



The Six Main Parties that Kill Civilians in Syria and the Death Toll Percentage Distribution among them All Parties (Except for the Syrian Regime) have Killed less than 15,000 Syrian Civilians

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I. Introduction

This report contains a number of graphs that should give updates on the death toll of civilian victims, women victims, children victims, victims who died due to torture, death toll of medical personnel, and lastly media activists.

The statistics shown in these graphs are based on the daily documentation process that has been ongoing since 2011 where SNHR, through its members who are scattered throughout Syria, monitors the killings of victims and publishes the most notable developments and highlights the massacres, and at the end of the day the Network publishes a preliminary toll as well as at the end of each month. After approximately six years, an archive of victim data has come to be as result of the cumulative work. For more information, please see our documentation and archiving methodology.

II. All Parties (Except for the Syrian Regime) have Killed less than 15,000 Syrian Civilians

Before any other party emerged, the Syrian regime started the killing by shooting live bullets at demonstrators which was followed by a gradual escalation in the use of weapon from tanks to artillery to chemical weapons, barrel bombs, and various kinds of missiles including Scud missiles. The use of these weapons was throughout widespread and various geographic areas that included most of the Syrian governorates including cities and towns where demonstration broke out. The ruling regime used power and control,





through the state apparatuses and specifically the army and the security apparatus, to massacre the Syrian people who rose up against the regime. Additionally, the regime tortured detainees to death inside its detention centers.

As any other mafia regime, the Syrian regime acted in a blatantly brutal and apathetic manner disregarding all international laws, and even Syrian laws, and became something that is more of a group of controlling circles that are devoid of any nationalistic or humanitarian values as hospitals and schools were attacked and civil neighborhoods and objects were bombed in a way that has never been seen before in the modern age. Despite all of this, the Syrian regime wasn't deemed an extremist or terrorist regime as if terrorism is restricted to groups and organizations that are marked exclusively with terrorism.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“What makes us feel the need to reemphasize what is already known and well-established in the evolution of the popular uprising into an armed conflict is the western mindset that is still exclusively focused on fighting transnational extremist Islamic groups and has overlooked the terrorism of the ruling regime and the transnational militias that allied with the regime even though these groups have been the main responsible for the killings and have vastly surpassed all the other parties in committing all kinds of crimes and violations in Syria.”

In a previous report, we highlighted that even though ISIS, the self-proclaimed Islamic Caliphate, emerged on 9 April 2013, Russian forces, who claimed that they came to fight ISIS, have killed more Syrian civilians than ISIS itself.

Furthermore, civilian casualties who were killed at the hands of the international coalition forces exceeded the number of victims who were killed by Fateh Al Sham Front (Formerly Al Nussra Front - Al Qaeda branch in Syria).

Kurdish Self-management forces, who are primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces - the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Syria- killed no less than 215 civilians in Syria.

All armed opposition factions, including those who are regarded as Islamic, killed no less than 3668 civilians.





Based on the above, the Syrian regime tops all the other parties including its allies the Russian forces with a percentage that amounts to 93% of the total killings that have been perpetrated in Syria since the eruption of the popular uprising in March 2011. The Syrian regime possesses an air force, fixed-wing warplanes and helicopters, that is capable of bombing using missiles and by dropping barrel bombs. Aerial bombardment alone was responsible for 30% at least of the total death toll while shelling using heavy artillery and tanks was the cause behind the death of no less than 18% of all casualties. The cause of death for the remaining death toll varied between different kinds of weapons but most importantly are machine guns, snipers, mortar shells, chemical weapons, and cluster munitions and finally slaughter using knives.

After the International community, headed by the Security Council, failed to protect the Syrian people from the ruling regime, the emergence of ISIS came as a pretext as the mission shifted to fight the terrorism of ISIS and Al Nussra Front to the point that there was calls for including the Syrian regime in the war against these groups with which the Syrian regime formed close connections. However, developments on the ground led to the disbanding of this old unspoken alliance as the extremist groups have shown an inclination to establish independent regions.

