



Not Less than 96 Offensive Attacks on Vital Facilities in January 2016 44 amongst which were committed by Russian Forces

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During January 2016, SNHR recorded not less than 96 offensive attacks on civil vital facilities, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties in Syria:

A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, and foreign militias) targeted 34 facilities.

A. Russian Forces targeted 44 facilities

A. Extremist Islamic Groups :

- i. ISIL targeted 2 facilities
- ii. Al Nusra Front targeted 1 facility

A. Armed Opposition Groups targeted 4 facilities

B. International Coalition Forces targeted 2 facilities

C. Unidentified Groups targeted 9 facilities

The most attacked vital facilities in January 2016:

25 infrastructure buildings, 21 educational facilities, 18 places of worship, 16 medical facilities, 9 communal facilities, 3 cultural facilities, 3 International Humanitarian Insignia and 1 refugee camp.

To [read](#) further about SNHR's methodology in classifying vital facilities in Syria, you can visit the following link:

Attacked facilities according to the main conflict parties in Syria:





Attacked facilities according to the main conflict parties in Syria in January 2016

Unidentified Groups	International Coalition Forces	Armed Opposition Groups	Extremist Islamic Groups		Russian Forces	Government Forces	Conflict Party
			Al Nusra Front	ISIL			Targeted Facility
Places of Worship							
					10	7	Mosques
		1					Churches and Monasteries
Educational Facilities							
2				1	11	6	Schools
						1	Educational Institutions
Medical Centers							
					11		Medical Facilities
					2	3	Ambulances
Cultural Facilities							
					1	2	Archeological Regions
Communal Facilities							
					1		Parks
					3	5	Markets
International Humanitarian Insignia							
2						1	International Red Cross
Infrastructure							
1		3		1		1	Power stations and energy
4					2	5	Civil Defense Centers
					1	1	Official Headquarters
	2						Transportation Systems
					1		Bakeries
					1	1	Industrial Facilities
			1				"International organizations and locations belonging to international agencies "
Refugee Camps							
						1	Refugee camps
9	2	4	1	2	44	34	Total





Government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction they cause are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.

The Security Council failed to carry out Resolution 2139, adopted on 22 February, 2014, which states: "all parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of explosive barrel bombs.", the Security Council should at least press on government forces to stop the attacks on vital places, which are usually crowded, such as schools, hospitals, markets, bakeries, and places of worships. In this report, SNHR highlights the documented attacks against vital facilities. It is worth noting that what we documented was the minimum due to the many practical obstacles we run across during our work.

SNHR affirms, through its investigations, that there were no military points or presence in these places before or during the attacks. The Syrian regime, and the crimes perpetrators, should justify their brutal attacks before the United Nations and the Security Council.

II. Report Details:

A. Government Forces:

- Places of Worship:

- Mosques:

On 11 January 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets next to Aisha Mosque in Al Hamadeyi neighborhood in Deir Al Zour that is under ISIL's control. The mosque was greatly damaged.

On 12 January 2016, government artillery launched a mortar missile on Al Rahman Mosque in Daraya city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition, which damaged [the mosque's dome](#).

On 13 January 2016, government warplanes shelled a [mosque](#) in Al Mawzara town in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which caused destruction to the mosque and its minaret. As a result, the mosque went out of service.





On 15 January 2016, government warplanes launched two rockets on the Great Mosque in [Deir Assafier town](#) in Damascus suburbs which [damaged](#) the mosque greatly.

On 15 January 2016, government warplanes shelled the Great Mosque in Zamalka city in Damascus suburbs which caused great [destruction](#) to the mosque.



On 17 January 2016, government militias in Abteen town in southern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of government forces bombed a mosque's minaret, Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque, with explosive devices. As a result, the mosque's minaret was almost completely destroyed.

On 20 January 2016, government warplanes launched a rocket on a [mosque's vicinity](#) in Hazano town in Idlib governorate which damaged the mosque.

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 10 January 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the houses that surrounds Yaked Western Elementary School in Yaked Al Adas town that belongs to Adnan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, a student was killed and two others were injured; and the school was damaged as well.

