



Statement

**Russian Forces are Locating Medical Centers to Target them
A Russian Airstrike Renders the only Working Hospital in
Sarja Town out of Commission**

Never before has it been witnessed in modern history that medical centers and medical staff were targeted like how the Syrian and Russian regimes are doing in Syria. This statement records the only hospital in Sarja town, in Idlib governorate, being rendered out of commission.

The strategy adopted by the Syrian regime and its ally the Russian regime has become exposed where they deliberately target hospitals, markets, and schools in the areas that are out of the Syrian regime's control to force these areas' residents to agree to settlements that would leave them displaced to northern Syria or abroad. The international community is still idly watching the demographic change that is taking place in Syria with only issuing statements of condemnation and threat that are seen by the Syrian and Iranian regimes as a green light to continue perpetrating crimes.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“It is now very clear that Russian forces are investigating and searching through their agents for hospitals locations in order to target them. Russia is well aware that it won't be held accountable for any crime it has perpetrated in Syria which is why it is perpetrating more and more crimes and will continue doing so. It is even protecting the present Syrian regime from being held accountable and encouraging it to perpetrate more crimes.”

Tuesday 18 October 2016, approximately 14:15, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile that targeted Al Eman hospital in Sarja town in Jabal Al Zawiyah in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. That hospital was the only working hospital in the town. The bombing resulted in moderate destruction in the hospital building as the hospital was rendered out of commission. Additionally, five members of the medical staff were injured and two ambulances were destroyed. The hospital provides its services in the specialties of internal surgery, general surgery, and gastroenterology for no less than 80,000 people who live in the towns of Jabal Al Zawiya.





SNHR spoke to the director of Al Eman hospital and a number of residents and media activists who witnessed the bombing and they all confirmed that they were no military centers for armed opposition or extremist Islamic groups near these hospitals before or during the attack.

SNHR publishes periodic [monthly report](#) documenting incidents of attack on vital civil facilities by the influential parties. We have noticed recently a rise in the rate of targeting medical centers. We have called for the cease of the targeting of medical centers and medical staff and deeming these practices a red line that would compel an immediate and direct response.

These indiscriminate, deliberate, or disproportionate attacks are unlawful attacks. The targeting of medical centers by the Syrian regime is an utter disregard for the most basic standards of the international humanitarian law and Security Council Resolutions.

The Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly have to take action, even for once, rather than standing idly by watching the deliberate bombardment happening everyday against hospitals. History will reflect that the Russian regime has vetoed five times to protect the Syrian regime who is perpetrating blatant violations that constitute war crimes by targeting hospitals, using chemical warfare, and displacing residents. The Syrian people will never forget.

Pictures showing [the destruction](#) that resulted from a bombing by forces we believe are Russian on [Al Eman hospital](#) in Sarja town



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 ©SNHR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 ©SNHR





Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SN4HR





Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR

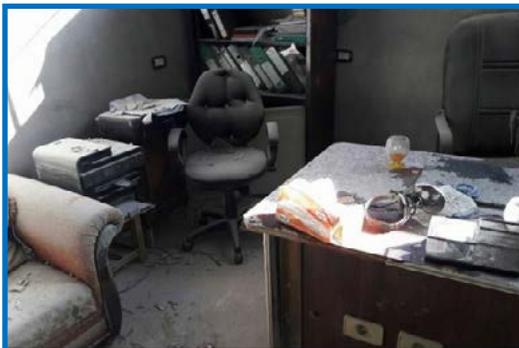


Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR



Image shows destruction caused by missiles fired by fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian on Al Eman Hospital in Sarja town in Idlib governorate, 18 October 2016 © SNHR

Video showing the destruction that resulted from a bombing by forces we believe are Russian on Al Eman hospital in Sarja town

