

Especial report about besieging neighborhoods in Aleppo city

Report prepared by SNHR

Aleppo is the second biggest governorate in Syria, and it's the economical capital of Syria, Syrian armed oppositions controlled the entire Eastern Area in Aleppo in 27/7/2013:

The areas that controlled by Armed Opposition:

BustanAlqasr, Kalasah, Sukari, Ferdos, Maadi, Bab Alnasr, Bab Alhadid, Bab Alnerb, Qaselah, Seven Pools, Aqaba, Old markets, Salhine, Marjah, KarmAlqsr, KarmAltahan, Qaterji, KarmAljazamati, Mashatia, ShikhKhuder, Sakhour, Myasar, KadiAskar, Zabdiah, Salah Aldin, Mashahad, America, Hanano, Haidaria, Ashrafia, Sheikh Maksoud, Halak and BustanBasha.

Areas that controlled by Syrian Regime and affected by besiege:

Zahraa, New Aleppo, Alneel street, Shahbaa, Mokambo, Mirdiane, Mohafazah, University, Jamiliah, Slimaniah, Aziziah, Baghdad station, Midan, Masharqa, Faid, Hamadaniah, Furqan, Hamidiam and SlimanAlhalabi.

Government Forces imposing besiege more that opposition forces, where they controlled five crossings:

Damascus- Aleppo highway

Ramosha

Mansorah

Shikh Said

Khanaser Road- defense Plants

While armed oppostions control one crossing, which is Karaj Alhajz, only for pedestrian, cars and trucks can't cross through.

There is Alshikh Roz crossing reachesbetween Quick riverbanks, one of its bank located in Alhalk neighborhood and controlled by government forces, and the other bank is in ShikhMaksoud neighborhood controlled by armed opposition on Friday 29/3/2013.

Free Syrian Army closed Karaj Alhajz crossing in 3/6/2013, which connect between eastern and western areas in Aleppo, they did it because government troops and Shabiha steal all relief aids that arrived to the eastern areas, which is the poorest and exposed to shelling and destruction.

Leader from FSA told us that they had to close it because the spread of government troops' snipers near the crossing and targeting every one come close.

This story supported by the kill of 74 citizen in the area by Government forces' snipers; including 12 women , and more than 398 get injured and transferred to field hospitals, according to SNHR statistic and documentations in Aleppo governorate. This is a stark evidence of targeting civilians, because the sniper exactly know that the target is women, among the victims there are two children:

[The following link contain all details of victims' names, and their photos and videos](#)

Who survive from sniping, may get arrested, beaten or robbery by the government forces' barrier in the other side, that's according to accounts told to us by residents in those areas.

Wednesday 4/7/2013, armed oppositions started battle to liberate western areas of Aleppo, which controlled by government forces, that's after armed opposition controlled JabalShoihna and Rashidine neighborhood, where government forces directly closed International Aleppo-Damascus countryside, and prevented goods, foods, drugs, individuals from coming in or out to Aleppo and this is the main reason of besieging the neighborhoods controlled by Government Forces.

As Government forces distribute large number of snipers at the entrances of neighborhoods controlled by, and stressed its security control on these neighborhoods and carried out raids, mass arresting, looting for large number of houses, controlling crossings and monopoly entry of goods causing huge rise in prices, and medical supplies and food started running out.

In the other side, armed opposition controlling the crossings that oversees those besieging neighborhoods and in many times prevented entering food materials in, then opened those crossing for a while and closed again in one condition to be opened for two hours every day, but only two crossings points controlled by armed oppositions, not enough to relief all neighborhoods, it has to be opened and allow access to all civilians' needs.

We have to record that Syrian Government also prevented the access of food and drugs to neighborhoods controlled by armed opposition, and daily shelled those neighborhoods, in addition to systematic burning of Aleppo countryside land which considered as the main source of these neighborhoods.

Sunday 14/7/2013, armed opposition send more than 30 trucks loaded with food and medical and donated by relief hands in order to inter it into besieging neighborhoods of Aleppo, but Syrian regime rejected introduce.

Syrian Red Crescent mediate between the opposition and Syrian regime, who allowed to introduce the aids by SRC by two crossings: Khan Alasal and Mansoura.

[Video shows introduction of relief aids into besieging neighborhoods, and interview with one of the responsible on relief materials](#)

Photo shows military barriers in the middle of besieging neighborhoods with security forces and Shabiha:

Alashrafia neighborhood 30/6/2013 : [Link 1](#)

Jamiliah neighborhood 3/7/2013 : [Link 1](#) - [Link 2](#)

Almohafazah neighborhood 4/7/2013 : [Link 1](#)

Alfaraj neighborhood 11/7/2013 : [Link 1](#)

Aljamiliyah neighborhood 12/7/2013 : [Link 1](#) - [Link 2](#)

Almasharqa neighborhood 15/7/2013 : [Link 1](#)

Jama'eatAlmohandsine neighborhood 16/7/2013 : [Link 1](#)

Alzahraa neighborhood 19/7/2013 : [Link 1](#)

[photo shows civilian gathered to get bread in Hamadaniah neighborhood 1/7/2013](#)

Legal Conclusions :

Government forces besieges neighborhood controlled by opposition as imposed siege on the areas they controlled by preventing introduce aids to, and they controlled the biggest crossings, so they hold the biggest responsibility of besieging these neighborhoods, which is a blatant violation of customary IHL and war crime, in addition Syrian regime commits crime of siege in different parts of the country in Homs, Eastern and Southern Damascus countryside, neighborhoods in the capital of Damascus, and some areas in Daraa.

Armed oppositions control less number of crossings that link to besieged neighborhoods and the opposition's leader hold the responsibility of keeping these crossings opened all the time, and closing the crossing consider siege, starvation, and violation of customary IHL and war crime.

Recommendations:

Syrian Government:

Syrian Government should open all crossing controlled by, and allow the introduction of permanent relief items and medical, commitment with customary IHL, where they hold the great responsibility

Armed Opposition:

Syrian Opposition's leader must pressure on the brigades that close crossings controlled by, to keep it open all the time and they hold the responsibility of violated customary IHL in this regard.

