

Rising Proportion of Female Deaths in Syria

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The percentage of female casualties due to the conflict in Syria has been steadily rising since April, 2011. This alarming trend can be seen clearly in Figure 1 where the percentage of female deaths per month is recorded (data covers March 2011 – March 13, 2014 and is provided by humanitariantracker.org). Although there are some oscillations within the data, the overall percentage of female casualties has risen from less than 1% in April, 2011, to over 13% present day.

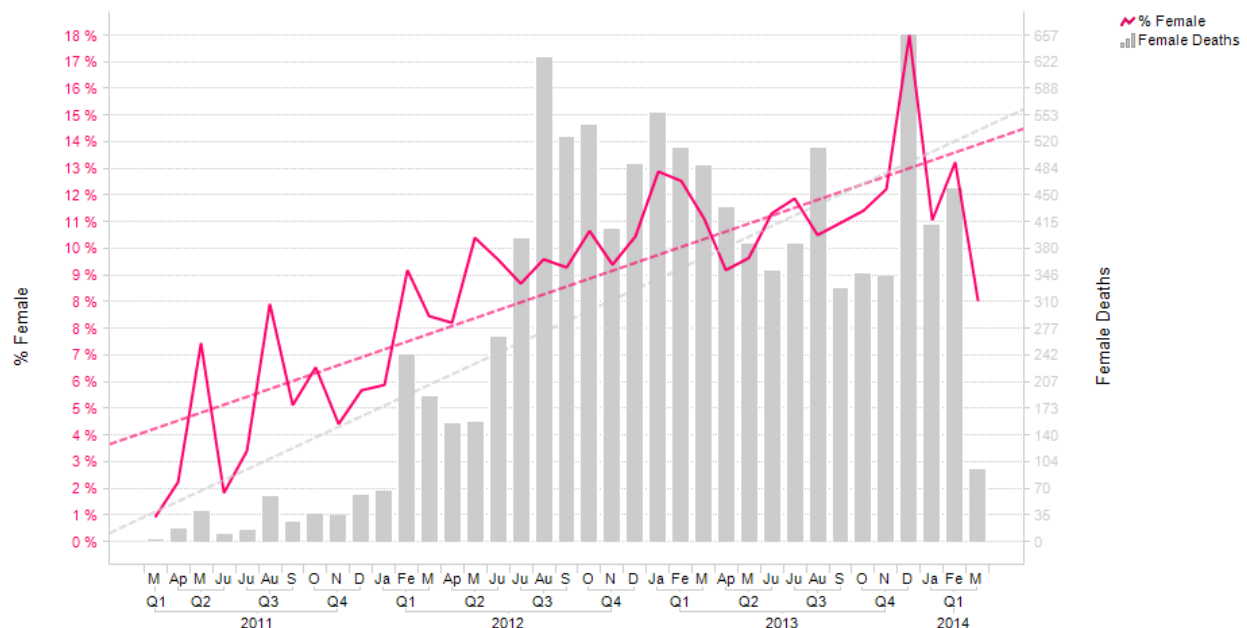


Figure 1. Monthly Proportions Of Female Casualties Over Time Due To The Conflict in Syria

No single cause of death appears responsible for the increase in the proportion of

female deaths, however it can be seen that the majority of female casualties in Syria have been due to artillery, which has been consistently responsible for more than 200 female deaths per month (Figure 2) since May 2012. Of the top causes of female deaths reported (Table 1) the first three are artillery, gun shot, and air bombardment, which contribute to over 85% of all female deaths and could be consistent with casualties due to collateral damage or indiscriminant killing.

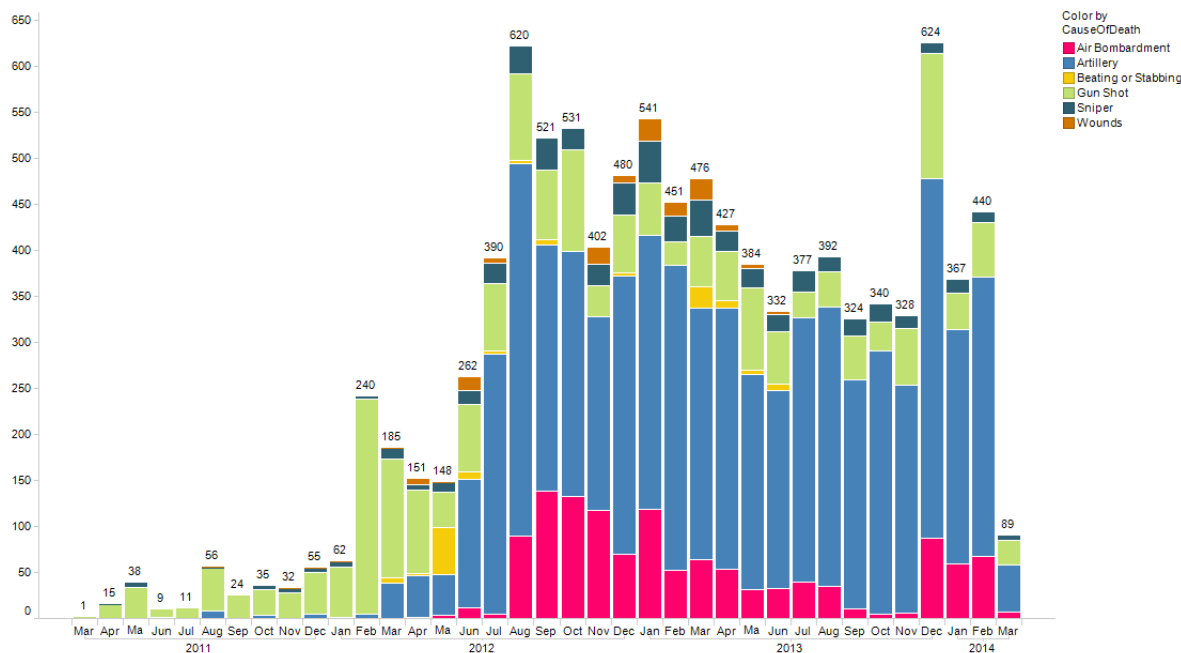


Figure 2. Count Of Female Casualties By Top Cause Of Death Over Time

Cause of Death	Artillery	Gun Shot	Air Bombardment	Sniper	Wounds	Beating or Stabbing
Female Deaths	6,027	2,114	1,236	528	128	127

