



No Less than 45 Massacres Perpetrated in May 2015

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First: Executive Summary

SNHR documented, during the month of May 2015, 45 massacres at least as follows:

A. Government forces: 38 massacres

B. Daesh: three massacres

C. Armed opposition factions: three massacres

D. International Coalition forces: one massacre

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involved: “the killing of five unarmed people at least” for more information on our methodology, please visit the following URL:

The regional distribution of the massacres that were perpetrated in May 2015 is as follows:

Aleppo: 18 massacres

Der Ezzor: eight massacres

Idlib: eight massacres

Damascus suburbs: three massacres

Homs: two massacres

Hama: two massacres

Daraa: two massacres

Al-Hassaka: two massacres

According to SNHR documenting team, no less than 60 victims were killed in those massacres including 154 children and 90 women. 37% of the victims were children and women which is a notably high percentage that indicates that civilians were targeted deliberately in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres based on its perpetrators

Government forces: 498 victims including 118 children and 90 women

Daesh: 21 victims

Armed opposition factions: 18 civilians including five children and one woman

International coalition forces: 64 civilians including 31 children and 19 women.





Second: Details

A. Government forces

Aleppo governorate

On Friday 1 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on a residential building in Aleppo – As-Salhien neighborhood to kill eight victims including three children.



Massacres in As-Salhien neighborhood - Aleppo

On Sunday 3 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on [Ash-Shahid Nour Ad-Din Maktbi Kindergarten](#) in Aleppo – Saif Ad-Dawla neighborhood and killed nine victims including three children and one woman.



Massacres in Saif Ad-Dawla neighborhood - Aleppo

On Tuesday 5 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted residential homes in Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area, located near Khan Al-Assal town in Aleppo, with a thermal missile that killed five victims including three children and one woman.

On Friday 8 May 2015, government forces warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on a residential building in Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area, located near Khan Al-Assal town in Aleppo, which resulted in the killing of five civilians including two children and one woman.

On Tuesday 12 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a [garage](#) in Aleppo – [Jesr Al-Haj area](#) to [kill 30 civilians](#) including [two children and one woman](#). Also, more than 50 others were wounded.



victims in Jesr Al-Haj massacres - Aleppo



victims in Jesr Al-Haj massacres - Aleppo





On Wednesday 13 May, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted an [urban market](#) in Aleppo – Al-Ais town with a thermal missile which [killed 30 victims](#) including [seven children](#) and two women.

On Wednesday 13 May 2015, government forces targeted an [elementary school](#) in Aleppo with a thermoarbic missile. Nine children were killed.

On Friday 15 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted a [market in Aleppo – Minbij city](#) with two thermal missiles that [killed 11 victims](#) including three children and two women.

On Wednesday 20 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [Al-Blat neighborhood](#) in Aleppo which resulted in the [killing of seven victims](#) including seven children and two women. Also, a three-floor residential building was greatly destroyed.



Aleppo – Al-Blat neighborhood searching for victims

On Friday 22 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Aleppo – [Andan city](#) to [kill 11 civilians](#) including [eight children](#) and three women.

On Sunday 24 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Aleppo – As-Sukkari neighborhood to kill six civilians including three children and one woman.

On Monday 25 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an urban market in Aleppo suburbs – Tal Ad-Daman town to kill six victims..

On Saturday 30 May 2015, government forces dropped two barrel bombs on a [market](#) in Aleppo – [Al-Bab city](#) to [kill 53 victims](#) including three children and one woman.

On Saturday 30 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) on [Ash-Sha'ar neighborhood](#) in Aleppo which resulted in [the killing of nine victims](#) including [four children and four women](#).



Aleppo – Ash-Sha'ar neighborhood victims





Idlib governorate

On Monday 11 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted [Al-Qniya village](#) in Idlib – Jesr Ash-Shoghour to [kill 18 civilians](#) including nine children and seven women.



Al-Qniya Massacress victims



Al-Qniya Massacress victims

On Friday 15 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Balyoun village with a missile to kill six civilians including three children and two women.

On Friday 15 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Kafr Iwyed town with a missile to kill six civilians including two children and three women.

On Saturday 16 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted a [market in Idlib](#) – Saraqeb city with a missile which killed 19 victims including three children and three women.



one of the victims – Saraqab – Aleppo





On Saturday 16 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – [Kafr Iwyed town](#) with missiles to [kill 30 victims](#) including [nine children](#) and six women.

On Tuesday 19 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – [Jesr Ash-Shoughr suburbs](#) and killed [40 victims](#) including one child and two women.



one of the victims– Kafr Iwyed twon

On Thursday 28 May 2015, [government forces executed six prisoners](#), including two who were wearing military uniforms, before withdrawing from a building for the Military Security branch in Idlib – Ariha city.

On Saturday 30 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Idlib – Balyoun village with a missile which resulted in the killing of 19 victims including one child and one woman.

[Der Ezzor governorate](#)

On Saturday 2 May 2015, government forces warplanes conducted an airstrike against [Al-Matar Al-Qadim neighborhood](#) in Der Ezzor which resulted in [the killing of eight victims](#) including three children and two women. Additionally, 14 others were wounded.

