

No less than 494 Incident of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in the First Half of 2017

Including 51 Incidents of Attack
in June

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, July 8, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



Contents

- I. Introduction and Methodology
- II. Executive Summary
- III. Details
 1. Places of Worship
 2. Vital Educational Facilities
 3. Vital Medical Facilities
 4. Communal Facilities
 5. International Humanitarian Insignia
 6. Infrastructures
 7. Refugee Camps
- IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Introduction and Methodology

The bombardment and what it entails of systematic killing and destruction by the ruling regime seems to aim mainly to undermine the establishment of any alternative governing system. Also, it leads to residents displacing from opposition-held areas to the regime-held areas which are relatively safer.

If the Security Council is unable to bind the conflict parties to implement Resolution 2139, adopted on April 22, 2016, which states: “Demands that all parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs”, it should at least apply pressure mainly on Syrian regime forces to cease attacks against vital facilities such as schools, hospitals, markets, bakeries, and places of worship.

The fourth round of negotiations was held in Astana city, Kazakhstan’s capital, on 3 and 4 of May 2017. Russian, Turkish, and Iranian representatives attended as the sponsoring states of Ankara Ceasefire Agreement. The three states agreed on establishing four de-escalation zones, wherein the agreement is to commence on May 6, 2017.



The agreement outlined four major de-escalation areas – Idlib governorate and the surrounding areas (parts of Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia governorates), northern Homs governorate, Eastern Ghouta, and parts of Daraa and al Quneitra governorates in the southern parts of Syria. It was provided that an expert committee would accurately assign the borders of said zones at a later date. The agreement provided for a cessation of combat operations, passage of humanitarian aids, and for IDPs to go back to their areas. Since the agreement went into effect, these areas saw a relatively noticeable and good decrease in killing rates compared with the previous months since March 2011.

Nonetheless, breaches didn't stop, mainly by the Syrian regime, who is seemingly the party that would be most affected should the ceasefire go on, and in particular extrajudicial killing crimes and, more horrendously, deaths due to torture. This strongly asserts that there is a ceasefire of some sort on the table, but the crimes that the international community -especially the Russian, Turkish, and Iranian sponsors- won't see are still going on as nothing had changed.

We recorded in last June a drop in the number of attacks by Syrian regime forces on vital civilian facilities compared to the months prior to the de-escalation agreement. Additionally, this month marked the first month in which we didn't record any attacks on vital civilian facilities by Russian forces since their intervention started in Syria on September 30, 2015. On the other hand, international coalition forces' vicious campaign continues in the eastern parts of Syria, growing more ruthless and destructive of vital civilian facilities since February 2017, as international coalition forces came second in the month of June in terms of attacks on vital civilian facilities topped only by Syrian regime forces.

This report sheds light on the attacks against vital civilian facilities by the main parties. This operation is primarily carried out through our researches who are scattered across Syrian governorates with the cooperation and coordination of the local residents and activists. It should be noted that this is the bare minimum in light of the many practical obstructions we encounter during documentations. SNHR can confirm, through its investigations, that there were no military centers in the centers mentioned in the report before or during the attacks. The Syrian regime, and other perpetrators, are going to have to justify their actions before the United Nations and the Security Council.

The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report.

