



## No less than 47 Massacres in November 2016 Including 43 Massacres at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian Regime

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### I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented no less than 47 massacres in November 2016 which were distributed as follows:

- A. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shi-ite foreign militias): 27
- B. Russian Forces: 16
- C. Armed opposition factions: 1
- D. International coalition forces: 3

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves the killing of five peaceful individuals 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 November 2016 were distributed by areas of control as follows:

- 19 massacres in areas under the control of armed opposition factions.
- Six massacres in areas under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front
- Two massacre in areas under the control of ISIS

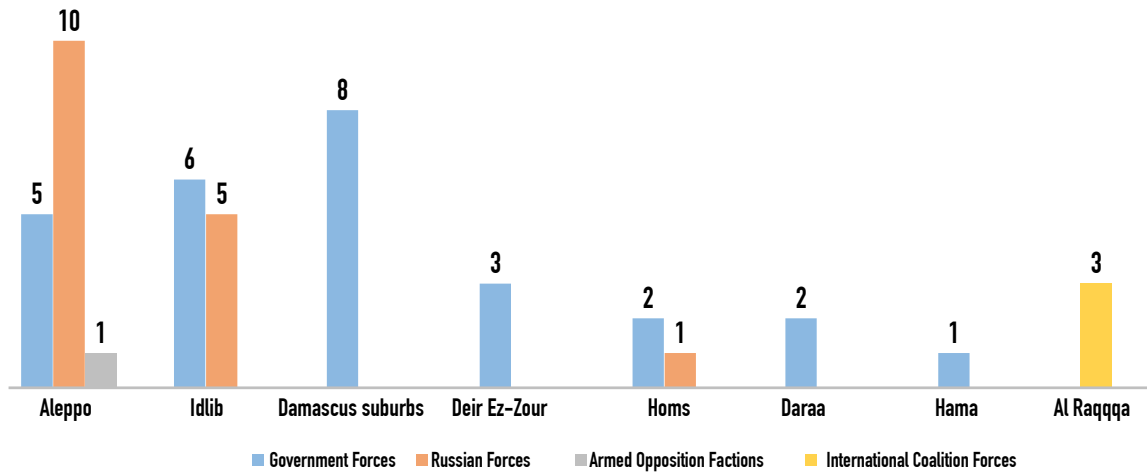
Massacres were distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

- Aleppo: 16 massacres
- Idlib: 11 massacres
- Damascus suburbs: 8 massacres
- Al Raqqa: 3 massacres
- Deir Ez-Zour: 3 massacres
- Homs: 3 massacres
- Daraa: 2 massacres
- Hama: 1 massacre





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



According to SNHR's victim documentation team, 453 individuals were killed in these massacres including 173 children and 77 women which implies that 56% 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: 254 individuals including 102 children and 39 women.

Russian forces: 158 individuals including 56 children and 29 women.

Armed opposition factions: eight children

International coalition forces: 33 civilians including seven children and nine women.





## II. Details

### A. Government forces

#### Aleppo governorate

Wednesday afternoon 8 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the western arts of Al Qasimiya village, affiliated to Einjara town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians (Four children and one woman) where most of them were from the same family. It is worth noting that one of the four children died later of his wounds.

Thursday morning 3 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at Meznaz village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians who were mostly from the same family including seven children and two women.

Sunday dawn 20 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in [Al Sakhour neighborhood](#), located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [six civilians](#) from the same family including four children (The mother, the father, and their four children).

Thursday 24 November 2016, government forces rocket launchers that is stationed in the defense factories in Al Sfera city launched a surface-to-surface rocket at the residential buildings in Ali ben Abi Taleb street in Al Mash-had neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians at once including one child.

Wednesday morning 30 November 2016, government forces artillery shelled IDPs families in Dakakein Hjiej area in [Job Al Qubba](#) neighborhood, located in [Aleppo](#) city and is [under the control of armed opposition factions](#), which resulted in the killing of [45 civilians](#) including [15 children and 15 women](#).





### **Damascus suburbs governorate**

Wednesday 2 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Douma city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of five civilians](#). Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Sunday 6 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Hamouriya 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 IDPs from Al Marj area including four children and one woman](#). Additionally, [10 others were wounded](#).



