



# The Government Forces Targeted Residential Areas in ISIS-controlled Areas

## Two consecutive massacres in Al Raqqa

### Report Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Report Details
- III. Conclusions and recommendations.
- Acknowledgments

## I. Introduction

In this report we document the perpetration of the governmental forces of two massacres in Al Raqqa on 18 and 19 March, 2016 where the team of SNHR communicated with a number of the inhabitants of the town and eyewitnesses, who were rescued and with activists of the local media, we offer in this report two testimonies in addition to photos and videos that we assure its credibility. We also explained to the witnesses the aim of the interviews, and received their consent to the use of the information provided in this report. We reserve the copies of all videos, pictures, mentioned in this report.

Investigations proved in the present report that the targeted areas were civilian areas where there is no military or weapons stores belonging to the armed opposition or extremist Islamic groups during the attack or even before.

The contents in the present report represent the minimum that we have managed to document regarding the size of the seriousness of the violation that happened, and does not include the talk about the social, economical, and psychological.

## II. Report Details

### • The massacre of Al Thakana Neighborhood, Friday 18 March 2016)

Government warplanes bombed several missiles that targeted Thakana district in the center of Al Raqqa City controlled by ISIL which led to the killing of 16 civilians, including 4 children, and 3 women and the destruction of nearly 3 residential buildings.





SNHR managed to communicate with one of the residents of the district, who visited the scene of the incident, Mr. Abu Hussein, a Geography teacher, and he stated:  
«Two warplanes related to the regime flew very high and their sounds penetrated the sky remarkably, at approximately 11:30 ahead of Friday Prayings, then I heard several consecutive explosions were caused by a bombardment that targeted the headquarters of the 17th division related to ISIL and located in the northern side of the city.

After approximately 20 minutes I heard 4 explosions near the home caused a damage of the glass windows and doors while I also heard the voices of the distress call from the loudspeakers from the mosque of the neighborhood.

I headed to the site of the bombardment in Al Thakana district which is approximately 1 km away, I found tens of persons. Some are injured and others are dead. I found that some were trapped under the rubble and all what you could hear is the voices of ambulances. There are at least 5 buildings which are totally destroyed in addition to stores and shops.

Al Thakana district is a civilian neighborhood, where there are no existence to ISIL and it is also far from ISIL headquarters which are mostly located in the northern part of the city.

The names of the victims

- 
- SNHR documented the killing of 16 civilians including children and women due to regime warplanes in Al Thakana neighborhood in Al Raqqa city in 18 march 2016
1. The child Muhammad Al Khalid Al Qadiri.
  2. Haith Al As'ad Al Moutaha Al Jarbol.
  3. The child Khaleel Al Homadi 11 years old
  4. Mansaf Abd Al Aziz
  5. Ali Ibrahim Al Hurasah
  6. Ali Ibrahim Al Hurasah sister whose name still unknown.
  7. Ahmad Abd Allah Al Rasheed from Al Bedo neighborhood
  8. Zahra- Abd Allah Al Rasheed wife Ahmad Abd Allah Al Rasheed mother from Al Bedo neighborhood
  9. A woman whose name is still unknown- a relative of the child Muhammad Al Khalid Al Qadiri.
  10. Ammar Al Mu'ad
  11. The girl Ruba Al Sakhe
  12. The girl Amira Al Sakhe
  13. Aissa Al Qadiri
  14. Abd Allah Mahmoud Al Niem
  15. Abd Al Latief Al Harada
  16. Ismael Al Al Abood



Pictures show the injured due to the bombing - the source of the image is the information office related to ISIL.

[Pictures](#) of the [\(children\)](#) victims – [the source of the pictures](#) is the information office related to ISIL





### Massacre Karnak square in Tal Al Abyad Square, 19 March 2016

The government warplanes attacked, 3 times, a square where buses gather (Karnak Square), Tal Al Abyad Street in Al Raqqa City under the control of ISIL. The bombardment caused the death of 14 civilians, including two children and two women, and the injury of about 50 others.

SNHR communicated with Mr. Rami, who visited the site of the bombardment and said: “No sooner had we forget the Al Thakana massacre on Friday until we woke up on dozens of raids on Saturday. It started at about 8:30 a.m. and lasted for over 3 hours where warplanes carried out at least 10 raids.

