



Not Less than 51 Massacres Committed in August 2015 43 out of which were committed by government forces

Report Contents:
Executive Summary
Massacres' Details
Conclusions and
Recommendations
Acknowledgment and
Condolences

Executive Summary

SNHR documented not less than 54 massacres that were committed in August, detailed as follows:

- Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign militias) committed 43 massacres

- Extremist Islamic Groups:

ISIL committed one massacre

- Armed Opposition Groups committed 3 massacres

- PYD Kurd self-management forces committed one massacre

- International Coalition Forces committed 1 massacre

- 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:

Massacres' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

Damascus suburbs: 19 massacres

Idlib: 14

Aleppo: 9

Homs: 3

Hama: 2

Deir Al Zour: 2

Damascus: 1

Daraa: 1





Massacres' distribution in August 2015 according to the main conflict parties						
Unidentified Groups	International Coalition Forces	PYD Kurd self-management forces	Armed Opposition Groups	ISIL	Government forces	Conflict party
						Governorate
					19	Damascus suburbs
2		1	2		4	Aleppo
					1	Daraa
	1				13	Idlib
					3	Homs
					2	Hama
				1	1	Deir Al Zour
			1			Damascus

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 638 individuals including 138 children and 82 women. 34% of targeted victims were women and children which is a strong indicator that civilians were targeted deliberately.

The victims' death toll according to its perpetrators:

Government Forces killed 582 individuals including 112 children and 73 women

Extremist Islamic Groups (ISIL) killed 5 individuals

Armed Opposition Groups killed 21 individuals including 3 children and 3 women

International Coalition Forces killed 8 civilians including 6 children and a woman

Unidentified Groups killed 14 individuals including 6 children and two women





Report Details:

Government Forces:

Damascus suburbs:

On 12 August 2015, government warplanes [launched two rockets on the main street](#) in Siqba in Damascus suburbs which [killed 8 individuals and injured 30 others](#).

On 12 August 2015, government aviation [launched a number of rockets on Douma city](#) which [killed 24 individuals including 3 children](#).



On 12 August 2015, government aviation launched [a number of rockets on Erbeen city](#) in Damascus suburbs which killed 12 individuals including 4 children and 3 women.

On 13 August 2015, [government aviation launched an aerial attack on Kafr Batna](#) town in Damascus suburbs which killed 6 individuals and injured 25 others.

On 15 August 2015, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Ein Al Fija town in Damascus suburbs which killed 16 individuals including 6 children and 4 women.





On 15 August 2015, government helicopters dropped [3 barrel bombs on Baseema town](#) in Damascus suburbs which killed 8 individuals, including 5 children and two women, most of them were from one family.

On 16 August 2015, government aviation [launched 4 rockets on two crowded markets in Douma](#) in Damascus suburbs which [killed 115 individuals](#) including [11 children](#) and [2 women](#).

On 19 August 2015, government aviation [launched a number of rockets on Harasta city](#) which killed 11 individuals, including 6 cadres from the local council and civil defense team and a baby.

On 20 August 2015, government aviation [launched a number of rockets on Douma city](#) that is under the control of armed opposition groups and killed 10 individuals including a child and two women.

On 22 August 2015, government aviation launched a [number of rockets on civilian houses](#) in Douma and killed 38 individuals including [19 individuals from one family, including 9 children and 13 women](#).

On 22 August 2015, government aviation launched a number of rockets on the main market in Douma which killed 6 individuals including a child and a woman.

On 23 August 2015, government aviation launched a number of [rockets on residential compounds next to the main market in Hamouriya town in Damascus](#) suburbs which killed 13 individuals including 6 children and 4 women. 20 others were injured.

On 23 August 2015, government warplanes [launched a number of rockets on the main square in Siqba city](#) in Damascus suburbs which [killed 12 individuals](#) including a [children and a woman](#).

On 24 August 2015, government aviation launched two rockets [on a crowd next to one of the medical centers in Erbeen city](#) in Damascus suburbs which killed 11 individuals including 5 children and a woman. 14 others were injured.

On 24 August 2015, government aviation [launched a number of rockets on Douma city](#) which killed 14 individuals including 7 children.





On 26 August 2015, government helicopters dropped 12 barrel bombs on Madaya town that is under the control of armed opposition forces in Damascus suburbs. As a result, 5 individuals died from one family including 3 children and their mother.

On 30 August 2015, government warplanes [launched a number of rockets on Douma](#) and [killed 13 individuals including 8 children and 3 women](#).

On 30 August 2015, government warplanes [launched three aerial raids on Siqba city](#) that [is under the control of armed opposition groups](#) which killed 7 individuals including 4 children.



On 31 August 2015, government warplanes [launched a number of rockets on Ein Terna town in Damascus suburbs](#) that is [under the control of armed opposition groups](#) which [killed 9 individuals](#).





Idlib Governorate:

On 3 August 2015, a government warplane crashed on [the main market in Areeha](#) city in Idlib which [killed 44 individuals including 2 children and a woman](#).

On 7 August 2015, government warplanes launched a [number of rockets on Joseph town](#) in Idlib which [killed 7 individuals including 5 women](#).

On 7 August 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on Arnaba town in Idlib and killed 5 individuals including 3 women; most of them were from one family.

On 8 August 2015, government aviation launched [4 vacuum rockets on the cattle market](#) in [Sinjar town in Idlib which killed 21 individuals](#).

