



30 Massacres Documented in October

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Executive Summary

SNHR documented 30 massacres perpetrated during the month of October, distributed as follows:

- The Syrian regime and its militias perpetrated 26 massacres.
- ISIS faction perpetrated one massacre.
- Armed opposition groups perpetrated one massacre.
- Two massacres perpetrated by unidentified groups.
- SNHR means by the word “massacre”: the incident which involved the killing of five unarmed people all at once.

Massacres are distributed on governorates as follows:

Damascus countryside: seven massacres

Idlib: seven massacres

Deraa: six massacres

Homs: six massacres

Aleppo: two massacres

Deir az-Zor: one massacre

Al-Haskah: one massacre

In those massacre, according to SNHR documenting team, 393 victims, including 162 children and 51 women were killed. Thus 4.2% of the victims are women and children, which is a very high percentage. This is a clear indicator that those massacres were committed against civilian residents.



Details

Damascus countryside

- On 3 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike using thermobaric weapon on Douma city targeting a civilians gathering in the middle of Khorshid St. SNHR documented 15 victims, including two children, in addition to more than 120 injuries.



- On 9 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted a popular market in Arbeen city – Damascus countryside with thermobaric rocket. SNHR documented 31 civilian victims, including four children and six women, in addition to more than 200 injuries, mostly children and women.





- On 14 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted a residential neighborhood in Arbeen city – Damascus countryside with a thermobaric rocket. SNHR documented 13 civilian victims, including two children and two women, in addition to more than 65 injuries.



- On 14 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike with thermobaric rocket on one of the residential neighborhoods in Ain Tarma town – Damascus countryside. SNHR documented 13 civilian victims, including three children and three women, and more than 20 injuries. Also, the airstrike damaged seven residential buildings and 15 shops.



- On 16 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Jisreen town – Damascus countryside with four thermobaric rockets. SNHR documented 23 victims, including three children and two women, and 35 injuries, in addition to the full destruction of two buildings.





- On 17 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out eight airstrikes on Douma city – Damascus countryside. SNHR documented 21 victims, including seven children.



- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Bala town – Damascus countryside with a rocket. SNHR documented eight victims, including three children and a woman.



- On 3 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb city. SNHR documented six victims, including a woman.



- On 5 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike on ad-Dana town in Idlib countryside. SNHR documented six civilian victims, including two children and a woman, in addition to the destruction in some residential houses, and damaging al-Farooq Mosque, ad-Dana Surgical Hospital, and al-Wafa Birth hospital.

- On 6 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes targeted Khan as-Sibil with a rocket. SNHR documented ten victims, including five children and three women.





- On 10 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike on the [residential buildings in Tilminnis town](#). SNHR documented five victims including three children and a woman.

- On 23 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike against Kafarroma town. SNHR documented five victims.



- On 27 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on al-Hbeet town. SNHR documented eight victims, including three victims and four women.



- On 29 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Abdeen camp in as-Sheikh Mustafa village in Idlib governorate. SNHR documented 18 people, two women and two children among them has been identified, in addition to 32 injuries.

Deraa

- On 10 October 2014, regime forces launched a surface-to-surface missile targeting al-Hara town. SNHR documented 21 victims, including six children and two women.

- On 6 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters targeted Nimir town with a barrel bomb. SNHR documented seven victims including a child and two women.

- On 21 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Naseeb town. SNHR documented 32 victims, including 12 children and two women.



- On 21 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on al-Yadooda town. SNHR documented six victims, including three children and a woman.





- On 26 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Busra as-Sham city. SNHR documented 15 victims, including six children and three women.



- On 28 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs. SNHR documented five victims, including two children.



Homs

- On 1 October 2014, two explosions happened near A'akrима al-Makhzoomi Primary School in A'akrима neighborhood in Homs. The first explosion was caused by a bombed car while the second was caused by a suicidal attack. Until the moment, SNHR was not able to identify the perpetrator. 53 victims were documented, including 52 children and a woman.



