



Statement

Appeal for the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to Cease the Ethnic Cleansing that has been going for three days

During three consecutive days, the pro- Syrian government forces (Army and Al Shabiha) committed ethnic cleansing operations amid the silence of the International Community.

Tens of children and women have been slaughtered and their corpses were found stacked on top of each other as it is shown in the picture of an activist and a residence of Banyas via Email and skype who has been cooperating with SNHR from the beginning of the revolution.

We received news from victims' relatives in Banyas city and others arrived to Tripoli in Lebanon about extrajudicial killings and shooting civilians to death inside houses in addition to tens of sexual violence operations which were committed by pro-Syrian government forces during storming the town and are still ongoing disregarding tens of rules of Customary International Humanitarian Law.

SNHR direly calls on the International Committee of the Red Cross as it is the party that can enter the conflict zones according to the international human rights law which governs the conflict in Syria.

If the Syrian authorities banned the committee, it should send a warrant to Security Council to uphold its responsibility by shifting the responsibility from the Red Cross to the United Nations and the Security Council.

Liability:

SNHR holds Syrian government fully responsible for the ongoing massacre.

The silence of the International Community and its ignoring to save city is a green light for Al Assad regime to continue its ethnic cleansing operations.





Attachment and appendix:

Shocking pictures of slaughtered women and children in the terrible pictures of ethnic cleansing in the modern age.

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBREcxTIREbTIZSGM/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBanVDaEZMQTBjbkE/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBRVUyOHh4UzJhb28/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBMWdqVjRzX2FjeDA/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBMUxwSXBqT2J4Tm8/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBYTNySE0zVEh2Wjg/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBMXc0YVBBcnVtNUE/edit?usp=sharing>

The rules that were violated by pro-Syrian government forces in Banyas:

Rule 1: The parties to the conflict must at all times distinguish between civilians and combatants. Attacks may only be directed against combatants. Attacks must not be directed against civilians.

Rule 2: Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.

Rule 5: Civilians are persons who are not members of the armed forces. The civilian population comprises all persons who are civilians.

Rule 6: Civilians are protected against attack, unless and for such time as they take a direct part in hostilities.

Rule 7: The parties to the conflict must at all times distinguish between civilian objects and military objectives. Attacks may only be directed against military objectives. Attacks must not be directed against civilian objects.

Rule 11: Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited.

Rule 53: The use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare is prohibited.

Rule 54: Attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population is prohibited.

Rule 55: The parties to the conflict must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded





passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, which is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.

Rule 89: Murder is prohibited.

Rule 90: Torture, cruel or inhuman treatment and outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, are prohibited.

Rule 91: Corporal punishment is prohibited.

Rule 93: Rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited.

Rule 134: The specific protection, health and assistance needs of women affected by armed conflict must be respected.

Rule 135: Children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection.

Rule 138: The elderly, disabled and infirm affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection.

Rule 149: 149. A State is responsible for violations of international humanitarian law attributable to it, including:

- (a) violations committed by its organs, including its armed forces;
- (b) violations committed by persons or entities it empowered to exercise elements of governmental authority;
- (c) violations committed by persons or groups acting in fact on its instructions, or under its direction or control; and
- (d) violations committed by private persons or groups which it acknowledges and adopts as its own conduct.

Rule 150: State responsible for violations of international humanitarian law is required to make full reparation for the loss or injury caused

