47 Massacres Documented in August

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Executive Summary

SNHR documented in the month of August no less than 47 massacres as follows:
Government forces: 39 massacres
Daesh: six massacres
Armed opposition groups: one massacre
Unidentified groups: one massacre
SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involved: "the deliberate killing of five unarmed people at least" for more information about our methodology, please visit the following URL
The regional distribution of the massacres was as follows:
Aleppo: 13 massacres
Idlib: eight massacres
Der Ezzor: seven massacres
Damascus countryside: six massacres
Daraa: five massacres
Hama: four massacres
Ar-Raqqa: two massacres
Homs: two massacres

In total, 507 were killed in those massacres including 141 children and 68 women. The percentage of children and women victims of the total number of victims is 41.2% which is a considerably high percentage that indicates that civilian residents were deliberately targeted in those massacres.
The distribution of these massacres by victims was as follows:
Government forces killed 438 victims including 128 children and 67 women.

Daesh killed 49 victims including one woman.
Armed opposition groups killed nine children
Unidentified groups killed 11 victims including six children

Details

A. Massacres perpetrated by government forces:

Aleppo

1- On 1 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Aleppo – Minbij city with one missile. SNHR documenting team documented 10 victims including two women.

2- On 2 August, 2014, Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Aleppo – Ash-Shaikh Ali to kill eight victims including one child and one woman.

3- On 7 August, 2014, Government forces warplanes targeted Aleppo countryside – Al-Qasimiya village with one missile which killed five victims including one child and three women.

4- On 9 August, 2014, government forces warplanes dropped a barrel bombs on Aleppo city – Al-Ma'adi neighborhood to kill 17 victims including two children and two women in addition to destroying many shops and residential buildings.

5- On 10 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Aleppo – Der Hafer town with a missile which killed six children including one child.

Bab An-Nayrab Massacres

6- On 11 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Aleppo city – Bab An-Nayrab neighborhood to kill 19 victims including six children and two women.

7- On 12 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a small garage in Aleppo – Al-Bab city to kill five victims including three children and one woman.

8- On 15 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Bab An-Nayrab neighborhood. 15 victims including four children and one woman were documented by SNHR documenting team.

9- On 18 August, 2014, government forces targeted Al-Kawakbi Street in Aleppo – Menbej town with one missile. Eight victims including one child and one woman were documented by SNHR documenting team.

10- On 25 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Aleppo countryside – Dabeq town to kill 12 civilians including six children and three women.

11- On 28 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Aleppo countryside – Al-Bab city. 21 victims including 17 children were documented by SNHR documenting team.

12- On 29 August, 2014, government forces targeted Aleppo city – Bab An-Nayrab neighborhood with one missile which killed seven children including five children.

Idlib

1- On 2 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Al-Huda Surgical Hospital in Idlib – Hour town with, seemingly, two thermobaric missiles. 17 victims including six members of the hospital staff and five women were documented by SNHR documenting team in addition to documenting 15 injuries including patients at the hospital.

2- On 2 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Idlib – An-Najiya village. Seven victims including four women were documented by SNHR documenting team.

3- On 11 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Kafr Takharim city with one missile which killed nine victims including one child in addition to destroying many shops and residential homes.

Kafr Takharim city-Idlib

4- On 25 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Idlib countryside – Turkman Bareh to kill 12 victims including five women.

5- On 30 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Khan Shaikhoun city to kill eight civilian; six children and two women.

6- On 31 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Idlib countryside – Al-Hbiet town, which houses IDPs from Hama countryside – Kafrnabouda town, to kill 18 victims including seven children and six women.
7- On 31 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Saraqeb city to kill eight children and two women.

Damascus countryside

1- On 3 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted a popular market in Damascus countryside- Kanaker city. 41 victims including six children and five women in addition to 85 other injuries were documented by SNHR documenting team. Also, the shelling destroyed many shops and nearby civilians' houses.

2- On 3 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Al-Quatli Street in Damascus countryside – Douma to kill 26 victims including five children and two women.

3- On 4 August, 2014, government forces artillery targeted Damascus countryside – Ain Tarma with a number of mortar shells to kill five victims including two children.

4- On 14 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus countryside – Der Al-Assafir town to kill 13 victims including one woman.

5- On 18 August, 2014, government forces artillery targeted Damascus countryside – Douma city with a number of mortar shells to kill six victims including one child and two women.

6- On 29 August, 2014, government forces artillery targeted Damascus countryside – Douma city with a number of mortar shells to kill six victims including two children.

Daraa

1- On 2 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Daraa – Bosr Al-Harir town to kill six brothers.
http://youtu.be/cpxbeLpx-Y4
http://youtu.be/yR50SP1JLvI
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5pudHajcbMuS21xcWlZY3NkYmc/view?usp=sharing

2- On 9 August, 2014, government forces artillery targeted Daraa countryside – Al-Karak town to kill five victims.

3- On 15 August, 2014, a bombed car was detonated in front of Al-Ber Wal At-Taqwa Mosque in Daraa countryside – Nemer town. 23 victims including four children and one woman were documented by SNHR documenting team. Also, the front of the mosque was semi-completely destroyed. The evidences found in our investigations suggested that government forces were behind the bombing.

4- On 22 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Daraa – Dael city to kill five children.

5- On 30 August, 2014, government forces dropped two barrel bombs on Daraa – Nawa city to kill five civilians including one child and two women.

