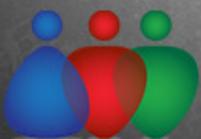
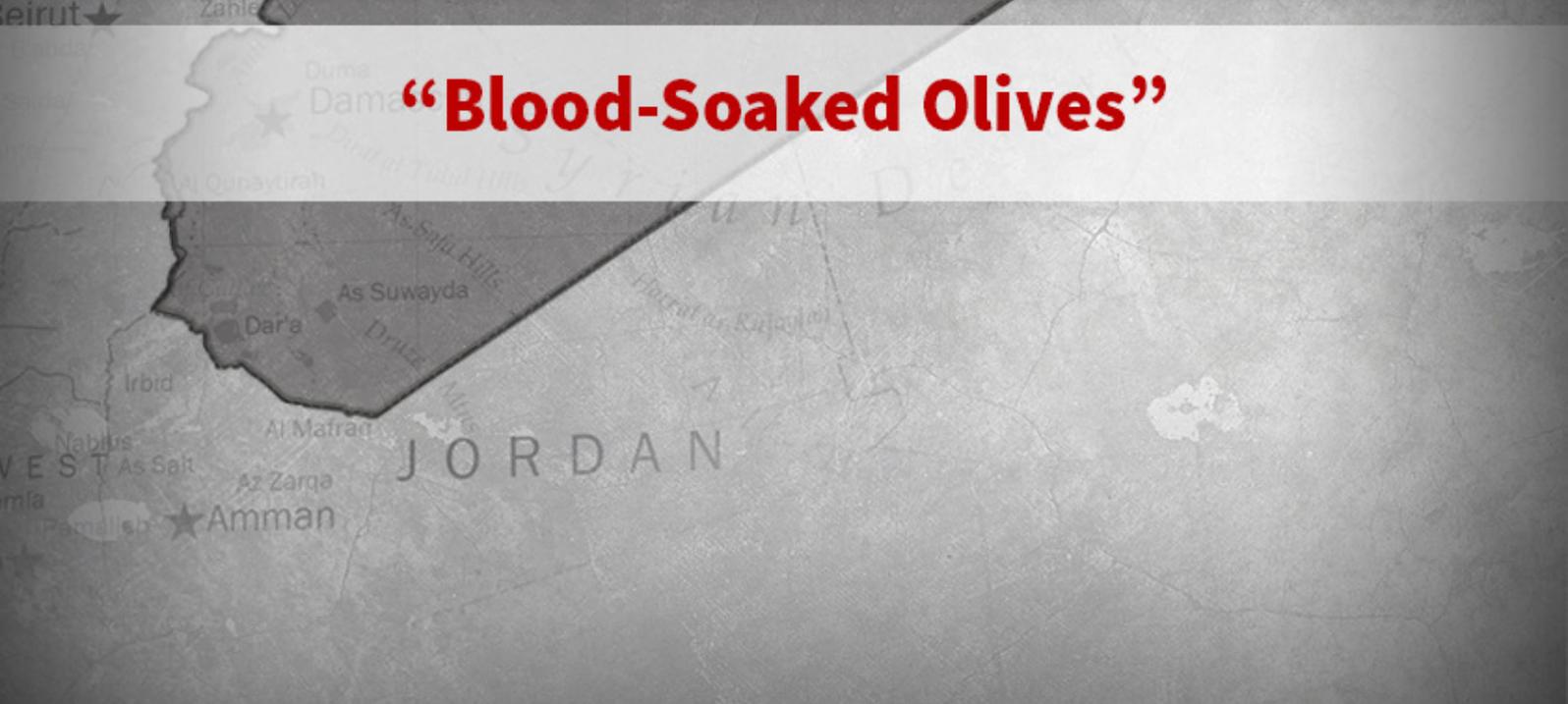




# The Most Notable Violations in Idlib Governorate

## “Blood-Soaked Olives”



**The Syrian Network for Human Rights** is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

**SNHR** is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims' rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

**SNHR** issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

**SNHR** is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.



sn4hr.org

Email [info@sn4hr.org](mailto:info@sn4hr.org)

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/snhr>

twitter <https://twitter.com/snhr>

google+ <https://plus.google.com/+Sn4hrOrg>

SNHR © 2015

# Contents

- I. Introduction ..... 4
- II. Executive Summary ..... 6
- III. Report Details: ..... 8
  - A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, foreign Shiite militias): ..... 8
  - B. Extremist Islamic Groups: ..... 45
  - C. Armed Opposition Groups ..... 47
  - D. International Coalition Forces: ..... 49
  - E. Different Incidents: ..... 50
- V. Recommendations ..... 51
- IV. Acknowledgment..... 51

## I. Introduction

Idlib governorate was subjected to a number of attacks and a systemized destruction policy that was not restricted to front lines or battlefields alone. Based on our daily documentation, we noticed that most of the attacks were on vital facilities and densely populated neighborhoods, tens of kilometers away from battle fields. Therefore, the rate of civilian victims was alarming compared to that of gunmen. Syrians welcomed UNSC resolution 2139 that was issued on 22 February 2014 which stated that “all parties have to immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs.” Nonetheless, government forces did not cease its operations or its attacks against civilians.

SNHR previously issued special studies and reports about government’s use of barrel bombs before and after the resolution was issued. Shelling, killing and displacing residents is a systemized policy that aims mainly to hinder the establishment of any authoritative body that would replace the ruling regime.

SNHR has consistently tried to differentiate between crimes committed by different parties involved in the Syrian conflict. We found that government forces committed the greatest rate of crimes and violations against civilians compared to other conflict parties. However, media outlets and international organizations focus on ISIL’s crimes and tend to neglect the crimes committed by government forces and parties supportive to it; knowingly that air force is one of the deadliest weapons used and owned only by government forces.

SNHR relies on a network of members and local activists, in all Syrian governorates, in gathering data and issuing reports since 2011. The documentation team validates the images and videos we receive then cross-reference it with victims’ testimonies. SNHR confirms, through its investigations, that there were no military facilities next to any of the regions that were shelled by government forces, and therefore, it should justify its actions whether it was deliberate (like using rocket launchers), or random (like using barrel bombs) before international courts of justice. Nonetheless, government forces deny all these accusations, ignore all correspondence, accuse Al Qaeda and terrorists of perpetrating these crimes, and prevent independent international committees from conducting investigations inside Syria.

Even though government forces is the main conflict party in Syria, but other extremist Islamic groups, armed opposition forces, and international coalition forces have perpetrated war crimes as well in Idlib governorate during the time is report was being made. SNHR asserts that these crimes and violations reflect the nature of the ruling government which proved that it is like no other government in this world. It should be noted that these statistics and facts are the bare-minimum of the violations and crimes that happened in light of the security and

logistic difficulties and challenges we have been facing in order to reach the locations where these violations occurred.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, said:

“If the UN Security Council remains politically divided, none of its resolutions will be enacted and the Syrian government certainly knows that, therefore, it continues to perpetrate all these crimes. With no pressure exerted on the government, the bloodshed is going to continue.”

## II. Executive Summary

This report documents the violations committed by the main conflict parties in Idlib governorate from 1 May 2015, till 30 June 2015.

### A. Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 3534 individuals, including 150 persons killed under torture. 90 massacres were committed as well, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

#### **1. Government forces killed 3051 individuals and committed 77 massacres, detailed as follows:**

- Government forces killed 2382 civilians, including 349 children and 403 women. 141 individuals died under torture.
- Government forces killed 669 gunmen.

#### **2. Extremist Islamic Groups killed 175 individuals and committed 2 massacres:**

- ISIL killed 5 civilians, including 3 children and a woman
- ISIL killed 78 gunmen
- Jund Al Aqsa Group (affiliated to ISIL) killed 3 civilians

#### ii. An-Nusra Front killed 92 individuals and committed 2 massacres, detailed as follows:

- An-Nusra Front killed 65 civilians, including 6 children and 5 women. 4 individuals died under torture.
- An-Nusra Front killed 27 gunmen

#### **3. Armed Opposition Groups killed 123 individuals and committed 4 massacres, detailed as follows:**

- Armed Opposition Groups killed 118 civilians, including 35 children and 21 women. 5 individuals died under torture.
- Armed Opposition Groups killed 5 gunmen.

#### **4. International Coalition Forces killed 15 civilians, including 7 children and 5 women. They committed one massacre.**

#### **5. Unidentified Groups killed 167 individuals and committed 6 massacres, detailed as follows:**

- Unidentified groups killed 84 civilians, including 17 children and a woman.
- Unidentified groups killed 83 gunmen.

## B. Arrests and Illegal Detentions:

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 970 individuals in Idlib governorate, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

1. Government forces arrested 689 individuals, including 45 children and 67 women.
2. Extremist Islamic Groups arrested 250 individuals, detailed as follows:
  - i. Jund Al Aqsa (affiliated to ISIL) arrested 45 individuals, including 4 children
  - ii. An-Nusra Front arrested 205 individuals, including 11 children and 3 women.
4. Armed Opposition Groups arrested 31 individuals, including 2 children.

## C. Targeted Vital Facilities:

SNHR documented 128 vital facilities that were targeted, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

### 1. Government Forces targeted 123 vital facilities, detailed as follows:

- 21 medical facilities
- 31 schools
- 26 houses of worship
- 14 markets
- 2 Civil Defense centers
- 19 service cars
- 3 bakeries
- 7 vital facilities

### 2. Extremist Islamic Groups:

An-Nusra Front targeted 2 vital facilities, one bank and a university.

### Armed Opposition Groups targeted 3 vital facilities, detailed as follows:

- 2 schools
- 1 house of worship

## D. Illegal Weapons and Attacks:

Illegal weapons were only used by government forces, detailed as follows:

- **Chemical Weapons:** Government forces used toxic gases 38 times on 22 regions and therefore killed 12 individuals, including 7 children and 3 women.

