



## When the Murder Tries to Conceal the Truth Comprehensive Documentation of Al Traimsa massacre, Survivors and Eyewitnesses talk

Al Traimsa is a small village with no more than 11,000 people, located about 11 km away from the west of Mahrada city. The village is affiliated administratively to Hama governorate.

First eyewitness: Abu Ahmad (unreal name, his mobile number is available)

Second eyewitness: Abu As'ad (unreal name, his mobile number is available)

Third eyewitness: Ibraheim Al Hamwi (alias name, his mobile number is available)

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### Incident details:

The corresponding eyewitness's accounts of Al Traimsa stated that on Thursday 12/7/2012 approximately 4:00am the village was besieged from all sides by military force from Mahrada the neighboring city followed by great support from Hama military airport as the residents estimated the total of the besieging forces at 200 military tanks from all sides including tanks and Chilika tanks, Russian anti-airplanes military Zayel trucks, buses, four wheels cars and "pickup" cars along with patrol force in military outfits of the Arab Syrian Army came by Zayel military trucks, the eyewitnesses estimated their number at 25 military Zayel trucks full of armed soldiers carrying Klanchenkov guns and in civilians outfits came by white buses and Pickup cars.

The military forces of the Syrian army besieged the village from all sides (the northern side: Jalmeh village road. The eastern side: Al Jdaydeh village road and Kafr Houd village road. The southeast side: Knayzeer village road. The western road: Al Safsafiyeh village road).

Also, the eyewitnesses stated that between 4:00 am and 5:00am the bombardment on the village started from its four sides and without any prior warning. The bombardment was with T72 tanks and other tanks in addition to Chilika anti-aircraft tanks, medium and heavy machine guns and mortar artillery. The shelling lasted for about successive four hours. Moreover, three military helicopters participated in the shelling according to the eyewitnesses, and that there was another strange





airplane -they could not identify its type- was soaring in the sky of the village during the campaign on the village but at a low altitude participated in the shelling. One eyewitness said that it's a plane without pilot and its mission was to observe and monitor.

The residents of the village informed us that when the bombardment started, the families tried to flee and get out of the village to the neighboring villages but the imposed siege and the bombardment on the village from all sides banned them from doing so. Some of the residents stated that a number of residents were killed at the hands of Syrian army forces while they were trying to flee from the bombardment as Abu As'ad, an eyewitness, stated that an old man, about (68-70-year-old) called Abu Yousef Al Obaid was founded killed by bullets on the outskirts of the village on Al Smara lands located in the northern of village as he was trying to flee from the bombardment.

The same eyewitness mentioned that Al Sheikh Waheid Abdul Salam Qatash" in his forties" and Imam of a mosque located near Al Traimsa and his son Taha Qatash 17-year-old, from Kafr Houd the neighboring village, tried to get out of the village and headed to their village. Then, they were stopped by the Syrian army forces stationed in the west Kafr Houd village road and shot them to death. The corpse of the father was tied to military tank and was dragged on the road before it was left in Abu Mos'ab Al Hasno house then it was burned by the Syrian army forces.

The eyewitnesses of the city stated that it was impossible to displace from the village as there is no safe exit in addition to the intensive bombardment which targeted the houses of the village so the residents refuged to schools and mosques of the village as their buildings are stronger and safer so they could protect them from shells. Consequently, whole families gathered inside schools and mosques but the Syrian army forces targeted them which resulted in a number of victims and injured. The residents stated that the bombardment concentrated on the schools, the mosques and the neighboring area for more than one hour including the houses in the outskirts of the village.

The constant bombardment on the village and outskirts lasted about 3 to 4 hours. Then the military tanks and tracks entered the village, clashes began between the armed elements from the village including officers from the village who defected





from the Syrian army along with civilians who tried to defend the village fearing for attacking the women as what happened in previous massacres. They hold Kalashnikov guns and three anti-tank missile type (R.P.G). Number of them were killed during the bombardment and others were killed during these clashes with the stormed forces of Shabiha army affiliated to Syrian regime. In addition to many other who were field- executed.

The resident assured that when the armed groups defended the Syrian army inside the village, the Syrian army took some men and children from stormed houses and forced them to walk in front of the military forces inside the village as a human shields to hide behind them. The eyewitness, Abu As'ad assured that he saw one of Syrian army shooting fire against two persons using Kalashnikov gun which killed them immediately, the two youths were: Mokhels Al Fares, 26-year-old and Mos'ab Bolad.

The eyewitness, Abu As'as, assured that as a result of the incident, a soldier who shot fire and his colleague argued as he surprised to shot them and they were not armed. Another element of Syrian army, older one, ordered them to stop the argument and keep walking, the two soldiers obeyed and continued their walk.

Ibraheim Al Hamwi stated that two civilians from the village tried to defend the Syrian army with weapons. When their munition ran out, they gave up and handed themselves. The Syrian army arrested them, beaten them and shot them directly to death. The youths were: Saleh Hussein Al Sab'awi, 36-year-old and Yahya Sayel Al Hawyan, 25-year-old.

