



Not Less than 27 Massacres Were Committed in April 2016 Increasing number of committed massacres despite of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

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I. Executive Summary

Since the start of the cessation of hostilities agreement, various Syrian governorates witnessed noticeable retreat relatively good, compared with the previous months since March 2011 in murder rates, and the main talk is about the areas under the control of the armed opposition; because the rest of the controlling areas such as those under control of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party and the control of the Syrian regime, are not exposed to the dense daily bombardment which leads to killing at least 60% of the victims, destruction of buildings, and the displacement of its people. But in spite of all this, the violations did not stop, and mainly by the Syrian regime and its allies, which seems to be the greatest sufferer of the continuation of the cessation of hostilities.

One day after the declaration of the supreme body for negotiations to postpone their participation in the Geneva talks on 19 last April, the governmental forces and the Russian forces resumed attacking the areas beyond the control of the Syrian regime and the pace of killing returned to what it was before the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.

SNHR documented not less than 27 massacres that were committed in April 2016, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (security forces, army, local and foreign militias) committed 19 massacres
- B. Russian Forces committed 4 massacres
- C. opposition armed factions: 3





D. the international coalition forces: 1

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.

The Committed massacres by Government forces in April 2016, detailed as follows:

- 13 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition groups
- 6 massacre was committed in regions under ISIL’s control

Massacres’ distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 13 massacres were committed

Deir Al Zour: 3

Idlib: 2

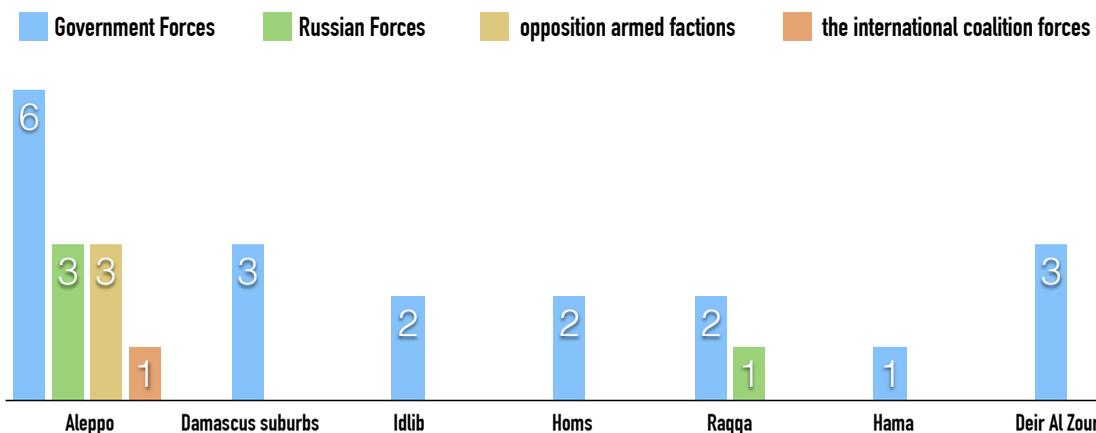
Damascus suburbs: 3

Raqqa: 3

Homs: 2

Hama: 1

Massacres’ distribution according to the main conflict parties:



According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 298 individuals including 87 children and 34 women. 38% 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 202 individuals including 45 children and 20 women
- Russian forces killed 60 individuals including 21 children and 9 women
- Armed Opposition Factions killed 29 individuals including 11 children and 4 women
- the international coalition forces killed 7 individuals including a child and a woman

II. Report Details:

A. Government Forces:

Al Raqqa suburbs:

On 5 April 2016, government artillery forces shelled Homrat Bouaiteyya city in eastern Al Raqqa suburbs that is under the control of ISIL which killed 5 individuals from the same family including a woman and 2 children. Nearly 10 others were injured.

On 14 April 2016 government warplanes shelled Al Rasheed city in central Al Raqqa controlled by ISIL which killed 9 individuals including 3 children.

Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 5 April 2016, government warplanes shelled Hatlah city in eastern Deir Al Zour that is under the control of ISIL which killed 6 individuals including a child and a woman. Nearly 10 others were injured.

On 16 April 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on Al Takaya in Al Hamedeyye Neighborhood in Deir Al Zour under the control of ISIL which killed 17 individuals including 2 children and a woman.

On 18 April 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on Al Sinaa'a Neighborhood in Al Mayadeen city, Deir Al Zour suburb under the control of ISIL, which killed 10 individuals from 2 families including 8 children and a woman.





Damascus Suburbs Governorate:

On 5 April 2016, government warplanes shelled missiles at the eastern neighborhood of Al Dhmeir City, Damascus suburb under the control of ISIL which killed 18 individuals including 3 women, 4 children, and 8 armed people.

On 19 April 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on a wedding convoy heading towards Deir Al Asafier into Al Gouta through Baala city in Damascus suburb under the control of armed opposition factions as it is the only way that connects the cities which [killed 9 individuals](#) including [2 children and a 2 women](#).