- **Cluster Munitions:** Government forces used cluster munitions 6 times in 5 regions and therefore killed one individual and injured 32 others.

## III. Report Details:

### A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, foreign Shitte militias):

#### A- Extrajudicial Killings and Massacres:

SNHR documented the killing of 3051 individuals, detailed as follows:

Government forces killed 2382 civilians, including 349 individuals and 403 women.

Government forces killed 669 gunmen

We recorded not less than 77 massacres committed by government forces, detailed as follows:

1. On 5 May 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Arminaz town that killed 8 civilians (7 children and a woman).

2. On 14 May 2014, government aviation launched two rockets on Sarmada City that killed 20 civilians, including 3 women.

3. On 21 May 2014, government forces centered in Jaboureen checkpoint launched a rocket on Al Mawzara town which killed 9 civilians, including a child.

A [video](#) that depicts victims due to the shelling on Al Mawzara town:

4. On 8 June 2014, [government aviation launched a rocket on Ihsim](#) town. SNHR documented the killing of 6 civilians, including 3 children.

5. On 14 June 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Kafr Bateekh town which killed 9 civilians, including a child and 4 women.

6. On 27 June 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Binish city which killed 6 civilians, (4 children and two women).

7. On 27 June 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Slikeen city which killed 22 civilians, including 4 children and a woman.

A [video](#) that depicts the massacre's location in the city:

8. On 3 July 2014, government aviation launched a rocket, probably a vacuum rocket on Ma'art Masreen town which killed 9 individuals, including 2 women.

A [video](#) that depicts injured individuals due to the shelling:

9. On 29 July 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Shinan town which killed 7 civilians (5 children and 2 women); most of them were from one family.



10. On 11 August 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Kafr Takhrim's market that killed 6 civilians, including a child.

11. On 30 August 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Khan Shaykoun city that killed 9 civilians (6 children, two women and a fetus).

12. On 31 August 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Saraqb city that killed 10 civilians (8 children and 2 women).

13. On 19 September 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on a tailoring workshop in Ma'art Al No'man in Idlib suburbs that killed 9 individuals, including 3 children and a woman. The workshop was completely destroyed.

14. On 21 September 2014, government aviation launched a [vacuum rocket on Kafr Ame'em in Saraqeb](#) that killed 21 individuals including 10 children and 4 women.

15. On 21 September 2014, government aviation launched two vacuum rockets in conjunction with shelling artillery mortar shelling. As a result, 33 individuals were killed, including 11 children and 12 women. Also, a number of residential houses were destroyed.

16. On 3 October 2014, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb city](#) that killed 6 individuals, including a woman.

17. On 5 October 2014, government forces launched a rocket on Al Dana town that killed 6 civilians, including two children and a woman. Also, some residential houses were destroyed. Al Dana surgical hospital, Al Wafaa Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, and Al Farouk mosque were damaged.



18. On 6 October 2014, government warplanes targeted Khan as-Sibil neighborhood with a rocket. SNHR documented ten victims, including five children and three women.

19. On 27 October 2014, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on al-Hbeet town. SNHR documented the death of eight victims, including three children and four women, most of them were from one family.

20. On 29 October 2014, government aviation [dropped two barrel bombs on Abdeen camp](#) in Al Shiekh Mostafa town which killed 18 individuals, and injured 32 others.

21. On 6 November, 2014, government warplanes targeted Mouqa town in Idlib sububrs with one missile which killed five people including one female child and two women in addition to damaging a number of residential buildings.

22. On 16 November, 2014, government warplanes [targeted Ma'rat Misreen city in Idlib](#) suburbs with one missile which killed five people including one child and one woman in addition to destroying several residential buildings.

23. On 18 November 2014, the Syrian regime helicopters [dropped two barrel bombs on Ma'art Shmarien](#) in Idlib countryside to kill six civilians; four children and two women.

24. On 15 December 2014, government aviation [dropped a rocket on Kafr Takhareem city](#) that killed 13 persons and injured 40 others.

25. On Tuesday 16 December 2014, government forces warplanes [carried out multiple air-strikes on Idlib](#) – Ma'rat An-Nu'man city to kill 15 victims including one child and two women

26. On Tuesday 16 December 2014, government forces warplanes targeted the surroundings of Orient hospital in Idlib – Kafranbul city with one missile which killed 11 victims.

27. On 23 December 2014, government forces' helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb city to kill six victims.

28. On 23 December 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a preparatory school in Idlib countryside – Sfouhen town which killed five victims in addition to destroying the school partly.
29. On 19 January 2015, government aviation launched 3 air-raids using rockets on Al Kastan town which killed 5 persons, including a child.
30. On 2 February 2015, government aviation [dropped a number of barrel bombs on Khan Shaykoun town](#) which killed 25 individuals, including 4 children.
31. On 6 February 2015, government aviation [dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Bara city](#) which killed 5 persons, including 2 children and a woman, most of them were from one family.
32. On 15 February 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on Al Najiya town which killed 12 individuals, including 3 children and 4 women.
33. On 28 February 2015, government forces [raided Idlib – Qarsaya village](#) and shot-dead 11 victims including two women.
34. On 5 March 2015, government warplanes shelled a primary school in Beiret Armnaz, Idlib, which killed 11 individuals, including 5 children.
35. On March 16, 2015 government warplanes [shelled Sermeen City in Idlib](#) with barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas which led to the death of 7 individuals including 3 children and 2 women.
36. On 17 March 2015 government warplanes [shelled Kafr Tkhareem city](#), Idlib which led to the death of 9 individuals including 2 children and 4 women.
37. On 20 March 2015 government warplanes raided over Mantef village with a missile which led to the death of 14 individuals including 7 children.
38. On 24 March 2015 government warplanes [shelled Saraqeb in Idlib](#) with a missile killing 10 individuals including 4 children and 5 women
39. On 26 March 2015 government warplanes [raided over Sermeen in Idlib](#) with missiles killing 10 individuals including 5 children

40. On 27 March 2015 government warplanes targeted a home in Ma'arat Masreen in Idlib with a missile killing 5 individuals: 3 children and 2 women.

41. On 28 March 2015, government forces shot-dead 15 detainees in the Military Security Branch in Idlib city before it withdrew from it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGhb-mXOL7Is>

42. On 29 March 2015, government warplanes [shelled Idlib with a SSM missile](#) killing 17 individuals including 7 children and 4 women.

43. On 31 March 2015, government warplanes shelled a missile on a building in Idlib which led to the death of 32 individuals including 13 children and 7 women.

44. On 2 April 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on Al Nayrib town which killed 6 civilians, including 3 children and a woman.

SNHR spoke to an eyewitness, Mr. Abu Ammar from Al Nayrib town:

“At noon a Sukhoi plane launched 24 rockets on Al Nayrib town and targeted a main street in the middle of the town. Some of the rockets hit civilians’ houses, which some of it sheltered displaced people. A rocket hit a house that belonged to Al Ali family which killed 6 civilians, including 3 children; all of them belonged to the same family. Also, more than 10 civilians were injured. The paramedics and Civil Defense teams tried to aid and injured people. The house was completely destroyed and a number of surrounding houses were damaged as well.”

45. On 5 April 2015, government aviation shelled Kafr Tkhareem town with a rocket which killed 9 civilians, including 4 children and 3 women.

46. On 5 April 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Idlib city which killed 5 civilians, including a child and a woman.

47. On 7 April 2015, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on Koureen](#) town which killed 8 civilians, including 2 children and 3 women.

48. On 14 April 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a market in Idlib city which killed 11 civilians.

49. On 14 April 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb city which killed 14 civilians, including 9 women.



50. On 15 April 2015, government aviation dropped [a barrel bomb on Tiftinaz city](#) which killed 11 civilians, including 4 children and 3 women.

SNHR spoke to local activist, Abu Amer Al Teftinazi, who told us what happened during the shelling:

“On Wednesday, at 2 p.m. a barrel bomb was shelled on one of the crowded restaurants in the town which killed an entire family, (Al Rahal family). The mother and her five children died. 8 other people were killed, including 2 displaced individuals from Al Dana town. 13 individuals were injured; the restaurant was completely destroyed and went out of service. A nearby house was greatly damaged and therefore it became uninhabitable. Why do they commit these crimes? The restaurant was full of civilians and children. The Free Syrian Army was not present in the restaurant or surrounding regions.”

51. On 17 April 2015, [government aviation launched two surface-to-surface rockets on Ma'art Misreen](#) city which killed 9 civilians, including 3 children and a woman.

52. On 17 April 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Majrez town which 6 civilians (4 children and 2 women).

53. On 21 April 2015, [government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Ma'art Al Noaman](#) city which killed 6 civilians, including 5 children. The shelling destroyed two houses and surrounding buildings were damaged as well.



SNHR interviewed media activist Moustafa Al Ghareeb:

“At 3 p.m., the government helicopter was hovering around in the city’s sky and dropped two barrel bombs. The first barrel fell on a high school that belonged to Shiryan Al Hayat Organization. Thankfully, school hours were over and the students had left it and went to their houses. A horrible massacre could have happened. Now the school is destroyed. Minutes after government warplanes dropped another barrel bomb on the city center, 75 Km away from the first shelling location. As a result, 5 children died and turned to body parts. A great number of people were injured, and a two-story house was completely destroyed. The neighborhood’s houses were greatly damaged and some of it became uninhabitable. The regions that were targeted were civilian areas where no military centers for the Free Syrian Army are present.”

54. On 25 April 2015, government forces shot dead 27 detainees, including a child inside the medical clinics’ building that was later turned to a security detention center in Jisr Al Shoughour city before it withdrew from it.

