



No less Than 62 Massacres Recorded in August 2016 Including 53 Massacres at the Hands of the Syrian and Russian Regimes

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I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented no less than 62 massacres during the month of August as follows:

- A. Government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shi-ite foreign militias): 32
- B. Russian forces: 21
- C. ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): Four
- D. Armed opposition factions: Three
- E. Turkish forces: 1
- F. Unidentified groups: 1

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 visit the Following URL

Massacres perpetrated by government forces in August 2016 were distributed across areas of control as follows:

- 29 massacres in areas held by armed opposition factions
- Two massacres in ISIS-held areas
- One massacre in an area held by Self-management forces

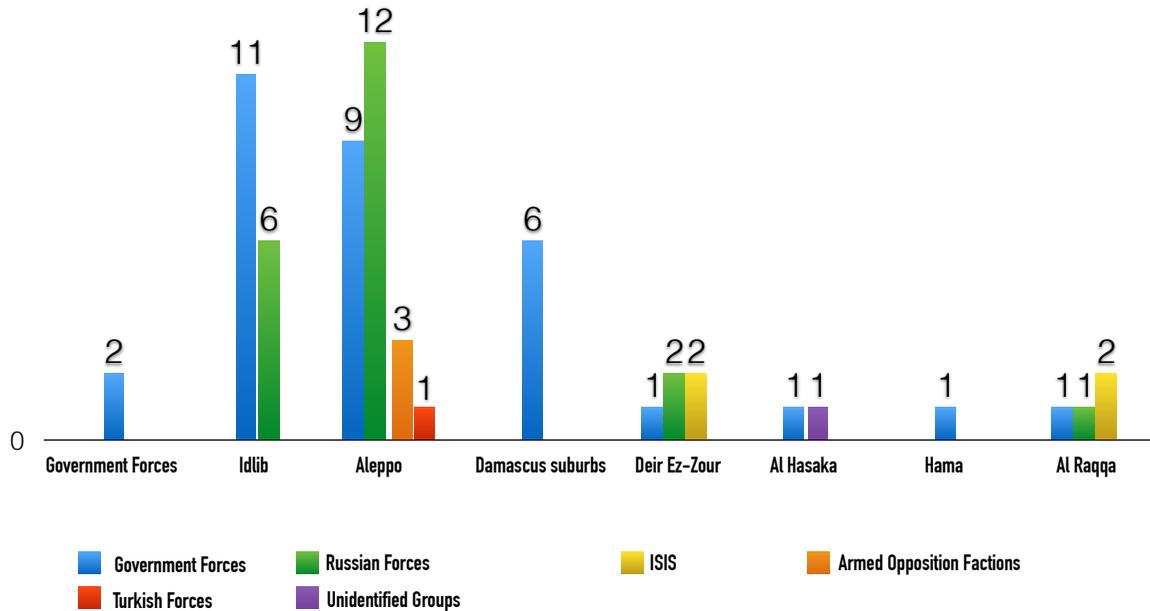
Massacres were distributed across the Syrian governorates as follows:

- Aleppo: 25 massacres
- Idlib: 17 massacres
- Damascus suburbs: Six massacres
- Deir Ez-Zour: Five massacres
- Al Raqqa: Four massacres
- Homs: Two massacres
- Al Hasaka: Two massacres
- Hama: One massacre





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



According to SNHR's team on documenting victims, 547 individuals were killed in these massacres including 157 children and 70 women which means that 42% of the victims are women and children. This considerably high percentage indicates that civilian residents were targeted in most of these massacres

Distribution of death toll by influential party is as follows:

Government forces: 263 individuals including 73 children and 36 women.

Russian forces: 203 individuals including 57 children and 21 women.

ISIS: 21 individuals including five children and three women.

Armed opposition factions: 28 civilians including 10 children and four women.

Turkish forces: 24 civilians including six children and six women.

Unidentified groups: eight individuals including six children.

II. Details

A Government forces (Army, security local militias, Shiite foreign militias) - Damascus suburbs governorate

Dawn of Monday 1 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at [the residential building in Khan Al Sheih camp](#), located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five civilians from the same family including one pregnant woman and two children. Additionally, six others were injured.





