

No less than 35 Massacres in March 2017

For the First Time, the International Coalition Forces Commit more Massacres than any other Party



Friday, April 7, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria

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I. Executive Summary

SNHR documented no less than 35 massacres in March 2017, which were distributed as follows:

- A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 11
- B. Russian Forces: 8
- C. ISIS: 2
- D. International coalition forces: 13
- D. Other parties: 1

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves the killing of five peaceful individuals at the same time. For more information about our methodology in documenting victims, please see the Following [URL](#).

Massacres perpetrated by Syrian regime forces during the month of March 2017 were distributed by areas of control as follows:

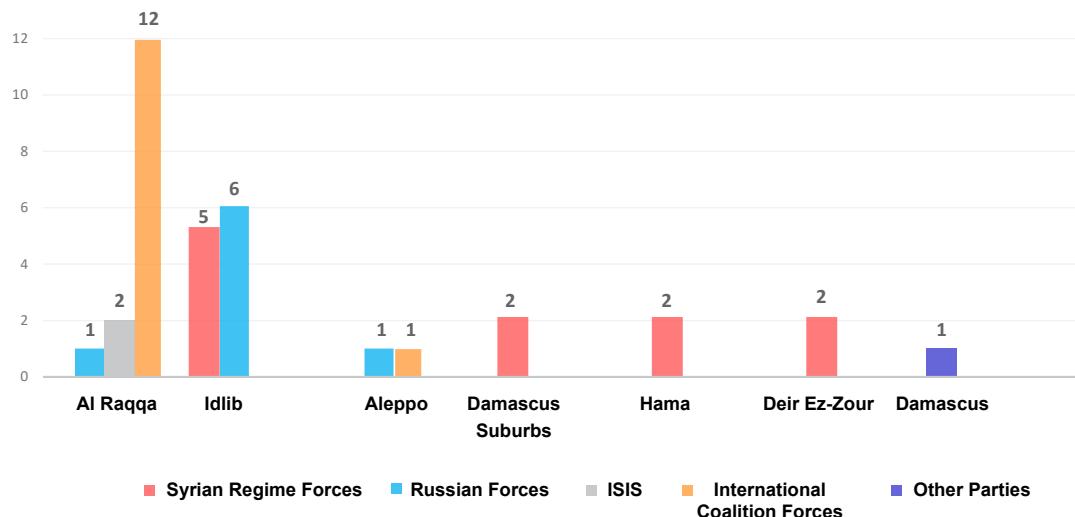
- Two massacres in areas under the control of armed opposition factions.
- Five massacre in areas under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front
- Four massacres in areas under the control of ISIS

Massacres were distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

Al Raqqa: 15, Idlib: 11, Aleppo: 2, Damascus suburbs: 2, Hama: 2, Deir Ez-Zour: 2, Damascus: 1



The following table shows the distribution of massacres by the perpetrator party:



According to SNHR's victim documentation team, 422 individuals were killed in these massacres including 149 children and 70 women (Adult female) which suggests that 52% of the victims were women and children. This considerably high percentage is an indication that civilians were targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres is distributed by the perpetrator as follows:

Syrian regime forces: 88 individuals, including 34 children and 19 women.

Russian forces: 77 individuals, including 33 children and 20 women.

ISIS: 10 civilians, including eight children and one woman

International coalition forces: 214 individuals, including 72 children and 28 women

Other parties: 33 individuals, including two children and two women.

II. Details

A. Syrian regime forces

Idlib governorate

Thursday, March 9, 2017, around 08:00, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes (Su-24) fired a missile at the residential houses in "Al Arba'in Mosque" area in the middle of Kafr Nabbol city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including three children and one woman. Additionally, around 15 others were wounded. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Two children who were killed in the massacre perpetrated by Syrian regime forces in "Al Arba'in Mosque" area in Kafr Nabbol city, Idlib, March 9, 2017



Sunday, March 19, 2017, around 10:00, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes (Su-22) fired two missiles at the residential buildings in al Arba'in street [in northwestern Idlib](#) city, which resulted in the killing of three civilians (Three [children](#) and three women). Additionally, around seven others were wounded. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



A child's dead body being pulled out in the aftermath of the massacre perpetrated by Syrian regime forces in al Arba'in street in Idlib city, March 19, 2017

Sunday, March 19, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a missile at the eastern parts of [Khan Sheikhoun](#) city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including two female children and one woman. Additionally, around seven others were wounded. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, Syrian regime forces rocket launchers, stationing in "Jourin village" military camp in the northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate, fired a number of rockets at the residential buildings in the southeastern parts of Kafr Iwied village in the southwestern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians (Four children and two women). The village is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Saturday, March 25, 2017, around 16:40, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes (Su-24) fired a missile at a residential house in the northern neighborhood of Khan Sheikhoun city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians from the same family including two children. It should be noted that the same warplanes fired another missile at a house resided by IDPs -100 meters away from the massacre site- which resulted in the killing of three civilians including two women. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Damascus suburbs governorate

Saturday, March 25, 2017, around 09:40, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired four missiles at Hamouriya town in Eastern Ghouta in eastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of 17 individuals, including three children and seven women. Additionally, about 70 others were wounded. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions.

