



## No One Is Safe

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### 1. Executive Summary:

This report views only mortar shells victims' toll, as government forces were the first to use different kinds of weapons since March 2011 and gradually to the use of Scud missiles and poisoned gas.

According to SNHR archive government forces first use of mortar shells was in shelling Douma in Damascus suburbs on Monday August 1, 2011, where a shell fell nearby the Commercial Bank in Douma and killed one person, after that government forces expanded the use of mortar to all the provinces, and when the Syrian Opposition started arming itself, the mortar was one of the very first weapons used as it is a simple artillery weapon easy to set up and dismantle, and as they don't have precise weapons like missiles and warplanes, they've carried out using mortar shells up till the moment of printing this report, and after extremist groups such as An-Nusra Front and ISIS used by them for the same reasons, also by YPG.

This study shows 69 of the most notable mortar shelling incidents that led to the deaths or injuries of victims, and targeting the vital centers, since March 2011 and until the moment of printing this report, as we included in the report 19 testimony of eyewitnesses or victims injured in these incidents.

SNHR team noticed that in most cases there is no use of GPS and shells launch computers which made it a random weapon and therefore indiscriminate, government forces use 60-80-120 mm mortar shells imported from Russia, as





for the other parties they depend on what they gain from the government forces, or locally make the mortar cannon

As we also noticed that most civilians killed by the armed opposition factions forces were killed by mortar shells.

Finally, we indicate that there are a lot of incidents where victims fell after the indiscriminate mortar shelling, we could not determine the source of the shelling and therefore who is responsible for it, this happened particularly in Damascus and Aleppo, despite many opposition factions (which are not united) issuing multiple statement about targeting the headquarters and security centers in areas controlled by government forces in the cities, a goal that is difficult to accurately hit, and thus cause the deaths of many civilians in the neighborhoods and surrounding streets, but many of the investigations and testimonies also proved that the government forces exploited this data, and bombed neighborhoods nearby from inside the security headquarters itself.

## **2. Mortar Shells Victims Toll:**

### **1- Government forces:**

SNHR documented the death of 1487 individual using mortar shells as follows:

1460 civilians including 138 children and 167 women

27 gunmen

Distributed according to the provinces as follows:

Homs 466, Damascus and Damascus suburbs 427, Aleppo 184, Idlib 118, Deir Az-Zour 113, Daraa 103, Raqqa 53, Hasakah 8, Hama 7, Lattakia 5, Suwaida 3.

### **• Damascus suburbs Province:**

#### **1. Damascus suburbs - Yalda, Wednesday, March 18, 2014**

Government forces fired 2 mortar shells on Yalda killing 5 individuals including a child and injured 9 others according to SNHR documetation

#### **2. Damsqus suburbs - Douma, Friday, April 11, 2014**

Government forces fired several mortar shells on Douma, killing 5 people, including 3 women, and injuring nearly 11 others.

#### **3. Damascus suburbs - Kafr Batna Thursday, May 22, 2014**

Government forces fired 5 mortar shells on [Kafr Batna](#), killing 6 people, including 3 children and a woman, and injuring nearly 14 others.





#### 4. Damascus - Qaboun, Friday, June 13, 2014

Government forces targeted a wedding in Qaboun, as they shelled 2 heavy mortar shells, turning the wedding to tragedy, as it killed 8 civilians and injured almost 40 others some in critical condition, plus targeting the neighborhood with B10 fillings on the main road, in the same time special units sniper flopened fire randomly on the buildings.



Doctor Abu Othman “SNHR member in Damascus” was accidently in the incident place:

“I was on my way back from visiting my friend when I saw many cars heading towards Al-Kabeir Mosque area, and people are gathering in panic, and I knew that government forces shelled a wedding area then I heard another shell sound in that place, I went to the field hospital and there were tens of residents outside the hospital, I went inside the hospital and the scene was terrifying, blood everywhere on the walls, beds, and floor.

Victims were on the floor with bloody bodies and the wounded were groaning in pain, I counted more than 15 wounded victims on the beds and on the floor. I rushed to check the patients, and started to aid the most critical wounded.

There was a man lying on the floor unconscious, one of my colleagues helped him wake up, and I’ve applied the CPR but he died. And on another bed another person had died too.

The wounded were arriving each 5 minutes and there was no place left for new wounded therefore they were laid on the floor, some cases were very critical, and the Red Crescent team transported the critical cases to the capital hospitals.

Also a medical team from Barzeh came to help Qaboun medical team and some cases were transferred to Barzeh medics to help Qaboun medics.

I asked some wounded about what happened, Abdullah one of them told me: I was passing through the street when the first shell fell, so I rushed to help the wounded then another shell fell and I needed someone to help me, then I was transported to the hospital”

Images of the [massacre](#), also shows a drum from the wedding stained with blood.

Videos shows the [crowded hospital](#) and putting some [wounded on the floor](#) as the hospital couldn’t take in anymore wounded

Images of the wounded in [Qaboun medical point](#) as a result of shelling a [wedding in the neighborhood](#)





### 5. Damascus suburbs - Zibdein, Thursday, July 24, 2014

Government forces fired 7 mortar shells, accompanied with several SSM missiles shelled on the main market killing 17 individuals including 5 children



### 6. Damascus suburbs - Medical point in Nashabiyyea town, Monday, July 28, 2014

Government forces targeted the medical checkpoint with a mortar shell, killing 2 doctors immediately, and SNHR confirmed that the targeted checkpoint didn't have any vehicles or gunmen inside or outside it.

