

ISIS Forcibly Displaces about 150,000 People in Koubani

On Saturday 19 July, 2014, SNHR published a report about the displacement of 2100 family at least in northern Aleppo countryside at the hands of ISIS after its forces attacked these areas on 15 July, 2014 using heavy weapons such as tanks and artillery. At that time, SNHR warned of the catastrophic results that this highly-populated and poor area would endure.

On 15 September, 2014 ISIS forces focused its attacks on Ein Al-Arab “Koubani” area, which is under the control of the People’s Protection Units (YPG), which is affiliated with the Democratic Union Party’s (PYD). ISIS indiscriminately bombarded the areas using heavy artillery and mortar shells that targeted several towns and villages.

ISIS fighters attacked the Kurdish areas from three points (east, south, and west). On Friday, 19 September, 2014 the Kurdish forces were forced to withdraw from villages in eastern Koubani (Sarzouri, Khan, Koubrlak, Ahmadyan, Danai, Sybqran, Qaz’li, and Jarn). These villages are located 45 km to the east of Koubani. The residents of these villages were forced to flee to Koubani city “Ain Al-Arab” which is located near the Syrian-Turkish borders.

Some of the residents told SNHR that ISIS fighters looted and burned the houses of the people who worked for YPG.

At the same time, ISIS carried out an attack in western Koubani countryside on Tuesday 16 September, 2014 starting with Jarabouls city and Ash-Shyoukh town where ISIS managed to take over the areas to the east of Kharab Attou and Zour Maghar villages which are located 40 km to the east of Koubani “Ain Al-Arab” after heated clashes with YPG and Burkan Al-Furat operation room that includes FSA faction. Clashes also erupted in western Koubany countryside – Darkman village.

Also, ISIS attacked the Kurdish villages in the western countryside of the border toen Tal Abyad. YPG forces withdrawn from these villages while the residents fled to Koubany city in the west and some of them headed to the Syrian-Turkish borders.

ISIS managed to take over the following villages: (Qaz Ali, Kharbi Sounaj, Qrfal, Haj Fadel, Bier KYTEK, Sarouzi, Habbiek, Bier Arab, Koushkaz, Qartal.)

Similarly, ISIS forces looted the houses of the YPG soldiers that left the area.

Furthermore, ISIS executed and arrested some of the residents. SNHR documented the executing of five residents at the hands of ISIS:

Sinou Nebbou, 77-year-old, a mosque Imam.

Mohammad Osou Nibbou, 55 year old.

Mohammad Osoou Nibbou’s son, 30-year-old.

Muslim Qader

The previous four are from Qarrat Megh village in addition to Mohammad Ali Mesk, 66-year-old, from Jishan village.

In southern Koubani countryside, ISIS managed to take over Tourman village, which is located 40 km to the south of Koubani. Also, the heavy shelling forced thousands of these villages' residents to flee to Koubani city "Ain Al-Arab" and then many of them headed to the Turkish-Syrian borders near Qramough border village. However, the Turkish authorities didn't allow them to pass through Turkey which forced them to sleep in the open for three days. Some of those residents have told us that they were bitten by snakes and scorpions.

On Friday 19 September, 2014, the Turkish authorities opened the borders and allowed the displaced to enter. Nevertheless, no less than 15,000 people are still at the western and eastern entry points waiting for Turkish buses to come and take them to the Turkish town Sarrjouj. At the time, they are sleeping in the open. The largest displacement waves came from the villages of western Tal Abyad countryside: Kharbi, Sarounaj, Qarfal Haj Fadel, Bier Kietek, Sarouzi, Danniek, Bier Arab, Koushkar, and Qartal, In addition, displaced came from eastern Koubani countryside villages: Sarrouzi, Khan, Koubarlak, Ahmadyan, Danai, Sybqran, and Jarn.

Relief activist "Ismail Sharif" told SNHR about the tough conditions of the displaced families that living currently in the Turkish town Sarrjouj:

"We headed in the morning of Saturday 20 September, 2014 to the Turkish town Sarrjouj which is located next to the Turkish borders after the Turkish authorities allowed us to enter Turkey on Friday."

"Refugees has been flowing since Friday. Approximately, 50,000 refugees came to Turkey most of them came from the villages located to the east of Ain Al-Arab city."

Although Turkey secured most of the basic needs for those refugees including water and food, these refugees still need a suitable shelter with the rapidly increasing numbers of refugees who are flowing to Sarrouj and the upcoming winter. Also, there are large numbers of babies who need milk immediately.

Pictures of some of the families who were displaced from eastern Koubani countryside:







Conclusions:

The crimes perpetrated by ISIS including indiscriminate shelling, threatening residents, and looting their homes and the threat of weapon in addition to the extrajudicial killings are all classified openly as war crimes.

Recommendations:

The Security Council:

The Security Council should act upon its responsibilities regarding protecting civilians from the brutality if the Syrian regime and ISIS and insuring the restoration of stability and civil peace by ending the daily blood bath. Also, the Security Council should recognize that ISIS is a branch of the main problem which is the state's terrorism.

Regional states and Friends of Syria

To work on killing ISIS's resources and collaborate effectively to stop the weapon and money supply to ISIS. Also, these states should increase their aids to the families who displaced from Koubani.