured, and was taken to a hospital in Damascus city for treatment.

[Ehab Al Al Salti](#), from Al Assali neighborhood in Damascus city, a fighter for armed opposition and a member of the reconciliation committee in Al Assali neighborhood. On Monday 12 August 2016, he was arrested by gunmen affiliated to ISIS who raided his place of residence in Al Assali neighborhood in Damascus city. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.

ISIS nearly uses the same physical and psychological methods of torture adopted by the Syrian regime. The group also invented new torture methods inside its detention centers which we highlighted in a separate report. The methods of torture used by ISIS vary by the charges between detainees who were arrested for violating the regulation imposed by the group, and detainees who are accused of working against the group such as military individuals that are affiliated to armed opposition factions, media and human rights activists, and workers for foreign organization where the second group is subjected to a more severe torture.

In 2016, SNHR recorded the killing of eight individuals due to torture at the hands of ISIS.

Haydar Al Mathri, from Hwejat Al Bomas'a in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. On 7 November 2016, we received information confirming his death due to torture inside a detention center for ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate. His dead body was delivered to his family.

3- Targeting medical personnel

We recorded the killing of 18 medical personnel by ISIS in 2016

Mona Al Salem, female dentist, from Manbej city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1981, married and has a child. She was killed on Tuesday 9 August 2016 along with her son by a landmine planted by ISIS in the vicinity of Al Ajlani gas station in



southern Manbej city before the group withdrew from the city that was taken over by the Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party).



[Jamil Habib Ali](#), surgeon, from Al Msietra district that is affiliated with Al Qerdaha city in the suburbs of Latakia governorate, works at the national hospital in Jabla city. He was killed on Monday 23 May 2016 in a suicidal bombing as an ISIS suicidal bomber blew himself using an explosive belt he was wearing inside the emergency department at the national hospital in Jabla city in the suburbs of Latakia governorate.

4- Targeting media activists

We documented the killing of 20 media activists by ISIS in 2016



Saturday 2 January 2016, one of ISIS leaders in Al Raqqa city informed the family of the media activist Ruqqaya Hasan Mohammad that they killed Ruqqaya over charges of working and contacting infidels at an earlier date. It should be noted that ISIS arrested Ruqqaya on 11 August 2016.

Ruqaya, known as Nisan Ibrahim, an independent media activist, from Ain Al Arab city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, 31-year-old, has a bachelor degree in philosophy from Aleppo University.

5- Restricting residents

ISIS has enforced discriminatory laws in its area of control and set up punishments for those who violate these laws. After taking over Al Raqqa city and its suburbs completely, the group issued a statement on 20 January 2014 that included regulations affecting people's lives and privacy regarding their livelihoods and movement in the city, and even clothes. This wasn't only for Al Raqqa, but also in all areas that are under the control of ISIS. Furthermore, ISIS adopted new specific curriculums for the educational process.



The group forces women to wear particular clothing (A loose cloak, Hijab, Neqab, and gloves) when walking in the streets, and prohibits any women from going out alone without a Muhram (Meaning her husband or anyone she can't legally marry, such as her father, brother....). ISIS warned the people that any violations would result in punishment.

6- Unlawful attacks

A. Chemical weapons

SNHR documented one use of chemical weapons by ISIS in 2016 on 16 August in Arshaf town, affiliated to Marea' city in Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, where ISIS targeted the vicinity of the post building and the vicinity of the market with seven shells carrying poison gases, which resulted in eight injuries.

2- Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nussra Front)

1- Extrajudicial killing

We recorded the killing of 18 civilians including one woman at the hands of Fateh Al Sham Front.

Mohammad AbdulSattar Ebied, from Saraqeb in Idlib, 22-year-old. He was executed by Fateh Al Sham member who shot him to death in Salqeen square in the suburbs of Idlib over charges of infidelity and insulting Mohammad the Prophet.

2- Arrest and enforced-disappearance

SNHR documented the arrest of no less than 234 individuals including 16 children by Fateh Al Sham Front. Most of the documented arrests took place in Idlib and Daraa governorates and targeted media activists and fighters from other armed opposition factions. Also, Fateh Al Sham Front carried out mass executions of armed opposition factions' members especially in Daraa governorate. Also, we recorded that four individuals died due to torture.

