



The Documentation of Ariha Massacre in Idlib Governorate

A report by: The Syrian Network for Human Rights

Government forces bombed a heavily-crowded market shortly before the call for Al Maghrib Prayer. This isn't the first time government forces deliberately target markets.

Ahmad, an eyewitness and a local resident, told SNHR about what happened:

“The city market was crowded, as it is usually is before the call for Al Maghrib Prayer. The residents were shopping for Iftar food. Suddenly, mortar shells fell on the market. We found out later that the shells were 180mm. I saw tens of martyrs falling before my eyes and many were wounded. I saw children bodies covered in blood.”

The eyewitness can be found on Skype
google.ahmad

SNHR team in Idlib governorate was able to document, through contacting victims' families, some activists, and eyewitnesses, 24 martyrs from the town residents including two children and two women.

- 1- Abdou Ghandoura, Ariha, Idlib, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 2- Alaa al Bkour, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 3- Samir Awad, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 4- Jaber Bazmawi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 5- Mulham Qwidi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 6- Subhi Hamid Rabea, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city





- 7- Mrs. Amal Qaydouha, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 8- Walid Khaled Ghriebi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 9- Mujib Ghadri, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 10- [Child Mohammad Soumar Abu al Naser](#), was killed in the town's [main market](#) in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 11- Joumaa Mer'ie, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 12- Muhi al Din Sanna, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 13- Mahmoud Halabiya, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 14- Mohammad Halabiya, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 15- Ghair Halabiya, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 16- Suhaib Hamza Jazzar, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 17- Othman Abdou, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 18- Wael Fahd Haj, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 19- Subhi Barbour, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 20- Child Mohammad Jaber Bazmawi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 21- Mohammad Mustafa Barbour, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 22- Osama Zbidi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 23- Bashir Bazmawi, was killed in the town's main market in the regime's artillery and mortar shelling in the city
- 24- In'am Wasfi Ayyan, 25-year-old, Ma'ret Misreen, Idlib, she was killed in the shelling on Ariha yesterday





Appendixes and Attachments

1- Videos showing the massacre victims, and some of the wounded

Residents trying to collect the dead bodies of the tens of martyr in a truck



One of the martyrs who was killed in the massacre



One of the martyrs who was killed in the massacre



Pictures documenting the massacre victims after they were killed by mortar shells



2- The wounded

Videos showing the residents carrying the wounded, walking on feet, and trying to aid them, in light of the lack of adequate medical capabilities and personnel



Some of the residents and paramedics trying to aid the wounded in a truck amid a limited medical resources





Some of the wounded at the makeshift hospital



One of the wounded on the ground at the makeshift hospital



Wounded in the makeshift hospital amid a shortage in the necessary medical resources



3- The shelling and destruction

Blood and destruction in the market in the aftermath of the shelling



One of the shells that didn't explode



Blood and destruction in the market in the aftermath of the shelling





Conclusions

1. SNHR affirms that the shelling on Ariha city was indiscriminate and directed against unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces and Al Shabiha have violated the international human rights law which protects the right to life in addition to being committed in a non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime as all elements were fulfilled.
2. SNHR deems what happened in Ariha city, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated throughout Syrian governorates in a widespread manner.
3. The indiscriminate attacks by government forces are violation of customary international humanitarian law where government forces launched several shells on populated areas rather than targeting specific military objects.
4. Those attacks, particularly the bombardment, caused casualties, injures or damaged civilian objects. Moreover, there are strong indicators that the damaged was great compared with the military benefits.
5. The volume of the massacre in addition to its nature, the amount of power that was used, and the indiscriminate and coordinated nature of bombardment cannot be without high instructions and it's a state policy.

Recommendations

The Syrian government

- 1- Stop all Human Rights violations immediately.
- 2- Respect its international commitments that includes the protection of civilians in the time of war, and respect the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Human Rights Council

- 1- Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.
- 2- Apply pressure on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- Hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for what is happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- Give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.





The Security Council

- 1- Adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- 2- Warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.

The Arab League

- 1- Ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.
- 2- Give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.
- 3- Press politically and diplomatically on the main Syrian regime allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.

International Commission of Inquiry

- 1- Stop depicting the conflict as it is between two equal parties in crimes, power and central decision-making, and to describe the crime as it is without mitigation for political purposes. It also has to increase its cadres that is concerned with the Syrian case due to the volume of the daily crimes which would insure a more comprehensive and complete documentation.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
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