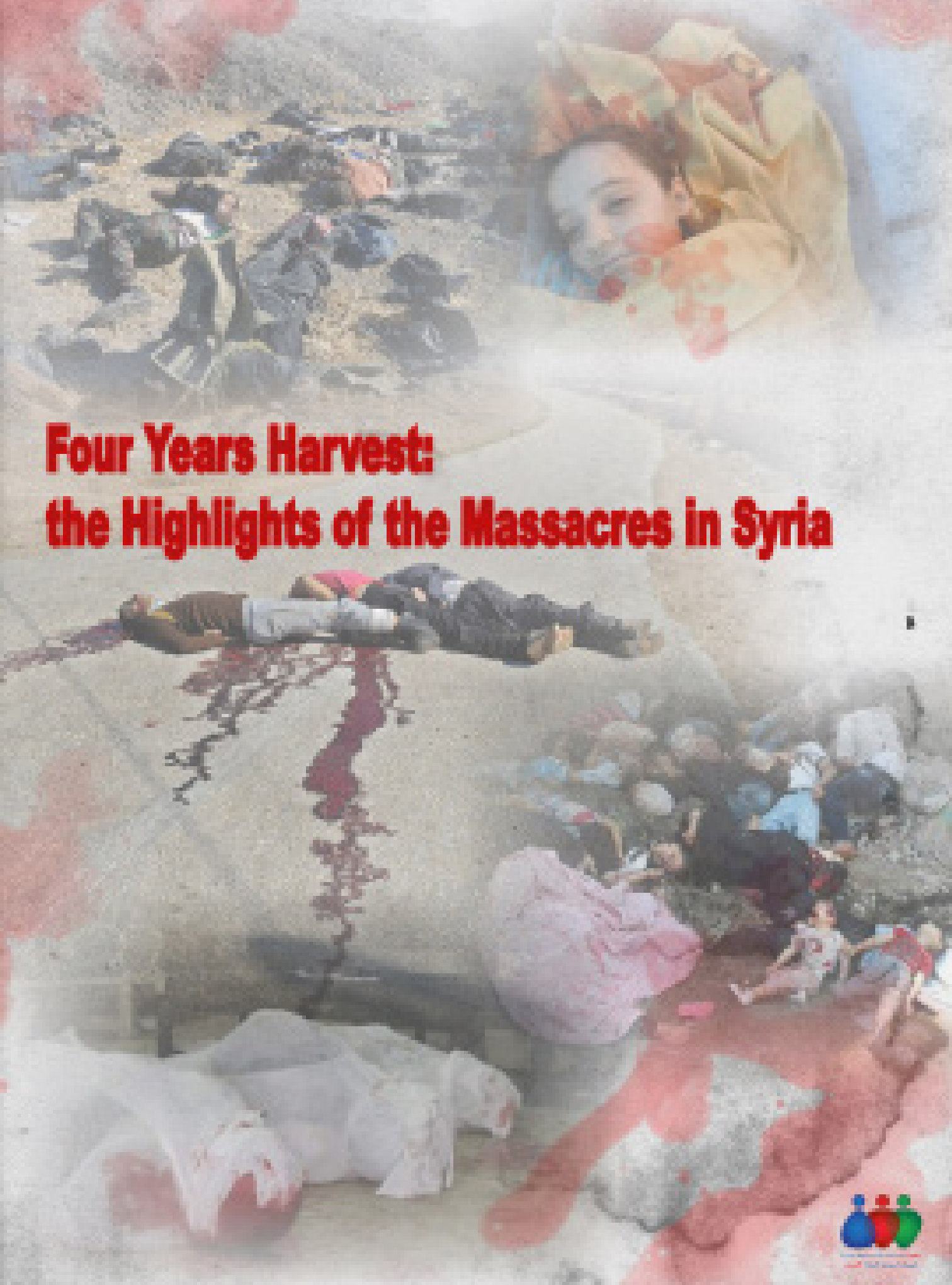
Four Years Harvest: the Highlights of the Massacres in Syria



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Introduction

SNHR issue seven monthly report, including a report that discuss in details the most notable of the massacres committed by the armed parties in Syria, in this report will not review all the massacres from March 2011 to March 2015 as it is available on our website, because some months involve no less than a 120 massacres (an incident where 5 individuals die), and the main aim of the report is to review the most notable massacres committed by the armed parties against the Syrian people, and accentuating that –with no comparison- the government forces topped all the other parties a 100 times more in the number of violations, in terms of the death toll and the size and capacity of the spread of these massacres, followed by the extremist groups, then all armed opposition groups, then the coalition forces and Kurdish forces.

Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Executive Summary

The report contain a short description to 34 Massacres of the most notable massacres committed by the influential parties in Syria from March 2011 to March 2015, that caused the death of 4606 individuals including 4513 civilians including 821 child and 595 women as follows:

Government forces:

22 massacres that have 4259 casualties, including 86 of the armed opposition members and 4173 civilians, including 758 children and 568 women.

The largest is the eastern and western Gouta massacre Wednesday 21 /August /2013, where chemical weapons were used by government forces and was the deadliest as it claimed the lives of 913 people, including 172 children and 148 women.

Kurdish forces:

2 massacres claimed the lives of 48 civilians, including 15 children and 3 women.

The largest massacre is in the villages of Tel Khalil and Alhajiyeh, which claimed the lives of 42 people, including 15 children and 3 women.

Extremist groups:

ISIS: 3 massacres claimed the lives of 111 civilians, including 18 children and 3 women.

Most notable the massacre of children›s hospital, which claimed the lives of 50 people, including journalists and civilians

An-Nussra Front: 2 massacres claimed the lives of 53 people, including 9 children, 5 women.

Most notable the massacre of Al-Zahra neighborhood in Homs, which claimed the lives of 39 civilians, including 3 children, 3 women, and 2 doctors

Armed Opposition:

3 massacres that claimed the lives of 71 people, 7 military personnel belonging to government forces, and 64 civilians, including 14 children, and 9 women

Most notable the massacre of Al-Mattar neighborhood in Daraa, which claimed the lives of 29 civilians, including 8 children, and 5 women

Coalition forces:

2 massacres that claimed the lives of 64 civilians, including 7 children, and 7 women

The largest was the Saraya building massacre in Al-Bab city, which claimed the lives of 51 civilians, including 2 women and 2 children.

The massacres committed by the government forces:

1. Al-Rifa'ay, Adweiyah, and Karm Az-Zaytoun neighborhoods in Homs between Friday 9 March 2012 and 11 March 2012

The government forces surrounded the three neighborhoods in Homs on Friday morning 9 / March / 2012, followed by a heavy artillery bombardment lasted for nearly 18 hours.
On Sunday morning, 11 / March / 2012 government forces backed by individuals from a pro-Syrian regime neighborhoods stormed Al-Rifa'ay neighborhood and then Adweiyah and Karm Az-Zaytoun neighborhoods and carried out field executions, and raped women and burned victims' bodies.
SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 224 people, including 44 children and 48 women.

2. Deir Balba in the period between Monday 2 / April / 2012 and Monday, 9 / April / 2012

Government forces stormed the neighborhood backed by Shi'ite militias on the start of April 2012 and comitted horrific massacres in the neighborhood, included breaking into homes and field execution against the population and raped women, often followed by abusing corpses and burn or bury them in shallow mass graves.
SNHR team managed to document 199 dead, including 21 children and 20 women.

3. Hula Friday 25 / May / 2012

Government forces backed by armed members from pro- regime villages bombed the villages of Hula on Friday morning and the shelling lasted for 14 hours, followed by storming civilian homes on the outskirts of Hula the town of Taldou, and field execution of dozens of people after tying them up and slaughtered them with bayonets, and then they were shot.
SNHRT team managed to document the deaths of 107 people, including 97 civilians, and 10 of the armed opposition members, between the civilians 49 children and 32 women.

4. Al-Qubeir Farm in Hama, Wednesday 6 / June / 2012

Government forces bombed Al-Qubeir with tanks and heavy and medium machine guns, followed by hundreds of military members storming the village and carry out field execution against the villagers who are about 150 thousand people.

SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 50 people, including 10 children, 9 women.

5. Altrimseh village in Hama, Thursday 12 / July / 2012

More than 200 government forces military vehicles surrounded Altrimseh village in Hama and then bombed it for 4 hours with tanks and heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, which left dozens dead. Followed by storming the homes on the outskirts of the village and field executions for dozens of people

SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 67 people, including 6 children and a woman

6. Darya in the period between Monday, 20 / August / 2012 until Monday 27 / August / 2012

Government forces surrounded Daria the largest city in eastern Gouta on Monday morning 20/August/2012, followed by artillery and mortar missiles and a ground incursions backed by tanks, coincided with the government forces burning houses, shops and agricultural land.