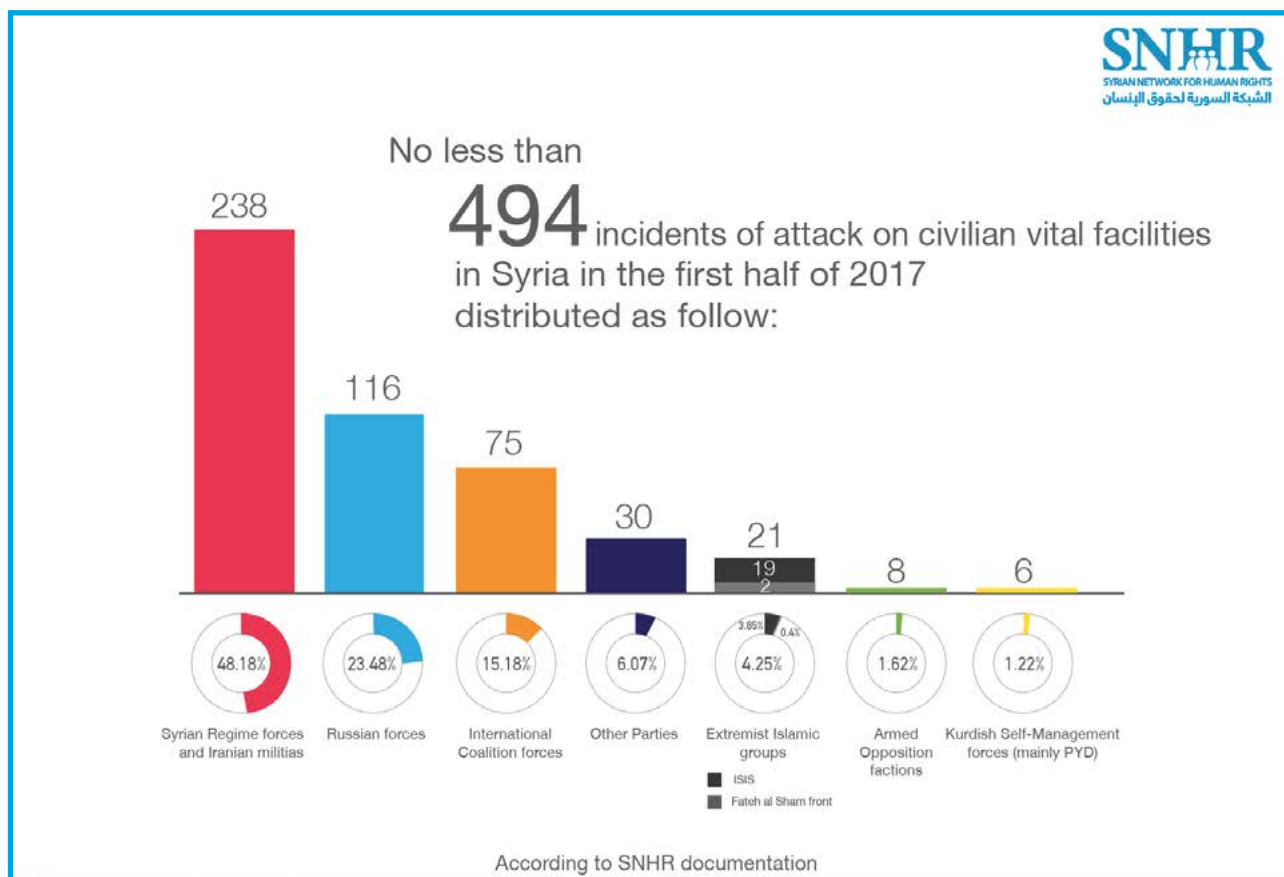


We add these evidences and clues to our data archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, they don't necessarily qualify as crimes.

You can read the methodology adopted by SNHR in classifying vital civilian facilities on this [URL](#)

II. Executive Summary

A. Toll of incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2017



Through daily documentation and monitoring at SNHR, we recorded no less than 494 incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in the first half of 2017 which are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

- A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 238
- B. Russian forces: 116
- C. Extremist Islamic groups
 - ISIS: (self-proclaimed the Islamic State): 19
 - Fateh al Sham Front (formerly al Nusra Front): 2
- D. Armed opposition factions: 8



E. Self-Management forces (Primarily the Democratic Union Party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party): 6

F. International coalition forces: 75

G. Other parties: 30

- Most notable targeted facilities in the first half of 2017

175 infrastructures, 95 vital educational facilities, 92 places of worship, 79 vital medical facilities, 32 communal facilities, 10 international humanitarian insignia, 8 refugee camps, 3 vital cultural facilities.

Distribution of Attacked Vital Civilian Facilities by the Perpetrator Party in the First Half of 2017								
Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	Russian Forces	ISIS	Fateh al Sham Front	Armed Opposition Factions	Kurdish Self-Management Forces	International Coalition Forces	Other Parties
Targeted Facility								
Places of Worship								
Mosques	55	13			1	2	15	6
Vital Educational Facilities								
Schools	44	20	3		3		12	2
Kindergartens	6							
Universities	2	1		1	1			
Vital Medical Facilities								
Medical Facilities	23	24				1	3	1
Ambulances	13	10			1			3
Vital Cultural Facilities								
Archeological Sites	2	1						
Communal Facilities								
Gardens	2							
Markets	22	6					1	1
International Humanitarian Insignia								
Red Crescent	2	1			1			6
Infrastructures								
Power Stations and Energy Sources	3	3	3		1	1	3	1
Civil Defense Facilities	33	12						1
Water Systems	5	2	12			1	9	
Official Headquarters	10	10		1			9	7
Transportation Systems		6					16	
Bakeries	10	2					5	
Silos	1							
Domestic Animal Farms	1							
International Organizations and Locations Belonging to International Agencies			1					
Industrial Facilities	2	4						
Refugee Camps								
Refugee Camps	2	1				1	2	2
Total	238	116	19	2	8	6	75	30