Hesham Al Omar, from Al Nqeir town in the suburbs of Idlib governorate, a former leader at Alweyat Al Ansar "Al Ansar Brigades", an armed opposition faction. On Saturday 30 July 2016, he was arrested by gunmen from Fateh Al Sham Front who raided his place of residence in Al Nqeir village. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.



Conclusions

Extremist Islamic groups have violated many of the basic rights such as the right to life. Also, these groups committed many violations such as torture, and enforced-disappearance which all constitute crimes against humanity, in addition to war crimes that manifested in indiscriminate shelling operations, displacement operations, looting, abduction, and torture.

E. Violations by some of the armed opposition factions

1- Extrajudicial killing

Many of the armed factions that oppose the Syrian government have perpetrated many violations such as indiscriminate shelling, mainly shelling regime forces-held areas using mortar shells, which resulted in the killing of a large number of civilian residents, primarily in Damascus and Aleppo neighborhoods. In 2016, we recorded that 1048 civilians were killed by the armed opposition factions including 289 children and 210 women.

Sunday 24 July 2016, a number of mortar shells fell on Qamar Al Sham restaurant in Al Qimariya neighborhood, located in Damascus city and is under the control of Syrian regime forces. The shells were fired from an artillery stationed in Eastern Ghouta which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The shelling resulted in the killing of 10 civilians including two children and four women. Additionally, about 26 others were wounded.

Thursday noon 27 October 2016, a number of locally-made rocket shells fell near Al Wataniya school in Al Shahba neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of Syrian regime forces. The shells were fired from an artillery stationed in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, which was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident, which resulted in the killing of six children at once.



Sunday morning 20 November 2016, a number of rockets fell on Al Forqan Al Muhdatha school in Al Forqan neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The shells were fired from a rocket launchers in Al Mansoura town, located in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The shelling resulted in the killing of eight children at once.

2- Arrest, enforced-disappearance, and torture

SNHR documented that armed opposition factions arrested no less than 178 individuals in 2016 including six children and two women.

The arrests carried out by armed opposition factions were concentrated in the areas of Damascus suburbs governorate, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, targeting civil activism workers and members of other armed opposition factions. Also, armed opposition factions carried out mass arrests during attacks on Syrian regime-held areas in order to strike captive exchange deals with Syrian regime forces.

In mid-May 2016, Fateh Homs operation room, which consists of a number of armed opposition factions, carried out an attack in Homs governorate on Al Zara village in the suburbs of Hama governorate. The factions managed to seize control of the village for nearly 48 hours during which they arrested no less than 46 individuals including eight children and 11 women.



Abdullah Stefan, an independent media activist. On Thursday 4 August 2016, he was arrested by members of Ahrar Al Sham Movement, an armed opposition faction, over charges of sympathizing with and promoting ISIS as he was passing a checkpoint for Ahrar Al Sham in Binnesh city in the suburbs of Idlib governorate. He was then taken to Binnesh city prison, the prison belongs to Ahrar Al Sham Movement, and was released on 8 August 2016.

Ahmad Mahmoud Fattouh, from Al Kallasa neighborhood in Aleppo city, a leader of Al Naser brigades, an armed opposition faction, in Aleppo governorate. On 6 June 2016, he was arrested by members of Al Jabha Al Shamiya, an armed opposition faction, in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. His fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as his family.



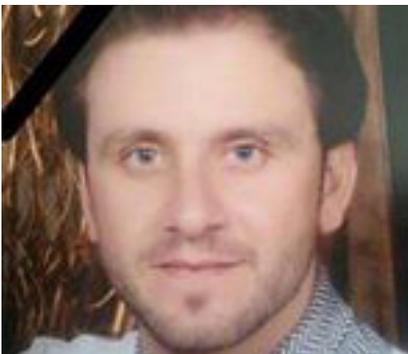
SNHR recorded that 10 individuals, including one child, died due to torture inside armed opposition factions' prisons in 2016.



[Ramez Salah Eish](#), a child, from Barza neighborhood in Damascus governorate, 17-year-old. He was arrested by the First Brigade, an armed opposition faction over charges of theft. On Thursday 3 March 2016, his dead body was delivered to his family with clear signs of torture on the body.

3- Targeting medical personnel

We documented the killing of seven medical personnel at the hands of armed opposition factions in 2016.



Fadel Idrees, pharmacist, from Aleppo city, born in 1979, works as a director for Al Shefaa factory for pharmaceutical industries, married and a father of two. He was killed on Sunday 10 July 2016 along with his wife and son by a rocket shell that fell on his car in Al Hai Al Awwal area in Al Hamdaniya neighborhood in Aleppo city. The shell was fired from Al Rashideen neighborhood which is under the control of armed opposition factions.



