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PREPARED  
BY SNHR

*Aleppo governorate ... Following the steps  
of Homs in killing, destruction, and  
displacement*



*monitor and  
document shelling  
Barrel Bombs on  
Aleppo Governorate  
since 15/12/2013 to  
18/12/2013.*

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## *Content*

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Methodology</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Incident details</i>	<i>2</i>
- <i>Sunday 15/12/2013</i>	<i>2</i>
- <i>Monday 16/12/2013</i>	<i>5</i>
- <i>Tuesday 17/12/2013</i>	<i>6</i>
- <i>Wednesday 18/12/2013</i>	<i>8</i>
- <i>Thursday 19/12/2013</i>	<i>9</i>
- <i>Friday 20/12/2013</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Annexes and attachments</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Special thanks</i>	<i>13</i>

The Syrian Network  
For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

### ***Introduction:***

***Killed victims' toll: Syrian Network for Human Rights has documented since 15/12/2013 to 20/12/2012 through the Intensive indiscriminate shelling committed by Syrian Air Force using air strikes and Barrel Bombs on different neighborhoods of Aleppo and countryside Governorate led to kill more than 308 victims including 86 children, and 33 ladies.***

***Should be noted that days 15 and 17 of December 2013 were the bloodiest days due to the high number of killed and wounded victims.***

***Injured victim's number: It was very hard for SNHR's team to get an accurate number of injured people due to several reasons the most prominent were the ongoing shelling on many areas that extended to separate areas in Aleppo countryside during the military attack. in addition to disaster's magnitude and lack of possibilities in general to absorb and control its disastrous effects.***

***The initial estimates of the injured victims according to SNHR's team in Aleppo have exceeded 1050 victims.***

### ***Methodology***

***The methodology of this report based on documented investigations conducted by SNHR's team in Aleppo Governorate with number of residents and activists.***

***It contains the testimonies of eyewitnesses from the residents documented in the report, in addition to news and pictures from cooperative activists inside the city.***

### *The incident's details*

**Sunday 15/12/2013** at almost 10:00 am, Government Helicopters dropped more than 13 Bombed Barrels on different neighborhoods of Aleppo governorate, targeted nine areas all of them under opposition control. It led to kill at least 104 victims, all civilians including 33 children and 9 women, and more than 350 were injured, in addition to the mass destruction in buildings and infrastructures.

In a neighborhood called " Al-Haidariya ", more than 32 victims have been killed, the reason of the high number of victims that the Barrel Bomb fell at the neighborhood's roundabout, which consider as transport station from Aleppo to Aleppo countryside, it is therefore a purely civilian target.

One of the cooperative activist told Syrian Network for Human Rights " the shelling led to destroy more than 7 microbus were at Al-Haidariya roundabout, it is a place of buses used by civilians as transportation to North countryside of Aleppo ".

Shelling continued until 3pm, targeted each of the following areas:

Al-Ansari neighborhood, Al-Haidariya neighborhood, Ard Al-Hamra neighborhood, Al-Sakhour neighborhood " Villas Street and Vegetable Market " Kadi Askar neighborhood, Salhin neighborhood "fifth industry roundabout ", Al-Bab neighborhood near Abdullah Bin Rawaha mosque near Al-Kifah school, Al-Mashhad neighborhood, Al-Marjah neighborhood " Karam Homad roundabout ".

### *Testimony of an eyewitness who told SNHR about the incident's details*

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

[syr.7rh](#)

*“shelling started suddenly, without any reason at almost 10:00 am by Helicopter that dropped bombed barrels, the places where Barrels fell were all residential areas, 50% of the shelled areas were crowded, more than half of the victims are children, large number of wounded, missing, peoples are still looking for their relatives, hospitals were filled with the wounded, and the available medical resources are very modest”*

*“shelling led to wide destruction in houses, they killed our children, destroyed our homes, and what do they want from us?!”*

## ***Syrian Network for Human Rights***

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Syrian Network for Human Rights' team that there wasn't a specific military objective, but they were indiscriminate attacks targeted residential areas, as the human and material damages were very excessive in comparison to the expected military advantage, if there was one.

Civil Defense elements' called for SOS, because the lack of medical equipments and possibilities in rescue operations, field hospitals were unable to receive more injuries because they were crowded with killed and wounded victims, they called on the residents to come and recognize the unidentified bodies that turned into parts.

