

Statement: First year anniversary of Ghouta chemical attack

The next Thursday 21 August will be the first year anniversary of the most horrible and atrocious tragedy in Syria. 1127 people suffocated to death in front of their families as the Syrian regime used chemical weapons to kill them in Ghoutas. On this occasion, we shall distinguish between three stages.

Before the massacre :

The massacre:

After the massacre and the Security Council Resolution

On 23 December, 2012, Al-Bayyada and Der Ba'lba in Homs city were targeted

Before the massacre:

The Syrian regime used gases likely to be poison 28 times. The first one of which were on 23 December, 2012 where Al-Bayyada neighborhood were targeted while the last time were on 21 July, 2013 where Al-Yarmouk camp in Southern Damascus were targeted. In total, 83 people were killed and 1272 others were injured by these attacks. Please see several previous reports and studies published by SNHR detailing these attacks.

Ghouta massacre:

Approximately at 3:00 in the morning when the weather is as cold as it gets in order to kill as many people as possible, government forces have shelled several location in Eastern & Western Ghoutas with missiles that carried sarin as it was proven by the UN's investigations. These attacks killed 1127 at least; more than 40% of whom were women and children in addition to about 9500 injuries.

After the massacre:

The Syrian government has signed on 14 June, 2014 the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty. On 28 June, 2014 Resolution 2118 was issued which contained 21 items that stated that the Security Council is to interfere, in accordance with Chapter VII, if the Syrian regime violated the agreement.

The Syrians were optimistic about the Resolution 2118 as they were assured that their sons won't have to suffocate to death anymore and they won't stand watching them in panic especially the resolution was issued in accordance with chapter IV.

The Syrian regime stopped using poison gases for a while. However, killing through torture, Scud missiles, barrel bombs, cluster munitions, artillery, and mortar shells and other traditional weapons. These weapons have killed 99% of the victims while chemical weapons killed 1%.

After the International position became "cold" again and with the Russian-Chinese cover, the Syrian regime used poison gases again at the beginning of 2014 where SNHR recorded in its last study entitled: "There is no red line" 27 attack at least using gases likely to be poison. These attacks targeted 11 areas in three governorates: Damascus countryside, Hama, and Idlib. These attacks killed 35 people including eight children and four ladies in addition to 920 injuries.

Although the Syrian regime used in these attacks that were after Resolution 2118 chlorine, which is less effective than sarin, the main goal of these attacks was still to terrorize the residents which was what happened.

After a year of this horrible massacre, which was considered the second largest attack using chemical weapons in the modern age, we are wondering why the UN investigation commission hasn't managed yet to identify the perpetrator of this horrible crime. Also, the Security Council should take serious steps in regard to the violating of its Resolutions at least.

