

The Syrian regime targets a hospital, a clinic, a market, a school, and two mosques in Saraqeb

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Saraqeb city is located in southeastern Idlib. On the first and second day of Al-Adhd Eid, the Syrian regime dropped more than 10 barrel bombs on the city targeting the vital centers. The main mosque and the northern mosque were targeted in addition to the city market, Al-Ihsan hospital, the city clinic, and the school of the southwestern neighborhood. All of these locations are civil centers. SNHR investigation showed that there were no military presence near those centers during or before the attack. Furthermore, the airstrikes targeted a school in the northern neighborhood. The school was a military headquarter for the armed opposition before it was evacuated a month ago.

The media activist Laith offered SNHR his testimony about the airstrikes:

“The first airstrike was in the morning and targeted the city market and the main mosque which is located near the market. The market was destroyed greatly while the doors and windows of the mosque were damaged. After two hours, the warplanes targeted a school in the northern neighborhood, which was used as a military headquarter, with barrel bombs and a very large explosive container, which was used for the first time. The school was evacuated as the rebels were afraid that it might be targeted.”

“On the next day, four barrel bombs were dropped on Al-Ihsan hospital and the city clinic. The hospital is now out of commission.”

“The destruction was huge and indescribable and covered an area of 500 M in addition to various damages that covered an area of 2 Km.”

The local media activist “Sami” told SNHR about the shelling

“The shelling begun at approximately at 9:30 with two barrel bombs. The first one was dropped on the market in the middle of the city to destroy 30 shops in addition to the fruit market that was damaged too. Also, the explosion destroyed the doors and windows of the main mosque. The second barrel bomb was dropped on the western neighborhood.”

“The second airstrikes was two hours after the first one and targeted the northern neighborhood. A very large explosive container was used instead of barrel bombs. I haven’t seen such thing before. The container caused considerable destruction in the northern mosque and the northern school, which was previously a military headquarter before it was evacuated a while ago. Afterwards, the southern area was targeted with a barrel bomb that caused damages in the southern school.”

“At approximately 8:00 PM, the Syrian regime warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Al-Ihsan hospital in the southwestern neighborhood.”

“On the second day of Eid, the Syrian regime dropped four barrel bombs. The first was dropped at approximately 9:00 AM and targeted Al-Ihsan hospital for a second time to put it out of commission. At approximately 11:00, the eastern neighborhood “As-Sena’a” and the clinic in the northwestern neighborhood were both targeted. We saw the smoke and the aftermath of the shelling.”

“As a result, one man and two children, who were from the same family, were killed”

SNHR documented the killing of 6 civilians including two children and one woman.

1. Sukaina Abdullah Al-Mohammad An-Naqrar, 42-year-old, from Idlib – Saraqeb, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes.
2. Bakr Abdulilah Abbas, from Idlib – Saraqeb, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes yesterday and was identified today after his body was scattered.
3. Yahya Mohammad Shaikh Ahmad, from Idlib – Saraqeb, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes, his body was scattered.
4. Ibrahim Ash-Shaikh Ali, from Idlib – Saraqeb, known as Ash-Shaikh Hussein, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes.
5. Child Mohnnad Mursal Briek, from Idlib – Saraqeb, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes.
6. Child Mohammad Musral Briek, from Idlib – Saraqeb, killed by the indiscriminate shelling of Syrian regime warplanes.

Pictures and attachments

Video footage showing the [helicopter dropping barrel bombs and the aftermath of the shelling](#)

Video footage showing the [helicopter dropping barrel bombs and the smoke](#)

Video footage showing the [destruction of Al-Ihsan hospital](#)

Pictures of the destruction of [the main mosque in Saraqeb](#)

Picture of the destruction of [the northern mosque in Saraqeb](#)

Picture of the destruction of Saraqeb School

Picture shows the destruction in the city

Conclusions

1-SNHR affirms that the shelling against Saraqeb city, 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.

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.