



## No less than 64 Breaches of the Cessation of Hostilities in the First 72 Hours Including 61 Breaches at the Hands of the Syrian regime

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### I. Introduction

SNHR documented the violations that were perpetrated by the conflict parties in April, May, and June of the year 2012 after Kofi Annan's Six-points Plan was established by preparing and submitting copies of our daily reports to Kofi Annan office in Geneva until the plan was proven futile with the Syrian regime, mainly, perpetrating crimes beyond violating the plan including violations that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes where we documented many of these crimes.

This was also the case with [the Cessation of Hostilities statement](#) that was signed on 27 February 2016 where we documented the violations perpetrated by the signing parties by daily reports which were followed by periodic [extensive reports](#). The Syrian regime and its ally the Russian regime have perpetrated the most and greatest of these violations.

We hope that the second Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire – September 2016 can lay the basis for a political process aiming for a change towards democracy, and that it wouldn't be a failure such as the first ceasefire in February 2016.

The Cessation of Hostilities statement holds within the reasons for its meltdown which revolves around two fundamental limitations:

First: The Russian government is a sponsoring party to the Cessation of Hostilities statement with the American government. However, Russian forces are actively fight-





ing and siding with the Syrian regime in Syria and have been involved in tens of crimes that constitute war crimes. If Russia was to play the role of a mediator, it should first withdraw its forces and abstain from directly siding with one of the conflict parties.

Second: In case the Russian forces breached the ceasefire, and these breaches were documented, what would be the accountability mechanism in this respect given that Russian forces are a party to the agreement and to the accountability as well? and what is the accountability mechanism for the Syrian regime, the Russian regime's partner in violating the ceasefire?

**Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:**

“It is undeniable that the Cessation of Hostilities statement of February 2016 has prevented a lot of bloodshed and destruction in the following month March 2016. We indeed have noticed a significant decrease in death toll and destruction mainly because the aerial bombardment by the Russian and Syrian regimes warplanes, which are the main cause of the killing and destruction, have been ceased. We have affirmed repeatedly that by only banning aerial warfare in Syria, 70% of the death toll would be spared.”

Being experienced in the nature of the ruling and oppressive regime, the regime wants the ceasefire to be violated and wants Russian forces to eliminate all of its opposition because the regime will stop at nothing to realize its ultimate goal of exterminating and slaughtering all the areas and people who called for a change even if it took tens of years. The Syrian regime believes that any attempt to stop it even for a few days is an obstacle that will interject with its ultimate goal.

Our team, which has been monitoring violations for five years, recorded these incidents which is the bare minimum according to the standards and investigation methodology that we adhere to in documenting any incident which involves securing two sources for any incident where each of these two sources doesn't know of the other -For more, please see [our methodology](#). Furthermore, we reviewed the videos and pictures we received and verified its authenticity through private programs, and we have talked to survivors, victims' families, or eyewitnesses to these incidents.

The report sheds light on every combat operation by the parties that are bound by the ceasefire (Government forces, Russian forces, the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, and armed opposition factions) in the areas controlled by armed opposition factions as well as the areas that are jointly controlled ([armed opposition factions](#) and [Fateh Al Sham Front](#)). The report doesn't include any combat operation in ISIS-held areas.





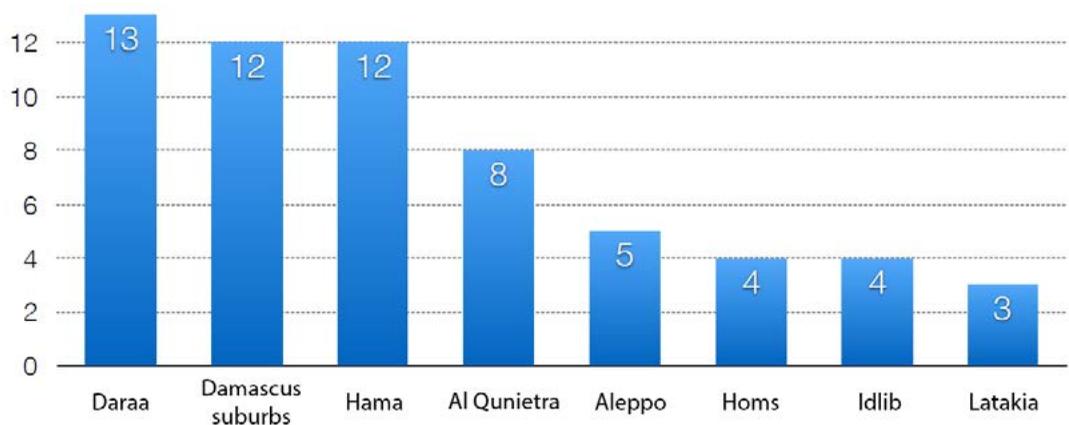
We haven't recorded the delivery of any aids to the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo governorate via Al Castello Road even though it was stated in the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Furthermore, the siege hasn't been lifted on any of the besieged areas and no detainees were released.

