



## Not Less than 43 Massacres Committed in September 2015 31 amongst which were committed by government forces

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### I. Executive Summary:

SNHR documented not less than 43 massacres that were committed in September, detailed as follows:

- Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign militias) committed 31 massacres
- Extremist Islamic Groups:
- ISIL committed 2 massacres
- Armed Opposition Groups committed 8 massacres
- Unidentified Groups committed 2 massacres

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves: “the killing of five unarmed people at least”, for more information on our methodology, please visit the following [URL](#).

Government forces committed 31 massacres in September 2015, detailed as follows:

24 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition forces.

7 massacres were committed in regions under ISIL's control.

Massacres' distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 14 massacres were committed

Homs: 7 massacres

Damascus suburbs: 6

Idlib: 5

Deir Al Zour: 4

Al Sawida: 2

Daraa: 2

Damascus: 1

Al Raqqa: 1

Al Hassaka: 1





Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:

Massacres' distribution in September 2015 according to the main conflict parties				
Conflict Party	Government forces	ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Unidentified Groups
Governorate				
Damascus suburbs	6			
Aleppo	7		7	
Daraa	2			
Idlib	5			
Homs	7			
Deir Al Zour	4			
Damascus			1	
Al Raqaa		1		
Al Hassaka		1		
Al Sawaida				2

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 467 individuals including 143 children and 65 women. 45% of targeted victims were women and children which is a strong indicator that civilians were targeted deliberately.

The victims' death toll according to massacres' perpetrators:

Government forces killed 338 individuals, including 93 children and 48 women.

ISIL killed 21 individuals

Armed Opposition Groups killed 77 individuals, including 36 children and 11 women

Unidentified Groups killed 31 individuals including a child and three women.

## II. Massacres' Details:

### Government Forces:

#### Aleppo:

On 16 September 2015, government warplanes [launched a number of rockets on Talat Al Souda](#) region in Al Kallasa neighborhood, which is under the control of armed opposition groups, in Aleppo. The shelling targeted houses surrounding to [Al Qamar roundabout](#), which killed [7 individuals \(4 children and 3 women.\)](#)





On 16 September 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb on Al Mashhad neighborhood](#), that is under the control of armed opposition groups, in Aleppo which [killed 20 individuals](#), including 11 children and two women, most of them were from one family and injured 30 others.

On 17 September 2015, government aviation launched several rockets on [Sad Al Lawz region in Al Sha'ar neighborhood](#) in Aleppo which targeted [residential buildings in Al Mou'asasa Street](#). As a result, [15 individuals including 2 children were killed and nearly 10 others were injured](#).

On 17 September 2015, government warplanes [launched several rockets on Al Kalasa neighborhood in Aleppo](#) that targeted shops surrounding to Al Subhan mosque. [As a result, 8 individuals were killed](#), including [3 children and 10 others were injured](#).



On 20 September 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Mou'salat region in Al Sha'ar neighborhood in Aleppo which killed 6 individuals including a child, and injured 7 others. Also, a number of houses and buildings were destroyed.

On 21 September 2015, government artillery, stationed in Al Hamdaneyi stadium in Aleppo, [launched a local made "Fiel" surface-to-surface missile on Al Sha'ar neighborhood](#), which is under armed opposition groups' control, and [targeted the vegetable market in the neighborhood](#). Twenty two individuals were [killed and more than 40 others](#) were injured. Also, [a number of commercial shops](#) and cars were [burned](#).



On 22 September 2015, government warplanes shelled [Al Halak neighborhood](#), which is under the [control of armed opposition groups](#), in Aleppo with rockets which [killed 12 individuals](#), including 7 children and 3 women.





### **Homs:**

On 17 September 2015, government aviation launched several rockets on Palmyra city in Homs, which is under ISIL's control, and targeted a house. An entire family of 6 members was killed, including 4 children and a woman.

On 18 September 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on neighborhoods in Palmyra city that is under ISIL's control. One of the barrels was dropped on a public square, usually where residents gather, and killed 8 individuals, including two children whose bodies were turned to body parts.

On 22 September 2015, government aviation dropped several barrel bombs on neighborhoods in Palmyra city that is under ISIL's control. One of the barrels was dropped a crowded area in the city which killed 12 individuals and injured 42 others.

