



Not Less than 58 Massacres Committed in July 2015 39% of the Victims were Women and Children

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I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented no less than 58 massacres committed in July 2015, detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (including army, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shitte militias) committed 52 massacres.

B. Extremists Islam Groups:

ISIL committed three massacres

C. Armed Opposition Groups committed one massacres

D. International Coalition Forces committed two massacres

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves: “the killing of five unarmed people at least”, for more information on our methodology, please visit the following URL:

The regional distribution of the massacres that were perpetrated in July 2015 is as follows:

Aleppo: 26 massacres

Idlib: 11 massacres

Homs: 2 massacres

Hama: 3 massacres

Damascus Suburbs: 5 massacres

Daraa: 7 massacres

Deir Al Zour: 2 massacres

Al Raqqa: 2 massacres

According to SNHR documenting team, 524 victims were killed in these massacres, amongst 133 children and 70 wom-





en. 39 % of these victims were women and children, which is a notably high rate that indicates that civilians were targeted deliberately in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres based on its perpetrators:

- Government Forces: killed 476 victims, amongst 122 children and 77 women
- Extremists Islamic Groups:
- ISIL: 26 civilians, including 2 children
- Armed Opposition Groups: 5 civilians, including 4 children
- International Coalition Forces: killed 17 civilians, including 6 children

The death toll of these massacres according to conflict parties in respect of Syrian governorates:

Distribution of massacres according to conflict parties during July 2015				
Conflict Party	Government Forces	ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	International Coalition Forces
Governorate				
Damascus Suburbs	5			
Aleppo	24	1	1	
Daraa	7			
Idlib	9	1		1
Homs	2			
Hama	3			
Deir Al Zour	2			
Raqa		1		1

II. Report Details:

Government Forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

1. On 1 July 2015, government aviation launched two thermal missiles on Tedef town in Al Bab city in Aleppo killing 8 individuals including 4 women and injuring 10 others.

2. On 7 July 2015, [government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Al Ma'adi neighborhood](#), which is under the control of armed opposition groups in Aleppo. 13 individuals were killed, including 4 children and two women. The shelling destroyed a number houses.





3. On 8 July 2015, [government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on residential buildings next to Abdulrahman Mosque in Karm Al Beik neighborhood](#) that is under the control of armed opposition groups in Aleppo. [20 individuals were killed including 6 children and 2 women. A three story building was completely destroyed.](#)



4. On 11 July 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Al Hal market in Al Bab City in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control. 13 individuals were killed in addition to the destruction of a number of commercial shops and the burning of a number of vehicles.

5. On 11 July 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on residential buildings around Al Asani School surrounding in Al Bab city in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control killing 10 individuals, including 5 children and 3 women.

6. On 11 July 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on a parking lot next to fuel station in Al Bab city in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control. A number of cars were burned.

7. On 12 July 2015, government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on Al Baza'a town (eastern of Aleppo suburbs) that is under ISIL's control. 8 individuals were killed, 5 children and 3 women, also a number of houses were destroyed.

8. On 13 July 2015, [government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on a fuel market in Al Bab city that is under ISIL's control.](#) 15 persons were killed and a great number of cars were burned.

9. On 13 July 2015, government warplanes [dropped two barrel bombs on residential buildings in Al Bab city](#) in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control. 14 individuals were killed, including 3 children and 4 women. A number of houses was destroyed.





18. On 19 July 2015, government forces launched a thermal rocket on Al Kalasa neighborhood that is under armed opposition groups' control. As a result, 5 individuals were killed, including 4 from one family.

19. On 20 July 2015, government warplanes launched a thermal rocket on houses in the surrounding of Abu Firas Al Hamadani school in Minbij city in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control killing 7 children.

20. On 20 July 2015, government warplanes launched a thermal rocket on residential buildings in l Share'ya town in Minbij in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control. 8 individuals were killed, including 2 children

21. On 20 July 2015, government warplanes launched a thermal rocket on Al Kunbour Street in Minbij city in Aleppo that is under ISIL's control. 10 individuals were killed, including 2 women.

22. On 20 July 2015, government aviation shelled a thermal rocket in Al Kheir Mosque surrounding in Al Bared street in Minbij city in Aleppo that is under the control of ISIL. 5 individuals were killed including two women.

23. On 21 July 2015, [government artillery forces, stationed in Al Tasleeh school in Aleppo, shelled Al Maghayer town in Old Aleppo](#) that is under armed opposition forces' control. As a result, [28 individuals were killed, including 5 children and two women. 30 houses were almost completely destroyed.](#)

24. On 22 July 2015, government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on Kaser Al Breij town in Al Bab city in Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control. 18 individuals were killed, including 4 children and 3 women. 30 others were injured.





Idlib Governorate:

1. On 7 July 2015, [government warplanes shelled Madaya town in Idlib killing 5 persons of one family, including 3 children.](#)



2. On 13 July 2015, [government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Al Fatira town in Idlib killing 13 individuals including two children and 3 women.](#)



3. On 16 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Khaween town in Idlib killing 8 civilians, including 7 children.

4. On 16 July 2015, [government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Ma'art Misreen town in Idlib killing 16 persons, including 2 children and a woman.](#)

5. On 16 July 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Urm Al Jouz town in Idlib killing 10 individuals including 3 children.

6. On 23 July [government warplanes shelled Al Barra town in Idlib with a number of rockets killing 7 individuals](#) including a child and two women.

7. On 24 July 2015, government warplanes raided Kafrmous town in Idlib with rockets. The shelling killed 8 individuals, mostly from one family, including 4 children and 3 women.