The military campaign on the village lasted to about 7:00pm. Then, when the army forces got out of the village, the residents got out of their houses and building where they had refuged but they surprised of the huge destruction of the buildings of the village and the number of dead and injured as the eyewitness, Abu Ahmad, stated that they found a huge number of corpses and they buried 70 corpses including 40 in a mass grave on Thursday. Then they buried the other corpses found in different places on the same day while they were searching at night. We also were informed that on the next day, Friday, 15 corpses were found in Al Asi River and the irrigation pipes. The eyewitness, Abu Ahmad stated that a number of corpses in the first and second days were buried but we couldn't identify them as they were burned.

The eyewitness Abu As'ad assured the account of the eyewitness Abu Ahmad and added that four other corpses were found on Saturday 14/7/2012 in the agriculture lands and gardens around the village.





Abu As'ad assured that they found 15 corpses in the house of Ghazi Al Shamoti on the first day including some burned corpses, he saw a burned woman holding two corpses of children but the residents couldn't identify them because many families gathered in specific houses and the corpses were burned which complicated identifying them.

Abu As'ad assured that he was able to identify one burned corpse which was amongst ten other corpses in Dr. Mohammad Satoof's house and he said that it is the youth Feras Abood corpse "one of his relatives" who was aiding the injured of the village's residents to that house, which was turned into a makeshift hospital, after it was besieged and stormed by the Syrian army forces. Then, they shot fire against the people inside it and burned them.

The eyewitnesses and the residents of the village assured that they found four corpses in a burned car but they couldn't identify them, in addition to two corpses inside Shahada AL Younis's house.

Moreover, they assured that more than 100 unidentified corpses including 40 carbonized corpses were buried until now. Also they stated that they couldn't count the victims as the Syrian army abducted some of corpses when they left. Abu Ahmad assured that he saw ambulances and civilian cars collected the corpses and took them. Abu As'ad, also, assured Abu Ahmad's account and added that he saw two small white TOYOTA trucks, which were stolen by the Syrian army forces from Al Traimsa during the military campaign and they put about 35 corpses in the first one and 40 corpses in the second one.

The eyewitnesses assured that there are many missing and disappeared persons and they couldn't determine their fates and whether they were killed or not as their corpses were taken or they were arrested. The families estimated their number at over 200 individuals. The displacement followed the attacks and the cut of communication due to the bombardment on the next days didn't allow them to specify the accurate number but the residents assured that the number of the injured were between 300-400 persons.

The residents and the eyewitnesses were surprised when they saw Mohammad Al Satoof on Syrian channel on Sunday 15/7/2012 and confessed that he cooperated with terrorist groups and gangs in the village. Abu Ahmad and Abu As'ad confirmed





that the village is free of any terrorist gangs and the armed individuals were the dissident elements of the Syrian army in addition to some of civilians from the village volunteered for Free Army. The two eyewitnesses stated that Dr. Mohammad Satoof was known for his good manners and he participated the Syrian protest when Al Traimsa was involved early. His work was limited to treating the injured of the protest, but he is like Dr. Monsef Faisal Al Naji who was shot in his head while he treated the injured from the village on Thursday morning.

The eyewitnesses assured that the number of armed groups who were killed inside the village and they were identified through the Syrian army raid was no more than 10 persons- whether they were dissident soldiers or volunteers from the civilians- and they were unable to determine the fate of rest group as they could be killed and their corpses taken or they were arrested or they could flee the village.

It is worth mentioning that the security forces and the Syrian army banned the international observation committee to enter the village on Thursday to assure what happened in the village. Then, they were able to do after 13 hours of withdrawal of the Syrian army from the village.

The testimony of one survivor from Al Traimsa village about the massacre incidents.



Despite the accounts and the report that talk about more than 250 victims were killed in this incident we were unable to document the names of all victims for several reasons:

- 1- The army forces and the Syrian security took a huge number of corpses and didn't hand over them to their families.
- 2- A huge number of missing persons as the Syrian authorities refuse to reveal their fates.
- 3- The Syrian authorities didn't investigate with credibility and transparency the incident that took place in Al Traimsa village and banned any party from investigating and banned any independent media to transfer the situation neutrally.





