

IS might perpetrate retaliatory massacres in Der Ezzor

In 30 July, 2014, a conflict between Ash-Sh'ietat tribe and the Islamic State has emerged after a series of arrests in Ash-Sh'ietat tribe-controlled towns (Al-Kishkiya, Abu-Hammam and Al-Gharniej), located in Eastern Der Ezzor countryside, by the Islamic State which led to a local uprising that expanded gradually. Another tribes, such as Ash-Shwyt tribe in Abu-Hardoub village, has joined the uprising. The tribes rebels managed to take over the following towns: (Abu-Hardoub, Al-Jarthu, Swiedan Jazira, Al-Ishara, and Mahkan) and At-Tanak and Al-Jidou oil fields in addition to the originally Ash-Sh'ietat tribe-controlled towns. In the most recent days, IS managed to regain some of the areas such as: (Abu-Hardoub, Swiedan, Al-Jarthi) and cut off the roads, which connect the areas whom the tribes rebels managed to control, using heavy artillery and indiscriminate bombing.

What is more dangerous is that IS has issued a 24 hours cautionary notice where it said that all the residents of the rebellious towns must leave before the given period of time ends or they will be considered military targets.

Der Ezzor countryside is one of the areas that didn't witness significant displacing unlike most of the majority of the Syrian cities that suffered from displacing because of the Syrian regime's shelling that destroyed more than 850,000 building over the last three years. Even though some of the local battalions have declared their loyalty to IS, the faction didn't manage to take over Der Ezzor at the beginning of July 2014 except through intimidation, oppression, genocides, and hanging heads to terrorize the residents in addition to its heavy and somewhat modern arsenal compared to the local rebels, who thousands of have displaced to Damascus countryside and Daraa in order to protect themselves and their families from IS's shelling. Thus, IS has become more of an occupying power that displaces people, terrorizes them, and takes over their homes.

SNHR has closely observed, throughout the last days, the faction's official statements and its leaders' and fighters' on the social-networking sites. Based on that, we expect that the faction is preparing for a wide and radical retaliatory campaign that would target the aforementioned areas in order to end any possibility for another insurgency against its power. Additionally, we have received some reports that suggest that Abu-Omar Ash-Shishshani, the faction's military leader in Syria, will be the one leading the campaign against the limited local uprising in Der Ezzor.

SNHR fears that the faction will start retaliatory campaign and perpetrate war crimes, manifesting in extrajudicial killings, and displaces tens of thousands of residents within the next few hours or days.

Protecting the Syrian people from extremism and terrorism is the Security Council responsibility. Therefore, it should be the first one concerned about these calls. Furthermore, the International Community should find another solutions to end the bloodbath and displacement in Syria in case the Security Council remained paralyzed. Leaders of the Islamic State should be included in the terrorism list, along with the leaders of the Syrian regime, and pursued. More importantly, the list should be published so the states and individuals who support IS and the Syrian regime should face the legal consequences. Also, the military and material resources of the faction must be killed.