



On its First Day: 14 Breaches in the Ceasefire Agreement in Syria

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I. Introduction

The Syrian government forces and its Russian ally took advantage of the ceasefire and escalated its shelling and military operations in several regions in Aleppo. SNHR recorded not less than 3 attacks that were believed to be Russian in the final hours before the ceasefire started in Kabtan Al Jabal and Al Saloum town and Darat Ezza city in Aleppo suburbs. Also, SNHR documented the killing 16 civilians and material damages in medical facilities. On the other hand, government forces continued to shell the cities of Daraya, Zamalka, and Deir Assafier in Damascus suburbs.

SNHR sent documented reports regarding all the breaches and violations of Kofi Anan's 6 point plan in April, May and June 2012 to his office. This plan proved its fruitlessness since the Syrian regime continued to commit different kinds of massacres and crimes that amount to [war crimes](#) and crimes against humanity; as [we previously documented](#).

We hope that the ceasefire will pave the way to a political change towards democracy. The previous 6 points plan was under the auspices of the UN, while this ceasefire is sponsored by Russian and the USA only. As it is known, Russia cannot take that part since it is a loyal ally to the Syrian regime and one of its supporters. Hence, we questioned this ceasefire and its outcomes. The Syrian regime has violated and breached several UNSC resolutions and it was not held accountable. What if Russia follows the same footsteps? And will it be held accountable?

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:

“The international community, represented by the UNSC, knows exactly what it should do to end this circle of violence, however, it resorts to unproductive solutions. We need a political transition that would transform the ruling to a democratic one. We have previously said that after Geneva 1, the bloodshed is not going to end and state administrations will be doomed to failure. ISIL and Iranian militias are filling the space the corrupted Syrian government left. We are with any agreement or resolution that would end the cycle of violence and massacres in Syria.”





Concerning the statement itself, the Syrian regime and its Russian accomplice can strike regions under the control of armed opposition in northern of Syria under the pretext of the presence Al Nusra front, even if it is extremely limited, without breaching the ceasefire.

After some experience with the oppressive Syrian regime, it will welcome any breach in the ceasefire agreement and wishes that its Russian ally would end the presence of its opponents. It appears to us that the Russians would not want to get more involved in the Syrian swamp and this ceasefire would just buy them some time to rethink their options.

SNHR team documented these breaches as it is the bare minimum of what we were able to document according to our methodology. We interviewed eyewitnesses and verified the footages and images we received. This report documents all the breaches that were committed by all conflict parties since the ceasefire started. Also it is worth noting that we did not record any improvement in the detainees' situation or releases by all main conflict parties.

II. Executive Summary

This report documents the breaches in the ceasefire agreement in its first day on 27 February 2016. Fourteen breaches were perpetrated by the government forces; whereas these violations were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition.

The detailed violations according to the Syrian governorates:

- Idlib: 2
- Damascus suburbs: 4
- Homs: 2
- Lattakia: 1
- Daraa: 4
- Damascus: 1

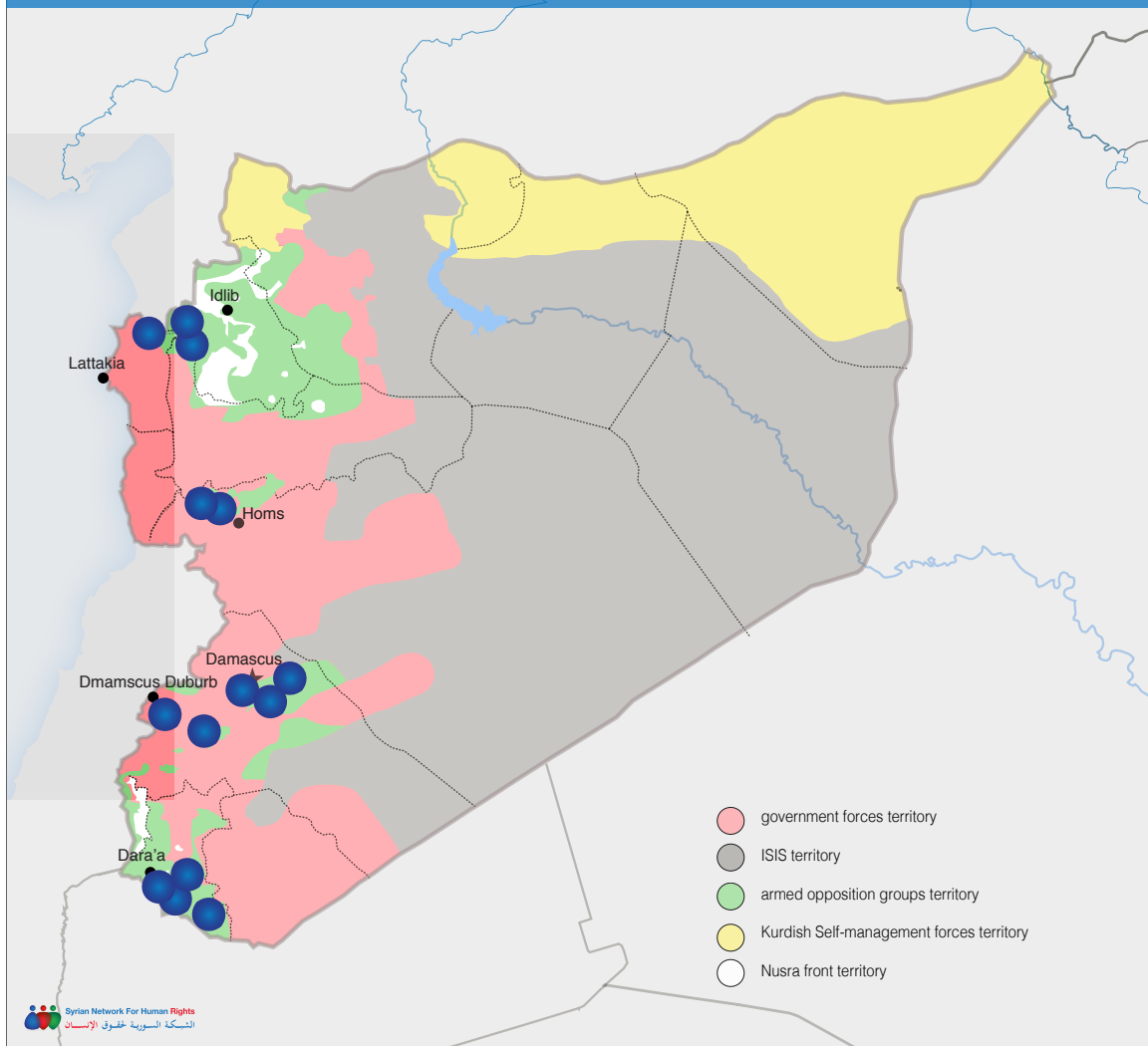
These attacks resulted in the killing of 15 individuals detailed as follows:

- Two civilians
- 13 armed opposition members





The violations of the first day of the truce 27 February 2016



II. Report Details:

A. Regions under the control of armed opposition:

Idlib Governorate:

Al Najiya town:

At 10:30 a.m. government forces dropped 5 barrel bombs on Al Najiya town North West of Idlib and the international road next to the town. The town is free of any administrative buildings and inhabitants and it is under joint control of armed opposition groups and Al Nusra front.

[Shelling aftermath on the town after government forces dropped barrel bombs](#)

Shelling aftermath on the town after government forces dropped barrel bombs





- Kinda Town in Jisr Al Shoughour:

At 1:00 p.m government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on agricultural lands in Kinda town in Jisr Al Shoughour. The town is free of any administrative buildings and inhabitants and it is under joint control of armed opposition groups and Al Nusra front.

Shelling aftermath on the town after government forces dropped barrel bombs





Damascus suburbs:

Harasta Al Kantara:

Government forces launched several mortar missiles on Bazina region in Harasta town in Damascus suburbs.

Khan Al Shiekh:

At 10:20 a.m. government artillery forces launched artillery missiles on Talat Al Kabousiyi in the vicinity of Khan Al Sheikh camp. Two armed opposition members were killed and 4 others were injured; one amongst which is suffering from critical wounds.

A [video](#) that depicts the government artillery shelling on Khan Al Shiekh town

A video that depicts the moment of the shelling by government artillery forces on the town



Bala Town:

Government forces launched several mortar and surface-to-surface missiles on Bala town. Meanwhile, government forces were trying to storm the town which killed 4 armed opposition members and injured 10 others.

Mo'adameyat Al Sham City:

Government snipers stationed in the eastern side of the city targeted a civilian and injured him.





Homs Governorate:

Talbisa City:

At 1:00 a.m. government forces launched several artillery missiles on Talbisa city.

- A region between Al Ghanto town and the city of Talbisa:

During the morning time, government forces stationed in a Kurdish town, called Akrad Dasineh, launched several artillery missiles on the western fronts in Al Ghanto town and the city of Talbisa.

A video that depicts the shelling moment on Al Ghanto town



Lattakia Governorate:

Al Bayda Town in the Turkmen Mountain: Government artillery forces shelled Al Bayda town with several artillery missiles. Meanwhile, government forces were trying to storm the town with heavy machine guns.

The shelling lasted from 7 p.m. on 26 February till 5 a.m. on 27 February. As a result, the shelling killed 6 armed opposition members.

Damascus:

Jobar Neighborhood:

Government snipers targeted one of the civilians in the periphery of Jobar neighborhood next to Karaj Al Abasyeen which killed the civilian, Ali Al Faes.

Daraa Governorate:

Al Yadouda Town:

Government forces beached the ceasefire twice in Al Yadouda town:

The first incident:

Government forces used heavy machinery to shell Al Yadouda town after midnight.

The second incident:

Government forces targeted a military front in Al Yadouda town with heavy machinery which killed an armed opposition group, Mohamad Houssien Al Zoubani.

A video that depicts the victim, Mohamad Houssien Al Zoubani, who was killed due to the government shelling





Alma Town:

At almost 6 p.m. government artillery forces launched several artillery missiles on the northern lands in Alma town. We did not record any deaths.

Busra Al Sham City:

At 4:30 p.m. government forces launched several mortar missiles on Busra Al Sham city. We did not record any casualties.

Recommendations:

- We ask the joint American and Russian committee to investigate these incidents, announce its results to the Syrian people and prevent it from happening again.
- We demand the international community to correlate the ceasefire with political efforts that would pave the way towards a transitional stage that would result in a democratic regime, which will end the suffering of the Syrian people.