Hama

1- On 1 August, 2014, government forces artillery targeted Hama – Ma'zraf village with mortars to kill 10 civilians including six children and three women.

2- On 4 August, 2014 government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Hama countryside – Aqrab town. Five victims including two children and one women were documented by SNHR documenting team.

3- On 10 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted Al-Hal Market in Hama countryside – Al-Latamna city. Five victims including two children were documented by SNHR documenting team.

4- On 22 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Hama countryside – Hasraya village to kill five civilians including two children and one pregnant woman who died along with her unborn baby.

Ar-Raqqa

1- On 23 August, 2014, government forces warplanes targeted the National Hospital in Ar-Raqqa – At-Tabaqa city to kill 10 victims including one female child and four members of the hospital medical staff.

National hospital in Ar-Raqqa At-Tabaqa city

2- On 24 August, 2014, government forces warplanes carried out two airstrikes targeting An-Na'iem circe in Ar-Raqqa city to kill 10 victims including one female child and two women.

Homs

1- On 14 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Homs – Ar-Rastan city to kill 16 victims including nine children and four women in addition to destroying many homes.

National hospital victims in Ar-Raqqa At-Tabaqa city

2- On 30 August, 2014, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Homs – Ar-Rastan city to kill nine victims including one child and three women, one of whom died along with her unborn child.

Der Ezzor

1- On 26 August, 2014, government forces targeted Der Ezzor – Al-Hawayej town to kill 13 victims.

B. Massacres perpetrated by Daesh

Der Ezzor

1- On 5 August, 2014, Daesh forces raided Der Ezzor countryside – Al-Jarthi town and slaughtered seven civilians using knives.

2- On 9 August, 2014, Daesh artillery targeted Der Ezzor countryside – Ash-Shwyet tribe areas with a number of mortar shells to kill 18 victims including one woman.

3- On 9 August, 2014, Daesh forces slaughtered five victims from Ash-Sh'etat tribe in Der Ezzor countryside.

4- On 12 August, 2014, Daesh bombed a car in Der Ezzor countryside – Al-Bahra area which killed six victims.

5- On 15 August, 2014, SNHR documented the raid of Ash-Sh'etat area in Der Ezzor countryside and the execution of seven victims at the hands of Daesh. The day on which the massacre took place haven't been documented.

6- On 23 August, 2014, Daesh forces slaughtered six victims in Der Ezzor countryside – Al-Ghraniej village.

C. Massacres perpetrated by armed opposition groups

Idlib

1- On 9 August, 2014, an armed opposition group targeted As-Siddeaq Mosque in Idlib city with a number of mortar shells to kill nine children.

D. Massacres perpetrated by unknown groups

Aleppo

1- On 1 August, 2014, a number of mortar shells hit Ar-Radwan Mosque in Aleppo city – Al-Hamdaniya to kill 11 civilians including six children. SNHR team hasn't been able to identify the group that carried out the attack.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Government forces

1-SNHR affirms that the shelling, whether it was indiscriminate or deliberate, targeted unarmed civilians. Therefore, the government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict and can be classified openly as war crimes.

2- SNHR also believes that what happened in those massacres can be classified as a crime against humanity.

3- These attacks, especially aerial shelling, have caused humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage if there were any. In all cases there were no confirmed military targets during or

before the attacks.

4- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state's policy.

ISIS

The executing and killing policy adopted by ISIS seems to be systematic and widespread. We believe those attacks can be classified as war crimes.

Armed groups

Armed groups indiscriminate undifferentiating shelling is considered a war crime according to the Humanitarian International Law. Those shelling attacks resulted in causalities and destruction.

Recommendations

The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping the disrupting of the decisions that must be adopted by the Security Council against the Syrian government. This disruption is a wrong message to all dictatorships around the world and an enhancement to the culture of crime.
2. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.
3. Binding the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Investigation Committee and allowing them to work freely.
4. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to international peace and security.
6. Listing the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government that committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implementing the principle of "protecting civilians" adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
8. With the crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian government, the international community should stop dealing with this government as an "official side" concerning the relief issues, and stopping supplying the Syrian government with the most amounts of financial and humanitarian aid that, in most cases, don't reach those who are in need them and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian regime.

Human Rights Council

1. Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning the sufferings of the Syrian people which include killing, arresting, raping and displacement.
2. Pressing on the Syrian government in order to stop the acts of killing and torture.
3. Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.
4. Human Rights Council must be more invested and serious concerning the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.

The Arab League

1. Punishing all those who are involved in committing crimes in Syria and urging all the countries of the world to do the same thing.
2. Increasing humanitarian aid, especially on the levels of education and health care and taking care of the Syrian refugees in the Arab countries.
3. Requesting the Security Council to execute the above recommendations.
4. Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest to the case of daily killing in Syria.
5. To pay greater attentionto the Syrian case, and working on taking care of the families of the victims psychologically, materially and educationally.
6. Pressing politically and diplomatically on the main allies of the Syrian government; Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

The International Investigation Committee most stop depicting the struggle in Syria as a struggle between two sides equal in crimes, power and the centralization of decisions. It must describe the crimes as it is without belittling their extent for political reasons. The committee must also increase the number of its staff who work on the Syrian issue due to the amount of the crimes committed daily in Syria for a more comprehensive documentation.

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