On 23 April 2016, government warplanes launched Haun rockets and heavy artillery at vegetables market in Douma city, Damascus suburb under the control of armed opposition factions which [killed 17 individuals](#) including 2 children and 4 women. Nearly 50 others were injured.

Aleppo Governorate:

On 16 April 2016, government artillery forces shelled missiles on the houses of Al Mashhad neighborhood in Aleppo city under the control of armed opposition which [killed 6 citizens](#), including 3 children and 4 other injuries.

On 19 April 2016, government artillery forces shelled at the road of Abed Al Kader Shasho School in the part under the control of armed opposition in [Salah Al Deen Neighborhood in Aleppo city](#) which killed [7 individuals including 3 children](#).

On 22 April 2016, government artillery forces shelled at Bab Al Neireb in Aleppo city under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including a child, nearly 12 other injuries.

On 23 April 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets at [residential building](#) near Al Halawaneyya Round point in [Tareeq Al Bab neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 10 individuals were [killed including 2 children](#); nearly 12 others were [injured](#).





On 24 April 2016, government warplanes launched missiles at public market in [Al Sakhour neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city under the control armed opposition factions. As a result, 11 individuals were killed including a child and a woman. [Nearly 10 other injuries.](#)

On 26 April 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets Civil Defense Center in Al Atarib in Aleppo suburbs under the control armed opposition factions. As a result, 6 individuals were killed including 5 members of the center and 2 other injuries.

Homs Governorate:

On 18 April 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets on Taldo city in Northern Homos suburb under the control of armed opposition factions As a result, 5 individuals were killed including 1 child and a woman. Nearly 13 other injured.

On 22 April 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on residential neighborhoods in Talbisah city, Homos suburb under the control of armed opposition factions As a result, 5 individuals were [killed including 1 female child and a woman.](#)

Idlib Governorate:

On 19 April 2016, government warplanes launched missiles at [Kafr Nobol in Idlib](#) suburb governorate under the control of armed opposition factions As a result, 10 individuals were killed including 1 child



On 19 April 2016, government warplanes launched several missiles at [Maa'ret Al Nea'man](#) in Idlib suburb governorate under the control of armed opposition factions As a result, [41 individuals were killed including 4 children and 4 women.](#)





Hama Governorate:

On 10 April 2016, government warplanes launched several missiles at Akeirbat city Idlib suburb governorate under the control ISIL . As a result, 5 individuals were killed including 4 children.

B. Russian Forces:

Al Raqqa Governorate:

On 10 April 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled missiles at Al Thaqlana in Al Raqqa city under the control of ISIL which killed 5 individuals from one family including 1 female child and a woman.

Aleppo Governorate:

On 27 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled [2 missiles at Basel Aslan hospital](#) (Jerusalem Hospital) and the residential buildings in Al Sokkari Neighborhood in Aleppo City under the control of armed opposition factions which [killed 36 individuals](#) including 14 children and 8 women. Additionally, 40 others were injured.



On 28 April 2016, alleged Russian warplanes [launched several rockets on the residential](#) houses in Feminist Union in Bistan Al Kaser neighborhood in Aleppo city under the control of armed opposition which killed 9 individuals including 4 children. 10 others were injured as well.

C. Armed Opposition Factions:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 5 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at the eastern parts of Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood in Aleppo city near “Tulip Coffee” Store which is a center for Kurdish Self Management Forces, issued in [Bostan Al Basha](#) in Aleppo city under the control of armed opposition factions which leads to [7 individuals, including 3 children and a woman](#). 20 others were [injured as well](#).





On 28 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at residential buildings in Al Bouza Al Akhras Store in Aleppo city under the control of governmental forces and a mortar centered in Bostan Al Basha neighborhood controlled by armed opposition factions which leads to 10 individuals, including 6 children and a woman. 10 others were injured as well.

On 28 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at Al Fateh Mosque, Jmailieya neighborhood in Aleppo city under the control of governmental forces and a mortar centered in old Aleppo neighborhoods controlled by armed opposition factions which leads to 12 individuals, including 2 children and 2 women. 15 others were injured as well.

D. The international coalition forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 10 April 2016, several mortar missiles shelled at residential buildings in Tital Al Hoson (known as Bitil Hussien) related to Aa'zaz in northern suburb of Aleppo under the control of under the control of ISIL as they fought with the armed opposition factions which leads to 7 individuals, including 1 child and a woman.

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.

Other forces:

International coalition forces and armed opposition groups committed massacres, according to the report, which are considered as war crimes, and we see that they did not reach the level of crimes against humanity along the lines of government forces and its allies that committed systematic and widespread massacres.

Recommendations:

To The United Nations and the Security Council

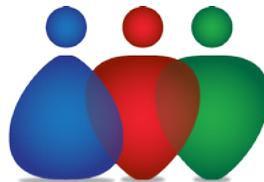
1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping the disrupting of the decisions that must be adopted by the Security Council against the Syrian government. This disruption is a wrong message to all dictatorships around the world and an enhancement to the culture of crime.
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.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

