

# On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Russia's Intervention in Syria, SNHR Unveils an Incident Database for International Law Violations

6,239 Civilians Killed, including 1,804 Children

# SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Sunday, September 30, 2018

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

## Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Russia is the Syrian Regime's Main Supporter with Respect to its Crimes and Impunity
- III. Russia Has Failed to Commit to the Agreements it Sponsored
- IV. Patterns Seen in Russia's most Barbarian Attacks
- V. Russian Forces' Strategy in Year 3
- VI. Analysis for Russian Forces' Violations according to SNHR's Database
- VII. Details Outlining some of the Incident that Were Added to SNHR's Database during the Past Year
- VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

## I. Introduction

The heavy and indiscriminate bombardments have been a standard since the first days of the intervention of Russian forces in Syria on September 30, 2018, which generated a state of panic and terrorization in the areas that broke away from the Syrian regime's control, as it aimed to end all forms of resistance, and force these areas to submit and surrender. This was visible in Russia's intense targeting of service, medical, and general facilities. Most of the bombardments had no military justification in accordance with the law of war, as Russian forces used highly-destructive weapons, in addition to using cluster munitions and incendiary ammunitions, particularly in populated areas.

On August 22, 2018, [the Russian Ministry of Defense published statistics](#) on the military operation in Syria. According to the figures, Russian forces carried out 39,000 airstrikes, fired 100 Kalibr missiles "SS-N-27", and 66 air-to-surface missiles. The statement reads that the Russian offensive has resulted in killing 86,000 gunmen, effectively assisting government forces in taking back a large portion of the Syrian lands.



The official Russian statement didn't include any acknowledgment of civilian deaths. The Russian government didn't investigate into any of the incidents in which its forces were accused of being responsible for either by us, international human rights groups, or the UN Commission of Inquiry, but demonstrated utter vanity and disregard, not unlike the Syrian regime's barbarian mindset.

This day, September 30, 2018, marks the 3rd anniversary of the beginning of the Russian intervention in Syria which was launched on September 30, 2015. SNHR will take this opportunity to showcase its updated database for the incidents constituting violations of the international law. We have built this database through continued monitoring and documentation carried out by our team. All incidents have been collected accumulatively and by abiding to a methodology of high standards. All the attacks we recorded include place and date of the incident and names, pictures, and videos for the victims when possible, as well as accounts for survivors and eyewitnesses, and pictures of the destruction.

The following link contains the reports that document the most notable violations by Russian forces since the start of their military intervention in Syria in September 2015 and the violations that followed, including killing, destruction, and forced displacement. These reports contain a large portion of the incident data that SNHR has been able to document.

<https://goo.gl/UR67sB>





**Urm al Kubra Village Massacre by Russian Forces is a Clear Message of Blood and Terrorization**

September 11, 2018



**South Syria Torn between a Grim Fate of Forced Displacement and Starvation or an Almost Certain Death by Falling Back into Syrian Regime's Control**



**Russian Forces Continue Their Streak of Atrocious Massacres, 6,187 Civilians, including 1,771 Children, Killed by Russia since the Intervention Started in Syria**



**Since the Start of the 2018 World Cup, Russian-Syrian Forces Have Killed 71 Civilians, including 20 Children, and Displaced 270,000 Others**



**Approximately 198,000 Displaced and 214 Killed in South Syria, and the Security Council is Standing Idly By**



**Ridding Raqqa of ISIS Costed Extraordinarily Too Much in Lives and...**

December 14, 2017  
2,371 Civilians Killed, Including 562 Children, and Nearly Half a Million Displaced SNHR has noted in a report, "Ridding Raqqa of ISIS Costed Extraordinarily Too..."



**Idlib Governorate One Year after the De-Escalation Agreement Commenced**

June 13, 2018  
Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces Have Killed 1,109 Civilians, including 255 Children, and Endless Violations SNHR has released a report titled, "Idlib Governorate One Year after the..."



**Satellite Imagery Proves that Russian Attacks Have Exterminated Entire Eastern Ghouta...**

May 31, 2018  
Approximately 3 Million Residences Were Destroyed Completely or Almost Completely in Syria, 90% Were Destroyed at the hands of Syrian Regime Forces and Russia...



**The World Cup in Russia is Tainted with the Blood of...**

May 21, 2018  
6,133 Civilians Killed, including 1,761 Children, at the hands of Russian Forces since the Start of its Military Intervention SNHR has released a report entitled:...



**Brief Report: Nearly 370,000 IDPs in Deir Ez-Zour and Raqqa in...**

October 13, 2017  
Shelters must be Secured for the IDPs in a report that was released today, SNHR demanded that shelters must be secured for no less than...



**Syrian-Russian Alliance's Violations Two Weeks After the American-British-French Military Strike**

April 28, 2018  
64 Civilians killed, including 12 Children As approximately two weeks has passed since the American-British-French military strike on Syria, SNHR has released a report documenting...



**6,019 Civilians, including 1,708 Children, Killed at the hands of Russian...**

March 5, 2018  
A Strategy of Murder and Hubris Nearly 29 months have passed since the Russian military intervention started in Syria in September 2015. Russian forces have...



**Russian Forces Have Killed 5,783 Civilians, including 1,596 Children**

January 27, 2018  
Russia Needs to Apologize and Reconstruct what it Had Destroyed if it Wishes to Have a Political Influence Since the very first days of the...



**The Second Anniversary of the Russian Intervention in Syria**

October 1, 2017  
5,233 Civilians Killed, including 1,417 children and 886 women Photo by: Russian Ministry of Defense SNHR has released a report on the second anniversary of the...



**A High Human and Material Cost to Rid a Part of...**

December 29, 2017  
411 Civilians Killed, including 124 Children and Nearly 200,000 Displaced SNHR said in a report released today, entitled: "A High Human and Material Cost to..."



**Russian Forces Perpetrated a Huge Massacre in a De-Escalation Zone**

December 22, 2017  
79 Civilians Killed, including Eight Children in a Russian Bombing on Atareb Town SNHR has said in a report released today that Russian forces...



**Russian Airstrikes Have Targeted Relief Warehouses in Western Aleppo Suburbs**

December 19, 2017  
Killing 22 Civilians including Four Children and Seven Women in a Massacre in Batabo Village SNHR has released a report entitled: "Russian Airstrikes Have Targeted..."



## **Methodology**

In the course of the ongoing monitoring for incidents and developments by SNHR team through a wide network including tens of various sources that have been built over an accumulation of extensive relations since the start of our work, when we receive information, or hear some news about a violation via the internet or media outlets, we work on following-up on this news and try to verify and collect evidences and data. In some cases, the researcher is able to visit the incident location at the soonest. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily incidents and in light of the human and material resources at hand. Therefore, the possibility to access evidences vary from one case to another, and, hence, the degree of its classification. Usually, what we do, at SNHR, in such cases is relying on accounts from survivors who experience the violation firsthand, where we try to access those directly, and, to a second degree, who saw or filmed the violation, in addition to analyzing available materials from open sources such as the internet and media outlets. Thirdly, we try to speak to medical personnel who treated the wounded, assessed the symptoms, and determined the cause of death.

As pointed out in our past reports, we have relied on a number of determinants for assigning responsibility to Russian forces in specific incidents, including cross-checking information and statements published by pro-Russian authorities' media outlets against what we have documented on the ground. Russian authorities, however, stopped revealing the locations of their attacks in Syria three months after the military intervention started, whereas those statements were useful because they enabled our team to cross-check them against eyewitnesses' accounts that we were able to acquire, which gave us strong indicators that compel to believe that Russian forces were responsible for specific incidents. Apparently,

Russian forces stopping to publishing statements come after they noticed that a number of human rights groups, including us, have used their statements against them. Since then, Russian forces has adopted a policy of denial, so we had to cross-check a large number of accounts, most of which were for central signal operators who work on tracking the movement of the warplanes that take off from Syrian or Russian airbases and pinpointing their course. In many attacks, observatory operators were able to specify the model of the warplane the codes written on the warplane's body.

In many cases, we have utilized the variation in the attacks the destructive power seen in Russian forces compared to that of government forces to assign responsibility to Russian forces in specific attacks, in addition to the fact that the Russian air force has the ability to fly and bomb at night.



This report contains five accounts that we've collected by speaking directly to eyewitnesses and are not cited from any open sources. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report without offering or giving them any incentives. Also, SNHR has tried to spare them the agony of remembering the violation as much as possible, and guarantees were given to conceal the identity of any witness who preferred to use an alias.

The investigations included in this report have proved that the targeted areas were civilian areas where no military bases or armories for extremist Islamic groups were found during or even before the attack. Also, Russian forces didn't alert civilians prior to the attack as required by the international humanitarian law.

SNHR has analyzed the videos and pictures posted online or sent by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media. Some videos posted by activists show the sites of the attacks, dead bodies, injuries, and the large destruction in the aftermath of the bombardment, in addition to other pictures showing remnants of Russian cluster munitions and containers of incendiary ammunitions.

