



## The Documentation of a Massacre... the Full Human Rights Documentation of Al Theyabeya Massacre in Damascus Suburbs

### **The report:**

Al Theyabeya is a town located in southern Damascus city on Al Sayida Zainab- Suwayda road, about 15 km from the capital Damascus, and it is affiliated to Damascus suburbs governorate. Its population is about 100000, most of them are IDPs from Al Jolan governorate in addition to some Palestinian IDPs.

Testimonies by eyewitnesses and survivors' accounts from the town talk about the massacre:

[Video showing](#) the place where [the martyrs](#) were buried, a survivor is talking about the massacre:

For more details and any clarification, contact us via e-mail or Skype, also you can contact the eyewitness, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar via Skype:  
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### **The incident details:**

Saturday September 22, 2012, the regime army forces and security forces cordoned off the town. Then, intensively and indiscriminately shelled the town using tanks and heavy machine guns. As a result, many victims and wounded persons of the town fell. Moreover, clashes intensified with the Free Syrian Army but they stopped after only two days as their ammunitions run out on Tuesday September 25, 2012, which forced them to retreat. The regime army continued the attack on that day and the day after. On September 26, 2012, the regime army forces stormed the town, slaughtered a number of its residents, damaged many houses and committed a horrible massacre which is a systematic policy and sort of punishment to threaten and terrify the families of the town as they support the Free Army.

The security forces and the Syrian regime forces killed in cold-blood no less than 70 citizens most of them are elderly at the age of 60-70-year-old who couldn't flee the town. Regime forces killed extrajudicially anyone who they found in the town, and disfigured the dead bodies then they buried them in a mass grave which is well known by the residents of the town and those who we talked with.





Some of town's families found, inside their neighbors' homes, whole families who were killed and slaughtered. A drink called "Al Mata", which is a drink the members of the army and security forces consume, was found on the dead bodies.

According to accounts by the people who were able to contact and talk to, the number of victims in that period was 107 civilian martyrs. SNHR was able to document only 37 names of them as the crime traces were blurred and the dead bodies were distorted by the army forces and the security forces, the victim civilians are:

1. Alaa Ghaleb Al Fodail.
2. Khalil Mosa Al Hasan(Al Refa'i)
3. Mazen Hasan Dawali
4. Ali Hasan Dawali
5. Mohammad Al Mosa
6. Hasan Mosa Al Hasan (Al Refa'i)
7. Mohammad Abdul Rahman Awad(Al Refa'i)
8. Husain Mosa Al Hasan(Al Refa'i)
9. Jasem Mohammad Issa
10. Ahmad Jasem Al Awad (Al Refa'i)
11. Hamdi Husain
12. Mohammad Abu Ras
13. Fouad Abu Ras
14. Saleh Mosa Abu Ras
15. Saleh Abu Ras's brother-in-law
16. Maher Kayed
17. Hamad Al Bad'ee
18. Mohammad Shato
19. Khaled Al Er
20. Jamal Suwayed
21. Hasan Askar AL Shammari
22. Mohammad Owdeh Al Dahi
23. Mokhles Ibrahim Al Hamid(Al Refa'i)
24. Ali Abbas
25. Abdulla Al Ahmad
26. Khalil Mohammad Mosa Al Hasan( Al Refa'i)
27. Abdullah Al Saeed( Al Refa'i)
28. Abu Ramzi Al Theyabi
29. Ali Hmoud
30. Abdulla Fayez Tohan
31. Ali Ahmad Jaqjouq
32. Mo'amar Mohammad Al Amari
33. Yahya Mohammad Mahmoud
34. Mohannad Al N'amat
35. Khalil Al Refa'i(Abu Khaled)
36. Mohammad Ahmad Al Ahmad
37. Qasem Mohammad Issa





### **Attachments:**

First: the victims and the injured:

[Videos](#) of the [massacre](#):

A [victim](#) that was found the day after the massacre and dogs have snapped his corpse:

Pictures documenting the martyrs who were killed in the massacre:

Pictures taken during the funeral:

### **Conclusions:**

1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on Tal Aran village in Al Safera was indiscriminate and directed against unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces and Al Shabiha have violated the international human rights law which protects the right to life in addition to being committed in a non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime as all elements were fulfilled.
2. SNHR deems what happened in Tal Aran village in Al Safera, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated throughout Syrian governorates in a widespread manner.
3. The indiscriminate attacks by government forces are violation of customary international humanitarian law where government forces launched several shells on populated areas rather than targeting specific military objects.





4. Those attacks, particularly the bombardment, caused casualties, injures or damaged civilian objects. Moreover, there are strong indicators that the damaged was great compared with the military benefits.

5. The volume of the massacre in addition to its nature, the amount of power that was used, and the indiscriminate and coordinated nature of bombardment cannot be without high instructions and it's a state policy.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **The Syrian government:**

1- Stop all Human Rights violations immediately.

2- Respect its international commitments that includes the protection of civilians in the time of war, and respect the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

#### **Human Rights Council:**

1- Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.

2- Apply pressure on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.

3- Hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for what is happening to the children of Syria.

4- Give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.

#### **The Security Council:**

1- Adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.

2- Warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.





### **The Arab League:**

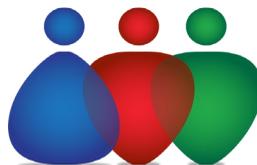
1- Ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.

2- Give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.

3- Press politically and diplomatically on the main Syrian regime allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.

### **International Commission of Inquiry:**

1- Stop depicting the conflict as it is between two equal parties in crimes, power and central decision-making, and to describe the crime as it is without mitigation for political purposes. It also has to increase its cadres that is concerned with the Syrian case due to the volume of the daily crimes which would insure a more comprehensive and complete documentation.



Syrian Network For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

