



Armed Opposition Factions attacks on Neighborhoods in Aleppo city

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- I. Introduction.

SNHR issued «the red death» report on 1st of May which talked about bombardment of government and Russian forces on Aleppo city, in particular, with respect to the brutality attacks happened during the period from 20 April 2016 until 29 April 2016. The report did not review the violations of armed opposition factions as they were in the regions under the control of government forces and they need a lot of time and effort to verify the incidents and to approach witnesses.

We mentioned that we will issue a special report documenting the violations of some armed opposition factions in Aleppo city, during the same time.

SNHR team approached survivors from bombardment, victims relatives and many media activists. We faced many challenges as the investigations on the regions that are under the control of the government forces and its allies are more difficult than the regions out of their control especially when it comes to verify information and footages by more than one survivor or eyewitness.

The incidents proved that the targeted regions were civilian regions and there were no military points or weapons stores belonged to government forces in these areas. Therefore the bombardment was considered as indiscriminate.





I. Executive summary:

This report covers the period from 20 April 2016 until 29 April 2016, during which we will discuss the most prominent massacres and attacks on vital facilities that were bombed by armed opposition factions.

A. Extrajudicial killing:

SNHR documented the killing of 65 civilians including 21 children and 11 women, as we have recorded not less than 2 massacres.

B. Attacks on civilian vital facilities

We have recorded not less than 8 attacks on civilian vital facilities which are: 3 mosques, 4 schools and a church.

II. Incidents details

A. Extrajudicial killing:

SNHR documented the killing of 65 civilians including 21 children and 22 women at the hand of armed opposition factions during the period from 20 April 2016 until 29 April 2016

The most significant incidents:

On 25 April 2016, several local made missiles, from artillery stationed in old Aleppo neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions, dropped on Sa'ed Allah Al Jabiri square in Al Jamilia neighborhood which is under the control of government forces. As a result two children were killed and two other were injured.

On 27 April 2016, several local made missiles, from artillery stationed in Bustan Al Kaser neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions, dropped on residential building near Al Azamia neighborhood bakery that is under the control of government forces. As a result 4 civilians were killed including a child.

On 28 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at residential buildings in [Al Bouza Al Akhras Store](#) in Aleppo city under the control of governmental forces and a mortar centered in Bustan Al Basha neighborhood controlled by armed opposition factions which leads to 10 individuals, including 6 children and a woman. 10 others were injured as well. A video depicts the victims and injures due to armed opposition shelling on Al Maidan neighborhood in Aleppo city in 28 April 2016.





An [image](#) depicts the victims due to armed opposition shelling on Al Maidan neighborhood in Aleppo city in 28 April 2016.

On 28 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at Al Fateh Mosque, Jmailieya neighborhood in Aleppo city under the control of government forces and a mortar centered in old Aleppo neighborhoods controlled by armed opposition factions which leads to 12 individuals, including 2 children and 2 women. 15 others were injured as well.

B. Attacks on civilians vital facilities:

SNHR documented not less than 7 attacks on civilians vital facilities by armed opposition factions.

On 20 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on Al Huda mosque in Saif Al Dawla neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missiles were from artillery that stationed in Al Ansari neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque was partly damaged.



An [image](#) depicts the destruction aftermaths due to several local made missiles, from armed opposition factions areas, dropped on Saif Al Dawla neighborhood in Aleppo city in 20 April 2016

On 23 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on a residential building near Al Rawda mosque in Al Mokampo neighborhood that under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missiles were from an artillery stationed in Bani Zaid neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque was partly damaged.

On 23 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on Al Taliyah Al Arabia School in Al Neel Street neighborhood in Aleppo city. The missiles were from an artillery stationed on Bani Zaid neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions in Aleppo. The school was partly damaged.

An [image](#) depicts the destruction aftermaths due to armed opposition shelling in Al Neel Street in Aleppo city in 23 April 2016.





On 24 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on Mar Yousef church in Al Aziziea neighborhood that under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missiles were from artillery stationed in one of old Aleppo neighborhoods. The church was partly damaged.

An [image](#) depicts the damages on [Mar Yousef church](#) due to armed opposition shelling with several local made missiles in Al Aziziea neighborhood in Aleppo city.



On 25 April 2016 a local made missile dropped on Al Maḡmun School in Al Jamiliah neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missile was from an artillery stationed on Bustan Al Kaser neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions. The school's courtyard was partly damaged.

On 28 April 2016, [several local made missiles](#) were dropped on Al Faroq School in Al Jamiliah neighborhood that under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missiles were from an artillery stationed on Bustan Al Kaser neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The school was partly damaged.](#)

On 29 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on Al Ameen School in Al Jamiliah neighborhood that under the control of government forces in Aleppo city. The missiles were from an artillery stationed on Al Mashhad neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions in Aleppo. The school was partly damaged.

An [image](#) depicts [the damages in Al Ameen School](#) due to armed opposition shelling several local made missiles in [Al Jamiliah neighborhood](#) in Aleppo 29 April 2016.



On 29 April 2016, several local made missiles dropped on a popular shop near Al Mala Khan mosque in Bab Al Faraj neighborhood that is under the control of government forces





in Aleppo city. The missiles were from artillery stationed in one of old Aleppo neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque was partly damaged.

An [image](#) depicts the damages in Al Mala Khan mosque due to armed opposition shelling with several local made missiles in Bab Al Faraj neighborhood in 29 April 2016

C. Legal Conclusions

1. The armed opposition factions has violated, without any doubt, the Security Council resolution No. 2139 and Security. We assured that the attacks in this report are considered as a violation of International Humanitarian Law and Customary law as the missiles had been fired at populated areas and were not directed to a specific military objective.
2. The bombardment operations have caused accidentally losses against the lives of civilians or causing injuries or harm on large civilian targets. There are indications of a very strong reason to believe that the damage was very excessive if compared to the desired benefits of the military.

Recommendations

To the Syrian opposition:

- Guarantee the protection of civilians in all regions
- Investigate those incidents and held the perpetrators of violations in accountable as soon as possible
- Distinguish between military and civilian targets and stop the indiscriminate attacks

To concerned governments:

- Ask armed opposition to apply the recommendations related to them.
- Stop the supporting of perpetrators of violation from any military faction.

To Security Council:

- Stop using the veto in case of war crimes and crimes against humanity as happened in Syria.
- Refer the Syrian issue to international criminal court and hold the perpetrators accountable
- Restoration of peace and security and the application of the principle of the responsibility to protect civilians, to save the lives of the Syrians, the heritage, and the arts from destruction, looting, and sabotage.





To the International Community:

- Under the Security Council full rift, actions at the national and regional level for alliances to support the Syrian people must take place. And this is reflected in protecting them from the daily murder operations, terminating the siege, and increasing doses of support provided at the aid. There must be seeking to exercise universal jurisdiction over such crimes by the national courts, in fair trials of all the persons involved.
- SNHR repeatedly called, in dozens of studies and reports, as member of the international coalition, the application of the principle of the responsibility of protection (ICRtoP); and the political steps through the Convention on the Arab League has been exhausted; and then the plan of Mr. Kofi Annan; therefore, resorting to Chapter VII and the application of the principle of the responsibility of protection (R2P) that was endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations is a must. Also, the Security Council hinders the protection of civilians in Syria.
- The renewal of the pressure on the Security Council to refer the file of Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- The quest for justice and accountability in Syria through the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Council of Human Rights and the use of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Appreciation and Consolation

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