We have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report in a secret online database, in addition to backup copies on hard drives. However, we can't claim that we have documented all cases in light of the ban and persecution by Syrian regime forces and some other armed groups.

Unfortunately, Russian authorities deny all of these incidents and crimes, as they have yet to launch one investigation, following the footsteps of the Syrian regime that hasn't held any of its forces accountable since March 2011. This, surely, does not exonerate Russia of responsibility.

This report only covers the bare minimum, which we have been able to document, of the severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. It doesn't also cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.



## II. Russia is the Syrian Regime's Main Supporter with Respect to its Crimes and Impunity

Since the beginning of the popular uprising for democracy in March 2011, Russia has sided with the Syrian regime, providing unlimited military and political support, as Russia continue to supply the Syrian regime with weapon and ammunitions as per weapon contracts and deals struck between the two sides. According to SNHR's data since 2011, as well as international human rights groups' reports, including the UN Commission of Inquiry, the Syrian regime has perpetrated hundreds of crimes against humanity by committing crimes of murder, torture, enforced-disappearance, and sexual violence. This implies, according to the international law, that Russia is implicated in those crimes by supporting the Syrian regime.

### **Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:**

*“Russia is delusional in believing that completely dominating and crushing the Syrian people will end the path of accountability. Russia has to fully realize that it has invested in a rotten and failed regime that can't be rehabilitated or legitimized. With every day that investment goes on, it leads to greater failure and loss. In order to bring back stability to the Syrian community and state, Russia has to atone for its crimes, compensate victims, and rid the Syrian people of this brutal regime.”*

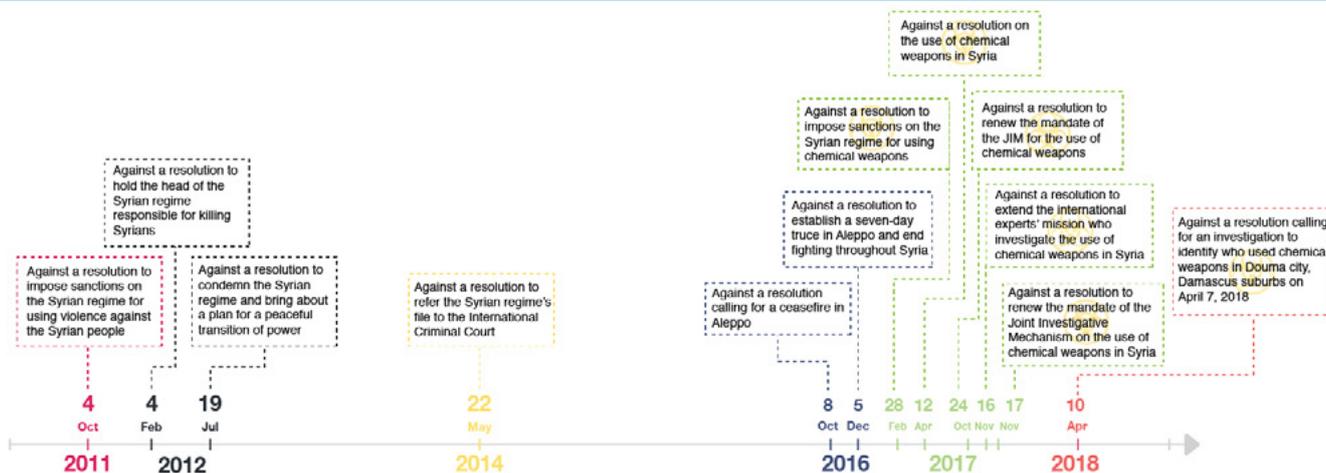
The direct Russian intervention comes in the context of complete domination and ending the path of accountability, as this intervention has resulted in more crimes on an expanded scale, as well as the Syrian regime and Iranian militias successfully taking over more of the Syrian lands.

Towards the Syrian and Iranian regimes' impunity, and subsequently the Russian regime's, Russia has abusively used its veto power 12 times to protect a regime that has perpetrated the most horrendous crimes in the modern age, effectively obstructing any resolution to hold it accountable. Of those vetoes, six were related to the file of chemical weapons, as Russian hindered the extension of the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) in November 2017 after establishing the Syrian regime's responsibility for five chemical attacks. In addition, Russia has obstructed and distorted investigations as seen in Douma attack in April 2018, and more recently impeding the work of the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM).



When the Russian government used its veto for the first time on October 4, 2011, the Syrian regime realized that it has an unrestricted greenlight, which encouraged it to escalate its violent and sadism to the point of torture to death, rape, forced displacement, dropping barrel bombs, and using chemical weapons. Russia is largely responsible for those crimes.

## Russia has used its veto power 12 times to protect the Syrian regime at the Security Council



### III. Russia Has Failed to Commit to the Agreements it Sponsored

In parallel with its methods of killing and destruction in Syria, Russia has made sure to take the lead on the political front by supporting agreements and truces that saw Russia either as a sponsor or a party. The two cessation of hostilities agreements of February and September 2016 respectively were the first of those agreements. Even though Russia itself sponsored those agreements, Russian forces deliberately violated those agreements, which demonstrated a carefully planned scheme that aims to dismantle and exhaust the areas that broke away from the Syrian regime's control, so they submit one by one, which what gradually came to be, as we have tracked this phenomenon in [a large number](#) of reports.

One week after Ankara ceasefire agreement went into force on December 30, 2016, for instance, Russian forces have violated the [provisions of the agreement](#) of which it was a sponsor, killing and destruction went back to their former levels with the end of February 2017.

In May 2017, Russia was a primary guarantor in Astana talks which served as grounds for establishing four de-escalation zones, yet the whole world saw the ruthless airstrikes in Damascus suburbs' Eastern Ghouta. We were able to acquire satellite imagery and released an [extensive report](#) on the results of the Russian attacks. The same scenario was repeated in al Qalamoun area, in Damascus suburbs governorate, as well as northern suburbs of Homs and south Syria even though the latter was the subject of a far more important agreement, in addition to the de-escalation agreement, namely the bilateral Russian-US agreement that came into force in July 2017. According to our documentation, Syrian-Russian



alliance forces killed no less than 3,734 civilians, including 966 children, between May 2017 and September 2018.

At a time when Russia was calling for a conference for a Syrian national dialogue in Sochi resort in January 2018, its warplanes were bombing Syrian areas in Eastern Ghouta, and Idlib governorate, raining death upon Syrian civilians.

#### **IV. Patterns Seen in Russia's most Barbarian Attacks**

In the thousands of Russian attacks that we've recorded, there have been a pattern of violations and retaliatory attacks that exhibited a harrowing, deliberate hostile nature. Some of these attacks have been carried out in a systematic and repeated manner. Drawing upon SNHR's database, we have categorized some of these patterns:

**1. Double-strike attacks <sup>1</sup>:** This tactic demonstrates an utter carelessness and disregard for the lives of civilians, rescue workers, and paramedics. We have recorded no less than 21 massacres by Russian forces which saw the use of the double-strike tactic.

**2. Attacks on medical facilities that received injuries from a previous attack:** we have documented attacks at least in which Russian forces deliberately targeted medical facilities that received wounded and injured from a previous attack. This was the case in the Saraqeb attack on January 29, 2018, when Russian airstrikes targeted al Ihsan Hospital that received victims and injured from the attack on al Batata market which was also carried out by Russian forces a few hours before the attack on the hospital.

In Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack, April 2017, we recorded Russian airstrikes that targeted al Rahma Hospital and the civil defense center who were providing first-aid for the injured.

**3. Bombing residential neighborhoods then carrying out subsequent attacks to pursue the fleeing civilians:** Not only did Russian forces target residential neighborhoods and deliberately targeted civilians in their houses and shops, but they also made sure to pursue and target those who fled. In an attack on Jubbat al Qubba on November 29, 2016, [Russian forces targeted a group](#) of civilians who were fleeing Eastern Aleppo's neighborhoods to al Sakhour neighborhood, killing 17 civilians.

In an attack on [Kafr Battikh village](#) on March 21, 2018, Russian forces carried out airstrikes that targeted a group of students who fled their schools in the wake of airstrikes on the village, which resulted in the killing of 20 civilians, including 16 children who were students of that school.

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<sup>1</sup> A policy adopted by the Syrian and Russian regimes where the same site is targeted again a few minutes after the initial attack in order to cause as many human casualties as possible among civil defense members, medical teams, and doctors.



**4. Attacks that targeted IDPs camps:** We've documented that Russian forces targeted IDPs camps repeatedly, as well as displacement conveyors and displacement routes. According to SNHR's database, Russian forces carried out no less than 14 attacks on IDPs camps between the start of the military intervention in Syria and September 2018.

**5. Retaliatory attacks in the wake of material Russian losses:** We've recorded alarming military escalation in some of the areas where Russian warplanes were shot down in what appears to be a retaliatory act by Russian forces against the residents of those areas. For instance, the [Russian Ministry of Defense announced](#) on February 3 that a Russian Su-25 fixed-wing warplane was shot down by a shoulder-mounted rocket launcher in al Sawamea village, eastern suburbs of Idlib. This was followed by an offensive on the areas of Idlib eastern and southern suburbs, similar to what Russian forces did in the aftermath of its Su-24 warplane being shot down in Latakia suburbs in November 2015, as well as an Mi-8 helicopter in eastern Idlib suburbs in August 2016.