Table 1. Top Causes Of Female Casualties April 2011 – March 13 2014

However some of the other top causes of female death are entirely different, including sniper fire as well as beating or stabbing. These types of casualties are not associated with collateral damage, but instead with intentional targeting. Geographically the proportions of female deaths due to artillery, gun shots, and air bombardments, are distributed evenly throughout the governances in the region (Figure 3). A similar distribution can also be seen in female casualties due to sniper fire; however a clear outlier exists for beating and stabbing related deaths in Homs (Figure 4) where the female gender comprises over 30% of the total

related casualties (figure 4). These may be mostly attributed to the May 25 2012 massacre in Tall Daww.

Proportion of Female Death by Cause and Governance March 2011 – March 13 2014

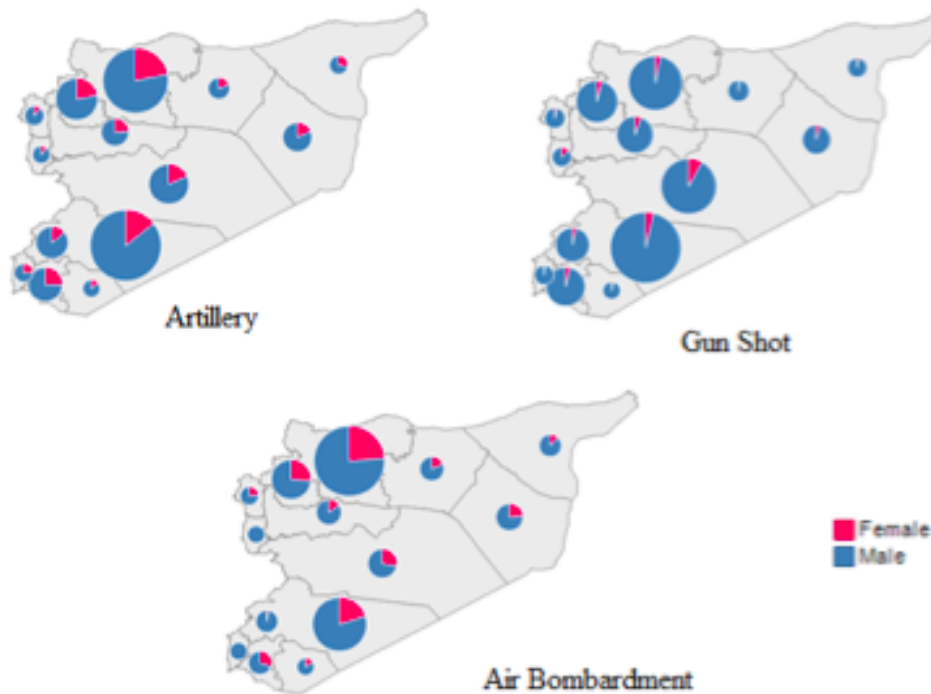


Figure 3. Proportions Of Female Casualties By Cause And Governance: Artillery, Gun Shots and Air Bombardment

Proportion of Female Death by Cause and Governance March 2011 – March 13 2014

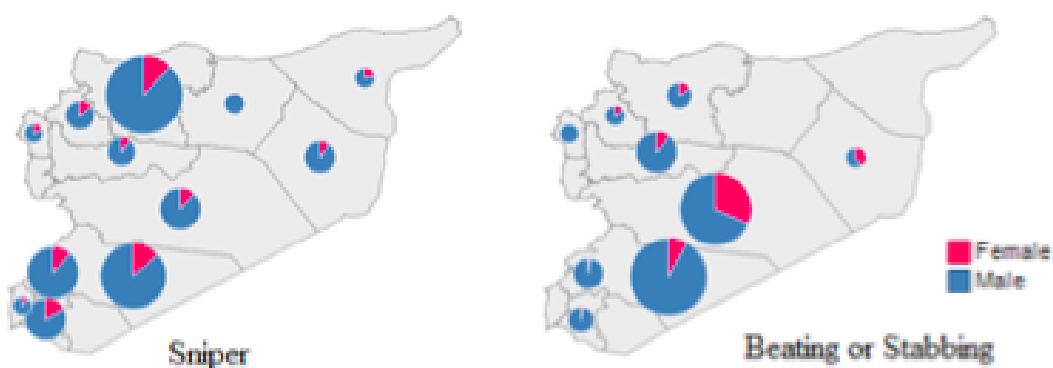


Figure 4. Proportions Of Female Casualties By Cause And Governance: Sniper and Beating or Stabbing

The conclusions from the data provided show a clear increase in the proportion of female deaths over time due to the conflict in Syria. Although the vast majority of these female deaths are occurring due to artillery, gun shots and air bombardments, a significant number (655) of female deaths are also associated with sniper fire and beating or stabbing. Currently 528 female deaths are a result of sniper fire alone, which is four times the number of female deaths associated with the use of chemical weapons (118 deaths). The intimate nature of deaths due to sniper fire and beating or stabbing suggests that the female population in Syria has been specifically targeted and that female deaths in Syria cannot be attributed to collateral damage alone.

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