



A Special report on the Disastrous Situation in Al Hajar Al Aswad neighborhood in Damascus

Government forces has imposed a siege on Al Hajar Al Aswad neighborhood on Thursday 13/12/2012. As of this writing

The report covers the period from the beginning of the siege on 13/12/2012 until 8/6/2013

Government forces has imposed a siege on Al Hajar Al Aswad neighborhood on Thursday 13/12/2012. As of this writing, it banned food and medical supplies.

Moreover, government stopped providing bakeries with flour, so 15 bakeries had completely stopped working in the neighborhood.

The martyrs:

SNHR has documented the death of 416 civilians of the neighborhood during the military campaign in the neighborhood including eight persons who died due to torture.

The detainees:

We documented about 150 disappeared persons in addition to about 27 thousand of civilians from the neighborhood were exposed to arrest and torture, while many of them still arrested to this moment.

The bombardment:

(hospitals, schools, water and electricity stations, mosques, and markets)

On 12/2/2012, government forces shelled the electricity station inside the neighborhood and repeatedly shelled water centers. It had systematically shelled six water centers inside the neighborhood rendering it out of commission.

We also recoded a deliberate bombardment of a vegetables market more than three times during that period.

Furthermore, the hospitals and the dispensaries were





shelled. As a result, two hospitals and three dispensaries were burned, which rendered two dispensaries out of commission.

The army forces and Al Shabiha stormed the hospitals and stole and looted their equipment.

Government forces shelled six mosques and eight schools inside the neighborhood.

The displacement:

All of the above reflected on the life in the neighborhood, the residents decided to flee and more than 2000 families displaced although there are about 5000 families are still in the village as they couldn't flee due to their economic situation so they suffer from a very bad humanitarian condition.

In the previous weeks, the women went to the capital Damascus to bring some supplies to their families because the elements arrested the youth of the neighborhood at the checkpoints, and some of them were killed. Now, government forces with cooperation with informers arrested women as their sons related to Free Army. Two days ago, we recorded the arrests of nine women from the neighborhood.

According to Customary Humanitarian Law:

Rule 53. The use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare is prohibited.

Rule 54. Attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population is prohibited

Rule 55. The parties to the conflict must allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, which is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.

Rule 56. The parties to the conflict must ensure the freedom of movement of authorized humanitarian relief personnel essential to the exercise of their functions. Only in case of imperative military necessity may their movements be temporarily restricted.

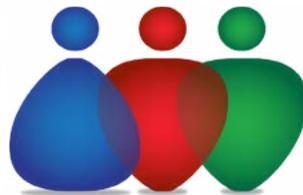




SNHR condemns this horrible siege on Al Hajar Al Aswad neighborhood and on all besieged areas and hold the Syrian government responsible for it. We assure that it was a war crime as it is a systematic punishment policy in several areas and it deems a crime against humanity.

The international community institution and, in particular, the Security Council must act quickly to save thousands of besieged Syrian people and uphold their legal and moral responsibilities.

Furthermore, there is great responsibility on the Red Cross who hasn't even covered 10% of the humanitarian disaster level in Syrian, and in the besieged areas, in particular.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
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