In his testimony for SNHR, Mohamad Al Khدير, one of the Civil Defense members said:

“Government forces killed the detainees two days before it withdrew from the city and before armed opposition forces entered the building. We examined the bodies we found, they were shot dead directly to their head or chest and the smell of the bodies filled the place. Four detainees survived and we aided them, however, their health condition was in critical state. One of the survivors told me that the regime army shot them on 25 April then withdrew immediately from the Iyadat building to the National Hospital building.”

55. On 26 April 2015, government forces [shelled Joseph town with a rocket which killed 9 civilians](#), including 4 children and a woman.

Local activist Abdullah Jida'an told SNHR:

“In the center of Joseph town the shelling from the Sukhoi plane started at 10 p.m. and targeted the main street that contained a number of commercial shops and civilians houses. I was at my house, 50 meters away from the shelling site. I went directly to the targeted location to help in evacuating injured and dead people from under the rubble. Civil Defense teams were able to pull 7 dead bodies from under the rubble, including children and a woman. Most of the bodies were mutilated from the severity of the shelling and at first we could not identify their identities. Some of the victims had critical health states so we had to transport them to Turkey so they get treated”.

56. On 26 April 2015, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on Al Lujj town](#) which killed 9 civilians (8 children and a woman).

57. On 26 April 2015, government warplanes [shelled a market and a school that sheltered displaced people](#) with rockets in Droukoush town. As a result, 55 civilians were killed, including 7 children and 14 women.

SNHR spoke to media activist Samer Abdul Kader who gave us his testimony:

“Our town shelters displaced residents from all over Idlib. On Sunday afternoon, one of the regime's planes shelled four residential regions with four vacuum rockets. The first rocket fell on the foot of a mountain, the second fell on the western side of the market, the third rocket fell on the houses that surrounded the market's center, and the fourth rocket fell between the houses eastern of the market. The amount of destruction was enormous and dead bodies and body parts were scattered around everywhere. Civil Defense members rescued a great number of injured people and mild cases were treated in nearby makeshift hospitals.”

58. On 26 April 2015, government warplanes shelled the road that leads to Droukoush town which killed 5 civilians, including a child and a woman.

59. On 27 April 2015, government forces shelled Joseph town with a rocket which killed 10 civilians, including 9 children.

SNHR spoke to media activist Abdullah Al Jada'an:

“At 1 p.m. government warplanes raided the town and launched two vacuum rockets on one of the neighborhoods in the town's center. The town was free of any military presence of armed opposition forces. The shelling destroyed the residential neighborhoods including a mall, and killed 7 individuals, including 5 children, a woman, and injured 20 others. The destruction was enormous and if a great number of the residents had not left it earlier, a great massacre could have been committed compared to the massive destruction that occurred.”

60. On 27 April 2015, government forces shelled [the main market in Binish city](#) which killed 15 civilians, including 2 children and 2 women.

Eyewitness and local activist Mr. Alaa Hamdoun spoke to SNHR:

“At 11 a.m. a Sukhoi plane launched 24 rockets on the main road of Binish town. It was a commercial and an industrial region that contained car spare parts shops and fuel-selling shops. The area was free of any presence of armed individuals. As a result, not less than 13 persons were killed, 17 others were injured, and almost 12 shops were destroyed. The regime does not only kill us, but destroy our lives as well.”

61. On 29 April 2015, government forces shelled Al Janoudiya town with a rocket which killed 7 civilians and injured 40 others.

Media activist Mohamad Al Khdier told SNHR:

“At 4 p.m. government warplanes shelled Jisr Al Shoughour bridge and used two vacuum rockets to targeted a main road in Al Janoudiya town that contained civilian houses and commercial shops. 7 commercial shops that belonged to civilians were destroyed as well as two houses. The region was free of any armed opposition presence. However, the raid killed 7 civilians and injured 30 others. Mild cases were treated at nearby makeshift hospitals, while severe cases were taken to Turkey.”

62. On 11 May 2015, government warplanes targeted [Al-Qniya village in Jiser Al-Shoughour](#) which killed 18 civilians including nine children and seven women.

63. On 15 May 2015, government warplanes targeted Balyoun village with a missile which killed six civilians including three children and two women.

64. On 15 May 2015, government warplanes targeted Kafr Aweed town with a missile which killed six civilians including two children and three women.

65. On 16 May 2015, government warplanes targeted [a market in Saraqeb city](#) with a missile which killed 19 victims including three children and three women.

66. On 16 May 2015, government forces warplanes [targeted Kafr Aweed town with missiles](#) to kill 30 victims [including nine children and six women](#).

67. On 19 May 2015, government warplanes [targeted Jiser Al-Shoughour suburbs](#) which killed 40 victims including one child and two women.

68. On 28 May 2015, [government forces executed six prisoners](#), including two who were wearing military uniforms, before withdrawing from a building for the Military Security branch in Idlib – Ariha city.

69. On 30 May 2015, government warplanes targeted Balyoun village with a missile which resulted in the killing of 19 victims including one child and one woman.

70. On 1 June 2015, SNHR documented the killing of 20 detainees who were shot dead by government forces in one of its detention facilities before it withdrew from Areeha. It is worth mentioning that armed opposition groups gained control over the city after government forces withdrew from it.

71. On 3 June 2015, government aviation dropped a number of barrel bombs on Kafr Sinja town in Idlib. One barrel was dropped on a house that sheltered displaced people killing 8 civilians, including 5 women.

72. On 4 June 2015, government aviation shelled Silqeen town in Idlib with 3 missiles killing 22 persons, including a child and two women.

73. On 8 June 2015, government aviation shelled Al Janudiyi town with a number of missiles killing 48 individuals, including 7 children and 5 women.

74. On 10 June 2015, government aviation shelled a [missile on Saraqeb in Idlib](#) killing 10 individuals, including 3 children and two women.

75. On 15 June 2015, government warplanes [shelled Areeha city in Idlib](#) with two missiles killing 7 civilians, including 4 children and two women.

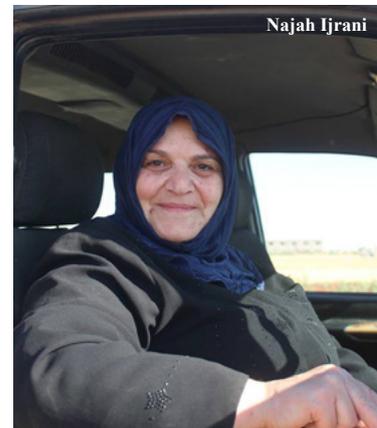
76. On 24 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Jirjinaz town in Idlib killing 11 civilians, amongst 5 children and 5 women.

77. On 30 June 2015, government aviation shelled Ihsim town in Idlib with multiple missiles killing 21 individuals, including 4 children and 5 women.

## II- Arrests and Illegal Detentions

SNHR documented the arrest of 689 individuals in Idlib governorate, including 67 women and 45 children. The most notable arrests are documented as follows:

Najah Ijrani, born on 1958, was arrested by government forces on 13 May 2015 from her house in Areeha city. She was released on 7 June 2015 during a prisoners' swap deal between An-Nusra Front and the government.



## III-Torture inside Detention Centers

SNHR documented the death of 141 individuals under torture in government prisons or detention facilities in Idlib. The most notable cases are mentioned below:

Ibrahim Hossien Da'boul and his son Houssien from Jirjinaz town died under torture in government prisons after they were arrested at the Syrian-Lebanese borders when they were going to their work in Lebanon. On 1 June 2014, their family was informed with their death.

Baseem Khaled Jomaa, a student in the Faculty of Arts in Aleppo University, a member in the Free Syrian Students Union – Idlib branch, from Al Ghadfi town, born in 1991, was arrested by government forces for the second time Al Fahama neighborhood in Damascus. Following a year from his arrest, we learned from his parents on 21 November 2014 that they had confirmed his death under torture in one of government prisons.

Abdul Hamid Abdul Moeen Al Talawi, a doctor from Khan Shaykoun, after 9 months of his arrest by government forces, his family told us than on 10 December 2014, they confirmed his death under torture in one of the government detention facilities.



#### IV. Targeted Vital Facilities

SNHR documented 123 vital facilities targeted by government forces like hospitals, schools and houses of worship. Six of these facilities were targeted more than one time, thus it was deliberately shelled.

These attacks were:

- 21 medical facilities, including 5 facilities were targeted several times.
- 31 schools
- 26 houses of worship
- 14 markets, including one market that was shelled twice
- 2 Civil Defense centers
- 19 service cars
- 3 bakeries
- 7 vital facilities

#### Medical Facilities:

Al Shifaa Hospital in Ihsim town. It was shelled twice.

#### Details:

On 8 June 2014, government warplanes launched two rockets on the central hospital in Ihsim town. The shelling was followed with bombardment from Gvozdika artillery by the government checkpoints close to the region, thus 6 civilians died, including 3 children.

*SNHR spoke to Dr. Abu Nayef, founder hospital's system:*

*“At 9:20 a.m. we heard the Sukhoi plane’s sound then the sound of the rocket that was shelled on the western part of the hospital. It was a précised target. I went with my friend directly to the basement and few seconds later the second rocket fell on eastern side of the hospital and it caused more damage than the first one. I felt a change in the air pressure and shortness of breath, that’s when I realized that it were vacuum rockets. We started to aid injured people, except that our medical equipment and the electrical generator were destroyed and damaged. Then, Al Kabsat and Mhambel government checkpoints started to bombard us with the Gvozdika missiles which increased the numbers of injured people and killed one of the civilians on the hospital’s entrance, 6 other civilians, including 3 children. 11 individuals were injured, including a military person who was not from our region.”*



On 21 September 2014, government warplanes [shelled Ihsim town](#) with two vacuum bombs in conjunction with artillery shelling which caused great damage to Al Shifaa Hospital thus it went out of service. SNHR documented the death of 33 civilians due to the bombardment.