Friday 5 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at a residential building in Madyara town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five civilians from the same family including three children and one woman. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

Wednesday 17 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired a missile at Irbeen city, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which resulted in the killing of six individuals at once including two children and two women. Additionally, 17 others were wounded.

Sunday 21 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired a missile at [Douma city](#), located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five individuals at once including one female child and two women. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Monday 22 August 2016, government forces rocket launcher fired a surface-to-surface missile 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 five individuals including two children and two women. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.

Tuesday 23 August 2016m government forces warplanes fired a missile at Douma city, located in Eastern Ghouta in [Damascus suburbs governorate](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five individuals including three children and one woman. Additionally, about 20 others were wounded.

- Aleppo governorate

Wednesday afternoon 3 August 2016, government forces warplanes bombed residential buildings near Al Abbara Street in Al Mash-had neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition, with missiles which resulted in the killing of eight individuals.

Thursday afternoon 4 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Iwyjel village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five individuals including two children and one woman.





Monday evening 8 August 2016, government forces fired a long-range rocket loaded with cluster munitions on [the northern parts of Darat Izza city](#), located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill six individuals at once one of whom was a child.

Tuesday morning 16 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at the market of Tareaq Al Bab neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill 15 individuals including one child.

Thursday morning 18 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Salhein mosque in Al Salhein neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals at once including one female child and one woman.

Dawn of Saturday 20 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings on Al Jalloum neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill seven civilians from the same family including four children and two women.

Sunday evening 21 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the vegetable market in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, seven individuals were killed at once.

Thursday noon 25 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Haouth circle in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#), located in [Aleppo city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in [the killing of 14 civilians](#) most of whom were from the same family (11 children and three women). Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

Saturday noon 27 August 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [the residential buildings](#) that are located on [the road that leads to Al Ma'adi neighborhood](#) from [Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#), located in [Aleppo city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of 15 individuals](#) including four children. Additionally, [15 others were wounded](#).





- Idlib governorate

Tuesday 2 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out a missile air-strike on the residential buildings that are located in the western side of Sarmein city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill five individuals including one female child and one woman. Additionally, three others were wounded.

Monday 8 August 2016, government forces warplanes (Sukhoii 24) carried an air-strike using two missiles on two residential buildings located to the south of the justice palace in the middle of Idlib city, under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, five individuals were killed at once including two women. Additionally, 12 others were wounded.

Wednesday 10 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out two airstrikes using missiles on Ariha city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the airstrikes targeted the main street that opposes Soumar Garages which resulted in the killing of six individuals at once. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

Thursday 11 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out two airstrikes using missiles on Al Dana city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the airstrikes targeted the residential buildings in the southern neighborhoods of the city which resulted in the killing of eight individuals at once including three children and two women. Additionally, 17 others were wounded.

Thursday 11 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out three airstrikes using missiles on [Khan Shaikhoun city](#), located in the southern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Some of the missiles hit the residential buildings near the electricity company in the middle of the city resulting in [the killing of five individuals](#) from one family including a child. Additionally, 12 others were wounded in addition to partial destruction in a number of the residential buildings.

Friday 12 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike using missiles on the residential buildings in Tal'ad town, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to





kill five individuals at once including three children and one woman. Additionally, 10 others were wounded in addition to greatly destroying a number of residential buildings.

Friday 12 August 2016, government forces warplanes (Sukhoi 24) carried out two missile airstrikes on [Hrabnoush town](#), located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the airstrikes targeted the residential homes in the northern neighborhood of the town to kill 10 individuals including seven children and two women. Additionally, five houses were heavily destroyed.

Wednesday 17 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike on [Al Kura Al Ardaya circle](#) area -near Ja'far store- which is located in [Idlib city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 19 individuals were killed including five children. Additionally, 30 others were wounded in addition to greatly damaging a number of nearby buildings and shops.

Thursday 18 August 2016, government forces artillery, stationed at [Souran city checkpoint](#), fired shells at [Bait Al Sermani ally](#) in [the southern neighborhood of Khan Shaikhoun city](#), located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill six individuals from the same family including one child.

