



## No less than 34 Massacres in October 2016 Including 26 Massacres at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian Regimes

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### I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented no less than 34 massacres in October 2016 which were distributed as follows:

- A. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shi-ite foreign militias): 13
- B. Russian Forces: 13
- C. Extremist Islamic groups
  - ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): 1
- D. Armed opposition factions: 2
- C. International coalition forces: 2
- E. Unidentified groups: 3

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves the killing of five peaceful people at the same time. For more information about our methodology in documenting victims please see the Following [URL](#)

Massacres perpetrated by government forces during the month of October 2016 were distributed by areas of control as follows:

- Nine massacres in areas under the control of armed opposition factions.
- Three massacres in areas under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front
- One massacre in areas under the control of ISIS

Massacres were distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

- Aleppo: 13 massacres
- Idlib: Seven massacres
- Damascus suburbs: Six massacres





Daraa: Two massacres

Al Raqqa: Two massacres

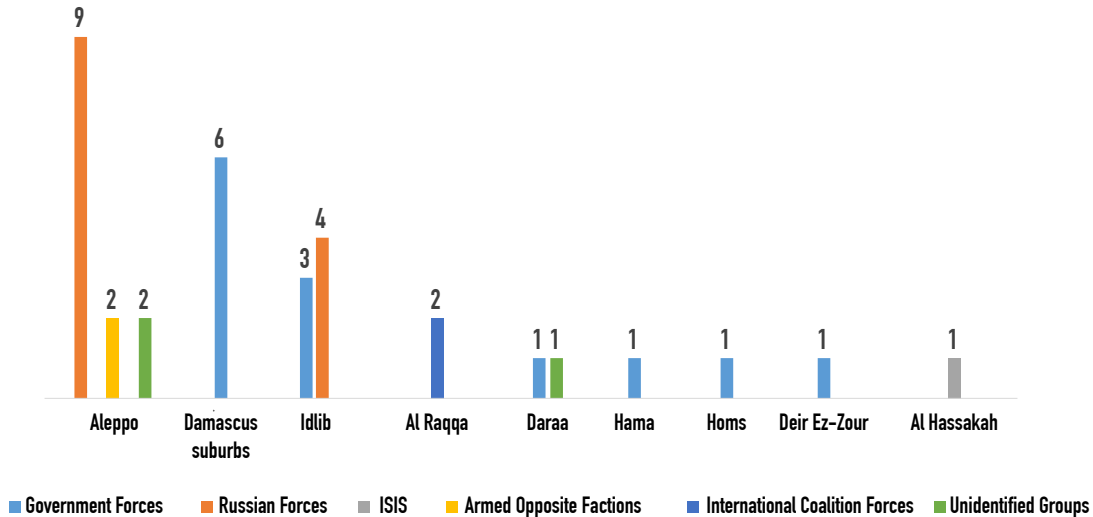
Deir Ez-Zour: One massacre

Hama: One massacre

Homs: One massacre

Al Hasakah: One massacre

The following table shows the distribution of massacres by the influential party



According to SNHR's victims documentation team, 381 individuals were killed in these massacres including 123 children and 59 women which implies that 48% of the victims were women and children. This considerably high percentage is an indication that civilians were targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres is distributed by the perpetrator as follows:

Government forces: 106 individuals including 44 children and 19 women.

Russian forces: 179 individuals including 48 children and 29 women.

ISIS: 35 individuals including 10 children.

Armed opposition factions: 17 civilians including seven children and one woman.

International coalition forces: 22 civilians including nine children and eight women.

Unidentified groups: 22 individuals including five children and two women.

## II. Details

### A. Government forces

#### Damascus suburbs

Sunday 2 October 2016, government forces artillery fired mortar shells at Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals including three children and two women. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.





Wednesday 5 October 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian forces (Investigations are still ongoing to identify the perpetrating party precisely) targeted Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of five individuals](#) at once including one child and one woman. Additionally, about 20 others were wounded.

Tuesday 18 October 2016, government forces artillery fired shells, in conjunction with shooting from machine guns, at a passenger bus on the road connecting Khan Al Sheih and Zakiya towns, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including two female children and their mother.