## V. Russian Forces' Strategy in Year 3

While Russian airstrikes were concentrated in west Syria in the first two years, Russian forces started in August 2017 to expand its military operations to the ISIS-held eastern governorates. As of December 2017, Syrian regime forces, thanks to the Russian aerial support, had managed to take over wide areas in eastern suburbs of Raqqa governorate (Shamiya villages to the south of the Euphrates River), as well as eastern and western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour (Shamiya villages to the south of the Euphrates River) and Deir Ez-Zour city.

We encountered additional challenges between September 2017 and September 2018 with regard to assigning responsibility to Russian forces for attacks in light of the intensified and unprecedented scope of the airstrikes and bombardment since the start of the Russian intervention. We have spoke to a large number of residents, as well as local observatory operators, who confirmed that multiple warplanes took off simultaneously from Russian and Syrian airbases and headed for the same area, as was the case in Eastern Ghouta and south Syria.

Signs of the Russian ground presence were seen more frequently in the past year. We have recorded an increase in the rates of artillery shelling and the use of land cluster munitions which can be traced back, we believe, to the Russian camp in southern Helfaya city.



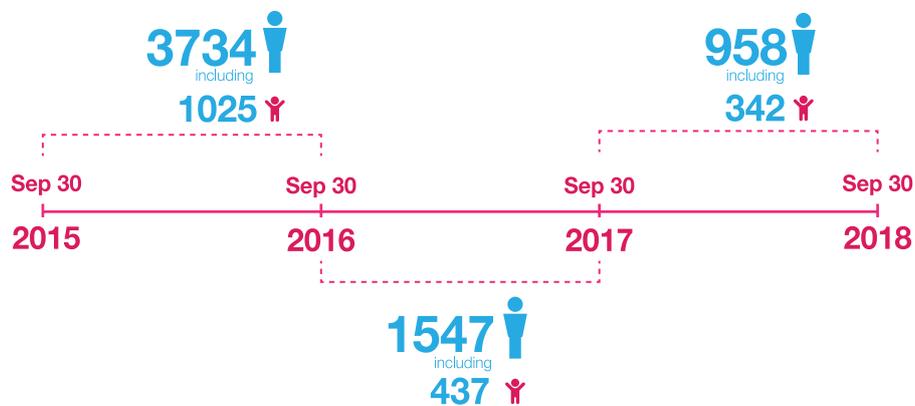
## VI. Analysis for Russian Forces' Violations according to SNHR's Database

### A. Death toll

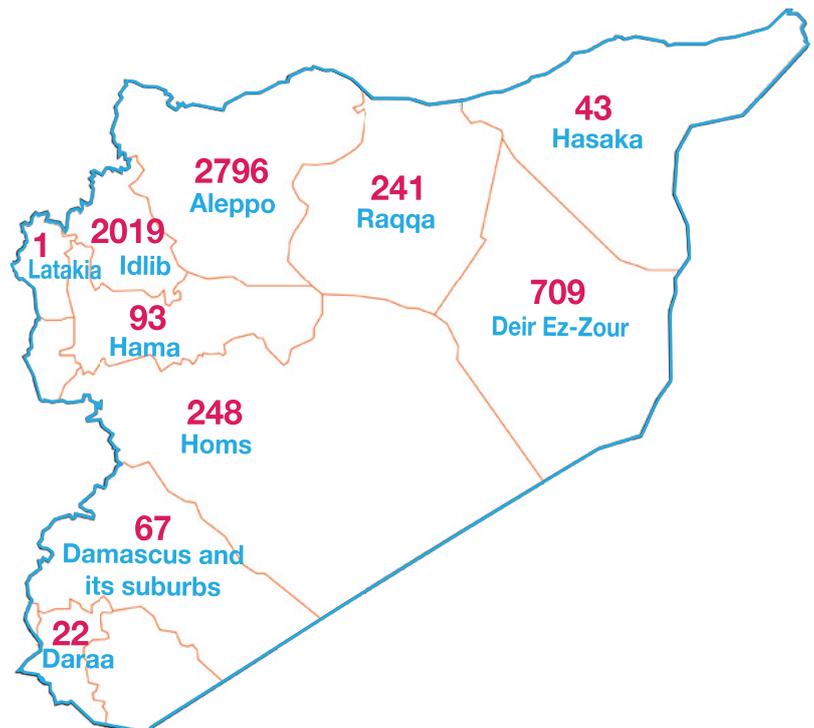
SNHR has documented that 6,239 civilians, including 1,804 children, were killed at the hands of Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

Toll of civilian victims killed by Russian forces is distributed by year as follows:

- Between September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016: 3,734, including 1,025 children
- Between September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2017: 1,547, including 437 children
- Between September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2018: 958, including 342 children



Toll of civilian victims killed by Russian forces is distributed across governorates as follows:

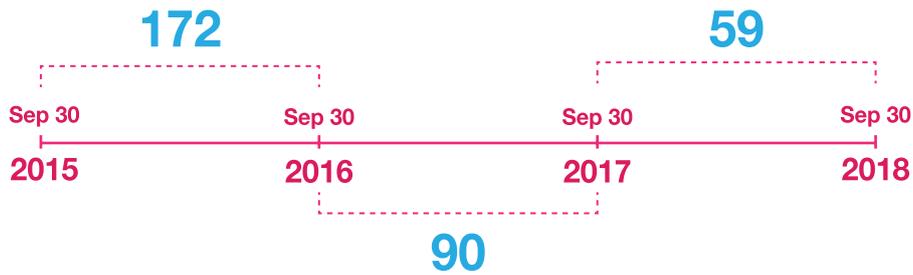


## B. Massacres (five individuals or more killed in the same attack)

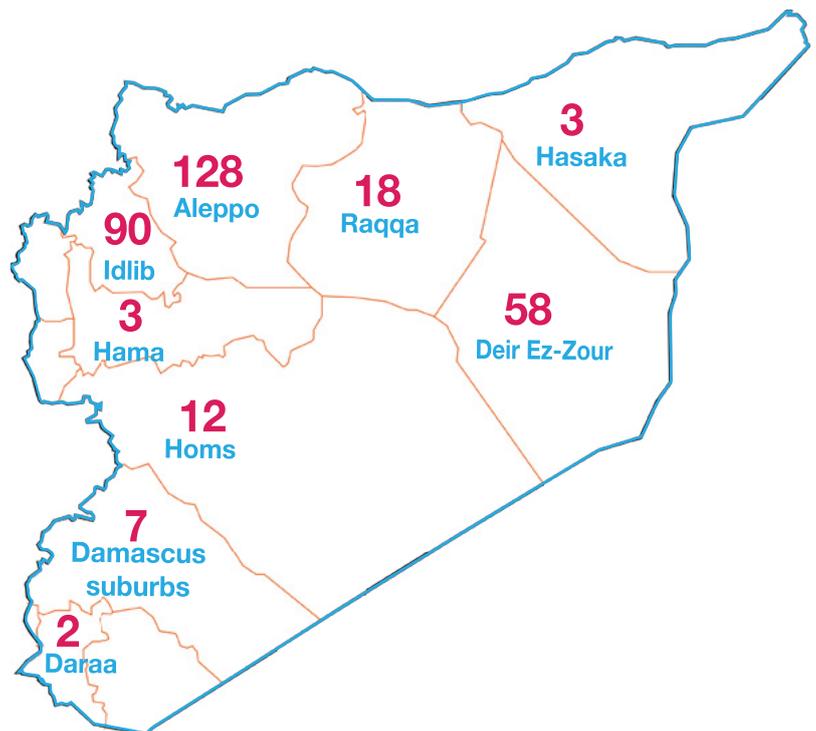
SNHR has documented no less than 321 massacres by Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018

Massacres are distributed by year as follows:

- Between September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016: 172
- Between September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2017: 90
- Between September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2018: 59



Massacres are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



## C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

SNHR has documented no less than 954 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including 166 attacks on medical facilities, 176 attacks on schools, and 55 attacks on markets, that resulted from Russian forces' attacks between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

