And Special Statistics on the 3rd Anniversary of the Syrian Revolution

Free Syria..... and the Difficult Labor
Violations Documentation Center in Syria

Violation Documentation Center in Syria is an independent civilian non-profit, non-governmental organization started its work of monitoring and documenting violations of human rights in Syria in April 2011.
The year 2013 was extremely bloody, in regard to the number of the martyrs who were killed by the regime forces, the massacres committed by Shabiha and the new weapons- especially the chemical ones- used to commit these massacres, the gravest of which was the one committed in Eastern Gouta on 21/8/2013, which claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians, mostly children and women. Then, VDC’s activists in the Eastern Gouta documented 932 martyrs, including 39 unidentified ones. In addition to chemical weapons, several new other weapons were used widely and systematically by the regime forces during the ongoing armed conflict, on top of which were the explosive barrels that hundreds of which fell on several rebellious towns and villages. The Eastern regions of Aleppo were a target for hundreds of them too, which resulted in horrific massacres and led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians. The regime forces imposed systematic hunger and blockade on the regions and towns near Damascus including Yarmouk Refugee Camp, the southern region of Damascus, Eastern Gouta, Moadamyeh and many neighborhoods of Homs. They also used cluster bombs and incendiary weapons like napalm against civilian targets, especially in Aleppo and Dara’a governorates.

**Methodology:**

Since its establishment in April 2011, VDC has adopted a specific clear methodology in collecting and verifying statistics and numbers. This methodology has developed dramatically with the development of the events on the ground to conform to the international standards for documenting. The center depends on several primary and secondary sources of information to monitor human rights violations in Syria. Moreover, a network of human rights activists inside Syria monitor violations and their merits to prepare data on this violation and make sure it meets the basic requirements of documentation ( who, where, when, how, why).

The human rights activists pays field visits to the houses of the victims that have been subjected to abuses to get detailed information about them directly (even their phone numbers for example). They also update the information already existing by the information they get from relatives, witnesses, field hospitals, papers of death and comprehensive lists issued by the local councils and revolutionary coordination in the cities and regions.
Gratitude and Indication:

As the Syrian Revolution enters its fourth year, VDC in Syria consider proper to include several important statistics that extend over the past three years of the revolution in addition to those on 2013. It also points out the following:

1. Regime’s fatalities are not included in the reported death toll.
2. These figures are not final in any way, and they are subject to continuous and periodic scrutiny by center’s activists and the field documentation team.
3. Figures may differ between reports even within the same district, and this can be referred to the territorial audit that would reveals places of errors and faults, as well as the continuous follow up to identify undistinguished martyrs whenever they are identified.
4. These figures do not include the fatalities of clashes between the opposition forces and the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS)/Da’ash.

East Ghouta, Damascus Suburbs, chemical attack 21-8-2013
1- In 2013, the Violation Documentation Center in Syria documented (40139) martyrs in all governorates of Syria, (35917) of whom were documented by names, and (4222) were unidentified i.e. 10% of the martyrs.

-As for the unidentified martyrs, (477) of whom were documented with a photo, (1489) were documented with a video, while the rest were documented only by witnessing.

2- The number of civilian martyrs was (26298) i.e. 65.50% of the total number of martyrs, while the number of non-civilians was (13841) i.e. 34.48% of the martyrs including 100 children under eighteen.
3 - The number of children under eighteen was (5019) i.e. 12.50 % of the number of martyrs, (3355) of whom are boys and (1664) are girls.

The number of female adults was (3413) i.e. (8.50 %) of the total number of martyrs, while the number of male adults was (31607) i.e. (78.74%).

4- The martyrs of 2013 distributed on all the months with an average number of (3344) martyr/month. The largest number of martyrs fell in March (4168), then in January (43148), February (3965), and finally in August when the chemical massacre happened claiming the lives of (3.917) people.
5- Shooting and regime snipers claimed the largest number of lives that is (15962) i.e. 39.75%, more than (2180) of whom died immediately after being sniped, while the number of those who were killed by artillery bombing, mortar shelling and surface-to-surface missiles is (11737) i.e. 30%, and those who were killed during air strikes were (4319) i.e. 11%.

New reasons of death occurred during this year including chemical bombardment and toxic gases by which more than a thousand martyrs were killed. Also (238) died out of hunger inside their besieged areas or because the regime forces prevent the access of any food stuff or aid supplies to them. Moreover, (103) martyrs died because the regime forces prevent them any medical help.

![The Number of Martyrs According to Death Causes](image-url)
6-Torturing people to death has increased drastically during 2013 in comparison with 2012 as the numbers have almost doubled. No day goes by without someone being tortured to death in the regime detention centers. VDC documented (2265) detainees who had been tortured to death with an average number of 188 martyrs/month i.e. 6 martyrs/day. April witnessed the largest number of those martyrs when (286) ones fell, followed by May when (237) fell.

- These martyrs fell in all governorates, yet the largest number of whom was in Rif-Dimashq, where (599) martyrs fell, then in Damascus city, where (324) martyrs fell, then in Homs city where (316) martyrs fell.
7- The largest number of martyrs in 2013 fell in Rif-Dimashq, where (10436) martyrs fell i.e. 26%, then in Aleppo, where (8481) martyrs fell i.e. 21%, then Homs, where (4449) martyrs fell i.e. 11% and finally in Dar’a, where (3607) martyrs fell.
As the Syrian Revolution comes to its fourth year, the numbers and statistics received from inside pose a great shock to both the regional and the international opinions for the rates of the Syrian regime crimes against the Syrian people have reached unprecedented levels. Documented figures show that tens of thousands of people -mostly civilians- were killed, tens of thousands are missing, more than two hundred thousands are detained and millions are displaced and refugees.

VDC in Syria provides numbers and statistics that have been documented during the last three years of the Revolution, which are specifically on the 3rd anniversary of the revolution. The center has documented (90511) martyrs since the beginning of the revolution, specifically from 15-3-2011 to 14-5-2014 that fell all over Syria.
1-During these last three years, civilian were the most targeted by the regime forces, especially during the second year when (34818) civilians were killed. However, during the third year, civilians were less killed by the regime due to the displacement of millions of them from their houses as a result of the military operations. Thus, the number of civilians killed during that year was (24129).

![Graph showing civilian and non-civilian deaths](image)

2 – Shooting and sniper fire; artillery, mortar and tank shelling in addition to aerial bombardment and the field executions were the four ways most used by regime forces to kill the Syrians. Yet, during the second year of the revolution, bullets and shelling as direct ways of killing were almost equally used as the number of those who were killed by the regime fire and snipers were (16659) and those who were targeted by artillery, mortar and tank shells were (14549).

![Graph showing various methods of killing](image)
For any questions and comments: editor@vdc-sy.org
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