B. Toll of Incidents of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in June

Through daily documentation and monitoring at SNHR, we recorded no less than 51 incidents of attack on vital civilian facilities in June 2017 which are distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

- A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 22
- B. Extremist Islamic groups
 - ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State): 3
 - Fateh al Sham Front (formerly al Nussra Front): 2
- C. Armed opposition factions: 2
- D. Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – branch for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party): 2
- E. International coalition forces: 17
- F. Other parties: 3

Most notable facilities that were targeted in June 2017

18 infrastructures, 18 places of worship, 6 vital educational facilities, 3 vital medical facilities, 2 refugee camps, 1 international humanitarian insignia

Distribution of Attacked Vital Civilian Facilities by the Perpetrator Party in June 2017							
Perpetrator Party	Syrian Regime Forces	ISIS	Fateh al Sham Front	Armed Opposition Factions	Kurdish Self-Management Forces	International Coalition Forces	Other Parties
Targeted Facility							
Places of Worship							
Mosques	6				2	8	2
Vital Educational Facilities							
Schools	1					3	
Mosques			1	1			
Vital Medical Facilities							
Medical Facilities	1					2	
Ambulances							
Communal Facilities							
Markets	3						
International Humanitarian Insignia							
Red Crescent	1						
Infrastructures							
Power Stations and Energy Sources		1		1			
Civil Defense Facilities	8						
Water Systems		2				1	
Official Headquarters			1				1
Bakeries	1					2	
Refugee Camps							
Refugee Camps	1					1	
Total	22	3	2	2	2	17	3



III.Details

The report sheds light on incidents of attack against vital civilian facilities except for the details of the attacks on vital medical facilities, civil defense centers, and international humanitarian insignia which were put in a past monthly report: "[69 Medical and Civil Defense Personnel Killed and 135 Incidents of Attack on their Operable Vital Facilities in the First Half of 2017](#)"

A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

Places of worship

- Mosques

Friday, June 2, 2017, the warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance (investigations are still ongoing to accurately identify the perpetrator party) fired a number of missiles at [Abu Bakr al Siddeeq Mosque](#) in al Jowaym village, located near Maskana town in eastern suburbs of Aleppo. The mosque building and furniture were heavily damaged. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident. It should be noted that the area was heavily targeted at the time by Syrian regime forces in order to take control of it.

Friday, June 9, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Gharbi Mosque, known as the Grand Mosque, in Jdeedat Ekidat, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zuor governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 9, 2017, around 00:10, Syrian regime helicopters dropped four barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances, believed to be napalm, on [Daraa al Balad area](#) in the middle of Daraa city. One of the barrel bombs fell on al Umari Mosque. A fire broke out in the mosque's north sector and the mosque building was moderately damaged. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



The destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on the Grand Mosque in Jdeedat Ekidat village, Deir Ez-Zour – June 9 ,2017



Tuesday, June 13, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles in the vicinity of al Shuhada' Mosque in al Hamaidiya neighborhood, eastern Deir Ez-Zour city. The mosque building was moderately damaged. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



The fires that resulted from barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances, believed to be napalm, in al Umari Mosque in Daraa al Balad area, Daraa – June 9, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Sayed Ayed Mosque in Hatla village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, June 24, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Hrweyl Mosque in al Aradi neighborhood, northern Deir Ez-Zour city. The mosque building and its minaret were heavily destroyed. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Vital educational facilities

- Schools

Sunday, June 25, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles the Martyr Abdul Ghafour Mulla Hashem in al Mayadin city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The school building was moderately damaged. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Communal facilities

- Markets

Thursday, June 1, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Bazar market in al Tayba village, eastern suburbs of Homs governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the market facilities were heavily damaged. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 9, 2017, around 00:10, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs loaded with an incendiary substance, believed to be napalm, on the main market in the middle of Daraa al Balad area in the middle of Daraa city. A fire broke out in the market facilities. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 23, 2017, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a shell at the local market in Ain Tarma town, eastern suburbs of Damascus suburbs governorate, which wounded one civilian. Additionally, the market facilities were slightly damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Infrastructures

