The death of 818 Individuals Due to the Syrian Regime’s and ISIS’s Siege of Civilian-populated cities

The Responsibility of the United Nations for the siege of civilians
The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

SNHR is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims’ rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

SNHR issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

SNHR is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.

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The death of 792 Individuals Due to the Syrian Regime’s and ISIS’s Siege of Civilian-populated cities.

Friday, June 17, 2016

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I. Introduction and Methodology

There has been much talk recently about a political movement aims to delivering aids to the besieged regions in Syria, in preparation to lift the siege. On 21 January 2016, the General Secretary of the United Nations issued a periodic report about the situation in Syria, which contained a large number of fallacies and errors regarding the siege among other issues. (What is necessary to us here is to refute the issue of the siege imposed on the people, and we will criticize other errors in subsequent reports). On Friday, 3 June 2016, the International Security Council held a debate on the possibility of delivering aids by air, and we must, in this context, to identify a number of facts which seems absent or have been deliberately overlooked. Although we have a number of studies and reports talking about the victims who died because of the blockade and the impact of the shortage of food as well as medical material specifically; also we documented specific areas in previous reports, such as the eastern of Al Ghouta, Darayya, Homs, Deir Al Zour and others. In addition to the social and economic effects of the siege, we, in this report, will offer a table of all the areas which are still under siege, so this report can be a reference.

We depended in the methodology of the report’s structure on the accumulated data since 2011 as a result of daily observation from SNHR team for the displacement caused by the bombardment and destruction, and through the network of relationships with local communities, medical and media cadres, and the possession of the lists of the victims’ names, photos, and details of the deaths, the names of witnesses and whereabouts; we have also talked to them about the purpose of taking the testimonies, and we have omitted the identity of some of them. Moreover, we have encountered difficulties that increases every year such as cutting off the electricity and telecommunications, threat to security, difficulty of transportation, and the cases of frustration prevailing in the Syrian society; therefore, the content of this report represents, only, the minimum of the violations that occurred, and doesn’t cover the psychological aspect and the repercussions of what had followed of systematic destruction on the society structure.

We’ve started in describing the siege on Syrian from the definition of the International Humanitarian Law, where the region is considered besieged when the military forces close the crossings, and prevent the accessibility of civilians, the sick people, the food, and medicine.

The purpose of the United Nations term in the report is all United Nations agencies operating in Syria, humanitarian and relief agencies, supervised by the Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs.

Fadel Abd Al Ghani, director of SNHR says:
“The siege has led, in addition to the continuous starvation, bombardment, massacres, and the stoppage of the economical as well as the social life, to the displacement of most of the people in the besieged areas and a number of them paid large amounts of money for smugglers to get out of the “hell”, and this resulted in a change in the structure of these societies continuously, and make it cash free, which leads to the spread of chaos in order to Stay Alive; these are some of the objectives of the siege by the Syrian regime, and some of them were implemented on a sectarian background”.
II. The Siege’s Death Toll

The siege has multiple consequences but murder is the greatest violations among all. The Syrian regime has applied the siege policy systematically, thoughtfully, and for a long-term, depriving the people of entire communities from food and medicine; which caused a serious threat to all those who has chronic diseases; also, pregnant women suffer from anemia, and the early abortion. A number of children were born and infected with the lack of acute malnutrition and some of them have died so the families were forced to eat plants and pets.

A. The death toll of the siege’s victims for all the areas that were besieged by the main conflict parties since the beginning of the public uprising till now:

We have documented that no less than 818 individuals who are documented by name, picture, and date, including 282 children and 126 women, due to a shortage of food and medicine; distributed according to the committed parties:

The government forces and its allies (army, security, local militias, Shiite militias foreign):
• Food Shortage: we documented the death of 414 people, including 138 children and 57 women.
• The lack of medicine: we documented the death of 372 people, including 129 children and 62 women.

ISIS (Self-proclaimed The Islamic State):
• The Food Shortage: documented killed 23 people, including 12 children and five women.
• The lack of medicine: documented the death of 9 people, including three children and two women.

B. Death toll in the areas that are still under siege till now:

The siege of some areas has ended for several reasons, the most prominent of which is the return of the government forces to control those areas by military force or as a result of the adjustments and agreements, which mostly resulted in making the area completely empty from its citizens.

What matters now is that there are still 14 besieged areas, (we have adopted the term besieged area for each and what around the city of villages, or group of cities and towns that geographically related and exposed to the same siege). No less than 2 million people are living in these areas, nearly 2036700, which is equivalent to four times the outcome referred to by the United Nations in the recent report of the General Secretary.

These areas are distributed according to the party who committed the siege as follows:
• 11 areas under siege by the government forces only.
• Two areas are subjected to the double siege by the government forces and ISIS together.
• One area is under siege by the Democratic Syrian forces (mainly the Democratic Union Party Kurdistan Workers Party branch)
The imposed siege on these areas caused, until now, the death of 584 individuals distributed according to the committed parties:

The government forces and its allies (army, security, local militias, Shiite militias foreign):

- The Food Shortage: documented killing 290 people, including 129 children and 62 women.
- The lack of medicine: documented the death of 262 people, including 102 children and 54 women.