Monday 24 October 2016, government forces rocket launchers fired a number of rockets loaded with cluster submunition on Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals at once including two children. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Thursday 27 October 2016, government forces rocket launchers fired a number of [surface-to-surface rockets](#) on Douma city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the [killing of six individuals](#) at once. Additionally, [20 others were wounded](#).





Thursday 27 October 2016, government forces rocket launchers fired a surface-to-surface rocket on one of the main roads in Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The rocket fell 10 meters away from a car that was transporting six farmers who all were killed at once.

Idlib governorate

Saturday 15 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired two missiles at [Termanein](#) town, located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. The second missile, which fell near Omar Al Mukhtar school in the western parts of the town, [killed five individuals](#). Additionally, about 12 others were wounded.

Thursday 20 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted a residential building in the western parts of Ma'rshmarein town, located in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which killed seven civilians from the same family including five children and one woman in addition to [heavily destroying the building](#).





Wednesday 26 October 2016, approximately at 10:52 AM, two fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired no less than 9 missiles that were carried by parachutes on [the Martyr Kamal Qal'aji schools](#) complex in the southern neighborhood of Hass town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in [the killing of 39 civilians](#) including [18 children and seven women](#).

### **Homs governorate**

Wednesday 12 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted Kafr Laha town, affiliated with Al Houla area which is located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, five civilians were killed; [two children and three women](#).

### **Hama governorate**

Saturday 15 October 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian (Investigations are still ongoing to identify the perpetrating party precisely) warplanes [the health center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which killed [five civilians](#) at once including two infants and two women.

### **Daraa governorate**

Wednesday 12 October 2016, a cluster remnants from a previous bombing by fixed-wing government/Russian warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to identify the perpetrating party precisely) exploded in Ibta' town, located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The remnants killed one woman and her five children.

### **Deir Ez-Zour governorate**

Thursday 27 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted Ibreiha village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which killed five civilians most of whom from the same family. Among the five victims were four children who are brothers.





## **B. Russian forces**

### **Aleppo governorate**

Monday dawn 3 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings on the road leading to Al Waha road-house (An eatery on a traveler's road) from Al Hollok neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, [nine civilians were killed](#) including two children and two women.

Tuesday afternoon 4 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Mouselly factory for baby powder manufacturing in Rif Al Muhandiseen area in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which killed 40 individuals including 10 children and five women.

Tuesday noon 11 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in [the vicinity of the vegetables](#) market in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 40 individuals](#) including 10 children and [five women](#).

Tuesday noon 11 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in the vicinity of Khyata mosque in Al Ferdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 13 civilians](#) including two children and two women.

Wednesday morning 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Ferdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [15 civilians including two children](#).





Sunday afternoon 16 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in Al Sheikh Fares area in Al Hollok neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals most of whom from the same family including [two children and one woman](#).

Sunday afternoon 16 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted a residential building in the vicinity of Al Qaterji mosque in Al Qaterji neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [24 civilians](#) most of whom from the same family including [10 children and six women](#).

Monday dawn 17 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the southern parts of Al Marja neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [14 civilians](#) most of whom from the same family including [eight children](#) and two women.





Monday morning 17 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in [the middle of Iwyjel village](#), located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [25 individuals](#) including four [children and two women](#).

### **Idlib governorate**

Saturday 1 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes (Sukhoi) we believe are Russians fired missiles that targeted Al Farja camp near Tal Sheih area in eastern Khan Shaikhoun city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of six civilian IDPs at once including three children and two women. Additionally, about 25 others were wounded.

Friday 21 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in the northern neighborhood of Jesr Al Shoghour city, located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in [the killing of six civilians](#) most of whom from the same family. The six victims were three children and three women. In addition, two buildings were partially destroyed.

Sunday 23 October 2016, approximately 11:30 PM fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian carried out two airstrikes using missiles on the residential buildings in the northwestern neighborhood of Kafr Takhareem city, located in the northwestern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians including two children and four women.