Although a number of armed opposition factions have expressed their reservations on the Russian-American agreement and published statements clarifying the reasons behind their disapproval, we noticed a fairly good commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities.

## II. Executive Summary

This report includes the breaches that were documented during the first 72 hours of the Cessation of Hostilities in its first stage which went into effect at 7:00 PM of Monday 12 September 2016 until 7:00 PM of Thursday 15 September 2016. The breaches reached 64 breaches and are distributed by the influential party as follows:

A. Government forces: 61 breaches distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



B. Armed opposition factions: Three breaches all of which were in Aleppo governorate. These incidents resulted in the killing of one civilian at the hand of government forces and one child at the hands of armed opposition factions.

## III. Details

This report sheds light on the new breaches that occurred after the first 48 hours which were 36 breaches including a number of breaches that happened in the previous two days but weren't included in our previous report as it were under investigation and were verified later.





## **A. Government forces**

### **Damascus suburbs governorate**

Madaya town: The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

- Wednesday 14 September 2016

Approximately at 21:30, pro-government militias that are stationed in Qal'at Al Kursi checkpoint used medium machine guns to target civilians' homes in the middle of the city.

- Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately at 6:30, government forces and its supporting forces that are stationed in Qal'at Al Kursi checkpoint used medium machine guns to targeted residential areas under the control of armed opposition factions in Madaya town.

Afra village – Barada valley, Wednesday 14 September 2016, we recorded two breaches by government forces. The village is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front

- First incident: Approximately 3:30, government forces that are stationed in Ard Al Dahra (One of Al Qalamoun plains) used heavy machine guns to target the village.
- Second incident: Approximately 20:30, government forces that are stationed in Ard Al Dahra used heavy machine guns targeting the main road in the village.

Biqqean town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately 21:30, a sniper stationed at [Ma'mal Al Meyah](#) checkpoint in Biqqean town targeted a young man who was about 200 meters away from the checkpoint. The young man was shot in the leg. The checkpoint is controlled by government forces in addition to Lebanese Hezbollah militias. The targeted area is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Daraa governorate**

Al Hara town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately 16:39, Government forces artillery fired a number of shells at a civil area in southern Al Hara town in Daraa governorate. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.





Al Manshiya neighborhood: we recorded three beaches by government forces. The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

- First incident: Approximately 11:00, Government forces used medium and heavy machine guns to target an armed opposition forces front in Al Manshiya neighborhood. Armed opposition forces retaliated in response by using medium and light machine guns.
- Second incident: Approximately 15:15, government forces tanks fired shells at an armed opposition forces front in Al Manshiya neighborhood.
- Third incident: Approximately 15:20, government forces used medium and heavy machine guns to target a frontline for armed opposition forces in Al Manshiya neighborhood. Armed opposition forces retaliated by using light and medium machine guns.

The road between Da'el and Kherbat Ghazal cities, Thursday 15 September 2016  
Approximately 13:20, Government forces sniped two civilians on the road connecting Da'el and Kherbat Ghazal cities which resulted in severe wounds. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Latakia governorate**

Tardein hill, Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately 18:55, government forces used heavy machine guns to target a military vehicle for armed opposition forces in Tardein hill in Jabal Al Akrad. The area is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Homs governorate**

Southern Al Raŝtan city, Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately 11:00, government forces artillery fired four shells on a civil area in southern Al Raŝtan city. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.