### 7. Damascus suburbs - Ein Tarma, Monday, August 4, 2014

Government forces fired 2 mortar shells killing 5 individuals including 2 children and injuring about 9 others

### 8. Damascus suburb - Douma, August 18, 2014

Government forces fired 3 mortar shells killing 6 individuals including a child and 2 women and injuring about 12 others



### 9. Damascus suburbs - Douma, Friday, August 29, 2014

Government forces fired 3 mortar shells killing 6 individuals including 2 children and injuring about 9 others.

### 10. Damascus suburbs - Irbeen, Monday, January 19, 2015

Government forces targeted the local market with 2 mortar shells, the shelling happened after rumors that government forces will open a humanitarian path to give food supplies, killing 7 civilians and 3 women, and injuring more than 35 individuals, according to SNHR documentation.

SNHR communicated with Mr. Abu Owais an eyewitness to the incident:

“It was around 2:30 in the afternoon when people gathered in the market after news from government forces that they will allow food supplies, but the government forces shelled the area with 2 mortar shells killing 7 individuals and injured more





than 40 others, including many cases of amputation”

Video shows the wounded in shelling the market [inside a hospital](#):

[Images](#) of children wounded



11. Damascus suburbs - Douma, Friday, February 6, 2015

Government forces fired 3 mortar [shells killing](#) 6 individuals including [2 children](#) and a woman and injuring about 13 others

• **Homs Province:**

**1. Homs - Khaldiyyea neighborhood, February 4, 2012**

Government forces fired more than [43 mortar](#) shells on the [houses killing](#) 40 individuals including 3 children and a woman, and injuring 92 others, in [addition to](#) destroying no less than 36 houses as a result, according to SNHR documentation [Videos](#) shows the [destruction](#) and tens of [victims](#) wounded and killed

**2. Homs - Rusten, February 6, 2012**

Government forces fired 3 mortar shells on the houses of the residents killing 10 individuals including a girl and 2 women and injuring 8 individuals.

Video [of the bodies](#) of the [victims died](#) in the shelling

**3. Homs - Karm Al-Shami, Thursday, November 21, 2013**

Government forces fired [3 mortar shells](#) that hit a four schools complex and a grocery market in Haj Atif Ali square killing 27 individuals including 6 children and a woman and injuring about 43 others.

Video of the [shelling on the grocery market](#) effect and [bodies of victims](#)

**4. Homs - Karm Al-Shami, Thursday, January 9, 2014**

Government forces fired several mortar shells near Al-Akhiar mosque killing 9 individuals in addition to burning and destroying a few residential apartments

**5. Al-Wa'ar, Saturday, January 11, 2014**

Government forces fired several mortar shells killing 28 individuals including a child and 2 women and also damaging several residential buildings and fires blazing in the area





## 6. Homs - Al-Gouta neighborhood, January 12, 2014

Government forces fired several mortar shells killing 20 individuals including 4 children and 3 women and injuring 17 others

## 7. Homs – bombing a girls’ school in Rusten city, Sunday, June 29, 2014

Government forces located in the engineering brigade targeted the girls Preparatory School killing four girls from the same family according to SNHR documentation



SNHR communicated with Mr. Nour Al-Din Al-Riz an eyewitness of the incident:

“In the first days of Ramadan government forces shelling on Rusten from the artillery brigade that overlook the city, the shelling continued for hours.

About 2:00 in the afternoon a mortar shell fell 200 meters from the girls Preparatory School located on the international road in the city the shell fell around the time that the school day was over and the girls were leaving the school

When I heard the sound of the shell that was close to the school I saw 4 students killed one of them her body was completely deformed and 5 other girls were injured”

Images of the [students bodies](#)

Video shows the [students’ bodies](#)

Video document the place where the mortar shell fell [near the school](#)

### • Deir Az-Zour:

## 1. Deirz Az-Zour - Al-Qsour neighborhood, September 25, 2012

Government forces located in the vanguard camp west of the city fired 4 mortar shells killing 18 individuals including 2 women and injured 27 others.

The video shows the destruction effects and the attempts to recover the [victims in the neighborhood](#)

Videos of [victims’ bodies](#) and attempts to aid them to [city hospitals](#)

[Suspicion of involvement of government forces shelling areas under its control exploiting statements issued by the armed opposition factions:](#)

Several testimonies presented by the locals living nearby the Security centers, the shells being fired from these Security centers on the residential neighborhoods near them after the armed opposition issued statements that they intend to target the neighborhoods





Mrs. Yasmine living near one of those Security centers told SNHR:

“It’s now familiar to me the sounds of the shells fired from Qasioun mountain in different directions, and I’m capable of identifying the artillery shells from other kinds of shelling.

Sunday morning March 23, 2014 around 7:40 I’ve heard a different type of shell fired and it fell in a very close area that means it was fired from a close area to another close area, the same thing repeated after a few minutes.

After that I’ve heard the ambulances and knew that one of the shells fell nearby Nuri Basha area at the beginning of the river road, and the second at Ruwad Institution in Abu Rumaneh and in the same day and the same time another shell that I didn’t hear fell nearby Adas Mosque in Muhajerin.

I can’t identify which Security branch fired the shell as my house is surrounded with more than a security branch.

It’s not the first time we heard this shelling it happened before on different intervals, in Muhajerin and Malki, and friends of mine who live there assured me”.

Examples of incidents where government forces’ involvement in mortar shells bombing on areas under its control were suspected

### **1. Homs, Dablan neighborhood, Monday July 29, 2013:**

2 mortar shells expected to be fired by government forces near Al-Housami Mosque, as worshipers were leaving the mosque after Taraweeh prayer, and the mosque is in an area under the control of government forces, and there is a military checkpoint near the mosque.

