



Alliance Forces' Shelling Kills Civilians in Der Ezzor Government Forces Have Killed Civilians 80 Times More in the Same Period of Time

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Introduction

The alliance forces' military campaign against Daesh begun on 23 September, 2014. Consequently, Daesh evacuated most of its centers in Ar-Raqqa and Der Ezzor and redistributed its fighters where it used new centers in residential and civil areas and established military checkpoints near these centers.

Since 23 September, alliance forces' attacks killed no less than 40 civilians including eight children and six women.

In the same period of time:

Government forces killed no less than 3273 civilians including 404 children, 327 women, and 411 victims under torture.

Daesh killed 177 civilians including nine children and two women.

Armed opposition killed 123 civilians including 35 children, 11 women and 21 under torture.

It appears that the Syrian government took advantage of the war on Daesh to escalate its brutal attacks against the areas out of its control. The percentage of civilian victims who are killed by indiscriminate attacks exceeds always 80%.

Certainly, there are casualties among Daesh fighters. However, the faction doesn't publish any statistics and prohibits local media activist from working. Therefore, there is no clear methodology that can be employed to learn accurately the casualties numbers among Daesh fighters which is also the case for the casualties' numbers of the army, security forces, and mercenaries (Shabiha). Some of the media agencies use illogical statistics to obtain material gains at the expense of objectivity and credibility.





Since 23 September till 14 December 2014

Alliance Forces

Killed



40
Civilians

among them



8
Child



6
Women

Government forces

Killed

3273
Civilians

among them

404
Child

327
Women

Under Torture

411

Daesh

Killed

117
Civilians

among them

9
Child

2
Women

Under Torture

21

Armed Opposition

Killed

123
Civilians

among them

35
Child

11
Women





Summary

The international alliance's warplanes targeted two oil wells in Der Ezzor countryside over the course of two days. The attacks burned the wells, killed 14 civilians at least, and wounded about 20 others. The airstrikes targeted:

1. On Friday 7 November, 2014, an oil well controlled by Daesh was targeted. The well is located in Ash-Sh'ytat Badiya – At-Tanak oilfield. The shelling killed 12 civilians and wounded 13 others; most of those are in critical conditions. The wounded were oil workers and traders who were gathering around the well to purchase crude oil from Daesh.
2. On Saturday 8 November, 2014, an oil well controlled by Daesh located in Der Ezzor western countryside – Al-Kharita Badiya – Al-Khrata oilfield. The shelling killed civilians including a former armed opposition fighter who retired from military work. Additionally, seven, who were oil workers and traders who were gathering around the well to purchase oil from Daesh, were wounded.

It should be noted that we weren't able to get any pictures from the attack and its aftermath due to Daesh's prohibitive policies against anyone who tries to take pictures or collect information in any of its areas.

Details

Der Ezzor eastern countryside / At-Tanak oilfield

On Friday 7 November, 2014, at approximately 9:20 PM, the international alliance forces targeted, in a direct manner, a Daesh-controlled oil well in At-Tanak oilfield with four missiles. The oilfield is located in Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Ash-Sh'ytat Badiya and it is four kilometers away from residential buildings. The attack caused fires and huge destruction. Also, many vehicles and oil tankers burned in addition to one of Daesh's military vehicles.



the location of At-Tanak oilfield

SNHR documented the killing of 12 civilians including two who died from their wounds a few days after. Most of the dead bodies were carbonized. Furthermore, 13 were wounded; most of them are in critically conditions because of the severe burns they sustained. The wounded were oil workers and traders who were gathering around the well to purchase and transfer oil from Daesh who completely manage the well.





This well, which was targeted, is one of the richest oil wells as it produces daily more than 3,000 barrels of oil and yields high economic profits for the faction. The well is active all the time which is why many oil traders were gathered around the well. The alliance targeted also many oil wells in Der Ezzor countryside which dried most of it such as Koundstat oil well in Khsham countryside. At-Tanak and Al-Omar oilfields remain among the most active oil wells in the area.

At-Tanak oilfield is one of the largest oilfield In Der Ezzor eastern countryside. It contains about 25 oil wells that are distributed in an area of 7 KM2 approximately. Previously, Daesh fighters were stationed in four military centers that were protected by many military vehicles which were to protect the wells and its management.

However, the faction pulled out most of its forces after the international alliance started targeting several points in Der Ezzor countryside and Ar-Raqqa on 23 September, 2014 according to local residents. Since then, the number of fighters who guard the active wells decreased to five approximately with one vehicle after the group was consisting of more than 25 fighters and six military vehicles.

Mr. Abu-Khaled, an oil trader, was present at the time of the international alliance's attack that targeted an oil well in At-Tanak oilfield:

“Around 9:20 PM on Friday, 7 November, 2014, I was in Al-Khrata oilfield sitting in my car and waiting my turn to fill the oil tankers which I was pulling with my car. One of the drivers said: “There is a light in the sky, it looks like a plane” I rushed out of the car to see it and there it was. We started hearing the sound of the plane which was growing louder and louder. Most of the drivers got out of their cars to see the plane. As the sound was getting closer, one of the drivers said: let's leave the areas because the plane might attack.”

