



The Death of 1771 Individuals in October 2015 Amongst Which 273 Individuals Were Killed by Russian Forces

Report Contents:

- I. Introduction
- II. Methodology
- III. Report Details
- IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Introduction:

What distinguishes this month in particular is the participation of the Russian forces in the Syrian conflict as it has become one of the main conflict parties. The percentage of killed women and children reached 39% of the total civilians' death toll who were killed by the Syrian government and the Russian forces, which is strong indicator that those forces deliberately and indiscriminately target civilians.

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

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

I. Report Methodology:

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

For more information on SNHR methodology, click on the following [URL](#).

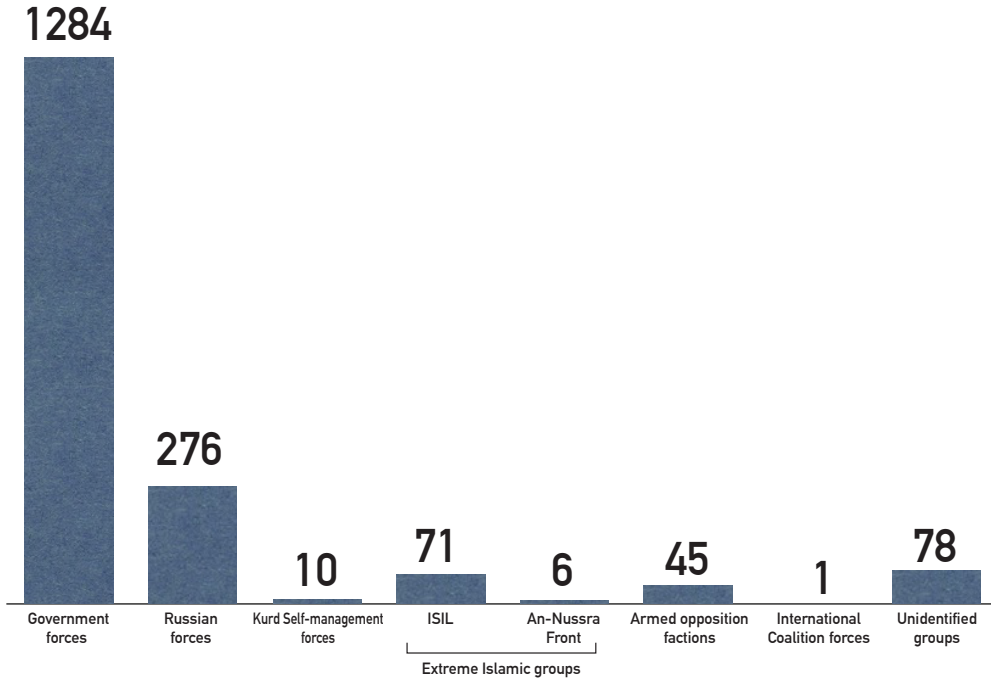
This report does not include the government forces casualties (army, security forces, local or foreign militias) or ISIL casualties in the absence of criteria to document this type of victims.





II. Report Details:

SNHR documented the death of 1771 individuals in October 2015 detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties in Syria:



A. Government Forces:

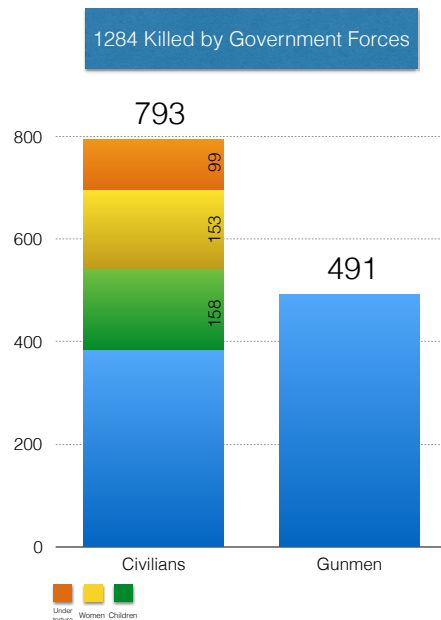
SNHR documented the death of 1284 individuals who were killed by government forces, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

Government forces killed 793 civilians including 153 women and 158 children (at a rate of killing 5 children every day). Also, not less than 99 individuals died under torture (at a rate of killing 3 individuals every day under torture). The percentage of women and children who were killed in this month reached 39% among the total victims' death toll; which is a strong indicator that government forces deliberately targeted civilians.

ii. Gunmen:

Government forces killed 491 armed opposition gunmen during shelling time of clashes.





A. Russian Forces:

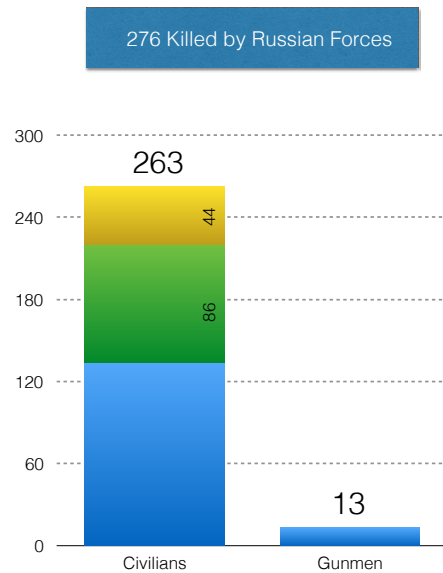
SNHR documented the death of 276 individuals in allegedly Russian shelling, detailed as follows:

i. Civilians:

Russian forces killed 263 civilians including 86 children and 44 women

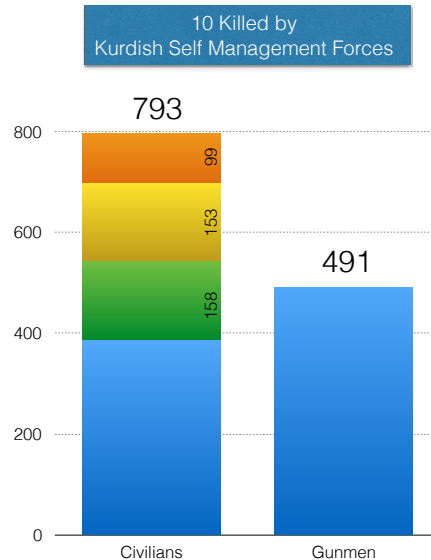
ii. Gunmen:

Russian forces killed 13 armed men



A. Kurdish Self Management Forces:

KSM forces killed 10 civilians including 3 children and two women.



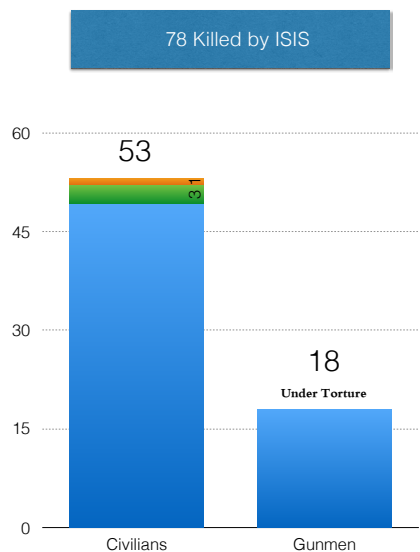
A. Extremist Islamic Groups:

SNHR recorded the death of 77 individuals who were killed by extremist Islamic groups, detailed as follows:

i. ISIL: killed 71 individuals detailed as follows:

a. Civilians: ISIL killed 53 civilians including 3 children under torture and an individual who was killed under torture.

b. Gunmen: ISIL killed 18 gunmen, including one gunman who died under torture. The victims were either killed during battles or extrajudicial murders of prisoners.

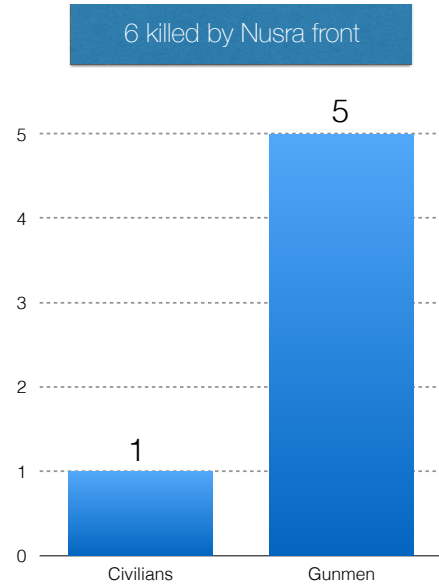




i. An-Nusra Front: Killed 6 individuals, detailed as follows:

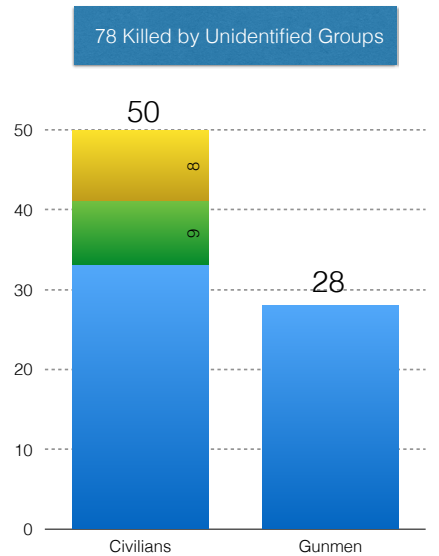
a. Civilians: An-Nusra Front killed one civilian (a woman).

b. Gunmen: An-Nusra Front killed 5 gunmen



A. Armed Opposition Groups:

SNHR killed 45 civilians, including 13 children and 11 women. Three individuals were killed under torture.



A. International Coalition Forces:

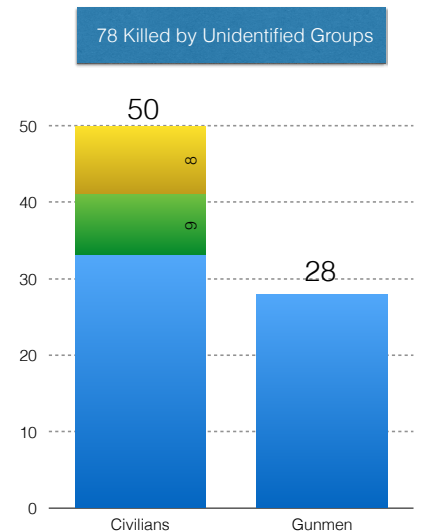
SNHR recorded the death of one individual who was killed due to the International Coalition shelling.

A. Unidentified Groups:

SNHR recorded 78 killing incidents by groups who remained unidentified up to the moment of making this report, detailed as follows:

i. **Civilians:** 50 civilians were killed, including 8 children and 9 women

ii. **Gunmen:** 28 gunmen were killed





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

I. Conclusions and Recommendations:

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

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

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

Liability

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

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





Recommendations

The Security Council

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

Acknowledgment

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

