



The Governmental and Russian Forces burn Aleppo Province «The Red Death»

Report Content:

- I. Introduction.
- II. Executive Summary.
- III. Details.
- IV. Conclusions and Recommendations.
- V. Appreciation and consolation.

I. Introduction:

The neighborhoods of Aleppo Province, which is under the control of the armed opposition factions, witnessed daily bombardment by Syrian and Russian forces, and that one day after the declaration of the supreme body to postpone their participation in the Geneva negotiations held on the 19th of last April.

Many political declarations contributed in saying that the presence of the «Al Nosra» in Aleppo had contributed to the increase of violence and cruelty of those attacks. However, even with the presence of «Al Nosra» or even ISIL or any armed organization, does not justify randomly bombing targets of the city which is located within the control of any military faction and without taking into account the distinction between military and civilian people. Moreover, the violations targeted greatest goals-mentioned in the report- which were never military headquarters, and not even close to military headquarters. It is also relatively far from the lines of the clash, thus, no military value is found. We refer to the names of the victims and their pictures, women and children in addition to the families» talks.

The report pointed out that the Governmental Forces are still using explosive barrels devices that are thrown from the sky and based on the principle of free fall. This is considered as indiscriminate weapon par excellence. We con-





sider that every explosive barrel is a war crime, because it does not achieve any norm of international humanitarian law, and is still permitted in spite of Security Council resolutions, reports, and condemnations. The network recorded, during the period covered, around 86 explosive barrels on Aleppo city.

*In this regard, Fadel Abdul Ghani, director of SNHR states:
«The responsibility for determining the places and the distributions of military sites for «Al Nosra» and ISIL exclusively, located mainly on the state sponsor of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. We have referred to this in the first days of launching the statement of the agreement in order not to justify bombing any civilian target, easily, even if it is located in an area under Al Nosra or ISIL. The Syrian and the Russian Forces have exploited this gap, deliberately, in the agreement and justified killing of hundreds of civilians since the start of the statement so far.»*

This report is intended to document violations by the Governmental forces and their allies in Aleppo City in the period from 20 April 2016 until 29 April 2016, in particular. We will, during the next two days, issue a special report documenting violations of some opposition armed factions in the Aleppo city, in the same time frame; as investigations in the areas that are controlled by governmental forces and its allies are more difficult than the areas that are outside its control.

The group of SNHR communicated with a large number of survivors of the bombardment, the relatives of the victims, and a number of activists of the media. The report also covers a number of major incidents that we were not able to visit all of them, and we have received a large number of photos and videos. A specialized team went after the verification of their validity and reliability, and then compared it with events, witnesses, and survivors. We explained to the witnesses the aim of the interviews, and we got their consent to use the provided information in this report. All the targeted areas were proven that they are related to civilians, where there are no military or weapons stores belonging to the armed opposition or Islamic group» organizations during the attack or even before.

The contents in this report represent the minimum of what we managed to document of the size and the seriousness of the violations; also it doesn't involve the talks about the social, economical, and psychological dimensions.





II. Executive Summary:

The report covers the period from 20 April 2016 until 29 April 2016, where we discuss the most prominent massacres and the vital centers that were bombed by the Governmental and the Russian forces.

A. The massacres and killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 147 civilians, including 27 children, and 35 women distributed according to the following:

- The Governmental Forces: 92 civilians, including 7 children, and 27 women.
- The Russian forces: 55 civilians, including 20 children, and 8 women.

Also we placed on record of at least 7 massacres distributed according to the following:

- The Governmental Forces: 4 massacres
- The Russian forces: 3 massacres

B. The attack on the vital centers:

We have recorded not less than 13 vital civilians' centers that were assaulted, distributed according to:

- Governmental forces: 11 vital centers of civilians: 3 mosques, 2 medical centers, 1 ambulance, 1 school, 1 bakery, 1 water station, 1 a center of civil defense, 1 a market.
- Russian Forces: 2 centers, a hospital and an ambulance.