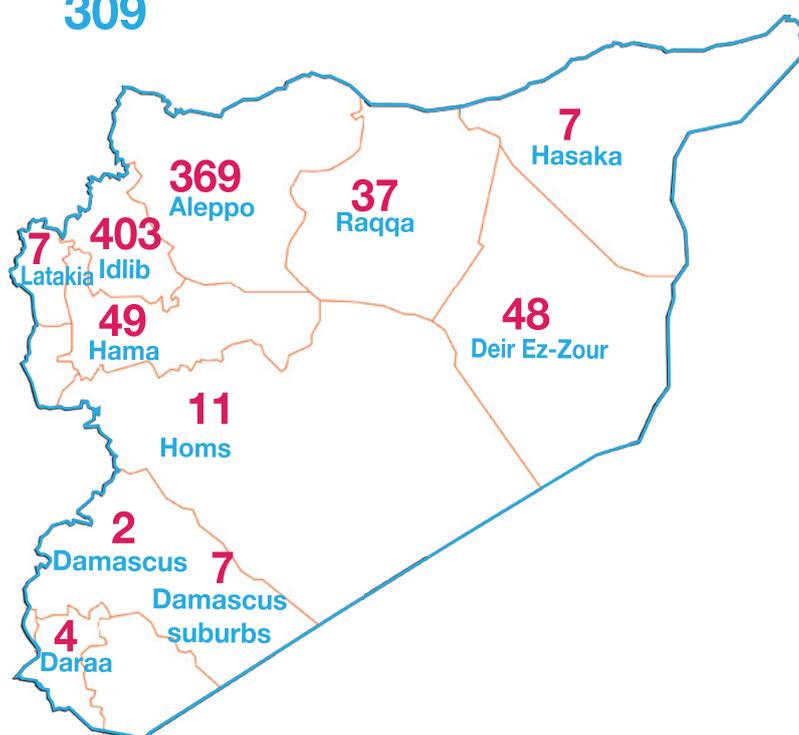


Attacks on vital civilian facilities were distributed by year as follows:

- Between September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016: 452 attacks, including 74 on schools, 77 on medical facilities, and 35 on markets.
- Between September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2017: 309 attacks, including 65 on schools, 54 on medical facilities, and 12 on markets.
- Between September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2018: 193 attacks, including 33 on medical facilities, 34 on schools, and 8 on markets.



Attacks on vital civilian facilities are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



#### **D. Medical and civil defense personnel killed**

SNHR has documented that 92 individuals medical and civil defense personnel were killed in attacks carried out by Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

#### **E. Media workers killed**

SNHR has documented that 19 media workers were killed and 50 others were injured in attacks carried out by Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

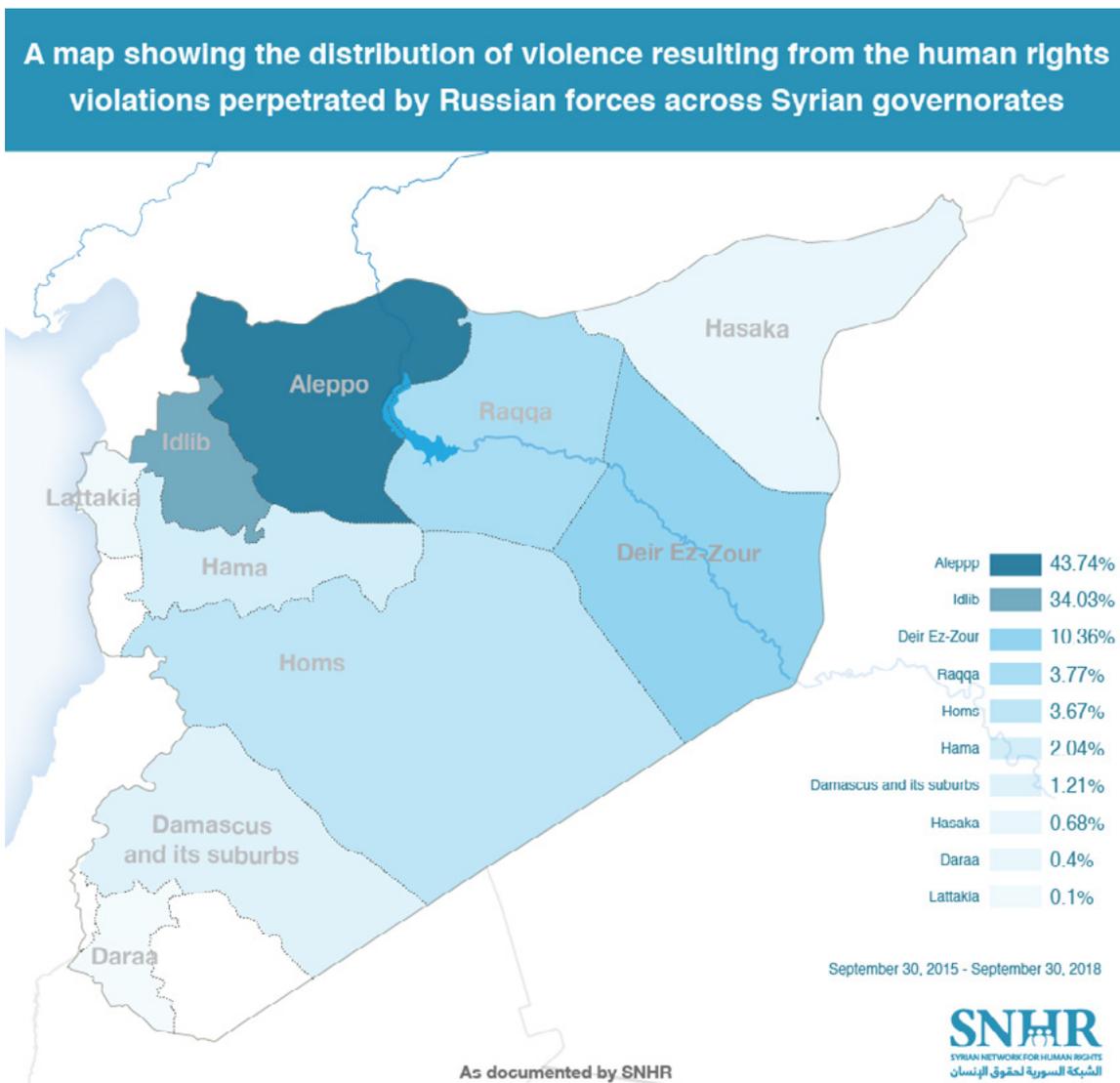


## F. Cluster munitions use

SNHR has documented no less than 232 attacks using cluster munitions carried out by Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

## G. Incendiary ammunitions use

SNHR has documented no less than 125 attacks using incendiary ammunitions carried out by Russian forces between the start of their military intervention in Syria and September 30, 2018.

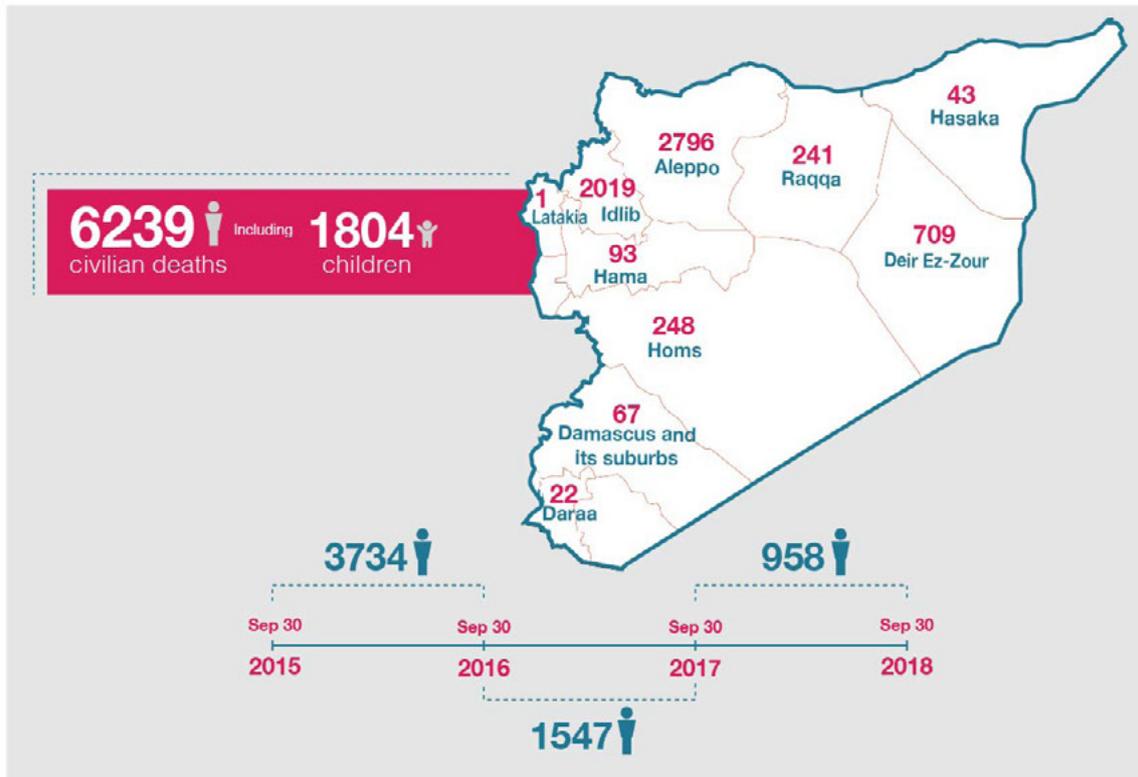


## H. Forced displacement

The intensified violence by Russian forces has had the largest impact in terms of forced displacement, as Russian attacks, in parallel with the attacks carried out by the Syrian-Iranian alliance, have resulted in the displacement of approximately 2.7 million people, most of whom were forcibly displaced multiple times, which was the case in southern and eastern Idlib suburbs and south Syria.



