



## **The month of July reveals a significant raise in the number of civilian casualties**

### **DCHRS documented 2585 victims including 283 children and 268 women during July, 2013**

As violence and systematic human rights abuses continue by the Syrian government regime's forces, DCHRS documented in the month of July, 2013 a total of 2585 victims who were killed by regime's forces and their loyal militias. 70% of them were civilians reaching a total of 1798 victims; however the other 787 remaining victims were armed opposition forces and rebels accumulating a rate of 30% approximately.

DCHRS documented a total of 283 children victims at a rate of 11% of the total victims. In addition the number of documented women was 268 victims at a rate of 10%.

DCHRS analyzed that the main cause of death for 1211 victims was indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes targeting the residential areas. Furthermore; the cases of extrajudicial killings and field executions that were perpetrated by regime's forces resulted in the death of 188 victims. In addition the total number of victims who were tortured to death the prisons and the detentions centers of the Syrian security authorities was 181 victims.

The province of Damascus and its suburbs, which witnessed the most violent and fiercest battles, recorded highest number of casualties totaling in 823 where 535 out of them were civilians. Finally the center documented 17 non-Syrian citizens 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 a record high of 70% of the total number of victims. Also since 47% of the death cases were caused by shelling, missiles, 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.



## **Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies.**

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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

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. DCHRS [opened local offices in Syria](#) in order to document, collect, and observe human rights violations on the ground. 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 humanities and war crimes. Such violations included: extrajudicial killings, massacres, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, rape, torture in prisons. 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.