III. Details:

1. The governmental forces:

A. The massacres and other acts of unlawful killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 92 civilians, including 7 children, and 27 women at the hands of the governmental forces in the period between 20 April 2016 and 29 April 2016, and we have acknowledged at least 4 massacres of:

Friday, 22 April 2016 warplanes bombed several intergovernmental missiles that targeted «Bab Al Nairab Neighborhood» controlled by the opposition armed factions, which resulted by the death of 5 people, including a child, and wounding 12 others.





SNHR communicated with the activist with local media «Karam», where he visited the bombing site and narrated his story:

«I was in the mosque, when warplanes bombed a missile on the «Industrial Round-Point» which is located between the district of Bab Al Nair-ab Neighborhood and «Al Marjah» district. I headed to the bombed site and saw a microbus and a van which were completely destroyed. The 4 civilians who were in the two cars were martyred; a child who was a picking mulberry near the «The Industrial Round-Point» was also killed. In addition to the full damage of the water network that feeds the whole neighborhood. After about an hour and a half, I learned that the warplanes resumed bombing the area itself by two missiles. The first missile fell on the wall of «Zaid Bin Thabet» mosque; what caused medium damages in the outside wall of the mosque and some material damages in the mosque furniture as a result of the explosion. While the second missile fell on the fence of the «Industrial School» near the round-point. The second bombardment destroyed an ambulance carrying the injured in the first bombing; which led to the death of the driver called Ramadan Abu Ahmed. It was a bloody day on the district where a child, an old man and a paramedic were killed.»

Saturday, 23 April 2016 warplanes bombed [several intergovernmental missiles](#) that targeted «Tareeq Al Bab Neighborhood» that is controlled by the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 10 people, including a child, and wounding 12 others.





SNHR communicated with the activist with local media «Karam», where he visited the bombing site and narrated what he witnessed:

«The bombing happened around 11:00 am; they were two warplanes, one of them targeted the main road of «Tareeq Al Bab Neirborhood» and the other targeted the residential Bourj Al Bakhera. Less than ten minutes between the two missiles.

I arrived to the site when the Rescue and civil defense teams are picking the corps and the rubble. They were able to withdraw 15 people from the rubble of the ruins of the upper floors, while about 12 persons were killed under the rubble.

The destruction was very huge as it extended to reach 5 houses, a food warehouse, a pharmacy, a second hand tools center, and store to sell diesel fuel; in addition to the destruction of a pickup car (Suzuki) and a motorcycle.

The targeted place is a civilian neighborhood, where there are no headquarters for army or any Islamic organizations and the victims were all civilians.»

Sunday, 24 April 2016 warplanes bombed several intergovernmental missiles that targeted [«Al Sakhour» district](#), controlled by the opposition armed factions, [causing the deaths of 11 people](#), including a child and a woman.

Tuesday, 26 April 2016 warplanes bombed several intergovernmental missiles that targeted the civil defense center in «Al Atarib» city, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 6 people, including 5 members of the Center at once, and injuring two others.

A. Attack on the vital centers:

SNHR documented not less than 11 vital centers of civilians that were attacked by the governmental forces.

Friday, 22 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed several missiles near [«Zaid Bin Harithah» mosque](#) in the district of Bab Al Naireb, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which resulted in a medium material damage of the mosque construction.





Friday, 22 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile on an ambulance related to the ambulance system and emergencies in the district of Bab Al Neirab, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to the burning of the car and its damage.



Saturday, 23 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed several missiles near the field hospital in «Al Atarib» city, under the control of the opposition armed factions, led to a medium material damage of the hospital building.

Sunday, 24 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at a public market in the district of «Al Sakhour», [controlled by the opposition armed factions](#), what caused a massacre, in addition to [the mass destruction and damages of a number of shops](#).



Tuesday, 26 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at the [Civil Defense Center](#) in the city of Al Atarib, under the control of the opposition armed factions, what [caused the death of 5 of the civil defense members](#) at once, in addition to a big destruction in the construction of the Center and [damaging](#) three of its mechanisms ([car ambulances and a fire tank](#)).