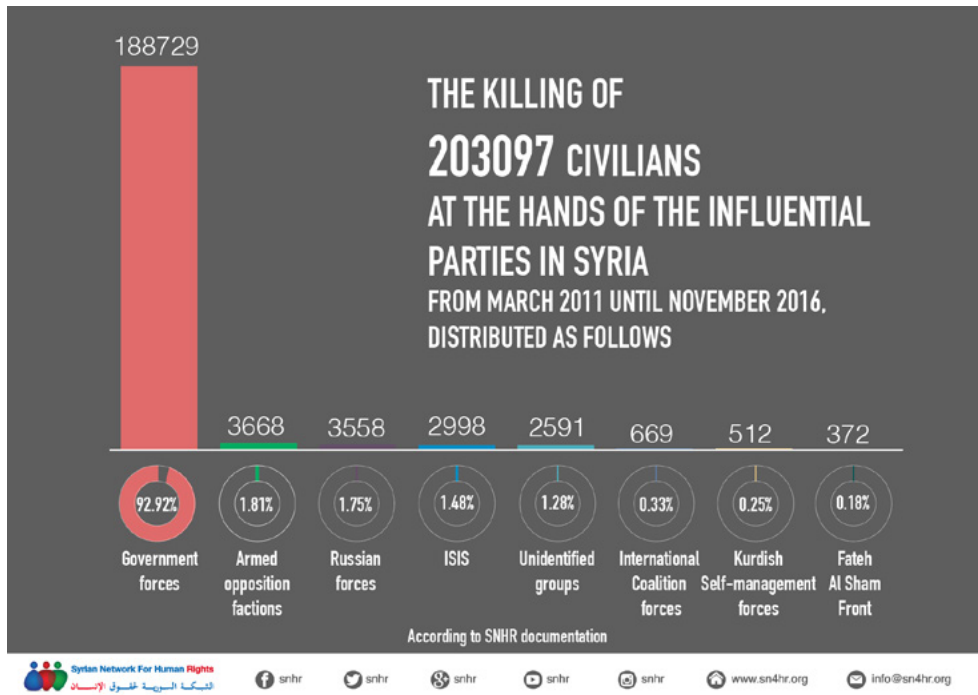
As always, we have to remind that this is what we were able to document at SNHR amid the exceptional challenges and difficulties in light of the ban, pursue, and threats. This is the bare minimum and there are, undoubtedly, so much more cases that we couldn't access and record.