SNHR contacted the media activist Khaled al Umari, who can be found in Hamouriya city, via Facebook. He told us the following:

“On the morning of Saturday, March 25 Syrian warplanes fired four missiles in [Hamouriya city](#) – two missiles fell on “[Al Rawda Market](#)” street, while the two others fell in a residential neighborhood that is 600 meters away from the Market street. I rushed to “Al Rawda Market” Immediately after the bombing, and I saw the horrifying destruction which was rampant in the shops and the infrastructures. There were also body parts everywhere.”

“On that day, 17 civilians were killed, and 70 others were wounded. One of my brothers work at one of the shops in the market, and he stayed buried under rubbles for 15 minutes, but he made it out alive.”

“The two targeted areas are civilian areas, where no fighting military factions can be found.”



Dead bodies of victims killed in the massacre perpetrated by Syrian regime forces in Hamouriya town, Damascus suburbs governorate, March 25, 2017



Monday, March 27, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired missiles in Irbeen city in northeastern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of five individuals. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Hama governorate

Wednesday, February 1, 2017, Syrian regime helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on al Nashmi village, which follows Egerbat county in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate. One of the barrel bombs fell on a residential neighborhood, which resulted in the killing of five civilians (Four children and their mother). On Thursday, March 9, 2017, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident. Al Nashmi village is under the control of ISIS.

Saturday, March 4, 2017, the fixed-wing warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at a livestock market in Egerbat town in the eastern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians. The town is under the control of ISIS.

Deir Ez-Zour governorate

On the night of Sunday, March 12, 2017, Syrian regime forces rocket launchers fired a number of rockets at al Hamidiya neighborhood in eastern Deir Ez-Zour city, which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians including seven children and three women. The neighborhood is under the control of ISIS.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, Syrian regime forces rocket launchers fired a number of rockets at al Hamidiya neighborhood in eastern Deir Ez-Zour city, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians from the same family (A father, a mother, and their five children). The neighborhood is under the control of ISIS.

B. Russian forces

Idlib governorate

Saturday, March 4, 2017, around 11:50, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired two missiles at a residential building in the northern neighborhood of [al Dana city](#) in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once including two children. The same warplanes fired a missile at another house, which resulted in the killing of two women. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Sunday, March 5, 2017, around 02:35, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at the residential houses in al Wata area in the southern parts of [Kafr Nobbol](#) city in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five individuals including two children. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded. The same warplanes fired another missile in a site located 200 meters away from the former site, which resulted in the killing of one more civilian. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, around 03:25, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a missile at a residential building in [al Qosour neighborhood](#) in southern [Idlib city](#), which resulted in the [killing](#) of 25 civilians including 16 children and six women. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Friday, March 24, 2017, around 22:30, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at the women's prison which is part of the Security Force building "Formerly the Political Security building" in the middle of Idlib city, which resulted in the killing of 16 civilians including one child and 11 women. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.

Monday, March 27, 2017, around 23:30, [fixed-wing warplanes](#) we believe were Russian fired a missile at a residential building in northwestern [Jesr al Shoghour](#) city in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, who were from the same family, including three children. Additionally, about seven others were wounded. The city is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



A dead body being pulled out after a massacre perpetrated by Russian forces in Jesr al Shoghour city, Idlib, March 27, 2017



Wednesday, March 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired three missiles carrying cluster submunitions at Omar ben Abdul Aziz Mosque and the surrounding area in the middle of al Der al Sharqi village in the eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, as a gathering of civilians were queuing to buy bread, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians including five children and one woman. Additionally, about 20 others were wounded. The village is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front.



Dead bodies of victims killed in the massacre perpetrated by Russian forces in al Der al Sharqi village, Idlib using cluster submunitions, March 29, 2017

Aleppo governorate

Thursday afternoon, March 9, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at Darat Ezza al Sharqiya School in [Darat Ezza](#) city in the western suburbs of [Aleppo governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of seven individuals at once including two children. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions.

