



Not Less than 25 Massacres Were Committed in May 2016 Increasing number of committed massacres despite of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

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I. Executive Summary

Since the commencement of the Cessation of Hostilities agreement, various Syrian governorates saw a relatively good and noticeable drop in death toll numbers, compared with the previous months since March 2011, and the main talk is about the areas under the control of the armed opposition; because the rest of the areas such as those under control of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party and the control of the Syrian regime, are not exposed to the dense daily bombardment which is the main way of killing as it is responsible for the death of at least 60% of the victims, destruction of buildings, and the displacement of its people. But in spite of all this, the violations did not stop, and mainly by the Syrian regime and its allies, which seems to be the greatest sufferer of the continuation of the cessation of hostilities.

One day after the declaration of the supreme body for negotiations to postpone their participation in the Geneva talks on 19 last April, the governmental forces and the Russian forces resumed attacking the areas beyond the control of the Syrian regime and the pace of killing returned to what it was before the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.

SNHR documented not less than 25 massacres that were committed in May 2016, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (security forces, army, local and foreign militias) committed 16 massacres
- B. Russian Forces committed 3 massacres





C. ISIS (called themselves as Islamic State): 5

D. International Coalition Forces: 1

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves: “the killing of five un-armed people at least”, for more information on our methodology, please visit the following URL.

The Committed massacres by Government forces in May 2016, according to areas control, detailed as follows:

- 12 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition factions
- 4 massacres was committed in regions under ISIS’s control

Massacres’ distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 5

Deir Al Zour: 2

Idlib: 6

Damascus suburbs: 2

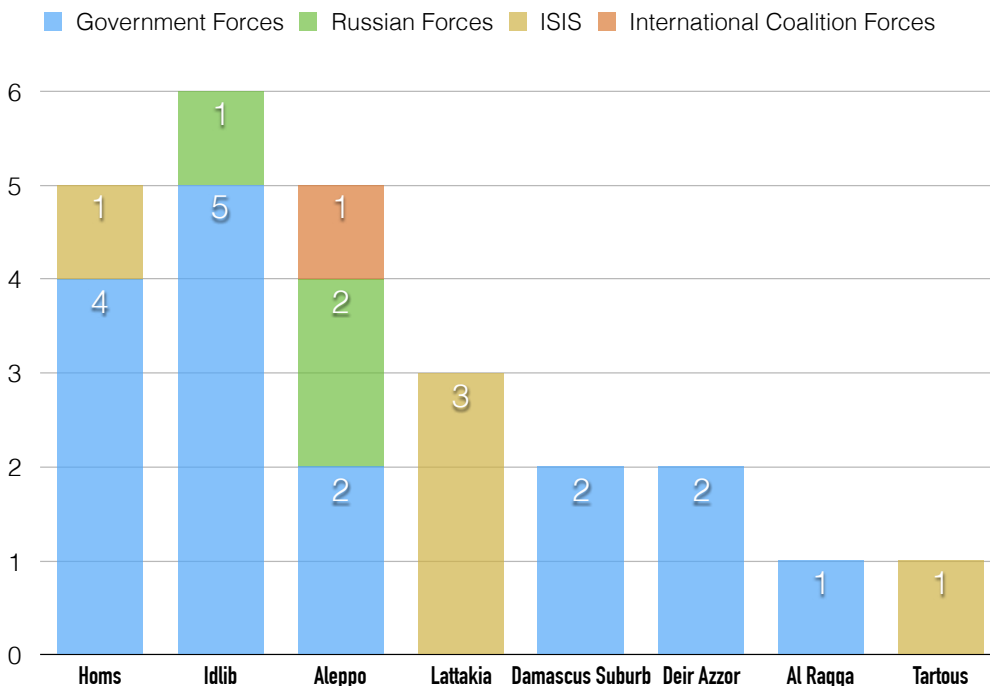
Raqqa: 1

Homs: 5

Tartous: 1

Latakia: 3

Massacres’ distribution according to the influential parties:





According to SNHR documentation team, 302 individuals have been killed in those massacres including 72 children and 63 women. 45% of targeted victims were women and children which is a strong indicator that civilians were targeted deliberately.

Victims' death toll according to its perpetrators:

- Government forces killed 137 individuals including 46 children and 26 women
- Russian forces killed 46 individuals including 12 children and 3 women
- ISIS: killed 111 civilians including 11 children and 32 women
- International Coalition Forces killed 8 civilians including 3 children and 2 women

II. Report Details:

The government forces (the army, security, local militias, foreign Shiite militias):

• Idlib Governorate:

Thursday 5 May 2016 regime warplanes shelled two missiles at [Kamouna Camp near Sarmada city](#), Idlib governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, what led to the [killing of 13 people](#) including [6 children and 5 women](#).



Monday, 9 May 2016, regime warplanes launched missiles at [Hafsarjah village](#), suburb of Idlib governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to the death of 10 people, including 3 children and a woman.

Tuesday, 10 May 2016 regime warplanes carried out two airstrikes using missiles on the center of Bennesh city, suburb of Idlib governorate under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 7 people, including two children and a woman.

Friday, 13 May 2016 regime warplanes carried out two airstrikes using missiles on a residential area in Idlib city, under the control of the armed opposition factions, [killing 14 people](#), including three children and two women.





Monday 16 May 2016 regime launchers shelled several rockets at Bdama town, Suburbs of Idlib governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 8 people, including two children and four women.

