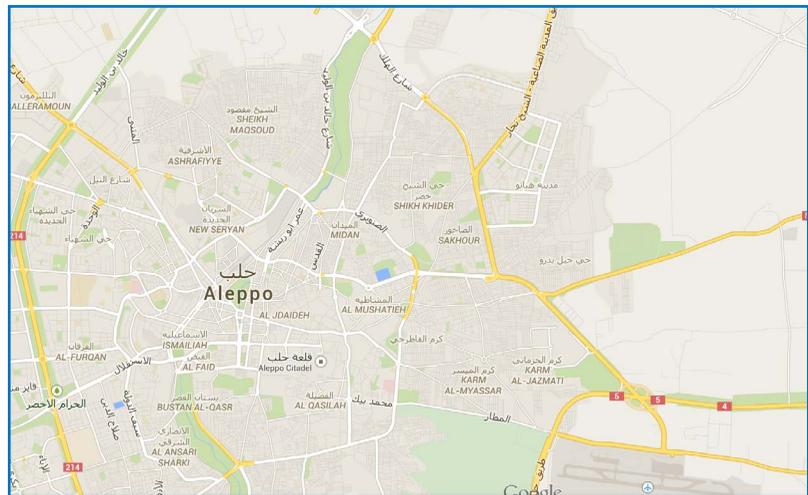




Barrel Bombs Targets Neighborhoods in Aleppo 23-12-2013

Documenting the barrel bombs bombing of Masaken Hananou, Al-Haydariya, and Ard Al-Hamra neighborhoods in Aleppo on 22 December, 2013 Hannou neighborhood is located in northern Aleppo and it is a densely populated neighborhood.

The following URL shows the location of Hananou neighborhood



Details

Government forces targeted on the morning of Sunday 22 December, 2013, the highway in Masaken Hananou neighborhood. This area is known for being highly crowded especially in the morning. Government forces targeted the area with eight barrel bombs; two were dropped on an urban market in Al-Ahmadiya neighborhood. Also, Al-Haydariya neighborhood and Al-Fylat Street in As-Sak-hour neighborhood were targeted and a few hours later B'iden neighborhood, which is next to Hananou neighborhood, was targeted.

This report relies on the investigation carried out by SNHR in Aleppo city which involved interviews with residents and activists. It includes four testimonies in addition to the news and pictures that were sent to us by cooperating activists from the city.





The first eyewitness's testimony, his name is (S), and can be found on Skype via his account: (rh7.syr)

“At 8:30 AM approximately, we heard the sounds of explosions in Aleppo –The explosions haven't stopped in Aleppo in a week- we realized that a new massacre has occurred. The barrel bombs were dropped about 100 meters away from my home. I saw the destruction, the panic, and the scattered body parts. Many were wounded, there were an ambulance that was targeted and everyone inside it had died. ”

The Second eyewitness's testimony, his name is Abu-Salah and can be found on Skype via his account: (abosalah.shaher)

“I was in my car and the explosion happened about 1 kilometers away from me. I headed there and my car was affected by shrapnel from the barrel bombs. A crowded bus burned and everyone inside it had died. Whole buildings were destroyed, everyone was scared and cars were burning. Even the ambulance was targeted the medical staff was killed.”

The third eyewitness's testimony, his name is Rami:

“About 9:00 PM, four barrel bombs were dropped on Hananou highway. This area is highly crowded especially in the morning. More than 30 cars, a big bus, and two pickup cars, have all been burned. The nearby buildings were heavily damaged. A lot of people died including a paramedic and a great number of children.”

The fourth eyewitness's testimony, he was in B'iedien neighborhood at the time of the bombing:

“At 1:15 approximately, I was in my shop, out of nowhere government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on residential buildings that were located to the west of B'iedien circle. A residential building was completely destroyed and two others were destroyed partially. A Saba car was burned in which there were a driver and two other people. Also, a Suzuki car was burned also. I saw body parts coming out of the burned cars. We started pulling out dead bodies from under rubbles. Panic, death, and destruction were everywhere. This is how we spent the last week.”

Names of the victims:

SNHR documented the killing of 84 victims including eight children and three women

The following [URL](#) contains the names of the documented victims

Attachments and evidences

The following URL contains video footages and pictures documenting the aftermath of the bombing and also [pictures](#) of the victims and wounded





Conclusions

- 1-SNHR affirms that the bombing was indiscriminate and targeted unarmed civilians, thus the 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 and hence can be absolutely classified as war crimes.
- 2- SNHR believes that all this killing that is taking place in Syria can be classified as a crime against humanity considering that it is being perpetrated in a widespread and systematic manner.
- 3- The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the customary international law considering the fact that government forces have attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.
- 4- 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.
- 5- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent bombing, 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.

Recommendations

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 in 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. Obliging 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. Banning the Syrian government all weapons because they are used in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government are considered gross threat to international peace and security.
6. Listing the militias that fight with the Syrian government and which committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army





and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations. Among these militias is the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria which committed lots of crimes in the areas that are not controlled by the Syrian government.

7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring such a principle now.

8. After the crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian government, stopping dealing with this government as an “official side” concerning the relief issues, and stopping supplying the Syrian government with the greatest amounts of financial and humanitarian aid that don't reach those who need them in most cases and go instead to those loyal to the Syrian government.

Human Rights Council

1. Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning the sufferings of the Syrian people which include killing, arrest, rape and displacement.

2. Applying pressure on the Syrian government in order to stop the acts of killing and torture.

3. Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.

4. Human Rights Council must pay more attention and consideration to the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.

The Arab League

1. Punishing all those who are involved in committing crimes in Syria and urging all the countries of the world to do the same thing.

2. Increasing humanitarian aid, especially on the levels of education and health care and taking care of the Syrian refugees in the Arab countries.

3. Requesting the Security Council to execute the above recommendations.

4. Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest to the case of daily killing in Syria.

5. Taking the Syrian issue very seriously and considering it as a priority, and trying to take care of the families of the victims psychologically, materially and educationally.

6. Applying political and diplomatic pressure on the main allies of the Syrian government; Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed





against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.

The Syrian Government

1. Instantly stopping all kinds of human rights violations.
2. Respecting its international commitment to protect civilians during war and respecting the articles of the International Human Law and the International law for Human rights.
3. To allow immediately the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic to enter and facilitate its work and cooperate with the OHCHR and national human rights organizations.

The International Investigation Committee

The International Investigation Committee must stop depicting the struggle in Syria as a struggle between two sides equal in crimes, power and the centralization of decisions. It must describe the crimes the same way they happen without belittling their extent for political reasons. The committee must also increase the number of its staff who work on the Syrian issue due to the amount of the crimes committed daily in Syria so that it can conduct a more comprehensive documentation