## 2. Al Ihsan Charitable Hospital in Saraqeb: It was shelled four times by government forces:

- On 4 October 2014, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Al Ihsan Charitable Hospital in Saraqeb City which caused great damage to it.

The next day on 5 October 2014, government aviation dropped another barrel bomb on the hospital and caused it to go out of service.

- On 18 March 2015, government aviation dropped a rocket on Saraqeb City which caused partial damage to it.

- On 18 April 2015, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on the same hospital](#) which caused a great destruction to the hospital's building.



## 3. Orient Hospital In Kinya Town:

Orient Hospital was shelled twice:

- On 19 September 2014, [government warplanes shelled a rocket on Orient Hospital](#) in Kinya which damaged hospital greatly and caused it to go out of service.

- On 6 February 2015, government warplanes shelled a rocket on [Orient Hospital in Kinya](#) town in Idlib which killed one of the medical cadres and injured two others. The hospital's building was damaged as well.

## 4. Orient Hospital in Ma'art Al No'man City:

It was shelled twice:

On 6 December 2014, government forces shelled Orient Hospital in Ma'art Al No'man Hospital which damaged part of the third floor.

On 2 May 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Orient Surgical Hospital in Ma'art Al No'man City which injured a number of people and caused material damages to the hospital.



### 5. Hama Central Hospital in Hazareen Town

It was shelled twice:

- On 7 May 2015, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on Hama Central Hospital](#) in Hizreen town which led to the death of one of the medical cadres and partially damaged the hospital.

- On 16 May 2015, government aviation shelled the same hospital with a rocket which caused damage to the hospital's building.

- On 5 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the dispensary located in the Northern Western neighborhood of Saraqeb city in Idlib countryside, causing damages, in addition to killing 3 victims including two children.

6. On 5 October 2014, government warplanes targeted Al-Dana Surgical Hospital and Al-Wafa Birth clinic in Al-Dana city in Idlib countryside, causing damages, in addition to six victims including two children and a woman.

7. On 5 November, 2014, government warplanes carried out five airstrikes targeting Kansfra town, located in Idlib countryside. One of the airstrikes targeted Kansfra hospital which destroyed its infrastructure and some of the machine. The hospital is now out of commission because of the shelling.

8. On 8 November, 2014, government warplanes targeted the surroundings of [Ash-Shahid Wasim Hasimou Hospital in Idlib](#) countryside which mildly damaged the hospital.

9. On 29 November, 2014, government [helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a clinic in Idlib countryside](#) – Kafr Sajna village to destroy it semi-completely.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Kays Abdul Razak, a former employee in the Medical Center:  
“At 11 a.m. government aviation dropped two barrels on the Medical Center next to the town's center. One of the barrels fell on one of the rooms and the other barrel fell on the center's fence. Some of the employees were able to transport some of the medical equipment outside of the center. It should be noted that the center belongs to the government and only provides vaccination services, and even though, it was barbarically targeted by the government.”*

10. On 16 December 2014, government warplanes targeted [Al-Orient Hospital in Idlib countryside](#) – Kafr Nubel city with one missile to kill three victims in addition to heavily destroying the hospital which resulted in the hospital being out of service for nearly a week.

11. On 30 December 2014, government forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on Ash-She-faa' Hospital in Idlib countryside](#) – Saraqeb which heavily destroyed the hospital and resulted in it being out of service.

12. On March 29, 2015, government forces launched missile shells on a [Red Syrian Arab Crescent ambulance in Idlib](#), causing partial damages.

13. On March 31 2015, government warplanes [launch a missile on Idlib National Hospital](#) in Idlib killing 4 individuals, in addition to the destruction of the medical care building, which contained dead bodies refrigerators which contained 81 bodies, also a nearby fuel tank was



14. On 13 April 2015, [government helicopters dropped an explosive container near Orient Medical Point in Idlib](#). Many medical staff members were injured in the attack and the building was partially destroyed.

15. On 17 April 2015, government forces warplanes targeted [Al-Karliton Hotel](#) which was being used by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent as a center with a missile. The hotel, which is located in Idlib city, was damaged and many of its cars were burned.

On 24 May 2015, government warplanes [targeted a field-hospital in Idlib](#) – Al-Bashiriya village with a missile to kill one victim and wound five others. Additionally, the hospital was largely destroyed and is now out of commission.

On 3 June 2015, [government forces shelled Al Salam hospital in Idlib](#) with a rocket causing destruction to the facility.

On 16 June 2015, government warplanes shelled a makeshift hospital in Al Bashayriyi town in Idlib causing partial destruction to the hospital.

On 16 June 2015 government warplanes shelled [the healthcare center in Areeha](#) in Idlib with a rocket killing one person and causing material damages to the center.

### Schools:

1. On 22 June 2014, government aviation shelled Housni Hassoun School in Kafr Takha-reem with a number of rockets which caused great damage to one of the school's buildings. The school's fence was partially destroyed.

Mr. Thaer, one of the eyewitnesses, spoke to SNHR:

*"I was in the relief-work headquarters when I heard news from the observatory about the presence of warplane around in our sky; it was about 2:20 p.m. Few minutes later, we heard the rocket's sound then we heard an explosion sound 500 meters away from my location. I went to the shelling site and saw the enormous destruction where the rocket had fell on a school where it got damaged. Luckily, the school's time was over before it was shelled, or else we could have witnessed a massacre and we took 6 injured people to the hospital. The school is not safe anymore as it is endangered of collapsing due to the shelling. The school was considered a civilian facility and it was considered free of any armed opposition military presence."*

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath on the school's building:

2. On 4 October 2014, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a school in the Southern neighborhood of Saraqeb city in Idlib countryside, causing damages.

3. On 12 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Ain Jaloot School in Jarjanaz town in Idlib countryside to largely damage the school and kill one victim.

4. On 12 October 2014, government warplanes dropped [six barrel bombs on Saraqeb city](#), targeting four schools (as-Sina'a School, ash-Sharye'a school, the Martyr Abd al-BasetBakeer School, and Khaled ben al-Waleed School), causing damages in all these schools.

5. On 13 October 2014, government warplanes targeted Al Sina'a School in Khan Sheekhoh city in Idlib countryside, causing damages.

On 5 November 2014, government warplanes [targeted Al-Mahdtha Elementary School](#) in Idlib countryside in Kansfra town which damaged the school building. The school has been out of service due to the shelling



6. On 28 November 2014, government warplanes [targeted Iblien School in Iblien village](#) with four missiles to kill one child and wound another. Additionally, the school was greatly damaged.
7. On 29 November 2014, government warplanes [dropped two barrel bombs on Wahid Al-Yousuf School in Kafr Sajna village](#). The center was destroyed completely.
8. On 22 December 2014, government warplanes targeted Hafsa Elementary School in Saraqeb with a missile which killed four children and wounded 10 others in addition to damaging the school.
9. On 20 January 2015, government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on a school in Idlib – Ein Larouz village](#) which damaged the school while no casualties or injuries were recorded.
10. On March 2 2015, government forces launched artillery missiles on Al-Rami town school in Idlib causing some damage.
11. On 5 March 2015, government warplanes shelled a [primary school in Beiret Armnaz](#), Idlib killing 11 individuals including 5 children, in addition to destroying part of the building.
12. On March 9 2015, government warplanes shelled Kinda school in Najeya town, Idlib leading to the destruction of part of the school.
13. On 5 April 2015, government warplanes targeted a school in KafrTakharim city with a missile which damaged it.
14. On 19 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a school in Kourien town. The school was destroyed almost completely.
15. On 20 April 2015, government forces helicopters targeted a school in Al-Mallaja village with heavy machine guns. A number of kids were wounded in the attack.
16. On 21 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on Sheryan Al-Hayat School](#), located in Al-Mallaja village. The school building was heavily damaged and the school is now out of commission.
17. On 26 April 2015, government aviation launched a number of rockets on a [school in Drouk-oush](#) town which killed 55 individuals; additionally it caused partial damages to the school's building.

18. On 2 May 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a region next to a school that shelters displaced people in Kafr Ameem town which killed 2 women and caused partial damages to the school's building.

19. On 9 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted an [elementary school in Al-Kafier village](#) with a missile which destroyed a number of classrooms.

20. On Monday 11 May 2015, government forces targeted a [school in Al-Mouza village](#) with a missile. The bombing resulted in seven people being injured and destroyed two classrooms partially.

21. On 21 May 2015, government aviation launched a rocket on Rabe'aa Al Adawiya School in Jisr Al Shoughour City which caused great material damages to the school's building.

22. On 31 May 2015, government aviation dropped a [barrel bomb on a school in Kafr Aweed](#) town which led to partially destroying the school's building.

23. On 4 June 2015, government warplanes shelled a [school in Al Bara town in Idlib](#) with a rocket causing great material damages.

24. On 4 June 2015, government aviation shelled a school in Ma'art Mesreen in Idlib with two rockets causing great material damage to it.

25. On 5 June 2015, government warplanes [shelled a school in Ihsim town in Idlib](#) with a rocket causing partial destruction to the school.

26. On 7 June 2015, government aviation shelled a school in Knasfara town in Idlib causing partial destruction to it.

27. On 29 June 2015, government warplanes dropped 3 gas cylinders on a school in Khan Shaykoun in Idlib causing material damage to the school's building.

