



Statement

**The Alleged Passages Announced by Government Forces are for Killing and Disappearance
Aleppo's Eastern Neighborhoods Passages will have the same Outcome as Passages in Old Homs**

The Alleged Passages Announced by Government Forces are for Killing and Disappearance
Aleppo's Eastern Neighborhoods Passages will have the same Outcome as Passages in Old Homs

On 27 July, government forces and its allies, on one side, and Syrian Democratic Forces (Primarily consists of Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) on the other side have completely enclosed the neighborhoods of Eastern Aleppo after government forces took control of Bani Zaid neighborhood while the Syrian Democratic Forces seized control of Al Sakan Al Shababi neighborhood. Since the beginning of July, Aleppo has fallen under a tightened siege as the Syrian regime and the Syrian Democratic Forces (in Al-Shaikh Maqsoud neighborhood) have taken absolute control of Castillo Road. We talkie about the siege of approximately 300,000 civilians in a previous [report](#).

On 28 July, one day after the eastern neighborhoods were enclosed, Russia, followed by the Syrian regime, announced that four passages would be opened describing them as “Safe humanitarian passages” so that residents can flee the neighborhoods of Eastern Aleppo; three passages for civilians and one for surrendering fighters. On 28 July Syrian and Russian warplanes dropped brochures including maps for the passages (Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood passage – Al Masharqa, Al Shamali circle passage – Al Layrmoun circle, Al Shaikh Saed mosque passage – Al Hader neighborhood, Saif Al Dawla garden passage – Damascus-Aleppo highway). These passages haven't opened yet and therefore civilians haven't left yet.

SNHR warns civilians in the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo and deems these passages a major deceit for the following reasons:

First: Russian and Syrian forces have no regard, even in the slightest, for the lives of the Syrian civilians as their warplanes and weapons kill those civilians everyday in these neighborhoods without any regard for their existence. SNHR recorded the killing of 183 civilians including 48 children and 20 women in Aleppo's sieged eastern neighborhoods in July alone as follows:

- 139 civilians including 35 children and 14 women killed by government forces.





- 44 civilians including 13 children and six women killed by Russian forces. The number of crimes that qualify as war crimes are too much to be counted. Whoever cares for the safety of civilians should stop killing them first.

Second: This initiative was at the request of the Russian minister of defense which was followed by the current Syrian president. However, the Syrian society in areas outside the Syrian regime's control don't trust either of these two. If these passages were intended as safe passages for civilians, they should be supervised and executed by the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross with an escort team of independent journalists.

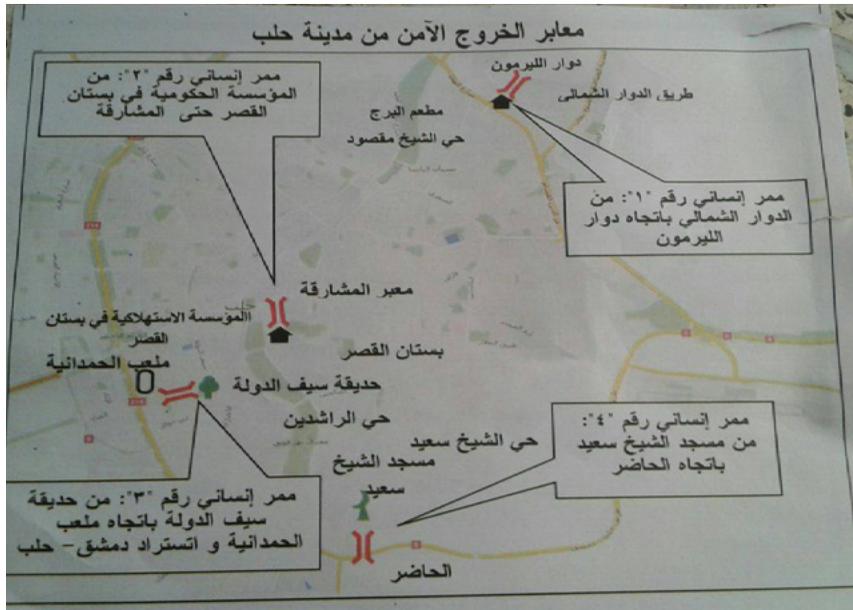
Third: We, in SNHR, have a bitter experience with familiar cases. We documented in previous [reports](#) how the residents of Old Homs neighborhoods were evacuated. Even though the settlement was between the Syrian regime and the armed men inside these neighborhoods and under the sponsorship of the United Nations, the Syrian regime betrayed the agreement as all of the residents were arrested and interrogated with in an insulting manner. Out of 1000 individuals, the Syrian regime only released 250 as the remaining 750 individuals have become forcibly disappeared. This is exactly what is going to happen to the residents of the Eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo when they pass through these passages. Anyone who will be accused by the Syrian regime and its security apparatuses will be subjected to arrest and then forced-disappearance and torture and maybe they will die due to torture.

SNHR calls on the international community to oblige the Syrian regime and the Syrian Democratic Forces to immediately implement the International humanitarian law that states that the siege be lifted, the facilitation of passage of civilians and aids, and that civilians must not be tortured, forcibly disappeared, or killed after they get out.





Picture of one of the brochures that government forces warplanes dropped in Aleppo neighborhoods. The brochure contains a map for the alleged passages:



Map show the sieged neighborhoods of Eastern Aleppo after government forces took control of Bani Zaid neighborhood and the Syrian Democratic Forces took control of Al Sakan Al Shababi neighborhood

Map show the sieged neighborhoods of Eastern Aleppo after government forces took control of Bani Zaid neighborhood and the Syrian Democratic Forces took control of Al Sakan Al Shababi neighborhood