On 9 August 2015, government aviation launched a number of rockets on Kafr Aameem town in Idlib suburbs which killed 5 individuals, including 4 children, most of them were from one family.

On 11 August 2015, government warplanes [launched two rockets on the vegetables market](#) in Idlib which [killed 21 individuals including 3 children and 4 women](#).

On 13 August 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on Kafr Aweed town in Jabal Al Zawiya in Idlib and [killed 6 individuals including a child and 2 women](#).





On 13 August 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on [Al Mawzara town in Idlib suburbs which killed 6 individuals](#) including a child and two women.

On 16 August 2015, government aviation launched a rocket on Idlib city and killed 6 individuals.

On 21 August 2015, government aviation launched a rocket on Idlib city that is under the control of armed opposition forces which killed 5 civilians who were displaced, a mother and her four children.



On 24 August 2015, government helicopters [dropped two barrel bombs on Al Bara town in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition forces](#) and killed [18 individuals including 5 children and 5 women](#).

On 30 August 2015, government aviation launched an aerial raid with rockets on Kafr Nabel city in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups. As a result, 5 individuals were killed.

On 30 August 2015, government aviation launched a [rocket on Ma'rata town in Idlib suburbs](#) which killed 6 individuals from one family including 2 children.

Aleppo Governorate:

On 8 August 2015, government warplanes launched a number of rockets on Deir Hafer city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control. 7 individuals were killed including 5 children and a woman. 20 others were injured and 3 houses were completely destroyed.

On 17 August 2015, government aviation launched a number of rockets [on Salah Al Deen neighborhood](#) that is under the control of armed opposition groups [which killed 7 individuals including 2 children](#).





On 23 August 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Tal Sabe'en town that is located southern to Krous military airport in Aleppo governorate that is under the control of ISIL. 5 civilians from one family were killed (3 children and 2 women) also 6 houses were destroyed.

On 25 August 2015, government artillery launched a short range surface-to-surface "Fiel" rocket on Al Sukari neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition forces in Aleppo and killed 6 individuals. A number of houses were damaged around Zaki Jomaa School.

Homs Governorate:

On 11 August 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Ghanto town in Homs suburbs and killed 6 individuals.

On 12 August 2015, pro-government thugs ambushed some displaced people in northern Homs suburbs and shot-dead 24 individuals.

On 29 August 2015, government artillery launched a number of missiles that contained an unknown gas on Amlas front in Al Rastan city in Homs suburbs which killed 5 individuals.

Hama Governorate:

On 3 August 2015, government helicopters dropped a number of explosive gas cylinders on Hourta town in Hama suburbs and killed 7 individuals from one family, including 2 children and 2 women.

On 17 August 2015, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Latamina city on Hama suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups and killed 6 civilians most of them were from one family, 3 children and 3 women.

Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 10 August 2015, government warplanes [launched two consecutive aerial raids on the Modern Medicine Hospital in Al Mayadeen city](#) in eastern of Deir Al Zour that is under ISIL's control. As a result, [8 individuals were killed including a child and 5 women.](#)





Daraa Governorate:

On 16 August 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a crowded market in Daraa Al Balad in Daraa city which killed 8 individuals.

Extremist Islamic Groups:

ISIL:

Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 9 August 2015, ISIL slaughtered 5 individuals in Al Makhfar Square in the middle of Al Boukamal in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control. The victims were accused of blasphemy.

Armed Opposition Groups:

Aleppo:

On 10 August 2015, a rocket-propelled-grenade was shelled on Al Miydan neighborhood in Aleppo that is under government's control and targeted a water spring. The rockets came from artillery stationed in Bustan Al Basha neighborhood that is under the control of Nour Al Deen Zanki brigade (one of the armed opposition groups). As a result, [11 individuals were killed including 7 children and 15 others were injured.](#)

On 12 August 2015, a local made artillery fell on Al Hamadeyi neighborhood in Aleppo that is under the government's control. As a result, 5 individuals were killed including 2 women. 9 others were injured.

Damascus Suburbs Governorate:

On 8 August 2015, a mortar missile fell on Al Thawara Street in Damascus. The artillery came from a region under the control of Al Islam Army (one of the armed opposition groups) which killed 5 individuals, (4 children and a woman). 20 others were injured.

PYD Kurd Self Management Forces:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 1 August 2015, PYD forces gathered the residents of Sareen town in Aleppo suburbs in one of the town's squares, after it gained control over it from ISIL, and shot them. 8 individuals were killed including 3 children and 3 women.





International Coalition Forces:

Idlib Governorate:

On 11 August 2015, international coalition warplanes launched a number of rockets on a house next to one of the headquarters that belonged to Al Sunna Army (an armed opposition group) in Attema town in Idlib suburbs which killed 8 civilians including 6 children and a woman.



Unidentified Groups:

Aleppo Governorate:

On 28 August 2015, a car was bombed at the entrance of Maree' city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition groups. As a result, 6 individuals were killed from one family, including 2 children and 2 women. 7 others were injured. We could not identify the party responsible for the car bombing up to the moment of making this report.

On 29 August 2015, a car was bombed at the entrance of Tal Re'faat city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition forces. As a result 8 individuals were killed, including 4 children. A number of cars, shops and buildings were burned. We could not identify the perpetrators up to the moment of making this report.





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 mounts 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.