### Markets:

1. On 29 June 2014, government warplanes targeted Silqeen town with a rocket which killed 30 individuals including a child and injured 50 others. Also not less than 15 shops were damaged.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Hamza, one of the eyewitnesses:*

*"We heard a powerful sound and the explosion sound was great and resulted from a rocket launched by a warplane before breaking the fast time at 7 p.m. The target was the city's market. I went to the location and saw the great destruction effects and the fire, it was horrific. At least 10 bodies were burned entirely and were spread 70 meters away on the road and dozens of shops were destroyed as well. Dead and injured people were taken to nearby hospitals. The market was free from any FSA or any armed opposition presence."*

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath on the market:

## 2. Kafer Takhareem Town: It was shelled twice

- On 11 August 2014, [government warplanes launched two rockets](#), though to be vacuum rockets depending on nature of the explosion and its images. The shelling targeted a commercial market in Kafr Takhareem town. SNHR documented the killing of 10 persons, the destruction and burning of 11 shops and the damage of 30 others. Additionally, 7 buildings were partially damaged.

- On 31 August 2014, [government warplanes launched 2 rockets](#), thought to be vacuum rockets on Kafr Takhareem town and targeted a commercial shop in the town. A number of shops and buildings were damaged.

3. On 6 September 2014, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on Jirjinaz town. SNHR documented the killing of 7 individuals, the injury of a number of individuals and the destruction of a number of commercial shops.

4. On 4 October 2014, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb's market which caused a great destruction to 30 shops.

5. On 15 October 2014, government warplanes dropped [4 barrel bombs on Saraqeb's market](#) as well which caused damage to a number of commercial shops.

6. On 5 November, 2014, government forces' warplanes targeted the fruit market [in Ma'rat Al Nu'man](#) with one missile to destroy some of the residents' homes and properties.

7. On 23 March 2015, government aviation dropped [2 barrel bombs on the local market](#) in Khan Sheikhoun, causing partial damages to the shops, no victims were recorded.

8. On 26 March 2015, government warplanes launched a [number of missiles and targeted the main market in Sermin](#), and killed 10 individuals including 5 children, additionally; the shelling destroyed few shops and damaged others.

9. On 14 April 2015, government forces warplanes [targeted a market in Idlib city](#) where 11 people were killed and many shops were destroyed.

10. On 17 April 2015, government warplanes [targeted a market in Saraqeb city](#). Many shops were destroyed by the bombing.

11. On 26 April 2015, government warplanes [targeted a market, in Darkoush town](#), with missiles which killed 55 victims and destroyed a number of shops.

12. On 16 May 2015, government warplanes [targeted a market in Saraqeb city with a missile](#). 19 people were killed including three children and three women.

13. On 8 June 2015, [government warplanes shelled a market in Al Janudiyi town in Idlib](#)

14. On 30 June 2015, government aviation shelled a [market in Douma city](#) in Damascus suburbs killing 11 persons, including 3 children and a woman. A number of shops were greatly damaged.

### **Houses of Worship:**

1. On 21 June 2014, government aviation targeted [Al Zahraa mosque](#) in Arminaz town which killed 3 individuals from one family who stayed in the mosque.

2. On 20 July 2014, government aviation targeted [Al Ya'koubiyah Monastery in Jisr Alsh-ghour](#) with a rocket which caused severe damage to the monastery's building and injured 8 individuals.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Kahoush, one of the town's residents and he gave us his testimony:*

*"I was going to my house when I heard the sound of a warplane at 8 p.m. then I heard an explosion sound almost 50 meters away from me, then another explosion happened. The second rocket hit Al Ya'koubiyah Monastery and caused great destruction to its building. No one was present in the monastery, even the nuns left it after the rebels took over the town. The aim from the shelling was to destroy the city's infrastructure."*

3. On 21 July 2014, government artillery forces stationed in the National Hospital building in Jisr Al Shughour targeted a mosque in Al Bayshariyi town with missiles which killed 3 individuals.

4. On 14 September 2014, [government warplanes launched a rocket on Al Ferdos mosque](#) in Sirmeen's city which caused partial destruction to the mosque's building.

5. On 3 October 2014, government warplanes [launched a rocket on the Great Mosque in Nahiyat Al Tamania'a](#) which caused great damage to the mosque.

6. On 4 October 2014, government aviation dropped an [explosive container on the northern mosque in Saraqeb city](#).

*Layth, one of the Civil Defense members gave his testimony to SHNR about the shelling that targeted the city:*

*“Eid-Al Adha started with morning aerial raids and consecutive explosion sounds. The first air-raid was in the morning time and it targeted the city’s market and the Great Mosque next to it. The destruction in the market was enormous but the mosque was partially damaged. Almost two hours later, government aviation dropped another barrel and a huge explosive container used for the first time. Both fell on the northern neighborhood and also destroyed a school that was considered as a military headquarters for rebels, however, it was empty since its members feared the shelling. The bombardment also targeted a school in the southern neighborhood and thanks God it was not full of people since they were displaced and hid in basements. The next day, more than four barrels were dropped on Al Ihsan Charitable Hospital and the city’s dispensary which caused the hospital to go out of service. The amount of destruction was enormous and spread on a 500 meters area, but varied over an area of 2 Km.”*

7. On 5 October 2014, government aviation launched a rocket on Al Dana town and targeted Al Farouk Mosque which caused material damage to it.

8. On 28 November 2014, government aviation launched four rockets that targeted Ibleen mosque in Ibleen town which caused the death of a child and some material damages to the mosque.

9. On 27 January 2015, government aviation dropped [two barrel bombs next to a mosque in Knasfara](#) town which killed 4 individuals, including a woman, additionally; it caused material damages to the mosque.

10. On 20 March 2015, government aviation launched a rocket on a mosque in Mantaf town in Idlib which killed 14 individuals, including 7 children. The mosque’s building was damaged.

11. On 3 April 2015, government aviation launched a rocket on Sheikh Burghol Mosque which led to its complete destruction.

12. On 12 April 2015, government warplanes launched a [rocket on a mosque in Binnish](#) which led to a partial destruction of the mosque's ceiling.

*SNHR spoke to local activist Basem Al Ahmad who gave us his testimony:*

*“At 12:00 p.m. I was at the market when the warplane raided the town. I was 100 meters away from the shelling site in the main market where the mosque was shelled. When I heard the explosion, I went to one of the commercial shops in the market to take cover, and after I made sure that the warplane had left our airspace, I went to check where the rocket had fell. It fell on the mosque which caused great destruction to it. The bombardment did not target any location or site for the Free Syrian Army, thus they targeted civilians deliberately.”*

13. On 17 April 2015, government warplanes targeted a [mosque in Kourien town](#). The mosque was damaged.

14. On 21 April 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb on Al-Masjid Al-Saghir](#) in Qmienas town which destroyed it almost completely.

15. On 24 April 2015, [government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a mosque in Ain Larouz](#) town which killed four people and damaged the mosque.

16. On 29 April 2015, government aviation launched a rocket next [to a mosque in Binnish City](#). The shelling killed 13 civilians, including 2 children and 2 women. Additionally, the mosque was materially damaged.

17. On 15 May 2015, government warplanes launched a [missile that fell near a mosque in Kafr Aweed](#) town which killed six victims and wounded others. Also, the school's building was damaged.

18. On 19 May 2015, government warplanes targeted the areas near Al-Rawda Mosque, in Darkoush town with three missiles. The bombing killed 40 victims, including one child and two women, while the mosque was materially damaged.

19. On 27 May 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb on a mosque in Idlib suburbs](#) in Al-Taman'a town which damaged the mosque.

20. On 1 June 2015, government aviation dropped a [barrel bomb on the Great Mosque in Abu Dhur town in Idlib](#). Parts of the mosque and the building were destroyed.

21. On 7 June 2015, government aviation shelled one the houses in Mashwan town in Idlib causing partial destruction to it.

22. On 7 June 2015, government warplanes shelled [Ma'arat Al Nu'man mosque](#) in Idlib with a barrel bomb causing partial damage.

23. On 9 June 2015, government aviation shelled Ihsim mosque in Iblid with a barrel bomb injuring an individual and causing partial [destruction to the masque](#).

24. On 19 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a mosque in Skeek town in Idlib causing partial material damages.

25. On 23 June 2015, government forces dropped Al Wastani mosque in [Al Habeet town in Idlib](#) killing 3 persons and causing partial destruction to the mosque.

26. On 26 June, 2015 government aviation dropped [14 gas cylinders next to the Great Mosque](#) in Bliyoun town in Idlib causing damage to the mosque.

#### **Service Cars:**

1. On 16 January 2015, government aviation targeted an ambulance with a [rocket in Kafr Takhareem town which burned it completely](#).

2. On 6 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted an ambulance in front of Orient Hospital in Al Qenya town with a rocket](#). One of the medical cadres was killed and two others were injured. The ambulance was completely destroyed.

3. On 26 February 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on an ambulance that belonged to An-Nusra Front which killed 3 individuals inside it, including a paramedic. The ambulance was burned as well.

4. On 29 March 2015, government artillery forces [launched rocket missiles on an ambulance](#) that belonged to the Syrian Red Crescent which partially damaged it.

5. On 4 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an [ambulance in Saraqib](#) city which caused material damages to it.

6. On 13 April 2015, government helicopters dropped an explosive [container next to Orient ambulances](#) in Idlib which damaged 4 ambulances.

7. On 17 April 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on [the Syrian Red Crescent Centre in Idlib](#) which burned three ambulances thus caused it to go out of service.

8. On 26 April 2015, government forces shelled a Civil Defence [ambulance](#) in Idlib with a thermal rocket which killed one of the Civil Defence cadres and damaged the ambulance thus causing it to go out of service.

9. On 3 May 2015, government warplane shelled an [ambulance](#) that belonged to Martyr Ousama Ablak Hospital in Jisr Al Shoughour. It was damaged.

10. On 9 May 2015, government artillery forces shelled an [ambulance that belonged to the Civil Defence](#) in Dama town with an artillery missile. One of the cadres was injured and the ambulance was materially damaged.

11. On 14 May 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the Civil Defence centre in Khan Shaykoun which damaged [the centre's ambulance](#), a water tank and a bulldozer.

