



## **New Attacks by the International Coalition Forces Result in Losses and Civilian Victims**

### **The Killing of 267 Civilians at the hands of The International Coalition**

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## **I. Introduction**

Since the US-led international coalition commenced its military intervention on Syria on 23 September 2014 to fight the terrorist group ISIL, we started to document the violations it committed against the International Humanitarian Law. SNHR has issued 9 previous reports that document different shelling incidents and massacres that were committed against civilians in the light of the evidence and information we have.

This report comes after the Russian military intervention in Syria, who supported and lined up along one of the main conflict parties, the Syrian regime and its Iranian allies. The magnitude of the crimes and violations that were committed by the Russian forces greatly exceeds that of the International coalition. The latter concentrated its attacks on ISIL stronghold, except for four attacks which targeted armed opposition and civilians. Nonetheless, most of the Russian attacks targeted civilians and regions that are under the control of armed opposition deliberately and killed 15027 civilians; which is a strike contrast to what Russian authorities claim about advocating human rights.

Even though we believe that it is not enough, International coalition forces admit to making some mistakes regarding the shelling incidents. It also conducted some investigations, nonetheless, the Russian authorities categorically deny any killing or shelling incident and falsely accuse SNHR of fabricating this information or any shelling incidents perpetrated by its ally the Syrian regime. The political administration of the international





coalition forces has to pressure the military command to acknowledge all the violations it commits and conduct more transparent investigations. Denying the shelling incidents just like the Russian and Syrian regime will not change any of the facts.

As stated in previous reports, the international coalition strikes have without a doubt weakened ISIL's power; however it was mainly focused on ISIL's borders with the Kurdish Self Management forces, the main forces in the PYD party, aiming to overthrow ISIL and replace them with Kurdish Self Management forces. Therefore, international coalition forces are accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes that bare ethnic nature, thus its military operations raises several warnings and affects its credibility.

The fruitless Iraqi scenario is being repeated again in Syria, as we cannot fight injustice with tyranny or support oppression. On the other hand, ISIL stronghold in Palmyra and Al Qaryatayn city in Homs eastern suburbs were not targeted at all.

## II. Executive Summary:

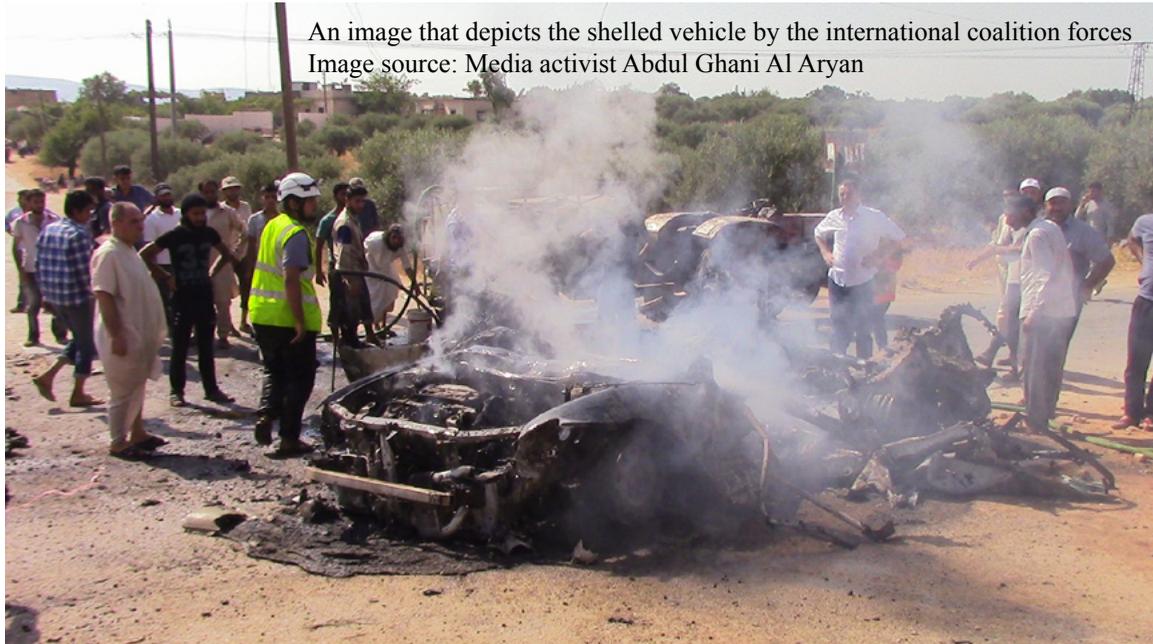
This report depicts 15 shelling incidents perpetrated by the international coalition forces on civilian and vital facilities; 7 of these strikes resulted in the killing of civilians between 2 July 2015 and up till 4 February 2016. Those strikes killed 68 civilians including 28 children and 12 women. We would like to point that one of the most significant strikes resulted in a massacre in Ein Al Khan town in Al Hassaka eastern suburbs were 40 civilians were killed including 19 children.