ISIS (Self-proclaimed The Islamic State):

- The Food Shortage: documented killed 23 people, including 12 children and five women.
- The lack of medicine: documented the death of 9 people, including three children and two women.
III. Siege and Bombardment

In addition to death because of lack of food and medicine from the blockade, the besieged areas are exposed to what the regions which are not besieged and out of the regime’s control are exposed to such as bombardment, snipers, targeting using poisonous gases in addition to Cluster munitions and barrel bombs.

A. Chemical Weapons:
The besieged areas were exposed to no less than 70 attacks using chemical weapons by the government forces, distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Region</th>
<th>Date of the beginning if the siege</th>
<th>The number of attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darayya City</td>
<td>Since mid-November 2012</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mua’damiyet City</td>
<td>Since mid-November 2012</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern countryside of Aleppo</td>
<td>Since the end of 2012</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Al Ghouta</td>
<td>October, 2012</td>
<td>32 One including chemical massacre in 21 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouk Camp</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobar Neighborhood</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Barrel Bombs

The besieged areas were exposed to no less than 8229 barrel bombs dropped by the government helicopters, distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Region</th>
<th>Date of the beginning of the siege</th>
<th>Government helicopters dropped no less than:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darayya City</td>
<td>Since mid–November 2012</td>
<td>4863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mua’damiyet City</td>
<td>Since mid–November 2012</td>
<td>1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern countryside of Homs</td>
<td>Since the end of 2012</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Al Ghouta</td>
<td>October, 2012</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarmouk Camp</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobar Neighborhood</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Wae’r Neighborhood</td>
<td>Since mid–October, 2013</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madaya Town</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. The Bombardment’s Victims

We’ve documented the killing of no less than 17145 civilians by the government forces and its allies inside the besieged areas since it surrendered to the siege until the preparation of this report; distributed among the besieged areas as follows:

- Eastern Al Ghouta - Damascus countryside: 11414 civilians, including 852 children, and 904 women.
- Northern Countryside of Homs: 2382 civilians, including 522 children, and 631 women.
- Mua’damiyet Al Sham City - Damascus countryside: 637 civilians, including 82 children and 77 women.
- Darayya City - Damascus countryside: 817 civilians, including 67 children, and 98 women.
- Al Wa’er Neighborhood - Homs: 434 civilians, including 57 children and 61 women.
- Madaya town - Damascus countryside: 159 civilians, including 19 women and 26 children.
- Al Tal City - Damascus countryside: 6 civilians, including 3 children and a woman.
- Al-Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees - Damascus: 578 civilians, including 32 children, and 93 women.
- Jober Neighborhood - Damascus: 691 civilians, including 66 children, 114 women.
- Kdeisa Town- Damascus countryside: 3 civilians.
- Al Hama Village - Damascus countryside: 4 civilians.
- Al Qaboon Neighborhood - Damascus: 14 civilians, including two children and three women.
- Barzeh Neighborhood - Damascus: 8 civilians, including a woman.
- Manbej City - Aleppo: 7 civilians, including 4 children and a woman.
IV. Fallacies of the United Nations in the Siege case in Syria

In paragraph 31 of the report of the General Secretary 21/ January, 2016, which was reviewed in the Security Council on 23 March 2016 the following:

“31. Of 4.6 million people living in the areas to which access is difficult in the Syrian Arab Republic, there are about 517700 people under siege in 18 locations. This number includes about 377700 people trapped in the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in different sites in the countryside of Damascus; and 10,000 people trapped in the government and armed opposition groups of non-government organizations in Yarmouk camp in Damascus; and about 110,000 people in Deir Al-Zour City besieged by the Islamic State Organization; and about 20,000 people trapped in non-government armed opposition groups and Al Nusra in Al Foua’a and Kefrayya in Idlib governatore.”

But the reality in the besieged areas highly contradicts the statistics introduced General Secretary report, it is less than three times, and we don’t know for whose benefits the numbers of the besieged people are reduced and providing wrong information to the Security Council. The Office of the United Nations in Damascus, headed by Mr. Jacob Al Helo, the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, a large part of the responsibility. The report also is approximately equal to the realities of the nature of the blockade of all regions and doesn’t take into consideration enormous differences among them, and in particular the daily bombardment of military aircraft of the Syrian regime and its allies.

