



Not Less than 40 Massacres were Committed in February 2016 21 Amongst which were committed by Russian Forces

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I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less than 40 massacres in February 2016, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (security forces, army, local and foreign militias) committed 13 massacres.
- B. Russian Forces committed 21 massacres
- C. Extremist Islamic Groups:
 - i. ISIL: committed 2 massacres
- D. Armed opposition factions 3
- E. Unidentified Groups committed 1 massacre

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves: “the killing of five unarmed people at least”, for more information on our methodology, please visit the following URL.

Government forces committed 13 massacres in February 2016, detailed as follows:

- 12 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition groups
- 1 massacre was committed in regions under ISIL’s control

Massacres’ distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

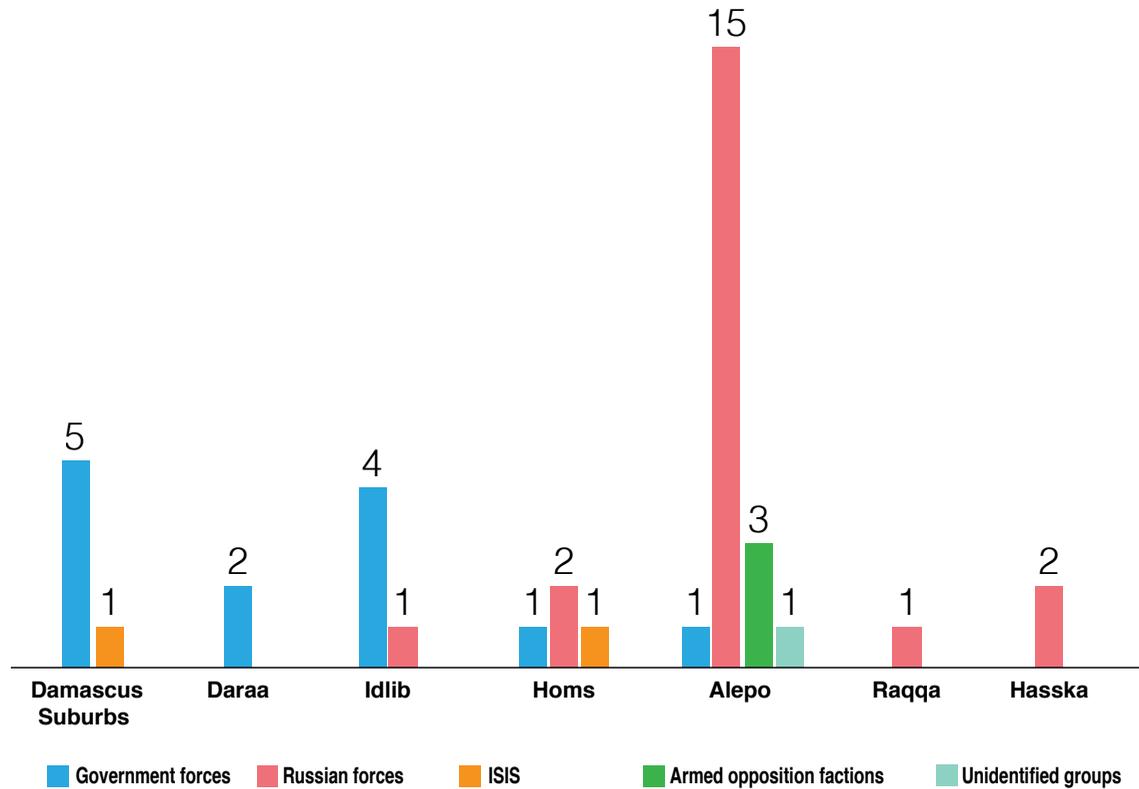
- Aleppo: 20 massacres were committed
- Damascus suburbs: 6
- Idlib: 5
- Homs: 4
- Daraa: 2
- Hassaka: 2





Raqqa: 1

Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:



According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 452 individuals including 123 children and 105 women. 51% of targeted victims were women and children which is a strong indicator that civilians were targeted deliberately.

Victims' death toll according to its perpetrators:

Government forces killed 95 individuals including 30 children and 23 women

Russian forces killed 210 individuals including 63 children and 37 women

ISIL killed 125 civilians including 20 children and 42 women

Armed Opposition Groups killed 15 civilians including 9 children and a woman

Unidentified groups killed 7 individuals including a child and two women.