First shell fell near the mosque without exploding, and after a little while when people gathered in the place of the bombing, a second shell landed in the same place; causing the deaths of 15 civilians, including a child and a doctor, and injuring at least 32 others.

Video shows the attempts to evacuate the victims; the injured and the dead in [the vicinity of the mosque](#)

### **Dr. Bara SNHR member in Homs:**

“It was about 9:30 pm, a time which marks the exit of worshipers from Taraweeh prayer, I heard a small explosion I thought it bombed the old neighborhoods of Homs, minutes later I heard a bigger explosion calls for help from the prayers in





Housami mosque near my house, the blast was a result of a mortar shell landed in front of the door of the mosque, but did not explode, and after worshipers gathered around another shell landed in the same place and exploded; causing the deaths of a number of people, including a child and a Doctor used to teach in Qalamoon University.

Near the mosque is a government forces checkpoint, but the members went after the fall of the first shell and warned people that there are other shells that will fall in the same place and this is what happened, what led to an increase in the numbers of dead and wounded “

## **2. Massacre of Badr al-Din al-Hasani School in Shaghour neighborhood in Damascus on Tuesday, April 29, 2014:**

Three mortar shells fell on the Sheikh Badr al-Din al-Hasani compound (International Institute of Sharia and Arabic education) locals said that the source is a security headquarters surrounding the complex, two shells landed in the same place in the school square and the third landed in the nearby cemetery, which led to the deaths of 14 students, in addition to injuring at least 86 people.

The following link contains the names of the [victims of Badr al-Din al-Hassani School in Shaghour](#) and many of the images that recorded the incident:

3. Wednesday, April 30, 2014 “[Rahman Legion](#)” of the armed opposition factions issued a statement denying responsibility for the bombing of the school.

### **Dr. Abu Othman SNHR researcher in Damascus said:**

“We can’t decide for certain the source of the shelling, however there is signs that indicates that the government forces is the one responsible for shelling the school, first of the indications: The closest Security Headquarter is 1km away from the mosque and it’s unlikely that the armed opposition would’ve missed by that margin (presuming it was the intended target of the shelling) even though there is a small checkpoints in the neighborhood.

Second: armed opposition factions doesn’t have the ability to attack with the preciseness that we’ve seen in two shells falling in the same place and another one in the cemetery close by.

Third: the images showed shells that aren’t those of the armed opposition that is the handmade, but shells made in specialized factories

As well as locals told me that a shell fell in the day before the massacre, as the target seemed to set the coordinates of the target they intend to hit”





## Legal Conclusions:

1. The Syrian government have undeniably violated the Security Council resolution 2139 and used random mortar shelling widely and also committed deliberate murder according to article 7 of Rome Statute systematically and widely which constitutes crimes against humanity, in addition to violating several sections of International Humanitarian Law, committing tens of crimes that qualifies as to war crimes through the use of random indiscriminate excessive force.

2. SNHR confirm that the mortar shelling in the mentioned cases was random and targeted unarmed civilians, therefore the government forces have violated the International Law for Human Rights regulations that protect the right to live, as it was committed in non-international armed conflict therefore It constitutes war crimes.

3. This random attacks carried out by the government forces is a violation of International Humanitarian Customary Law, as government forces have fired shells on residential areas and didn't target a specific military target.

4. These attacks especially the shelling, have caused losses in civilians lives and injuries of civilians and grave damage to the civilians' properties, and there is a very strong indication that make us assume that the damage was excessive compared to the military benefit intended of it.

5. The wide, repetitive, and systematic shelling and excessive force used in it and the random nature of the shelling and the organized nature of the attacks can't be applied without orders from high authorities and it is a state policy.

6. The government forces and all its factions and leaders are involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes committed against the Syrian people, and all those who give financial, political, and militia support -such as the Russian and Iranian governments and Hezbollah of Lebanon and others, also weapon supplies companies- are all considered partners in these crimes and are liable to criminal prosecution.

## 2- Armed Opposition Factions:

SNHR documented the death of 1,414 civilians including 381 children and 258 women in result of different armed opposition factions' shelling most in the provinces of Aleppo, Damascus suburbs and Damascus as follows:

Aleppo: 721 victims; 51% of total victims' toll, meaning more than half of the victims died in Aleppo alone.





Damascus & Damascus suburbs: 448 victims, 32% of total victims' toll, the total of victims in Damascus and Damascus suburbs provinces.

The rest of Syrian provinces: 245 victims

And we've noticed that April 2014 was the bloodiest, as the mortar shelling victims toll increased massively, reaching (217 civilians, including 55 children and 38 women).

Most of this incidents happened while targeting Security headquarters in residential areas, mostly some opposition factions issue statements (we have copies of) that indicates they will target these areas, and that doesn't absolve them of the responsibility at all, because the mortar is a random weapon and as there is no computers or pursuit systems, and that was proved through the vast majority of the incidents of targeting Security headquarters inside the residential areas.

Allegations point toward the armed opposition, I most cases of shelling areas under government forces control, especially when there is a martial target nearby the random shelling areas, or the faction itself adopt the shelling, also eyewitnesses' testimonies and the types of shells.

Armed opposition factions started using and making the mortar early since the beginning of 2012, and we've documented many cases of shelling that caused massacres and collateral damages and injuries too.

#### [A- Aleppo Province:](#)

##### **1. Thursday, April 17, 2014:**

Several mortar shells from one of the armed opposition factions (allegedly Badr Martyrs' Brigade) on Al-Ashrafiyye, Saif Al-Dawleh, Al-Jaberiyye, Al-Sabeil, Al-Neil St. Al-Mokambo, Al-Muhafza, and Al-Meidan neighborhoods, which all are under government control, the shelling killed 25 civilians including 8 children and 6 women while at least 83 others were injured.