- On 8 October 2014, government forces targeted al-Waar neighborhood with two surface-to-surface rockets. SNHR documented 7 civilian victims and two women.



- On 15 October 2014, government forces targeted al-Waar neighborhood with an explosive cylinder. SNHR documented 10 victims, including two children and two women, in addition to damaging the residential buildings.

- On 25 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried out an airstrike on Talbeesa. SNHR documented 22 victims, including 13 children and three women.





- On 25 October 2014, government forces targeted al-Waar neighborhood. SNHR documented seven victims, including a child.



- On 26 October 2014, Syrian regime warplanes carried an airstrike against Talbeesa. SNHR documented six victims, including two children and a woman.



Aleppo

- On 23 October 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Tal Qrah town, targeting weddings hall, where displaced were residing. SNHR documented 19 victims, including 15 children and four women, in addition to the destruction of the hall and the village bakery. Also, many houses were damaged.



- On 27 October 2014, an armed opposition faction launched a Grad rocket on al-Kamal Schook in al-Hamadanyea neighborhood. SNHR documented seven victims including five children.





Al-Hasakah

On 3 October 2014, ISIS faction executed eight civilians in Kanho village in al-Haskah neighborhood

Deir az-Zor

On 27 October 2014, a bombed car exploded near al-Bakra Circle in al-Bolayl city. SNHR was not able to identify the perpetrator until now. SNHR documented five victims, including a girl.

Conclusions

The Syrian regime

1. SNHR affirms that the shelling, whether it was indiscriminate or deliberate, targeted unarmed civilians. Therefore, the government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict and can be classified openly as war crimes.
2. SNHR also believes that what happened in those massacres can be classified as a crime against humanity.
3. These attacks, especially aerial shelling, have caused humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage if there were any. In all cases there were no confirmed military targets during or before the attacks.
4. The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state's policy.

ISIS faction

The executing and killing policy adopted by ISIS seems to be systematic and widespread. We believe those attacks can be classified as war crimes.

Armed groups

Armed groups indiscriminate undifferentiating shelling is considered a war crime according to the Humanitarian International Law. Those shelling attacks resulted in casualties and destruction.



Recommendations

The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping the disrupting of the decisions that must be adopted by the Security Council against the Syrian government. This disruption is a wrong message to all dictatorships around the world and an enhancement to the culture of crime.
2. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.
3. Binding the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Investigation Committee and allowing them to work freely.
4. Enforce an arms embargo against the Syrian government because it is using weapons in comprehensive attacks against civilians.
5. Security Council must shoulder responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to international peace and security.
6. Listing the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government that committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
8. With the crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian government, the international community should stop dealing with this government as an “official side” concerning the relief issues, and stopping supplying the Syrian government with the most amounts of financial and humanitarian aid that, in most cases, don’t reach those who are in need them and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian regime.

Human Rights Council

1. Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning the sufferings of the Syrian people which include killing, arresting, raping and displacement.
2. Pressing on the Syrian government in order to stop the acts of killing and torture.
3. Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.
4. Human Rights Council must be more invested and serious concerning the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.



The Arab League

1. Punishing all those who are involved in committing crimes in Syria and urging all the countries of the world to do the same thing.
2. Increasing humanitarian aid, especially on the levels of education and health care and taking care of the Syrian refugees in the Arab countries.
3. Requesting the Security Council to execute the above recommendations.
4. Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest to the case of daily killing in Syria.
5. To pay greater attention to the Syrian case, and working on taking care of the families of the victims psychologically, materially and educationally.
6. Pressing politically and diplomatically on the main allies of the Syrian government; Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.

The International Investigation Committee

The International Investigation Committee must stop depicting the struggle in Syria as a struggle between two sides equal in crimes, power and the centralization of decisions. It must describe the crimes as it is without belittling their extent for political reasons. The committee must also increase the number of its staff who work on the Syrian issue due to the amount of the crimes committed daily in Syria for a more comprehensive documentation.

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