



Despite the agreement on cessation of hostilities, 60 vital facilities were attacked in March 2016

48 amongst which were committed by governmental forces

Report Contents:

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Report Details:
 1. Places of Worships
 2. Educational Facilities
 3. Medical Facilities
 4. Cultural Facilities
 5. Communal Facilities
 6. International Humanitarian Insignia
 7. Infrastructure
 8. Refugee Camps
- I. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Executive summary:

The pace of the bombardment by warplanes (Government and Russian), in parallel with the pace of the bombardment of vital centers has decreased since the start of the application of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities

This positive progress must be supported. However, SNHR emphasizes that the violations did not stop, and that the Syrian regime is considered the biggest violator of various types of violations on the bombing, killing, and detention, etc. The main objective of documenting all reports is to know the perpetrators accurately, and deterring their recurrence.

Fadel Abdul Ghani», the director of SNHR stated: «Without the mechanism of clear accountability for the perpetrators of the violations of the cessation of hostilities, the Agreement on termination of Hostilities is threatened with collapse, there should be one hand bear the responsibility for these consequences on regular bases.»

During March 2016, SNHR recorded not less than 60 offensive attacks on civil vital civilians» facilities, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties in Syria:

- A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, and foreign militias) targeted 48 facilities.
- B. Russian Forces targeted 2 facilities
- C. Extremist Islamic Groups :
 - i. ISIL targeted 6 facilities
- A. Armed Opposition Groups targeted 2 facilities





- B. International Coalition Forces targeted 1 facilities
- C. Unidentified Groups targeted 1 facilities

The most attacked vital facilities in March 2016:

30 infrastructure buildings, 9 educational facilities, 9 places of worship, 3 medical facilities, 3 communal facilities, 3 cultural facilities, 1 International Humanitarian Insignia and 2 refugee camps.

The vital civilians' centers, located in areas that are under the control of the ISIL and were attacked by the governmental forces, formed 38% of the total number of vital centers that are targeted by the governmental forces.

To read further about SNHR's [methodology](#) in classifying vital civilians' facilities in Syria, you can visit the following link:

Attacked facilities according to the main conflict parties in Syria:

Distribution of the Attacked Civil Vital Facilities According to the Main Conflict Parties in March 2016						
Conflict Party	Government Forces	Russian Forces	ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	International Coalition Forces	Unidentified Groups
Targeted Facility						
Places of Worship						
Mosques	8			1		
Educational Facilities						
Schools	5	1	2			
Preschools	1					
Medical Centers						
Medical Facilities	3					
Cultural Facilities						
Archeological regions	3					
Communal Facilities						
Markets	3					
International Humanitarian Insignia						
Red Crescent	1					
Infrastructure Buildings						
Power Stations and Energy Sources	1			1		
Civil Defense Centers	12					
Water Systems			1			1
Official Headquarters	7	1	1		1	
Transportation Means			1			
Granaries			1			
Industrial Facilities	2					
Refugee Camps						
Refugee Camps	2					
Overall Sum	48	2	6	2	1	1





Government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction they cause are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.

The Security Council failed to carry out Resolution 2139, adopted on 22 February, 2014, which states: "all parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of explosive barrel bombs.", the Security Council should at least press on government forces to stop the attacks on civilians' vital places, which are usually crowded, such as schools, hospitals, markets, bakeries, and places of worships. In this report, SNHR highlights the documented attacks against vital civilians' facilities. It is worth noting that what we documented was the minimum due to the many practical obstacles we run across during our work.

SNHR affirms, through its investigations, that there were no military points or presence in these places before or during the attacks. The Syrian regime, and the crimes perpetrators, should justify their brutal attacks before the United Nations and the Security Council.

II. Incident Details

A: Government Forces (the army, security, local militias and foreign Shiite militias): Places of Worship

- Mosques:

On 18 February 2016, government helicopters dropped explosive barrels at the Grand Mosque in the town of «Al-Nashabeya», in Damascus countryside that is under the control of the opposition armed factions, which led to cracks in the walls of the building, smashing windows. It is worth mentioning that the building was bombed several times in the past. The incident was verified on 2 March 2016

On 9 March 2016 government warplanes shelled a mosque in the center of the city «Palmyra» east of the governorate of Homs, under the control of ISIL, which led to the destruction of the main entrance to the mosque partially, in addition to the windows in the northern facade and furniture mosque.

