23 Breaches on the Fourth Day of Ankara Ceasefire Agreement
No less than 100 Breaches since the Agreement Went into Effect, and Russian Forces Target Two Schools in Aleppo

Tuesday, January 3, 2017
I. Introduction

SNHR documented the breaches that were committed by the parties to the conflict when Mr. Kofi Annan’s six-point plan was submitted in April, May, and June 2012 through daily reports. We kept sending daily copies of these reports to Kofi Annan’s office in Geneva until the plan was proven to be a failure especially because the Syrian regime continued to commit what were even beyond mere breaches, which manifested in violations that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, as we documented many of these crimes.

We did the same with the two Cessation of Hostilities ceasefires which were established on 27 February 2016 while the second ceasefire was on 12 September 2016 where we documented the breaches committed by the signing parties. The main party to violate to these ceasefires was the Syrian regime and his Iranian ally, and the Russian regime.

On 30 December 2016, a comprehensive ceasefire agreement was announced under a Russian-Turkish sponsorship. The signing parties, the Syrian regime on one side, and armed opposition factions on the other side, pledged to cease all combat offensives including airstrikes, and to cease raids and advancements on the ground. However, military areas under the control of ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State) were excluded from the agreement.
This report sheds light on every breach committed (Combat operations and arrest operations) by the parties that are bound by the truce agreement (Government forces, Russian forces, and armed opposition factions) in areas under the control of armed opposition factions and areas under a joint control (armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front). The report doesn’t include any combat operations in ISIS-held areas. We have reviewed the pictures and videos we received and verified their authenticity using a private software. Also, we have talked to survivors, victims’ families, or eyewitnesses to some of the incidents.

On Monday 2 January 2017, armed opposition factions that agreed to the ceasefire agreement released a statement in which they announced that they will suspend any talks regarding the ceasefire agreement in response to the breaches that were committed by the Syrian regime forces and its ally the Iranian regime.

II. Executive Summary

This report includes the breaches that were documented during the fourth day of the ceasefire agreement that went into effect on Friday 30 December 2016. There were 23 breaches through combat operations by the Syrian regime and Russian forces including a number of breaches that occurred in the past days of the truce, but weren’t included in our last report as they were still under investigation.

The breaches are distributed across governorates by the perpetrating party as follows:

**A. Syrian regime forces**

We recorded 19 breaches distrusted across governorates as follows:

- Homs: 8
- Hama: 5
- Daraa: 6

**B. Russian forces**

We recorded four breaches distributed across governorates as follows:

- Hama: 1
- Aleppo: 2
- Idlib: 1
These attacks resulted in the killing of two civilians in attacks carried out by the Syrian regime.

We also received reports on Russian/Syrian airstrikes targeting Wadi Barada area, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, while there are members of Fateh Al Sham Front in Wadi Barada. We haven’t included these incidents in our report as we are still investigating and following-up on these reports in light of the difficulties getting to eyewitnesses and media activists in that area.

II. Details

A. Syrian regime forces

Daraa governorate

Daraa Al Balad neighborhood: Saturday 31 December 2016, wasn’t mentioned in our last report as we were following-up on it

We recorded four incidents by Syrian regime forces. The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

First incident: Around 12:30, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at a residential area in Daraa Al Balad in Daraa city.

Second incident: Around 18:30, Syrian regime forces fired a number of mortar shells at a residential area in Daraa Al Balad neighborhood.

Third incident: Around 18:35, Syrian regime forces used heavy machine guns to target a residential area in Daraa Al Balad neighborhood.

Fourth incident: Around 23:30, Syrian regime forces fired a locally-made rocket (cylinder) at a residential area in Daraa Al Balad neighborhood.

Brigade 52

Around 12:30, Syrian regime artillery fired an artillery shell at Brigade 52 which is under the control of armed opposition factions. There is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front among the forces in Brigade 52.

Koum Al Rumman area

Around 16:00, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of shells at a residential area in Koum Al Rumman area. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.
Homs governorate
Al Rastan city
We recorded three breaches by Syrian regime forces. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS. 
First incident: Around 14:15, Syrian regime forces used heavy machine guns to target a residential neighborhood in Al Rastan city. 
A video showing the use of heavy machine guns by Syrian regime forces in Al Rastan city
Second incident: Around 15:30, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of shells at a residential area in Al Rastan city. 
Third incident: Around 15:30, Syrian regime forces fired a number of mortar shells at a residential area in Al Rastan city. 
The shelling resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Snaysel village
Around 18:15, Syrian regime tanks fired a number of shells at a residential area in Snaysel village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Joualak village
Around 18:15, Syrian regime tanks fired a number of shells at a residential area in Joualak village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Al Mahata village
Around 18:17, Syrian regime tanks fired a number of shells at a residential area in Al Mahata village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Um Sharshouh village
Around 23:10, Syrian regime artillery fired two artillery shells at a residential area in Um Sharshouh village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.
Talbisa city
Around 23:15, Syrian regime forces used heavy machine guns to target a front for armed opposition factions in Talbisa city. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Hama governorate
Al Latamena town
Around 23:15, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at the residential neighborhoods in Al Latamena town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Kafr Zita city
Around 23:17, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at a residential area in Kafr Zita city. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Al Iweibda village
Around 23:15, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at a residential area in Al Iweibda village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Zour Al Heisa village
Around 23:00, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at a residential area in Zour Al Heisa village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Aidoun village
Around 20:30, Syrian regime artillery fired a number of artillery shells at a residential area in Aidoun village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.
B. Russian forces

Hama governorate
Al Sermaniya village
Around 19:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles in Al Sermaniya village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

Idlib governorate
Jesr Al Shoghour city
Around 17:35, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian carried out two missile airstrikes that targeted the western outskirts of Jesr Al Shoghour city near Al Zera’a school. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.

Aleppo governorate
Kafr Kar village: Sunday 1 January 2017, wasn’t mentioned in our last report as we were following-up on it
Sunday morning, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at Kafr Kar village in the southern suburbs of Aleppo targeting the elementary school in the town, which resulted in destroying the school’s building and schoolyard. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.
Miznaz village: Sunday 1 January 2017, wasn’t mentioned in our last report as we were following-up on it. Sunday morning, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles in Miznaz village in the western suburbs of Aleppo targeting Miznaz elementary school. The school was destroyed, and its furniture was damaged. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions where there is no presence for Fateh Al Sham Front or ISIS.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Russian regime

Considering that most of the breaches were by the Syrian regime and its ally on the ground the Iranian regime, who both would be the most affected by any political agreement that aims towards a comprehensive settlement, the Russian regime, being a primary sponsor of the agreement, must apply pressure on the Syrian-Iranian regime to compel it to seriously commit to the agreement’s provisions. Otherwise, the ceasefire will ultimately fail.

Russian forces have to not breach the agreement, and cease bombing civilians. Any other breaches by the Russian forces, who should supposedly oversee the implementation of the agreement, will demolish the credibility of any future Russian sponsorship.

Acknowledgment

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