Russian cannot be a Part in the Political Solution in Syria and an Accomplice in Crimes at the Same Time
Russian Forces killed 99 civilians in 72 hours in Ma'art Al No'man City in Idlib

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I. Introduction

Ma'art Al No'man City is located in Idlib governorate, 40 Km away from the southern of Idlib city, and is under a joined control between armed opposition and Al-Nusra front.

In this report we document two massacres that were committed on 9 and 12 January 2016 by alleged Russian shelling on the city. The first airstrike targeted the Legal Court in Ma'art Al No'man city. It is worth noting that this was the second time the Legal Court was shelled by alleged Russian warplanes. This Legal Court is considered one of the most crowded facilities with civilians and residents and located in an armed opposition-region. In an earlier report, we documented the first incident that happened in 20 December 2015 in Idlib city.

Our team conducted interviews and investigations with residents, local activists and eyewitnesses; in addition we included five of the interviews in this report. We analyzed footages and images we received and crossed referenced these outcomes with information about the air strikes from pro-Russian media outlets. All eyewitnesses spoke in Arabic as we also explained the aim behind conducting these interviews where some of them preferred their real names to be kept confidential, as we also kept a record for all the contact details to all eyewitnesses.

What is documented below constitutes the bare minimum of what we were able to record, as it also does not tackle

the social, economical and psychological dimensions of this crisis.
Russian authorities deny all these accusations and state that all its targets were on military locations that belonged for ISIL or terrorist groups. Therefore, SNHR demands the Russian authorities to investigate this shelling incident and the prior ones and we are ready to present all required evidence and information.

II- Report Details:

The first shelling incident: On 12 January 2016:
Alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on Al Muraba'at neighborhood next to the Municipal Stadium:
• Two rockets targeted the Justice Palace Building that was later transformed to a legal court by Al Nusra front to facilitate the residents' legal and civilian cases. Additionally, the court has its own prison.
• Two rockets targeted Al Demashqi School that is next to the Legal Court which destroyed its playground.
The shelling killed 67 civilians, including a child and three women. Also, more than 120 others were injured.

Abo Al Joud, a resident from Ma'art Al No'man city witnessed the shelling and gave SNHR his testimony:

> *"At almost 11:00 a.m. the Russian warplanes started to roam around and I saw it. There were two white warplanes flying together and shelled us from a very high altitude. The airstrikes targeted the Legal Court and as a result, more than 70% of its building was destroyed. Hundreds of civilians go to the court in order to finish their marriage and divorce certificates or to settle law or criminal suits. There is also a prison that belongs to the court. The shelling occurred during the visitation hours which were a factor that contributed in the increase of the casualties' members.*
> *Civil defense members pulled out great numbers of martyrs and injured people from under the rubble. Several injured individuals were taken to border hospitals since the local hospitals could not absorb all cases at once.*
> *Death and destruction were everywhere and body parts were being*

pulled from under the rubble. The targeted region is free of any presence for any armed opposition or any other anti-government military movement and the targeted region are vital and purely civilian. They are killing us everywhere."

SNHR also interviewed Omar Alwan, one of the civil defense members in the city:

"I saw the Russian warplanes while it was raiding the city and went directly to the shelling location. We went to the Legal Court that belonged to Al Nusra front. We kept on pulling the victims' bodies from under the rubble for several hours. The destruction was immense and dozens of people were killed. The court was almost completely destroyed.
In that day, we pulled almost 80 victims from under the rubble and we used a machine to remove the rubble so that we can pull other victims' bodies. After 8 hours, we pulled 16 dead persons, and the number of injured people reached more than 100. Most of the victims had amputated legs. The targeted region is free of any military presence as it is a civilian region. A school, a market and an infirmary are located next to it. The infirmary was damaged also from the severity of the shelling."

The second shelling incident: On 12 January 2016:
On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on the northern neighborhood in Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib. The first airstrike targeted a residential building while the second airstrike targeted the civil defense and paramedic teams who went to the shelling location.
The second shelling incident resulted in the killing of 32 civilians including 3 children. Also, more than 8 residential buildings and a mosque were damaged.

SNHR spoke to Wael Al Omar, the manager of the media team in the civil defense:

"We are always on alert as warplanes do not leave our region. On Tuesday afternoon, we received an alert that Russian warplanes are roaming around in the northern neighborhood. The FSA observatories said that the warplanes' altitude was more than 7 Km.
We arrived to the shelling location and we started to aid the injured peo-

ple. Few minutes later, we heard the wheezing sound of the warplanes as it returned gradually. The warplanes shelled the region again in the same location after we and the paramedics arrived. I felt that my body is going to explode from the blast's power. Then, all I saw was human body parts and blood. Our ambulance was destroyed in addition to the crane. Civil defense teams from surrounding towns arrived for help and started to transport *the deceased and injured individuals. I was informed that our colleague, Sameer Al Asfar, a member in the civil defense team, had passed away in that airstrike."*

SNHR spoke to Ibrahim Sirmini, one of the residents in Ma'art Al No'man who visited the location shelling:

"The destruction was enormous. More than 10 houses were greatly damaged in addition to Al Haboubi mosque. A rocket fell on one of the residential buildings in the northern neighborhood 40 Km away from Al Habubi Mosque while the second rocket fell 12 meters away from the same mosque. The region was targeted twice, as the second airstrike targeted the paramedics and civil defense teams. The electrical crane was also destroyed.
The northern neighborhood is a simple popular neighborhood that is free of any kind of military headquarters, unlike to what Russia states."