On 11 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Al Oula Girls Schools in Al Hamadeyi neighborhood that is under the control of ISIL in Deir Al Zour city which damaged the school.

On 13 January 2016, government warplanes shelled [Teshreen Elementary School](#) in Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which partially destroyed the school.





On 16 January 2016, government warplanes shelled several rockets next to one of the schools in Douma city in Damascus which damaged the school greatly.

On 25 January 2016, government warplanes shelled the Western School in Al Kalta town in Raqqa northern suburbs that is under ISIL's control which damaged the school from the eastern side.

On 30 January 2016, government warplanes shelled a [school in Nawa city](#) in Daraa that is under the control of armed opposition which partially damaged the school.

- Educational Institutions:

On 12 January 2016, government warplanes shelled Tulip Learning Center in Deir Assafer town in Damascus suburbs which killed a child and [greatly damaged](#) the learning center.

- Medical Centers:

- Ambulances:

On 2 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled one of the ambulances in the medical region that belongs to the Free Syrian Doctors in Al Nashabeya town in Damascus suburbs. As a result, one of the paramedics had his leg amputated and the ambulance was greatly damaged.

On 6 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled a mortar missile on one of the ambulances that belonged to the Free Syrian Doctors in Al Marj region in Damascus. The ambulance was greatly damaged due to the fragments from the shelling.

On 12 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled the medical region that belonged to the Free Syrian Doctors in Housh Al Salheya town in Damascus suburbs. One of the ambulances was damaged.

- Cultural Facilities:

- Archeological sites (citadels, forts, ancient cemeteries, temples and theaters)

On 1 January 2016, government rocket launchers stationed in Al Douwa region launched 8 rockets on the vicinity of Fakher Al Deen the Second's citadel in Palmyra city that is under the control of ISIL in Homs. As a result, the citadel's vicinity was damaged.

On 31 January 2016, government warplanes shelled two rockets on the archeological region in Palmyra city which destroyed 5 archeological columns almost completely.





- Communal Facilities:

- Markets:

On 7 January 2016, government warplanes [shelled the market in Erbeen](#) city in Damascus suburbs which caused a [massacre](#) in addition to damages in some commercial shops.

On 15 January 2016, government warplanes shelled a rocket next to a market in the market in Hamouriya town in Damascus suburbs which [damaged several shops](#).

On 16 January 2016, government artillery forces launched a [surface-to-surface missile](#) on a market in Ein Terma town in Damascus suburbs which damaged and destroyed several shops.

On 17 January 2016, government artillery forces launched a local made [surface-to-surface missile](#) on a [market in Al Ferdos](#) neighborhood that is under [the control of armed](#) opposition in Aleppo, which [damaged](#) several shops and [electric extensions](#).

On 26 January 2016, government artillery forces shelled a [market in Areeha](#) city in [Idlib](#) which destroyed 6 [shops almost completely](#).



- International Humanitarian Insignia

- The Red Crescent (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 12 January 2016, government warplanes launched several rockets next to an ambulance that belonged to the Red Crescent in Douma city in Damascus suburbs. The team was aiding injured people from a previous shelling incident which [damaged the ambulance](#).





- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

- On 1 January 2016, government rocket launchers stationed in Al Douwa region with 4 rockets on Wasef Fuel Station in Palmyra city in Homs suburbs which destroyed it almost completely and caused it to go out of service.

- Civil Defense Centers (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 7 January 2016, government warplanes shelled several rockets next to two [ambulances](#) that belonged to the civil defense while the team was aiding injured people from the shelling in Zamalka city that is under the control of armed opposition. [The driver](#) was injured and the [ambulances](#) were [damaged as well](#).



On 9 January 2016, government artillery forces launched several [missiles](#) next to an ambulance that belonged to the civil defense in Douma city which injured one of the medical cadres, [damaged the ambulance](#) and caused it to go out of service.

On 22 January 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on [Mo'adamiyat Al Sham city](#) in Damascus suburbs which damaged an ambulance that belonged to the civil defense.

On 30 January 2016, [government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb](#) next to the civil defense center in Daraya city in Damascus suburbs which damaged the center greatly.