Since 23 September 2014 and up till the moment of making this report, the total victims' death toll due to the international coalition airstrikes resulted in the killing of 274 individuals, detailed as follows:

- 267 civilians including 93 children and 50 women
- 7 armed opposition members

SNHR team conducted interviews and investigations with residents, local activists and eyewitnesses via Skype or other social networks. We also explained the aim behind conducting these interviews and received the eyewitnesses' approval for the information they provided us with. Also, we analyzed all the videos and images we received to check its credibility and kept different copies of it. SNHR assures that these records are the bare minimum of what we were able to document regarding the obstacles and challenges we





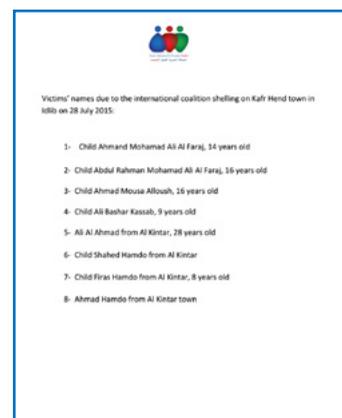
An image that depicts the shelled vehicle by the international coalition forces  
Image source: Media activist Abdul Ghani Al Aryan

face in our investigation and gathering information process, and communicating with eye-witnesses. This report does not depict the social, economical or psychological dimensions of these attacks.

## II. Report Details:

### 1. Kafr Hend Town in Idlib: 28 July 2015

Kafr Hend town belongs to Selqeen city in the north-western suburbs in Idlib governorate with a population of 1000 inhabitants. The town is free of any extremist Islamic headquarters. On 28 July 2015, a scouting plane, which we believe it belongs to the international coalition forces, launched a rocket that targeted a vehicle that transported 4 armed men who belonged to Al Nusra front. The vehicle was near a fuel shop and hence a fuel tank exploded and 8 civilians were killed including 6 children.





## 2. Al Bou Kamal City in Deir Al Zour: 30 July 2015

International coalition warplanes launched two rockets on a house next to the cement factory in Al Bou Kamal city that is under the control of ISIL which killed 5 civilians including 3 children and a woman. Not less than 17 others were injured, 5 houses were damaged, and one civilian car was burned.

SNHR interviewed Mr. Alaa, an eyewitness, who gave us his testimony:

*“I woke up on the sound of an explosion at about 1:30 a.m. I heard the international coalition shelling that I was used to hear before an hour and a half from the shelling. I went to the building’s roof to see what happened and I was able to estimate the shelling location. It was near the cement factory and I heard the people’s screams. I went directly to the shelling location and saw a great destruction. One of the rockets fell in the middle of a road next to a 2 story building while the other fell in the middle of that house. Blood and body parts were scattered on the walls and on the road. The victims were transported to the hospital and I tried to enter it too but ISIL’s members prohibited us due to the fear of another airstrike. I heard that 5 individuals from Hasso family were killed in the shelling.”*

Victims’ names:



An [image](#) that depicts the shelling that was perpetrated by the international coalition warplanes on [Al Bou Kamal city](#)

An image that depicts the injured children due to the international coalition warplanes on Al Bou Kamal city





## 2. Al Mourouj Town in Aleppo: 13 August 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled a house in Al Mourouj town that belongs to Nahi-yat Sareen town in eastern Aleppo suburbs which killed 6 civilians from one family.

### Victims' names



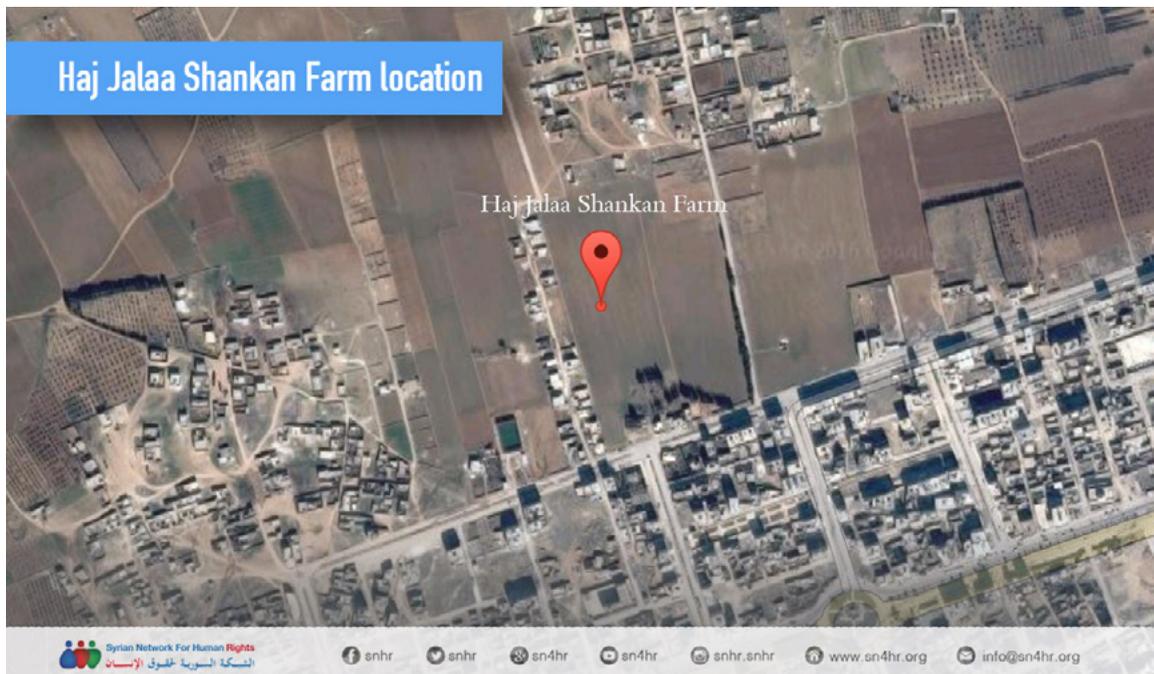
SNHR interviewed Mr. Nael one of the residents in Al Mourouj town who gave us his testimony:

“International coalition warplanes launched one rocket that destroyed several houses. Not less than 5 houses were damaged and 6 individuals from one family were killed. Their bodies remained under the rubble for hours.

ISIL controls our town but its headquarters are visibly clear and the international coalition can target it without killing civilians. We are paying the price of war and the ongoing conflict between ISIL and the coalition-supported Kurdish forces.”

## 3. Menbej City in Aleppo: 29 August 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled a farm in a region called “Hajj Jalaa Shankan” in the western side of the city next to a trench that was being dug by ISIL. The shelling killed an individual, Hajji Al Ja’abari, a bulldozer driver, who was hired by ISIL to dig the trench.





#### 4. Al Raqqa City: 31 October 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled Al Mansour Bridge, also known as The New Bridge that connects Raqqa city with its western suburbs that are controlled by ISIL. The shelling caused great material damages as it is also considered one of the main roads used by civilians. It is worth noting that ISIL members also use this bridge to transport its vehicles.

#### 5. Hakel Teshreen region in Al Hassaka governorate: 10 November 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled Hakel Teshreen region on the road between Al Hassaka city and Al Houll town that is under the control of ISIL. As a result, 7 civilians were killed including 3 displaced women from Al Boutha town that belongs to Tal Barak town.



#### 6. Al Bou Omar Town in Deir Al Zour: 17 November 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled a water pump facility in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which damaged the facility and rendered it out of service.

#### 7. Al Raqqa City: 16 November 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled the general directorate for bakeries in Al Raqqa city that is under ISIL's control which caused great damages and rendered the facility out of service.



#### 8. Al Raqqa City: 16 November 2015

International coalition warplanes shelled a warehouse for pharmaceutical supplies warehouse in Al Raqqa city that is under ISIL's control which caused great damages to it.

An [image](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath on the pharmaceutical supplies warehouse in Al Raqqa city by international coalition warplanes





### **9. Al Raqqa City: 16 November 2015**

International coalition warplanes shelled one of the schools in Al Raqqa city which destroyed the school almost completely.



### **10 . Al Shadadi Road in Al Resheya town in Al Hassaka governorate: 24 November 2015**

International coalition warplanes shelled a civilian car on the road between Al Shadadi and Al Arishiya town which killed two civilians:

Victims' names:

- Awwad Bandar Al Hmeydi
- Mohamad Awwad Bandar Al Hameydi

### **11. Ein Al Khan Town in Al Hassaka eastern suburbs: 7 December 2015**

Ein Al Khan town's area is about 4 Km and with a population of 350 inhabitants. It is located southern of Al Houll town and all the town's residents are civilians and it is free of any ISIL military headquarters.