After the withdrawal of opposition fighters from the city, government forces carried out a field execution of dozens of people in the period between Saturday 25 / August / 2012 and Monday 27 / August / 2012.

SNHR managed to document the deaths of 524 people, including 61 lady, and 5 children over 7 days, and perhaps the largest massacres took place in the days of 26 and 27 August in a shelter near Abu Suleiman Aldarani mosque, where people found 156 people, including 19 lady, and 3 children, all of whom were executed at the hands of government forces.

7. Muadamiyat al-Sham city in Damascus Tuesday, 21 / August / 2012

Government forces surrounded Moadamieh on Tuesday, 21 / August / 2012 morning, supported by troops from the regiment (555) of the fourth armored division, the shelling of the city lasted more than 12 hours, followed by the government forces storming it, accompanied by field execution against dozens of residents, in addition to targeting a convoy of hundreds of civilians who were mourning the victims of the bombing; what led to dozens of deaths.

SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 86 people, including one of the armed opposition members, and 16 people were killed by bombing, which targeted a funeral procession, including two children and five women.

8. Banias city Thursday 2 / May / 2013 to Saturday, 4 / May / 2013

One of the largest massacres that took place in 2013, as government forces backed by young men of the Alawite sect (local militias made up of civilian whom were armed by government forces), and members of the Lebanese Hezbollah (foreign militias) stormed the town of al-Bayda after the blockade, and committed one of the worst massacres since the start of the peaceful protests, which included the slaughter, mutilation, cutting, and burning the bodies of children and women.

The massacre happened in two areas: Beida, and Ras An-Naba'a

SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 459 civilians in result of slaughter and execution, including 92 children, 71 women, in addition to dozens of missing and abducted 40 whom we were able to document by name and the fate of the rest remain unknown until this moment.

9. Sanamayn city in Daraa Wednesday 10 / April / 2013

Government forces backed by members of the local militias and armed vehicles causing a massacre, all the casualties were slaughtered, and SNHR was able to document the deaths of 48 civilians by execution and slaughtering with knives, including 6 children and 7 women, while people talked about the presence of 12 other people, SNHR team was not able to identify them; because of the deliberate distortion of the bodies by government forces and their militias.

10. Jdeideh Al-Fadel in Damascus in the period between 16 / April / 2013 to 23 / April / 2013:

Government forces surrounded the town and cut the electricity and communications for the town, accompanied it with artillery was carried out by regiment 100 on Al-Mawali neighborhood. The shelling was followed by intrusion from the northern side coincided with violent and concentrated bombing by the regiment 100 and regiment 135 stationed at the top of a hill called Kwkab in Artoz area.

Government forces carried out field executions against the inhabitants of the region, SNHR team documented the deaths of 191, including 17 from the armed opposition, and 174 civilians, including 9 children, and 8 women, in addition to dozens missing, and more than 120 detainees.

11. Neighborhoods of Al-Bab Road and Ard Al-Hamra in the city of Aleppo Friday 22 / February / 2013:

Government forces targeted Ard Al Hamra and Al-Bab with more than a Scud missile, killing 77 people, including 39 children, 7 women one of them pregnant, and injured at least 200 others.

12. Al-Mazra'ah massacre Saturday 21 / June / 2013:
Government forces backed by Lebanese Hezbollah militias killed dozens of people from Al- Mazra'ah village, including women and children, and then threw some of the bodies in the village well, and burned the other bodies.
SNHR team documented the deaths of 55 people, including 21 children and 5 women.

13. Eastern and Western Ghouta in Damascus - the massacre of chemical weapon Wednesday 21 / August / 2013:
Government forces shelled parts of the eastern Gouta and after about two hours bombed areas of western Gouta, and defected experts estimates that 10 rockets with a capacity of 20 liters each were fired.
SNHR team documented the deaths of a group of 913 people, including 172 children and 148 women.

14. City Nabek in Damascus: 20 / November / 2013 to 27 / December / 2013
Government forces surrounded An-Nabek city for 13 days before storming it and conducting field execution against many of its inhabitants, SNHR team managed to document the deaths of 399 people, including 38 of the armed opposition, and 361 civilians, including 98 children and 94 women.