Sunday 21 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out a missile airstrike on [the residential homes in Ma'arat Al Na'san](#), located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 11 individuals including two children and two women in addition to greatly destroying a number of buildings.

Tuesday 30 August 2016, government forces warplanes carried out three missile airstrikes on Binnish city, located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. One of the airstrikes targeted residential homes in the western neighborhood of the city which resulted in the killing of eight individuals at once including five women and two children, Additionally, three others were wounded and a number of houses were partially destroyed.





- Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Tuesday 9 August 2016, government forces carried out three missile airstrikes on Mhiemda town, located in the suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians including one child and one woman.

- Al Hasaka governorate

Thursday 18 August 2016, government forces artillery fired shells at Al Nashwa neighborhood, located in Al Hasaka city and is under the control of Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) to kill five civilians at once. Additionally, five others were wounded.

- Al Raqqa governorate

Friday 26 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at Al Idekhar neighborhood, located in Al Raqqa city and is under the control of ISIS, to kill seven individuals at once including one female child and one woman.

- Homs governorate

Friday 19 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at [Al Ghantou town](#), located in [the suburbs of Homs governorate](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 13 individuals were killed including two children and four women.



Friday 19 August 2016, government forces artillery targeted Al Talbesa city, located in the suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposite factions, with shells in synchronization with rockets being fired by rocket launchers. As a result, five individuals were killed including one child.





- Hama governorate

Monday 29 August 2016, government forces warplanes fired missiles at a civilians gathering on the outskirts of Halfaya city, located in the suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, as they were trying to flee the city which resulted in the killing of 12 individuals including three children and two women.

B. Russian forces

- Aleppo governorate

Thursday noon 2 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes carried out two airstrikes using missiles on Al Atareb city, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. one of the airstrikes targeted Batbou intersection in Al Atareb which resulted in the killing of 11 individuals including five children and one woman.

Wednesday evening 3 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes carried out two airstrikes on the residential homes located in the northwestern areas of Al Mansoura town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals (Four children and two women) most of whom were from the same family.

Friday morning 5 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the residential homes around [Al Marja neighborhood square](#), located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition faction. As a result, 10 individuals were killed including seven children and one woman.

Wednesday morning 10 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the vicinities of [Omar ben Abdul Aziz nursing institute](#) in Urm Al Kubra town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including two children.

Friday morning 12 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes dropped cluster bombs on a vegetables market in Kafr Naha town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill six individuals at once.





Friday noon 12 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at [the western parts of Hayyan town](#), located in [the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate](#) and is under the control of [armed opposition factions](#). As a result, [14 individuals \(10 children and four women\)](#) were killed, most of them were from one family.



Saturday noon 13 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the residential homes located in western Al Jeyna village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, nine individuals were killed including two children and one woman.

Saturday afternoon 13 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the residential homes located in western Qebtan Al Jabal town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five individuals (two children and three women) at once.

Tuesday morning 16 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the road leading to Al Amiriya neighborhood from Al Ramousa neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 14 individuals were killed.

Saturday afternoon 20 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the residential buildings in the vicinities of the market of Urm Al Kubra town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, to kill 12 individuals including three children and two women. Saturday afternoon 20 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the western parts of Kafr Halab village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the killing of seven individuals at once including two women.





Monday afternoon 22 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at the residential buildings in Nour Al Din street in Al Sukkari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 13 individuals including four children.

- Idlib governorate

Saturday 6 August 2016, alleged Russian carried out two airstrikes using four missiles that targeted [Al Amal surgical hospital](#) and nearby residential building in [Malas town](#), located in the suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, ten individuals were killed at once: four children, two women, and four medics. Additionally, 30 others were wounded.

Wednesday 10 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles on the outskirts of Souq al Hal in the southeastern parts of Ma'aret Al Nu'man, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, six individuals were killed including three children. Additionally, 20 others were wounded.

Wednesday 10 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at Al Kanisa street, located in Idlib suburbs and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the killing of nine individuals. It is worth nothing that alleged Russian warplane carried out six airstrikes that targeted different locations in Idlib city and killed 19 individuals including five children and wounded about 30 others.