## **The victims' names that were documented by SNHR and reached 67 Syrian civilians:**

1. The child Ahmad Yahya Al Daleh, 17-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
2. The child Mohammad Deib Al Shehab's son, 13-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
3. The child Ghassan Adnan Al Hawash 16-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa / died due to the bombardment.
4. The child Ahmad Khaled Al Issawiyeh, 12-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa / died due to the bombardment..
5. The child Hussein Ali Rabe' Al Hawari, 13-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
6. Mos'ab Khaled Al Hawari 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
7. Saleh Hussein Al Sab'awi 36-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa / armed element shot to death after he surrendered.
8. Monthir Ibraheim Al Ali Al Z'aeit 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
9. Melad Abdul Kareem Darweishh, 28-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
10. Ahmad Mahmoud Al Daleh, 55-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
11. Yahya Sayel Hawyan 25-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa / armed element shot to death after he surrendered.
12. Hussein Al Feda, 30 -year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
13. Hamid Ayyoeb Al Hamid 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
14. Mos'ab Mohammad Al Hamid 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
15. Ghiath Hanthal 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
16. Mohanad Satoof Al Harmalawi 25-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
17. Melad Jihad Satoof, 20-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
18. Abdul Kareim Satoof Al Harmalawi, 40-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
19. Monsif Faisal Al Najji, 34 -year-old/ shot to death in his head while he treated the injured at the morning, he underwent a surgery but his colleagues couldn't save him
20. Khaled Mohammad Zawawi, 28-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa / died due the bombardment.
21. Ra'ed Abdul Rahman Hasyan, 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
22. Jawad Waleid Hasyan, 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
23. Ahmad Hasyan, (25-30)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
24. Mokhles Al Fares 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
25. Nehad Sayyar Al Najm 22-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
26. Ahmad Abu Nazeh, 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
27. Ahmad Shahadeh Al Baraqi/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
28. Ahmad Hamad Nwayran / Hama-Al Traimsa .
29. Ahmad Mohammad Matar 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .





30. Jalal Ibraheim Met'eb 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
31. Mahmoud Khaled Al Na'es Al Kharashi 30-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
32. Hussein Al Na'es Al Kharashi 25-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
33. Ali Debo Al Hani
34. Sohaieb Mohammad Al Waheid 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
35. Haitham Mohammad Al Sa'eed (29-30)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
36. Al Saikh Nader Saleim Hejazi (40-45)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
37. Hussein Khalfa Al Omayer 26-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
38. Farooq Al Bakoor's wife about 46-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
39. Khaled Al Shaman, 36-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
40. Naser Al Shaman 32-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
41. Ali Al Shaman 23-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
42. Yamen Al Ghabash 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
43. Mostafa Al Kurdi 28-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
44. Mahmoud Al Khadara 35-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
45. Anas Al Khadara (30-33)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
46. Ahmad Waleid Al Debo
47. Zeyad Al Hanthal
48. Mohammad Al Bakoor 31-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
49. Hatim Shehada Al Youneis 22-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
50. Abdul Kareim Al Obaid (60-63)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
51. Ghiath Al Hanthal 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
52. Hussein Hasno (55-60)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
53. Nawaf Al Najm (35-40)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
54. Khaled Al Najm/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
  
55. Hussein Al Askar (52-56)-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
56. Mohammad Hejazi/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
57. Mohannad Ali Al Darwiesh 28-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
58. Feras Ali Al Darweish 31-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
59. Yamen Abdul Satar Al Shabat 30-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
60. Waleid Abdul Satar Al Shabat 27-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
61. Rami Abdul Satar Al Shabat 24-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
62. Mohammad Fawzi Al Hussein 18-year-old/ Hama-Al Traimsa .
63. Wasel Ghazwan Al Na'san( Al Ghathwan)/Hama- Demo)/died in Al Traimsa massacre
64. Omar Nemer Al Hmoud / Hama- Demo)/died in Al Traimsa massacre





In addition to unidentified four martyrs from Demo village were killed in the massacre  
65. Al Shaikh Waheid Abdul Salam Qatash/ Hama- Kafr Houd/ shot by bullet then drag by military track

66. Mos'ab Al Bolad/ Hama-Al Traimsa.

67. Ahmad Hajak/ Hama- Aqrab/ dissident first lieutenant/ shot by bullet to death.

### **Attachments:**

Al Traimsa, a female resident from [Al Traimsa](#) talking, her house was destroyed by rocket shell and she held it while talking to camera. 13/7/2012

Hama, one of Al Traimsa massacre [victims](#), the paramedic Faysal Al Naji 13/7/2012

Hama, martyrs of Al Traimsa massacre, slaughtering in brutal way 18+ 13/7/2012

Al Traimsa massacre [victims](#) in Hama suburbs 12/7/2012

[The grave](#) of Al Traimsa massacre victims in [Hama suburbs](#) 12/7/2012

### **Conclusions:**

1- SNHR deems what happened in Al Traimsa village, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated in all Syrian governorates in a widespread manner.

2- The volume of the massacre in addition to its nature, the amount of power that was used, and the indiscriminate and coordinated nature of bombardment cannot be without high instructions and it's a state policy.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **To the Syrian government:**

1- To stop all Human Rights violations immediately.

2- To respect its international commitments that includes the protection of civilians in the time of war, and respect the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.







### **To Human Rights Council:**

- 1- To demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.
- 2- To press on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- To hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible regarding what is happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- To give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.

### **To the Security Council:**

- 1- To adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- 2- To warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.

### **To the Arab League:**

- 1- To ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its due of interest and follow-up.
- 2- To give the case a serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to provide psychological, material and educational care for the victims' families.
- 3- To press politically and diplomatically on the main Syrian regime allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.