SNHR contacted Ahmad Jabas, a civil defense member at Kafr Takhareem center, via Facebook:

“Approximately at 11:30 PM, Russian warplanes targeted Kafr Takhareem city in two consecutive airstrikes. I went with the civil defense teams to the location next to the local council building and we pulled out victims from the rubbles. There were seven victims. There were also a lot of people who were wounded and the destruction in the buildings was big.”







Tuesday 25 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian carried out multiple airstrikes targeting Jesr Al Shoghour city, located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the airstrikes targeted Al Sauma'a square and killed five individuals and wounded 16 others.

### **C. Extremist Islamic groups**

#### **ISIS**

##### **Al Hasakah governorate**

Monday 3 October 2016, an ISIS suicidal bomber blew himself using an explosive vest that he was wearing inside Al Sanabel hall for weddings in Sfayya town, located in the northern suburbs of Al Hasakah governorate and is under the control of Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party). 35 civilians were killed in the bombing including 10 children. Additionally, 60 others were wounded.

### **D. Armed opposition factions**

#### **Aleppo governorate**

Thursday afternoon 6 October 2016, a number of locally-made rocket shells fired by an artillery stationed in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, fell in Iskandroun street in Al Jamiliya neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of government forces, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians including one child and one woman.

Thursday noon 27 October 2016, a number of locally-made rocket shells fired by an artillery stationed in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, fell near Al Wataniya school in Al Shahbaa' neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of government forces, which resulted in [the killing of six children at once.](#)





## **E. International coalition forces**

### **Al Raqqa governorate**

Friday 14 October 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted Al Ghazali village, affiliated with Ein Eissa city, which is located in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS. The bombing resulted in the killing of 11 civilians including two children and five women. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Saturday 15 October 2016, approximately at 8:00 PM, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted a residential house near Al Sqief village, located to the east of Al Jarniya village in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS. The bombing resulted in the killing of 11 civilians from the same family including seven children and three women.

## **F. Unidentified groups**

### **Aleppo governorate**

Tuesday afternoon 4 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to identify the perpetrator party) fired missiles that targeted the square of Al Taltana, affiliated to Akhtarein area, located in the northeastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS. The bombing resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once.

Tuesday dawn 11 October 2016, a suicidal bomber blew himself with an explosive belt he was wearing in Al Mashi village that is affiliated to Manbej city, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party). Nine civilians, most of whom were from the same family, were killed in the bombing including two women. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify the party behind the bombing.

### **Daraa governorate**

Tuesday 11 October 2016, approximately at 11:50 AM, a mortar shell fell on That Al Netaqin school in Al Sahari neighborhood in Daraa Al Mahata area, located in Daraa city and is under the control of government forces. [Six civilians were killed](#) at once including five children. Additionally, 15 others were wounded. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify bombing's source.





### III. Conclusions and Recommendations

#### Conclusions

##### Government forces and Russian forces

1- SNHR affirms that the bombing incidents, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and Russian forces have violated the articles of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which amount to war crimes as all elements of a war crime have been fulfilled.

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

3- These attacks, especially bombardment, have resulted in collateral damage that involved casualties, injuries, and damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the anticipated military benefit. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.

4- The magnitude of the massacres, its frequent pattern, the exaggerated use of strength, its military nature, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

##### Other forces

According to this report, ISIS, armed opposition factions, and international coalition forces have committed massacres that constitute war crimes. However, these crimes are not crimes against humanity as in the case of government forces and its pro-forces that are committing massacres in a widespread and systematic manner.

#### Recommendations

##### The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court and stop 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 supports the culture of crime.

2. Impose urgent punishments on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.

3. Bind the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Intendent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and journalists and let them work without any obstructions.

4. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government who is using weapons in widespread attacks against civilians.

5. the Security Council must shoulder its responsibility in preserving security and





civil peace in Syria considering that the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to the international peace and security.

6. List the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed widespread massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and “Shabiha” militias, on the international list of terrorist organizations.

7. Implement the “Responsibility to Protect” norm, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, in Syria as it is direly needed there.

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 stop supplying the Syrian government with most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, are not being delivered to those who are in need and go instead to the people and parties that support the Syrian government.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and appreciations go to the victims’ families, eyewitnesses, and local activists whose testimonies contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims’ families and friends.