“Everyone started running away from their cars and the well. I ran towards the borders of the oilfield 500 meters away from the filling site. A few minutes after, Daesh's anti-aircraft started opening fire heavily and then I heard a huge explosion, the ground shook, I put my hand on my head and started running again towards a cover. I saw a big fire in the filling site and a number of oil tankers burning and we heard the sound of the oil tankers explosions (I estimated at 13 explosions). Some of the people started screaming: “help, help” and some of us started screaming: “Allahu Akbar” the anti-aircraft was shooting heavily towards the sky. I rushed towards my car and found the glass shattered and there were shrapnel everywhere. A burning car was 300 meters away from me. I got into my car and headed immediately home. On the next day, some friends, who survived the shelling, told me that 10 civilians, who were oil workers and traders, were killed and their bodies were burned and 13 others were wounded and sustained severe burns.”





The names of the civilians who were killed by the international alliance's shelling on an oil market in At-Tanak oilfield:

- 1- [Anas Al-Ahmad Al-Khalaf Ad-Dham](#), from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Az-Zer village.
- 2- [Mahmoud At-Tarqi Ad-Dham](#), from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Az-Zer village.
- 3- Hamza Banyan Al-Mhiesen, from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Az-Zer village.
- 4- Abd Hussein Al-Jasim, from Al-Hassaka countryside – Ad-Dshiesha village.
- 5- Khalil Ibrahim Hussein Al-Jasim, from Al-Hassaka countryside – Ad-Dshiyesha village.
- 6- Ahmad Wwad Ad-Danyat, from Al-Hassaka countryside – Ar-Raqqawi village.
- 7- Mohammad Awwad Ad-Danyat, from Al-Hassaka countryside – Ar-Raqqawi village.
- 8- Abd Awwad Ad-Danyat, from Al-Hassaka countryside – Ar-Raqqawi village.
- 9- Khaled Al-Mohammad, from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Sa\lou village.
- 10- Kewan Al-Mohammad, from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Sa\lou village.
- 11- Abdulqader Ibrahim As-Saleh, from Der Ezzor countryside – Az-Zer village, was residing in Hatla village, died from wounds on 11 November, 2014.
- 12- Rashed Hamdan Al-Abd Al-Jasim, from Der Ezzor eastern countryside – Ash-Shnan village, worked as an oil tanker driver, died from wounds on 11 November, 2014.

Der Ezzor western countryside / Al-Khrata oilfield

Around 10:30 PM on Saturday 8 November, 2014, the international alliance's warplanes targeted an oil well in Der Ezzor western countryside – Al-Kharita Badiya – Al-Khrata oilfield. The oilfield is located about 20 kilometers away from the center of Der Ezzor city. The international alliance's warplanes targeted a filling site with two missiles which caused fires and burned a number of oil tankers and vehicles who were in the area. A number of oil workers and traders were present at the time of the shelling.



the location of Al-Khrata oilfield

Around the area, there were a number of Daesh fighters and vehicles who were guarding and managing the oilfield. There were around 35 fighters among them were foreign fighters whose tasks varied from accounting to supervising and organizing the filling. We weren't able to verify the number of military vehicles which were in the area during the shelling especially after Daesh changed its tactics and replaced the large vehicles with motorbikes to avert the aerial attacks according to some of the local residents.

SNHR documented the killing of a number of civilians who were oil workers and traders including one former rebel in addition to seven wounded civilian including critical cases.





1- Mousa Yassin Al-Omar, 27-year-old, from Al-Kharita town, defected military personnel who fought formerly for Ahrar Ash-Sham Movement, he gave up himself when Daesh took over Der Ezzor and pledged to never fight again, Daesh release him and he worked afterwards in the field of oil trading.

2- Khaled Jaber Al-Jasim Al-Hamad, from Al-Kharita town, he is one of the first victims' relatives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The international alliance forces targeting only Daesh and ignoring Shiite factions and militias, which are working for the Syrian regime and have perpetrated ethic-cleansing massacres in Aleppo villages, Damascus countryside, and Homs countryside that surpassed the criminality of the Daesh's crimes according to what was documented by an [extensive study](#) published by SNHR, is sending a wrong message to the Syrian people and drove many of Der Ezzor and Al-Hassaka to join Daesh after some of them were fighting the faction formerly.

SNHR was one of the first organization that paid attention and was alerted by the danger that Daesh poses and published an [extensive unprecedented](#), at the time, 52-page study on 1 February, 2014 about the origins of Daesh and the most notable violations that extremist faction has perpetrated in addition to many reports and news about Daesh's violations.

The international alliance forces should respect the international humanitarian law and the customary international law. Furthermore, the alliance should bear the consequences of the violations that it attacks involve and insure that it won't occur again.

The international alliance's airstrikes that targeted oil wells and refineries have raised the prices of fuels significantly which caused a suffocating economic crisis. The residents in these areas must be aided in order to ease the consequences of these attacks on them. We believe that a safe zone, where camps can be built, would significantly help the IDPs and the refugees that might even leave Lebanon and Turkey and the other countries to live in the safe zone

Civilians must be protected from the brutality of the Syrian regime and its extremist militias. A no-fly zone should be imposed in order to put an end to the daily barrel bombs shelling as well as protecting the Syrian civilians from the brutality of Daesh.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