**Monday 16/12/2013** Government forces continued the same scenario in the next day 16/12/2013, very violent attack on Aleppo governorate in the same way by Barrel Bombs, they didn't get enough by dropping barrel bombs, they shelled the governorate by missiles and artillery, we documented the fall of barrels and shells targeted each of the following 12 areas:

Aleppo city: the following neighborhoods: Bab Al- Nirab, Shiekh Khudr, Shaar ( near Dar Al-Shifaa hospital, Saif Al-Dawlah ( near Al Rajaa school ), Al-Haidariya, Hanano Residents ( Abbas mosque ), Sakhour ( Mostagpherine mosque ), Inzarat ( near a medical school), Al-Bab area.

Aleppo countryside: Albab city and Andan city.

The most prominent that government warplane shelled Taiba medical school in Al- Inzarat neighborhood, where it led to kill 12 civilians including 4 children and a woman, in addition to 2 teachers of the school carders.

*Testimony of a resident eyewitness ( Mr. M ) who told SNHR about the incident's details*

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

*del\_roy123*

***“when the missile stroke I was in home, we heard the voice of a very huge explosion, glass of the house broke and my wife injured with glass' fragments in her back, it was simple injury, I went to the street and saw destruction in cars and houses, I saw killed and wounded students, we started to aid wounded, among the killed victims there were the daughter of our neighbor, and four teachers and two office boys in the school”***

The following link contains names, photos, and videos of the victims:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tYYKBZjFUVC1EWDJNSzA/edit?usp=sharing>

In addition to target school in Inzarat neighborhood, government forces shelled the main market located in Al-Shaar neighborhood, which considered one of the most important markets in areas under opposition's control.



*Photo shows fear and horror in the student's eyes, in addition to the wide destruction*

They also shelled the " Cultural Centre " in Hanano Residents near Abbas mosque, although Cultural Centre consider one of the protected objects such as schools and

hospitals, it led to more than 5 injuries including very serious injuries, in addition to extensive physical damage in the building.

Syrian Network for Human Rights' chairman and founder Fadel Abdulghani said " the international "silence" of the use of such kind of weapons, which in any case can't cause an accurate military target, and that is a real threat and collapse of several major principles in International Humanitarian Law, the most prominent is The principle of proportionality”

Shelling by barrel bombs accompanied with warplane shelling on many areas including Saif Aldawlah neighborhood, where more than 13 victims were injured including women and children near Nasr mosque.

As warplanes shelled Dahra Awad area by missiles, where it led to kill 5 victims including military leader and two children, and more than 15 victims were injured.

The shell caused huge physical damages of three residential buildings, and disrupted the electricity grid in the neighborhood; in addition to destroy four cars were on the main road.

Al-Bab city in Aleppo countryside were shelled also in the morning by warplane, it led to injuries among civilians and huge material damages in the shops and civilian vehicles.

Those attacks led to the kill of at least 19 victims including 6 children, woman, and only one armed rebel was killed cause of heavy and extensive shelling, more than 300 persons were injured between moderate to serious.

**Tuesday 17/12/2013** in the early morning, Syrian Air Force continued shelling Aleppo Governorate, SNHR documented targeting more than 13 areas in the city and countryside of Aleppo with more than 15 Barrel Bombs accompanied with warplane shelling.

In that day, shelling focused on Shaar neighborhood, many students were in their way to Teaching Institute killed because of the sudden shelling, it caused

many injuries, mass destruction of dozens of houses, fires in shops, and more than 5 cars destroyed on the main road.

***Testimony of a resident eyewitness ( Mr. H.A ) who told SNHR about the incident's details***

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

***Revo lawyer***

***" At almost 8:30 am, we heard a very huge explosion, I was almost 1.5 km far away from the place of explosion, I went to the place after 15 minutes, the destruction was very huge, it targeted 7 floors building, I saw huge destruction in the residential building and other 4 neighboring buildings, there were 5 cars totally destroyed and 5 partly damaged, three shops caught fire"***

***" I saw burned motorcycle next to a pool of blood, I saw the people pulling bodies under rubbles, people were thrown on the ground everywhere, you can't imagine how are they those barrels, they hit people and their fragments cause cut off parties, all the existing hospitals are field hospitals, that don't have good medical potentials"***

***Testimony of Fadi: a resident eyewitness who told SNHR about the incident's details***

You can communicate with the witness by Skype account:

***Fadi.khateeb41***

***"I heard a huge explosion, I was just meters of the explosion area, I went to the place of explosion, there were huge destruction in 7 floors building, it was exclusively civilian building.... they meant to target civilian"***

***, it was civilian building"***

***" among the killed there were people standing at the Bakery , students were in their way to near institute were injured , then warplanes started to shell the place of the barrel bomb, especially the eastern area, after shelling Al-Shaar neighborhood, they shelled Dahra Awad neighborhood where only Mouasalat neighborhood separate between them"***

In addition to Al-Shaar neighborhood, the same scenario was repeated in Maadi neighborhood by using barrel bombs, but the difference was the target, where in Al-Shaar neighborhood students were killed, but in Maadi neighborhood the target was the vegetable market in the neighborhood, it led to kill many residents there, destroyed many houses, damaged Alhasan and Husain mosque, in addition to many shops.