- Official Headquarters (Institutions – Ministries)

On 5 January 2016 government warplanes launched [4 rockets on the water supply](#) facility in the center of Al Raqqa city that is under ISIL's control. As a result [the building was greatly destroyed and went out of service](#).





- Industrial Facilities (pharmaceutical laboratories and medical supplies)

On 10 January 2016 government Gvozdika artillery [shelled a gauze factory](#) in Hamouriya city in Damascus suburbs which [caused a fire](#), damaged the building and caused it to go out of service.

- Refugee Camps

On 30 January 2016 government rocket launchers and its artillery forces launched several [missiles](#) on a [refugee camp](#) in [Oubeen town in Lattakia](#) suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which burned the camps and greatly [damaged others](#).



A. Russian Forces

- Places of Worship:

- Mosques:

On 2 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several [missiles](#) next to Omar Bin Al Khattab mosque in the middle of Ma'art Al Atreek town in Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 2 individuals and [damaged the mosque](#).

On 7 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled several houses around Omar Bin Al Khattab house in Byanoun town in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [damaged](#) it





On 9 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the houses that surrounded Abdullah [Bin Al Abbas mosque](#) in Al Amerya neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo, which caused some damages to the mosque.

On 11 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Al Hadi mosque in Babees town in western Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [destroyed the mosque's](#) dome and damaged it greatly

On 12 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets around Al Habubi mosque in Ma'art Al No'man in Idlib suburbs which damaged it.

On 12 January 2016, alleged [Russian warplanes](#) shelled [Agha Jakk Mosque](#) in [Kadi Assaker neighborhood](#) in Aleppo that is under [the control of armed opposition](#) which killed 7 individuals who were in the [mosque](#).



On 12 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the road that leads to the Hayyan town next to the Great Mosque in Ma'ar Setat Al Khan town in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which caused a massacre and damaged the mosque greatly.

On 19 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled [Al Nour Mosque](#) in Harat Al Buhilal in Buleel town in Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly [damaged the mosque](#).

On 22 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled two rockets next to Al Hini Mosque in 23 February Street in Raqqa city which greatly damaged the mosque.

On 27 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled [Abu Baker Al Sedeek](#) mosque in Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly [damaged the mosque](#).





- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 3 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled with rockets Mengh Elementary School in the western side of Mengh town that is under the control of armed opposition which damaged it greatly and caused it to go out of service.

On 3 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes [shelled Mengh Elementary School](#) in the western side of Mengh town that is under the control of armed opposition which [damaged it greatly](#).

On 9 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on Al Dimashqi Elementary School in the eastern neighborhood in Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib next to the Justice Palace Building which caused great damages,

On 11 January 2016, [alleged Russian warplanes](#) launched several rockets on [Moustafa Rustom Elementary School](#) in Anjara town in Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of [armed opposition which caused a massacre](#) and greatly [damaged some classrooms](#).

On 11 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled [Anjara High School](#) for Boys in eastern of Anjara town in western Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed [opposition](#) which [greatly damaged the building](#).

On 11 January 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Anjara High School for Girls southern of Anjara town which damaged the building.

On 12 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled several houses around Byaneen High School for Boys in Hayyan town northern of Aleppo suburbs which [damaged it](#).

On 13 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes [shelled Bin Al Kayem Al Jawziya School](#) in [Al Zubdiya neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city which [killed a child and greatly damaged](#) the school.

On 20 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on a school that sheltered refugees in Al KUsaibi town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly damaged it.





On 22 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled [Omar Bin Al Mokhtar School](#) in Al Bab city that is under ISIL's control which damaged it.

On 23 January alleged Russian warplanes shelled Mouneer Habeeb School in Raqqa city which damaged the school.

- Medical Facilities:

Medical Centers (Hospitals – Infirmaries – Medical Points – Makeshift Hospitals)

On 10 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets next to Byouti hospital in Kafarnaha town in Aleppo western suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which damaged the hospital.

On 10 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets next to Byouti hospital in Kafarnaha town in Aleppo western suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which burned an ambulance and [caused it out of service](#).