12. On 26 June 2015, government aviation dropped [14 gas cylinders on the civil defense](#) center in Bliyoun town in Idlib killing one person and injuring 6 civil defense members, in addition to causing material damage to the ambulance.

#### **Bakeries:**

1. On 5 April 2015, government warplanes shelled an automatic oven in Kafr Tkhareem with a rocket which caused damage to it.

2. On 18 April 2015, government warplanes shelled a bakery in Idlib city with a rocket which caused great destruction to it.

3. On 30 June 2015, government warplanes [shelled the automatic bakery](#) in Khan Shaykhoun in Idlib causing partial destruction to it and putting it out of service

#### **Civil Defence Centres:**

1. On 14 May 2015, government helicopters threw a [barrel bomb on a Civil Defence](#) centre in Khan Shaykoun city which killed two children and a woman. 3 ambulances were also damaged.

2. On 26 June 2015, government helicopters dropped [14 gas cylinders next to the Civil Defense](#) centre in Blayoun town which killed a person and injured 6 other members of the Civil Defense. The centre's building was greatly damaged.

**Vital Facilities:**

1. On 24 March 2015, government aviation [dropped a barrel bomb on the granaries in Khan Shaykoun](#) which damaged it partially.

2. On 30 March 2015, government aviation shelled with a [rocket one a poultry farm](#) in Kafr Takhareem which caused partial destruction to it.

3. On 6 April 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on a building that belonged to the agricultural directorate in Al Ze'niya town which killed a child and caused damages to the building.

4. On 17 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on the Justice Palace Building](#) in Ma'art Al No'aman, which led to great damage to the building.

5. On 2 May 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb next to an [orphanage in Ma'art Al No'aman](#), which caused material damages to the building.

6. On 15 June 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the [museum in Ma'art Al No'aman](#) which caused partial destruction to it.

7. On 29 June 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the granaries in Khan Shaykoun which led to material damages and caused it to go out of service later on.

## D. Use of Illegal Weapons

### *i. Use of Chemical Weapons:*

SNHR documented the use of toxic gases (mostly Chlorine gas) 38 times in Idlib in 22 points which killed 12 individuals, including 7 children and 3 women.

#### 1. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Tamanaa' town: three incidents were recorded

##### The first attack on 22 May 2014:-

Government forces shelled Al Tamanaa' town with barrel bombs loaded with toxic gases. The shelling targeted the western neighbourhood with a barrel that was filled with a gas which we were not able to identify. The attack resulted in the death of 4 persons, (3 children and a woman), and the injury of more than 7 others.

*Abu Fadi, a citizen in Al Tamanaa' town, aided some injured people, and gave us his testimony:*

*"I was at the medical point that was specified for our town when I heard a powerful explosion sound. It was about 10:30 a.m. when the government helicopter dropped a barrel on the western neighbourhood next to the western school and Abu Baker Al Sedeek mosque. A weird smell spread around and the doctors told me that the gas used this time might be Sarin gas or a mixture of Sarin and Chlorine depending on the symptoms they saw. The symptoms were: dilated pupils, severe vomiting and diarrhoea and runny nose and eyes. Usually symptoms of being affected by Chlorine gas are much less and do not include dilated pupils. We aided more than 7 affected persons and 4 dead individuals from one family (3 children and a woman)."*

A [video](#) that depicts one of the affected children in Al Tamanaa' town on 22 May 2014:

##### The second attack on 10 April 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with poisonous gas where SNHR could not identify its kind. It fell on Al Tamanaa' town on an agricultural land and no injuries were recorded among civilians.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Mohamad Bakour, head of the high school office in the Free Education Directorate:*

*"At 12 p.m. on Friday, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an agricultural field in the town's periphery. The barrel did not explode but omitted green gas and a bad odour. We were fortunate enough that no suffocation cases were recorded since a great number of the town's residents left it due to the continuous government shelling."*

A [footage](#) that depicts the location of the shelled barrel bomb:

Third attack on 17 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb that contained Chlorine gas, however it did not explode.

*SNHR spoke to local activist Abdul Kader Al Bakri who gave us his testimony about what happened:*

*“On Wednesday at dawn at 4:30 a.m. government warplanes were hovering around over Al Tamanaa’ town and dropped a barrel bomb on one of the houses in the middle of the town but it did not. We thought that it was loaded with Chlorine gas, most of the times those barrels don’t explode. After checking the barrel and where it fell, we found out that it contained Chlorine gas cylinders, but luckily, it did not explode.”*

An [image](#) that shows the remnants of a barrel bomb:

**3. Shelling on Khan Shaykoun on 26 May 2014:**

After armed opposition groups gained control on Al Salam military checkpoint in Khan Shaykoun, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb carrying Chlorine gas on it. The shelling caused not less than 25 injuries; most of them were rebels. Additionally, six civilians of the surrounding farms land owners were injured.

*SNHR has talked to eyewitness Mr. Mohammad Junaid:*

*“I took my car to Al Salam checkpoint located between Khan Shaikhoun and Al-Ha-beet region after I heard that it was liberated by the FSA. At 2:15 p.m. I saw a helicopter hovering above the checkpoint area, followed by an explosion and a yellow gas spread around. The shelling targeted the checkpoint and happened while I was less than 500 meters away. I waited until the gas cloud faded to approach the area. The smell was similar to Chlorine household cleaners, but more concentrated.*

*Civil Defense teams arrived and helped in aiding injured people who were about 23, including six farmers who were near the area.*

*The symptoms were: suffocation, shortness of breath, and cough, while two of them were injured by the explosive barrel fragments.”*

**4. Shelling on Qomyanas town on 16 March 2015:**

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Qomyanas town, western of Sirmeen city. One of the barrel bombs was dropped on a house’s roof-top. The gases caused breathing difficulties, vomiting, and loss of consciousness to residents. According to the medical staff in the region, were able to document about 35 cases of suffocation due to toxic gases.

*SNHR contacted Mr. Maysara, an armed opposition fighter who was present in Qomyanas town:*

*“I was in Qomyanis town when I heard the sound of a warplane hovering. The first barrel was dropped on one of the civilians’ houses and the other barrel was dropped in front of us. The explosion’s sound was less intense than other barrel shelling. After the shelling, a very bad odor spread and I tried to wash my face using a wet piece of cloth to avoid suffocation. However, I suffered from dizziness, breathing difficulties, and burning eyes. Injuries started coming to the hospital in great numbers. We aided about 50 persons who suffered from symptoms such as numbness, breathing difficulties, and dizziness. The strong wind carried the gases to Sirmeen city which was targeted as well.”*

### **5. Shelling on Sirmen City: It was shelled twice:**

#### The first Attack on 16 March 2015:

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas on the southern-eastern neighborhood in Sermin city after one hour from the shelling on Qomyanis town which is located next to it.

The shelling caused the death of seven individuals, including four children and two women in addition to 70 injuries including 19 paramedics. Symptoms included irritation in the mucous membranes and breathing difficulties.

*Amer Al-Bakri is a local media activist from Sermin who witnessed the toxic gas attack on Sermen city:*

*“After the shelling on Qomyanis town the toxic gases reached Sermin City due to the wind’s direction, but the regime targeted the city itself with two barrels filled with chlorine gas. One of the two barrels fell over a house and killed an entire family who suffocated due to the gas attack. We noticed that those barrel bombs were not destructive as usual. The second barrel fell over an agricultural area. Apparently the concentration of chlorine gas was very high considering the huge numbers of injuries, including the injury of some paramedics and civil defense staff members. People suffered from headache, breathing difficulties, and numbness. Also, some of the injured people had foam coming out of their mouths.”*

The second gas attack on 26 March 2015:

Government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Sirmeen city which caused suffocation for 8 persons.

**5. Shelling with toxic gases on Binnish City on 24 March 2015:**

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Binnish city which caused not less than 17 suffocation cases with toxic gases, including women and children.

An [image](#) that depicts some individuals who suffocated due to poisonous gases:

**6. Shelling with toxic gases on Idlib City. It was shelled twice:**The first attack on 31 March 2015:

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Idlib which caused 13 suffocation cases due to toxic gases.

*Dr. Mohannad, who oversaw treating the affected individuals, gave his testimony to SNHR:*

*“On that day, the wind was so strong and it was raining, which prevented the spread of Chlorine gas after we were targeted by government forces at 3 p.m. Four barrel bombs were dropped on Idlib next to the Red Crescent; two of the barrels were loaded with Chlorine gas and 13 suffocation cases were documented. The symptoms were shortness of breath, and irritation in the mucus membrane.”*

The second attack on 16 April 2015:

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on the bus stop in Idlib city. As a result, 20 persons were affected from the gas attack.

SNHR spoke to media activist Ibrahim Al Idliby who gave us his testimony regarding the shelling:

*“At 11 p.m. government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on the bus stop in the city. The aviation continued its shelling and targeted Koureen and Al Tamanae’ towns, however; the barrels that were dropped on Idlib were loaded with Chlorine gas. The shelling affected 15 individuals and the Civil Defense team transported most of the victims to Sirmeen makeshift hospital and dealt with the barrel’s remnants.”*

A [video](#) that depicts Civil Defense teams aiding affected people

**7. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Habeet town on 13 April 2015:**

Government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Habeet town where it fell on an agricultural land and did not explode. However, members from the engineering battalion affiliated to Armed Opposition dismantled the barrel and extracted 6 cylinders purportedly filled with toxic gases.

A [footage](#) that depicts the cylinders that were extracted from the barrel bomb:

**8. Shelling with toxic gases on Kafr Aweed town on 26 April 2015:**

At 4 a.m. Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas which affected 10 persons.

**9. Shelling with toxic gases on Koureen town on 28 April 2015:**

Government helicopters dropped three barrel bombs the contained Chlorine gas on Koureen town which affected three persons.