Shell also targeted Qaterji neighborhood, especially the old transportation area, warplane shelling targeted transport station at the roundabout of Al-Haidariya neighborhood for the second time, as they shelled an elementary school near the roundabout by Thermobaric missile, in addition to shell eastern Ansari neighborhood by 3 barrel bombs, led to many victims, and warplane shelling targeted too Marja, Bab Nirab and Qadi Askar neighborhoods.

Aleppo countryside: shelling barrel bombs was continued from the morning to the evening with more than 10 barrels, and then followed by 4 missiles from rocket launcher.

Field hospitals called SOS to provide medical helps, where they suffered from severe shortage in medicine and medical supplies, in addition to the lack of ambulances, severe shortage in fuel needed to operate generators, which were already not available in all hospitals.

As Al-Shaar and Maadi neighborhood's residents called on the concerned authorities to send the necessary mechanisms to help them in removing rubbles and pulling out bodies and injuries because the lack of required equipments.

**Wednesday 18/12/2013** SNHR documented 29 areas shelled by artillery, missiles, and air strikes including 8 barrel bombs in Aleppo and countryside governorate.

Missiles shelling by warplanes and Helicopter by Barrel bombs targeted the following neighborhoods:

Maysar neighborhood of Karam Alnahas area, Jazamati neighborhood, Karam Altarab neighborhood near Khaiata fuel station, Marjah neighborhood near Hawoz park, Katerji neighborhood, Shiekh Maksoud neighborhood in Al-Zhoor street, Youth residents neighborhood , Ashrafia, Hanano residents neighborhood , warplane shelling near Ahmad Zaino school and near post centre, Machhad , Faid and Akramia neighborhoods ( near the Olympic swimming pool, near Saad bib Rabea mosque ) , around Kindi hospital and Bani Zaid.

The shelling extended in the next day to other areas in the governorate including Om Arkilla, Tal Naam, Tal Istabl, Radwania, Kafar Hamra, Andan, Free Zone, Maslmia, Azan, Wadihi, Shibli Mogherat, Hajib.



**Thursday 19/12/2013** SNHR documented 24 areas shelled by missiles and warplane shelling in Aleppo governorate.

Shelling by barrel bombs and warplanes focused on different cities and towns of Aleppo countryside, where Minbij, Dar Izza, Maraa, Hayan, Saphira, Mayer, Kafar Hamra, Hritan, Ming, Andan, and Tal Alam village, and Kouris military airport surrounded area have been shelled heavily by warplane shelling and barrel bombs which led to many killed victims and wounded, and mass destruction in the buildings.

The city of Aleppo also shelled by missiles and barrel bombs on the following areas: Bani Zaid neighborhood, Youth residents, Bustan Al-Qaser, Hamidyah, Qadi Askar, Qaterji ( near Whada Bakery , near Rabea school ) Shikh Najar, Halk and Baedin neighborhoods.

One of the field hospital's doctor told SNHR' team in Aleppo "the severe shortage of the medical services provided by field hospitals deployed in the city and countryside caused the death of large number of people in our hands"

**Friday 20/12/2013** SNHR documented 19 barrel bombs shelled on many areas in Aleppo and countryside.

Shelling by barrel bombs started in the morning on Bab city, Tadif, and Awijah town in the morning, followed by shelling two barrel bombs on Andan city and another two barrels on Sukari neighborhood in Aleppo city in the noon, as documented one barrel near Shalalat and another near Sinalco plant in the north countryside in afternoon.

In addition to almost 8 barrel bombs shelled by warplanes on Al-Kindi hospital surrounded area, where there were clashes between Free Syrian Army and government forces.

Warplane shelling targeted in addition the above mentioned areas the following: Free Zone, Maslmia village, Bayanon, Mayer and Ashrafia towns, (Youth residents and Bani Zaid neighborhoods ), Hader town, Dar Izzah, Castello road, Hayan town.