On 16 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on the National Hospital in the middle of Al Raqqa city. The first rocket fell on the hospital's garden which burned it while the second fell next to the northern building of the hospital which damaged it.

On 16 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets next to Al Mou'saa Hospital next to the national hospital in Al Raqqa city which damaged it.





On 16 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the blood bank in Al Malki Street next to Al Sharaksa neighborhood in Raqqa which damaged it.

On 20 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on the makeshift hospital in Al Kisra town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly damaged the hospital.

On 21 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the makeshift hospital in Al Kha-reeta town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs which damaged it.

On 22 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Salam Hospital in the 23 February Street in Raqqa which damaged it.

On 22 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the children's hospital in Adnan Al Malki Street in Raqqa city which greatly damaged the hospital. It is worth noting that ISIL closed the hospital around a year ago.

On 23 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the clinics' building in the main street in the middle of Raqqa city which greatly damaged it and caused it to go out of service.

On 27 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled with [cluster munitions](#) the charity hospital in Adnan city in Aleppo suburbs which killed one of the employees, [damaged](#) the hospital and caused to [go out of service](#).

- Ambulances:

On 12 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled an [ambulance](#) that belonged to [Sham emergency](#) team in Idlib which greatly damaged it and [caused it to go out of service](#).

On 27 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled with [cluster munitions the charity hospital in Adnan city](#) in Aleppo suburbs which greatly damaged one of the ambulances and caused it to go out of service.





- Cultural Facilities:

- Archeological Regions (0000)

On 27 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on Al Rehba Archeological Citadel in Al Mayadeen city in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly damaged the eastern part of the citadel.

- Communal Facilities:

- Parks:

On 16 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched three rockets on one of ISIL's headquarters next to Al Sharakesa neighborhood in Raqqa city which burned Al Rasheed Park that was next to the headquarters.

- Markets:

On 16 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled a residential [building](#) in the clothes market in Al [Sukari](#) neighborhood that is under ISIL's control in Aleppo which caused a massacre, [destroyed several shops](#) and destroyed the only [clinic](#) in the [neighborhood](#).

On 28 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled a livestock market in Al Shmyteye town in western Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which greatly damaged the market and killed great number of the cattle.

On 28 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes launched 8 airstrikes on a market for shell-ing crude oil in Ajaaja town that is close to Al Shadadi city in southern Hassaka suburbs that is under ISIL's control. 15 cars were burned and 5 shops were greatly destroyed.



market in Al Sukari neighborhood





- Infrastructure:

- Civil Defense Centers (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 12 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled an ambulance that belonged to the civil defense in Idlib [which greatly damaged the ambulance](#) and caused it to go out of service.



On 25 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled school that was taken as a headquarters by the civil defense administration in Hardtaneen town in northern Aleppo suburbs which damaged it greatly.

- Official Headquarters (Facilities – Ministries)

On 9 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled the Palace of Justice in Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib which caused great [damages](#) and caused it to go out of service.

- Bakeries:

On 11 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled with several rockets the surrounding houses to Jahlan Bakery in the middle of Ma'art Al Areek town in northern Aleppo suburbs which rendered it out of service for some time.

- Industrial Facilities (pharmaceutical laboratories and medical supplies)

On 11 January 2016 alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Deiri Texture Factory with several rockets [in Kafr Joun town](#) in western Aleppo that is under the control of armed opposition which damaged a [power station and the factory](#).

A. Extremist Islamic Groups:

i. ISIL:

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 24 January 2016 ISIL's artillery launched two mortar missiles on Elias Harb in Al Qu-sour neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Dier Al Zour city. The missiles damaged the school.





- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

On 31 January 2016 ISIL bombed one of the gas lines between Sha'ar gas fields and Al Farqlas Gas Station in Homs suburbs which burned the pipe line and caused it to go out of service.

i. Al Nusra Front:

- Infrastructure:

- International Organizations and its headquarters:

On 10 January 2016, Al Nusra front arrested the renowned activist Hadi Al Abdullah and Raed Fares after they stormed Radio Fresh in Kafr Nabel city that is under the control of armed opposition and Al Nusra. The activists were arrested after “wrongful” post on facebook. They were released on the same day after few hours when Hadi Al Abdulla signed a statement of acknowledgment of a wrongful act. Raed Fares also had to attend a court session according to acknowledgment statement.