# Most Notable Human Rights Violations by Russian Forces since the Start of the Russian Intervention in Syria



## Russian forces were responsible for

**954** attacks on civilian vital facilities

Including



**321** massacres

## Backed the Syrian regime

in **3**  at least

## Russian forces carried out

**125** 

**232** 

Approximately **2.7 million** individuals have been forcibly displaced as a result of the military attacks by Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance forces



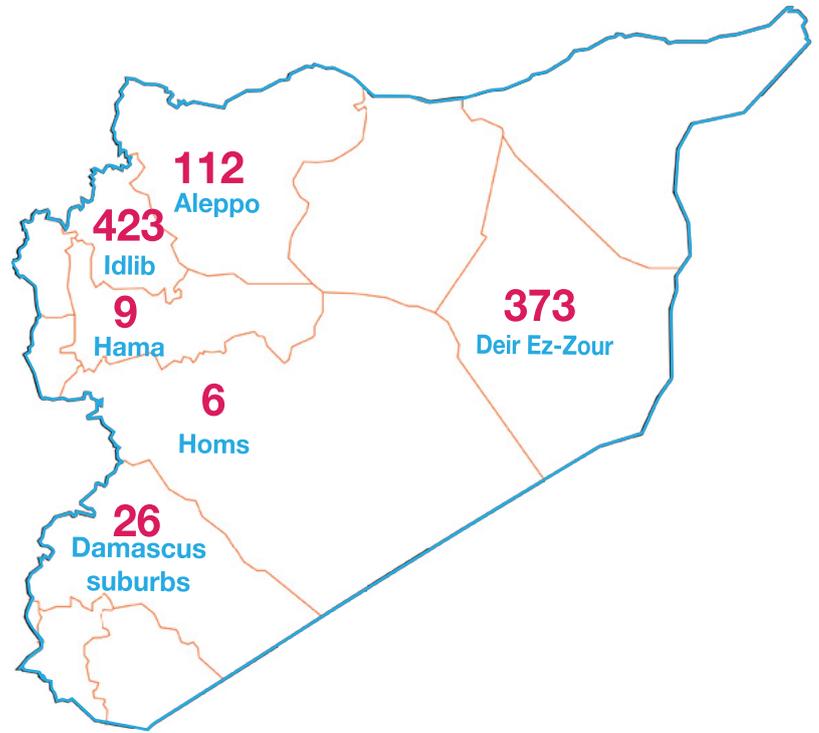
## VII. Details Outlining some of the Incident that Were Added to SNHR's Database during the Past Year

Between September 30, 2017, and September 30, 2018, SNHR has documented in its database:

- 958 civilians were killed, including 342 children
- No less than 59 massacres
- No less than 183 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including 33 on medical facilities, 34 on schools, and 8 on markets
- 17 medical and civil defense personnel were killed
- 2 media workers were killed



Civilian death toll is distributed across governorates as follows:



This report sheds light on 67 attacks where Russian forces targeted civilian areas and vital civilian facilities, while a number of those attacks resulted in civilian deaths. These attacks took place between September 30, 2017, and September 30, 2018.

We have categorized these attacks in our database into a number of patterns. For instance, there are attacks that resulted in massacres and attacks on vital civilian facilities, while there were attacks that resulted in the killing of medical and civil defense personnel.

## **A. Most Notable Attacks Resulting in Massacres**

### **Idlib governorate**

Friday, December 8, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired four missiles at houses in al Zarzour village, administratively a part of al Taman'a town, suburbs of Idlib governorate. The attack resulted in the killing of [seven civilians](#) at once, [five children](#) and [two women](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, January 2, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles that targeted an agricultural project in eastern Khan Sheikhoun town, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, four children and one woman. from Taybat al Imam town, while no less than six others were injured. In addition, one residential house was heavily destroyed. The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



SNHR spoke to Saud al Saud<sup>2</sup>, a local media worker from Khan al Sebel town. Saud said that he heard the announcement from the observatory on duty in the area as they issued warnings about a Russian warplane taking off from Hmemim Airbase, **“The observatory operator was informing us about the warplane’s movement and destination, as it entered the airspace of Ma’aret al Nu’mān city after taking off, before heading north where it targeted our town.”** Saud added that the warplane targeted agricultural lands where IDPs from Hama governorate resided, **“I arrived with Civil Defense teams. I saw two large holes that resulted from the bombardment. Families were buried under the rubble. One woman and four children were killed. There were people alive buried under the rubble, but the warplane didn’t leave the town, so we couldn’t rescue them until hours later.”**

Sunday, February 4, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles that targeted a six-story residential building in Wadi al Nasim area on the southern outskirts of Idlib city. The building collapsed completely. No less than 12 civilians were killed in the attack, including six children and four women. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Tuesday noon, September 4, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles on al Basatin neighborhood, southern Jisr al Shoghour city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. [Five children](#) from the [same family](#) were killed in the attack. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Victims killed in an aerial attack we believe was Russian on Jisr al Shoghour, Idlib – September 4, 2018



## **Aleppo governorate**

Monday, November 13, 2017, around 15:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired six missiles on al Atareb city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The missiles landed on [the main market](#) and [al Atareb Free Police Station](#), [located](#) at the entrance of the market, in the city. [79 individuals](#), including [seven children](#) and eight women, were killed in the attack while about 100 others were wounded. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

We have detailed the attack and its location in a [separate report](#).



Victims killed in a Russian aerial attack on al Atareb city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate – November 13, 2017

Friday, August 10, 2018, around 18:30, fixed-win warplanes we believe were Russian fired a sequence of missile attacks on a residential area in Urm al Kubra village, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in the killing of [36 civilians](#), [including 20 children](#) and [seven women](#), while [about 70 others were wounded](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

We have released [an extensive report](#) detailing the attack that drew upon eyewitnesses' accounts we were able to acquire.



A residential area in Urm al Kubra village, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, that was targeted by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian, resulting in a massacre on August 10, 2018

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## Hama governorate

Thursday, February 1, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles on al Shamaliya neighborhood in Kafr Nbouda town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The bombardment resulted in the killing of [eight civilians](#) at once, including [two children](#) and one woman. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

SNHR contacted Mohammad Hamada<sup>2</sup>, a local media worker who works with the Syria Civil Defense, **“I just heard the sound of a powerful explosion that shook the town. The explosion’s sound wasn’t preceded by the sound of warplanes, which led me to believe that it was a car bomb.”** Mohammad headed for the attack site in the wake of the attack, and described what he saw there, **“I didn’t see any signs a car bomb explosion, so I realized it was an air attack. The warplane was flying at a high altitude which was why I couldn’t hear its sound. It was most likely Russian warplanes. We started evacuating victims’ bodies and removing rubble to re-open the roads. The two missiles destroyed at least five residential buildings and killed 11 civilians, including two children and one woman, in addition to two shops being burned. Rescue teams worked for approximately four hours and were able to rescue two people who were trapped under the rubble.”** Mohammad confirmed that there was no military presence of armed opposition factions in the targeted area.

Abu Mohammad<sup>3</sup>, a central signal operator, told SNHR that he tracked a Russian warplane taking off from Hmeimim Airbase before the attack, but it headed north towards Idlib, **“I was taken by panic when I heard the explosion because the warplane I tracked headed for Idlib. Apparently, it changed its course and we failed to track that. The warplane carried out an airstrike with two missiles on al Shamaliya area in Kafr Nbouda town. There were no military centers, armories, or even military checkpoints for the rebels. Five residential houses were destroyed completely, and many civilians were injured, including my son, while over 11 civilians were killed and buried under the rubble.”** Abu Mohammad said that the huge destruction obstructed roads and ambulance’s access to the area, adding that civil defense teams had to work for long hours to complete rescue operations.

