



## No less than 28 Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities during the First 48 Hours all of which at the hands of the Syrian Regime The Second Ceasefire will have the same Impact as the First unless Violators are Held Accountable

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### I. Introduction

SNHR documented the violations that were perpetrated by the conflict parties in April, May, and June of the year 2012 after Kofi Annan's Six-points Plan was established by preparing and submitting copies of our daily reports to Kofi Annan office in Geneva until the plan was proven futile with the Syrian regime, mainly, perpetrating crimes beyond violating the plan including violations that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes where we documented many of these crimes.

This was also the case with [the Cessation of Hostilities statement](#) that was signed on 27 February 2016 where we documented the violations perpetrated by the signing parties by daily reports which were followed by periodic [extensive reports](#). The Syrian regime and its ally the Russian regime have perpetrated the most and greatest of these violations.

We hope that the second Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire – September 2016 can lay the basis for a political process aiming for a change towards democracy, and that it wouldn't be a failure such as the first ceasefire in February 2016.

The Cessation of Hostilities statement holds within the reasons for its meltdown which revolves around two fundamental limitations:

First: The Russian government is a sponsoring party to the Cessation of Hostilities statement with the American government. However, Russian forces are actively fight-





ing and siding with the Syrian regime in Syria and have been involved in tens of crimes that constitute war crimes. If Russia was to play the role of a mediator, it should first withdraw its forces and abstain from directly siding with one of the conflict parties.

Second: In case the Russian forces breached the ceasefire, and these breaches were documented, what would be the accountability mechanism in this respect given that Russian forces are a party to the agreement and to the accountability as well? and what is the accountability mechanism for the Syrian regime, the Russian regime's partner in violating the ceasefire?

**Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:**

“It is undeniable that the Cessation of Hostilities statement of February 2016 has prevented a lot of bloodshed and destruction in the following month March 2016. We indeed have noticed a significant decrease in death toll and destruction mainly because the aerial bombardment by the Russian and Syrian regimes warplanes, which are the main cause of the killing and destruction, have been ceased. We have affirmed repeatedly that by only banning aerial warfare in Syria, 70% of the death toll would be spared.”

Being experienced in the nature of the ruling and oppressive regime, the regime wants the ceasefire to be violated and wants Russian forces to eliminate all of its opposition because the regime will stop at nothing to realize its ultimate goal of exterminating and slaughtering all the areas and people who called for a change even if it took tens of years. The Syrian regime believes that any attempt to stop it even for a few days is an obstacle that will interject with its ultimate goal.

Our team, which has been monitoring violations for five years, recorded these incidents which is the bare minimum according to the standards and investigation methodology that we adhere to in documenting any incident which involves securing two sources for any incident where each of these two sources doesn't know of the other -For more, please see [our methodology](#). Furthermore, we reviewed the videos and pictures we received and verified its authenticity through private programs, and we have talked to survivors, victims' families, or eyewitnesses to these incidents.

The report sheds light on every combat operation by the parties that are bound by the ceasefire (Government forces, Russian forces, the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, and armed opposition factions) in the areas controlled by armed opposition factions as well as the areas that are jointly controlled ([armed opposition factions](#) and [Fateh Al Sham Front](#)). The report doesn't include any combat operation in ISIS-held areas.



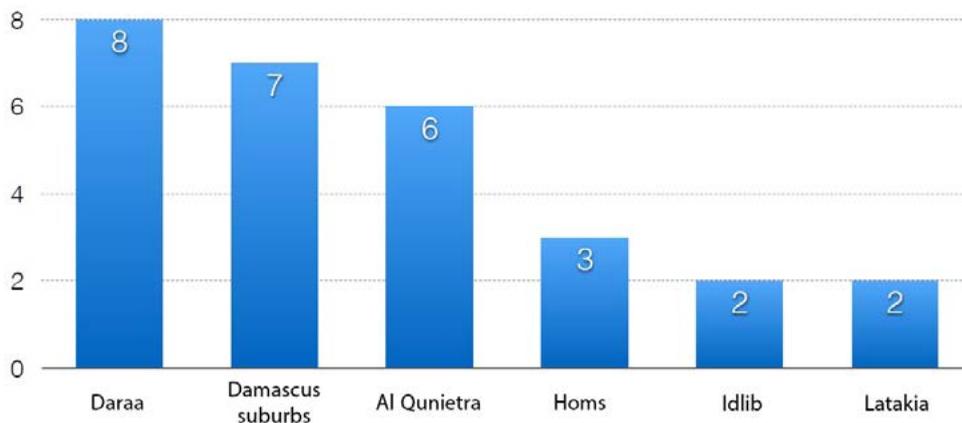


We haven't recorded the delivery of any aids to the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo governorate via Al Castello Road even though it was stated in the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Furthermore, the siege hasn't been lifted on any of the besieged areas and no detainees were released.

Although a number of armed opposition factions have expressed their reservations on the Russian-American agreement and published statements clarifying the reasons behind their disapproval, we noticed a fairly good commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities.

## II. Executive Summary

This report includes the violations that were documented during the first 48 hours of the Cessation of Hostilities in its first stage which went into effect at 7:00 PM of Monday 12 September 2016 until 7:00 PM of Wednesday 14 September 2016. The violations reached 28 violations all of which were by government forces. The violations are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



## III. Details

### Damascus suburbs governorate

Madaya city:

- Monday 12 September 2016, we recorded two violations committed by Hezbollah militias, allegiant to government forces. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham:

- First incident: approximately 19:07, pro-government militias, who were stationed in [Marj Al Tal checkpoint](#), used medium machine guns to target civilians' houses in the middle of the city.