We in SNHR reaffirm the following facts and we call on the General Secretary of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon to verify these facts, and we are ready to contribute to:

• First: The Syrian regime holds no less than 88% of the responsibility of the besieged areas.
• Second: there are no less than 2036700 besieged individuals and not 5177000 (in 2015, the United Nations declared that there are 393700 besieged individuals only.)
• Third: the areas under siege by the Syrian regime are suffering more than the besieged areas by other parties; mainly, it is shown through the bombardment and daily killings processes as well as destruction and massacres and the loss of doctors as a result of killing them by bombing and dropping hundreds of barrel bombs.
• Fourth: Also, the Secretary-General and the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs in Syria know well that the regime’s planes and its allies Iran and Russia can drop aids almost daily on the besieged areas by the opposition groups and ISIS, as they don’t possess anti-flight. While the aids are not reaching the areas that are besieged by the Syrian regime. We are certainly with lifting off the siege of the besieged areas, but we emphasize that not all of them are together and this is what is been mentioned.
• Fifth: Despite the fact that the suffering of the areas besieged by the Syrian is way more those who are besieged by different parties, there is a lack of equity in the distribution of food aid, where the areas under the control of the Syrian regime take no less than 90% of the total of the aids and this rate was bigger in the previous years. We, in SNHR asked since 2013 the United Nations to investigate in this dangerous matter in which it caused the death of hundreds people due to the lack of aids. Unfortunately, no answers have been received so far. As long the Universal Feeding System considers that
Humanitarian Affairs Office in Damascus will never do any investigation and will not care for any reports whether it was human rights report, media, or political ones.

• Sixth: The Syrian regime marches the United Nations according to its needs. But mostly humiliates it as well in the return of a complete silence and inclusive surrender.

• Seventh: the United Nations still considers the Syrian Red Crescent a port arm in the areas which is controlled by the Syrian regime, and that goes under threat and blackmail by the Syrian regime. It is well known that the head of the Syrian Red Crescent, Abd Al Rahman A’attar is one of the Ba’ath Party followers, and supporters of Bashar al-Assad, although there are volunteers providing outstanding work but the strategic decision is taken by Syrian regime that killed no less than 33 members, including 4 women, and arrested and abducted no less than 41 others that are registered and we have their full statements in a terrorist process that is clear to the rest of the Syrian Red Crescent members for the sake of not having any objection.

• Eighth: the United Nations didn't issue any statistics for the death toll due to the siege and lack of medical as well as food aids.

• Ninth: the United Nations did not publish a schedule of the besieged areas, and estimates of the of the remaining population.

• Tenth: The Syrian Regime still requires obtaining its consent to enter the aid to the regions that are besieged and bombarded by the Syrian Regime and this is an awful paradox.
the Humanitarian Affairs Office related to the United Nations is the only access to distribute aids, the

V. The areas that are still under siege

• 11 areas under siege by the government forces only.
• Two areas are subjected to the double siege by the government forces and ISIS together.
• One area under siege by the Democratic Syrian Forces (mainly Democratic Union Part branch of Kurdistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Region</th>
<th>Date of the beginning of the siege</th>
<th>The number of besieged</th>
<th>The number of victims</th>
<th>Reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Madaya Town in Damascus countryside | July 2015                     | 43,000 Forty-three thousand people | We have recorded the death of 44 people due to the siege:  
- Lack of food: 36 people, including 17 children, and 7 women.  
- Lack of medicine: 8 people, including two women. | The Syrian Regime imposed a siege over the town since the end of 2013. And with the beginning of July 2015, the siege was increased where the military checkpoints forbid people from entering any medical, food, or gasses aids. In addition, the Syrian regime forces Planted hundreds of anti-personnel mines in agricultural lands surrounding the town. In spite of the signing of the armistice agreement 24 / September / 2015, which was one of its clauses is to break the siege over Madaya town, but it was not allowed to enter the food since the truce took effect unless one time on 18 / October / 2015 when a bus related to the United Nations entered with the aids in which the expired biscuits with the other aids caused no less than 200 poisoning cases in Madaya town. |
| Eastern Al Ghou- ta, Damascus Coun- tryside | Oct. 2012                      | 400,000 four hundred thousands inhabitants | We have recorded the death of 258 people due to the siege:  
- Food Shortage: 122 people, including 85 children, and 9 women.  
- Lack of medicine: 136 people, including 88 children and 21 women. | In October 2012 the Syrian regime started the application of partial siege on eastern Al Ghouta. It allowed at the beginning to enter foodstuffs, fuel and medical materials, but since 19/ October 2013 checkpoints prevented the entrance of anything at all, what caused the spread of cases of malnutrition and drought, and the spread of epidemics because of the environmental pollution resulting from waste accumulation, and damaging of drainage networks in the neighborhood. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Cause of Deaths</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Tal, Damascus countryside</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mua'damiyet Al Sham, Damascus countryside</td>
<td>Since mid-Nov. 2012</td>
<td>42,000- Forty-two thousand people</td>
<td>We recorded killing of 3 people due to the siege: - Food Shortage: 3 people including a child and a woman.</td>
<td>The siege started since the end of 2012 and continued until the signing of the truce in December 2013. Then the siege returned again in May 2015 and has intensified since December until now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darayya, Damascus countryside</td>
<td>Since the mid Nov. 2012</td>
<td>12,000 Twelve thousand people</td>
<td>We recorded killing of 9 people due to the siege: - Lack of food: 6 people, including two children. - Lack of medicine: 3 people, including a child and a woman.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Qa'boun in Damascus</td>
<td>Since June 2015</td>
<td>30,000 thirty thousand people</td>
<td>We recorded killing of 6 people due to the siege: - Lack of food: 6 people, including two children.</td>
<td>It is not allowed to deliver lemon salt, flour and diesel and gas at all. While allowing the entrance of the rest of the food but in a very limited quantities per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern countryside of Homs (Al Rastan City, Talbiseh City, Al Houla City, Ez El Dine City, Teir Maa’la City, Al Dar Al Kabeer City, Deir Foul Village, and Al Zaa’farana Village)</td>
<td>Since the end of 2012 and increased by the end of 2015</td>
<td>250,000 Two hundred and fifty thousand people</td>
<td>We documented the death of 27 people due to the siege: - Lack of food: 9 people, including 3 children and a woman. - Lack of medicine: 18 people, including three children and two women.</td>
<td>The military checkpoints surrounding the area, prevented the entry of sufficient quantities of food which has led to a large rise in the prices of material available in the region. With the beginning of the 2016, 10,000 people emigrated from southern countryside of Hama villages due to the invasion of government forces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Barzeh Neighborhood
- **Since June 2015**
- 35,000 Thirty-five thousand people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 14 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>Since June 2015</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 14 people, including 7 children and two women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 32 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>After the end of March 2015</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 23 people, including 12 children and five women. Lack of medicine: 9 people, including 3 children and 2 women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To allow for entering foodstuffs to the neighborhood every 6 months for 15 days only, in which people are allowed to enter foodstuffs and then return the applied siege over the neighborhood.

