Nahiyat Maheen region in Homs’s northern suburbs includes each of the following regions: Maheen, Hawareen, Al Ghanther, and Al Hadath regions. The region is under the control of armed opposition since the mid of 2014 with a population of almost 27 thousand inhabitants. However, not less than 15 thousand displaced persons, who came from Al Karyatayn city, found shelter in these regions after they ran away from ISIL’s tyranny in their regions since August 2015.

On 31 October 2015, ISIL invaded and controlled Maheen town. Several hours later, a thought to be Russian warplanes started to shell the region and it coincided with artillery shelling from the Syrian government forces which were stationed in Fawj Al Hamrat and Sadad nearby towns.

Images that depict the shelling aftermath on Maheen town due to the alleged Russian shelling:
The warplane shelling killed two civilians and injured dozens according to the victims’ documentation team at SNHR. Not less than 20 thousand individuals fled to Al Karyatayn city that is under ISIL’s control since the western region of Homs is under the control of the Syrian region. Several residents who tried to flee to government-controlled regions were arrested at its military checkpoints and their whereabouts are not known till this moment, according to the residents when they were asked about why they did not flee to the regions under the government’s control.

Displaced residents were not spared from the alleged Russian shelling. As a result, on 2 November 2015 we recorded the death of not less than 26 civilians including 3 children and two women who were killed by the alleged shelling, detailed as follows:

A. 17 civilians were killed from those who fled from Maheen to Al Karyatayn town.
B. 6 civilians were killed from those who fled from Al Hawareen town.
C. 3 civilians were killed from those who fled from Al Karyatan city.

The alleged Russian rocket shelling also caused another displacement from Al Karyatayn city towards the north. Almost 2550 families from Al Karyatayn city fled to Al Sawana town, Khournayfes town then Palmyra city until they reached Nahiyat Al Mansoura in Raqqa. Then they kept going on until they reached Al Bab city in the north-east of Aleppo suburbs. It is worth noting that all these regions were under ISIL’s control. The distance covered by the residents was not less than 950 Kilometers on dirt-roads, by cars or trucks. Those who could not afford to use a vehicle had to walk on foot since the transportation cost of using one car only was more than 200 thousand Syrian Liras.
On 6 November 2015, ISIL allowed only 1000 families to pass by its regions towards armed opposition regions after they asked them to get consent from the Islamic governor of Aleppo in Menbej city. Almost 2450 families are still on the road between Al Karyatayn and Al Bab cities. These families sleep in their trucks or cars and some of them sleep in the open air midst harsh humanitarian situations especially that winter is close.

On 8 November 2015, the alleged Russian warplanes targeted the residents on their displacement stops where it shelled Al Sawana town. As a result, 3 displaced civilians from Maheen town were killed including 2 children.

Russia, a permanent member in the Security Council, has become a main conflict party in the Syrian conflict which is causing more bloodshed. The international community and Security Council should uphold their responsibility towards the ongoing carnage and hold all the perpetrators accountable to their crimes.