



Statement

**The Third Anniversary of the Chemical Massacres in Ghouta
The First Anniversary of Security Council
Resolution 2235 to Identify the Perpetrators**

Three years have passed since the Syrian regime perpetrated the most atrocious and horrendous massacre against the Syrian people in the modern age when its forces used Sarin gas to bomb Eastern and Western Ghoutas a few hours before dawn to kill as many people, who were sleeping, as possible. No less than 1,127 individuals including 107 children and 201 women were killed on that day but not even one drop of blood was shed.

What is even worse is the red line that was drawn by the president of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama which was crossed when those people were killed in cold blood. The criminal, however, had only to surrender the weapon and was left freely.

What is even more insulting is the fact that Security Council adopted Resolution 2118 after the massacre of the Ghoutas which threatened that there will be actions under Chapter VII in case these violations reoccur.

SNHR has published 25 reports on the use of poison gases in Syria since the first documented chemical attack on 23 December 2012 in Al Bayyada neighborhood in Homs as the most recent report was published on 20 August 2016 which documented new chemical attacks carried out by government forces and ISIS.

Government forces was the only party using chemical massacres until this changed on 21 August 2015 as we documented no less than three uses of poison gases by ISIS in Marea' city in Aleppo governorate.

Government forces used poison gases 33 times including the Eastern Ghouta attack before Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on 27 September 2013 while poison gases were used in attacks by government forces no less than 136 times after the Resolution was adopted including 67 attacks after Resolution 2209 was issued on 6 March 2015.

In conclusion, we have documented, as of this writing, 172 attacks using poison gases since its first use distributed by location and influential party as follows:





- Government forces: 169 attacks which are distributed across Syria as follows:

Idlib: 42 Damascus suburbs: 53 Hama: 20

Damascus: 28 Aleppo: 12 Homs: 7

Daraa: 4 Deir Ez-Zour: 3

- ISIS: three attacks all of which were in Aleppo governorate

These attacks resulted in the killing of 1298 individuals including 244 children and 285 women. All of the victims were killed in attacks carried out by government forces.

Additionally, no less than 5693 injures were recorded as follows:

Government forces: No less than 5577 injured.

ISIS: No less than 116 injured.

When talking about this undeniable criminal record, we shouldn't forget Security Council Resolution, adopted on 7 August 2015, the same month when the Ghouta massacre took place, which is, according to Paragraph 4, determined to identify those who are responsible and retaliated that they must be held accountable. Nonetheless, the responsible for the Ghouta attacks on 21 August 2013 won't be identified and the focus will only be on the attacks that took place afterwards. We, In SNHR, have serious reservation on this mindset as we have put all of the reports we made before the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. As it has been one year since Resolution 2235 was adopted, we believe that the findings of the investigation conducted by the Commission, regarding no less than 139 chemical attacks including 14 attacks after the Resolution was adopted, must be made public for the Syrian people

Failing to bring justice to the families and friends of the victims is another crime against them and an outrageous disregard for their feelings and agonies, and it is also a gift on a silver platter for all extremist groups and a wrong message for all dictatorships in the world. We only fear that these messages are deliberately a war on democracy.