On 26 September 2015, government artillery [launched a surface-to-surface rocket on a park in Al Waer neighborhood](#) that is under the control of armed opposition groups in Homs. The park was crowded with children and their families and thus 26 individuals were killed, including 16 children and 4 women.

On 30 September 2015, Russian or Syrian government warplanes [launched a number of rockets on Al Rastan city](#), which is [under the control of armed opposition groups in Homs](#) and killed 6 individuals, including 4 children; most of them were from one family.

On 30 September 2015, Russian or Syrian government warplanes launched a [number of rockets on Talbisa city that is under the control of armed opposition groups in Homs](#) which killed 7 individuals, [including 3 children and one woman](#); most of them were from one family.

On 30 September 2015, [Russian or Syrian government warplanes launched a number of rockets](#) on Al Za'afarani town, that is under the control of armed opposition groups in Homs which killed 6 individuals, including one child and two women; most of them were from one family.

### **Damascus suburbs:**

On 1 September 2015, government warplanes launched [two aerial strikes](#) on a crowded market in Ein Terma town, which killed 9 individuals and injured 20 others.

On 2 September 2015, government artillery [launched several surface-to-surface rockets and mortar missiles on Douma](#) city which killed 14 individuals, including 7 children and 4 women, most of them were from one family.

On 6 September 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on a water tank in Harasta city that





is under the control of armed opposition groups in Damascus suburbs, which killed 5 individuals. On 14 September 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on Douma city which killed 9 individuals, including 3 children and two women.

On 17 September 2015, government warplanes [launched 8 aerial strikes](#) with rockets on Douma city, [which killed 6 individuals](#), including a child and a woman.

On 25 September 2015, government warplanes [launched two rocket raids](#) on neighborhoods in Douma city that is under the control of armed opposition groups, and killed 7 individuals, including 2 children.

#### **Idlib:**

On 13 September 2015, government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on the industrial region in Idlib city, which is under the control of armed opposition groups. As a result, 8 individuals were killed including two children.

On 16 September 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on Sfouhen town in Idlib suburbs, which killed 6 individuals from one family, including 3 children and a woman.

On 18 September 2015, [government warplanes launched several rockets on Idlib](#) city which killed 17 individuals, including 4 women.

On 24 September 2015, government warplanes launched an aerial raid on [Kafr Rouma](#) town in Idlib, [which killed 13 individuals, including a child and 3 women](#).

On 26 September 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on Tiftinaz town that is under the control of armed opposition groups and killed 6 individuals, including 3 children and a woman.

#### **Deir Al Zour:**

On 16 September 2015, government warplanes launched several rockets on Jadid Akidat town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs which is under ISIL's control, and killed 6 individuals including 3 children and a woman.

On 21 September 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on Al Kharita makeshift hospital in Al Kharita town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control and killed 5 individuals, including 3 children and a woman. Not less than 10 others were injured.

On 21 September 2015, government warplanes launched four rockets on Al Kou' region in Marat town in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs, which killed 13 individuals, including 7 children and two wom-





en. Not less than 30 others were injured and a number of houses and shops were damaged as well. On 28 September 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on a crowded market in Al Mayadeen city in eastern Deir Al Zour, which killed 25 individuals including 11 children and 5 women.

#### **Daraa:**

On 11 September 2015, government artillery launched a surface-to-surface rocket on Tareeq Al Sad neighborhood in Daraa city, which killed 6 civilians, including 3 children and two women.

On 11 September 2015, [government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb](#) on a crowded market in Busra Al Sham city in Daraa which [killed 22 individuals including a child and 6 women](#).

#### **Extremist Islamic Groups:**

##### **ISIL:**

##### **Al Hassaka:**

On 14 September 2015, ISIL bombed a tank in front of Edward Ewas School in Masaken Al Mahata neighborhood in Al Hassaka city, which is under the control of government forces. Government forces used the school as a headquarters for The National Defense Forces, its militias. As a result, 8 civilians were killed and more than 15 others were injured.

##### **Al Raqqa:**

On 30 September 2015, ISIL issued a video entitled “Liquidating A Group for Shiite Nusayriya”. The [video](#) depicts the execution of 13 individuals with gun-shots in Al Tabaqa city in Al Raqqa suburbs. The group was accused of dealing with the regime and abducting ISIL members. We were not able to identify the date of the execution up to the moment of making this report.