Sunday 6 November 2016, government forces artillery fired eight shells that fell in the vicinity of Ajyal Al Mustaqbal kindergarten in Zahla neighborhood, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the shells fell in the kindergarten yard and resulted in [the killing of nine children](#). Additionally, [about 25 others were wounded](#).

Thursday 10 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in 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 [nine civilians](#) at once including four children and two women. Additionally, about 30 others were [wounded](#).





Thursday 17 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in 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 seven civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including three children and one woman. Additionally, [20 others were wounded](#).

Thursday 17 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Saqba 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 civilians at once. Additionally, [20 others were wounded](#).

Friday 18 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in [Jisreen town](#), located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is [under the control of armed opposition factions](#), which resulted in [the killing of seven civilians](#), who were mostly from the same family, [including five children](#) and one woman. Additionally, 20 others were wounded.



Friday 18 November 2016, government forces artillery shelled Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, using rockets and shells which resulted in the killing of five individuals at once including two children. Additionally, [about 15 others were wounded](#).

### **Homs governorate**

Monday 28 November 2016, government forces fired a shoulder-fired rocket on a tractor in Al Sam'leil village, located in the suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians including three women. After some members of armed opposition factions gathered to aid and pull out the victims, the same forces fired a second shoulder-fired rocket which resulted in the killing of six members of that faction.







## Idlib governorate

Sunday 6 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired four missiles at the residential buildings on the main road leading to Termanein town from [Al Dana city](#), located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front. The missiles targeted a military center for an armed opposition faction which resulted in the killing of nine individuals (Four of them are armed) at once including a female child.

We believe that this incident does not constitute a violation of the international humanitarian law as the target was a military center. We have included in the report, however, to record it as one of the incidents that resulted in casualties even though it falls within the boundaries that the international humanitarian law allows for.

Tuesday 8 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired missiles at two residential buildings in Al Tal area in the middle of 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 11 civilians (Six children and three women, two of the women died with their fetuses). Additionally, five others were wounded.



Tuesday 8 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 22) fired missiles in Ba'arbou village, 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 18 civilians](#), who were mostly from the same family, including [13 children and one woman](#). Additionally, about [six others were wounded](#).

Sunday 13 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at the residential buildings in the northern neighborhood of [Khan Shiakhoun 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 five civilians](#) – a woman and her four children. Additionally, seven others were wounded.





Thursday night 24 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at the residential houses in the middle of [Al Rakaya 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 five civilians at once including two children and two women.

Monday 26 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles at the building of the Islamic court in the northeastern outskirts of Jbala town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Frint, which resulted in the killing of five individuals at once.

### **Daraa governorate**

Thursday 10 November 2016, at approximately 1:30 PM, fixed-wing government forces warplanes carried out two missile airstrikes on Nasib crossing at the Jordanian-Syrian borders, located in the southeastern suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The missiles targeted temporary housings for IDPs](#) inside the crossing which resulted in [the killing of 10 individuals](#) from two families including [six children and three women](#). Additionally, four others were wounded.



Wednesday noon 23 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired two missiles at [the market in Jasim city](#), located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of eight individuals at once](#).





## **Hama governorate**

Tuesday 22 November 2016, fixed-wing government/Russian (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) warplanes fired missiles at a concrete workshop in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of eight individuals](#) at once. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

## **Deir Ez-Zour governorate**

Wednesday 23 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Mrat village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of five civilians from the same family (Three children and two women).

Friday 25 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Hatla village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including a child.

Sunday 27 November 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles in Al Hamidiya neighborhood, located in Deir Ez-Zour city and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in [the killing of 25 civilians](#) including three children and three women. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

## **B. Russian forces**

### **Aleppo governorate**

Friday noon 4 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings in Al Mazare' area in Kafr Naha town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 10 civilians](#), who were [mostly from the same family](#), including [five children and three women](#).







Sunday evening 6 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings in the eastern parts of Darat Ezza city, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians from the same family including seven children and two women.

Monday dawn 14 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile at a residential house in the northwestern parts of Anadan city, located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of five civilians](#) from the same family – [four children and one woman](#).

Wednesday afternoon 16 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential houses in the northwestern parts of Batbou town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 22 civilians](#) including [four children and seven women](#).

Wednesday noon 16 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential houses in Al Sukkari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 10 civilians](#) at once including [three children and one woman](#).

