

Shelling Al-Walid hospital in Alwaar neighborhood of Homs Governorate

**Government forces continues deliberate targeting of
hospitals and medical staffs**

Documented by: Syrian Network for Human Rights

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Introduction

Syrian Network for Human Rights noticed that there is systematic and deliberate methodology in targeting and destroying hospitals by government forces and Shabiha, which reflect negatively and blatantly on health sector: many doctors and nurses flee out fear of endangering their lives, many of them volunteered to work in field hospitals and other immigrated out of Syria.

All the destroyed hospitals located in areas under the opposition control, which is a clear evidence of targeting hospitals and medical staffs.

On the other hands hospitals in areas loyal to the regime are functioning normally and by government supports.

The methodology of this report based on the investigations conducted by SNHR's team in Homs governorate with number of residents and activists.

It contains the testimonies of an eyewitness from the residents documented in the report, in addition to news and pictures from cooperative activists inside the city.

The incident's details

Monday 18/11/2013, government forces shelled Al-Walid hospital in Alwaar neighborhood by surface to surface missile, he is the only functioning hospital that suffers from shortage of potentials, here we would like to point out that the neighborhood is entirely besieged from more than 38 days, and prevent the introduction of medical supplies.

Location map:



Testimony of an eyewitness resident known as Abo Jihad Al-Homsi:

Abu Jihad told Syrian Network for Human Rights about the incident of shelling Al-Walid hospital:

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

yaman abojehad

" The hospital consists of two parts right and left, basically it is a hospital birth, but when government forces control Albir hospital (the main and the big hospital in the neighborhood) and turn it into military barracks, the entire medical staff enforced to move to this hospital and use it, it is not prepared with all medical equipments and

devices, most of the staff are volunteered, two days ago about 9:30 pm, two mortar shell fell near the hospital, followed by huge explosion, then after those shells with almost 5 minutes we heard the sound of the missile, it looks like a warplane followed by very huge explosion, although my house is two blocks away from the hospital, but the glass of the window fell and the Aluminum dislocated, the electricity was cut off for more than 10 days, after the explosion we ran to shelling place, where we saw that it hit the left section of the hospital (the back door), because that the front door is surrounded by a sniper of government forces, we entered the hospital : the patients and nurses of the upstairs lying on the floor, the ground floor was totally destroyed, we started to aid wounded with the available materials, pulling bodies under the rubble. the buildings opposite the hospitals were mostly destructive"

" All the martyrs were inside the hospital"

" The right section of the hospital has been crushed, the door were dislocated and the windows and devices were fallen"

Testimony of resident known as Abo Bassam:

Abu Bassam told Syrian Network for Human Rights about the incident of shelling Al-Walid hospital:

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

kosve6667

" The number of hospital's carders are almost 35, most of them are volunteers, about 10 pm surface to surface missile targeted the ambulance section in Al-Walid hospital and the rest section which is located in the ground floor"

"Shelling caused 10 victims, most of them torn to pieces , we could recognize them from the clothes' pieces, all of them from the medical staff of the hospital, there were almost 40 injuries, we aided them to a field hospital contains one room and suffered from a huge shortage of medical equipments , the missile that targeted the hospital caused immediate shut down and the neighboring buildings were severely damaged"

Targeting citizens after shelling the hospitals

Government forces didn't get enough by shelling the hospital, killing the medical carders, but they also targeted citizens who rushed to rescue the injuries and wounded, where the snipers stationed on the roof of Al-Bir hospital (that turned into barracks by government forces) opened fire very heavily , which led to inability of residents of ambulance the wounded and they stayed in the hospitals for more than two hours that greatly exacerbated the injuries, not to mention that there were some people shot by snipers' bullets, which penetrated the same hospital and hit people inside.

Video of a nurse talked about the shelling incident:



Syrian Network for Human Rights' team in Homs governorate could document the kill of eight citizens including a child and four of medical staff including 2 ladies, We also could document almost 40 injuries were moderately and seriously wounded.

Name of the killed victims:

- 1- Lady Abeer Issa - nurse
- 2- Lady known as Om Suliman - nurse
- 3- Mohamad Khalaf Swide - nurse
- 4-Samer Suliman: nurse
- [5- Abdulghafar Sharaf Aldin](#)
- [6- Noor Alsharafli](#)
- [7- Child Omar Al-Omar: 16 years old](#)
- [8- Meraai Aliwi](#)

Proofs and attachments:

First: Videos and photos of the massacre:



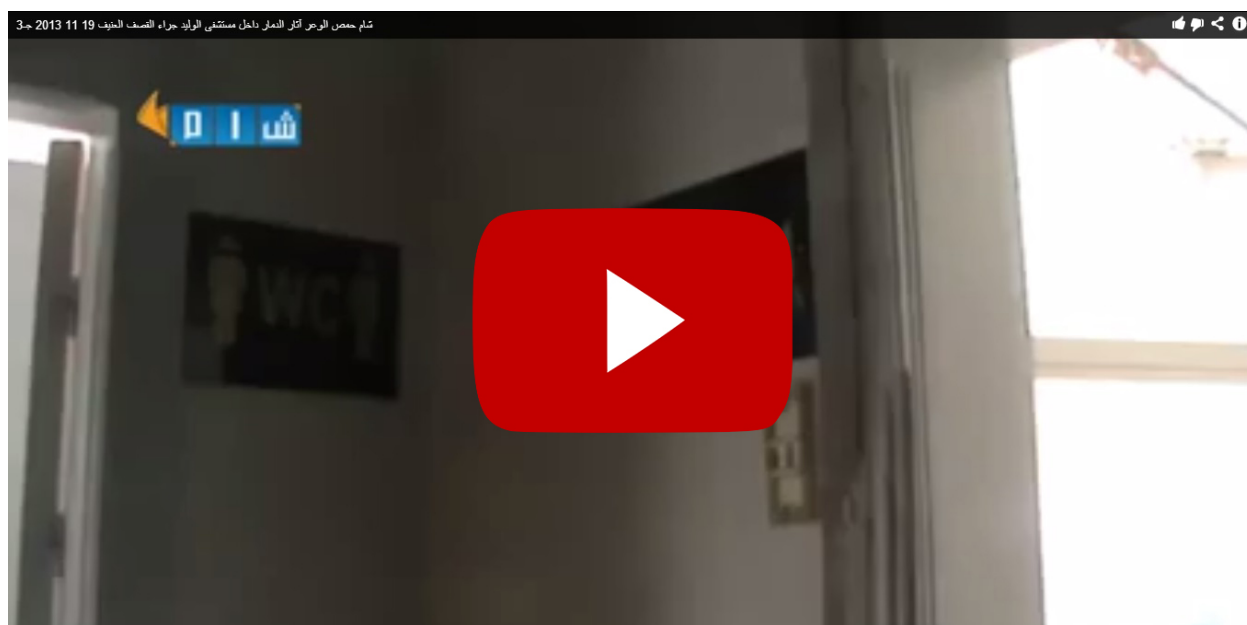




Second : Videos shows destructions in the hospital:









Third : Videos shows destructions in the neighborhood:





Conclusions:

1. Syrian network for human rights emphasize that the shelling of Al-Walid hospital was deliberately and aimed civilians, so the Shabieha and Government forces violated international human rights law that protects the right of life. in addition that it has committed in non-international armed conflict so it tantamount to war crimes and had all the elements
2. SNHR considered shelling school in Dier ez-Zoor accompanied by killings is a war crime, this is not the first time, but it's almost daily event in all Syrian governorate, so its systematic and widespread methodology.
- 3- Radom attacks committed by Syrian government consider as violations of customary IHL, because they shell populated areas, not specific military target.

4- Those attacks, specially shelling, caused accidentally losses in civilians lives, injury , or damaged civilian objects, there are very strong indications to believe that damaged was too excessive when compared with expected military benefit.

5.The size and repeated nature of the massacre, the level of excessive force used, in addition to the random nature of the shelling , and coordinating attacks cannot be but only supreme directives which is state policy.

Recommendations :

Human Rights Council:

- 1- Considering attacks that occurred in Syria on the hospitals as violation of basic human rights that affect his sanctities and dignity
- 2- Denounce violations committed by Syrian Government's Armed Forces against hospitals, and document those attacks
- 3- Pressure on the Syrian Government's Armed Troops and formally request to stop its violations against hospitals
- 4- Hold alias and supporters of the Syrian Government's Armed Troops (support with weapons and gear) to take clear positions on those violations and make diplomatic and political pressure to stop and end these violations

Arab League:

- 1- Denounce violations against hospitals , and document those attacks:
- 2- Pressure regionally and internationally to make effective decisions in this regard
- 3- Pressure on the Syrian regime to stop systematic and deliberate violations against hospitals
- 4- Demand the states that can effect on Assad regime to make it stop deliberate and widespread violations against hospitals.

Security Council:

- 1- Denounce violations against hospitals , and criminalized those attacks
- 2- Issue a binding decision against Syrian regime to stop all violations, specifically against hospitals.
- 3- Security Council should referred the situation in the Syrian Arabic Republic to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for investigation

International Commission of Inquiry :

The International Commission of inquiry must stop describing the conflict in Syria as a conflict between two equal parties in crimes, power and centralized decision , and give an accurate description of violations without alleviate for political purposes

The committee must also increase its carders in Syria because of the magnitude of the daily crimes committed to enable them of wider and more comprehensive documentation.

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