



169 Civilians including 42 Children and 30 Women have been Killed by the International Coalition Forces

Documenting the targeting of Ber Mahli village in Aleppo suburbs where 64 civilians were killed

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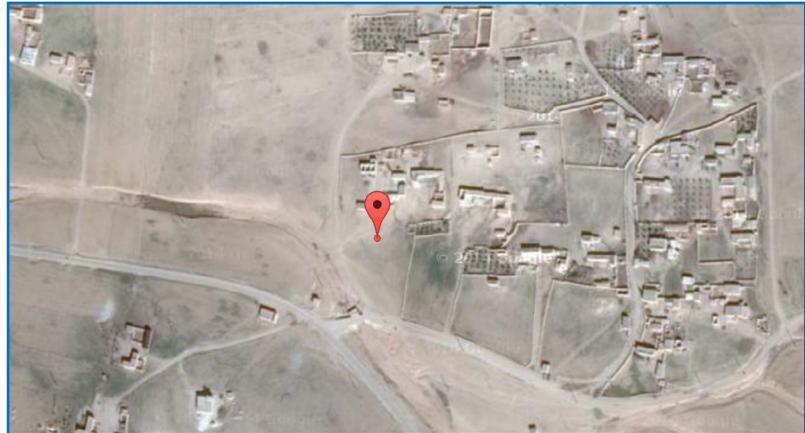
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First: Geographic Location and Military Control

Ber Mahli village is located about 10 kilometers east of Sirrean town, and 35 kilometers away from Ain Al-Arab “Koubani”. The village is under Daesh’s control. However, YPG forces are trying to take over the village. It is populated by 1000 people approximately. Most of the houses are built from mud and people work in agriculture and fishery as the village is across Euphrates River.

Link shows the coordinates of Beir Mahli village



Second: Description of the Incident

On 30 April at approximately 12:00 AM, the night before Friday 1 May, 2015, the international coalition warplanes carried out six consecutive airstrikes approximately at 12 AM where it used more than one missile in some of the airstrikes that targeted Ber Mahli village, which is administratively affiliated to Sirrean city in eastern Aleppo suburbs. Some of the residents told us that nine missiles were fired in about 30 minutes. According to the residents, there are only Daesh fighters in the village but there aren’t any Daesh bases.





SNHR documented the death of 64 civilians including 31 children and 19 women by the International Coalition forces shelling on Beir Mahli village on 1 May 2015
Image of the locations of the houses that suffered the shelling and the damages in the village



Syrian Network for Human Rights





SNHR documentation team documented the death of 64 civilians including 31 children and 19 women. All the victims were documented by full name and age. Also, 30 others were wounded while a large number of houses were completely destroyed. It should be noted that this is a primary toll considering the difficulty to communicate with the village and the fact that most of the village residents fled after the massacre. Additionally, many people are still missing as the search for dead bodies is still going on.

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says:

“We published many reports on the targeting of civilians by the international coalition forces. Despite all the efforts made to avoid this, this incident indicates a blatant disrespect for the lives of innocents civilians. The people responsible for this crime should be held accountable which would be a clear message to their associates and commanders.”

A number of people told SNHR that clashes between Daesh forces and YPG forces have been taking place 3 kilometers away from the villages for days now. On Thursday at night, a few hours before the international coalition’s airstrikes, people heard and saw glowing bullets being fired towards the village by YPG forces from a nearby hill that is 1 kilometer away from the village. Also, two mortar shells were fired; some of the residents believe that this was a signal between YPG and the international coalition forces. SNHR hasn’t been able to verify these allegations.

According to other eyewitnesses, this signal was after two Hyundai trucks, which usually used to transfer oil, entered the village which aroused YPG’s suspicion that those trucks were for Daesh given that they only allow for motorcycles to enter the village at night.

According to some residents, after the first missile attack, international coalition forces attacked again after people gathered to aid the wounded and see what happened. International coalition forces targeted those gatherings again which was the main reason behind the high death toll.

Some of the residents transferred the wounded to hospitals in Sirrean and Minbij cities, which are both under Daesh’s control. YPG forces that were stationed at a nearby hill blocked all the cars that were transferring the wounded to enter and only allowed a tractor and some agricultural vehicles to transfer the dead bodies.

Residents took the dead bodies to Maghrbtein, As-Sahariej, and Al-Merwah villages and buried them in mass graves, every grave contained four bodies at least as there was no time to bury a grave for each victim.

An eyewitness told SNHR that he himself attended the burial of 25 dead bodies in Maghrbtein village; most of them were children and women.



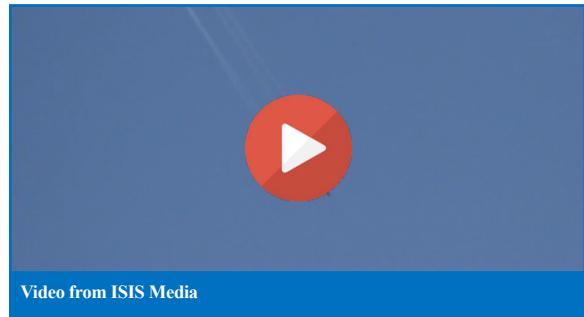


Ber Mahli village is a small village and it is not populated by a large number of people. As such, a lot of children are now homeless after their families died. Also, there are a lot of people who are critically wounded at Minbij hospital, those people could die at any moments in light of the rudimentary medical capabilities of this hospital.

Third: Appendixes and Attachments

1- [List of the victims' names](#)

2- A video footage recorded by Daesh's media and entitled: "The Crusaders' Bombing of Common Muslims", shows six dead bodies for children who were killed in the massacres. The bodies are completely disfigured. Furthermore, the video shows the village residents in panic, some of the children who were critically wounded in the bombing, and an eyewitness's testimony. Aleppo suburbs – Ber Mahli village 1 May, 2015



3. Video footage, recorded by A'maq agency, shows wounded children at a hospital in Sirrean town



4. Aleppo suburbs – Ber Mahli village 1 May, 2015

[Picutres](#) of wounded and dead children

Fourth: Conclusions and Recommendations

- The international coalition forces should respect the international humanitarian law and the customary international law. As such, the state parties should be held accountable for the violations that have taken place since the beginning of the attacks some of which are documented in this report. Also, the state parties should bear the consequences of these violations and insure that it won't occur again.
- The unproportionate discriminate use of weapons is an explicit violation of the international humanitarian law and can be classified as crimes against humanity.
- The international coalition should clearly and explicitly confess that some of its attacks





have resulted in killing innocent civilians. Denying these crimes is pointless as there are many human rights reports that reveal such crimes in addition to the residents' testimonies. The state parties should launch a serious investigation regarding these violations and insure to compensate the victims and those who were affected.

- The international coalition's airstrikes against oil wells and oil refineries caused the oil price to increase dramatically which led to an economic crisis. Efforts should be made to aid the residents and ease the economic difficulties they are suffering from. We believe that establishing a safe zone where camps can be built will help many IDPs and also many refugees who might leave Lebanon and Turkey to come and live in the safe zone.
- Civilians in Syria must be protected from the barbarity of the Syrian regime and its extremist militias. The international community should ban the Syrian regime from using its warplanes, which are dropping tens of barrel bombs every day, in synchronization with protecting the people of Syria from Daesh's brutality.

Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt condolences go out to the victims' families. We also would like to thank the residents and activists who contributed majorly to this report.