On 9 March 2016 government warplanes launched a missile on Khadija Mosque in a northern district of the city of «Palmyra» east of the governorate of Homs, under the control of ISIL, what caused major damage to the facade of the eastern mosque, and cracks in the minaret.





On 17 March 2016 government warplanes launched a missile at Al-Rahman mosque in the area of «Al- Yamida» governorate of «Lattakia», under the control of the opposition armed factions, which led to the damage of the mosque.

On 18 March 2016 government warplanes launched a missile at «Alsouk» mosque in the middle neighborhood of Palmyra, which is under the control of ISIL; the shelling destroyed the eastern facade and the building of the mosque.

On 29 March 2016 the government warplanes attacked the northern mosque in the town of Al-Khasfa in the countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the ISIL, which led to a material damage of the mosque construction.

On 30 March 2016 government warplanes launched missiles at a «Al- Imam «mosque in the city of [Douma](#)» in the governorate of Damascus countryside, under the control of the opposition armed factions, causing [huge destruction](#) in the building of the mosque, and demolishes the minaret.



On 30 March 2016 government warplanes shelled a mosque [«Aqeel Bin Abi Talib»](#) in «Harasta» city in the governorate of Damascus countryside, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which led to the partial destruction of the building of the mosque and demolishes the part of damaging its.

Educational Facilities

- Schools:

On 18 March 2016 government warplanes launched missiles «Rabeea Al- Adaweya School» (ISIL named the school of the ranges) in the city of «Al-Raqqa» under the control of ISIL, which led to the collapse of the northern part of the building of the school.

On 18 March 2016, government warplanes launched a missile at «Zenobia Primary School « in the district of «Palmyra» under the control of ISIL what caused the destruction of the fence from both east and north almost completely, in addition to the collapse of the eastern facade of the school building.





On 29 March 2016, government warplanes launched a missile at the surroundings of the primary school in the village of «Al Kastan» in the suburb of «Idlib», under the control of the opposition armed factions, causing several holes in the northern wall of the school, in addition to the crash of the windows of the northern facade of the school as a result of being exposed to a missile fragments.

On 29 March 2016, government warplanes launched a missile at a secondary school in the town of «Al Kastan» in Idlib Governorate, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in simple material damages to the building of the school.

On 31 March 2016 government warplanes shelled a missile at «Deir Assafier School» in the town of [Deir Assafier](#) in the governorate of [Damascus countryside](#), [under the control](#) of the opposition armed factions, which led to [the near-total destruction of school buildings](#) .



- **Preschools:**

On 18 March 2016, government warplanes shelled one of the residential buildings in Al Tahkana neighborhood that is under ISIL's control in Raqqa city which damaged Al Ameen nursery that is located in that building.

- **Medical Centers:**

Medical Facilities (Hospitals, Infirmaries, Medical Points, Makeshift Hospitals)

On 12 March 2016, government warplanes launched a missile on the infirmary in Al Sekhna city that is under ISIL's control in Homs suburbs which greatly damaged the building and the parking lot. The electric generator was greatly destroyed and went out of service.

On 31 March 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on the medical point in Deir Assafeir in Damascus governorate that is under the control of armed opposition which greatly destroyed the building and caused it to go out of service.

On 31 March 2016 government rocket launchers launched [4 rockets on Ousama Ablak](#) makeshift hospitals in Al Yamdeya town in the Turkmen Mountain in Lattakia suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. The hospital and its equipment were greatly [damaged](#) and went out of service. The hospital was re-located to a [different region](#).





- Cultural Facilities:

- [Archeological Sites](#) (Citadels, forts, ancient cemeteries, temples and theaters)

On 10 March 2016, government warplanes shelled the vicinity of the archeological citadel and the ancient region with rockets in Palmyra city that is under the control of ISIL in Homs which resulted in several holes in the citadel's foundation.

On 10 March 2016 government warplanes launched a rocket on the vicinity of the Roman Theater in Palmyra city which [damaged a great part of its wall](#).

On 25 March 2016, government rocket launchers stationed in Al Tarr Mountain launched [two rockets](#) on the vicinity of the archeological citadel in Palmyra city which caused great damages.

- Communal Facilities:

- **Markets:**

On 7 March 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on a [diesel oil market](#) in Abu Al Dohour town in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition [which caused a massacre, destroyed and damaged several shops](#).