*SNHR spoke to local activist Iyad Abdul Kader who gave us his testimony:  
“On Tuesday morning government helicopters dropped three barrel bombs that contained Chlorine on Koureen town in conjunction with rocket attacks. The town was free of civilians since they left the town due to the intensity of the shelling. Civil Defense teams headed to the shelling site to deal with its remnants, this two members of were affected; the ambulance driver and the photographer, and a civilian. All cases were treated and received proper care.”*

**10. Shelling with toxic gases on Krasaa Town on 28 April 2015:**

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Krasaa town and caused Chlorine gas intoxication for 12 individuals.

**11. Shelling with toxic gases on Saraqeb City:**

Saraqeb was shelled three times:

**The First Shelling Incident on 29 April 2015:**

Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Saraqeb City. One of the barrels was shelled on a remote area and the other fell on one of the houses. The house was destroyed and 15 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

**The Second Shelling Incident on 2 May 2015:**

Government aviation dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on the eastern and northern neighbourhoods in the city. As a result, 70 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning, including women and children.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Layth, one of the Civil Defence members:*

*“At 3 a.m. the eastern and northern neighbourhoods in Saraqeb were shelled with two barrels loaded with Chlorine gas. I went with other Civil Defence members to aid the residents. 75 persons, including a great number of women and children suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning. The suffocation cases were mild, like burning in the throat, eyes, severe cough that incites vomiting and shortness of breath.*

*A [video](#) that depicts a number of suffocating children:*

#### The Third Shelling Incident on 8 June 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the eastern neighbourhood in Saraqeb city. The shelling caused the suffocation of 5 individuals (including 3 children and two women).

#### **12. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Nayreb Town on 2 May 2015:**

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on one of the houses in Al Nayreb town. As a result, a father and his son were killed and 10 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

Victims’ names: Ahmad Moustafa Hajj Ali and his baby Moustafa Hajj Ali.

A [video](#) that depicts the baby, Moustafa Hajj Ali:

#### **13. Shelling with toxic gases on Ibleen town in Jabal Al Zawiya on 3 May 2015:**

Government aviation dropped a [barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas](#) on Ibleen town. As a result, 12 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

An [image](#) that shows the remnants of barrel bombs



An image that shows a baby who suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning:

#### **14. Shelling with toxic gases on Kafr Bateekh town on 7 May 2015:**

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with chlorine gas on Kafr Bateekh town and 9 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

**15. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Janoudiya town on 7 May 2015:**

Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Janoudiya town. 12 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and were taken to Droukoush Hospital, according to the residents.

**16. Shelling with toxic gases on Knasfara town: It was shelled three times:**

The first shelling incident on 29 April 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Knasfara town. 10 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The second shelling incident on 3 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas. 4 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The third shelling incident on 8 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas. 3 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

**17. Shelling with toxic gases on Joseph town: It was shelled twice:**

The first shelling incident on 3 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas Joseph town's square. As a result, 2 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The second shelling incident on 29 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas next to Joseph town. We did not record any injuries since there were no civilians around in the region.

**18- Shelling with toxic gases on Mishmishan town: It was shelled four times:**

The first shelling incident on 15 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town in the suburbs of Jisr Al Shoughour. A woman and her daughter were killed and 30 other civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

*SNHR spoke to the local activist Mohamad Al Khdier, who told us what, happened: "At 3 a.m. government forces dropped a barrel bomb that contained Chlorine gas on the middle of Mishmishan town in the eastern suburbs of Jisr Al Shoughour. 30 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and then were taken to the nearest medical point. Most of the cases were mild and treated by the civil defence except for two cases; a woman in her forties, Futaim Mohamad Shiekh Khalil, and her baby girl. They died two days later of their injury."*

A [video](#) that depicts individuals who suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning:

The second shelling incident on 17 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine in conjunction with shelling Al Kastan town with another barrel bomb. 43 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication in both towns.

The third shelling incident on 19 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town. 21 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The fourth shelling incident on 7 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town in conjunction with shelling Al Kastan town with another Chlorine loaded barrel. 9 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

**19. Shelling with toxic gases on Jisr Al Shoughour town on 19 May 2015**

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Jisr Al Shoughour town in Jisr Al Shoughour suburbs thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 36 individuals.

**20. Shelling Al Bashyariya town: It was shelled four times:**The first shelling incident on 19 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Bashyariya town. 7 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning

The second shelling incident on 25 May 2015:

Government warplanes targeted with a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas Al Bshariya town. 6 Individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The third shelling incident on 2 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Bshariya town which led to the Chlorine gas intoxication of 9 persons.

The fourth shelling incident on 9 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 6 persons.

**21. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Kastan town:**The first shelling incident on 17 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town in conjunction with targeting Mishmishan town with a similar barrel bomb thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 43 individuals in both towns.

*SNHR spoke to a local activist, Mohamad Al Khdeir:*

*“On Sunday at 2:30 a.m. government aviation raided the eastern suburbs of Jisr Al Shougour and dropped two barrel bombs on Al Kastan and Mishmishan town. The barrel bombs contained Chlorine gas and the smell spread all over the towns. Civil defence teams and ambulances rushed to aid the citizens. There were 40 individuals in both towns who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and their injuries were mild, their eyes burned and felt nauseous. The severe cases were taken to the medical points to monitor them.”*

The second shelling incident on 7 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town in conjunction with targeting Mishmishan town with a similar barrel bomb causing Chlorine gas intoxication for 5 persons.

**22. Shelling with toxic gases on Sfouhen town on 9 June 2015:**

At 4:30 a.m. Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs that contained Chlorine gas on the town which led to the Chlorine gas intoxication of 9 individuals who were taken to makeshift hospitals.

**23. Shelling with toxic gases on Al Tamanaa’ town on 17 June 2015:**

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb that contained Chlorine gas, however it did not explode.

*SNHR spoke to local activist Abdul Kader Al Bakri who gave us his testimony about what happened:*

*“On Wednesday at dawn at 4:30 a.m. government warplanes were hovering around over Al Tamanaa’ town and dropped a barrel bomb on one of the houses in the middle of the town but it did not. We thought that it was loaded with Chlorine gas, most of the times those barrels don’t explode. After checking the barrel and where it fell, we found out that it contained Chlorine gas cylinders, but luckily, it did not explode.”*

An [image](#) that shows the remnants of a barrel bomb:

## ***ii. Use of Cluster Munitions***

SNHR documented government's use of cluster munitions 6 times in 5 regions which caused the death of one person and the injury of 32 others, including a child.

### **1. Shelling Ma'art Al No'aman City:**

#### The First Attack on 22 May 2014:

On 22 May 2014 government warplanes shelled the western neighborhood of the city using a rocket loaded with cluster munitions. We recorded the injuries of 11 individuals including a child.

*Hani, a media activist in Al Ma'arah, told SNHR:*

*"At 1 p.m., on 22 May, government warplanes hovered around before it dropped a rocket carrying cluster munitions and targeted a residential neighborhood located in the west of the city. The rocket did not cause a huge destruction in the area, but its remnants spread over a huge area of the neighborhood and caused deaths and injuries."*

Photos showing [cluster munitions remnants](#) on Ma'arat Al No'man:

#### The Second Attack on 12 September 2014:

Government warplanes shelled the western part of the city again with a rocket loaded with cluster munitions. No injuries or deaths were recorded.

### **2. Shelling Kafr Ruma town on Saturday, 28 June 2014:**

Government warplanes shelled Kafr Roma town with two cluster rockets. The first targeted town's southern region and the other targeted the middle of it. We were able to record not less than 15 injuries due to the shelling.

*SNHR contacted Fadi Yasin, a media activist in Kafr Roma:*

*"Government forces targeted the town with explosive barrels on Saturday morning and it was followed by shelling with cluster munitions. The first rocket targeted a front line between the regime and FSA from the side of Al-Hamdeya Barracks, while the other fell on the middle of the town. Cluster munitions spread over a huge area and caused many injuries among civilians."*



some remnants of cluster munitions

### 3. Shelling Kafr Sijna town on Monday, 7 July 2014:

Government warplanes shelled Kafr Sinja town with cluster bombs. We did not record any casualties.

Video [footage](#) that shows some remnants of cluster munitions dropped by warplanes on Kafr Sijna town:

### 4. Shelling Sarmada City on 1 August 2014:

Government Warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled Sarmada town with a rocket carrying cluster munitions resulting in spreading the remnants over a huge area on Sarmada – ad-Dana road. We recorded one death and other five injuries.

[Photos](#) showing cluster munitions' remnants inside Sarmada

*Mr. Shareef Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh, a resident in Sarmada city, gave SNHR his testimony:*

*“At 4 p.m., a government warplane dropped a rocket carrying cluster munitions. It exploded in the sky and the small bombs spread out of it and began falling on the residents. More than 30 small bombs exploded over the area opposite to Qaddor Gas Station on Sarmada – Al-Dana road where the small bombs fell on farms, residential buildings, and on the highway. We were able to count about 20 bombs that did not explode. As a result, fires were ignited and we started to put it off and helped the injured. Then, medics and Civil Defense teams arrived and treated the injured. Shelling caused the death of a person called “Tameem Habl” from Hzanoo town, besides five injuries were recorded including critical cases.”*

### 5. Shelling on Tlamnes town on 6 October 2014:

Government warplanes shelled Tlamnes town with two rockets loaded with cluster bombs which killed Mrs. Zaynab Al Ahmad and caused some destruction in residential buildings. SNHR spoke to Mr. Saleh Al Idily who gave us his testimony:

*“At 1:30 p.m. government warplanes dropped small cluster bomb incubators, 4 cluster bombs in each incubator. The shelling targeted the agricultural land 20 meters away from one of the town’s house. Three small clusters bombs and injured a woman called Zaynab Al Ahmad. The remnants from the bombs were scattered among residential buildings, I saw a child who was playing with it and warned him. However, not being able to get rid of it imposes a great danger on civilians.”*

#### **Conclusions:**

Government forces breached UN Security Council resolutions in Idlib governorate:

Government forces violated UNSC resolution 2139 regarding the arbitrary arrests and indiscriminate shelling.