15. Barrel bombs massacres in the city of Aleppo in the period between Sunday 15 / December / 2013 to Tuesday 24 / December / 2013
Over ten days the city of Aleppo and its countryside were under heavy shelling by government warplanes, where more than 152 Barrel bombs were used, which led to the loss of hundreds of victims.
SNHR team has been able to document the deaths of 560 people, including 148 children, and 63 women (the proportion of deaths is children 26%, and 12% women, meaning that the proportion of children and women, 38% of the total deaths)
The largest number of deaths was on 15 and 17 December.
15 / December / 2013 documented the deaths of 132 people, including 42 children and 13 women
17 / December / 2013 documented the deaths of 101 people, including 24 children and 13 women.

16. Hulk neighborhood massacre Thursday, 1 / May / 2014

The government aviation helicopters bombed two markets in the neighborhood with 6 barrel bombs. 4 0 them targeted the "vegetable market", and 2 targeting clothing market in Hulk Fawqani neighborhood.

This led to the deaths of 76 people, including 23 children and 7 women, and injured at least 70 others.

17. As-Sukkari neighborhood massacre Monday 16 / June / 2014:

Government aviation dropped barrel bombs on As-Sukkari neighborhood in the city of Aleppo; what caused the deaths of 79 people, including 6 children and 3 women.

18. Massacre in the village of Al-Shinyah Wednesday 23 / July / 2014

Local militias from Al-Shinyah village executed 20 soldiers enlisted in the regular army, after they tried to defect and escape from Al-Qabo village toward the Hula city of Homs, when they strayed and were captivated by Al-Shinyah village militias who executed them, slaughtered with knives, and abused their bodies in brutal ways and threw their heads in the Orontes River, the actions carry prominent sectarian character.

19. Irbeen market massacre Saturday 9 / October / 2014:

Government warplanes targeted a popular market in the city of Irbeen with stereochemistry missile; what caused the deaths of 31 civilians, including 4 children, and 6 women.

20. A massacre in Jassem Daraa Sunday 30 / November / 2014

Government warplanes launched two raids on the town of Jassem, killing 27 people, including 5 children, 5 women, in addition to the ignition of fires in some shops, and damaged several residential buildings.

21. Al-Wa'ar neighborhood in Homs massacre on Tuesday, 16 / December / 2014:

Government aviation launched six military raids on Al-Wa'ar neighborhood in Homs targeting a residential tower; what caused the deaths of 37 people, including 7 children and 9 women.

22. Khansa village Tuesday 20 / January / 2015

Government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Taima market, a livestock market in Khansa village of Tal Hamis, it is mentioned that the village is under the control of ISIS but it has no military checkpoints or headquarters of ISIS

Bombardment caused the deaths of 30 people, including three children and a woman, and injuring more than 100 people, according to SNHR documentation

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Conclusions:

Government forces have committed a variety of crimes of extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, torture, and other crimes that amount to crimes against humanity; because of its methodology and capacity the Syrian government did not stop with just violating international humanitarian law and customary law, it also violated the decisions of the Security Council, and in particular 2118 on the non-reoccurrence of poison gas use, and the resolution 2139, the previous resolutions 2042 on the release of the detainees, all without any accountability, but also it has legitimacy across the Russian-Chinese cover and the western silence

Massacres committed by Kurdish forces

1. Amouda, Hasakah massacre Thursday 27 / June / 2013:
Armed members of the Democratic Union Party opened fire on a peaceful demonstration demanding the release of detainees in Amouda; what caused the deaths of six people, including two children, according to SNHR documentation

2. Al-Hajeiya and Tel Khalil in Hasakah massacre Saturday 13 / September / 2014
The Kurdish protection units stormed the villages of Tel Khalil and Hajeiya and executed 42 people, including 15 children and 3 women, were among the dead also teachers in the village school.

Conclusions:

Kurdish forces violated the right to life through killings and executions, all of which amount to crimes against humanity, in accordance with Article VII of the Rome Statute, as well as many war crimes over the discriminated shelling according to international humanitarian law.

Massacres committed by extremist groups:

A- ISIS:

1. Children's Hospital massacre in Aleppo Wednesday 8 / January / 2014:
ISIS execution of dozens of detainees who were being held in the children's hospital building before withdrawal, after clashes between members of the armed opposition and them
SNHR documented the deaths of 50 people, including journalists and civilians.

