



Salqin City Massacre... One Barrel Bomb Kills 23 Syrian Citizens in a Matter of Moments

A report by: The Syrian Network for Human Rights

On Monday, October 1, 2012, a Syrian army helicopter dropped a barrel bomb suddenly inside a residential zone, where two residential buildings collapsed completely, and 32 civilian citizens were killed, including seven women and seven children. Among the victims were an infant as well. Also, nine dead bodies have burned completely, and more than 120 sustained wounds. Ambulances from Turkey entered, via Bab al Hawa Crossing, to transfer the wounded.

In the course of documenting the massacre, SNHR was able to obtain six accounts for survivors, eyewitnesses, and activists who all talked about how the Syrian regime army perpetrated this horrifying massacre.

Accounts for the city residents and victims' relatives with video

1- A victim's mother: "The bombing killed several civilians, and one of them was Moayed, my son. We were sitting at home, when we heard the sound of warplanes, and then the barrel bomb was dropped. No Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters were present in the city. There are also more than 10 people who are deemed missing. Our house was completely destroyed".

2- A resident: "We were surprised at 7:30 by the sound of the explosion. People were in shock and asking about what happened, and the cause of the explosion. I saw thick smoke and dust. More than three wounded were pulled, while the rest were dead".

3- Safi, was in the city at the time of the massacre: "Suddenly, a black barrel bomb fell from a plane in my district. The barrel bomb killed my wife's mother, her brother, her brother's wife, and her nephews (seven children), even though we don't have any FSA members in the city".





4- A child from the city: “The plane hit us from above, and our house windows were shattered, and I was wounded. Most of the city’s houses were destroyed because of the explosion”.

5- Ziad al Saeyd, a former member of the Syrian Human Rights Organization: “The Syrian army tried to raid Salqin, but FSA stopped them on the outskirts of the city. However, the Syrian army used all kinds of heavy weapons, mortar, and shilka. After going back and forth, the Syrian army raided the city and advanced to its center, even though there were no FSA fighters there. The massacre, however, was when the Syrian army used MiG warplanes, helicopters, and TNT barrel bombs”.

6- Hammam Na’im: One of the field commanders in Salqin: “FSA was in the area, the city outskirts, and we tried to block the Syrian army’s advancement into the city, so the Syrian army dropped a barrel bomb inside Salqin city, even though we weren’t in the city. Our presence, as FSA, is limited to civilian-free areas”.

7- Mohamamd Banshi, paramedic: “After the siege on the city by the Syrian army, and barring food, medicine, and children’s milk, the army forces entered the city. FSA fighters were only on the outskirts of the city, as they tried to stop the Syrian army from entering the city, so the army forces shelled Salqin city with tanks, artillery, and warplanes and dropped two TNT barrel bombs. One of the barrel bombs landed on a populated building, which resulted in a big massacre, as 32 were killed including women and children”.

By talking to those eyewitnesses and other activists, we were able to documented 23 names. There are nine burned bodies that we couldn’t identify or contact any of their relatives

- 1- Masha’el Khalil
- 2- Mrs. Fatima Khalil
- 3- Abdullah Khalil
- 4- Mrs. Ghanwa Istanboli
- 5- Unidentified woman, burned body
- 6- Hassan Saklawi
- 7- Mohammad al Kok
- 8- Moayed Qlaa
- 9- Najib HAsana





- 10- Mohammad Sinou
- 11- Mustafa Sinou
- 12- Mohammad Khalil
- 13- Khadr Khalil
- 14- Mohammad Hasan Ramadan
- 15- Mohammad Botrosh
- 16- Ghassan al Droubi
- 17- Ayham al Mo Hasan
- 18- Mohammad Saleh Armouta
- 19- Ghasan Droubi
- 20- Mohammad Ata Awad
- 21- Ahmad Ibrahim Jamal
- 22- Hasan Dgheim
- 23- Abdullah Mohammad
- 24- Unidentified dead body
- 25- Unidentified dead body
- 26- Unidentified dead body
- 27- Unidentified dead body
- 28- Unidentified dead body
- 29- Unidentified dead body
- 30- Unidentified dead body
- 31- Unidentified dead body
- 32- Unidentified dead body

Videos documenting victims and wounded

Pictures of body parts

Siblings Masha'el, Fatima, and Abdullah from Khalil family among the victims of Salqin massacre

Second: Destruction

Helicopters bombing the city

The barrel bomb landing





Destruction in the aftermath of the bombing

As a human rights organization concerned with defending human rights, we, at SNHR, blatantly condemn this massacre which amounts to a crime against humanity and all massacre that committed against Syrian people on the hour. We also hold the head of the Syrian regime and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Bashar Al Assad responsible for the massacre and the ramifications resulted from it. Also, we demand the Security Council and the United Nations to act quickly to protect civilians in Syria, and they must bear their legal and moral responsibilities and accelerate steps to refer the perpetrators of massacres to the International Criminal Court.

