

A report on the destruction of schools and its consequences

Documented by SNHR

The Syrian network for human rights documented the destruction of homes and general construction in the various Syrian districts through conducting a detailed study over the past year and through gathering information from the daily network reports. The information and figures in this survey can be confirmed to an acceptable degree of accuracy, and provide an update of a similar report which was published approx four months ago.

Since the start of this Syrian revolution, the Syrian army's forces have used heavy weapons against the civilians, such as tanks, heavy artillery, Shilka and snipers. Since the 8th month of the revolution, military aircraft has been introduced when the regime started shelling with helicopters and for the past 7 months they have used military aircraft in a systematic manner and on a daily basis. Additionally explosive barrels have been used for the past 5 months, each barrel weighs half a ton, and for approx ten days they have used scud missiles which have widespread destructive effects.

The regime specifically targeted and destroyed the revolutionary neighbourhoods and those in which defected soldiers reside, these areas were almost completely demolished such as Al Qabounneighbourhood in Damascus, Al Insha'atneighbourhood in Al Qusoor, Homs, Masha' Al Arba'een in Hama and Al sheikh Yasin in Deir Al Zor.

All this caused the damage of 2.945 million buildings including homes, schools, mosques, churches and hospitals. 20% of these are completely demolished, this is approx 589 buildings. The remaining construction was partially damaged; this includes bullet penetration of the walls and broken windows, doors etc.

Among the buildings destroyed, primary and secondary schools won their fair share of the destruction, as they were affected by the indiscriminate shelling. This happened in Homs, Al Qusour which is now flattened land, where schools have been specifically targeted because civilians who left their homes to escape the regimes shelling resided in them, many of those civilians also left their homes to escape the massacres committed by the Syrian governments' forces. Out of the 2.945 million damaged homes in Syria, more than 3873 schools have been destroyed completely or partially damaged. More than 450 of those schools are completely demolished, and most of these schools are in Homs, Rural Damascus and Aleppo. These schools are completely destroyed and cannot be repaired or reconstructed and require rebuilding as estimated by the civil engineers who work with the Syrian network for human rights. The 3423 schools left are partially damaged to and can be repaired.

Approx 2500 of the 3423 partially damaged schools, were turned into refuge homes for displaced civilians inside the Syrian territory. Out of the 4.8 million displaced people inside Syria, more than 650 thousand reside in these schools, mostly in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs.

Approx 150 of these partially damaged schools have been converted to field hospitals to aid the injured people who became wounded as a result of the indiscriminate shelling by the Syrian regimes forces. The civilians in those areas are afraid to send the wounded to public hospitals as they fear that they may be arrested or put in danger.

In addition to this, the Syrian governments' intelligence forces and army turned approx 1000 schools into detention and torture centres as the regular central prisons could not accommodate the large numbers of detainees which exceeded 194 thousand, all of whom were detained arbitrarily. Some schools were turned into security centres in which security and intelligence men resided and shelled the surrounding area neighbourhood from.

Videos documenting the Syrian governments' violations towards schools and their conversion into security headquarters, such as Al Sabeelneighbourhood's school in Hama city which was turned into a military barrack.

[link1](#) - [link2](#) - [link3](#)



The same scenario occurred in [Karm Al Zaitoon](#) neighbourhood's school in Homs which was also turned into a military barrack.

Syrian army soldiers dancing inside Al Farabi school in [Bab Al Sba'a](#) neighbourhood, Homs

The network also documented the deaths of more than 85 teachers, including primary and secondary school teachers. With regard to the school cadres, more than 640 people were killed, in addition to the detention of approx 1300 from the school cadres including teachers, supervisors, and workers. The targeting and destruction of schools by the Syrian governments forces and army, and the killing of school teachers, had a very negative impact on the students, this was evident when a few students held a banner in Daraa with the message "Basher Al Assad: who killed my teacher?". This also resulted in a large gap in the teaching and education infrastructure and prevented thousands of students from going to schools as they were afraid for their lives from the shelling. Therefore, as a result of these immoral and illegitimate actions, many students were delayed a whole year of education.

