



Statement

**On the Second Anniversary of the Ghouta Chemical Massacre
Where is Justice?**

On the second anniversary of our modern era, residents and victims' families in Al Ghouta are still waiting for the moment when perpetrators who committed this massacre are brought to justice. Unfortunately, our reality is the complete opposite, especially when the perpetrators retain full impunity, at least for now.

Maybe one of the most powerful evidence we have is the UNSC resolution 2118 issued on 27 September 2013 that stated:

“In the event of non-compliance with this resolution, including unauthorized transfer of chemical weapons, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in the Syrian Arab Republic, to impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter”, and “the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic constitutes a threat to international peace and security.”

Despite that the Independent International Inquiry Committee in its eighth and ninth reports indicated that the Syrian Government used toxic Chlorine gas, the government's use of this gas has surged significantly after the resolutions were issued. In SNHR, we recorded not less than 125 breaches for resolution 2118, including 56 breaches for resolution 2209.

The Syrian community, who lost its faith in the Security Council and its resolutions, since they remained mere dead letters, continues to ask: “When enough is enough? When the Syrian government will be stopped from killing its own people? For how long this bloodshed is going to continue?” We have never known a current ruling government who offended the UN Security Council and its resolutions like the Syrian government did. And since the Security Council is politically divided, the Syrian regime will remain comfortable killing its own people while the Security Council expresses its “grave concern and utmost condemnation”.

To kill more than one thousand human beings at once in one day only, and then to be asked to “hand over the murder weapon” without holding the perpetrators accountable for their crime is mere absurdity. Residents of Al Ghouta died in their sleep when Sarin gas rockets were shelled at their region at 2 a.m. With a relatively cool weather, Sarin gas can thus achieve a great killing rate. This matter alone is enough to indicate the sadistic nature of these perpetrators.

Al Ghouta Massacre resulted in the death of 1127 individuals in one day only, including 201 women and 107 children; more than a quarter of the victims were women and children and more than 9500 individuals suffered from Sarin gas poisoning.





A great number of the victims died during the first three hours of the attack. Among the 1127 individuals who were killed, 64 persons were killed in Mo'adamiyat Al Sham in western Ghouta, including 4 women and 10 children, who were documented by name, picture, and details by SNHR. The documentation process lasted several months since the victims spread in different towns and hospitals. Our estimations indicate that the victims' numbers, including the persons affected by this attack, might reach 1400 individuals.

The Syrian government, represented by Bashar Assad and his regime, used internationally prohibited chemical weapons during the time of war, breach and violated UN Security Council resolutions. The International Community is sending a global message to every dictator on the face of earth, that they can get away with killing their own people using different lethal weapons and oppression and still not be accused or prosecuted. What is more terrible than this issue, is the silence of the international community when it disregards the criminal who planned and executed not only the Ghouta Massacre, but four continuous years of massacres that turned to genocide.

And then we ask ourselves, "Where did these militants come from?"