III- Attachments:

- A video that depicts the victims from the alleged Russian shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib on 9 January 2016:

- Video footages that depict the civil defense members while pulling out victims' bodies from under the rubble due to the alleged Russian shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city in 9 January 2016

- A video that depicts the shelling aftermath on the vicinity of the Legal Court on 9 January 2016

- An image that depicts the shelling aftermath on the vicinity of the Legal Court on 9 January 2016

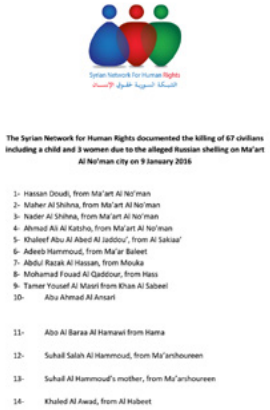
- A video that depicts the shelling aftermath on Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib on 12 January 2016

- A group of images that depict the shelling outcomes on ambulances due to the alleged Russian shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city on 12 January 2016

An image the depicts the shelling aftermath on residential buildings due to the alleged Russian shelling on 12 January 2016

Victims' List:

Victims' List of names who were killed on 9 January 2016



The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the killing of 67 civilians including a child and 3 women due to the alleged Russian shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city on 9 January 2016

1- Hassan Doudi, from Ma'art Al No'man
2- Maher Al Shihna, from Ma'art Al No'man
3- Nader Al Shihna, from Ma'art Al No'man
4- Ahmad Ali Al Katsho, from Ma'art Al No'man
5- Khaleef Abu Al Abed Al Jaddou', from Al Sakaa'
6- Adeeb Hammoud, from Ma'ar Baleet
7- Abdul Razak Al Hassan, from Mouka
8- Mohamad Fouad Al Qaddour, from Hass
9- Tamer Yousef Al Masri from Khan Al Sabeel
10- Abu Ahmad Al Ansari

11- Abo Al Baraa Al Hamawi from Hama

12- Suhail Salah Al Hammoud, from Ma'arshoureen

13- Suhail Al Hammoud's mother, from Ma'arshoureen

14- Khaled Al Awad, from Al Habeet

Victims' List of names who were killed on 12 January 2016

The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the killing of 32 civilians including 3 children due to the alleged Russian shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city on 12 January 2016

1- Lewaa Maher Mandeel, Media activist
2- Ahmad Al Mandeel, media activist
3- Abdul Karim Mohammad Thekra, Civil Defense
4- Ibrahim Munther Khashan
5- Samir AL Asfar, Civil Defense
6- Mohammad Tawfiq Al Haddad
7- Hameid Mohammad Khaloof
8- Abdo Mohammad Arafat
9- Malath Ibn Taha Al Nahas
10- Abdul Fattah Hasan Dablat
11- Mustafa Abdul Fattah Dalbat
12- Hasan Hussein Nahas
13- Mohammad Abdul Karim Joulaq
14- Tariq Khaled Sharifi
15- Khaled Abeid Khashan
16- Mohammad Ahmad Haidar
17- The child Qusai Fawaz Nasif
18- Mahmoud Khaloof
19- Ahmad Salah Al Mahlool
20- Abdo Sharifi

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

- Conclusions:

1. Russian forces violated UN Security Council resolution 2139 through its indiscriminate and deliberate shelling.
2. Russian forces should abide by the International Humanitarian Law, and therefore responsible for these violations since the beginning of the attacks, which were mentioned through this report. Russia must bear the consequences of all these violations, and avoid its recurrence.
3. Indiscriminate bombardment is considered a clear violation of the Internation-

al Humanitarian Law, and these indiscriminate killings amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
4. It is necessary to protect civilians from the brutality of the Syrian regime and extremist militias allied with them. A no-fly zone must be established in parallel with the protecting civilians in Syria from the brutality of ISIL.

- Recommendations:

To the UN Security Council:

• The UN Security Council must take further action as a year has passed since the adoption of resolution No. 2139 without the Assad regime showing the least commitment to halting indiscriminate shelling, which has caused destruction and daily killings.
• It must put pressure on the Assad regime and its allies to stop supplying it with arms and military experts after its proven involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes. It also must pass a resolution to condemn the sides that supply it with weapons.
• The Syrian file must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in war crimes and violations must be held accountable.
• The UN Security Council must establish peace and security and protect Syrian civilians and their heritage from looting, destruction and vandalism.
• It must expand the sanctions to include all pillars of the Assad and the Iranian regimes as they are directly involved war crimes and crimes against humanity.

To the High Commissioner for Human Rights:
We call upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report to the Human Rights Council Rights and other United Nations bodies about this massacre in particular and the massacres that followed.
The High Commissioner for Human Rights must demand the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.

To the international community:

• Given the divisions at the UN Security Council, measures must be made at the national and regional level to build coalitions to aid the Syrian people through protecting it from the daily killings, lifting the siege, and stepping up the relief aid.
• SNHR demands that the United Nations and the Security Council to implement the principle of "protecting civilians" (ICRtoP) / (R2P), adopted by the General Assembly in 2005. Syrian people should be protected from all perpetrators.

• Pressure must be put on the UN Security Council to refer the Syria file to the International Criminal Court.
• It must seek to achieve justice and accountability in Syria through the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and the use of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Acknowledgment

Our heartfelt 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.

Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان