



Not Less than 58 Massacres Were Committed in January 2016 33 amongst which were committed by Russian Forces

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I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less than 58 massacres that were committed in January 2016, detailed as follows:

A. Government Forces (security forces, army, local and foreign militias) committed 22 massacres

B. Russian Forces committed 33 massacres

C. Extremist Islamic Groups:

i. ISIL committed 3 massacres

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 22 massacres in January 2016, detailed as follows:

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

Massacres’ distribution according to the Syrian governo-rates:

Aleppo: 12 massacres were committed

Deir Al Zour: 12

Idlib: 11

Damascus suburbs: 10

Raqqqa: 6

Homs: 4

Hama: 2

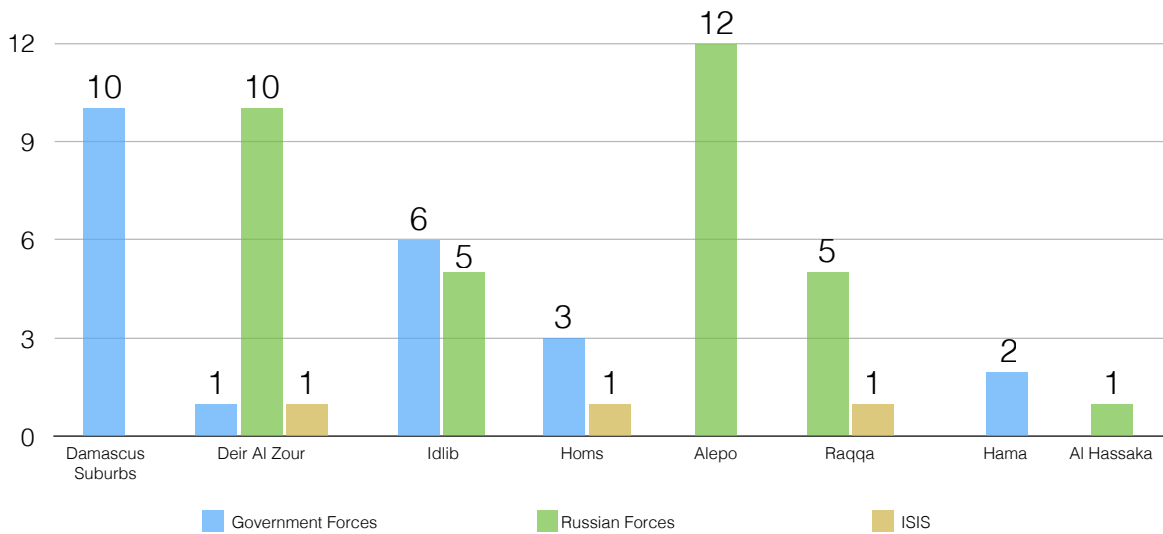
Al Hassaka: 1

Massacres’ distribution according to the main conflict parties:





Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:



According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 699 individuals including 174 children and 112 women. 41% 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 172 individuals including 44 children and 34 women
- Russian forces killed 492 individuals including 129 children and 65 women
- ISIL killed 35 individuals including a child and 13 women

II. Report Details:

A. Government Forces:

Damascus suburbs:

On 6 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled Douma city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 9 individuals including 2 women and a child. Nearly 20 others were injured.

On 6 January 2016 government warplanes shelled Mesraba city in Damascus suburbs which killed 5 individuals including a family (two parents and their child).

On 6 January 2016 government warplanes shelled [Zamalka city](#) in Damascus suburbs which killed 13 individuals including a child and a woman. Nearly 50 others were injured.

On 7 January 2016, government warplanes shelled [Erbeen city in Damascus](#) suburbs while [killed 12 individuals](#) including [12 individuals](#) including a child and 2 women. 88 others were [injured](#).





On 7 January 2016, government warplanes [shelled Zamalka city](#) which killed 9 individuals including 2 children and a woman. Not less than 30 others were injured.