Friday morning 18 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential houses in eastern [Arada village](#), located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of seven civilians](#), who were mostly from the same family, [including five children and one woman](#).

Friday afternoon 18 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [the residential houses](#) in eastern [Yaqed Al Adas village](#), located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 13 civilians](#) including [five children and four women](#).





SNHR spoke to Ahmad Al Khatib, a media activist for the civil defense in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, via Facebook, and he provided us with his account:

*“On Friday 18 November, warplanes fired six missiles in Yaqed Al Adas village near Anadan city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo city. I went with the civil defense members to the targeted area and, with the help of aiding teams and some survivors, we pulled out the dead bodies. Most of the victims were civilians returning from picking up olives. Civil defense teams stayed late. After six hours, we managed to pull out three alive children -who were no older than four years of age-from the rubbles. Civil defense teams came back the next day to the site and pulled out three dead bodies for three men.”*

*“The targeted area is purely civil and there is no military presence there. The bombing focused on a microbus which was transporting eight civilians in the middle of old residential houses. The bombing caused great destruction in the area.”*

Friday noon 25 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles in the vicinity of Taqad town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of [12 civilians including six children and three women](#).

Sunday noon 27 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings in the west side of Einjara town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians.

Tuesday morning 29 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [IDPs families](#) on the road leading to [Job Al Qubba](#) from [Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#), located in [Aleppo](#) city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 17 civilians](#).





## **Idlib governorate**

Wednesday 9 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes fired missiles in the northern neighborhood of Mashmashan town in eastern 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 five civilians at once including three children and one woman. It should be noted that fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired four missiles in the northern and southern neighborhoods of Mashmashan town on that day [killing eight civilians](#) including four children and two women. Additionally, about nine others were wounded.

Tuesday 15 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings in the middle of Kafr Jales town, 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 including one child and one woman. Additionally, about seven women others were wounded and six buildings were greatly destroyed.

Thursday 17 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at a residential building in the middle of Kafr Jales town, located in the northern 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 from the same family including three children and two women.

Saturday 19 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings near the train station in the western neighborhood of Marj Al Zohour village in southeastern 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 seven civilians from the same family including three children and two women. Additionally, six others were wounded.

Sunday 20 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at [Tabikh battery factory](#) near the main power station in the eastern outskirts of Idlib city, which is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.





## **Homs governorate**

Thursday 3 November 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired two missiles at the residential buildings in the southern neighborhoods of Al Rastan city, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of seven civilians](#) at once including six children. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

SNHR spoke to the media activist Wael Jomaa from Al Rastan city, via Skype, who provided us with his account:

*“On Thursday 3 November, warplanes fired two missiles at traditional Arabian houses in southern Al Rastan city. I was about 50 meters away from the targeted side. I found out that the bombing hit Ayman Idrees’s house and the surrounding area. Civil defense team pulled out Ayman’s dead body and five children (Two of them are Ayman’s sons) from the rubbles in addition to a girl who was alive when she was pulled out. However, the girl died about two hours later due to a fatal injury in her head.”*

*“The bombing destroyed six houses which are no longer inhabitable at all. I can confirm that the targeted area is a civil area with no military presence.”*

## **C. Armed opposition factions**

### **Aleppo governorate**

Sunday morning 20 November 2016, a number of rockets fell on Al Forqan Al Mohdatha school in Al Forqan neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of government forces. The rockets were fired from a rocket launcher that is stationed in Al Mansoura town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The shelling resulted in the killing of eight children at once.

## **D. International coalition forces**

### **Al Raqqa governorate**

Tuesday 8 November 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles in Al hisha village, affiliated to Ain Eisa district in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 21 civilians including six children and six women.





Saturday 19 November 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles in Ba'as village, located in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once including a female child. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

Monday 21 November 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles near “Hazima-Maysaloun” intersection in Al Salihya village, located in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once from the same family. IDPs from Ba'as village, including three women.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **Conclusions**

##### **Government forces and Russian forces**

- 1- SNHR affirms that the bombing cases, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and Russian forces have violated the rules 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 couldn't confirm that there were 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, 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 as well as the International Intendent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and journalists and let them work without any obstructions.
4. Halt all weapon exports to 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 accounts contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims’ families and friends.