Badr Martyrs Brigade denied the allegation pointed at him by the locals and activist of the community, but later admitted and announced that they are responsible of shelling Al-Khaldiyye and Al-Ashrafiyye, justifying it by the existence of military government forces and that they've said earlier that it's a martial areas warning civilians from coming near it and asked them to leave, and also confirmed targeting other areas like Stein St. and Masaken Al-Sabeil for the same reasons.

Video if [the statement issued by Badr Martyrs Brigade](#) April 18, 2014

The following [link](#) includes the names and details of Thursday, April 17, 2014 massacre in result of the random mortar shelling on Aleppo neighborhoods (Al-Meidan, Al-Muhafaza, Al-Mokambo, Al-Jaberiyye, and Sheikh Baker)





## **2. Aleppo - Al-Ashrafiyyea neighborhood, Sunday, May 4, 2014:**

An armed opposition faction fired 5 mortar shells at least on Al-Ashrafiyye 4 of them in Mall St. next to the post office killing 9 victims including 6 children and a woman, while 21 others were injured.

A [link](#) to the details of Al-Ashrafiyye victims on May 4, 2014

## **3. Aleppo - Al-Jamelaiah neighborhood, Tuesday, May 6, 2014:**

6 mortar shells fell on the neighborhood specifically near the education administration and the vicinity of Saadallah Al-Jabri square and Al-Baeth party building in the neighborhood, the source is assumed to be the armed opposition factions, and the shelling targeted Aleppo governor convoy, as they were set to celebrate with several government forces officers and local militias in the Artist Association Theatre in the neighborhood celebrating Martyrs Day, but the shelling cancelled the celebration, SNHR documented the death of 6 civilians including 3 women and a child and their names are: Fadia Al-Aqad, Alaa Qadour daughter of Abul Latif Qadour, Faten Ghalia Aqad and the child Mohammad Wahid Qishreh son of Ahmad, also Haithem Sibahi son of Sameh, and Hamada Al-Hammad son of Mohammad

## **4. Shelling incidents that caused massacres in Aleppo from Friday, May 30, 2014 to Wednesday June 18, 2014:**

SNHR documented during the aforementioned period no less than 214 mortar shell or gas cylinder shelled on several residential neighborhoods in Aleppo that are under government forces control such as; Al-Jamelaiah, Al-Meidan, Al-Mokambo, Al-Faid, Kul Ab St. killing 109 civilians including 24 children and 26 women, which means the percentage of women and children is 46% of victims while 284 others at least were injured.

The most notable armed opposition faction that claim to be the one targeting the areas is “Badr Martyrs Brigade” located in Bani Zaid and Al-Khaldiyye, led by “Khalid Al-Hayyani”, and they previously issued statements and videos that state their responsibility of the shelling in addition to some other military factions.

- Sunday, June 1, 2014; one of the armed opposition factions fired 3 mortar shells on Al-Mokambo killing a young man and a woman and injuring more than 10 others.

Mrs. Fatima B. an eyewitness told SNHR of her testimony of the incident:

“While I was in Al-Mokambo at 5:00 pm a mortar shell fell nearby Al-Rawda Mosque when the prayers were leaving after the prayer, 10 minutes later 3 shells fell one after the other killing several people among them a young man his body turned to shreds and a woman that was walking on the sidewalk killed by fragment that hit her head.





Grave damages were inflicted to the shops and cars, and there was a state of panic in the area and the people aided about 10 who were injured”.

- Monday, June 2, 2014 armed opposition factions fired 2 mortar shells on Fuqan neighborhood injuring 2 victims.

An eyewitness from Furqan called Hasan H. told SNHR:

“While I was in the neighborhood around 2:00pm 2 back to back mortar shells fell on the end of Express St. leading to Martyrs Organization, leading to the destruction of 3 or 4 cars parked in the area in addition to 2 passer-by getting injured and being aided by the people, then the civil defense force came and cleaned the destruction effects and the broken glass”.

The link includes the [names and details](#) of the civilian victims in Aleppo, and images that shows the destruction effects and the damages caused in the building and properties.

Between May 30, 2014 and June 18, 2014:

the [link includes](#) videos of Baadr Martyrs Brigade and other factions shelling neighborhood under government forces control in Aleppo:

#### **5. Aleppo - Al-Meidan neighborhood, Wednesday, July 30, 2014**

A mortar shell fell on Farah church vicinity in Meidan, assumed to be from one of the armed opposition factions, the shelling shattered several windows and killed 6 civilians including 3 women while 11 others were injured according to SNHR documentation.

Image of the [shell landing place in front of Farah church](#)

[Images](#) of [some victims](#)

#### **6. Aleppo - Al-Hamadaniyyea neighborhood, Friday, August 1, 2014**

An armed opposition faction fired 10 mortar shells most of it fell behind Al-Radwan Mosque in Project 3000 in the neighborhood, usually people of the area and the surrounding buildings usually gathers in it escaping the summer heat inside their houses, though Al-Hamadaniyye is considered a straight line of conflict between the government forces and the armed opposition, and it also has the highest numbers of military presence and witnesses heavy conflicts between the two sides.

SNHR managed to document the death of 11 civilians including 6 children and injuring 22 others.

A [link to the names](#) of the victims of Al-Hamadaniyye on August 1, 2014





### **7. Aleppo - Al-Ashrafiyyea neighborhood, Saturday, November 29, 2014**

An armed opposition faction located in Bani Zaid neighborhood fired 18 mortar shells on several areas of Al-Ashrafiye neighborhood, most of it fell in the vicinity of the post office and the crops warehouse and the first circle market, we recorded the death of a mother and her 3 children in the first circle area in the neighborhood.