On 10 January 2016, government warplanes launched an airstrike with [9 rockets on Douma city](#) which [killed 13 individuals](#) including 6 children and 3 women. Nearly 50 others were [injured](#).

On 12 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Douma city with rockets which killed 5 individuals and injured 20 others.

On 15 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Douma city with rockets which killed 6 individuals and injured 20 others.

On 15 January 2016, government warplanes shelled [Deir Assafier](#) town with ten rockets which killed 9 individuals including 9 individuals including 2 children and a woman.



On 28 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Douma city with rockets which killed 5 individuals.





Idlib Governorate:

On 12 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Saraqeb city in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition in Idlib while killed 5 individuals from one family, a child and 4 women.

On 20 January 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on Hazano town in Idlib suburbs which killed 7 individuals including 3 children.

On 22 January 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on [Bab Al Hawa crossing](#) point with [Turkey in Idlib that is under the control of armed opposition](#) and Al Nusra Front, which [killed 8 individuals including a child](#).

On 24 January 2016, government rocket launchers launched a [surface-to-surface missile](#) on a residential compound in Silqeen city in Idlib which killed 5 individuals including a child and a woman.

On 26 January 2016, government warplanes [launched several rockets on a market](#) in Areeha city in Idlib which killed 12 individuals including 5 women.

On 28 January 2016 government warplanes launched several missiles on Kafr Takhareem city in Idlib which killed 10 individuals including 2 children and 3 women.

Homs Governorate:

On 11 January 2016, government warplanes shelled a residential building in Al Rastan city in northern Homs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including 3 women.

On 27 January 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on Kafr Laha town in Homs suburbs which killed 5 individuals including 2 children and a woman.

On 28 January 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets next to one of the [schools in Al Ghanto town in Homs suburbs](#) which [killed 10 individuals](#) including [7 children and 2 women](#).

Hama Governorate:

On 12 January 2016, [government artillery forces that are stationed in Jarjisa](#) town launched two missiles on one of the civilian's houses in Har Bnafsa town in southern Hama suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 8 victims, 6 children and 2 women.

On 14 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled Al Latamna city in northern Hama suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 6 individuals from one family including 3 children and a woman.





Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 16 January 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on Al Boughleya town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs during an ISIL attack on the town that is under the control of government forces. As a result, 5 individuals were killed including 3 children and a woman.

Russian Forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 6 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the western neighborhood in Bazaa' town in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 8 individuals including 4 children and 3 women. Additionally, 7 others were injured.

On 9 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on the residential [houses around Abdullah Bin Al Abbas Mosque](#) in Al Amerya neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition in [Aleppo](#) city which [killed 10 individuals](#) including 3 children. [15 others were injured as well.](#)

On 11 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Moustafa Rustom Elementary School in Anjara town in Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 13 individuals, 12 students and a teacher. 8 others were injured.

On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes [shelled Agha Jakk Mosque](#) in Kadi As-saker neighborhood in Aleppo that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 7 individuals who were in the [mosque](#).

On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the road that leads to the [Hayyan town](#) next to the Great Mosque in Ma'ar Setat Al Khan town in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 12 civilians including 2 children and two women. Moreover, almost 12 others were injured.

On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential houses northwest of Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of ISIL which killed 8 individuals including 4 children and 2 women.

13 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the southern neighborhood in Tadeff town in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 6 individuals and injured several others.





On 16 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled a residential building in [Al Sukari neighborhood in Aleppo](#) city that is under the control of armed opposition, [which killed 7 individuals including 3 children](#) and a woman. [Several buildings](#) and nearby shops were destroyed.

On 21 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the road between Ihris town on Kafr Naseh town in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 6 individuals including 3 children and two women. More than 8 others were injured and several freight vehicles that were loaded with food supplies were burned.

On 23 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled a farm on Kbaseen town next to Al Bab city in Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 5 individuals from one family, a mother and her 5 children.

