

**Since the Start of the 2018
World Cup, Russian-Syrian
Forces Have Killed 71 Civilians,
including 20 Children,
and Displaced 270,000 Others**

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



The Syrian people was, for a moment, hoping that Russian forces would stop carrying out ruthless airstrikes in parallel with the 2018 World Cup at least seeing that changing its barbaric image was one of the main goals Russia sought in hosting the World Cup. It seems the tournament has indeed played a role in that. In this statement, however, we call on journalists, media workers, and human rights everywhere to remind the world of the war crimes that Russian forces have perpetrated in Syria since the start of the World Cup competitions, and raise attention that this state that is hosting the World Cup has killed 6,187 civilians, including 1,771 children and 670 women (adult female), since its intervention started in Syria. Those victims are recorded in SNHR's database with details including place, time, and pictures.

In parallel with the World Cup opening ceremonies on June 14, 2018, as the whole world was looking forward to watching the opening match which Russia was a part of, their forces were carrying out a barbarian attack on south Syria, an area that was part of agreements that Russia itself had struck, but it violated those agreement same as it did in all de-escalation zones.

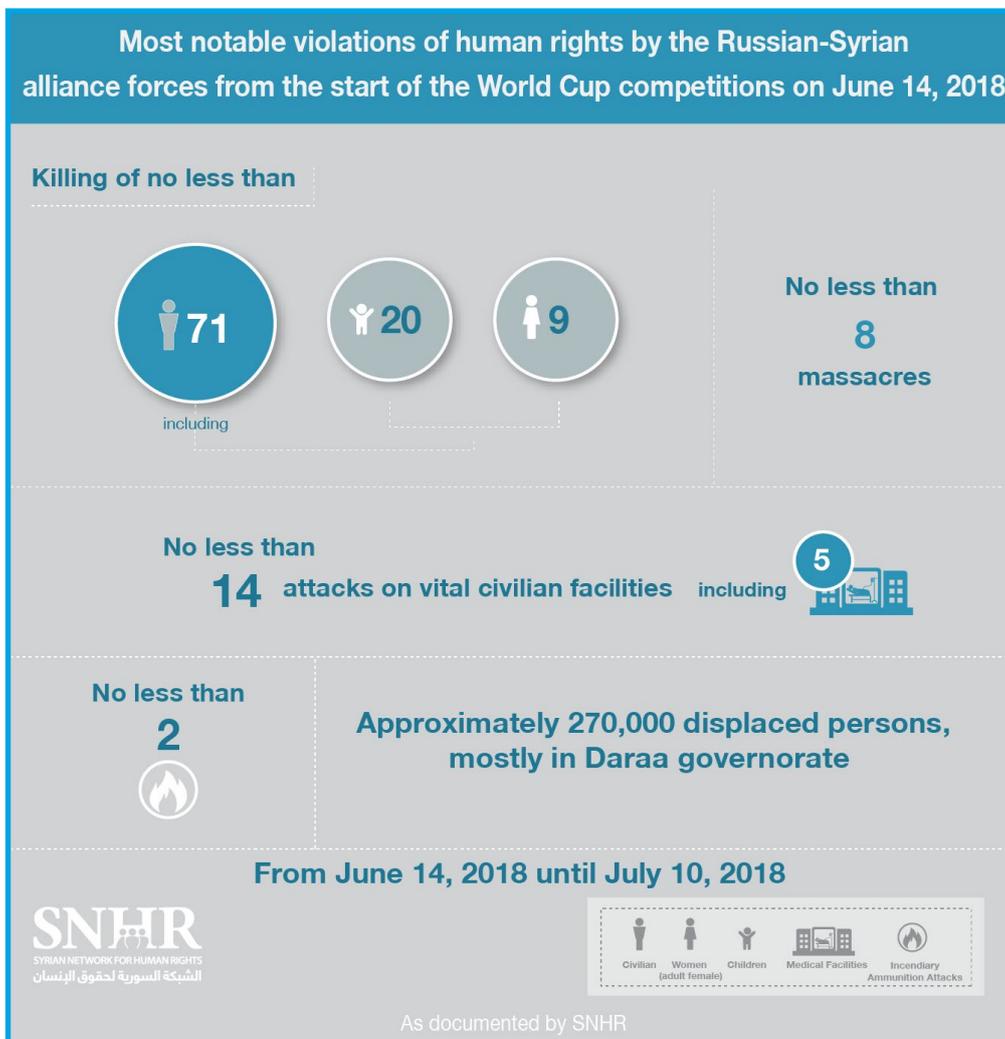
This statement sheds light on the most notable violations of human rights since the start of the World Cup on June 14 as documented by SNHR. We should note that these figures only include attacks by the Russian-Syrian alliance and not violations by Syrian regime forces. Russian forces, we believe, were involved in those attacks as investigations continue. The purpose of this is to focus on what Russian forces have done as their regime is trying to present itself as a civilized state that only wants to spread joy and love around the world by hosting the World Cup.