Another fact which prevented students from resuming their studies is the danger of being kidnapped by the regime, which was a common incident and occurred in many areas, especially in areas which are populated by different sects to create tension between Syrians. The regimes thugs were also kidnapping civilians to blackmail and pressurise their families and to demand money for their release.

In addition to this, the free Syrian army has used a few of the schools as a place of residence in the areas which they are in control of. This was only done after the end of the academic year; however this does not justify the use of schools, an alternative solution maybe building temporary homes. This is because this action is a violation of the international norms and constitutions and we demand the free Syrian army to evacuate the schools immediately and to allow them to be repaired in order for school life to return to normal.

We refer in this context to a massacre documented previously by the Syrian network for human rights which occurred in Al Ra'edaschool, this massacre was amongst many massacres which took place in schools. It was located in Al Dar Al Kabira area and was shelled purposely and was targeted by the Syrian governments forces as many displaced civilians resided in the school which is an atrocious crime against humanity.

A whole family was killed immediately and approx 140 people were injured within seconds.

Victims of Al Ra'eda school massacre:

1. Mother of Nidal and WafaaTirkawi
2. Nidal Omar Tirkawi
3. wafaaTirkawi - child
4. [a martyr whose name is not known](#)



Aleppo province:

A school in [Al Bab in Aleppo](#) is completely destroyed due to indiscriminate shelling.

Aleppo city: [Al Marjeneig hbourhood](#), aircraft shelling by the Syrian governments forces targeted Al Sina'a School.

Shelling of Khalid ibn [Al Walidschool](#) in Al Sfera town, Rural Aleppo on 19-12-2012

Place of incident: Aleppo

Date: [10-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Bayanounscool

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Sakhoor

Date: [4-10-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Gaza school

Place of incident: Aleppo, DierHafer

Date: [11-2012](#)

Description: shelling of a school

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Sheikh Khedr

Date: [5-8-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Majdal Shams School

Place of incident: Aleppo

Date: [12-10-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Al Intharatschool

Place of incident: Aleppo, Hanano residence

Date: [10-8-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Mohammad Qassar School

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Firdaws

Date: [27-7-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Seif Mahmoud School by the army

Place of incident: Aleppo, Treeq Al Bab

Date: [21-12-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Al Kifah School

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Atareb

Date: [19-2-2012](#)

Description: shelling of a school in Al Atareb and Al Zira'a school on [22-9-2012](#)

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Halak

Date: [5-8-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Al Halakneighbourhood school

Place of incident: Aleppo, Al Sakhoor

Date: [4-9-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Al Walid Bin Abdul Malik School

Deir Al Zor Province:

The shelling of Burhan Al Deenschool by the Syrian army's forces in Deir Al Zor

Date: [23-11-2012](#)

The shelling of Al Sina'a school by the Syrian governments aircraft in Al Busaira, Deir Al Zor

Date: [16-10-2012](#)

The shelling of Al Zabari town's school in Deir Al Zor by the Syrian governments forces

Date: [4-7-2012](#)

Damascus Province:

Targeting Amal Al Oruba School by the Syrian army's forces in Qatana, Damascus.

Date: [20-11-2012](#)

Rural Damascus: the shelling of A'inTarma on 4-9-2012 by the Syrian army's forces, which caused the widespread destruction of [Mohammad Salem Salam](#) School

Place of incident: Rural Damascus, Saqaba

Date: [2-9-2012](#)

Description: shelling of a school in Saqaba Al Balad

Idlib province:

Shelling of Al Tijara School in Ma'arat Al No'man, Idlib, by the Syrian army's aircraft

Date: [30-10-2012](#)

Place of incident: Idlib, Babila

Date: [22-7-2012](#)

Description: shelling of a school by the Syrian army

Homs province:

The shelling of a school in Al Rastan, Homs

Date: [11-3-2012](#)

[Al Ghasasiya](#) School, Homs:

[Ishbilya](#) School, Homs:

[Mohammad TayyebShreek](#) school, Homs

[The shelling of Hamza](#) school, which is situated in DeirB'albaneighbourhood

in Homs with artillery which belongs to the Syrian army's forces

Place on incident: Homs, Al Qusoor

Date: [10-8-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Khadija Al Kubra School

Place of incident: Homs, Al Qadima

Date: [5-7-2012](#)

Description: sheling of WasfiQurunfuli School

Saraqeb



Place of incident: Homs, DeirBa'alba

Date: [5-4-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Hamza School

Place of incident: Homs, Al Houla
Date: [24-11-2012](#)
Description: shelling
of [Musa Bakour](#) School with artillery
Place: Homs, Baba Amro
Date: [5-11-2012](#)
Description: occupation
of a school by the Syrian army
Place: Homs, Baba Amro
Date: [29-10-2012](#)
Description: shelling
of Um Aisha Um Al Mo'meneen School
Place of incident: Homs, Al Bayada
Date: [27-9-2012](#)
Description: shelling of Tala'eTeshreen School

Place: Homs, Talbiseh
Date: [29-3-2012](#)
Description: shelling of Tala'e school
Place of incident: Homs, Karam Al Zaitoon
Date: [6-3-2012](#)
Description: a school is turned
into a military barrack
Place: Homs [Bad Al Sba'a](#)
Description: the occupation
of a school by the Syrian army
Place: Homs Bab Al Dreeb
Date: [31-1-2012](#)
Description: the burning
of Al Mathna School due to shelling

Hama province:

Shelling of Al Tremseh town, Hama by the Syrian army's
artillery and the destruction of a section of its school
Date: [16-07-2012](#)
Place on incident: Hama, Al Hamidiya
Date: [8-3-2012](#)
Description: Yusuf Al Athma School was burned by the security forces
Place of incident: Hama
Date: 9-2-2012
Description: the occupation of NasehOlwan School by thugs
Place of incident: Hama
Date: [15-12-2012](#)
Description: shelling of Al Sina'a School
Place of incident: Hama, Al Qusoor
Date: [1-9-2012](#)
Description: occupation of Al Qusoor School
Place of incident: Hama
Description: the burning of [Othman Al Horani](#) School
Place of incident: Hama
Date: [21-8-2012](#)
Description: vandalising Khalid Mamish School by the security forces
Place of incident: Hama, Al Sabeel
Date: [4-5-2012](#)
Description: the use of a school [as a military barrack](#) to shoot civilians with snipers

Daraa province:

Place of incident: Daraa, Al Mahatta

Date: [25-4-2012](#)

Description: the destruction of a school by the security forces

Place of incident: Daraa, Al Naima

Date: [20-12-2012](#)

Description: shelling of a school by the army

Place of incident: Daraa, Alaja

Date: [3-9-2012](#)

Description: shelling of Al Zabayerschool



Lattakia province:

Place of incident: Lattakia

Date: [6-8-2012](#)

Description: Jawl School turned into a military barrack

The Syrian network for human rights condemns the systematic attack on schools and school cadres which is committed by the Syrian governments' forces. The Syrian government is totally responsible for shelling, killing and destroying in Syria and the consequences of these actions. The Syrian network for human rights demands the international human rights organisations to take action and to interfere immediately to stop the human rights violations in Syria, which are contrary to all the agreed international charters and conventions. and we demand the UNESCO, the organisation which specialises in education and culture to pressurise the Syrian government firmly and to issue a statement regarding this issue, we also demand this organisation to protect and provide care for Syrian students and to set up projects to start rebuilding and repairing schools which were destroyed by the tanks and airplanes which belong to the Syrian government.

The Syrian network for human rights believes that the Syrian government with all its figures, including the commander chief of the army and armed forces, Bashar Al Assad holds the total legal, economic and psychological repercussions of all acts of destruction and sabotage. The international community also holds moral and legal and responsibility for its lack of action in finding a solution to protect the Syrian civilians and their homes, villages and cities, and their inability to provide secure shelters for refugees inside the Syrian territory, who are the largest in numbers and are living in the most difficult conditions.