### Al Wa’er Neighborhood
- **Since mid-Oct. 2013**
- 100,000 inhabitants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 14 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>Since mid-Oct. 2013</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 14 people, including 7 children and two women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 32 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>After the end of March 2015</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 23 people, including 12 children and five women. Lack of medicine: 9 people, including 3 children and 2 women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 7 January 2016 was the application of the Convention on the truce in Al Wa’er Neighborhood, which provides for the entrance of foodstuffs and ordnance, fuel, and shop supplies.

In 10 March 2016 the government forces closed the only crossing of the neighborhood and forbid the entrance of any medical or food aids.

### Al Joura and Al Qosour Deir Al Zour
- **Since the end of March 2015**
- 200,000 people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 14 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>Since the end of March 2015</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 14 people, including 7 children and two women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Death of 32 people due to the siege:</td>
<td>After the end of March 2015</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>Lack of food: 23 people, including 12 children and five women. Lack of medicine: 9 people, including 3 children and 2 women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the beginning of January, 2015 ISIS prevented the students and staff to enter to the neighborhood, and then in mid-January 2015 they prevent the entry of any food or medical or commercial trucks to the neighborhood.

On 18 March, 2015, ISIS cut off the electricity which has caused cutting off drinking water due to stoppage of water stations and the aggravation of the situation because of the lack of fuel required to run the stations and the rise in their prices.

At the end of March 2015 the government forces began the prevention of civilians to get out of AL Joura and Al Qosour neighborhoods, except in some critical cases.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees, Damascus</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Eight thousand people</td>
<td>We recorded killing of 171 people because of the siege:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Food Shortage: 82 persons, including 8 children and 39 women</td>
<td>- Food Shortage: 82 persons, including 8 children and 39 women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lack of medicine: 89 persons, including 10 children and 27 women</td>
<td>- Lack of medicine: 89 persons, including 10 children and 27 women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The government forces imposed a siege on al-Yarmouk camp since July 2013, the siege continued after the control ISIS on 90% of the Camp area in March 2016, while Al Nusra organization takes 10% of the Camp area. The population of the region under the control of the Al Nusra Organization - numbering approximately 2000 people - from the double siege first by the government forces (the camp is suffering fully from it) and the other by ISIS which prevent the entry of the foodstuffs to the areas under the control of Al Nusra Organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jober Neighborhood</td>
<td>Feb. 2013</td>
<td>Nearly 100 families.</td>
<td></td>
<td>We recorded the death of 14 people due to the siege:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lack of food: 8 people, including two children and a woman</td>
<td>- Lack of food: 8 people, including two children and a woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Lack of medicine: 6 people, including a woman</td>
<td>- Lack of medicine: 6 people, including a woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The government forces imposed a siege on the neighborhood since February 2013 and prevent the entrance of foodstuffs and medical materials and fuel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qedsaiya town and Al Hamma Village countryside of Damascus</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>60,000 sixty thousand inhabitants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Government forces imposed the siege since July 2015 and prevent the entry of food and allow limited movement of students and government officials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manbej city, Aleppo</td>
<td>10 June 2016</td>
<td>200,000 inhabitants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Democratic Syrian Forces (mainly Democratic Union Part branch of Kurdistan Workers Party) since 10 June 2016, where they prevent the exit of civilians from the city, and prohibits the entry of foodstuffs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The death of 792 Individuals Due to the Syrian Regime’s and ISIS’s Siege of Civilian-populated cities