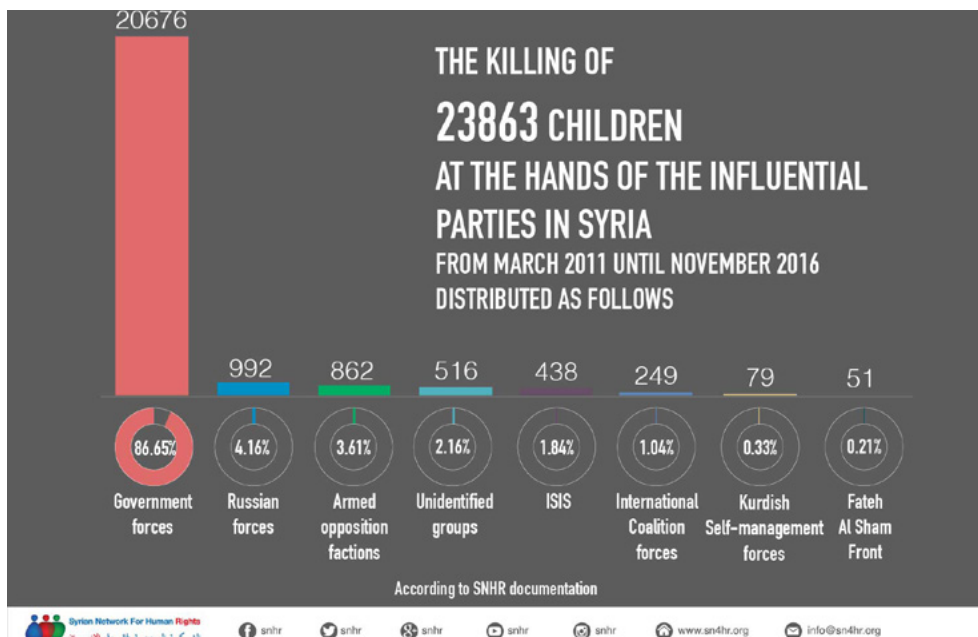


III. Graphs for Civilian Victims, Children Victims, Women Victims, Victims of Torture, Medical Personnel, and Media Activists

1- A graph illustrates the civilian death toll in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:

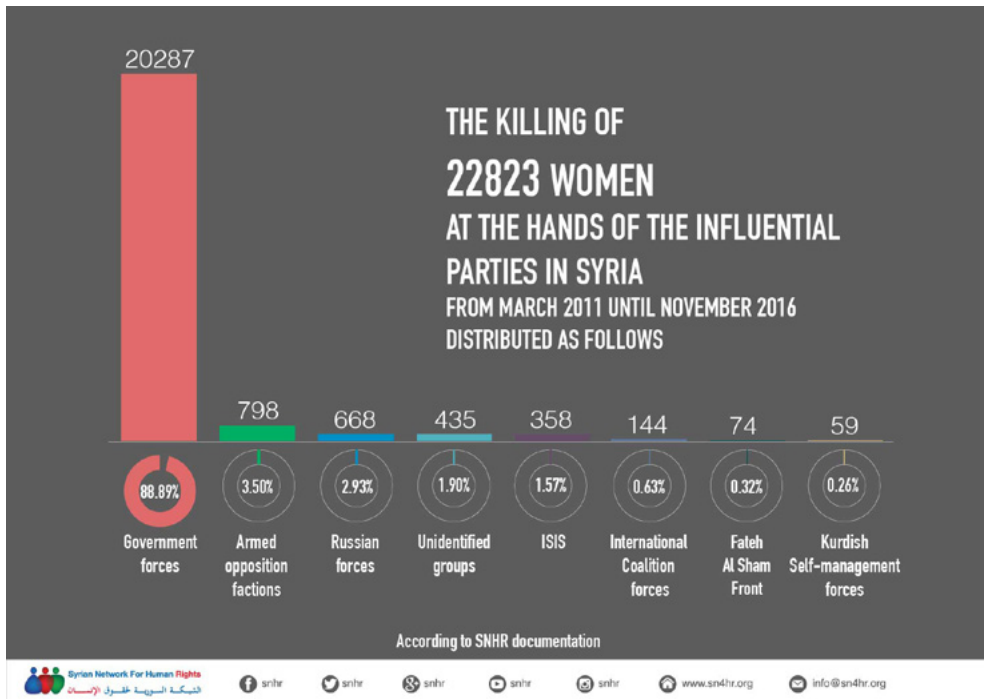


2- The following graph illustrates the death toll of children in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:

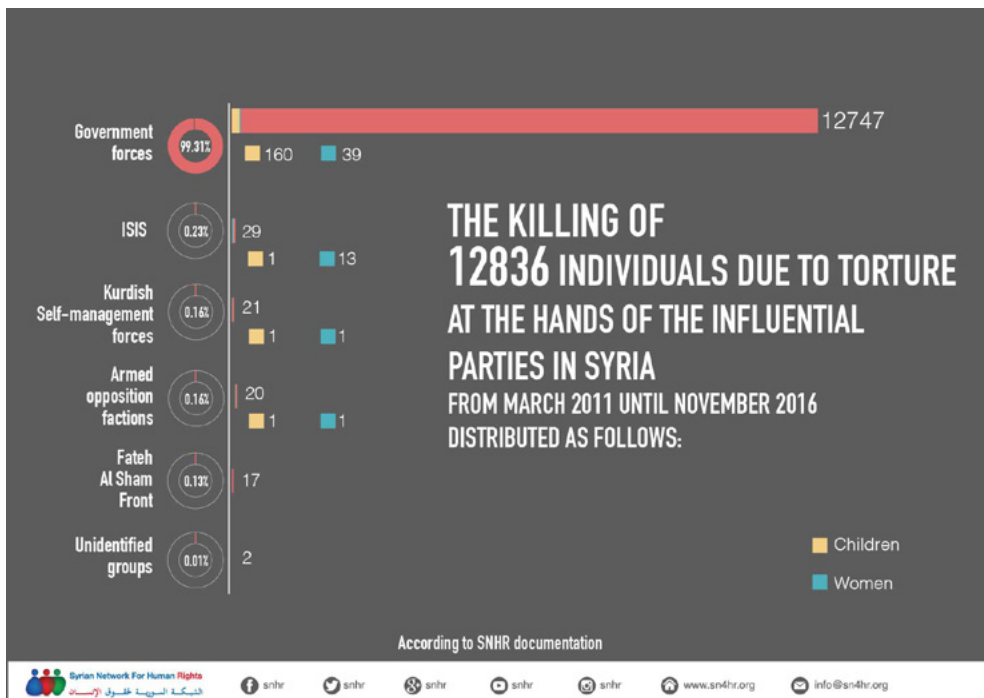




3- The following graph illustrates the death toll of women in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:

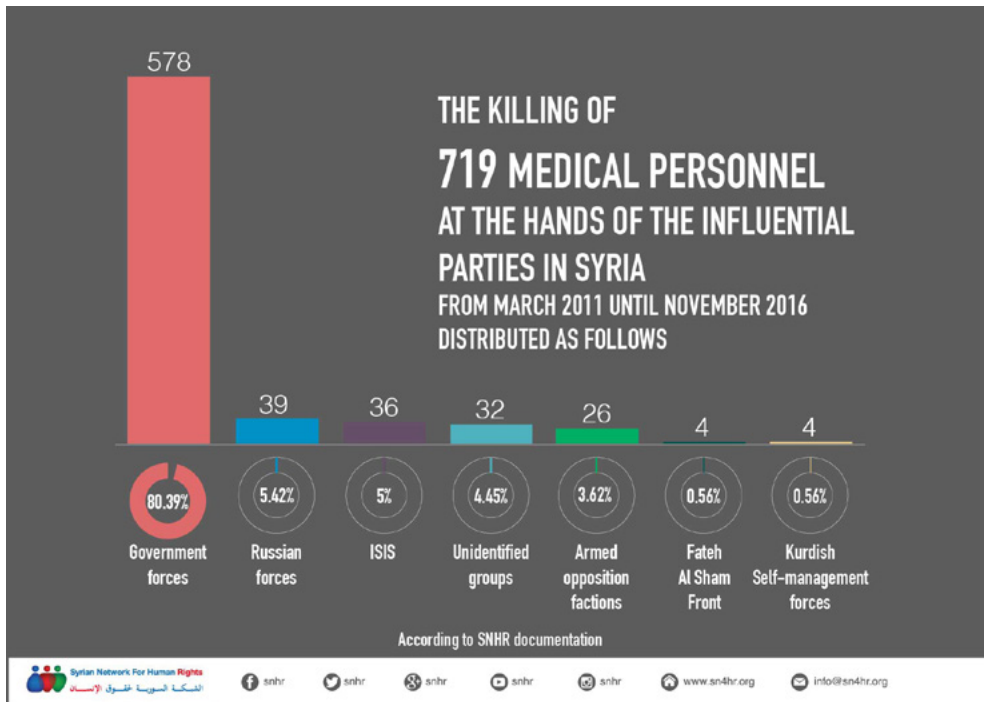


4- The following graph illustrates the death toll of victims who died due to torture in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:

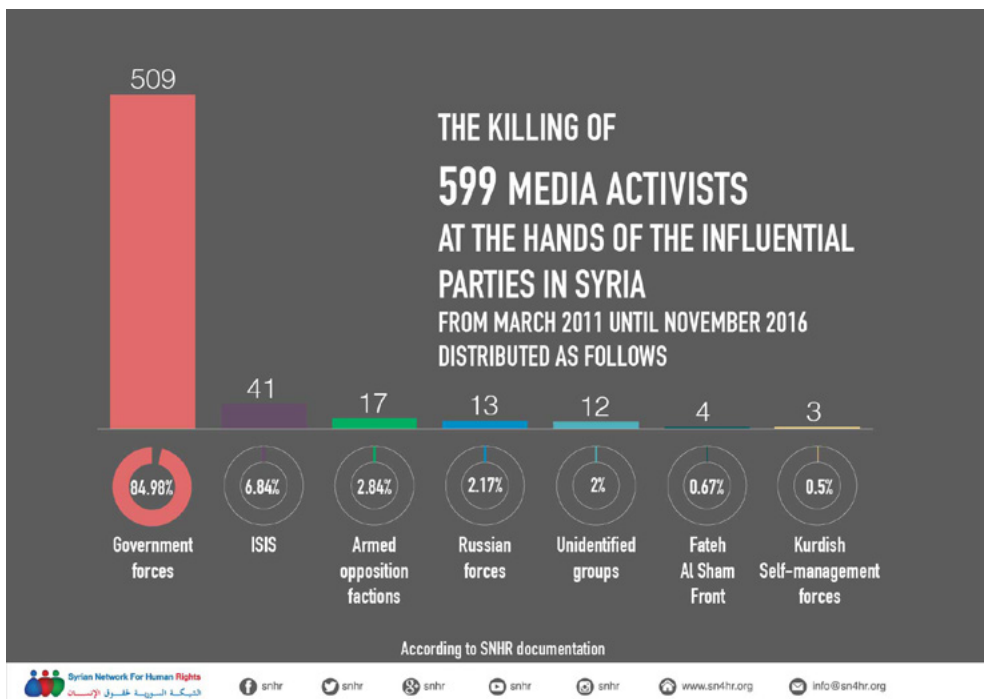




5- The following graph illustrates the death toll among medical personnel in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:



6- The following graph illustrates the death toll among media activists in Syria from March 2011 until November 2016 and its distribution among the six main influential parties:





IV. Who is Responsible for Protecting Civilians in Syria?

First and foremost, the responsibility falls upon the state and its apparatuses to protect the people. However, when the state apparatuses are merely a tool for violence in the hands of the ruling regime who is killing and destroying the people and the state and continues to do so for days, months, and years with no one to put an end to the crimes, there has to be an international system in place which was one of the main reasons behind the establishing of the norm of the Responsibility to Protect - established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. The Syrian state has failed to protect the people and, even more, the current regime insists on perpetrating crimes systematically according to the reports of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which is affiliated to the Human Rights Council. Thus, the burden, weeks after the popular uprising broke out, had shifted to the international community who must, in accordance with paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, take action collectively through the Security Council in accordance with articles 41 and 42 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Nonetheless, the Security Council didn't take any steps due to the protection provided by Russia and China for the Syrian regime which sends a message to the totalitarian states of the world that by only signing a deal with a totalitarian state who is a permanent member of the Security Council, you can enjoy immunity, care, and diplomatic and political support.

In light of this situation and the international failure, the Syrian people realized that they have to protect themselves on their own.

III. Recommendations

The responsibility to protect civilians in Syria is still on the international community's shoulders, which is represented by the Security Council. The Security Council's delinquency doesn't relieve the Council of its duties. History and the people of Syria will memorialize every last of bit of what happened and will always haunt the criminals and their accomplices to the end of time.