Al Raqqa governorate

Friday, March 24, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian fired a number of missiles at [al Ma'ari school](#) in al Badou neighborhood in the middle of al Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of five civilians including two female children and two women. Al Raqqa city is under the control of ISIS.

C. Extremist Islamic groups

- ISIS

Al Raqqa governorate

Sunday, March 5, 2017, a landmine exploded near the Syrian-Turkish borders in Tal Ab-yad city in the northern suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, as a number of civilians were trying to pass the borders into the Turkish lands, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including three children and one woman. The city is under the control of ISIS.

Sunday, March 19, 2017, a landmine implanted by ISIS exploded near the western school in Hzaima village in the northern suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of five children at once. The village is under the control of ISIS.



D. International coalition forces

Al Raqqa governorate

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at the [residential buildings](#) near [al Kanisa circle](#) in al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of [Al Raqqa governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians. The city is under the control of ISIS.

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near Matab al Borashed village in the eastern suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including 13 children and three women. The village is under the control of ISIS.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Shabhar village, which follows al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of al Raqqa. The bombardment resulted in the killing of seven civilians (Six children and their mother). The village is under the control of the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces.

Sunday, March 19, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Mazr'at al Andalus village, which follows al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate. The bombardment resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once including four children and one woman. Additionally, two others were wounded. The village is under the control of ISIS.

Sunday, March 19, 2017, fixed-wing [international coalition forces](#) warplanes fired a number of missiles near the slaughterhouse in al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family including one female child and one woman. The city is under the control of ISIS.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, [fixed-wing](#) international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Manara carwash in [al Tabaqa city](#) in the western suburbs of [al Raqqa governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once including one child. The city is under the control of ISIS.



An attempt to pull out a victim who was killed in the massacre perpetrated by international coalition forces warplanes at al Manara carwash in al Tabaqa, al Raqqa, March 21, 2017



Tuesday, March 21, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential house near al Kanisa circle in the middle of al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians from the same family including three children and two women. The city is under the control of ISIS.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Badiya School in al Mansoura town in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of 42 civilians (As of this writing) including 19 children and eight women. The town is under the control of ISIS.

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at the market in the 2nd neighborhood of al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of 48 civilians including 13 children and eight women. The city is under the control of ISIS.

Sunday, March 26, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Mudar village in the eastern suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once including three children and two women. The village is under the control of ISIS.

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a civilian car on the outskirts of al Mansoura town in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians -who were IDPs from Maskana city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo- at once. The town is under the control of ISIS.

Thursday, March 30, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential house in al Mansoura town in the western suburbs of al Raqqa governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians (Four children and their parents). The town is under the control of ISIS.



Aleppo governorate

Thursday evening, March 16, 2017, [fixed-wing](#) international [coalition forces](#) warplanes fired a number of missiles at [Omar ben al Khattab Mosque](#) in [al Jina village](#) in the western suburbs of [Aleppo governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of 38 civilians including five children and one woman. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions.



A victim being pulled out after a massacre perpetrated by international coalition forces at Omar ben al Khattab Mosque in al Jina village, Aleppo, March 16, 2017

E. Other parties

Damascus governorate

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, a suicide bomber blew himself using an explosive belt he was wearing in the hall of the Justice Palace in al Nasr street in eastern Damascus city, which resulted in the killing of 33 individuals including two children and two women. Additionally, about 100 others were wounded. As of this writing, we haven't been able to identify the group behind the bombing. Al Nasr street is under the control of the Syrian regime forces.



III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Syrian regime forces and Russian forces

- 1- SNHR can confirm the bombing cases, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, the Syrian-Russian alliance forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which amounts to war crimes as all elements of a war crime have been fulfilled.
- 2- SNHR believes that the acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.
- 3- These attacks, especially bombardment, have resulted in collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, and damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators that compel to believe that the damage was deeply severe compared to the anticipated military benefit. In all of the cases, we couldn't confirm that there were any military targets before or during these attacks.
- 4- The magnitude of the massacres, its frequent pattern, the exaggerated use of strength, its military nature, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Other forces

According to this report, international coalition forces, ISIS, and other parties (includes groups that we weren't able to identify in addition to Turkish, Lebanese, and Jordanian forces) have committed massacres that constitute war crimes. However, these crimes are not crimes against humanity as in the case of Syrian regime forces and its pro-forces that are committing massacres in a widespread and systematic manner.

Recommendations

The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court and stop 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 supports the culture of crime.
2. Impose urgent punishments on those who are involved in widespread violations of human rights in Syria.

