

The city of Qudsia ...living in the shadow of looting and Besiege

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In this report:

Introduction: about the besiege imposed on Qudsia, in addition to looting and restrictions against civilians in this neighborhood by the government forces.

Context : looting and restrictions committed by government forces against half million Syrian citizens in the city of Qudsia.

The methodology of this report based on the investigations conducted by SNHR's team in Damascus governorate with number of residents and activists.

It contain the testimonies of two witnesses from the residents, in addition to news and pictures from cooperative activists inside the city.

Qudsia town is located on the outskirts of Damascus governorate near Barada valley, with a great populations almost 40.000 people, tens of thousands displaced to from the southern neighborhoods of Damascus and Eastern Ghout city , because it is consider quieter.

Location map:



Monday 14/10/2013, the besiege on the town started by closing Safsafhighway which link Qudsia with the city of Damascus by putting very large barrier, where government forces prevented citizens to go to Damascus, following the refusal of some citizens on government's forces ask to posted Assad photos in the city.

The next day they blocked the suburb barrier, which link the city of Qudsia with the suburb, thus they imposed severe besiege on the city, the two barriers was only opened for pedestrians, where the residents are forced to walk on foot for almost 4 km to get Dommar Albaladin order to get transportation to Damascus.

Sunday 20/10/2013, soldiers of regime's army on the barriers allowed to enter one flour car to the neighborhood.

But then, didn't allowed the introduction of anything such as flour or food to the city, where Syrian regime has take over the food and prevent their introduction, and close the main roads to the city with concrete barriers.

Tuesday 22/10/2013, the so called “People committees” from AishWarwar neighborhood (Alwite- sect majority close to Qudisa) formed a barrier of almost 50 elements in a place called “Almansora stop” inside the city, where these militias of the Syrian government theft and looted the residents, as they close all the city roads linking to the capital Damascus and to all neighboring areas of Qudsia, they also prevent entering food and medical supplies, and in devoting to segregation and discrimination policy among the people of Qudsia and the neighboring areas, those militias registered all the cars in the city and give her owners numbers to enter and exist from the city. and didn't get enough with these they also took over any domestic stuff or furniture the residents tried to take with them during their escape out of the city, forcing them to flee with their clothes only.

Medical situations suffers from severe shortage of basics materials.

Government forces deployed large number of snipers who were based mainly in Alward neighborhood and Alarin neighborhood; which known as Republican Guard housing (all the residents from those areas are from Alwite sect), in addition to deploy snipers in Qudsia suburb lately, forming ring of death, and horrible threats to the residents.

In the middle of Saturday's night 26/10/2013, a sniper in Qudsia suburb targeted young man Ahmad Ghazal in Qudsia city with a bullet in his head led to kill him directly.

These repressive policies led to displace tens of the thousands of the residents.

Syrian Network for Human Rights' director Fadel Abdulghani said: “ Hungering civilians as a method of warfare us a war crime, Syrian government doesn't have the right to prevent the introduction of medical and relief materials, even if they have the right to inspect them “

Testimony of Mohammad Alshami ,resident in Qudsia city:

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account: **alshamyalhr**

“ Besiege on the city started on 14/10/2013, Syrian regime's forces imposed besiege on this areas, and prevent the introduction of food stuff, especially through security barriers deployed around Alhama and Qudsia towns, where there are almost 40.000 people inside those two besieged towns including residents of the affected cites estimated with almost 100.000 people, most of them are women and children, the proportion of children and women in the imposed besiege is almost 55% of residents and displaced , the besiege prevent the introduction of all kind of flour, foodstuff , and medicines , the residents of Alhama town are prevented entirely from going out of the town under sever security procedures, also part of original Qudsia residents are prevented, there is a hospital in the town, but in urgent need to medicine and oxygen. There are almost 8100 infants under the age of two years need children milk, need of children milk estimates with almost 23100 milk packages in month.”

Testimony of an eyewitness from Qudsia talked to SNHR and refused to be identified:

“ Starvation policy actually begun to be applied in Qudsia the city of Qudsia and neighboring Alhama town of Damascus countryside, and is no longer allowed to enter the bread, flour, vegetables, all those materials be seized on the barriers if the people tried to enter them, the soldiers on the barrier inspect even pockets of the people and stole their money and cigarettes, in addition to assault by beat and humiliation against some residents of men, elders and women In addition to prevent the people who born in Qudsia and Hama to go out”

Proofs:

[Photo shows the gathered garbage in 24/10/2013.](#)

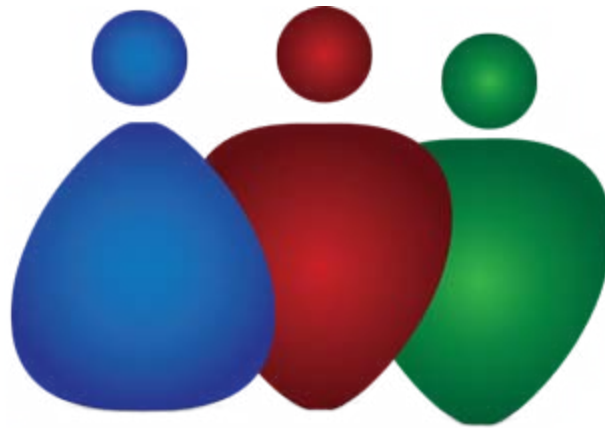
[Photo shows closed bakery in 24/10/2013.](#)

[Photo shows attempt to burn the gathered garbage in 25/10/2013.](#)

[Photo shows displacing from the city in 26/10/2013.](#)

Government forces imposed continuous besiege on these villages, which makes it extremely difficult to enter medical and food supplies, and deprived hundreds of families to leave and move to safe areas, This clearly shows the invalidity of the Syrian government's claims that it is fighting al-Qaeda, extremists and terrorists.

Syrian Network for Human Rights call on the International community must find the proper solutions and hold moral and legal responsibilities towards Syrian people, and exert real pressure on the Syrian government such as the pressure they made them handed over the stock of chemical weapons.



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