[Image](#) of a shell that didn't explode- Mortar 120mm Al-Ashrafiyye, November 29, 2014

[Aleppo- Al-Ashrafiyye- First Circle- Effects of damages of shops](#), November 29, 2014

### **8. Aleppo - New Aleppo neighborhood, Thursday, January 1, 2015**

Indiscriminately shelling targeted- with 4 mortar shells and a local made missile- the local market in Shuhda area near Sayyda Nafisa Mosque in New Aleppo (south), we recorded the deaths of 15 civilians, including 4 children, 3 women, and injuries of nearly 43 others, as well as grave material damages consisted of the burning of 4 cars and damaged shops in the wall of the mosque, the source of the bombing, according to local residents Al-Rashideen area in the south, where Zanki and Army of the Mujahideen factions are located.



SNHR team spoke to a resident named Hassan M.

“I was in southern New Aleppo in the western part of Aleppo, where government forces controlled, I've heard five explosions around one o'clock in the afternoon in the local market area in front of Sayyda Nafisa mosque in the southern New Aleppo. I went to the place on foot, when I arrived I saw traces of blood filling the place, and the effects of the destruction and fires in the stalls and shops, as a result of fires blazing in the market, in addition to the damage to Sayyda Nafisa Mosque fence.

I saw four burned-out cars, one filled with corpses and upside down, and I saw a man in his sixties lost part of his head, and saw two young men bleeding, while others were young men screaming for help before citizens' cars started aiding the wounded from the scene. I left the place immediately as I was unable to stay due to the horror of the scene. But one of the people that were there told me when I asked him about the source of the shells, it is to the west at Al-Rashideen neighborhood which is controlled by the opposition forces. “





[Photos show](#) the [effects of the destruction](#) in the new neighborhood of Aleppo market

### **9. Aleppo - As-Syrian neighborhood, Monday, February 16, 2015**

An armed opposition faction bombed the detachment of military security with 6 mortar shells, one landed near As-Syrian Pharmacy in Customs Square, and another at Al-Ta'aluf Hospital, and 2 shells on the detachment of military security and 2 shells at the checkpoint located at the head of Al-Thakneh St., bombardment [caused the deaths of 11 civilians](#), including 5 children and a woman.

### **10. Aleppo - Al-Jamelaiah neighborhood Monday, 23 / March / 2015**

An armed opposition faction bombed the neighborhood with 6 mortar shells, first landed on the commercial market in the Nozha Street, while the other five landed near Fayhaa restaurant and its surroundings in Baron St. adjacent to the neighborhood shelling significantly damaged the shops and civilian vehicles.

SNHR managed to document the killing of 17 civilians, including 5 children and 2 women, and injuring about 40 others

[Images](#) of the effects of the [bombing](#)

### **Damascus suburbs Province:**

#### **1. Damascus suburbs - Jaramana, Sunday October 17, 2012**

An armed opposition faction bombed [Jaramana city](#), with a mortar shell that landed at the entrance of the city; causing the deaths of 8 civilians, including a woman, and nearly 11 other civilians injured.

#### **2. Damascus suburbs - Jaramana, Thursday, April 25, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Jaramana with 3 mortar shells, where the shells landed in Soyuf Square in the city center; causing the deaths of 5 civilians, and wounding nearly 8 others.

#### **3. Damascus suburbs - Jaramana, Thursday, May 16, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Jaramana with 3 mortar shells, where the shells landed in [Al-Homsi neighborhood](#), Al-Baydar, and Martyrs' Square in the city center; causing the deaths of 7 civilians, including a woman, and injuring nearly 27 others.





#### **4. Damascus suburbs - Jaramana, Wednesday, August 7, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Jaramana with 5 mortar shells that landed in the President Square; causing the deaths of 5 civilians, including 3 children and 2 women, and injuring nearly 16 others, according to SNHR Documentation.

Images of the three [children](#)

#### **5. Damascus suburbs - Aldwyla area , Sunday, November 10, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Aldwylah with [3 mortar shells](#), one of which fell on a car transporting a family of the townspeople in Kashkool neighborhood; causing the deaths of the family members; the father and his four children (Gurgus Bahjat Elias and his four children).



### **Damascus Province:**

#### **1. Damascus - Bab Sharqi, Monday, March 11, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Bab Sharqi with 2 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 3 civilians, including a woman, and about 8 others injured.

#### **2. Damascus - Bab Touma, Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Sheikh Raslan St. with 3 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 7 civilians, including 2 children and 3 women, and injuring about 23 others, according to SNHR documentation.

#### **3. Damascus - Hijaz, Wednesday, November 6, 2013**

An armed opposition faction bombed Hijaz Square with 6 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 4 civilians, including a doctor and an engineer, and injuring about 12 others, according to SNHR documentation.

Image of [Eng. Azad Likud](#)

Image of [Dr. Amjad Alhsni](#)





#### 4. Damascus - Arnos Square, Sunday, April 20, 2014

2 mortar shells hit a residential building in [Arnos Square](#), preliminary investigations showed that the origin is the factions of the armed opposition (difficult to determine who was the faction that launched the shells), caused the deaths of a father and his two children (Moataz Aljelq 12 years and his sister Shahd 10 months, and their father), and injuring at least 7 civilians.



On the same day we recorded a mortar shell in Sabaa Bahrat Square, and another near Blue Tower Hotel in Al-Hamra Street, did not record any casualties.

