



A Massacre in Karam Houmad Neighborhood in Aleppo City 21-2-2013

A report by: The Syrian Network for Human Rights

Karam Houmad neighborhood is located in the southern parts of Aleppo city near Al Marja neighborhood. The neighborhood is heavily populated and houses a large number of IDPs who are mostly from the southern suburbs of Aleppo.

An eyewitness's testimony who was present at the time of the shelling. Abu Ali, the eyewitness, is still alive:

“The neighborhood was shelled around 10:30 AM with missiles hanging from parachutes. We saw it and the residents saw it. Four parachute missiles were dropped, which resulted in the killing of about 13 martyrs and wounded around 20 others from Al Najjar, Hajjou, and Arab families, in addition to wounded in critical condition who were rushed to Omar ben Abd al Aziz hospital. Five houses were destroyed including three houses that were destroyed completely, while the two other were partially and heavily destroyed.”

Video [interviews](#) with some wounded children who survived the massacre

Interviews with residents whose neighborhood was shelled

SNHR was able to document the killing of 12 citizens including four children and five women. Also, we recorded more than 30 people who were wounded

The massacre victims' names and pictures

- 1- Mrs. Aisha Hajjou, wife of Mohammad Hajjou, 50-year-old, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 2- Child Mohammad Hajjou, one-and-a-half-year-old, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 3- Child Majid Arab, 13-year-old, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 4- Child Feras Majid Arab, nine-year-old, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 5- Child Mohammad Salah Ferdousi, 13-year-old, Karam Houmad, Aleppo





- 6- Abd Al Mun'im Salah Ferdousi, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 7- Wael Karmou al Khalaf, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 8- Hamza Iqeil, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 9- Mrs. Fatima Feras Ibrahim, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 10- Mrs. Rim Ibrahim, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 11- Mr. Yasmin Ibrahim Ibrahim, Karam Houmad, Aleppo
- 12- Ahmad Ibrahim, Karam Houmad, Aleppo

Proofs and Attachments

- 1- [Videos](#) showing the wounded in the shelling
- 2- [Videos showing the destruction in the neighborhood](#)
- 3- [Video](#) showing the remnants of the warplanes

Conclusions

1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on Karam Houmad neighborhood was indiscriminate and directed against unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces and Al Shabiha have violated the international human rights law which protects the right to life in addition to being committed in a non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime as all elements were fulfilled.
2. SNHR deems what happened in Karam Houmad neighborhood, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated throughout Syrian governorates in a widespread manner.
3. The indiscriminate attacks by government forces are violation of customary international humanitarian law where government forces launched several shells on populated areas rather than targeting specific military objects.
4. Those attacks, particularly the bombardment, caused casualties, injures or damaged civilian objects. Moreover, there are strong indicators that the damaged was great compared with the military benefits.
5. The volume of the massacre in addition to its nature, the amount of power that was used, and the indiscriminate and coordinated nature of bombardment cannot be without high instructions and it's a state policy.





Recommendations

The Syrian government

- 1- Stop all Human Rights violations immediately.
- 2- Respect its international commitments that includes the protection of civilians in the time of war, and respect the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Human Rights Council

- 1- Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.
- 2- Apply pressure on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- Hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for what is happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- Give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.

The Security Council

- 1- Adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- 2- Warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.

The Arab League

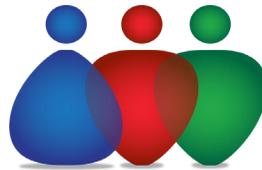
- 1- Ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.
- 2- Give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.
- 3- Press politically and diplomatically on the main Syrian regime allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.





International Commission of Inquiry

1- Stop depicting the conflict as it is between two equal parties in crimes, power and central decision-making, and to describe the crime as it is without mitigation for political purposes. It also has to increase its cadres that is concerned with the Syrian case due to the volume of the daily crimes which would insure a more comprehensive and complete documentation.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
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