[Shahed Rashid Al Jamyan](#), surgeon, from Al Hamidiya neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, born in 1972, works as a surgeon at a hospital in Al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood in Aleppo city, married and a father of one. He was killed on 7 September 2016 by locally-made rocket shells that was fired at Al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, where forces and military vehicles belonging to Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party, a branch for the



Kurdistan Workers' Party) are stationed. The shells were fired from an artillery stationed in [Al Mas-shad neighborhood](#), which is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident. The shrapnel from the shells caused a bleeding in [Shahed's chest](#) which resulted in his death.

4- Targeting media activists

We documented the killing of eight media activists by armed opposition factions in 2016.

Saturday 6 February 2016, media activist [Ali Yousef Dashou](#) was killed by the bullets of armed opposition factions as he was covering clashes between Syrian regime forces and armed opposition factions in Ratyan town, located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of Syrian regime forces.

[Ali](#), known as Al Haj Emad, a media activist and photographer for the Lebanese group Hezbollah, from Nobbol city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, born in 1996, a university student at the technical medical institute in Latakia University.

Conclusions

The aforementioned cases document that a number of factions have perpetrated crimes that amount to war crimes which manifested itself in the indiscriminate random operations. Also, some opposition groups practiced acts of torture against their detainees, while some armed factions committed wide lootings and thefts in various areas.



F. International Coalition Forces

The International coalition forces' military camping against ISIS commenced on Tuesday 23 September 2014, and have carried out many airstrikes in Al Raqqa, Deir Ez-Zour, and Idlib governorates. These attacks, according to what we recorded at SNHR in 2016, resulted in the killing of 537 civilians including 158 children and 98 women.

Friday 26 February 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes carried out two missile airstrikes in Ain Al Arous village, located three kilometers to the south of Tal Abyad city in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa and is under the control of the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces. One of The two airstrikes resulted in the killing of 11 individuals, who were mostly from the same family, including two children and five women, whereas 15 individuals were killed including three children and six women as a result of the two airstrikes on that day in total.

Thursday morning 28 July 2016, fixed-wing [international coalition forces](#) warplanes fired missiles at the shops in the vicinity of [Al Ghandoura mosque](#) in Al Ghandoura town, affiliated to [Jarablus city](#) in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the [killing of 22 civilians](#) including [three children](#) and one woman.

Friday 9 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition warplanes fired missiles in M'ezela village, located in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 18 civilians including seven children and three women.

Conclusions

The coalition's states bear the responsibility for the violations that have occurred since the attacks begun. The indiscriminate disproportionate bombardment is considered an explicit violation to the international humanitarian law. The crimes of indiscriminate killing amount to war crimes.



F. Violations by other parties

SNHR's documentation of the victims of 2016 includes many classifications such as victims who were killed in bombings that we couldn't identify the groups responsible for them, victims who were killed by bullets of unknown source, victims who were killed by landmines of unknown source, victims who died drowning, and victims who were killed by Jordanian, Lebanese, and Turkish forces.

Under this category, SNHR documented that killing of no less than 951 civilians including 168 children, 96 women. Additionally, among the victims was one individual who died due to torture.

Sunday morning 28 August 2016, fixed-wing Turkish warplanes fired missiles in the eastern outskirts of Al Sresat village, in southern Jarablus city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, where forces and military vehicles for the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces are stationed, which resulted in the killing of 24 civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including six children and six women.

2016 saw a notable wide spread of arrest operations for blackmailing or that were driven by sectarian or ethnic grudges especially in areas that are unstable from a security standpoint as they are not under the control of a party in particular or in areas where there are power struggles by a number of groups. This led to the emergence of a number of local armed militias, don't follow a particular group, that carried out wide arrests through setting ambushes in public roads. SNHR documented in 2016 that no less than 2419 civilians were abducted by such groups including 413 children and 289 women.

Zahra Wael Baslat, woman, from Damascus city, 27-year-old. On Friday 16 September 2016, she became a forcibly-disappeared person after she was abducted by unknowns as she was in Barzat Al Balad neighborhood in Damascus city. Her fate is still unknown to SNHR as well as her family.