On 27 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled several residential houses in Al Kourneesh Street in Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control. As a result, 6 individuals from one family were killed, 5 children and a woman.

On 29 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled several houses that surround Jabal Sheikh Akeel in Al Bab city in Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 9 individuals from one family, 6 children and 3 women.





Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 19 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Islah neighborhood in Buleel town in Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 6 individuals and injured 15 others.

On 19 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Rouwaida neighborhood in Buleel town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 7 individuals including 2 children and injured more than 25 others.

On 20 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on a mourning location where several residents were gathered in Shakra town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 8 individuals and injured almost 15 others.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Dallou neighborhood in Al Buleel town which killed 12 individuals including a child and two women. Nearly ten others were injured.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Tabya Jazeera town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs, 15 Km away from Deir Al Zour city that is under ISIL's control. As a result, 38 individuals were killed including 16 children and 7 women.

On 23 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on the middle of Khsham town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 61 individuals including 11 children and 2 women. Nearly 40 others were injured.

On 27 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on Al Shahbat neighborhood in Al Husayneya town in Deir Al Zour suburbs which killed 9 individuals including a child and 4 women. Not less than 10 others were injured.

On 27 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Mahmadeya town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 13 individuals including a woman and injured not less than 20 others.

On 29 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Al Salheya town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 7 individuals including two children and a woman.

On 30 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Husan town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 20 individuals including 6 children and 7 women.





Al Raqqa Governorate:

On 16 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Al Raqqa city that is under ISIL's control which killed 11 individuals including 5 children.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on the residential buildings in Sief Al Dawla Street in Raqqa city which killed 17 individuals including 8 children and 5 women. Not less than 10 others were injured.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Amasi Street in Al Raqqa city which killed a displaced family from Deir Al Zour. As a result, the family of 16 individuals, including 6 children and 4 women, was killed.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the vicinity of the Power Directorate in Al Raqqa city which killed 7 individuals including 3 women.

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Al Mashlab town in Raqqa city which killed 5 individuals from one family including 3 children and a woman.

Idlib Governorate:

On 9 January 2016, [alleged Russian warplanes](#) shelled with four rockets [Ma'art Al No'man](#) city in Idlib that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 67 individuals including 3 women](#).

On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on [Ma'art Al No'man](#) city in Idlib that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 32 individuals](#) including 3 children.

On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes [shelled Sarmada city](#) in [Idlib](#) suburbs which killed [25 individuals including 5 children and 3 women](#).

On 16 January 2016, [alleged Russian warplanes](#) launched several rockets on Fayloun town in southern Idlib suburbs which killed 11 individuals from one family, 8 children and 3 women.

On 25 January 2016, [alleged Russian warplanes shelled two houses](#) in Tarmaneen town in Idlib which killed 13 individuals including 5 children and 3 women.





Al Hassaka Governorate:

On 28 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched 6 rockets on a civilians' gathering point for selling crude oil in Ajjaja town in Al Shadadi city in Al Hassaka southern suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 9 individuals and injured 15 others.

A. Extremist Islamic Groups:

i. ISIL:

Al Raqqa Governorate:

On 3 January 2016, ISIL's office published a [video](#) that depicted the execution of 5 individuals who were accused of videotaping and monitoring ISIL, its headquarters and fighters' movements.

Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 25 January 2016, ISIL's artillery forces launched several mortar missiles on the Languages Institute in Al Qusour neighborhood that is under the control of the government forces in Deir Al Zour city which killed 7 individuals including a child and 5 women. More than 10 others were injured.

Homs Governorate:

On 26 January 2016, one of ISIL's members blew himself up in a civilians' gathers next to a [bomb car next to a government checkpoint](#) at the intersection of [Al Setein Street](#) in Al Zahraa neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in [Homs which killed 23 civilians including 8 women](#).

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 se-





were 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.