Thursday, 28 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at a bread bakery in the «Al Ameriya» district, controlled by the opposition armed factions, causing huge destruction in the building of the bakery and left out of service.

Thursday, 28 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at the Arab Renaissance School in the district Bab Al Hadid, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to a big destruction in the building of the school and [left out of service](#).

Friday, 29 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at «Awise Al Qarni Mosque» in the district of Al Sokari, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to medium damages of the building of the mosque and a partial damages to its fence.



Friday, 29 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at [the health center](#) in the «Marjah» district, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to the [destruction](#) of some of [the building blocks of the Center](#).





Friday, 29 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at [the water station in the district of Bab Al Naireb in Aleppo city](#), controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to the eruption of fire in the station and [several damages within water lines](#).

Friday, 29 April 2016 the government warplanes bombed a missile at Al Hussien Mosque in Al Qaterji district, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to a partial destruction in the building of [the mosque and left out of service](#).

2. The Russian forces:

A. The massacres and other acts of unlawful killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 55 civilians, including 20 children, and 8 women in attacks believed to be a Russian in the period between 20/ April 2016 and 29 April 2016, and we have documented at least 3 the massacres.

Wednesday 27 April 2016 the war-planes, allegedly Russian, made a missile attack against [«Al Sokari» district](#), controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to the death of 36 people, including 14 children and 8 women, and injuring about 40 others.



Mr. «Mujahed Abu Al Joud», local media activist states to SNHR:

«I headed to the site of the bombing of a hospital in Jerusalem after approximately 10 minutes of bombardment. The front façade of the hospital is totally destroyed as well as the entrance of the ambulances. Up on this bombardment, I lost my friend doctor Abu Abdul Rahman. There was a targeting of the street located behind the building of the hospital after 5 minutes of being bombed. I saw two completely destroyed buildings, and 6 partially destroyed ones. The Civil Defense teams prevent us from straying in place due to the fear of the repetition of the bombardment because the warplanes had not left the place.»





The corps was found under the rubble and the rescue teams tried to save what can be saved, I heard a girl yelling and crying as the corps of her family are under the rubble».



The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the death of 27 children including a newborn in targeted Russian airstrikes on Aleppo on 28 April 2016. The victims were:

1. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
2. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
3. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
4. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
5. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
6. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
7. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
8. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
9. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
10. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
11. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
12. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
13. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
14. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
15. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
16. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
17. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
18. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
19. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
20. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
21. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
22. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
23. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
24. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
25. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
26. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
27. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi

Thursday, 28 April, 2016 the warplanes, allegedly Russian, made a missile attack against [«Al Kallasa» district](#), controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to the death of 10 people, including two children, and injuring 10 others.



The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the death of 10 children including a newborn in targeted Russian airstrikes on Aleppo on 28 April 2016. The victims were:

1. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
2. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
3. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
4. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
5. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
6. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
7. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
8. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
9. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
10. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi

Thursday, 28 April 2016 the warplanes, allegedly Russian, made a missile attack against [Bostan Al Qaser Neighborhood](#), controlled by the opposition armed factions, [killing 9 people](#), including 4 children, and wounding 10 others.



The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented the death of 9 children including a newborn in targeted Russian airstrikes on Aleppo on 28 April 2016. The victims were:

1. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
2. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
3. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
4. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
5. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
6. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
7. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
8. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
9. 10-year-old Ahmad Al-Hadi Al-Hadi

Attack on the vital centers:

Wednesday 27 April 2016 the warplanes, allegedly Russian, made a missile attack against «Basil Aslan Field Hospital» (Jerusalem) in the district of «Al Sokari», controlled by the opposition armed factions, what caused a massacre. Among the victims, there were two doctors, a nurse, and two of the medical cadres, in addition to [a big destruction](#) in the hospital building spiral and [left out of service](#).

Thursday, 28 April, 2016 the warplanes, allegedly Russian, shelled several missiles near an ambulance in Al Kallasa district, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which led to a medium damage of [the vehicle](#).





