



Not Less than 40 Massacres Committed in October 2015 10 amongst which were committed by Russian Forces

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I. Executive Summary:

SNHR documented not less than 40 massacres that were committed in October, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign militias) committed 29 massacres
- B. Russian Forces committed 10 massacres
- C. 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](#).

A. Government forces committed 29 massacres in October 2015, detailed as follows:

- 24 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition groups.
- 5 massacres were committed in regions under ISIL's control.

Massacres' distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 13 massacres were committed, Damascus suburbs: 11, Homs: 8 massacres, Idlib: 5 massacres, Hama: 2 massacres, Deir Al Zour: 1 massacre.





Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:

Massacres' distribution in October 2015 according to the main conflict parties			
Conflict Party	Government Forces	Russian Forces	Unidentified Groups
Governorate			
Damascus suburbs	11		
Aleppo	7	5	1
Idlib	3	2	
Homs	6	2	
Deir Al Zour	1		
Hama	1	1	

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 513 individuals including 159 children and 62 women. 43% 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 372 individuals, including 97 children and 43 women.
- Russian Forces killed 126 individuals, including 58 children and 19 women.
- Unidentified Groups killed 15 individuals including 4 children.

II. Report Details:

A. Government Forces:

Damascus Suburbs:

On 10 October 2015, government military aviation launched an airstrike on Beit Sawa town in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 7 individuals](#) (4 children and 3 women from two families).





Sawa town massacrass 10 October 2015



On 13 October 2015, government military aviation launched an airstrike on a crowded market in [Ein Terma in Damascus suburbs](#) which killed 15 individuals, including two children.



Ein Tarma town massacrass 13 October 2015

On 15 October 2015, government artillery forces launched a surface – to – surface missile on Douma city which killed 5 individuals including 4 children.





On 16 October 2015, government military aviation launched an airstrike on Al Marj region that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including 4 children.

On 22 October 2015, government military aviation [launched an airstrike on Mesraba town](#) in Damascus suburbs which [killed 7 individuals](#).

On 24 October 2015, government artillery forces and rocket launchers shelled Douma city and killed 9 individuals including a child and two women.

On 27 October 2015, government military aviation launched an airstrike on a farm in Deir Assafeir town in Damascus suburbs which killed 5 individuals including 4 children from one family.

On 27 October 2015, government rocket launchers launched a [surface-to-surface missile on a market in Harasta Ak Qantara](#) town in Damascus suburbs which killed [7 individuals including a woman](#).

On 29 October 2015, government rocket [launchers launched a surface-to-surface missile on Douma city](#) which [killed 16 individuals including a child](#).

On 30 October 2015, government military aviation launched an airstrike on a market on Douma city with a surface to surface missile which [killed 76 individuals including 5 children and 5 women](#).

Douma city massaccres 29 October 2015





On 31 October 2015, government [rocket launchers launched a surface-to-surface missile on Douma city which killed 10 individuals including a child and 3 women.](#)

Aleppo Governorate:

On 2 October 2015, government military aviation shelled Al Bab city in Aleppo eastern suburbs that is under ISIL's control with rockets. The shelling targeted a vegetable market in the city which [killed 21 individuals including 2 children and a woman.](#) Several residents were injured.

On 5 October 2015, government military aviation shelled with several rockets a region next to Al Nasser mosque in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL which killed [15 individuals and injured more than 30 others.](#)

On 5 October 2015, government military aviation shelled civilian houses next to Tal Hadeya town in southern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 13 individuals including 6 children and two women. Also 20 others were injured.

On 30 October 2015, [government military aviation launched several missiles on Al Moustawdaat Street in Al Ferdos neighborhood in Aleppo that is under the control of armed opposition which killed more than 10 individuals, including 4 children and a woman. More than 20 others were injured.](#)

On 30 2015, [government military aviation shelled Salah Al Deen neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo with rockets which killed 5 individuals.](#)

On 30 October 2015, government military aviation shelled Menbej city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control and targeted a building next to Berkel Hospital. 10 individuals were killed, including two children and two women. More than 20 others were injured and the surrounding buildings were damaged.





On 30 October 2015, government rocket launchers launched a surface-to-surface missile on Wadi Al Arayes region in Al Kallasa neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 33 individuals including 22 children](#) and 7 women. More than 40 others were injured and more than [15 houses were destroyed](#).