Sajea' Salha, from Al Suwayda, a nurse at the dispensary of Shahba area in Al Suwayda. On Saturday 5 November 2016, unknown armed persons opened fire at the ambulance that he was in before abducting him on the road between Lahtha and Al Matouna villages in the suburbs of Al Suwayda governorate. He was released on Saturday 25 November 2016 after his family paid a large sum of money as a ransom.



V. Recommendations

The United Nations

As a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), we renew our demands to find the proper ways to protect the civilians from the frequent and daily violations no matter who their perpetrators are, and especially the Syrian regime's violations considering that the regime was responsible for more than 92% of all violations, followed by the extremist Islamic groups.

The Security Council

The Security Council must implement the Resolutions it adopted on Syria including the statement of Geneva I as maintaining civil peace and security in Syria falls directly on the Security Council's shoulders. All necessary measures must be considered to protect the civilians in Syria, end the siege on the besieged areas, release political prisoners, and end the use of chemical weapons. All of these objectives were mentioned in special Resolutions on Syria. However, the execution in reality hasn't changed before and after these Resolutions, and violations are still ongoing almost at the same rate since 2011.

States of the World

Support the Syrian people in this extraordinary, on all levels, tragedy that they are experiencing, and apply pressure on the Security Council in order to take urgent action to save what can be saved.

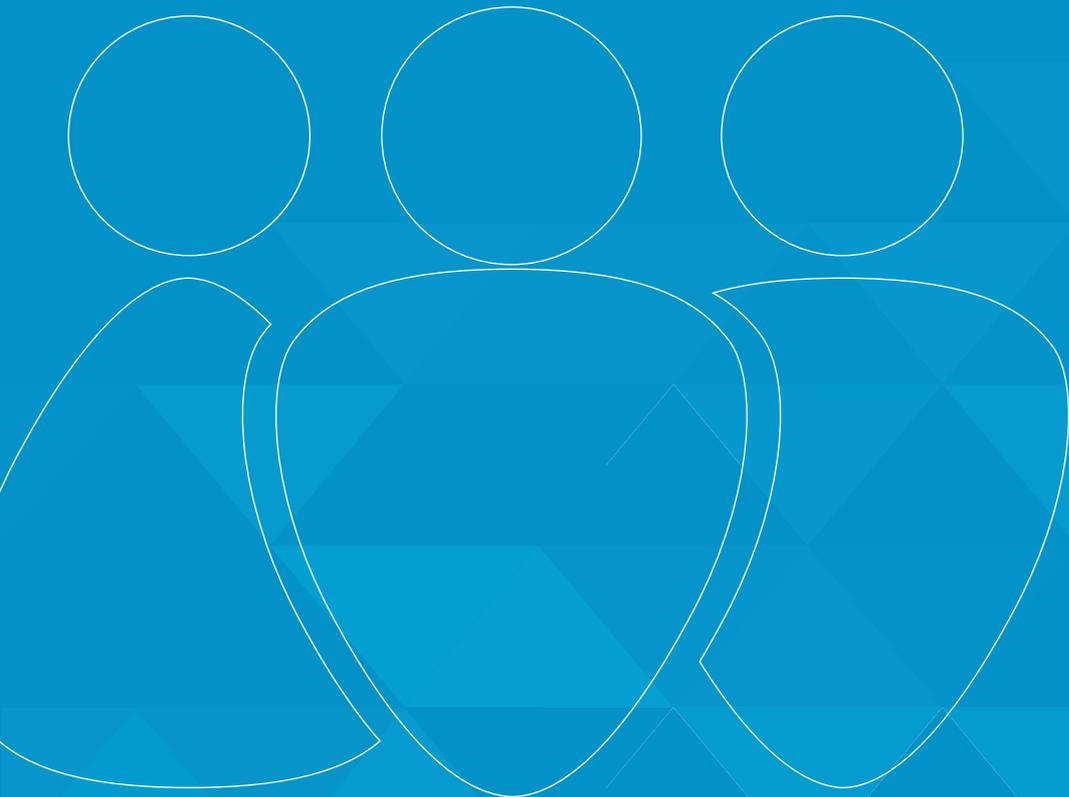
Issue clear statements rejecting all those who are involved in violations of human rights, and refuse to take them in no matter the circumstances.

Call on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court, and not after conflict reaches an end.

Acknowledgment

All thanks and appreciation go for the victims' families, and all media activists from all fields who contributed majorly to this report. Our most heartfelt condolences for the victims' families.





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