



Not Less Than 35 Massacres Committed in March 2015

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A- Executive Summary:

SNHR documented not less than 35 massacres that were committed in March 2015, detailed as follows:

1. Government forces committed 32 massacres
2. Extremist Islamic groups:
 - a. ISIL committed 2 massacres
3. Armed opposition groups committed 1 massacre

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves: “the killing of five unarmed people at least”, for more information on our methodology, please visit the following URL.

Distribution of the massacres according to the Syrian governorates:

Idlib: 10, Damascus suburbs: 9, Daraa: 6, Aleppo: 4, Deir Al-Zour: 3, Homs: 1, Al Hasakah: 1 and Hama: 1.

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 479 victims including 131 children and 77 women. 43 % of targeted victims were women and children which is a strong indicator that civilians were targeted deliberately.

- Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict groups:

- Government forces killed 340 individuals including 102 children and 49 women

- **Extremist Islamic groups:**

- ISIL killed 122 individuals including 24 children and 26 women

- Armed opposition killed 17 individuals including 5 children and 2 women





B- Report Details:

a. Government forces:

-Idlib Governorate:

1-On March 5, 2015 government warplanes shelled an elementary school in Beiret [Arm-naz town](#) in Idlib, which killed 11 individuals, including 5 children.



2- On March 17, 2015 government warplanes shelled [Kafr Tkhareem](#) city in Idlib which killed 9 individuals including 2 children and 4 women.

3-On March 17, 2015 government warplanes shelled Sermin city in Idlib with a [barrel bomb](#) that was loaded with chlorine gas which killed 7 individuals including 3 children and 2 women



4-On March 20, 2015 government warplanes shelled Mantef town in Idlib with a missile which led to the death of 14 individuals including 7 children.

5- On March 24, 2015 government warplanes shelled [Saraqb city](#) in Idlib with a missile which killed 10 individuals including 4 children and 5 women

6- On March 26, 2015 government warplanes shelled Sermin city in Idlib with missiles which killed 10 individuals including 5 children

7- On March 27, 2015 government warplanes targeted a house in [Ma'arat Mesreen city](#) in Idlib with a missile which killed 5 individuals: 3 children and 2 women.

8- On March 27, 2015 government warplanes shelled a missile on a refugee house in Ma'arat Mesreen city which killed 9 individuals including 4 children and 3 women.

9-On March 29, 2015 government [warplanes](#) shelled [Idlib city](#) with a Surface to Surface missile which killed 17 individuals including 7 children and 4 women.





10- On March 31, 2015 government warplanes shelled a missile on a building in Idlib city which killed 32 individuals including 13 children and 7 women.

- Damascus suburbs Governorate:

1- On March 4, 2015 government warplanes shelled Deir Al-Asafeer city in Damascus suburbs which led to the death of 6 individuals including a child and a woman and the injury of 20 others.

2- On March 5, 2015 government warplanes shelled Deir Al-Asafeer town in Damascus suburbs which killed 5 individuals including a woman.

3- On March 6, 2015 government warplanes launched six airstrikes on Zamalka city in Damascus suburbs which killed 7 individuals including a girl and 2 women. It also injured 40 others.

4- On March 8, 2015 government warplanes launched 5 airstrikes on Irbeen city in Damascus suburbs, which killed 13 individuals including a child and two women.



5- On March 9, 2015 government warplanes launched 8 airstrikes on Al-Nola town which killed 6 individuals; 5 children and a woman.

6- On March 13, 2015 government warplanes shelled Douma city with a missile which killed 5 individuals including 2 children.

7- On March 14, 2015 government warplanes launched two airstrikes on [Douma](#) city which killed 12 individuals, including 3 children and 7 women.

8- On March 15, 2015 government warplanes shelled Douma city which killed 31 individuals including 8 children and 3 women.





9- On March 27, 2015 government warplanes shelled a mosque in Harasta Al-Qantra town with 2 missiles which killed 9 individuals.



- Daraa Governorate:

1. On March 2, 2015 government warplanes shelled [Ebta town](#) which killed 7 individuals including a child and a woman.
2. On March 13, 2015 government warplanes shelled a mosque in Alma town which killed 5 individuals including a child
3. On March 22, 2015 government forces shelled an SURFACE TO SURFACE missile on Inkhil city, which killed 6 individuals.
4. On March 23, 2015 government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Tafas city which killed 5 children
5. On March 27, 2015 government forces launched two mortar missiles on [Daraa Al-Bald neighborhood](#) which killed 27 individuals including 3 children and 2 women.



6. On March 30, 2015 government forces bombed a car in Al Jeiza town which killed 12 individuals including 5 children.

- Aleppo Governorate:

1. On March 5, 2015 government aviation dropped a [barrel bomb on Bab Al-Hadid](#) roundabout nearby Qadi Askar neighborhood which killed 17 individuals including 4 children.
2. On March 11, 2015 government forces shelled a surface to surface missile on Asia region in Aleppo which killed 10 individuals.
3. On March 21, 2015 government forces shelled a surface to surface missile on Al-Mashhad neighborhood which killed 5 individuals including 3 children.





- Deir Al-Zour Governorate:

1. On March 5, 2015 government warplanes shelled Al-Mayadeen city in Deir Al-Zour which killed 5 individuals including a girl and 2 women.
2. On March 7, 2015 government warplanes shelled a parking lot in Al-Mayadeen city with 4 missiles which killed 9 individuals and injured at least 35 others.
3. On March 24, 2015 government warplanes shelled a missile on Hameideiah neighborhood in Deir Al Zour which killed 7 individuals including 3 children.

- Homs Governorate:

1. On March 9, 2015 government aviation dropped 2 barrel bombs on Talbisa city which killed 7 individuals including 2 children.

b- Extremist Islamic Groups:

- ISIL:

- Al Hassakah Governorate:

- 1- On March 20, 2015 ISIL detonated two bombs in Al-Mufti neighborhood which killed 79 individuals including 22 children and 15 women.

- Hama Governorate:

- 1- On March 30, 2015 ISIL raided on Mabouja village in Hama and killed 43 civilians including 2 children and 11 women, some were slaughtered others were executed by gunfire.

C- Armed Opposition Groups:

- Aleppo Governorate:

- 1- On March 23, 2015 artillery located in an area under the control of armed opposition fired some mortar shells on [Al-Jamelajiah neighborhood in Aleppo](#) which killed 17 civilians including 5 children and 2 women and injuring about 40 others.





IV- Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

1-SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which can be classified as war crimes.

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

3- These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.

4- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Extremist Islamic Groups

a- ISIL:

ISIL's policy of execution and murder are being practiced on a large scale and, thus, can be classified as war crimes.

Armed Opposition Factions

Indiscriminate bombing in Aleppo and Idlib is considered a war crime as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. The armed opposition should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

International Coalition Forces

The international coalition forces have perpetrated explicit violations of the international humanitarian law by indiscriminately bombing civil areas. The bombing resulted in mass killings and great destruction of residential neighborhoods.

Recommendations:

The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping 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 an enhancement to the culture of crime.

2. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.





3. Binding the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Investigation Committee and allowing them to work freely.
4. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder its responsibility of preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to international peace and security.
6. Listing the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
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 stopping supplying the Syrian government with most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, don't reach those who are in need and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian government.

Acknowledgment

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