[jelq family home](#), which was struck by the shell on April 20, 2014

#### 5. Damascus city, Thursday, February 5, 2015

At least 110 missile-propelled grenades varied between mortar shells and Grad and Katyusha missiles, on several neighborhoods in downtown Damascus, the source of the bombing was “Islam Army”, which issued a warning on Tuesday, February 5, 2015, as they published on social network sites that they intended to target the security headquarters belonging to government forces, which by that they warn citizens of leaving their homes or presence near these sites.

Bombardment caused the deaths of 6 civilians, including a child, and injuring at least 39 people, with several shells fell on the Faculty of Science, and the College of Economy, Education and Al-Hal Market, and the School of Andalus in Barmeka neighborhood, and caused numerous material damages, in addition to the physical damages to residential buildings and civilians vehicles

A Tweet from [Zahrán Aloush](#) which adopts the bombing in Damascus on Thursday, February 5, 2015

The effects of the destruction of [universities and neighborhoods](#) of Damascus February 5, 2015

Images of some of [the wounded](#) as a result of the bombing of the city of Damascus





## **Idlib Province:**

### **1. Idlib - Jisr Al-Shughour city, Wednesday, April 2, 2014**

An armed opposition faction (Syria Rebels Front) fired 3 mortar shells which landed on the Omar bin al-Khattab mosque in the northern Hara while targeting Zleto military checkpoint, where the checkpoint is just 400 meters away from the bombing site, causing the deaths of 13 people, including a woman, and injuring nearly 34 others.

Media activist Tariq Abdul Haq of Jisr Al-Shughour told SNHR:

“An armed opposition faction “Al-Ikhlās Lillah Brigade” issued a statement calling for the people in Jisr Al-Shughour to evacuate within 48 hours at the end of March 2014, but civilians couldn’t leave, and the city then suffered from repetitive bombing by that faction, I remember Rabi’a Al-Adwiyye fired two mortar shells and thankfully did not explode, it was nearly one o’clock at noon, at March 31, 2014, as the city came under repeated shelling from Syria Revolutionaries Front, in an attempt to target the government forces military checkpoints, in April 2, 2014, several mortar shells landed near the Mosque of Omar bin al-Khattab in the north of the city, and caused the deaths of 13 civilians and wounding about 34 others.

The bombardment repeated on Saturday, April 5, 2014, where 2 mortar shells landed near Hmad Al-Sabeil School killing the son of Hazem Shugri and wounding his brother and lost his leg as a result, as they were heading to their home. And 5 others were injured then”

Image of Place of shells on April 5, 2014 near Omar bin al-Khattab mosque <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5pudHajcbMubjZlX0cyVFM3M2s/edit?usp=sharing>

Link contains the [names and details of the victims](#) on April 2, 2014

### **2. Idlib - Jisr Al-Shughour, Sunday, June 15, 2014**

An armed opposition faction (Eiz Front) fired 3 locally-made mortar shells “Hell Cannon”, around 7:00pm landed on a house in Karm Rahal and Dispensary neighborhoods, bombardment caused the deaths of 14 civilians, including 9 children, 3 women, most of the victims from one family.

Residents and local activists informed us that the nearest military checkpoint of the government forces is 500 meters from the bombing site.





### **Mohammed one of the injured and eyewitnesses told SNHR:**

“On Thursday, June 12, 2014 about 6:30pm, a shell fell on the blacksmiths market in front of Thuraiya mosque, headed straight with my friend to the bombing site to find out what happened, and thankfully it was only physical damages to the place, and a young man had a minor injury, and while I was taking some pictures another shell landed on a vegetable market in front of Hossam Shehadeh shop, and I fainted from the intensity of the blast, and I was lightly injured in the hands and feet, and was aided to the hospital.

Three days later, on Sunday, June 5, 2014, before seven o'clock in the evening, I heard voices of consecutive blasts, the first was light, while the second was so powerful that I thought that it was a barrel bomb from the sound the whole ground shook under me, I was 300 meters away from the scene of the explosion in the line of sight, I knew then that the shells fell on Karm Rahal neighborhood, I went directly to the neighborhood, the shelling reached a house away from the clinic checkpoint about 20 meters, I saw some of my friends in the Red Crescent recovering bodies of victims, I didn't see injured people at the time, but I saw human remains volatile in many places, in the street and on the walls and the area was filled with the smell of blood, that tragedy still stuck in my mind despite several days on the incident have passed, the scene was terrifying.

“The explosion of pressure-groomed heads and limbs on roofs and buildings, there were no wounded everyone was killed, including a pregnant woman.”

[A picture](#) of some of the victims of the bombing (the family of Saeed Hashoum consisting of a mother, father and grandfather and three children, also a child in the ninth grade was killed with three other children that were playing together).

The [place of the mortar shells](#) the house of [Hashoum family](#) that all its members were killed after being hit by three shells at the house

### **Daraa Province:**

#### **1 – Daraa - Al-Mattar neighborhood Thursday, May 22 2014:**

Sjeil artillery battalion of the armed opposition, electoral tent “Al-Watan tent” at nine o'clock in the evening almost two mortar shells, which included a crowd of celebrators of the “presidential elections”, was taking part in the ceremony, then members of local committees and recruits of government forces, and many civilians,





including children from the neighborhood, two mortar shells landed in the beginning of this assembly (first shell reached the tent, and the second landed in the surroundings), while a third shell landed after about an hour in front of the East Hospital near the bombardment place that the victims and injured of the tent bombing were rushed to.

That bombing killed 29 civilians, including 8 children, 5 women, in addition to killing 7 soldiers, while the number of injured rose to 276 injured, including 15 people in critical condition.