II. Report Details:

A. Government Forces:

- Damascus suburbs:

On 10 February 2016 government warplanes launched several missiles on Douma city that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 8 individuals including 5 children and a woman.

On 14 February 2016 government warplanes launched [several missiles on Housh Nasri town](#) in eastern [Ghouta](#) that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including a child.

On 15 Feb 2016 government artillery forces launched several missiles on Douma city which killed 6 individuals including [4 children and a woman](#).

On 18 Feb 2016 government warplanes shelled Outaya town in eastern Ghouta which killed 8 individuals from one family, including a child and two women.

On 26 Feb 2016 government warplanes launched missiles on [Douma city](#) which [killed 8 individuals](#) from one family including [6 children and a woman](#) and injured 30 others.

- Homs:

On 2 Feb 2016 government warplanes launched 2 rockets the residential houses in Al Wadi Street in Palmyra city that is under ISIL's control which killed 10 individuals including a child and 5 women. 30 others were injured.

- Aleppo:

On 13 Feb 2016 government artillery in Al Zahraa neighborhood in Aleppo launched artillery missiles on Al Castillo road that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo. The missiles targeted a transportation bus which killed 5 individuals including 2 women and a child.

- Idlib:

On 9 Feb 2016 government warplanes launched two rockets on a civilian gathering while humanitarian aid was being distributed in Al Fateera town in Idlib southern suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 8 individuals including 8 children including a child a woman.





On 9 Feb 2016 government warplanes shelled Tlamnis town in Idlib which killed 9 individuals from one family (6 women and 3 children)

On 9 Feb 2016 government warplanes launched 2 rockets on a camp for displaced residents in Al Tayneyi town next to Efes town in Idlib suburbs which killed 7 individuals including 3 children and a woman. Almost 20 others were injured.

On 24 Feb 2016 government warplanes shelled the [market in Areeha](#) city in Idlib suburbs which killed 8 individuals including a child and a woman and injured 24 others.

- Daraa:

On 2 February 2016 government warplanes launched its missiles on Nawa city in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 7 individuals including a child and a woman.

On 14 Feb 2016 government warplanes shelled a tent on the periphery of Al Harak town eastern of Daraa governorate which killed 6 individuals from one family including 2 children and a woman.

A. Russian Forces:

Aleppo:

On 1 Feb 2016 alleged Russian forces shelled [the southern neighborhoods](#) in Adnan city that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo suburbs which killed 8 individuals including 3 children and 3 women. Fifteen others were injured.

On 2 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses in Kabr Al Inkilizi region in Hraytan city that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 6 individuals from one family (4 children and 2 women).

On 2 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses in Baghdad Street in Hraytan city which killed 6 individuals including 4 children and a woman.





On 2 Feb 2016 [alleged Russian warplanes](#) shelled a residential house in next to Al Hamze mosque in the middle of Adnan city under the control of armed opposition which killed 6 individuals including 4 children and a woman.



On 4 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the Street of Hamza [mosque](#) in Al Mashhad neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo which [killed 7 individuals](#) including 2 children and 2 [women](#).

On 5 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched its missiles next to Al Khayrat mosque in Al Sakhour neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 8 individuals including 2 children and injured 18 others.

On 8 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled [Al Saleheen neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city which killed [16 individuals](#) including [5 children and a woman](#). Thirty others were [injured](#).



On 14 Feb 2016, alleged Russian warplanes [shelled a residential building](#) next to [the Katerji roundabout](#) in Aleppo which killed 6 individuals [including 4 children](#) and a woman.

On 15 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched its missiles next to [Omar Bin](#)





[Khattab mosque](#) on the road between Kaljibreen town and Maree' city in Aleppo which killed 10 individuals including [3 children and a woman](#).

On 15 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched a long range missile on a trucks gathering in Azzaz city in northern Aleppo suburbs which killed 6 individuals including a child and a woman.

On 19 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses in the western side of Al Shiekh Essa in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 7 individuals from one family including 3 children and two women.

On 26 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses in Al Saloum town that belongs to Enjara town in western Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 8 individuals from one family including 3 children and two women.

On 26 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the western side of Kibtan town in Aleppo which killed 8 individuals [including 3 children and a woman](#); most of them were from one family.