Saturday 13 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes carried out a missile airstrike on a [fuel market](#) on the public road in [Arab Saeed town](#), located in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 13 individuals were killed.

Tuesday 30 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes carried out an airstrike on [Souq Al Hal](#) on the outskirts of Ma'rat Misreen city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, six individuals were killed at once. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.





- Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Tuesday 16 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes targeted with missiles Al Nour Bakery, located between Al Hamidiya and Al Ommal neighborhoods in Deir Ez-Zour city which are both under the control of ISIS. As a result, 10 civilians were killed including one woman. Additionally, about 15 others were injured.

Thursday 18 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at Al Salihiya town, located in the northern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, resulting in the killing of six civilians mostly from the family including three children and one woman. Additionally, five others were wounded.

- Al Raqqa governorate

Thursday 11 August 2016, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at Al Idekhar neighborhood, located in Al Raqqa city and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 13 civilians including three children and one woman. Additionally, 20 others were injured.

C. Extremist Islamic groups

ISIS

- Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Wednesday 10 August 2016, ISIS artillery fired a number of mortar shells at residential homes in Al Joura neighborhood, located in Deir Ez-Zour city and is under the control of government forces, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including three children and one woman.

Wednesday 17 August 2016, ISIS artillery fired a number of mortar shells on Al Joura neighborhood, located in Deir Ez-Zour city and is under the control of government forces, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once including two children and two women. Additionally, about 20 others were injured.

- Al Raqqa governorate

Friday 26 August 2016, ISIS published a video production entitled "[Tada'a Alykoun Al Umam](#)" in which it shows the killing of five individuals who work for armed opposition factions (according to the production which only refers to them as Infidels "Sahwat Al Redda"). Four of the five were slaughtered using a sharp blade that separated their head from their body while the fifth was shot to death. We haven't been able to verify the date and the place of the killing as of this writing.





Friday 26 August 2016, ISIS published a video production entitled “Tada’a Alykoun Al Umam” in which it shows the killing of five individuals who work for [Kurdish forces](#) (according to the production which only refers to them as “Kurdish atheist soldiers”). The five were shot to death by children who are affiliated to ISIS. We haven’t been able to verify the date and the place of the killing as of this writing.

D. Armed opposition factions

- Aleppo governorate

Wednesday evening 10 August 2016, a number of locally-made rocket shells fell [in the vicinity of Souq Al Hal](#) in Al Hamdaniya neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of government forces. The shells were fired from an artillery stationed at Al Rashidein neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 12 civilians were killed including five children.

Monday afternoon 17 August 2016, a number of locally-made rocket shells fell near Al Nour Hall in Salah Al Din neighborhood within the parts that are under the control of government forces. The shells were fired from an artillery stationed at Al Ramousa neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 10 civilians were killed including two children and two women.

E. Turkish forces

- Aleppo governorate

Sunday morning 28 August 2016, Turkish warplanes fired missile on the eastern outskirts of Al Sriesat village to the south of Jarabuls city, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and it is the location where forces and military vehicles belonging to Syrian Democratic Forces are stationed. As a result, 24 civilians were killed who were mostly from the same family including six children and six women.

F. Unidentified groups

- Al Hasaka governorate

Thursday 18 August 2016, an exchange of artillery shelling using mortar shells between government forces and Self-management forces (Primarily consisting of the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party) took place in [Al Aziziya neighborhood in Al Hasaka governorate](#) where there is a power struggle between government forces and Self-management forces. As a result, eight civilians were killed who were mostly from the same family including six children. Additionally, 20 others were wounded. As of this writing, we haven’t been able to determine the party responsible for the massacre.





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, Turkish forces, ISIS, and armed opposition factions 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 commit massacres in a widespread and systematic manner.

Recommendations:

To The United Nations and the Security Council

1. To 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. To Impose urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.





3. To 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 because it is using weapons in widespread 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 the international peace and security.
6. Listing 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” militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implementing the “Responsibility to Protect” norm agreed to 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 stopping 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.