The artillery battalion had threatened earlier via its Facebook several times to target electoral tents pro-Bashar al-Assad at the neighborhood to prove to a large extent the responsibility for the massacre.

The [statement](#) issued by Sjeil artillery battalion link.

Tuesday 13 / May / 2014

[Video of members of March](#) 18 squad of Sjeil artillery battalion, while bombing of military security and tents surrounding the branch and registering injuries. As stated by the speaker in the video.

They also affirmed the continued targeting of those tents on 14 / May / 2014

Includes the following [link](#) all the details and evidence and the names of the victims that relate to the tent shelling 22 / May / 2014

2- Daraa - Bosra Al-Sham Tuesday, January 27, 2015

An armed opposition faction fired 2 mortar shells on the city, the shells fell in the vicinity of the primary school “Martyr Abdul Karim Najm”, in conjunction with the students leaving the school, causing the deaths of 2 children (the girl Rua’a Al-Saleh 7 years, and the girl [Zainab Ozdshir Huraisy](#) 7 years), and wounding nearly 6 other children.

Images of the [schoolgirls](#)



The children [Mahmoud Mohammed](#) & [Hassan Mohammed Alharajlh](#), injured as a result of the bombing





Evidences and [attachments](#) about the armed opposition violations:

On the following link statements issued by some armed opposition factions contain, and also statements of condemnation.

Link of the [clips](#) contain documents bombing by armed opposition factions to areas controlled by government forces.

[Link](#) contains images of locally-made shells.

### **Legal Conclusions:**

1. The armed opposition factions violated several sections of the international humanitarian law, committing dozens of crimes that qualifies as war crimes through indiscriminate and random shelling
2. The random attacks perpetrated by the opposition forces is considered a violation of the international humanitarian customary law as most of the attacks mentioned in the study were against security headquarters located in residential areas and most of the armed opposition factions can't hit these headquarters directly without hitting the nearby neighborhoods, therefore this attacks must stop immediately
3. This attacks have caused great losses of lives and civilians properties, and we believe the damage was excessive compared to the military benefit achieved.

3-The Democratic Union Party

SNHR documented the death of 34 civilians including 13 children and a woman by **YPG** :

through the random shelling on the residential areas using mortar shells.

#### **1. Al-Hassaka - Diab village on Friday, October 4, 2013**

YPG forces shelled the Diab village near the town of Qahtaniyah, with 2 mortar shells; which caused the deaths of 6 civilians from the same family, including 4 children.

#### **2. Al-Hassaka - Ras Al Ain Thursday October 31, 2013**

YPG forces shelled the area around the city of Ras al-Ain with 3 mortar shells causing the deaths of 2 civilians and wounding 4 others.

#### **3. Al-Hassaka - Guerran neighborhood Wednesday, July 30, 2014**

YPG forces fired 2 mortar shells on Guerran one of them landed on a residential home; which caused the deaths of a woman and her four children, according to SNHR documentation.





#### **4. Al-Hassaka - Guerran neighborhood Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

YPG forces bombed Guerran with 3 mortar shells causing the deaths of 7 civilians, including a child and wounding 4 other people.

#### **5. Al-Hassaka - Guerran neighborhood on Friday and Saturday 15 and 16 of August 2014**

YPG forces shelled for two consecutive days Guerran with more than 10 mortar shells; causing major destruction in the neighborhood, killing 12 people and injuring about 34 others, the victims were buried in a small park in the neighborhood because of the siege imposed by those forces on the neighborhood.

#### **6. Al-Hassaka - Ameria Saturday December 6, 2014**

YPG forces bombed Ameria with four mortar shells which caused the deaths of a child and wounding 3 others.

#### **7. Al-Hassaka - Salimeh Al-Ahad February 22, 2015**

YPG forces (located on the Iraqi side) bombe Salimeh village located on the Syrian-Iraqi border with 2 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 7 people, including 3 children

#### **Legal Conclusions:**

1. Democratic Union Party forces violated several sections of the international humanitarian law committing dozens of crimes that qualifies as war crimes through indiscriminate random shelling.
2. Democratic Union Party forces random attacks are a violation of the international humanitarian customary law, and most of the targets were civilian targets that caused the death of many residents and grave damages to properties.

#### **4- Extremist Groups:**

The extremist groups have killed 170 civilians including 41 children and 24 women by mortar shells as follows:

**ISIS:** SNHR documented the death of 156 civilians including 37 children and 21 women through the use of mortar shells.

#### **Aleppo:**

##### **1. Aleppo - Kafr Hamra Monday, February 3, 2014**

ISIS shelled Kafr Hamra Village with a mortar shell; causing the deaths of 4 people, including a child.





## **2. Aleppo - Akhtar in Sunday February 9, 2014**

ISIS shelled Akhtar in with 3 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 2 civilians, including a woman.

## **3. Aleppo - Dodian Tuesday, February 11, 2014**

ISIS shelled the village of Dodian with a mortar shell; causing the deaths of 6 people, including a child.

## **4. Aleppo - Akhtar in Friday, February 14, 2014**

ISIS shelled the village of Akhtar in with two mortar shells; causing the deaths of 2 children.

## **5. Aleppo – Al-Hardana Saturday March 1, 2014**

ISIS shelled Hardana village with two mortar shells; causing the death of a child and 2 women.

## **6. Aleppo - Tal Shaeir, Saturday, November 8, 2014**

Nearly half past eight o'clock in the morning, ISIS fired 2 mortar shells on the Forbidden region on the Syrian-Turkish border, which lies 2 km from Tel Shaeir village, where resides, dozens of families, mostly Kurdish families displaced from areas dominated by ISIS, which killed 3 civilians, including a child, and wounded 4 others.