#### **Armed Opposition Groups:**

##### **Aleppo:**

On 15 September 2015, a local made rocket-propelled-grenade fell in the surrounding of Al Ghoufran mosque in Al Khalidiya neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo. The grenade came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of Squad 16, an armed opposition group in Bani Zeid neighborhood. Six individuals were killed, including 5 children and more than 12 others were injured.







On 15 September 2015, two local made rockets fell on a region under the control of government forces in Salah Al Deen neighborhood in Aleppo. The rockets came from artillery stationed in Al Rashedeen neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition groups. Thirteen individuals were killed, including 9 children and more than 35 others were injured.

On 15 September 2015, two mortar missiles fell on Al A'zameyi neighborhood that is under the control of government forces. The missiles came from artillery stationed in Al Rashdeen neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition groups. As a result, 5 individuals were killed, including a woman.

On 20 September 2015, two gas cylinders [fell on Al Midan neighborhood](#), which is under the control of government forces, in Aleppo. The cylinders came from Squad 16, an armed opposition group, stationed in Bustan Al Basha neighborhood. Sixteen individuals were killed, including 9 children and 3 women. Nearly 30 others were injured.

On 20 September 2015, armed opposition groups, stationed in Bustan Al Basha neighborhood, shelled Al Midan neighborhood that is under the control of government forces, in Aleppo. The shelling targeted a residential building in Al Midan Al Fawkani region and some commercial shops. Seventeen individuals were killed, including 9 children and 3 women. Not less than 30 others were injured and a building collapsed in the surrounding of the vegetable market.

On 21 September 2015, a local made rocket fell on a residential building in Al Midan neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Aleppo. The rocket came from a rocket launcher stationed in a region under the control of Squad 16, an armed opposition group in Bustan Al Basha. As a result, 5 individuals were killed, including two children and a woman. Not less than 30 others were injured.

On 21 September 2015, armed opposition groups, stationed in Bustan Al Basha, launched rockets on Al Midan neighborhood. The shelling targeted the corn bakery and the surrounding of Al Midan mosque. One of the rockets fell on a house in the mosque's surrounding which killed 7 individuals, including two children and a woman. Not less than 30 others were injured.

#### **Damascus:**

On 11 September 2015, [two mortar missiles fell on Douwailaa' region in Damascus](#). The missiles came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of Al Islam Army (an armed opposition group). As a result, 8 individuals died; including two women and more than 20 others were injured. Also, 6 cars were completely destroyed.





## Unidentified Groups:

### Al Swaida Governorate:

On 4 September 2015, a car was bombed in Ein Al Marj region, between the city and Zaher Jabal region, while one of a prominent Durzi leaders' autocade, Waheed Al Balo'us was passing by. As a result, 11 individuals were killed and not less than 12 others were injured. We were not able to identify the perpetrators who committed this crime up to the moment of making this report.

On 4 September 2015, a car exploded next to Al Swaida National Hospital in Al Swaida city. The car explosion came after the injured people from the first bombing reached the hospital. As a result, 20 individuals were killed, including a child and three women. Also, not less than 30 others were injured. We were not able to identify the responsible party for this explosion up to the moment of making this report.



## IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

1-SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, 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 which can be classified as war crimes.

2- SNHR believes that these acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.

3- These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these 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 policy.

### **Extremist Islamic Groups**

#### **ISIL:**

ISIL's policy of execution and murder are being practiced on a large scale and, thus, can be classified as war crimes.

### **PYD Kurd Self Management Forces**

Extrajudicial killings and indiscriminate shelling in Aleppo by PYD forces amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

### **Armed Opposition Factions**

Indiscriminate bombing considered a war crime as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. The armed opposition should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

### **International Coalition Forces**

The international coalition forces have perpetrated explicit violations of the international humanitarian law by indiscriminately bombing civil areas. The bombing resulted in mass killings and great destruction of residential neighborhoods.

### **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 its responsibility of 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 and have 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 most of the financial and humanitarian aids that, in most cases, don't reach those who are in need and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian government.

### **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and appreciations go to the victims' families, eyewitnesses, and local activists whose testimonies contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims' families and friends.