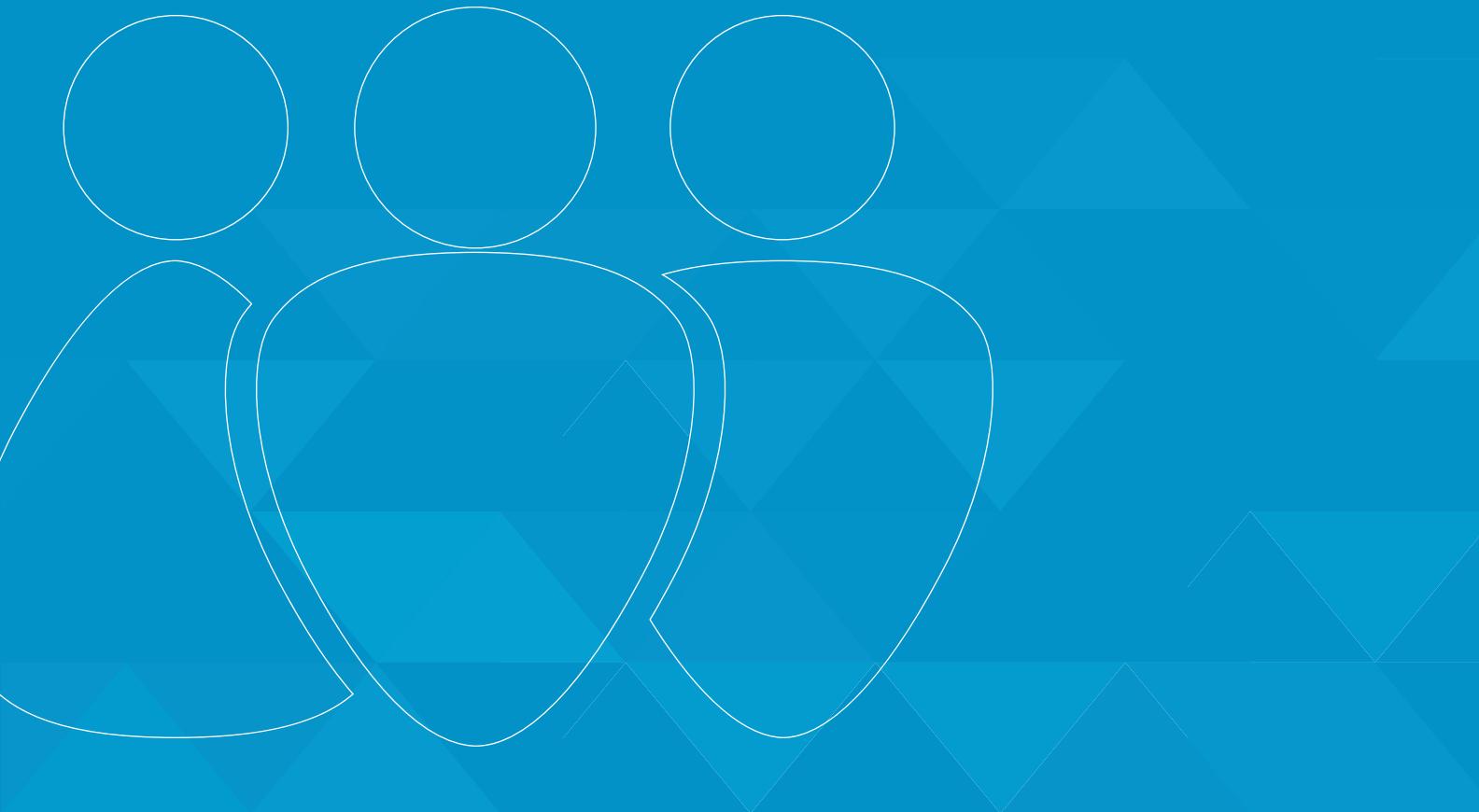


3. Bind the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria as well as the International Intendent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and journalists and let them work without any obstructions.
4. Insure that all weapon imports to the Syrian government, who is using weapons in widespread attacks against civilians, are halted.
5. the Security Council must shoulder its responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria considering that the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to the international peace and security.
6. List the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed widespread massacres, like Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and “Shabiha” militias, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implement the “Responsibility to Protect” norm, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, in Syria as it is direly needed there.
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 stop supplying the Syrian government with most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, are not being delivered to those who are in need and go instead to the people and parties that support the Syrian government.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our thanks and appreciations go to the victims' families, eyewitnesses, and local activists whose accounts contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims' families and friends.





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