Friday, June 17, 2016

14 region, distributed by the party which imposed the siege:
• 11 besieged areas by the government forces.
• 2 two besieged areas by ISIS
• 1 Single region besieged by the Democratic Syrian Forces

2036700
Two Millions and Thirty Six Thousand and Seven Hundred people

The siege caused the death of 558 people, are distributed according to committed party:

government forces and its allies (army, security, local militias, Shiite militias foreign):
- Lack of food: documented killing of 290 people, including 129 children and 62 women.
- Lack of medicine: documented the death of 262 people, including 102 children and 54 women.

ISIS (self-proclaimed The Islamic Stat):
- Lack of food: documented killing of 4 people, including two children and two women.
- Lack of medicine: documented the death of 2 people.
SNHR pointed out the special case which included Al Zabadani-Kafraiya and Al Fou’a agreement, these areas didn’t include in this report as they are subjected to special agreement. Before the agreement, Al Zabadani was besieged by Syrian regime forces and the Lebanese Hezbollah forces, while Kafraiya nd Al Fou’a were besieged by armed opposition factions.

“Kafraiya Al Fou’a-Al Zabadani Madaya” agreement was signed on 24 September 2015 which allow no less than 800 individuals including civilians and armed opposition members to get out of Al Zabadani to Biqueen and Madaya areas while the injured were transferred to Idlib city. Now, there are about 170 armed opposition members in the city. The Lebanese Hezbollah militias burn civilians’ houses in the area that are under its control in the periphery of Al Zabadani city. We recorded no less than 30 burned houses in the western neighborhood since the beginning of June 2016.

1. Mua’damiet Al Sham city, Damascus suburbs:
   It is located about 4 km west of Damascus city with no less than 42000 population, and it is under the control of armed opposition factions.
   Government forces besiege Mua’damiet Al Sham since mid-November 2012. In December 2013, the agreement between government forces and armed opposition faction was signed which requires stopping military attacks in exchange for entering the food supplies.

   On 25 December 2015, government forces have completely closed the only crossing of the city and banned the entering of medical and food supplies and the exiting of critical humanitarian cases from the city.
   The siege of Mua’damiet Al Sham caused the death of 3 individuals due to lack of food including a child and a woman.

2. Daraya city, Damascus suburbs:
   Daraya city is related to Damascus suburbs governorate and it is one of the biggest city in western Ghouta. It is under the control of armed opposition factions. Government forces have been besieging the city since mid-November 2012 after a widespread military campaign. At the beginning of February 2016, government forces separated Daraya city from Al Mua’damiyet town after several months of military operation in western Ghouta. As a result, the suffering of no less than 8300 besieged individuals increased according to local council of the city. Moreover, the living situation was deteriorating as the people depended on some plants and grass. The city doesn’t witness any relief convoy since the beginning of the siege. At the beginning of June 2016, some relief convoy entered the city which are sponsored by UN United Nations. However, the food supplies were not enough but only for the eighth of besieged people.
The death of 792 Individuals Due to the Syrian Regime’s and ISIS’s Siege of Civilian-populated cities

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The siege on Daraya city caused the death of 9 individuals which distributed as follows:
• Death due to lack of food: 6 individuals including 2 children.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 3 individuals including a child and a woman.

Sumaiyah, a teacher in Daraya city in Western Ghouta, talked to SNHR about the living situation in the besieged city:

“In August 2012, the regime besieged the city, so the only crossing was to Al Mua’damiyet city. At the beginning, we depended on the supplies that were inside the city. Then, the people tried to open ways to infiltrate but the regime discovered it and closed it. We depended on the production of crops in Daraya like plants e.g. spinach, vine leaves, coriander, and parsley. When the regime separated Daraya from Al Mua’damiyet in February 2016, it was impossible to have these productions and the siege became worse as the food supplies’ price was very high: sugar: 18000 SP, rice: 8000 SP, groats: 8000 SP, flour: 6000 SP, bean: 7000 SP, and vine leaves 1800 SP.

Daraya production of milk became little. The portion of family was 1 kg for 10 days. While there was not any milk for children at all, and we compensate our need by water of rice. We are suffering from the lack of food and the lack of life, the regime is killing us slowly”.

3. The northern suburbs of Homs:

It included 3 main points (Al Rastan, Talbisa, and Al Houla cities) with no less than 250,000 population. The northern suburbs of Homs is under the control of armed opposition factions. Government forces besiege the cities and towns of the northern suburbs of Homs since the end of 2012 and band the entering of food, medicine, and foul to them unless of special cases under pressure and extortion. The siege became worse at the end of 2015 after government forces get control over some villages of the southern suburbs of Hama and the displacement of thousands of people toward the northern suburbs of Homs.