## **Syrian Network for Human Rights**

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*In the mid all of this we can't overlook the lack of possibilities as mechanisms and equipments that contributed to the raise of victim's number who died under their houses' rubbles day after day, accompanied with desperate attempts by their relatives to reach survive them.*

*Killed victims' toll throughout the six days from 15/12/2013 to 20/12/2013 is:*

*308 victims*

*307 civilians including 86 children and 33 ladies.*

*1 armed rebel*

### **Annexes and Attachments:**

*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 15/12/2013*

*132 civilian killed including 42 children and 13 ladies:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBOGZfZTF5U0hqRnc/edit?usp=sharing>

*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 16/12/2013*

*21 civilian killed including 6 children 1 lady and 1 armed rebel:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBLW1yaDdrb0FDdBg/edit?usp=sharing>

*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 17/12/2013*

*95 civilian killed including 21 children and 12 ladies:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBX2ZMNmpBT0g4QkU/edit?usp=sharing>

*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 18/12/2013*

*23 civilian killed including 7 children''*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBYjZWZE9IUXV4SkU/edit?usp=sharing>

*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 19/12/2013*

*19 civilian killed including 6 children and 7 ladies:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tIYYKBc1F1Y0lnc0VSYWc/edit?usp=sharing>

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*The following attachments contain the details and information about the victims in 20/12/2013*

*18 civilian killed including 4 children:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tYYKBYTg2ck0zZnFXREk/edit?usp=sharing>

*The following attachments contains all photos, videos, for all the Air Strikes on Aleppo and countryside governorate (warplane shelling, Barrel Bombs), since 15/12/2013 to 20/12/2013.*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9Bj18tYYKBLXNoRnU3alQwZW8/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Conclusions:**

1. Syrian network for human rights emphasize that the shelling by barrel bombs was deliberately and aimed civilian targets, so the Shabieha and Government forces violated international human rights law that protects the right of life. in addition that it has committed in non-international armed conflict so it tantamount to war crimes and had all the elements.
2. SNHR considered shelling accompanied by killings is a war crime, this is not the first time, but it's almost daily event in all Syrian governorate, so its systematic and widespread methodology.
3. 3- Radom attacks committed by Syrian government consider as violations of customary IHL, because they shell populated areas, not specific military target.
4. 4- Those attacks, specially shelling, caused accidently loses in civilians lives, injury , or damaged civilian objects, there are very strong indications to believe that damaged was too excessive when compared with expected military benefit.
5. 5.The size and repeated nature of the massacre, the level of excessive force used, in addition to the random nature of the shelling , and coordinating attacks cannot be but only supreme directives which is state policy.

### **Recommendations :**

#### **Syrian Governments:**

- 1) *Immediately stop all human rights' violations.*
- 2) *Respect international obligations of protection of civilians in time of war, and respect for rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.*

#### **Human Rights Council:**

- 1) *1-Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to hold their responsibilities of what's happening for the Syrian People of killing, rape, displacement, and arrested*
- 2) *2-Pressure on the Syrian Government Troops to stop shelling, killing and release all kidnapped and arrested*
- 3) *3- Hold alias and supporters of the Syrian Government Troops: Russia, Iran and China, the moral and physical responsibilities for what's happening to the Syrian people*
- 4) *4- Serious attention of this case and give it high priority, and try to take care of victim families psychologically and materially and educationally.*

#### **Security Council:**

- 1) *1-Decision to refer all the criminals and the involved to ICC.*
- 2) *2-Warn the Syrian Government Troops of their percussions of using brutal methods on the stability of civil peace and coexistence between the people of the same society.*
- 3) *3- Insert Syrian National Army, and Shabiha troops loyal to Syrian Government's.*

#### **Arab League:**

- 1) *1-Demand Human Right Council and United Nations to give a serious and right attention of stop daily killing.*
- 2) *2-Political and diplomatic pressure on the Syrian Government Troops's main allies-Russia, Iran and China -to prevent them from continuous providing cover and international and political protection for all the crimes committed against the Syrian people and hold them moral and physical responsibility for all the excesses of the Syrian Government Troops.*

- 3) *3-Serious attention of this case and give it high priority, and try to take care of victim families psychologically and materially and educationally.*

### ***International Commission of Inquiry:***

The International Commission of inquiry must stop describing the conflict in Syria as a conflict between two equal parties in crimes, power and centralized decision, and give an accurate description of violations without alleviate for political purposes.

The committee must also increase its carders in Syria because of the magnitude of the daily crimes to enable them of wider and more comprehensive committed documentation.

***We take this opportunity to Thank families of the victims, witnesses, and media activists for performed in support of the preparation, release and publication of the report.***

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