- On 22 March 2016, government artillery forces launched a mortar missile on a market in Kafr Batna in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which damaged several shops.

- On 25 March 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on a [market in Areeha](#) city in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which destroyed six shops completely and damaged more shops.

- International Humanitarian Insignia :

- **Red Crescent (Vehicles – Facilities)**

On 9 March 2016, government warplanes shelled the Red Crescent infirmary in the eastern neighborhood in Palmyra city in Homs suburbs which greatly damaged the infirmary and its equipment. It caused it to go out of service.





- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

- On 18 March 2016, government warplanes launched a rocket on a power converter in the public square of the western neighborhood in Palmyra city which greatly damaged it and caused it to go out of service.

- Civil Defense Centers: (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 4 March 2016, [government warplanes launched](#) a rocket on an area in Al Shoufenya town in Damascus suburbs. As a result, a civil defense [vehicle was damaged](#).

- On 10 March 2016, government artillery launched heavy missiles on Douma city in Damascus suburbs. One of the missiles targeted a fire truck that belonged to the civil defense. The fire truck was in the region to put off fire due to previous [shelling](#). [As a result](#), the fire truck was greatly [damaged and went out of service](#).

- On 23 March 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets next to an ambulance that belonged to the civil defense in Harsta city in Damascus suburbs which damaged it.

- On 30 March 2016, government warplanes launched a rocket next to an ambulance that belonged to Douma city which damaged it.

- On 22 March 2016, government rocket launchers launched several missiles on a civil defense center in Al Yamdeya town in Lattakia governorate that is under the control of armed opposition which greatly damaged it.

- On 22 March 2016, government artillery forces launched several missiles next to a civil defense ambulance in [Al Yamda town in Lattakia](#) suburbs which [damaged it and caused it to go out of service](#).

- On 31 March 2016, government warplanes shelled a [civil defense center](#) in Deir Al As-safier town in Damascus suburbs, which completely [destroyed](#) the building and caused it to go [out of service](#). A civil defense fire truck, bulldozer and an ambulance were [damaged](#).





An [image](#) that depicts the damages that occurred to [the fire truck](#).

- On 31 March 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on an ambulance that belonged to the civil defense in [Deir Al Assafier town](#) in Damascus suburbs while it was carrying injured people from previous shelling. The ambulance was greatly damaged and it [went out of service](#).



- Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries)

On 4 March 2016 government warplanes launched two rockets on the police building next to Al Sawana town eastern of Homs, one Damascus – Palmyra road which led to the destruction of a parking lot and some rooms. The building along with its equipment was almost completely destroyed and went out of service. It is worth noting that the shelled region is under ISIL's control.

On 9 March 2016, government warplanes launched a rocket on the Association of Blinded People western of the neighborhood in Palmyra city in Homs eastern suburbs that is under the control of ISIL. The building was greatly destroyed and went out of service.

On 9 March 2016, government warplanes launched a rocket on Al Birr Association for Social Services in the western neighborhood of Palmyra city which damaged the building almost completely and caused it to go out of service.

On 17 March 2016, government rocket launchers [shelled three rockets](#) on the council building in Free Lattakia that is under the control of the temporary Syrian Government in Al Yamdeya region in Lattakia suburbs [which damaged it](#), rendered [it out of service](#) and [damaged](#) two vehicles [that belonged to the council](#).





On 18 March 2016 government warplanes shelled the Custom's Building in Al Awsat neighborhood in Palmyra city in Homs which greatly damaged a parking lot, several cars and an electric generator. The building went out of service.

On 22 March 2016, government rocket launchers launched a rocket on the Local Council in Lattakia governorate in Al Yamdeya town in Lattakia suburbs which damaged it.

On 31 March 2016, government warplanes shelled the police center in Deir Al Assafeir in Damascus suburbs which killed two police officers and damaged the building.

-Industrial facilities (pharmaceutical laboratories and medical supplies)

On 4 March 2016, government warplanes launched three rockets on one of the Phosphate factories in Al Sawana town in Homs eastern suburbs that is under ISIL's control. The building along its wall was destroyed and its equipment was damaged, thus it went out of service.

On 22 March 2016, government artillery forces launched [seven rockets on Mesraba city](#) in Damascus suburbs. One of the missiles hit one of the city's factories which caused a fire and serious damages. [It went out of service.](#)

- Refugee Camps:

On 13 March 2016, government rocket launchers launched a rocket on a refugee camp in Al Hambousheyi town next to Badama town in Idlib suburbs which greatly damaged it and destroyed four tents.