8. On 28 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Knasfara town in Idlib with a rocket killing 7 individuals, most of them were from one family.

On 29 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Saraqeb town in Idlib with four rockets killing 16 persons, including 5 children and 2 women.

Daraa Governorate:

1. On 1 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Tayba town in Daraa with barrel bombs killing 5 individuals from one family, including 3 children and a woman.

2. On 1 July 2015, [government warplanes shelled Saida town in Daraa with rockets killing 15 individuals](#), including a child.

3. On 7 July 2015, government warplanes [shelled Nasseb town in Daraa with a number of rockets killing 9 individuals at once](#), including 6 children and 2 women.

4. On 10 July 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Al Hara town in Daraa killing 7 individuals from one family, including 5 children and a woman.

5. On 19 July 2015, government warplanes dropped a number of barrel bombs on Busra Al Sham city in Daraa which led to the death of 6 individuals from one family, including 2 children and 3 women.

6. On 23 July 2015, [government warplanes a number of dropped bombs on Al Gharbiya town in Daraa. 15 persons were killed, including 7 children and 5 women.](#)

7. On 24 July 2015, government aviation shelled Al Yadouda town in Daraa with a number of rockets killing 8 individuals from one family, including 3 children and 3 women.





Damascus Suburbs:

1. On 5 July 2015, government aviation shelled Ein Terma in Damascus suburbs, which is under the armed opposition groups' control with a number of rockets killing 6 individuals, including a child.



2. On 18 July 2015, government warplanes shelled a number of rockets on Erbeen city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups. 12 individuals were killed including 3 children and 2 women.



3. On 20 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Erbeen city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups with a rocket. 5 persons were killed, including a woman.

4. On 27 July 2015, government aviation raided Douma city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups. One rocket killed 6 individuals, including a woman and her foetus.

5. On 31 July 2015, government artillery forces shelled Madaya town in Damascus suburbs that is under the armed opposition groups' control. 5 individuals from one family were killed, including 2 children and 2 women.

Hama Governorate:

1. On 4 July 2015, [government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Al Latamina city in Hama killing 5 individuals](#) from one family, including a child.

2. On 5 July 2015, [government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Al Hawash town in Hama](#) killing 5 individuals from one family including a woman.

3. On 30 July 2015, government artillery forces shelled a tractor on Al Inkawi road in Hama killing 5 individuals from one family including 4 children.





Homs Governorate:

1. On 5 July 2015. Government warplanes shelled a Bedouin tent in Um Al Tabayeer town in Homs killing 9 persons including 2 women.
2. On 27 July 2015, government warplanes dropped a number of barrel bombs on Palmyra city in Homs killing 5 individuals from one family (a mother and her four children)

Deir Al Zour:

1. On 8 July 2015, the government rocket launcher shelled Al Sheikh Misken neighborhood in Deir Al Zour that is under ISIL's control with two rockets that contained toxic substances. 5 individuals were killed from one family, including 3 children. At least 25 suffocation incidents were recorded.
2. On 29 July 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Halabiya Rounabout in Al Salhiya town in eastern of Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control with two rockets. 10 persons were killed including 2 children. 15 others were injured.

ISIL:

Idlib Governorate:

On 3 July 2015, [one ISIL's suicide bombers bombed his self inside Najeeb Salem mosque in Areeha city in Idlib](#). 13 individuals were killed, including 6 civilians, and 35 others were injured. The mosque was partially damaged.

Al Raqqa Governorate:

On 5 July 2015, ISIL bombed a car at a PYD Kurdish forces checkpoint in Hashisha town in western of Raqqa suburbs. 5 were killed, including 2 children since their car was parked next to the targeted checkpoint. The victims were from Beir Mohamad Al Khder town.

Aleppo Governorate:

On 14 July 2015, an ISIL munitions vehicle exploded inside a residential compound in Sad Al Shahba region in Minbij city that is under ISIL control. 8 civilians were killed and the shops were partially damaged.





Armed Opposition Groups:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 25 July 2015, a gas cylinder was dropped on a house in Jadida Al Shahbaa neighborhood that is under the control of government forces. The gas cylinder came from an armed opposition controlled area in Jameit Al Zahraa neighborhood. 5 civilians from one family were killed including 4 children.

International Coalition Forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 4 July 2015, the international coalition forces shelled an ISIL vehicle with a rocket in Al Jamyli neighborhood in Raqqa next to Hamidiyat Al Zaher school. 7 civilians were killed and more than ten were injured due to the rocket shrapnel.

Idlib Governorate:

On 28 July 2015, the International Coalition forces shelled a vehicle that belonged to An-Nusra front in Kafr Hind town in Slqeen northern Idlib with two rockets. One the rockets targeted the vehicle while the other targeted a place next to commercial shops (where the targeted vehicle was moving). 10 civilians died, including 6 children.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

1-SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, 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 which can be classified as war crimes.

2- SNHR believes that these acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.

3- These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these 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 policy.





Extremist Islamic Groups

ISIL:

ISIL's policy of execution and murder are being practiced on a large scale and, thus, can be classified as war crimes.

An-Nusra Front:

An-Nusra Front committed extrajudicial premeditated murder in Idlib governorate.

Armed Opposition Factions

Indiscriminate bombing considered a war crime as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. The armed opposition should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

International Coalition Forces

The international coalition forces have perpetrated explicit violations of the international humanitarian law by indiscriminately bombing civil areas. The bombing resulted in mass killings and great destruction of residential neighborhoods.

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 its responsibility of 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 and have 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 most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, don’t reach those who are in need and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian government.

Acknowledgment

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