We recorded the death of 27 individuals due to the siege:
• Death due to lack of food: 9 individuals including 3 children and a woman.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 18 individuals including 3 children and 2 women.

SNHR communicated with Mr. Abbas, a residence in Al Houla city in the northern suburbs of Homs. He narrated his testimony about the living situation in the besieged area:

“Our area is the most affected area from this siege as there is no crossing except the earthy road which known as “the death road” and it observed by Shabiha members located in Kafrnan and Tasneen villages and surrounded by more than 23 military checkpoints.

The siege includes the food and medical supplies and foul but the medical situation is the most affected. The population depend mainly on agriculture to secure their food needs, in addition to some supplies which entering through the earthy road. The agriculture has great difficulties due to the lack of fertilizers and pesticides.

The people use wood for heating and cooking, the price of wood is 60 SP per 1kg while the price of gas cylinder is more than 20000 SP, the price of oils is from 650 to 1100 SP per 1l”
MR. Basem a residence from Al Rastan city talked about the families and his living circumstances under the siege in the city:

“The prices of food medicine and foul are very high in the northern suburbs of Homs although the situation in Al Rastan is better than other cities as it is connected with more areas in the northern suburbs of Homs and as it far from pro-regime villages’ attacks. We receive some supplies every now and then by bribing the military checkpoints. Subsequently, the prices increase, the price of flour rises to 400 SP per 1 k. Some local associations help us to establish agriculture projects to reduce the bad situation in cites but the capacity of these associations depend on the ways of entering supplies to the city”.

4. Al Wa’er neighborhood, Homs:
It is located at the west of Homs city extend on an area of 3 km with population of 100000, most of them are IDPs from Homs southern neighborhood and Homs old neighborhoods. The neighborhood is controlled by armed opposition factions. Government forces have been besieging the city since 10 November 2013 as the military checkpoints that surrounded the neighborhood band the entering of food, medicine, and foul except some cases under pressure and extortion.

On Saturday 1 November 2015, a truce was signed between government forces and armed opposition factions which was sponsored by United Nations. The most prominent condition of truce is to cease fire between the parties in exchange to complete open of Al Mouhandiseen circle crossing to entering food and medical supplies and the let civilians move freely in and out the neighborhood in addition to release no less than 7000 detainees. Some conditions of the truce were achieved like the ceasefire and the opening of the crossing.

The truce lasted until Saturday 10 March 2016 when government forces closed the crossing and banned the food and medicine supplies in addition to stop the movement civilians except the universities’ students and the public employees. As a result the suffering of civilians increased, the living and health situation were deteriorating and the basic needs as sugar, salt and bread were lost.
We recorded the death of 14 individuals including 7 children and 2 women died due to the lack of food since the beginning of the siege of the neighborhood.

5. Madaya town, Damascus suburbs:
Government forces have been besieging the town since the end of 2013. At the beginning of July 2015 the military checkpoints which besieged the town banned the entering of food, medicine, and oils. Moreover the government forces have planted hundreds of anti-personnel landmines in the surrounding agriculture lands.

Despite the truce that was signed on 24 September 2015 which most of its condition is to break the siege on Madaya, the food aids were banned
since the beginning of the truce except for one time on 18 October 2015 when the aids convoy which sponsored by UN entered the town. The expired biscuits that were distributed with aids caused no less than 200 poisoning cases.

During 11 months as the siege became worse the humanitarian situation in town which included 43000 individuals was deteriorating and malnutrition and dehydration have increased.

We recorded the death of 44 individuals due to the siege:
• Death due to lack of food: 36 individuals including 17 children and 7 women.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 8 individuals including 2 women.

SNHR approached Hosam Madaya the director of the media office of the united relief body in Madaya and Al Zabadani. He told us about the difficulties of the living situation in the town:

“the siege stared with 20000 population and after a while the number became more than the double due to displacement of people of the neighboring areas, which increased the difficulties in the town. The food aids by UN are: legumes, rice, sugar, beans, flour, biscuits and peanut butter. The animal protein and children milk were banned. Eggs and animal protein were not entered as any material support calcium. I asked a Red Crescent member ‘why don’t you bring milk?’ He replayed that it needs a security approval.

We use the water of streams through filling and storing it in gallons. We cover the need of oils by using wood, when the winter came, the families cut the trees to use it for heating and cooking, after a while the wood run out and the people started to burn furniture and doors.

We turned to recycle plastic to get a material like gas and use it in cooking, although it has a bad smell and it effects the respiration system badly.

The prices of food supplies are very high as zucchini is 6000 SP per a kilo, and tomato is 25000 SP per a kilo. Some material enter by bribing Hezbollah members which causes the increasing of the price as the thyme is 30000 SP per a kilo, milk is 40000 SP per a kilo, tea is 40000 SP per a kilo, the pack of tuna is 5000 SP, and meat is 25000 SP per a kilo”.