A. Armed Opposition Groups:

- **Places of Worship:**

- **Monasteries and Churches:**

On 17 January 2016 several local made missiles fell on [Emmanuel Church](#), an Armenian church, in Al Abbara region in [Al Mansheya neighborhood](#) in Aleppo that is under the control of government forces. [The missiles](#) came from artillery centered in Old Aleppo's neighborhoods that are under the control of armed opposition. [As result, the churches' ceiling was partially destroyed](#) and it was [damaged](#).

- **Infrastructure:**

- **Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).**

On 16 January 2016 some of the armed opposition groups who are in southern Hama suburbs blew up three high-voltage towers to pressure the government forces in order to stop its military attacks on Har Bnafsa town in southern Hama suburbs. The towers were completely destroyed and some regions suffered from power outages as a result.





A. International Coalition Forces:

- Infrastructure:

- Transportation systems (bridges, water crossings, highways, railroads, garages, bus and car stations, civil airports, border crossings and its offices)

On 1 January 2016 international coalition warplanes shelled [Al Sikka Bridge](#) in Al Ramadi town that belongs to Bu Kamal city in eastern Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which rendered the bridge [out of service](#).



On 15 January 2016 international coalition warplanes shelled three rockets on [Al Sikka Bridge](#) for [the second time](#) which damaged and [destroyed it](#).

A. Unidentified Groups:

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 18 January 2016 a [compound of four schools](#) in Kilis city in Turkey were shelled from military artillery on the Syrian lands. [Several schools](#) were damaged and we are unable to identify the perpetrators up to the moment of [making this report](#).

- International Humanitarian Insignia:

- Red Crescent (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 22 January 2016 the Syrian Red Crescent's health center in Al Dumair city in Damascus suburbs was shot and shelled with random artillery missiles due to clashes between Al Islam Army and other armed opposition groups. Therefore, the center was damaged.



On 22 January 2016 a Red Crescent vehicle was burned in Al Dumair city in Damascus suburbs due to mutual gun firing and shelling between Al Islam Army and other armed [opposition groups](#). Therefore, the vehicle went [out of service](#).





- Infrastructure:

- Power stations and energy sources (Electricity generating stations, fuel stations, oil wells and stations, oil and gas pipelines).

On 9 January 2016 clashes between ISIL and government forces destroyed the 66th gas region in Palmyra in Homs suburbs which rendered it out of service.

- Civil Defense Centers (Vehicles – Facilities)

On 4 January 2016 a landmine was exploded on the periphery of Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib when a civil defense bulldozer passed on it. The vehicle was destroyed completely and the party who planted the landmine remains unknown up to the moment of making this report.

On 6 January 2016 a group of armed men invaded a civil defense headquarters in Tasyeel town in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. The perpetrators stole two vehicles and some equipment, however we were unable to identify the perpetrators up to this moment.

III- Conclusions and Recommendations:

According to the Humanitarian International Law, purposed, indiscriminate, or disproportionate attacks are prohibited. Thus, Russian and Syrian government forces' attack of schools, hospitals, churches, and bakeries is an utter disregard for the minimum standards of international law and the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Some of the extremist groups and other armed groups targeted a number of those facilities. The indiscriminate bombardment is a violation of the intentional humanitarian law and can be classified as war crimes.

Recommendations

The Security Council

- 1- To bind all the influential parties to respect Resolution 2139 by, at least, condemning the targeting of vital facilities that civilians need every day.
- 2- To enforce a comprehensive arms embargo on the Syrian regime considering its horrible violations of the international laws and the Security Council resolutions.
- 3- To consider the states that supply the Syrian regime with weapons and the groups involved in perpetrating crimes against civilians partners in these crimes as well as all weapon suppliers and distributors
- 4- States who support the armed opposition should stop supporting any factions that don't respect the international humanitarian law.