On 26 Feb 2016 [alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses](#) in Kafr Homra town in northern Aleppo suburbs which [killed 7 individuals](#) including 2 children and 2 women. [Most of the victims were from a displaced family](#).

On 28 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Hadi residential compound in Baybees town which killed 12 individuals including 3 children and 2 women.

- Al Hassaka:

On 16 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on the automatic bakery in Al Shadadi town in southern Hassaka suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 20 individuals including 4 children and a woman. 20 others were injured.





On 17 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Jayeer town that belongs to Abdul Azeez Mountain in Hassaka suburbs that is under the control of ISIL which killed 10 individuals including 3 children and injured 5 others.

- Homs:

On 2 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled Borj Kae' town in Homs suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 8 individuals](#); 4 women and 4 children

On 12 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes [shelled 3 rockets](#) on the residential [neighborhoods in Al Ghanto town](#) in [Homs](#) suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 16 individuals including [4 children and a woman](#).



- Idlib:

On 15 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched [4 airstrikes](#) on the makeshift hospital that belonged to Doctors without Borders in Al Hamadeyi town in Idlib which killed [25 individuals](#) including a child and 7 women.

- Raqqa:

On 1 Feb 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled rockets that were loaded with cluster munitions on Ma'adan town in Raqqa governorate that is under ISIL's control which killed 10 individuals including a child and two women.

C. Extremist Islamic Groups:

ISIL:

- Damascus suburbs:

On 21 Feb 2016 ISIL [bombed](#) a car in Al Teen Street in [Sayeda Zaynab](#) region that is under the control of government forces in Damascus suburbs. Upon a civilians gathering, the suicide bomber bombed himself with an explosive belt, then few minutes later, another suicide bomber bombed himself across the street with the same pattern next to [the vegetables market](#). The double suicide bombing resulted in the killing of 88 civilians [including 19 children and 30 women](#). Almost 140 others were [injured](#).





- Homs:

On 21 Feb 2016 ISIL [bombed two vehicles](#) at the intersection of Al Seteen Street with Al Zaharaa neighborhood that is [under the control of government forces](#) in Homs. The bombing killed 37 civilians [including a child and 12 women](#). Not less than 60 others were [injured](#).

E. Armed Opposition Groups:

- Aleppo:

On 19 Feb 2016 several local made missiles fell on residential houses in Al Shuhada region in New Aleppo neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo. The missiles came from a region that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo which killed 5 individuals from one family including 2 children and a woman. Also 4 others were injured.

On 23 Feb 2016 a local made missile fell on the vicinity of Al Shami mosque in Al Zahraa neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo which killed 5 children and injured 8 others.

On 23 Feb 2016 a local made missile fell on the eastern side of Al Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood that is under the control of Kurdish Self Management forces in Aleppo. The missile came from a Bustan Al Basha neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including 2 children.

F. Unidentified Groups:

Aleppo:

On 26 January 2016 a landmine was detonated next to a car that transported several residents from Al Zabari town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs in Um Al Housh town in northern Aleppo suburbs. The residents were on their way to the Syrian – Turkish borders. On 2 Feb 2016 we were able to verify the incident that killed 7 individuals including a child and town women. However, we were unable to verify who planted the landmine up to the moment of making this report.





IV- Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

Syrian Government and Russian Forces:

1. SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which can be classified as war crimes.
2. SNHR believes that these acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.
3. These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.
4. The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Recommendations:

To The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping the disrupting of the decisions that must be adopted by the Security Council against the Syrian government. This disruption is a wrong message to all dictatorships around the world and an enhancement to the culture of crime.
2. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.
3. Binding the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Investigation Committee and allowing them to work freely.
4. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder its responsibility of preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to international peace and security.
6. . Listing the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.

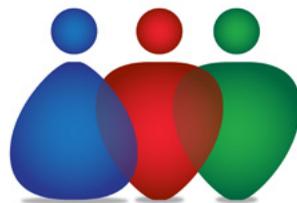




7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
8. With the crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian government, the international community should stop dealing with this government as an “official side” concerning the relief issues, and stopping supplying the Syrian government with most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, don’t reach those who are in need and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian government.

Acknowledgment

Our thanks and appreciations go to the victims’ families, eyewitnesses, and local activists whose testimonies contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims’ families and friends.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