6. Eastern Ghouta, Damascus suburbs:

It consists of 4 main points (Doma city, Harasta city, Erbeen city, Kafr Batna area) with no less 40000 population. It is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Government forces besiege towns and cities in Eastern Ghouta since October 2012 when a partial siege was started which allows the entering of food supplies and foul and bands the medical supplies. On 19 October 2013 the military checkpoints that surrounded Eastern Ghouta banned the entering of food which caused the acute shortage of food and medicine. The living conditions were deteriorating and malnutrition and dehydration unfolded in addition to spread of epidemics due to accumulation of waste and the damage of drainage system.

We recorded the death of 258 individuals due to the siege:
• Death due to lack of food: 122 individuals including 58 children and 9 women.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 136 individuals including 88 children and 21 women.
SNHR talked with S-D a residence from Ghouta. He told us his testimony about the living condition in Eastern Ghouta:

“The arrivals crossing was established since less than a year, and the food supplies entered only. For oils and the medical supplies, we depend on the contraband material through tunnels which connected Eastern Ghouta with Al Qaboun and Barzeh neighborhood as the most important one is Harasta tunnel. Thus the food through tunnel are monopolized and we didn't benefit it.

The price of food supplies were very high compared with their prices out of besieged area. The agriculture projects that we depend on through siege were stopped after government forces controlling on the southern sector of Eastern Ghouta as Al Marj area which caused a great increasing of vegetables and fruit’ prices.

The people built metal waterwheels on Barada river branches and added “dynamo” to generated electricity after it was cut in the most of Ghouta areas. Regarding water, we depended on water wells which abstracted daily by manual way or by using electrical pumping”.

7. Al Joura and Al Qosour neighborhoods in Deir Al Zour city (joint siege, Syrian regime and ISIS)

Al Joura and Al Qosour neighborhoods which is located west of the city in addition to Harabish neighborhood which is near Deir Al Zour military airport in the western side and under the control of government forces, are subjected to siege since the beginning of popular uprising in March 2011 while the rest of city is under the control of ISIS.

Government forces and ISIS hold the responsible for the great suffering and the difficult living conditions in which more than 200000 population are suffering inside the besieged neighborhoods in Deir Al Zour. Since November 2015, ISIS banned the entering of students and employees to the neighborhood and preventing the entering any food and medical supplies or commercial trucks. In mid-November 2015 and 18 March 2015, ISIS cut electricity which caused the cut off water as the water station stop working beside the lack of oils that used to operate stations in addition to its high price.

At the end of March 2015, government forces prevented the movement in Al Joura and Al Qosour neighborhood except for some critical medical cases. government forces exploited the needs of population and the bad living conditions to enlist volunteers in the civil defense committees in exchange of monthly salary between 15000-30000 SP in addition to food aids that reach government forces through Deir Al Zour military airport.

The people planted the fertile area which is located in the desert of village at the western part between the areas that are under government forces and under the control of ISIS, but the snipers of ISIS targeted people in this area.

We recorded killing 32 people, due to the siege:
- Lack of food: 23 people, including 12 children and five women.
- Lack of medicine: 9 people, including three children and two women.
8. Al Tal city, Damascus suburbs:
It is located north of Damascus with 600,000 population most of them are IDPs from Southern and Eastern Ghouta and Al Qalamoun Towns. It is under the control of armed opposition factions. Government forces besiege Al Tal city since June 2015 and band the entering of food and medical supplies and allow the movement of students and public employees only.

9. Al Yarmouk camp for the Palestinian refugees, Damascus (one part is besieged by Syrian regime and another by ISIS and Syrian regime)
The camp is located about 8 km south of Damascus city with about 8,000 population. Government forces besiege Al Yarmouk camp since July 2013 which lasted after ISIS have controlled over 90% of the camp in March 2016 who band the entering od food supplies, while Al Nusra Front control 10% of the camp.

The population of 2000 individuals in the area that is under the control of Al Nusra front suffer from the double siege by government forces and ISIS who band the entering of food supplies in the areas that are under the control of Al Nusra front.

We recorded the death of 171 individuals due to the siege:
• Death due to lack of food: 82 individuals including 8 children and 39 women.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 89 individuals including 10 children and 27 women.

10. Jober neighborhood:
It is located north of Damascus city with 100 families, and it is under the control of armed opposition factions. Government forces siege the neighborhood since February 2013 and band food and medical supplies and fuel.
We recorded the death of 14 individuals due to the siege:
• Death due to lack of food: 8 individuals including 2 children and a woman.
• Death due to lack of medicine: 6 individuals including a woman.
11. Qedsaiya area:
It includes Qedsaiya town and Al Hamah village that are located northwest of Damascus with 60000 population most of them are IDPs from Western Ghouta. They are under the control of armed opposition factions.
The area is surrounded with tens of military checkpoints and barracks which related to government forces like defense factories and republican guard barracks.
Government forces siege the neighborhood since July 2015 and banned food supplies and allow limited movement to students and public employees.