The towns' [location](#)

On 2 December 2015, six ISIL members entered the town and took one of the houses in the town's periphery as a center.

On 7 December 2015 ISIL launched a mortar missile on what is known as Democratic Forces of Syria, a joined group of an armed opposition faction and the PYD Kurdish party, 1.5 Km away from the town. Then the Democratic Forces of Syria replied with the shelling of another missile that fell on the residential houses in the town. A woman and a child were killed as a result and the town's residents wanted to leave the town out of fear that the shelling is going to be renewed but ISIL members prohibited them.





On 7 December 2015 almost at 11:30 p.m. international coalition warplanes launched 4 airstrikes that targeted two houses that belonged to Al Khleef and Al Hadeed families which killed 40 civilians, including 19 children and 9 women. Not less than 30 others were injured.

SNHR was able to interview Mr. Abou Khaleel, one of the victims' fathers who died in the shelling and one of the survivors:

*“I woke up on the sound of the shelling that destroyed our house. One of the walls collapsed on us. Our house is a simply country house made of clay. I stayed for a lot of time under the rubble trying to reach the surface and I heard the sound of the warplanes. I knew it was the international coalition because the shelling happened at midnight. I called for my family but no one answered except my young boy who was injured due to the shelling. I took my boy’s hand and tried to leave our shelled house but the warplanes fired at us again next to the house with machine guns. That is when I was injured in my foot and my son was injured as well. After my injury I was unconscious and work up in one of Al Has-saka’s hospitals. They told me that all of my family was killed including my young boy. There is not ISIL headquarters in our town. Our town is small. There are not more than 70 houses in it but before the shelling ISIL members took a house in the town’s periphery as a center and shelled regions that were controlled by the Democratic Forces of Syria. The mutual shelling killed a woman and a child.”*

An image that depicts the shelling aftermath on Al Khleef’s house due to the international coalition shelling



Victims' names due to the international coalition shelling on Ein Al Khan town in the eastern suburbs of Al Hasska city on 7 December 2015

- 1- Ayed Hadeed Al Hassan, nicknamed as Abu Salah, 56 years old
- 2- Qama Eid Al Ali, Ayed's wife, 45 years old
- 3- Salah Ayed Hadeed Al Hassan, 26 years old
- 4- Mohamad Ayed Hadeed Al Hassan, 23 years old
- 5- Fatima Ayed Hadeed Al Hassan, 17 years old

A [video](#) that depicts the victims' bodies and body parts due to the shelling on Ein Al Khan town (graphic video please be advised)





### **12. The Residential City that belongs to Sad Teshreen city in Aleppo: 23 December 2015**

International coalition warplanes shelled the public square next to the main bakery in the residential city that belongs to Sad Teshreen city in eastern Aleppo suburbs which destroyed the bakery and its equipment.

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath and damaged on the bakery

### **13. Al Ramadi town in Deir Al Zour: 15 January 2016**

Alleged international coalition warplanes launched three missiles that targeted Al Sikka Bridge which destroyed it almost completely and rendered it out of service.

### **14. Al Raqqa City: 4 February 2016**

International coalition warplanes shelled Aisha Religious Institute, previously called the cultural center, which is considered one of ISIL's religious and military headquarters. The shelling damaged a health center that was next to the headquarters which rendered it out of service.

[Location](#) of the previous cultural center that was transformed to an ISIL religious institute



## **III. Conclusions and recommendations:**

### **Conclusions:**

- Indiscriminate bombardment is considered a clear violation of the International Humanitarian Law, and these indiscriminate killings amount to war crimes.
- The International Coalition shelling killed civilians and greatly damaged the cities' facilities. There is a strong indicator that excessive force was used compared to the expected military benefits from these airstrikes.





## Recommendations:

- The International Coalition forces should abide by the International Humanitarian Law, and therefore coalition countries are responsible for these violations since the beginning of the attacks, which were mentioned through this report. These countries must bear the consequences of all these violations, and avoid its recurrence.
- International Coalition countries should acknowledge the shelling incidents that killed innocent civilians. Instead of denying these incidents, serious investigations should be conducted and compensations should be given to those affected.
- Targeting ISIL in certain regions and turning a blind eye against it in other regions depicts the lack of a systemized military strategy.
- It is necessary to protect civilians from the brutality of the Syrian regime and extremist militias allied with them. A no-fly zone must be established in parallel with the protecting civilians in Syria from the brutality of ISIL.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank everyone who helped to deliver data to SNHR and specifically the activists who cooperated with us. Furthermore, our most heartfelt condolences go out for the victims' families and relatives who agreed to cooperate with us despite their grave losses.