- Bakeries

Friday, June 9, 2017, around 00:10, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs loaded with an incendiary substance, believed to be napalm, on al Hassan Bakery in Daraa al Balad area in the middle of Daraa city. A fire broke out in the bakery building and its machines. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Refugee camps

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, around 13:00, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired [two missiles](#) at an IDPs shelter, which housed IDPs were from [Ataman town](#) in northern suburbs of [Daraa governorate](#), in Tafas city, western suburbs of Daraa governorate, which resulted in a massacre. Additionally, the shelter building and its [cladding materials](#) were moderately damaged. It should be noted that the IDPs shelter was formerly a school building -[the Martyr Kiwan School](#)- but was reused as a shelter for IDPs. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



The destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on a school housing IDPs in Tafas city, Daraa – June 14, 2017



B. Extremist Islamic groups

- ISIS

Infrastructures

- Power stations

Friday, June 16, 2017, ISIS burned the equipment machines, and pipes in the vicinity of Arak oil field, which is located in northeastern Tadmur city in eastern suburbs of Homs governorate. The equipment and machines were heavily damaged. Arak oil field was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident, whereas it is currently under the control of Syrian regime forces.

- Water systems

Monday, June 19, 2017, ISIS bombed the high water tank in Ratla village, southern suburbs of Raqqa governorate, using IEDs. The tank was heavily destroyed. As a result, the tank was rendered out of commission. The drinking water was cut off in the village. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 23, 2017, ISIS bombed the high water tank near Ain Ali in the Badiya of al Qouriya city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, using IEDs. The tank was heavily destroyed. As a result, the tank was rendered out of commission. The drinking water was cut off in the village. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



The destruction in the aftermath of ISIS bombing the high water tank in al Qouriya city, Deir Ez-Zour – June 23, 2017



-Fateh al Sham Front

Vital educational facilities

- Universities

Friday, June 9, 2017, fighters from Fateh al Sham Front, which is affiliated to Hay'et Tahrir al Sham, raided the faculty of education that is affiliated to Free Aleppo University in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The fighters trashed the furniture and tore exam and certificate papers and wrote statements in support of Hay'et Tahrir al Sham on the walls. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front at the time of the incident.

Infrastructures

- Official headquarters

Friday, June 9, 2017, fighters from Fateh al Sham Front, which is affiliated to Hay'et Tahrir al Sham, raided the educational complex in Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The fighters confiscated the properties of the educational complex (furniture, printers). The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

C. Armed opposition factions

Vital educational facilities

- Universities

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, a number of mortar shells fell in the campus of the faculty of mechanical engineering at Damascus University, which is located on Damascus International Airport highway from Damascus city. We believe the source was an artillery stationing in an area under control of armed opposition factions. The residency building was slightly damaged. The area is under the control of Syrian regime forces.

Infrastructures

- Power stations and energy sources

Tuesday, June 20, 2017, a number of rockets fell on the thermal power station in [Mharda city](#), western suburbs of [Hama governorate](#). We believe the source of the rockets was a rocket launcher in an area under the control of armed opposition factions. A fire broke out in the station and its equipment and building were moderately damaged. Mharda city was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident. It should be noted that Syrian regime forces are stationing in some of the station facilities.



D. Self-Management forces (Primarily the democratic union party – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party)

Places of worship

- Mosques

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, The Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces fired a number of shells at the Grand Mosque in al Mansour Street, eastern Raqqa city. The mosque minaret was partially destroyed. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



The damages in the Grand Mosque's minaret after Syrian Democratic Forces shelled the mosque in al Mansour Street, Raqqa – June 13, 2017

Monday, June 19, 2017, the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces fired a number of shells at [al Rahman Mosque](#) in al Sbahiya neighborhood, western Raqqa city. The mosque building was heavily damaged. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that the mosque was shelled several times this month by the same forces as part of the military campaign to take over the city from ISIS.