## **7. Aleppo - Tal Shaeir, Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

Nearly one o'clock at noon, ISIS shelled 3 mortar shells at the Forbidden on the Syrian-Turkish border region, which lies 2 km from Tel barley village, where he resides, dozens of families, mostly Kurdish families displaced from areas dominated by ISIS causing the death of a child and wounding nearly 15 of the displaced including three serious injuries.

A [picture](#) of the girl Azeiza Krau

## **8. Aleppo - Soran Thursday March 2, 2015**

ISIS shelled Soran with mortar shell causing the deaths of a child and a woman, and wounding nearly 4 others.

### **Deir Az-Zour province:**

#### **1. Deir Az-Zour - Baseira Saturday May 31, 2014**

ISIS fired a mortar shell on the village of Baseira which was under the control of An-Nusra Front, the shell landed on a house in the town, and caused the deaths of 4 people from one family and injuring nearly 5 others.





## **2. Deir Az-Zour - Al-Zar village Tuesday July 1, 2014**

ISIS shelled the village offal-Zar with 4 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 7 civilians, including 3 children and 2 women.

## **3. Deir Az-Zour -Al-Joura neighborhood Saturday March 21, 2015**

ISIS shelled the neighborhood controlled by government forces with 3 mortar shells, two of which fell on Al-Wadi Road in the neighborhood; causing the deaths of 4 people, including a child, and injuring nearly 10 others.

### **Hasakah province:**

#### **1. Western Nashwa neighborhood Thursday July 31, 2014**

ISIS shelled Western Nashwa and Sharia neighborhoods in the city with 7 mortar shells; causing the deaths of 4 children and a woman, and injuring nearly 14 others.

### **Raqqa:**

#### **1. Almshlab neighborhood Tuesday January 7, 2014**

ISIS shelled the neighborhood with 2 mortar shells; causing the deaths of a woman and her daughter, according to SNHR documentation.

#### **B. An-Nusra Front:**

SNHR documented the death of 14 civilians including 4 children and 3 women through the random mortar shelling

### **Idlib Province:**

#### **1. Idlib City: Thursday, March 19, 2015**

An-Nusra Front gunmen targeted a government forces checkpoint stationed in the northern neighborhood in Idlib with several mortar shells, causing the deaths of 3 civilians, and injuring nearly 12 others, An-Nusra Front adopted the shelling of the government forces checkpoints operations, through the dissemination of a video of the shelling.

[video](#) shows An-Nusra Front targeting government forces checkpoints in the city of Idlib by tanks and mortars on March 19, 2015 clip shows the effects of the bombing inside the city.

#### **2. Idlib city Sunday, March 22, 2015**

An-Nusra Front gunmen targeted government forces checkpoints in Sheikh Thulth neighborhood and the revolution neighborhood in the city of Idlib with several locally-made mortars (hell shells), causing the deaths of 7 civilians, including a child





and a woman, and injuring nearly 18 others, and the front adopted bombardments by published several images on Twitter

Link [An-Nusra Front shows several pictures](#) on Twitter of mortar shelling of Idlib city, and confirm that the bombing targeting military checkpoints inside the city 3 days ago.

Video clip shows wounded civilians as a result of the shelling on 22 / March / 2015

### Deir Az-Zour:

#### **1. Baseira Wednesday, June 25, 2014**

An-Nusra Front gunmen shelled the village with 3 mortar shells, one of which landed on a house of a civilian, and caused the deaths of 2 children and a woman, the bombing occurred during a clash between An-Nusra Front and ISIS.

#### **Legal Conclusions:**

1. The extremist groups forces violated several sections of the international humanitarian law committing several crimes that constitutes crimes against humanity through indiscriminate random shelling
2. The random attacks carried out by the extremist groups are a violation of the international humanitarian customary law as most of it targeted civilian targets causing the death of residents and grave damages to properties.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **• To the Security Council:**

- The Russian government should stop providing the Syrian government with experts of maintenance and manufacture of weapons. Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council is fully biased in favor to the Syrian government, politically and militarily, and is therefore a direct partner in the various types of crimes practiced by government forces.
- The Security Council must implement the resolutions issued on Syria, in particular the resolution 2139 issued on February 22, 2014 that orders the cessation of the indiscriminate attacks by all parties.
- Arms embargo on the parties that are involved by using of weapons in the commission of crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Refer the case of Syria to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. And as provided by the Court's Rome Statute, some acts including murder qualifies as crimes against humanity if they are directed against the civilian population as part of a systematic or widespread attack.





- Strengthening enforcement and application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by using a set of measures and authorities available to the Council in the context of the need for accountability of each party for their actions.

### **United Nations:**

- Accounting all of those who bare the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed against humanity in Syria, and the most prominent choices to achieve this is pressing and demanding of the Security Council to refer the matter to the International Criminal Court or the United Nations to establish a court dedicated to this purpose.
- The High Commissioner should submit periodic reports to the Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies on the situation in Syria, and to make periodic statements to highlight the prominent and urgent incidents, which often declined in the recent times.
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to issue periodic statistics are available about the death toll in Syria, this is a serious pressure on the international community and decision-makers, and see to stop issuing such reports severe betrayal of the Syrian society by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Standing against the extremist groups through addressing the causes of the emergence and spread of these groups, especially the injustice and oppression practiced against the Syrian society over four years and on a daily basis and systematically, without protection or serious care.

### **Acknowledgment:**

All thanks and appreciation to the families of the victims and their relatives and all the media activists from all areas, whom due to their contributions and cooperation with us we were able to accomplish this study at this level, and our sincere condolences to the fam