The most notable violations by the Russian-Syrian forces from the start of the World Cup competitions on June 14, 2018 until July 10, 2018 are as follows:

1. Killed no less than 71 civilians, including 20 children and 9 women (adult female)
2. Perpetrated no less than 8 massacres



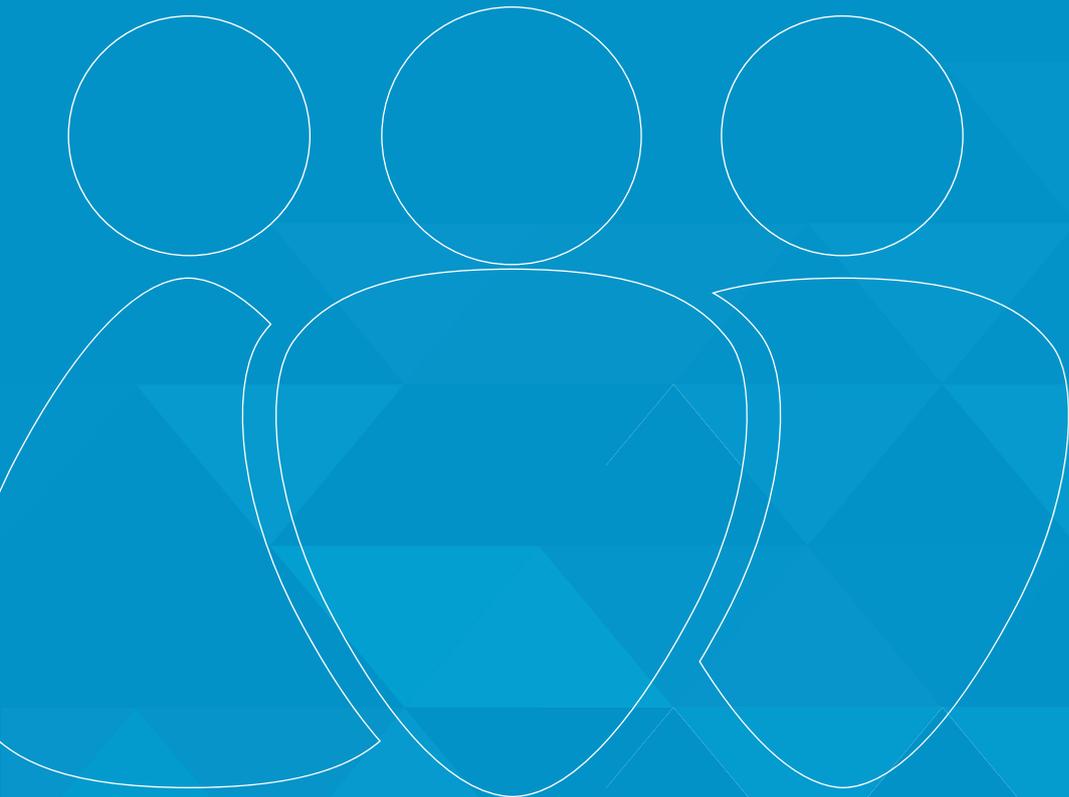
3. Carried out no less than 14 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including five attacks on medical facilities.
4. Carried out no less than two attacks using incendiary ammunitions in populated areas.
5. Contributed to displacing approximately 270.000 Syrians, mostly in Daraa governorate.
6. Violated the agreements it signed and killed the residents of the areas included in these agreements.



The Russian regime should

- Cease indiscriminate aerial attacks and consequently killing and perpetrating massacres, as well as deliberately bombing vital facilities.
- Reconstruct what the Russian military machine have destroyed and start compensating the families of the victims and the wounded, and shoulder the full psychological and social repercussions.
- Provide urgent aids for tens of thousands of people who have been displaced by the actions of the Russian military machine and work on having them returned to their homes and protect them from the savagery of Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias.





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