12. Al Qaboun neighborhood, Damascus:
It is located northwest of Damascus city with no less than 30000 population, and it is under the control of armed opposition factions.
Government forces siege the neighborhood since June 2015 and band lemon, flour, fuel and gas, while other food supplies is limitedly enter to the neighborhood. We recoded the death of 6 individuals due to the lack of food.

13. Barzah neighborhood, Damascus:
It is under the control of armed opposition factions. Its population is no less than 35000. Government forces siege the neighborhood since June 2015 and allow the entering of food in spaced periods (every 6 months government forces allow the entering of food supplies for several days)

14. Manbej city, Aleppo:
It is under the control of ISIS. Its population is no less than 230000. Syrian Democratic Forces siege the city since 10 June 2015 as it band food and medical supplies and preventing the movement of civilians.
VI: the most prominent death cases due to the siege:

Wednesday 4 September 2014, we recorded the death of the child Imad Shehada Souan in Mua’damiyet Al Sham due to the lack of medical supplies.

Monday 20 January 2014, Abd Al Hadi Shehada died due to the lack of food and medical supplies in Daraya city in Damascus suburbs.

Sunday 2 February 2014, we recorded the death of the child Mohamad Nasr after 2 days of his birth due to the lack of food and medical supplies in Al Wa’er neighborhood in Homs city.

Sunday 3 April 2015, the child Lo’ay Mansour from Mua’damiyet Al Sham city, died due to the lack of medical supplies.

Monday 19 January 2015, SNHR recorded the death of Mr. Mohamad Hosam Jirrodi from Kafr Batna area due the lack of food and medical supplies.

Friday 6 March 2015, SNHR recorded the death of Mrs. Samira Bakkar from Douma due to the lack of medical supplies.

Thursday 23 April 2015, SNHR recorded the death of Mrs. Mariam Mkhaber in Al Mua’damiyet city in Damascus suburbs due to the lack of food and medical supplies which is resulted from the siege in Eastern Ghouta.

VII: conclusions and recommendations:

In accordance with the International Law, the conflict parties have to give the humanitarian relief employees the freedom of movement and to secure their protection to facilitate the delivering of aids for civilians.

The Syrian regime have imposed deliberately and systematically a siege on another party in the non-international and armed conflict. Instead of facilitating the relief efforts, the regime banned it. Moreover, it shelled the besieged areas and destroyed it which constitutes a war crime according to Humanitarian International Law.

The Syrian regime and ISIS have blatantly violated the Humanitarian International Law through perpetrating the crime of the siege which constitutes a war crime.

The Syrian regime, beyond any doubt, has violated the resolutions of the Security Council that addressed the siege beginning with resolution No.2139, adopted on 22 February 2014, and ending with resolution No.2268, adopted on 22 February 2016 (resolutions adopted between those two resolutions on siege include No.2165, adopted on 14 July 2014, resolution No. 2191, adopted on 17 December 2014 and the resolution No. 2258, adopted on 18 December 2015).
**Recommendations:**

**To United Nations:**
To launch a comprehensive investigation on these allegations and accusations. In the case that the findings of the investigations proved that there was deliberate falsification or incompetency, then it should be publicized and those who were responsible must be held accountable. We urge that this investigation should be launched immediately as the UN credibility have been in doubt for years.

**To International Security Council:**
To implement the resolutions regarding the convey of humanitarian aids and to break the siege (resolutions 2139, 2165, 2191, 2254, 2258) as they have not been applied yet. To call on the secretary of the UN to present a detailed report concerning the besieged areas and their population, how the aids are being distributed and to what areas the aids are being delivered. The report has to published as soon as possible to inform the Syrian community about the details.
To Syrian and Russian governments:
To put pressure on the Syrian regime to achieve the most basic demand of the cessation of hostilities agreement.

**To the supporting states:**
To depend more on local Syrian organizations that established its integrity, impartiality, and financial transparency.

**VIII: attachments:**
The Syrian campaign’ report “about taking sides: UN lose its fairness, neutrality and independence in Syria”

repot of amnesty about the siege in Eastern Ghouta “left to die under siege”

SNHR’s reports concerning siege
“Daraya and Al Wa’er siege is ongoing in spite of the cessation of hostilities and the UN resolutions”

“the deadly truce” the death of 63 civilians including 21 due to the starvation in Madaya”

“In waiting of the security council”

“Al Joura and Al Qosour neighborhoods between the two jaws of the pliers”

“Syria: Urgent demand to protect the besieged civilians due to the armed clashes in Al Yarmouk camp”
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“The humanitarian situations in Al Yarmouk camp in Syria”

“Die from hunger”

The victims died due to the siege and the prevention of medicine.

A special report about the disastrous humanitarian situation in Al Hajar Al Aswad neighborhood in Damascus.

The siege of neighborhoods in Damascus city by Syrian government.

Qedsaiya city and the living under looting and siege.

Die of hunger… The siege in Moadameiat Al Sham city

Acknowledgment:

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