<sup>2</sup> We contacted him vi WhatsApp on August 25, 2018

<sup>3</sup> We contacted him vi WhatsApp on August 25, 2018





A victim being pulled out in the aftermath of an aerial attack we believe was Russian on Kafr Nbouda, Hama – February 1, 2018

### **Damascus suburbs**

Sunday, November 19, 2017, around 19:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Madyara village, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians, four children and their parents, while no less than 15 others were wounded. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles on residential neighborhoods in Misraba town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of [20 civilians](#), including [11 women](#), while about [80 others were wounded](#). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Three victims killed in an aerial attack we believe was Russian on Misraba town, Damascus suburbs – January 3, 2018



## **Deir Ez-Zour governorate**

Thursday, November 19, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the river crossing which connects al Boukamal city with al Baghouz village in al Boukamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bombardment resulted in the killing of 20 civilians, including three children and six women. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Hassan al Hassou, a relative of the victim Salem al Frieih's who was killed in the attack. Hassan conveyed to us his cousin's account who witnessed the attack, **"It was, on that day, three Russian warplanes flying over the city and bombing its vicinities. Hundreds of civilians headed for the crossing to flee to al Baghouz village. Around 15:40, the Russian warplanes targeted the crossing with three missiles where a gathering of civilian cars were standing at the crossing."** Hassan said that a second airstrike targeted the crossing 15 minutes after the first attack. People were gathering to aid the victims of the first attack at that point, **"Four missiles were fired in the second attack that targeted dozens of civilians. The second airstrike killed everyone – the injured and the people aiding them. Not only did the warplanes bombed the city but even the crossing people use to flee."**

Friday, November 24, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at IDPs camps in the badiya between al Sayyal village and al Ghabra village, both villages are administratively part of al Boukamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bombardment resulted in the killing of 29 civilians, including 12 children and seven women. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

## **B. Most notable attacks that involved the use of cluster munitions**

Sunday, November 12, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian used eight RBK-500 bombs loaded with [PTAB-1M submunitions](#) to target the [main market](#) in the center of Senjar town, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [Market facilities](#) were slightly damaged. The town was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. Jaber Abu Mohammad is a local media worker from Senjar town who works with the Syrian Civil Defense. He told us that Senjar town had been targeted since morning of that day, adding that Russian warplanes used white phosphorus, **"After the white phosphorus airstrikes, Russian warplanes rained eight missiles loaded with cluster bombs on us. They targeted civilian-populated areas, markets and residential buildings. Bombs and remnants scattered everywhere. The consecutive explosions of those bombs scared the children."**





Cluster remnants found in Senjar town, Idlib after an aerial attack we believe was Russian  
– November 12, 2017

Friday, January 12, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles loaded with [cluster submunitions](#) that [targeted](#) the center of Khan al Subul town, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. No injuries were recorded as the attack only resulted in material damages. The village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **C. Most notable attacks that involved the use of incendiary ammunition**

Sunday, December 17, 2017, around 14:52, [fixed-wing warplanes](#) we [believe](#) were [Russian used incendiary ammunitions](#) in targeting al Ahrash area, northern Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The attack resulted in [wide fires](#). The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



The tail of an incendiary ammunitions container found in al Ahrash area, northern Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib in the aftermath of an aerial attack we believe was Russian – December 17, 2017



## D. Most notable attacks on vital civilian facilities

### Places of worship

#### - Mosques

Wednesday, December 13, 2017, around 10:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles in the vicinity of Tal al Daman Mosque in western Tal al Daman village, southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the missiles landed on the mosque. The mosque was bombed out of service, [as its building was heavily destroyed](#) and [its furniture was heavily damaged](#). Another Russian aerial attack targeted the same mosque on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Damages in Tal al Daman Mosque in the aftermath of an aerial attack by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian on Tal al Daman, Aleppo – December 13, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired four missiles at al Bayoud village, administratively part of al Hamra county, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The mosque [was bombed](#) out of service, as [its building was destroyed](#) almost completely. It should be noted that the same air force attacked the mosque on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Sunday, January 21, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian carried out an airstrike with machine guns, which fired small-sized missiles, that targeted al Huda Mosque in al Gharbi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The minaret](#) was destroyed and the building was [moderately damaged](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

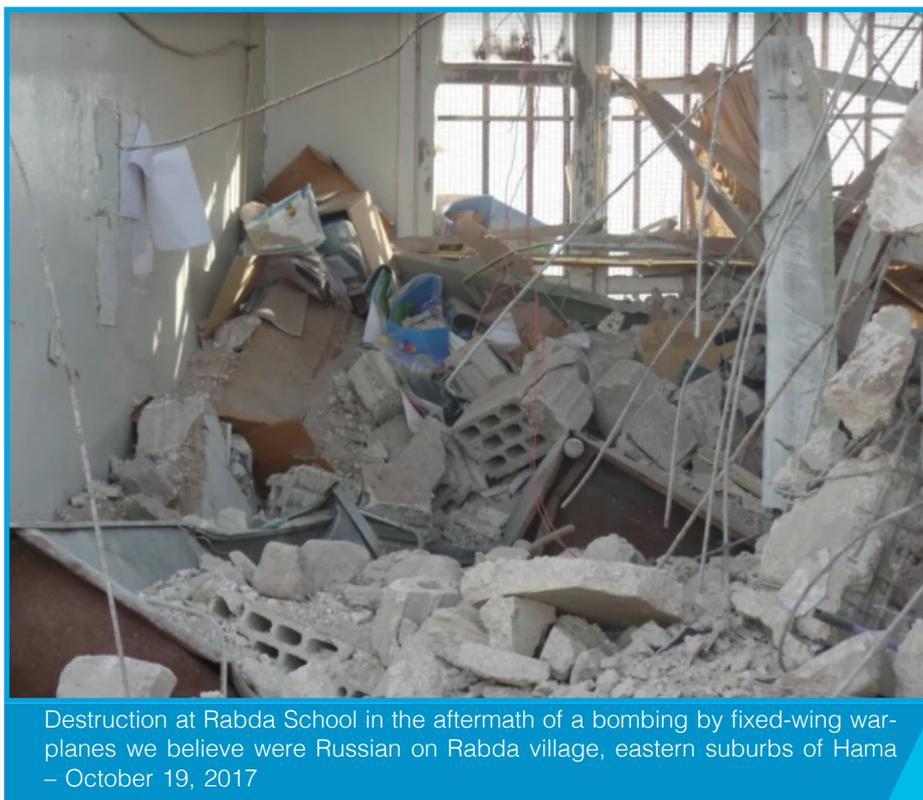


Monday, September 10, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at [Hasraya village's mosque](#), northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The mosque was bombed out of service, as its building was destroyed completely. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

### **Vital educational facilities**

#### - Schools

Thursday, October 19, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired missiles at Rabda Elementary School in Rabda village, administratively part of al Hamra county in eastern suburbs of Hama governorate. The school was bombed out of service, [as its building](#) was [partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#). The village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Tuesday, November 7, 2017, around 02:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the Martyr Abdul Hadi al Eisa School, known as Tal al Daman High School, in eastern al Menbateh village, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The missile landed in the school's yard where the [school fence](#) was [partially destroyed](#), and [the building](#) and furniture were [moderately damaged](#). It is worth noting that the school is the only high school in the area. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Saturday, November 11, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Abu Hama Sharqi School in Abu Hama city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The school was bombed out of service, as its building was heavily damaged. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, January 12, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Khaled al Mousa High School on the northeastern outskirts of al Habit village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles went through the upper floors and exploded the lower floors of the school building. As a result, [a fire broke out](#) and [the school building](#) and its [furniture](#) were [heavily damaged](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, September 4, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at a school in al Badriya village, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The school was bombed out of service, [as its building and fence were partially destroyed](#), [while the furniture](#) was [heavily damaged](#). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Damages in al Badriya School for Elementary Education in the aftermath of an attack by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian – September 4, 2018



## - Universities

Sunday, January 21, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at [Ela Private University](#), located on the international highway Aleppo–Damas-cus near Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of students were wounded. [Additionally, the university building was partially destroyed and its furniture and cladding materials were heavily damaged.](#) The area was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **Vital medical facilities**

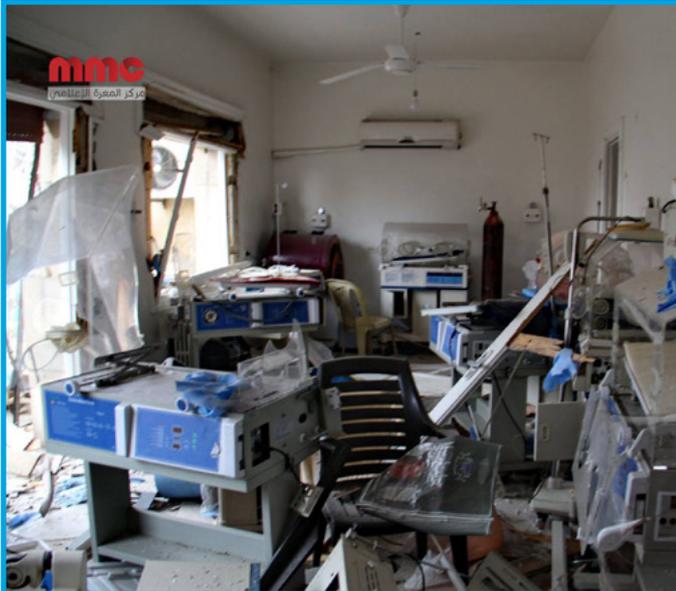
Sunday, November 12, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the [Aid Network](#), affiliated to the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), in Rasm al Thahiriya village, known as al Jazdaniya village and administratively part of al Hamra county, eastern suburbs of Hama governorate. The annex to the network, a garage, [was destroyed](#) completely. Also, four ambulances [were bombed](#) out of service, as they were heavily damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Monday, November 13, 2017, around 15:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [one missile](#) near [the clinic center](#), which is affiliated with the Doctors Without Borders, in al Atareb city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. [The bombardment](#) resulted in a massacre. Additionally, the facility was temporarily out of service), as [the building and its equipment](#) were [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile in front of [al Salam Specialized Hospital](#) (children and OBG), which is backed by the Syrian [American Medical Society](#) (SAMS), in [al Sharqi neighborhood](#), Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The bombardment](#) resulted in casualties. Additionally, [the hospital building and its equipment](#) were heavily damaged, as the damages were concentrated in the incubator wing. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

SAMS released [a statement](#) on the same day stating that the hospital was put out of service as a result of the bombardment.