- Second incident: Approximately 19:12, pro-government militias, who were stationed in Marj Al Tal, used medium machine guns to target civilians' homes in the middle of the city.

- Tuesday 13 September 2016

Approximately 20:17, pro-government militias, who were stationed in Marj Al Tal checkpoint, used medium machine guns to target civilians' homes in the middle of the city.

### ***Ifra village, Monday 12 September 2016***

Approximately 23:00, government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Ifra village in Barada valley, Damascus suburbs which resulted in big fires in the village. The village is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Douma city, Monday 12 September 2016**

Approximately 19:45 government forces artillery, stationed in the mountains overlooking Douma city from the north, fired a shell that fell near a mosque in a residential neighborhood in the middle of the city. Douma city is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Khan Al Sheih town, Tuesday 13 September 2016, we recorded two violations by government forces. The town is under the joint control of armed opposition factions with a modest presence for Fateh Al Sham Front:

- First incident: Approximately 23:00 government forces, stationed in Al Kabousiya hill, fired shells on Al Abbasiya farms in the town.
- Second incident: Approximately 23:05, government forces, forces, stationed in Al Kabousiya hill, fired shells on Al Qosour neighborhood in the town.

### **Homs governorate**

Al Ghanto village, 13 September 2016, we recorded two violations committed by government forces. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

- First incident: Approximately 21:00, Government forces used heavy machine guns to target a front for armed opposition factions who, in response, retaliated to the fire.
- Second incident: Approximately 21:30, government forces fired five artillery shells targeting a front for armed opposition factions.





### **Al Ghajar village**

Approximately 21:00, government forces used heavy machine guns to target a front for armed opposition factions who, in response, retaliated to the fire using medium weaponry. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

### **Daraa governorate**

Al Hara town, Monday 12 September 2016, approximately 19:30, government forces fired a number of artillery shells on Al Hara town. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

The road between Al Hara and Aqraba towns, Tuesday 13 September 2016, government forces fired a number of artillery shells on the road connecting Al Hara and Aqraba towns. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

The road between Al Hara and Nab' Al Sakher towns, Tuesday 13 September 2016, government forces fired artillery shells on the road connecting Al Hara and Nab' Al Sakher towns. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Al Mal village, Tuesday 13 September 2016

Government forces artillery fired a number of shells on Al Mal village at noon. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Kafr Nasej, Tuesday 13 September 2016

Government forces artillery fired shells at Kafr Nasej town at noon. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Aqraba town, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Approximately 14:00, government forces artillery fired shells at a residential area in Aqraba town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.





Um Walad village, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Approximately 15:00, government forces artillery fired a number of shells on a residential area in Um Walad village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Da'el city, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Government forces took over a number of points in Da'el city and used medium and heavy machine guns against armed opposition factions who retaliated and tried to stop the advancement of government forces in the city. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

### **Latakia government**

Hadada village, Tuesday 13 September 2016, we recorded two violations by government forces. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

- First incident: Approximately 00:35, government forces opened fire and targeted a front for armed opposition factions in Hadada village in Jabal Al Akrad.
- Second incident: Approximately 18:35, government forces used machine guns to target a front for armed opposition factions in Hadada village in Jabal Al Akrad.

### **Idlib governorate**

Khan Shaikhoun city, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at the outskirts of Khan Shaikhoun city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate targeting agricultural lands in the northeastern parts of the city. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

The international road (Aleppo-Damascus) between Ma'rdabsa and Khan Al Sobol towns, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Fixed wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at the international road (Aleppo-Damascus) between Ma'rdabsa and Khan Al Sobol which resulted in two injuries (One of the two injured was a child). The area is under the control of armed opposition factions forces and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.





## **Al Qunietra governorate**

### **Jabata Al Khashab village**

- Monday 12 September 2016, we recorded two violations by government forces. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

- First incident: Approximately 19:30, government forces artillery fired a number of shells on civil areas in the village.
- Second incident: Approximately 19:35, a government forces rocket launcher fired a number of rockets targeting civil areas in the village. Seven civilians were injured in the attack.

- Wednesday 14 September 2016, a government forces rocket launcher fired a number of rockets targeting civil areas in the village.

Nab' Al Sakher village, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Government forces artillery fired a number of shells on civil areas in the village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Al Hamidiya village, 14 September 2016

A government forces rocket launcher fired a "Pheal" rocket on civil areas in the village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.

Ofaya village, 14 September 2016

Government forces fired a surface-to-surface rocket on civil areas in the village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham.





#### IV. Recommendations

- We call on the joint American-Russian committee to investigate these incidents as soon as possible and to make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people. Also, the Committee should prevent the reoccurrence of such violations.
- In synchronization with the Cessation of Hostilities, the international community should work on initiating a political process towards a transitional phase that would result in a democratic regime which will put a real end to the suffering of the Syrian people.
- In case the violations continued without a real deterrent, the truce, unfortunately, is prone to a breakdown at any moment. The United States of America, being a primary sponsor, should ask the Russian side to pressure on its ally the Syrian regime to cease the violations and breaches that it perpetrated and to start lifting the siege, immediately allow the passage of humanitarian aids, and release detainees.

#### Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who majorly contributed to this report.