On Sunday 3 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Der Ezzor – Hatla village which killed eight civilians including four children. Furthermore, about 12 others were wounded.

On Friday 8 May 2015, government forces warplanes carried out three airstrikes targeting Der Ezzor – Al-Boalil village to kill seven victims and wound 13 others.

On Monday 18 May 2015, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike that targeted Der Ezzor – Al-Bo'mrou village which killed eight civilians including two children and four women in addition to wounding 11 others.



On Saturday 23 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on a [residential building in Der Ezzor city– Al-Hamidiya neighborhood](#) to [kill 18 civilians including 10 children](#) and one woman. In addition, 25 others were wounded.





Damascus suburbs governorate

On Thursday 14 May 2015, government forces targeted a car on Zakiya – Khan Ash-Shaikh road in Damascus suburbs using its tanks and heavy machine guns. The bombing resulted in the killing of seven civilians while seven others were wounded.

On Saturday 16 May 2015, government forces artillery targeted a school in Damascus suburbs – Douma city with mortar shells to kill seven victims including five children.

On Wednesday 27 May 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Irbeen city – Damascus suburbs with four missiles which killed six victims including one woman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh1RD21JJ2k&feature=youtu.be>

Homs governorate

On Sunday 17 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on Homs – As-Sakhna city to kill eight civilians including four children and two women.

On Monday 25 May 2015, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike targeting Homs – Tadmour city and killed six civilians including two children and five women.

Hama governorate

On Tuesday 5 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Hama – Ash-Shareka village to kill nine victims including one female child and three women.

On Friday 15 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on Hama – Al-Amqiya village to kill six civilians including one female child and two women.

Daraa governorate

On Monday 4 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Daraa – Al-Yadouda town which resulted in the killing of 13 victims including five children and three women.



Image shows the victims of the massacre caused by government aviation barrel bombs in Al Yadouda in Daraa, on May 4, 2015

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On Sunday 24 May 2015, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike that targeted Daraa city – [Tareaq As-Sad neighborhood](#) and killed nine victims including three women.

[Al-Hassaka governorate](#)

On Sunday 3 May 2015, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Hassaka – Ash-Shdadi city to kill five victims including three children. Additionally, four others were wounded.

On Saturday 30 May 2015, government forces targeted Ash-Shdadi city market in Al-Hassaka with four thermobaric missiles. 27 were killed in addition to 49 who were wounded.
B. Daesh

[Der Ezzor governorate](#)

On Friday 22 May 2015, Daesh slaughtered seven victims using a sword in Der Ezzor – Al-Masrab village. The seven victims were decapitated and then Daesh crucified their bodies in public for three days. The execution was over accusations of working with the regime.

On Sunday 24 May 2015, Daesh executed seven victims in Der Ezzor eastern suburbs – Al-Mayadien city. After they were decapitated, they were crucified in public for three days. Daesh accused the victims of opposing them and refusing to express repentance and also for taking photos of Daesh bases.

On Monday 25 May 2015, Daeshs slaughtered seven victims using swords in Der Ezzor city after they were accused of working with the national army militias.

C. Armed opposition factions

[Aleppo governorate](#)

On Sunday 24 May 2015, Al-Jabha Ash-Shamiya, one of the armed opposition factions, blew a tunnel that extends from Al-Hamidiya neighborhood to Maysloun neighborhood in Aleppo city. The explosion resulted in the killing of five civilians.

On Sunday 31 May 2015, two gas tanks fell near Al-Jnan Mosque in Aleppo – Al-A'thamiya neighborhood. The gas tanks were fired from a rebel-held area. The bombing resulted in the killing of eight civilians including one child. Also, five others were wounded.

On Sunday 31 May 2015, a local-made shell fell near Al-Bassel School in Aleppo – Al-Jamiya neighborhood. The source of the shell was a rebel-held area. The shell killed four children and one woman.





D. International coalition forces

On Friday 1 May 2015, the international coalition forces bombed residential homes in Aleppo – [Ber Mahli village](#) using directed missiles which killed 64 civilians including 31 children and 19 women. For more details on this massacre, please read SNHR report that includes a documentation of the incident.

Third: Recommendations and Conclusions

Conclusions

1-SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, 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 which can be classified as war crimes.

2- SNHR believes that these acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.

3- 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. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.

4- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, 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.

Daesh

Daesh's policy of execution and murder are being practiced on a large scale and, thus, can be classified as war crimes.

Armed opposition factions

Indiscriminate bombing considered a war crime as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. The armed opposition should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

International coalition

The international coalition forces have perpetrated explicit violations of the international humanitarian law by indiscriminately bombing civil areas. The bombing resulted in mass killings and great destruction of residential neighborhoods.





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 around 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. Binding 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. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder its responsibility of preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to international peace and security.
6. Listing the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
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 stopping supplying the Syrian government with most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, don’t reach those who are in need and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian government.

Fifth: Acknowledgment

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

