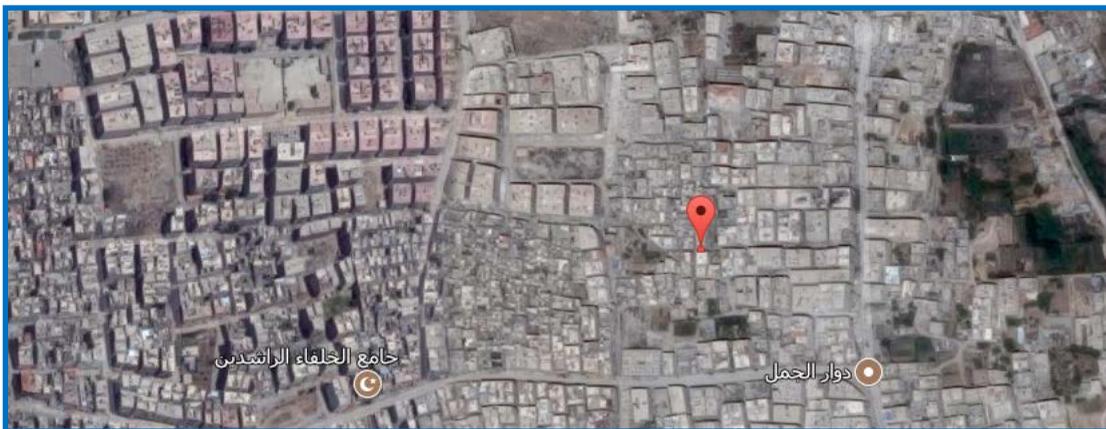




## observing and documenting of exposing of the fleeing civilians from Bait Saham to shooting fire and killing .by Syrian government forces

Bait Saham: a village, located about three kilometers to the south of the capital Damascus. Its population is about 15667.

The location on the map:



Wednesday noon, 18 October 2013, government forces opened fire randomly against unarmed civilians while they were trying to flee from Bait Saham area which is located in southern Damascus

The report methodology relies on the investigation carried out by SNHR's team in cooperation with activists and eyewitnesses. The report includes two eyewitnesses' accounts that is recorded in the report in addition to news and pictures received by SNHR through cooperative activists from the city.

Abu Omar Al Ghoutani, a resident of Bait Saham, witnessed the incident, and he is still alive. He told SNHR his testimony after we approached him:

“Wednesday about 12:30 pm, the committee entered and promised that they would secure safe and humanitarian passage that can be used to flee the siege. The committee got out first, after it guaranteed thousands of civilians on the entrance of the town securities that they will be safe if they get out with the committee. The committee walked in front of the group. When the committee passed the checkpoint





which was in front of the town the machine guns and the snipers shot fire against civilians. Here, martyrs and the injured had fallen down, and the regime forces pulled some of those martyrs and injured. Confusion rose among the civilians so they fled to the gardens area in Bait Saham town these gardens are located on Damascus International airport road. When they moved toward the gardens the snipers and the machines guns that were stationed on the high buildings in the neighboring area “Garamana” and the snipers on the Syrian school in Aqraba gardens, opened fire intensively against civilians and this is how the massacre was perpetrated

To contact with Abu Omar Al Ghoutani via Skype:  
(freedom.seeker4).

SNHR contacted Abo Amer, a survivor from the incident, he told us the following:

‘On Wednesday, we stood near the military checkpoint. The joint committee promised us to secure a safe passage to get out of Bait Saham area. When we came close to the regime checkpoint, the checkpoint’s elements started shooting us. We fled toward close gardens from the Damascus International airport and the snipers of the Syrian regime shot us randomly from the roof of buildings in Garamana area, and the Syrian international school, and I saw more than 40 corpses on the ground including children, women, men and injured persons. We couldn’t come close because of the snipers. The checkpoint elements started to take a number of residents and force them to carry the martyrs and the injured towards the checkpoint to record them by the regime media as they are survivors from the terrorist targeting. The individuals who carried the martyrs and the injured person toward the checkpoint have being depicting by the official media then they were exploded to the southern area. The elements said literally “return back to the siege”.

The elements took the injured persons which were 15 to Al Mojtaهد hospital in Damascus. We received the death news of three persons and 12 person survived”

You can contact with Abo Amer via Skype:

sahem4fr

### **The victims’ names:**

SNHR was able to document the death of no less than 52 individuals including nine women and one child in addition to no less than 100 injured people:

Link includes [the victims’ names](#) and pictures that documented their death:





Link shows [the location](#) of the checkpoint affiliated to the Syrian regime which perpetrated Bait Saham massacre:

[Videos depict](#) the victim's [pictures who](#) died in the massacre:

[Videos depict](#) the victims due to the massacre:

Video depicts machine guns and the snipers [opened fire against civilians](#):

Video [depicts relief](#) of the injured who [fall down](#) after Syrian regime forces opened fire against them:

[A testimony of a child](#) on the massacre:

### **Conclusions:**

1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on Bait Saham city in Damascus suburbs 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 non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime as all elements were fulfilled.
2. SNHR deems what happened in Bait Saham, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated in all 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 and did not direct to specific military object.
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:**

#### **To the Syrian government:**

- 1- To stop all Human Rights violations immediately.
- 2- To 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.





### **To Human Rights Council:**

- 1- To 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- To press on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- To hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- To give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.

### **To the Security Council:**

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

### **To the Arab League:**

- 1- To ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.
- 2- To give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.
- 3- To 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.





## To International Commission of Inquiry:

1- To cease 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 objects. It also has to increase its cadres that is concerned with the Syrian case due to the volume of the daily crimes which allow it for border and more comprehensive documentation.