### **Al Qunietra governorate**

Jabatha Al Khashab, Thursday 15 September 2016

Government forces artillery fired at morning a number of shells on Jabatha Al Khashab village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Nab' Al Sakher village, Thursday 15 September 2016

Approximately 18:00, Government forces artillery fired two shells at Nab' Al Sakher village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Hama governorate**

Al Zowar village, Thursday 15 September 2016, we recorded three breaches by government forces. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

- First incident: Government forces artillery fired at morning a number of shells on Al Zowar village.
- Second incident: Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired in the afternoon four missiles on Al Zowar village.
- Third incident: Government forces helicopters dropped in the afternoon two barrel bombs on Al Zowar village.

Al Nasiriya village, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired six missiles at Al Nasiriya village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Al Masasna village, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile at Al Masasna village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.





Souran town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired two missiles at Souran town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

M'ardes village, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired two missiles at M'ardes village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Kawkab village, Thursday 15 September 2016, we recorded two breaches by government forces. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

- First incident: Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired six missiles on Kawkab village.
- Second incident: Government forces helicopters dropped two barrels in the afternoon on Kawkab village.

Um Hartein village, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces fired four missiles on Um Hartein village. The village is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Atshan village, Thursday 15 September 2016, we recorded two breaches by government forces. The village under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

- First incident: Government forces warplanes dropped at morning eight naval mines on Atshan village in Hama governorate.
- Second incident: Approximately 14:30, Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired four missiles at Atshan village.

### **Idlib governorate**

Al Taman'a town, Wednesday 14 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired a missile on the outskirts of Al Taman'a town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.





Al Shaikh Mustafa town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired two missiles. One of the missile fell in the middle of the town while the other fell in the south side. The bombardment resulted in the injury of one child. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

### **Aleppo governorate**

Babeis town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted Babeis town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate using heavy machine guns that targeted the vicinity of Jam'yet Al Hadi. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Hawwar town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted Hawwar town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate using heavy machine guns which targeted the road leading to Bshantra village. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Qebtan Al Jabal town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted Qebtan Al Jabal town using heavy machine guns which targeted the eastern town of the town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Urm Al Kubra town, Thursday 15 September 2016

Fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted Urm Al Kubra town using heavy machine guns that targeted the road leading to Kafr Naha town. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.

Al Zebdiyeh neighborhood, Thursday 15 September 2016

Government forces sniper stationed in Al Etha'a neighborhood killed the young man Mohammad Alaa Basousi where he was shot in Al Zebdiyeh neighborhood. The neighborhood is under the control of armed opposition factions and there is no presence for ISIS or Fateh Al Sham Front.





## **B. Armed opposition factions**

### **Aleppo governorate**

New Aleppo neighborhood, Thursday 15 September 2016, we recorded two breaches by armed opposition factions. The neighborhood is under the control of government forces

- First incident: Armed opposition factions stationed in the vicinity of Al Bohouth Al Elmiya fired number of locally-made rocket shells on the vicinity of Al Salam circle in New Aleppo neighborhood in Aleppo city.
- Second incident: Armed opposition factions stationed in the vicinity of Al Bohouth Al Elmiya fired number of locally-made rocket shells on the vicinity of Al Harsh Al Zera'ie in New Aleppo neighborhood in Aleppo city.

Al Msharqa neighborhood, Thursday 15 September 2016

A sniper affiliated to armed opposition factions who was stationed in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood shot pedestrians in Al Msharqa neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition factions, which led to the killing of the child Mohammad Ali Al Rakbi.

## **IV. Recommendations**

- We call on the joint American-Russian committee to investigate these incidents as soon as possible and to make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people. Also, the Committee should prevent a reoccurrence.
- In synchronization with the Cessation of Hostilities, the international community should work on initiating a political process towards a transitional phase that would result in a democratic regime which will put a real end to the suffering of the Syrian people.
- In case the breaches continued without a real deterrent, the truce, unfortunately, is prone to a breakdown at any moment. The United States of America, being a primary sponsor, should ask the Russian side to pressure on its ally the Syrian regime to cease the violations and breaches that it perpetrated and to start lifting the siege, immediately allow the passage of humanitarian aids, and release detainees.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our most heartfelt thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who majorly contributed to this report.