On 30 March 2016, government rocket launchers launched two rockets on the vicinity of a refugee camp in Al Hamboushiyi town in Badama town in Idlib suburbs which burned several tents and destroyed 3 water tanks and an electric generator.

B- Russian Forces

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 2 March 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled a rocket on Ibrahim Falaha in Bab Sharqi that is under ISIL control in Aleppo governorate. [It was greatly damaged.](#)





- Infrastructure:

- Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries)

On 2 March 2016 alleged Russian war-planes [shelled cluster munitions](#) on water system facility in Kasrat Faraj that is under ISIL's control in southern Raqqa suburbs which caused a [massacre](#) and [destroyed the facility](#). It went out of service



C. ISIL:

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 7 March 2016, ISIL artillery shelled several motor missiles on Adnan Almaliki located in Al Kosour neighborhood that is under government control in Deir Al Zour town which greatly destroyed.

On 7 March 2016 ISIL artillery shelled several motor missile on Zaki Al Arsozi, located in Al Kosour neighborhood that is under government forces control in Deir Al Zour town caused southern front damage.

- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

On 1 March 2016, ISIL used explosive devices to shell Water station in Abu Al Khashab village that is under ISIL control in northern Deir Al Zour suburbs which destroyed and rendered it [out of service](#)

- Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries)

On 12 March 2016 ISIL used explosive devices to shell a telecommunication tower in Al Gazi village that under ISIL control in northern Raqqa suburbs which destroyed and went it out of service.





- Transportation systems (bridges, water crossings, highways, railroads, garages, bus and car stations, civil airports, border crossings and its offices)

On 30 March 2016, ISIL used explosive devices to shell Maezalia Bridge in Maezalia village that under ISIL control in northern Raqqa suburbs governorate. It collapsed and went out of service. The bridge links Al Balikh river shores in Al Raqqa suburbs which witness clashes between Syrian democracy forces and ISIL. ISIL bombed it in order to stop Syrian democracy forces.

- Granaries

On 1 March 2016, ISIL used explosive devices to shell granaries in Abu Al Khashab village that under government forces control in northern Deir Al Zour governorate which completely destroyed it and went out of service.

D. Armed opposition groups:

1. Places of Worship:

- Mosques

On 23 March 2016 several local made RBG were dropped on Al Saida Aisha mosque in Al Zahraa neighborhood that under government forces control from bombardier in Al Rasheedeen neighborhood that is under armed opposition groups which damaged it partly.

- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines)

On 3 March 2016, several rockets dropped on electricity generating station in Har Bnafsa town that is under armed opposition groups control in Hama governorate which caused Damage of four high-voltage towers, and many generating groups were greatly destroyed and went out of service.

E. International coalition forces:

- Infrastructure:

- Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries)

On 9 March 2016, international coalition forces shelled several rockets on [Garage region](#) that under ISIL control in Al Raqqa town which [destroyed it and rendered it out of service](#)





F. Unidentified Groups:

- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

On 18 March 2016 a landmine exploded next to backup water station in Moqa town that under armed opposition groups control in Hama suburbs. As a result the main fuel tank burned and three electricity panels belong to the station. The high-voltage cables cut as the station rendered out of service. We are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report

III- Conclusions and Recommendations:

According to the Humanitarian International Law, purposed, indiscriminate, or disproportionate attacks are prohibited. Thus, Russian and Syrian government forces' attack of schools, hospitals, churches, and bakeries is an utter disregard for the minimum standards of international law and the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Some of the extremist groups and other armed groups targeted a number of those facilities. The indiscriminate bombardment is a violation of the intentional humanitarian law and can be classified as war crimes.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- 1- To bind all the influential parties to respect Resolution 2139 by, at least, condemning the targeting of civilian and vital facilities that civilians need every day.
- 2- To enforce a comprehensive arms embargo on the Syrian regime considering its horrible violations of the international laws and the Security Council resolutions.
- 3- To consider the states that supply the Syrian regime with weapons and the groups involved in perpetrating crimes against civilians partners in these crimes as well as all weapon suppliers and distributors
- 4- States who support the armed opposition should stop supporting any factions that don't respect the international humanitarian law.