2. Genderen village massacre in Hama Friday 2 / May / 2014:
One of ISIS members called Ahmed Tunisi detonated a car bomb in the village of Jadrine that has an Alawi majority; what caused the deaths of 17 civilians, including 10 children, 3 women, and wounded about 50 others.

3. Bab As-Salameh border crossing point massacre Thursday 15 / May / 2014:
One of ISIS members detonated a car bomb in Sjo garage in Bab As-Salameh border crossing point, causing the deaths of 44 people, including 8 children, according to SNHR documentation.

B- An-Nussra Front:

1. Carpet factory massacre in As-Salamiyeh, Hama on Monday 21 / January / 2013:
A member of An-Nussra Front detonated a car bomb at the headquarters of the carpet factory in As-Salamiyeh, Hama, which is the headquarters of the pro-government forces committees; what caused the deaths of 14 civilians, including 6 children, 3 women, in addition to injuring more than 56 others, who are residents of the buildings next to the carpet facctory.
Saturday 26 / January / 2013 An-Nussra Front issued a statement adopting the incident

2. Az-Zahra neighborhood in Homs massacre on Tuesday, 29 / April / 2014:
An-Nussra Front adopted detonating two car bombs in Al-Zahra neighborhood in Homs, a pro-government forces majority, contains the headquarters of the establishment of local militias, and so close to the Abbasid circle; the explosion resulted in the deaths of 39 civilians, including 3 children, and 3 women, and 2 doctors, and injuring more than 134 people, according to SNHR documentation

Conclusions:

Extremist groups violated the right to life through the killings and executions, all of which amount to crimes against humanity, in accordance with Article VII of the Rome Statute, as well as many war crimes over the discriminated shelling according to international humanitarian law.

The massacres committed by the armed opposition factions:

1. Furqan neighborhood massacre in Aleppo Wednesday 4 / December / 2013:
Armed opposition shelled Furqan neighborhood in Aleppo with mortar shells, caused the deaths of 19 civilians, including three children, and a woman, according to SNHR documentation

2. Al-Mattar neighborhood massacre in Daraa Thursday, 22 / May / 2014
Sajeel artillery battalion of the armed opposition launched three mortar shells targeted two electoral tent "Homeland Tent" included a crowd of revelers of so-called "presidential elections" in Al-Mattar neighborhood Daraa, while the third shell landed after about an hour in front of the Orient Hospital who was ministering to it victims and injured as a result of the bombing of the tent. What led to the deaths of 29 civilians, including 8 children, 5 women, in addition to killing seven soldiers, while the number of injured rose to 276, according to SNHR documentation

3. Ar-Rashdeen neighborhood in Aleppo Thursday, 1 / January / 2015:
Four mortar shells and a locally made missile dropped from armed opposition based in the southern region of Ar-Rashdeen local market in the Shohda area next to Sayda Nafisa mosque in the new Aleppo neighborhood; what caused the deaths of 16 civilians, including three children, and three ladies.

Conclusions:

Factions of the armed opposition had violated the right to life through the non-discriminating killing and shelling, which amount to war crimes according to international humanitarian law.

The massacres committed by the coalition forces:

1. Kfredrian massacre in Idlib Tuesday 23 / September / 2014:

A coalition warplane raided on East Village Kfredrian Idlib, targeted four chicken corrals, which is a headquarters for An-Nussra Front, two of which are the headquarters of the weapon and ammunition.

After the bombing explosions continued in the headquarters for a few minutes because of ammunition and missiles stored in the warehouse exploded, resulting in enormous pressure- caused by the explosion- to collapse a residential two-storey house less than 100 meters from them.

This led to the deaths of 13 people, all civilians, including 5 children and 5 women.

2. Saraya building massacre in Al-Bab in the city of Aleppo Sunday 28 / December / 2014:

Nearly half past seven in the evening, the international coalition forces warplane shelled Saraya "Al-Heba" building with two missiles; what caused the entire building to collapse on the detainees inside it, the building is located in the main street in center of Al-Bab city and was an ISIS prison for civilians.

SNHR was able to confirm the death of 51 civilian prisoners and verified 28 names amongst them, including two children and two women. In addition, 24 civilians were pulled from under the rubble.

Conclusions:

Coalition forces violated the international humanitarian law through the random indiscriminate shelling, which amount to war crimes.

Recommendations:

To the Security Council:

We only ask them to apply their decisions issued on Syria, including the statement Geneva 1, because the maintenance of security and peace in Syria is their direct responsibility.

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