At about 12:00 I heard the sound of ambulances heading to the center of the city and the mosques called for blood donations. After about an hour I headed to Karnak square where the bombardment occurred. I saw dozens of burned cars and buses in addition to the huge destruction in the square. I also saw ambulances carrying wounded people despite of one hour had passed for the bombardment.

I saw 5 covered bodies with the blood of victims covering fully arena. A person, who was present at the time of the shelling, told me that the government warplanes launched 3 consecutive raids targeting the square.

Karnak square is a civilian area, located in the city center and overcrowded with people and travelers, there is no near headquarters of ISIL.

The names of the victims



- 
- SNHR announced the killing of 14 civilians including 2 children and 2 women in the square near station of Tal Al Abyad Street in Al Raqqa city on 19 March 2016.
1. Huda Al-Hadi
  2. Naima Al-Laban Al-Hajjaj
  3. Mervat Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
  4. Rana Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
  5. Mervat Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
  6. Huda Al-Hadi
  7. Mervat Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
  8. Huda Al-Hadi
  9. Mervat Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
  10. Mervat Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
- Al-Hadi Al-Hadi
11. A civilian warplane name is still unknown
  12. A civilian warplane name is still unknown
  13. A civilian warplane name is still unknown
  14. A civilian warplane name is still unknown





Pictures showing the effects of destruction in the Karnak square, Tal Al Abyad, in Al Raqqa City due to the bombardment on 19/ March 2016



### III. Legal Conclusions and Recommendations:

#### - Legal Conclusions

1. The Syrian regime, without any doubt, violated UN Security Council Resolutions 2139, in the worst possible way. It also violated Article VII of the Rome Statute through deliberate killing in widespread and systematic way which mount to crime against humanity.
2. We emphasize that these aerial attacks have targeted unarmed civilians, subsequently, the government forces violated the international human rights laws that protect the right to life, besides the committing of these crime in non-international armed conflict and which mount to war crime.
3. The aerial attacks contained in the report carried out by the Syrian regime is considered as a violation of international humanitarian law as they targeted populated areas not a specific military target.
4. The aerial attacks resulted in great loses in the lives of civilians, injured them and caused great damaged in the civilian objects. The indicators depicted that the damage was excessive compared with the military benefits.





5. The scale of the systematic and frequent attacks, and the level of excessive force used in it confirms that they were issued with the consent of the ruling regime, who bears full responsibility for these attacks.

6. The Syrian regime with all its leaders and bodies is involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people, as with whoever provides him with financial, political and military aid such as Russian, Iran, the Lebanese Hezbollah and the arms companies that supply it with weapons and ammunition. All these parties must be liable to criminal prosecution.

## **- Recommendations:**

### **- To the UN Security Council:**

- The UN Security Council must take further action to apply the resolutions No. 2139 and 2254 as there are not any commitment to halting indiscriminate shelling, which has caused destruction and daily killings.
- It must put pressure on the supporting states of the Syrian regime to stop supplying it with arms and military experts after its proven involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- The Syrian file must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those involved in war crimes and violations must be held accountable.
- The UN Security Council must establish peace and security and protect Syrian civilians and their heritage from looting, destruction and vandalism.
- It must expand the sanctions to include all pillars of the Syrian and the Iranian regimes as they are directly involved war crimes and crimes against humanity.

### **- To the High Commissioner for Human Rights:**

We call upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report to the Human Rights Council Rights and other United Nations bodies about these two massacres in particular and the massacres that followed as they are a stark massacres amid of many daily massacres. The High Commissioner for Human Rights must demand the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.





#### **- To the international community:**

- Given the divisions at the UN Security Council, measures must be made at the national and regional level to build coalitions to aid the Syrian people through protecting it from the daily killings, lifting the siege, and stepping up the relief aid. Pursuit the international jurisdiction concerning these crimes before the national courts in fair trails for all those involved individuals.
- SNHR demands that the United Nations and the Security Council in several studies and reports to implement the principle of “protecting civilians” (ICRtoP), the political steps are exhausted through Arab league then Kofi Anan plan, so it must refer to the article VII to implement the principle of “protecting civilians” (R2P) that approved by United Nation General Assembly but was obstructed by Security Council.
  - Re pressure on the UN Security Council to refer the Syria file to the International Criminal Court.
  - Pursuit to achieve justice and accountancy in Syria through United Nation General Assembly and the Human Rights council and to apply the principle of jurisdiction.

## **Acknowledgments**

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

