



## Following the Steps of the Syrian Government: ISIL Violates UN Security Council Resolutions

130 violations by Syrian government forces and 2 violations by ISIL

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### I. Introduction:

In this report we record, and for the first time, ISIL's use of toxic gases when it targeted Maree' City in Aleppo northern suburbs. Thus, ISIL joins the Syrian government by using toxic gases before UN Security Council resolution 2118 was issued and after. In our latest report, "Toxic Gases in Syria: Unlimited Security Council Breaches" issued on 19 August 2015, the Syrian government violated resolution 2118 one hundred and twenty five times since the resolution was issued on 27 September 2013. Also, government forces violated resolution 2209 fifty six times after it was issued on 6 March 2015.

After the latest resolution was issued, the Syrian regime violated the resolution five times; therefore violations after resolution 2118 are detailed as follows:

Syrian government violated resolution 2118 one hundred thirty times, including 61 violations for resolution 2209. ISIL violated resolution 2118 and 2209 two times.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, head of SNHR, said:

*"The Syrian government feels that it has been granted immunity by the international community by continuously breaching and violating UN Security Council resolutions without any repercussions for five years. The Syrian government believes that if it bribed one of the Security Council members, then it has the green light, not red limits, in using different kind of weapons including toxic gases. Consequently, ISIL, and other terrorist dictatorships, were encouraged to follow the same method of killing civilians and committing crimes."*





ISIL intensified its attacks on Maree' City in Aleppo northeast suburbs in mid May 2015 after it gained control on Souran town and its suburbs (Al Teqli, Al Zaherya, Al Adeya'a, and Mazraa' towns), and on Harbel, Oum Housh, Oum Al Koura, Al Wahshiya and Tlaleen towns. ISIL used mortar and artillery missiles, short-range rockets and toxic gases.

The International Coalition's efforts in putting an end to ISIL's expansion did not meet the required level to stop It from gaining more control over wider regions in Syria.

ISIL forces shelled Maree' City with artillery and Gvozdika missiles that were thought to be loaded toxic gases twice during 10 days. We recorded not less than 113 individuals who suffered from toxic gas poisoning. Their symptoms were limited to breathing problems and skin infections. Consequently, 50 thousand individuals were displaced due to ISIL's military attack on the city which peaked after they targeted it with toxic gases.

SNHR member in Aleppo governorate, Humam Al-Mallah, visited the shelling sites and hospitals and examined the sufferers and the symptoms they presented. We also examined the images and footages were received from our local activists.

### Incident's Details:

#### **The First Attack:**

On 21 August 2015, ISIL forces, stationed in Tal Maled town, shelled the residential neighborhoods in Maree' city with 52 artillery and Gvozdika missiles. Also, the shelling concentrated on the western region of the city.

Among the 52 shelled missiles, a number of missiles loaded with toxic gases were used; however, we were not able to identify its nature.

For five continuous days after the shelling, we recorded not less than 76 cases who presented symptoms like shortness of breath, red eyes and skin infections and sores, according to the medical record of Maree' Hospital that we were able to visit.





The executive manager of Maree' Hospital, Tarek Al Najar, gave SNHR his testimony:

*"I was in the hospital when the shelling started at 10:30 a.m. and lasted more than an hour and a half. Shortly after that shelling, 5 injuries arrived to the hospital; they suffered from wounds and bone fractures due to missile shrapnel.*

*Among the injuries that arrived, and one individual required a limb amputation. Four hours later, Mr. Ahmad Latouf, one of the residents whose houses were damaged due to the shelling, presented symptoms like shortness of breath, a runny nose, red and watery eyes and skin redness.*

*His wife suffered from swollen eyelids, and shortness of breath and his daughter, 3 years old, was nauseous and vomited, while his new born son was wheezing and suffered from shortness of breath. Later, I was informed that Mr. Ahmad Latouf, presented severe symptoms of skin sores a day after the shelling. All his body was covered with skin sores and blisters. He was taken to one of the Turkish hospitals for treatment.*

*Ten hours later, another case arrived to the hospital. He suffered from red and watery eyes, a runny nose, and shortness of breath. We transported injured residents to Turkish hospitals since we were not equipped enough to deal with such cases.*

*For five days, Maree' Hospital continued to receive mild injuries and we recorded almost 85 individuals who were treated."*

### **The Second Attack:**

On 1 September 2015, at 12 p.m., ISIL shelled residential neighborhoods in Mar Abkarba city with 40 artillery and Gvozdika missiles, amongst which 18 missiles were loaded with poisonous gases. The shelling affected not less than 37 individuals who presented symptoms identical to the first attack.

SNHR met Mr. Nasser, one of the eyewitnesses in the southern neighborhood in Maree' city:

*"The shelling's sources came from the eastern towns that were under ISIL's control. More than 10 missiles were shelled on the neighborhood I lived in and then a very bad odor spread. All the individuals I saw were suffering from shortness of breath, a runny nose and red and watery eyes. They were taken to the Houriya makeshift hospital with the help of the Civil Defence team who provided them with first aid and gave them anti-poisoning injections.*





Not all missiles exploded; and the substances that were released were different between one missile and another. A black liquid was released from one of the missiles, and other missiles released green ashes.”

### Attachments and Annexes:

Images that show injured individuals



[Images](#) that show missiles’ remnants that were shelled by ISIL on Maree’ City:

An exclusive image:



Image of 130mm shell loaded with poisoned gas fired by ISIL artillery on Marea in Aleppo, September 1, 2015

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Image of 130mm shell loaded with poisoned gas fired by ISIS artillery on Marea in Aleppo, September 1, 2015

© SNHR



Image of 130mm shell loaded with poisoned gas fired by ISIS artillery on Marea in Aleppo, September 1, 2015

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### Conclusions and Recommendations:

ISIL violated the International Humanitarian Law and Security Council resolution 2118 and 2209 by using an internationally prohibited weapon, i.e. poisonous gases, as it is also considered war crime as well.





### **Recommendations:**

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

The Security Council must shoulder its responsibilities in preserving the peace and security in Syria, as the violations committed by the Syrian government forms a grave threat to the peace and security of the world, and to stop playing the game of political interests on behalf of the Syrian people blood.

And the Syrian regime obvious neglect of Security Council resolution 2118 and later resolution 2209 is a political disgrace and a terrible offence to the Security Council.

#### **To Friends of Syria countries:**

Supply the areas suffering from the poisoned gas shelling with protective masks (as the Security Council is unable to stop these attacks); SNHR estimates the need of these areas with at least 18700 protective masks, plus equipment to remove the chemical pollution effects.