Damages at the wing in the aftermath of an aerial attack we believe was Russian that targeted the hospital – January 3, 2018



The incubator wing at al Salam Specialized Hospital in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, Idlib

Monday, January 29, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-25) we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) in front of [Odai Saraqeb Hospital](#), known as al Ihsan Hospital, in al Sharqi neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. In addition, the [hospital's main entrance](#) and [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital were [heavily damaged](#). It should be noted that the hospital (received) the victims of the massacre perpetrated by Russian forces on the same day in Saraqeb city. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 1, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Hasan al A'raf Hospital, known as al Maghara Hospital, which is one of Hama Free Health Directorate hospitals [supported by SAMS](#), in Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The hospital was bombed out of service, as its equipment were [heavily destroyed](#). It should be noted that the same hospital was targeted by the same air force on three occasion in the previous month. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

SAMS released [a statement](#) on the same day condemning the incident while warning of the repercussions of targeting the health sector.



Sunday, February 4, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles near the primary health care center PHC, which is supported by Syria Relief & Development (SRD) in northern Kafrenbel city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [the center building's cladding materials and equipment](#) were moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Sunday, February 4, 2018, around 20:55, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) at [Ma'aret al Nu'man Central Hospital](#), [known as the National Hospital](#), which is supported by SAMS, in northeastern Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital was bombed out of service as the hospital building was partially destroyed and its wings, including the incubator and aid wings, were heavily damaged, as well as its equipment. In addition, [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital was heavily damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

SAMS released [a statement](#) on the incident.

Monday, February 5, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at Kafrenbel Surgical Hospital in northern Kafrenbel city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital was bombed out of service, where the [missile landed in the middle](#) of it [causing heavy destruction](#) to [the building](#), while [the equipment](#) was [heavily damaged](#), as well as [an ambulance](#) belonging to it. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at al Rahma Hospital, which is built inside a cave next to the Civil Defense center, in Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [The hospital was bombed out of service](#), as its building was [heavily destroyed](#) and [the equipment](#) was heavily damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the [first-aid center](#), known as the health center, in Mashmashan village, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bombardment resulted in a massacre. In addition, [the center](#) was [bombed out of service](#), as [its building was heavily destroyed](#) and [its equipment](#) was heavily damaged. The village was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistan Party at the time of the incident.





Wednesday, February 14, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles [at Sham Surgical Hospital, which is backed by SRD](#), in northern Hass village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The hospital was bombed out of service, as [its building was heavily destroyed](#) while [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital was heavily damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Nabd al Haya Hospital, which is built inside a fortified cave, in southern Hass village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The missiles landed on the hospital's roof causing heavy destruction to it, while the hospital building's cladding materials were slightly damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Saturday, February 7, 2018, around 23:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [six missiles](#) at Kafr Zita Specialized Hospital, which is affiliated with Free Hama Health Directorate, in al Gharbi neighborhood, Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The hospital was bombed out of service, as its building was heavily destroyed, as well as a number of wings, while the hospital equipment was heavily damaged. It should be noted that the same hospital was attacked twice in March of the same year by the same air force. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Saturday, September 8, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles near [al Latamena Surgical Hospital](#) in al Latamena town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The missiles landed about 15 meters away from the hospital. As a result, an ambulance and a power generator belonging to the hospital were moderately damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **Vital cultural facilities**

### **- Museums**

Tuesday, January 2, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles at Ma'aret al Nu'man Archeological Museum, known as Khan Murad Basha, located at the end of the main street in the center of Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. [A number of the museum's rooms and contents](#) were [partially destroyed](#) - a number of [mosaic pieces](#) and artifacts. It is worth noting that the museum's building was destroyed in a previous bombing. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.



Destruction at Ma'aret al Nu'man Archeological Museum (Khan Murad Basha) in the aftermath of an attack by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian, Ma'aret al Nu'man, Idlib – January 2, 2018



## **Communal facilities**

### **- Markets**

Friday, October 27, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) at the market of al Basira city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. A number of shops were damaged. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Sunday, November 12, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles loaded with cluster submunitions at the main market in the center of Senjar town, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Market facilities were slightly damaged. The town was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday, November 13, 2017, around 15:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [a number of missiles](#) at al Atareb city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in [a massacre](#). Additionally, [a number of shops](#) were [destroyed](#). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Monday, January 29, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-25) we believe were Russian carried out an airstrike using machine guns, which fired small-sized missile, at al [Bataa al Jadid market](#) in northern Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bombing resulted in a massacre. In addition, [market facilities](#) were [heavily damaged](#). It should be noted that [the market](#) occupies the former building of al Wes Factory. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## **Infrastructures**

### **- Power stations**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired five missiles at [the substation](#) in [Srouj village](#), administratively part of al Hamra county, eastern suburbs of Hama governorate. The substation was bombed out of service, as [its building was destroyed almost completely](#) while towers and transformers were [moderately damaged](#). It should be noted that the substation supplies power for most of al Hamra county's villages, as well as al Sa'n and al Sboura village in eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, a number of villages in Senjar county, eastern suburbs of idlib governorate, and a number of villages in southeastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



### - Civil Defense facilities

Sunday, January 14, 2018, around 03:30, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired [six missiles](#) at the [Civil Defense's center](#) "107" in Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The center was bombed out of service, as its building was destroyed almost completely. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 8, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the [Civil Defense center](#), which is built inside a cave next to al Rahma Hospital, in eastern Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. Three Civil Defense members were killed while four others were wounded. In addition, the center was bombed out of service, as its building was [heavily destroyed](#) and the equipment, as well as [an ambulance](#) belonging to the hospital, was [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, February 15, 2018, forces we believe were Russian fired long-range rockets in parallel with a bombing by their airstrikes who fired a number of missiles at the Civil Defense team of Sfouhin center in southern Termalla village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate as the team was tending to the wounded from a previous bombing on the same site. One Civil Defense member was killed, while others were wounded. In addition, [two ambulances](#) belonging to the team [were bombed out of service](#), as they were heavily damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

### - Water systems

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at [Ein al Zarqa water-pumping](#) station, an area of water wells that supply groundwater for the city. The station is located in southern Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. As a result, [a power generator was burned](#) and put out of operation. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### - Official headquarters

Saturday, October 14, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the telephone exchange in al Qouriya city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The facility was bombed out of service, as its building was heavily destroyed, resulting in the cutoff of communications in the city. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Sunday, March 11, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes (Su-24) we believe were Russian fired a missile at Idlib [Exam Directorate](#) in Idlib city. The directorate building [was partially destroyed](#) and its furniture was [heavily damaged](#) while [a number of its offices](#) were burned. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

#### - Transportation systems

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian bombed the [water crossing](#) that connects al Qouriya city with al Shnan village in al Qouriya city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bombardment resulted in a massacre. Additionally, [the crossing was bombed out of service](#) as [a number of culverts](#) and boats were burned. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Destruction at al Qouriya- al Shnan crossing in al Qouriya city, Deir Ez-Zour in the aftermath of a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian – October 4, 2017

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the water crossing in Sbeikhan city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. A number of culverts and boats were bombed out of service as they were destroyed. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Saturday, October 28, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at al Baeth Bridge, known as al A'your Bridge, that connects al Hwyeqa neighborhood in northern Deir Ez-Zour city with the rest of the city's neighborhoods. The bridge was bombed out of service as it collapsed from the middle. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

#### - Bakeries

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian used incendiary ammunition to target the local council's bakery, located by the local council garage, in al Shamali neighborhood, Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A fire broke out in the bakery and its building and equipment were [moderately damaged](#). It is worth noting that the [bakery occupies](#) a part of the former pedestrian bus garage (Idlib New Garages). The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

#### **Refugee camps**

Tuesday, December 26, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Rasm al Abd IDPs camp in southern Senjar town, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, about 20 tents were moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday, January 15, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired three missiles at [Hafsa Um al Mu'mineen Camp](#) in [southwestern Ma'saran village](#), administratively part of Ma'aret al Nu'man city. A number of tents were moderately damaged. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Thursday, January 18, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at an IDPs shelter in eastern Ma'rdabsa village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate. A number of IDPs were wounded. In addition, the shelter building was [partially destroyed](#). It should be noted that the shelter occupies a former poultry farm. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Sunday, April 29, 2018, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at al [Walid IDPs Camp](#) in northwestern Ma'er Zita village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, [camp facilities](#) were [heavily damaged](#) as well as [a school](#), which is built inside the camp and consists of two rooms made of cement block, and its [furniture](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## E. Most notable medical and civil defense personnel who were killed

### **Medical personnel**

[Asaad Gharbi al Suleiman](#), pharmacist, from al Mayadeen city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, born in 1975, married and a father of five children. He was killed on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired a number of missiles at the water crossing connecting al Ashara city with Darnaj village in al Ashara city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

Zahra Hussein Jablawi, female, nurse, from Kafr Nouran village, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, 22-year-old, a student at Omar ben Abdul Aziz Institute for Nursing, worked as a nurse at Kafr Nouran Health Center. She was killed on Monday, November 13, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that bombed the local market in al Atareb city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, with missiles, resulting in a massacre.