III. The Legal Conclusions and Recommendations:

The legal conclusions:

1. The Governmental and the Russian forces broke, and call into question, the Security Council resolution No. 2139 and Security Council Resolution No. 2,455, the Convention on the cessation of hostilities and violated article 7 of the Rome Statute through the murders committed which are totally against humanity.
2. We reaffirm that the bombardment contained in the report had targeted unarmed civilians and, consequently, the governmental and the Russian forces violated the provisions of International Human Rights Law which protects the right to live. In addition to the commitment to the non-international armed conflict which is equal to a war crime, and where all features are available.
3. The attacks contained in the report, by the Syrian and Russian forces, are considered as a violation of International Humanitarian Law and Customary law as the missiles had been fired at populated areas and were not directed to a specific military objective.
4. The bombardment operations have caused accidentally losses against the lives of civilians or causing injuries or harm on large civilian targets. There are indications of a very strong reason to believe that the damage was very excessive if compared to the desired benefits of the military.
5. The bulk of the bombardment which is systematic and repetitive, the level of excessive used force, and the coordination of the attacks could not be but with a mere high guidance and policy of the ruling regime.
6. The Syrian regime in all its forms and its leaders is involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people, in addition to all who provide material and political assistance, such as Russian and Iranian forces and Lebanese Hezbollah and the suppliers of military weapons› companies are considered a partner in those crimes, and shall be liable to criminal prosecution





Recommendations:

To the two parties of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities and to the Support of Syria Group (SSG):

We ask the Joint American Russian to investigate these incidents as soon as possible, and to inform the Syrian society on the results of the investigations, and to ensure the prevention of recurrence.

We ask the the International Community to link the cease-fire by launching a political process toward a stage of transition leading to a democratic system; this is what will end the suffering of the Syrian society.

If the violations continue as it is without a real deterrent to the Syrian regime. It confirmed that the United States as the primary caregivers to make a greater effort to convince the other party of the Russian Federation to stop as well, and apply the pressure on their ally, the Syrian regime, to stop it.

To the Security Council:

- The Security Council must take additional measures for the implementation of its resolutions no. 2139 and 2254, and the pressure on the countries supporting the Syrian regime to stop the supply of weapons after proved that it is involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- The pressure on the countries supporting the Syrian regime to stop the supply of weapons and experience after proved involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- The Security Council must stop using the veto in case of war crimes and crimes against humanity as happened in Syria.
- We must refer the Syrian file to the International Criminal Court and punish all those involved.
- The restoration of peace and security and the application of the principle of the responsibility to protect civilians, to save the lives of the Syrians, the heritage, and the arts of destruction, looting, and sabotage.
- Expand the sanctions to include all Syrian Regime and Iranian system that are involved directly in the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Syrian people.





The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

Provide a report to the Human Rights Council and other bodies of the United Nations for the incidents specifically and the need to find a comprehensive solution to the Syrian disaster.

To the International Community:

- Under the Security Council full rift, actions at the national and regional level for alliances to support the Syrian people must take place. And this is reflected in protecting them from the daily murder operations, terminating the siege, and increasing doses of support provided at the aid. There must be seeking to exercise universal jurisdiction over such crimes by the national courts, in fair trials of all the persons involved.
- SNHR repeatedly called, in dozens of studies and reports, as member of the international coalition, the application of the principle of the responsibility of protection (ICRtoP); and the political steps through the Convention on the Arab League has been exhausted; and then the plan of Mr. Kofi Annan; therefore, resorting to Chapter VII and the application of the principle of the responsibility of protection (R2P) that was endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations is a must. Also, the Security Council hinders the protection of civilians in Syria.
- The renewal of the pressure on the Security Council to refer the file of Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- The quest for justice and accountability in Syria through the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Council of Human Rights and the use of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

IV. Appreciation and Consolation

Our sincere thanks and condolences to all the people of the local activists whose contributions enriched this report effectively.

