



# A Significant Rise in the Number of Casualties in April

Barrel Bombs are killing more civilians

**DCHRS documented 2852 victims including 373 children and 181 women during April, 2014**

As violence and systematic human rights abuses continue by the Syrian government regime's forces. DCHRS documented in the month of April, 2014 a total of 2852 victims who were killed by regime's forces and their loyal militias in addition of the armed groups. 61% of them were civilians reaching a total of 1751 victims; however the other 1101 remaining victims were armed opposition forces and rebels accumulating a rate of 39% approximately.

DCHRS documented a total of 373 children victims at a rate of 13% of the total victims. In addition the number of documented women was 181 victims at a rate of 6%.

DCHRS analyzed that the main cause of death for 1215 victims was indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes targeting the residential areas in addition to 125 who were killed by sniping and indiscriminate shooting. Furthermore; the cases of extrajudicial killings and field executions that were perpetrated by regime's forces resulted in the death of 14 victims. In addition, the total number of victims who were tortured to death inside the prisons and the detentions centers of the Syrian security authorities was 227 victims. The number of victims who were killed by armed groups such as ISIL and other armed groups is 57 and 83 were killed by unknown source of bullets. Moreover, the number of people who were killed due to starvation and the imposed siege is 30.

The province of Aleppo, which is witnessing a reckless airstrikes assault using barrel bombs by the regime, recorded highest number of casualties totaling in 895 where 710 (79%) of them were civilians. Finally the center documented 7 non-Syrian victims from other nationalities who were fighting with Syrian Armed oppositions.

DCHRS learned that the Syrian regime forces continue to target civilians and they use direct brutal violence against them. As a result the number of civilians reached 61% of the total number of victims. Also since about 42% of the death cases were caused by shelling, missiles, barrel bombs, and airstrikes. DCHRS indicates and stresses that such high number of casualties in correlation to the cruel cause of deaths are obvious evidences that the Syrian regime forces are intentionally targeting civilians, ruthlessly punishing them, and recklessly ignoring any basic right of their existence. Furthermore the results clearly stated the violations of international human rights laws and humanitarian laws even with other causes of deaths such as torture, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of violations that are categorized under war crimes and crimes against humanity.

DCHRS demands protecting civilians according to the laws approved by the U.N in 2005. In addition since DCHRS is a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), DCHRS appeals to the international community to practically enforce the "Responsibility to Protect". Furthermore DCHRS calls all the international medical and humanitarian organizations to provide support, medical assistance, and relief to ease the suffering of the Syrian people inside Syria and abroad. Finally DCHRS demands to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity and to bring them to justice.

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**DCHRS** is an independent, non-governmental organization, established in 2005, located in the Syrian capital of Damascus. Its mission is to foster a spirit of support and respect for the values and standards of human rights in Syria. As such, DCHRS recognizes and adheres to all pertinent international human rights agreements and declarations issued by the UN.

- DCHRS is a member of the following international networks:
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)
- NGO Coalition for the international Criminal Court
- International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP)
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC)

DCHRS worked on a variety of documentation projects. Such projects included [daily casualty reports](#), massacre reports, and other human rights violations reports. Also DCHRS has been working on advocacy and lobbying in different human rights institutions in order to educate and acknowledge about the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria.. After the launch of the Syrian revolution, the center increased its activities through working, communicating, and coordinating with many members and activists. Thus the center began documenting daily violations committed by the Syrian regime forces that can be classified as crimes against humanity and war crimes. Such violations included: extrajudicial killings, massacres, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, rape, torture in prisons. DCHRS [opened local offices in Syria](#) in order to document, collect, and observe human rights violations on the ground. DCHRS submitted those reports to many international and regional human rights organizations and communicated with the Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic on Syria.