Government forces violated UNSC resolution 2041 regarding releasing detainees.

Government forces violated resolutions 2118 and 2209 regarding the use of toxic gases.

However, the UNSC remained silent regarding all these violations.

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

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.

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.

## B. Extremist Islamic Groups:

### i. ISIL:

#### a. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the death of 86 individuals killed by ISIL, detailed as follows:

- 8 civilians, including 3 children and a woman
- 78 civilians

### ii. Jund Al Aqsa (affiliated to ISIL)

#### b. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

On 31 May 2015, Jund Al Aqsa (affiliated to ISIL) shot dead 3 judges. Al Fateh Army, an armed opposition group, and An-Nusra Front issued a [statement](#) that demanded an investigation about the incident.

#### c. Arrests and a Illegal Detentions:

SNHR documented the arrest of 45 individuals, including 4 children in Idlib within the period of making this report.

### ii. An-Nusra Front:

#### a. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the death of 92 individuals killed by An-Nusra Front, detailed as follows: 65 civilians, including 6 children and 5 women. Additionally, 4 persons died under torture. 27 gunmen.

SNHR documented two massacres perpetrated by An-Nusra Front:

On 10 June 2014, some members of An-Nusra Front (the group of Abdul Rahman the Tunisian) shot civilians in Kalb Al Lawz town as a response to the killing of An-Nusra member by one of the town's residents. 26 civilians were killed as a result. On 12 June 2014, An-Nusra Front, along with other armed opposition factions issued a [statement](#) about the incident.

An-Nusra Front's [statement](#) on 13 June 2014

On 22 March 2015, a number of local made missiles fell on Shaykh Tholoth and Thawra neighborhoods. The missiles came from An-Nusra Front artillery, which killed 7 civilians, including a child and two women. 18 others were injured.

A [link](#) to an image posted on twitter by An-Nusra Front that depicts the canons they used in shelling. It affirms that [the shelling targeted the city for three days](#)

A [picture](#) that shows injured civilians due to the mortar missile shelling on 22 March 2015

**b. Arrests and Illegal Detentions:**

SNHR documented the arrest of 205 individuals, including 11 children and 3 women by An-Nusra Front:

Mr. Alaa Mostafa Zaydan, a university professor in the Agricultural Faculty in Aleppo University, from Bsamis University, born on 1970, was arrested by armed members from An-Nusra Front on 3 March 2015 in Ma'art Al No'aman. SNHR could not identify his whereabouts or his fate up to the moment of making this report.



Jawdat Malas, a media activist from Ma'art Al No'aman, born on 1996, was arrested by armed members from An-Nusra Front after they raided his work place. On 6 January 2015, he was released after being tortured.



Wathab Al Azo, a media activist from Saraqeb City, born on 1987, was arrested on 7 January 2015, was arrested by armed members from An-Nusra Front when he was passing by their checkpoint next to Tiftinaz military airport in Idlib suburbs. His whereabouts are still unknown for his family and SNHR.

**c. Torture in Detention Centers:**

SNHR recorded the death of 4 individuals under torture:

Kusay Ali Al Mulla, a commander in armed opposition groups, from Azmareen town, in Idlib, born in 1974. On 18 February 2015, armed members from An-Nusra Front arrested him from his house. His family informed us of this death under torture on 22 February 2015.

**d. Targeting Vital Facilities:**

On 21 March 2015, a mortar shell from an area under An-Nusra front control fell on the [Technical Institution of Economy](#), in Dabeit, Idlib, causing superficial damages in the institution building.

On 24 March 2015, artillery force located in an area under An-Nusra front control fired a mortar shell on the Central Bank in Idlib, causing damages in the building.

**Conclusions:**

Extremist Islamic Groups violated basic human rights like the right to live, attacked civil neighbourhoods and facilities, and perpetrated crimes against civilians like arbitrary arrests and torture. All their crimes can be classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity under the 7th charter of Rome Agreement.

## C. Armed Opposition Groups

### a. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the death of 123 individuals killed by armed opposition groups, detailed as follows:

118 civilians, including 35 children and 21 women.

5 gunmen

4 massacres

On 16 June 2014, local made missiles fell on Karm Rahal neighbourhood in Idlib City. The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of an armed opposition area. The missiles hit a house and killed 12 civilians from one family, including 3 women and 7 children.

On 30 June 2014, 10 mortar missiles fell on Idlib City. The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of an armed opposition area. 2 of the missiles fell next to Al Wehda School which killed 14 individuals including 3 children and 4 women.

On 1 July 2014, a number of mortar missiles fell on Sheikh Tholoth neighbourhood in Idlib. The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of an armed opposition area. As a result, 11 civilians were killed, including 3 women.

On 9 August 2014, a number of mortar missiles fell on Al Sedeek Mosque. The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of an armed opposition area. As a result, 6 civilians were killed (5 children and a woman).

### b. Arrests and Illegal Detention:

SNHR documented the arrest of 31 individuals by armed opposition forces, including 2 children.

On 17 January 2015, Alwiyat Al Ansar, an armed opposition group, arrested a media activist (his name will be kept secretive due to security reasons). The detainee was from Hama city but lived in Kafr Sanja town. He was released on 21 January 2015.

### c. Torture in Detention Centres:

SNHR documented the death of 5 persons under torture in detention centres that belonged to armed opposition forces in Idlib.

**d. Targeting Vital Facilities:**

SNHR documented 3 vital facilities that were targeted (2 schools and a mosque) by armed opposition forces.

On 28 January 2014, a mortar missile fell on Yehya Al Dohaini's school. The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of an armed opposition area which led to the death of a child and the injury of 25 others. Material damages occurred to the school's building.

On 9 February 2015, an artillery missile fell on a region controlled by armed opposition groups next to Al Husayniyat mosque in Al Fouaa town which damaged the minaret and the mosque's building.

On 23 April 2015, , [three gas cylinders](#), which were likely fired from a rebel-held area, on a IDPs centers (schools) in Ariha city. One of the school fences was damaged due to the bombing.

**Conclusions:**

Random and indiscriminate killing, torturing detainees and besieging Al Fouaa and Kefraya towns are considered a clear violation to the International Humanitarian Law and can be classified as war crimes.

#### D. International Coalition Forces:

International Coalition forces commenced its campaign on 23 September 2014, and raided Idlib governorate. These attacks killed 15 civilians, including 7 children and 5 women. SNHR documented one massacre perpetrated by International Coalition Forces:

On 23 September 2014, at 3 a.m. an international coalition warplane launched rockets on the east of Kafr Diryan town in northern Idlib suburbs. The attack targeted 4 poultry farms, which was An-Nusra front headquarters, two of them were storage places for weapons and munitions. After the shelling stopped, the explosions continued in the headquarters and collapsed a two-story house less than 100 meters away from the storage houses.

The shelling caused the death of 13 individuals; all of them were civilians, including 5 children and 5 women.

The following [link](#) contains the names of the victims in Kafr Diryan

A detailed [report](#) about Kafr Diryan massacre issued by SNHR previously

On 6 November 2014, international coalition forces launched 4 rockets that targeted 3 An-Nusra Front headquarters. The fourth rocket targeted another headquarters that was near a fuel station that was out of service. Great damage occurred to the nearby buildings and killed two children.

[An unidentified body](#) for a child that was killed due to the international coalition forces on Harem city on 6 November 2014



An image of child Dania Ali Al Hajj Kaddour, 5 years old, was killed due to the international coalition shelling on Harem town on 6 November 2014.

#### Conclusions

Absence of a systemized attack strategy and random and indiscriminate shelling is considered a clear violation to the International Humanitarian Law. The excessive force used by the international coalition forces that targeted civilians was greater than the desired military advantage.

## E. Different Incidents:

SNHR's documentation includes explosion victims whose perpetrators are not known, and the victims killed by unidentified groups. 167 persons were killed as a result, detailed as follows:

- 84 civilians, including 17 children and a woman.
- 83 gunmen
- 6 massacres

Six massacres were documented, and detailed as follows:

On 16 May 2014, SNHR documented the killing of [12 civilians including 2 children](#) due to a car bomb in a [town in Binnish City](#). SNHR could not identify the identity of the perpetrators.

On 28 May 2014, SNHR documented the killing of 17 persons including a child and injured 42 others in Ma'art Al Na'san town after a suicide bomb attack in the diesel market. SNHR could not confirm the perpetrator's identity.

On 26 July 2014, a suicide cam bomb happened in Attema border town which killed 15 individuals including 7 gunmen and 5 civilians, including a woman. SNHR could not identify the perpetrator's identity up to the moment of making this report.

On 9 September 2014, SNHR documented the killing of [47 commanders in Ahrar Al Sham Brigade](#), affiliated to armed opposition groups in an [explosion operation in the brigade's headquarters](#) in Tal Sandal next to Ram Hamdan in northern Idlib suburbs. SNHR could not confirm the perpetrator's identity.

On 16 September 2014, SNHR documented the death of 11 children in Jirjinaz Medical Center in Idlib suburbs as a result of a medical mistake due to mixing a medical substance used in anesthesia as a solvent for measles vaccine.

On 1 October 2014, a suicide bomber bombed himself in a checkpoint that belonged to an armed opposition group. As a result 5 armed men were killed. SNHR was not able to identify the identity of the perpetrators until the moment of making this report.

## V. 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.

## IV. 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.