E. International coalition forces

Places of worship

- Mosques

Tuesday, June 6, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Hussein ben Ali Mosque in Kulleyat al Tarbiya area in northern Raqqa city. The mosque building was heavily damaged. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, June 8, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Sbahiya Mosuqe](#) in al Sbahiya neighborhood, west of Raqqa city. The mosque building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, June 10, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [Abu Bakr al Siddeeq](#) in Mhimda village, western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, June 10, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Nour Mosque](#) in [al Dar'iya neighborhood](#), western Raqqa city. The mosque building was [heavily destroyed](#). As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



The destruction that resulted from a bombing by international coalition forces on al Nour Mosque in al Dar'iya neighborhood, Raqqa – June 6, 2017



Thursday, June 22, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Zubayer ben al Awwam Mosque](#) in Kasrat Faraj village, southern suburbs of Raqqa governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed, and was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 23, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a gathering for ISIS fighters and their vehicles near the Grand Mosque in al Twat-ha village, which administratively follows al Bokamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The mosque building was moderately damaged. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, June 24, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Fatima al Zaharaa Mosque in Kasrat al Sheikh Joumaa, southern suburbs of Raqqa governorate. The mosque building was almost completely destroyed and was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, June 27, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Hani Mosque in al Moutaz Street in the middle of Raqqa city, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the mosque building was heavily destroyed. The area was under the control of Raqqa city at the time of the incident.

Vital educational facilities

- Schools

Friday, June 2, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a missile near a school in [al Swyada village](#), which administratively follows Ma'adan county in eastern suburbs of Raqqa governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the school fence was partially destroyed. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.





The destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by international coalition forces in the vicinity of a school in al Swyada al Dar'iya village, Raqqa – June 2, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Intifada School in al Mashlab neighborhood, east of Raqqa city. The school building was heavily destroyed. As a result, the school was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 23, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a gathering for ISIS fighters and their vehicles near al Twatha School for Elementary Education in al Twatha village, which administratively follows al Bokamal city in eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The school building was slightly damaged. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Infrastructures

-Water systems

Saturday, June 17, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a main water line near Raqqa city's northern entrance. The line was destroyed and was rendered out of commission, as drinking water was cut off in parts of Raqqa city. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



- Bakeries

Saturday, June 17, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Nadir Bakery in al Mansour Street in the middle of Raqqa city. The bakery building was heavily destroyed, and was rendered out of commission. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles near al Rayyan Bakery in Amn al Dawla neighborhood, west of Raqqa city, which resulted in a massacre. Additionally, the bakery was heavily destroyed and was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Refugee camps

Saturday, June 17, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Jabbar al Ibeid School, which houses IDPs, in al Mayadin city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, resulting in a massacre. Additionally, the school building was heavily destroyed and it was rendered out of commission. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

F. Other parties

Places of worship

- Mosques

Wednesday, June 7, 2017, an IED that was planted in a car near Abu Bakr al Siddeeq Mosque in al Rastan city, northern suburbs of Homs, detonated 10 meters from the mosque. The mosque building was hit with a number of shrapnel. As of this writing, we are yet to identify the group who planted the IED. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, June 16, 2017, a suicidal bomber blew himself using an explosive belt he was wearing near Abu Thar al Ghafari Mosque in al Thawra neighborhood, west of Idlib city. The bombing was five meters from the mosque building, and resulted in casualties. Additionally, the mosque building and furniture were moderately damaged. As of this writing, we are yet to identify the group that was responsible for the bombing. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front at the time of the incident.



Infrastructures

- Official headquarters

Friday, June 23, 2017, an IED, planted in a car in front of a building that contains the Free Police Center and the office of the Local Council -formerly the municipal building, exploded in al Dana city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bombing was five meters from the building, and resulted in casualties. It should be noted that this bombing was preceded by another bombing that was generated from a sound bomb in the same site. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front at the time of the incident.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

According to the international humanitarian law, indiscriminate, deliberate, or disproportionate attacks are considered as unlawful attacks. Syrian regime forces' attacks against schools, hospitals, mosques, and bakeries is an utter disregard for the most basic standards of the international humanitarian law and the Security Council Resolution.

Additionally, Russian forces, ISIS, Fateh al Sham Front international coalition forces, Kurdish Self-Management forces, armed opposition factions, and other parties (Includes groups that we weren't able to identify and the Turkish, Lebanese, and Jordanian forces) have attacked some of these facilities. The indiscriminate random shelling is a violation of the international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- 1- Bind all parties, especially Syrian regime forces considering that they are the main perpetrator of most of these violations, to implement Resolution 2139 and, at least, condemn the targeting of vital civilian facilities that are indispensable for the lives of civilians.
- 2- A comprehensive arms embargo must be imposed on the Syrian government as it has been involved in gross violations of international laws and Security Council Resolutions.
- 3- Deem the states that supply Syrian regime forces and groups that have been involved in crimes against civilians with weapons partners in these crimes in addition to all supplies and distributors.





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