Homs Governorate:

On 6 October 2015, government military aviation launched two rockets on one of the houses in Al Wadi Al Ahmar region in Palmyra city that is under the control of ISIL in Homs suburbs that which killed 14 individuals including 6 children and 4 women.

On 16 October 2015, government military aviation launched several missiles on Teir Ma'alaa town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs which killed 11 individuals including 3 children.

On 17 October 2015, government aviation [launched several rockets on Al Ghanto town in Homs](#) which killed 6 individuals including a child and a woman.

On 19 October 2015, government artillery launched several missiles on an elementary school in Al Makhrem Tahtani town in Homs which killed 10 individuals in the school's playground, including 7 children and two women.

On 23 October 2015, government military aviation launched several missiles on Talbesa city in Homs governorate which killed 17 individuals including 8 children and 5 women.

On 26 October 2015, government military aviation launched several rockets on Al Ghanto town in Homs which killed 7 individuals including two children while they were leaving a mosque.

Idlib Governorate:

On 10 October 2015, government military aviation launched several rockets on Al Tamanaa' town in Idlib suburbs which is under the control of armed opposition. The shelling killed 6 individuals from one family, including 4 children and a woman.

On 20 October 2015, government military aviation launched several rockets on Sermeen city in Idlib suburbs which killed 12 individuals including a child.





On 30 October 2015, government military aviation launched several missiles on Ma'art Al Noaman city in Idlib suburbs which killed 8 individuals including 4 children.

Hama Governorate:

On 21 October 2015, government military aviation launched several missiles on Hama suburbs which killed 6 individuals including 4 women. Most of the victims were from one family.

Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 19 October 2015, government military aviation shelled Al A'radi neighborhood in Deir Al Zour that is under ISIL's control which killed individuals including a woman. More than 10 others were injured.

Russian Forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 13 October 2015, [allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Hayyan town with rockets which killed 7 civilians, including 5 children and a woman and injured 10 others.](#) Also, [houses were greatly damaged.](#)



On 13 October 2015, [allegedly Russian warplanes shelled residential neighborhoods in Dar Ezza city which killed 5 civilians, injured more than 8 and damaged several houses.](#)

On 16 October 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled a residential house in Kafr Kameen town with two rockets which killed 11 civilians, [including two women, 5 children and a fetus.](#) Several cars and houses were burned and destroyed.

On 23 October 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Barkoum town in southern Aleppo suburbs which killed 6 civilians including 3 children and two women. Several houses were almost completely destroyed.





On 27 October 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled civilian's houses in Tal Hadya town in southern Aleppo suburbs which killed 13 individuals, including 6 children and two women. More than 20 others were injured. Also, the shelling destroyed several houses.

Homs Governorate:

On 15 October 2015, allegedly Russian warplanes shelled a residential building for displaced people in Al Ghanto town that is [under the control of armed opposition](#). [The shelling killed 34 civilians, including 24 children and 8 women.](#)

On 15 October 2015, allegedly Russian warplanes launched a rocket on a civilians' [gathering near the only bakery in the town of Teir Ma'ali](#) in its western side which killed 29 individuals, [including 8 children and two women.](#)

Idlib Governorate:

On 7 October 2015, allegedly Russian warplanes shelled the international highway between Aleppo and Damascus at Babeela crossroads next to a food product factory which killed 9 civilians, including 4 children.

On 7 October 2015, allegedly Russian warplanes launched eight rockets that targeted residential houses on the entrance of Ma'saran town. Two of the rockets were loaded with cluster munitions. The shelling killed 6 civilians, including two children and three women.

Hama Governorate:

On 4 October 2015, allegedly Russian warplanes launched four rockets that targeted the entrance of Akraybar town in Hama governorate which killed 6 civilians, including a child.

A. Unidentified Groups:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 8 October 2015, [a car was bombed in the Square of Hraytan city](#) in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups. [Fifteen individuals were killed, including 4 children](#) and more than 30 others were injured. However, we were not able to identify the perpetrators who committed his crime 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:

1. To The United Nations and the Security Council
2. 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.
3. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.
4. 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.
5. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
 9. 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.