[Shuja Yousef al Zarzour](#), otorhinolaryngologist, from al Boukamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, born in 1963. Married and a father of five children (four males and one female). He was killed on Thursday, November 23, 2017, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that bombed the water crossing in Hasrat village, administratively part of al Boukama city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, with missiles, resulting in a massacre.

[Mohammad Mahmoud al Hasram](#), dentist, from al Tah village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, husband and a father. He was killed on Thursday, March 22, 2018, around 16:10, along with members of his family in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that bombed the old market and its vicinities in Harem city, northwestern suburbs of Idlib governorate, with missiles resulting in a massacre.



## **Civil defense personnel**

[Basim al Fadli](#), member of the Civil Defense's center 270 in Misraba town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, from al Rayhan town, Eastern Ghouta, eastern Damascus suburbs, from al Rayhan town, Eastern Ghouta. He was killed on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, around 19:30, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired the center of Misraba town with bombs as he was scouting the site of a previous shelling, resulting in massacre.



Basim al Fadli, member of the Syrian civil defense, was killed in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian on Misraba town, Damascus suburbs – January 3, 2018

Derar Bsierini, Ahmad Abdul Khattab, and Mustafa Bakkour, Civil Defense members in Idlib governorate (Khan Sheikhoun center), from Khan Sheikhoun city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. They were killed on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired a number of missiles at the [civil defense center](#) in eastern Khan Sheikhoun.

The Civil Defense in Idlib governorate released [a statement](#) mourning the three civil defense members



Derar Basrini - Ahmad Abdul Khattab - and Mustafa Bakkour, Syrian civil defense members killed in an aerial attack we believe was Russian on Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib – February 8, 2018



Jumaa Yousef al lleiwi, a Civil Defense member in Hama governorate (Jabal Shahshbo center), from Shahrnaz village, western suburbs of Hama governorate, 27-year-old, married and has one daughter. He was killed on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in a bombing by fixed-wing war-planes we believe were Russian that fired a missile on al Khwen village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, as he was tending to the wounded from a previous bombing.

## F. Most notable media workers who were killed

[Fuad Mohammad al Hussein](#). On Tuesday, February 6, 2018, he died because of brain penetrating injuries inflicted by shrapnel in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired a missile near him, in his village Termalla, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

[Fuad](#), reporter for Event News Agency, from Termalla village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, born in 1986. Has a diploma from the college of literature and human sciences – department of Arabic language, married and a father of two children.

[Ahmad Mohammad Aziza](#). On Friday, August 10, 2018, he died because of multiple injuries inflicted by shrapnel in a bombing by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian that fired a missile near him as he was tending to the wounded from a previous bombing by the same air force on Urm al Kubra village, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Ahmad reporter and photographer for Aleppo News Media Network and Ayoon Syria Network, from Aleppo city, born in 1998, has an intermediate education certificate, unmarried.



Media worker Ahmad Mahmoud Aziza, was killed in an attack by fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian on Urm al Kubra village, Aleppo – August 10, 2018



## VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Legal conclusions

1. The Russian regime has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased. Also, the Russian regime has violated, through the crime of willful killing, Articles 7 and 8 of Rome Statute, which constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity.
2. We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted defenseless civilians. Therefore, Russian forces have violated the rules of the customary international humanitarian law, which protect the right to life. In addition, the bombardment was carried out in a non-international armed conflict, which constitutes a war crime as all elements have been fulfilled.
3. The attacks included in this report, which were carried out by the Russian regime, constitute a violation of the customary international humanitarian law as shells were directed at populated residential areas rather than a specific military object.
4. The bombardments have resulted in collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, or significant damages to civilian objects. There are strong indicators that compel to believe that the damage was too excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage.

### Recommendations

#### **Security Council**

- The Security Council should take additional steps after Resolution 2254 was adopted, which demands, "...Immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment,"
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who were implicated should be held accountable, including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes have been proven.
- Establish security and peace in Syria and implement the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm in order to preserve the Syrians' lives, heritage, and arts from being destroyed, looted, and tainted.
- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes who have been directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.



## International community

- In light of the Security Council's division and utter inability, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people. This would manifest in protecting the Syrian people from the daily killing and lifting the siege, as well as increasing the support with respect to relief efforts. Additionally, steps should be taken in order to exercise universal jurisdiction on these crimes before national tribunals as part of fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called, as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect (R2P)' norm in tens of studies and reports after all political initiatives, through the Arab League agreement and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan and the Cessation of Hostilities and Astana agreements that followed, have been to no avail. As such, action should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the 'Responsibility to Protect' norm, which was established by the UN General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- Works towards achieving justice and accountability in Syria through the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and use the principle of universal jurisdiction.

## Commission of Inquiry (Col)

- Investigate the incidents mentioned in this report and try to include the findings in the context of the upcoming report.

## OHCHR

- The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other UN organs on the incidents included in this report, seeing that it was carried out by forces we believe were Russian in coordination with government forces.



## **UN special envoy to Syria**

- Expand Security Council briefings rather than limiting them to the violations of al Nusra Front and ISIS.
- Condemn the perpetrators of crimes and massacres and those who were primarily responsible for dooming de-escalation agreements.

## **Russian regime**

- Launch an investigation into the incidents included in this report, make the findings of those investigation public to the Syrian people, and hold those who were involved accountable.
- Compensate all the damaged centers and facilities, rehabilitate them, and achieve reparations for all the families of the wounded and the victims who were killed by the present Russian regime.
- Immediately cease the bombing of hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect the customary humanitarian law.

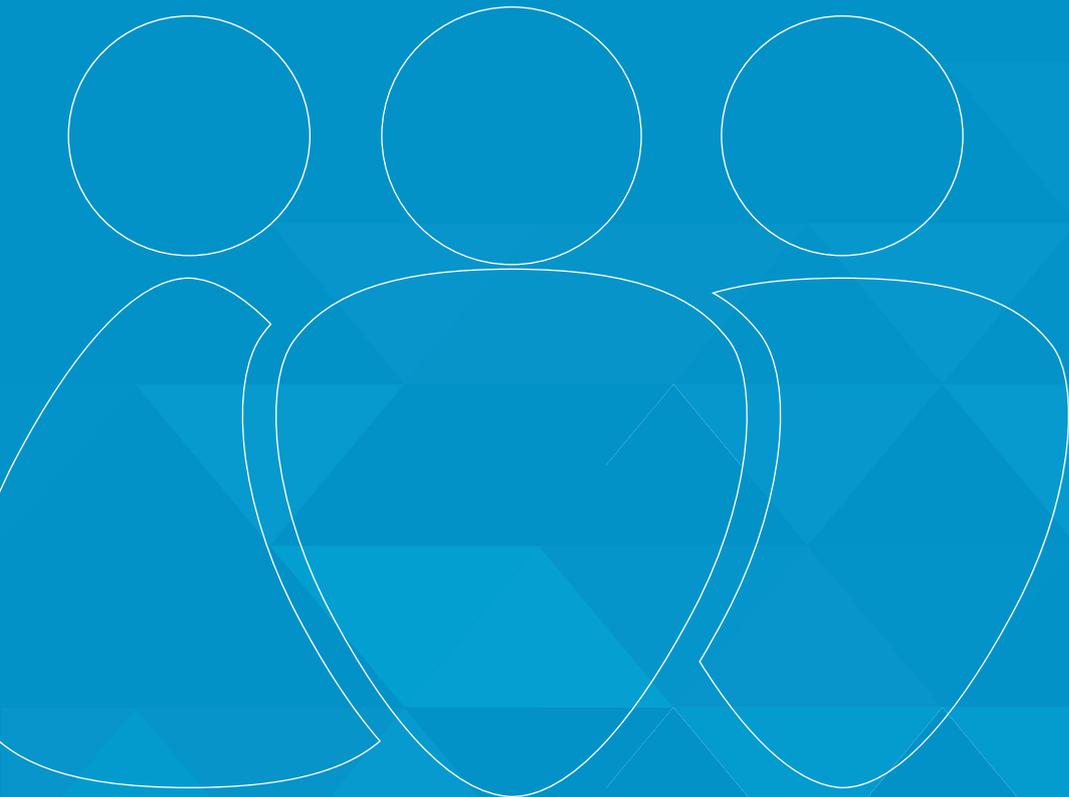
## **European States and the European Union**

- Impose economic sanctions on Russia in light of the war crimes it perpetrated in Syria.

## **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

Our most heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and those who were affected that we got to know and document their names. We would also like to sincerely thank the residents, local activists, and victims' families whose contribution made our database and this report possible.





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