• **Homs governorate:**

Wednesday, 18 May 2016, regime warplanes launched eight missiles at Al Rastan City Center, Suburbs of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 15 persons of one family, including 9 children and three women.



Thursday, 19 May 2016, regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on [Taldaw town](#), Suburbs of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the death of 7 people](#), including [5 children and a woman](#)

Thursday, 19 May 2016, regime warplanes launched missiles at [Al Rastan city](#), Suburbs of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 5 people, including 3 children.

Monday, 30 May 2016, regime warplanes launched missiles at Al Kawm, Eastern Suburbs of Homs governorate, under the control of ISIS, killing 7 people, mostly from one family, including two children and two women.

• **Damascus Suburbs governorate:**

Thursday 5 May 2016 government artillery launched a rocket on a civilian car in Kfier Al Zeit town in the governorate of Damascus suburbs, under armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 5 people at once, and injuring about 3 others.

Tuesday, 17 May, 2016 government artillery launched a rocket at a bus in the public road in Khan Al-Sheih Camp in Western Al Ghouta in the governorate of Damascus suburbs, controlled by the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 6 people at once, including two children and a woman, the injury of about 10 others.





- **Aleppo governorate:**

Monday 16 May 2016 government launcher stationed in the School of [Artillery in Al Ramousa Neighborhood](#), launched a ground-to-ground missile on a residential building in Al Sökkari Neighborhood in Aleppo city, controlled by the armed opposition factions, what caused [the death of 12 people](#), including a child and a woman.

Friday (afternoon), 20 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 8 barrel bombs on residential houses in the south of [Khan Al Asal town](#), Western Suburbs of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, what caused [the death of 6 persons](#) including a child and a woman and the injury of about 12 others.

- **Deir Al-Zour governorate:**

Wednesday, 11 May 2016 government warplanes shelled missiles at Al Shehiel town, Suburbs of Deir Al Zour governorate, under the control of ISIS, which led to the death of 11 people, including two children and three women.

Wednesday, 18 May 2016, government warplanes shelled missiles at Al Takaya Street in the center of Al Hamideyye Neighborhood, suburbs of Deir Al-Zour governorate, under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the death of 5 people.

- **Al Raqqa Governorate:**

Thursday, 19 May 2016 government warplanes shelled missiles at Hamrat Nasser Village, eastern Suburbs of Al Raqqa Governorate, under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the death of 6 people from one family, 5 children and their mother.

Russian forces:

- **Aleppo governorate:**

Friday, 27 May 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled missiles at the Automatic [Bread Bakery in Hraitan City](#), Suburbs of Aleppo governorate, under the control of [the armed opposition factions](#), which resulted in [the death of 11 people](#), including a child.





Sunday (evening), 29 May 2016, alleged Russian warplanes shelled missiles at Tal Al Daman Town, southern Suburbs of Aleppo governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions , one of the raids targeted fuel store in the city center, caused the death of 6 people, including a child and a woman.

• **Idlib governorate:**

Monday 30 May 2016 alleged Russian warplanes carried out 8 airstrikes at on several areas in the city of Idlib, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to [the killing of 29 civilians](#), including 10 children and two women.

ISIS Organization:

• **Lattakia Governorate:**

Monday, 23 May 2016, ISIS has exploded two bombed cars in Al Jadeed Garage in Jabla city, Suburbs of Lattakia governorate, under the control of the government forces, killing 47 civilians, including 6 children and 11 women and injuring nearly 80 people.

Monday, 23 May 2016, a suicide bomber related to ISIS wearing an explosive belt, exploded himself in the Emergency section in the National Hospital in Jabla city in the suburbs of Lattakia governorate, controlled by the government forces, [killing 14 civilians](#), including 13 women and injuring nearly 47 people.

Monday, 23 May 2016, a suicide bomber related to ISIS wearing an explosive belt, exploded himself in one of the sections of the electricity directorate in Jabla city in the suburbs of Lattakia governorate, controlled by the government forces, killing 13 civilians, including a woman, and injured more than 15 people.

• **Homs governorate:**

Thursday, 5 May 2016, one of ISIS members has exploded a motorcycle near Recruiting Section in Al Mokharram Al Fawqani Village, Suburbs of Homs governorate under the control of government forces. When the civilians gathered, a suicide [bomber exploded himself](#) by an explosive belt, which resulted in [the killing of 11 civilians](#), including 3 women. Also, 48 others.





- **Tartous governorate:**

Monday, 23 May 2016, one member of ISIS has exploded two bombed cars inside Tartous Garage in the governorate of Tartous, controlled by the government forces, killing 26 civilians, including 5 children and 4 women, injuring about 50 people.

International Coalition Forces:

- Aleppo governorate:

On Friday evening, 20 May 2016 International Coalition warplanes launched missiles at the northern-eastern parts of Arshaf Town (near subway Akhtarín) in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, under the control of ISIS, killing 8 people, including 3 children and two women. Also, seven others were injured

Conclusions:

Government Forces and Russian Forces:

1. SNHR affirms that the bombing, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and Russian Forces 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 qualify 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 bombing, have caused casualties, injuries, and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the estimated military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.
4. The magnitude massacres, the exaggerated strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Other forces:

According to this report, International coalition forces and ISIS have committed massacres that constitute war crimes. However, these crimes are not crimes against humanity along, as in the case of government forces that commit systematic and widespread massacres.





Recommendations:

To 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 support 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 widespread 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 Shabiaha 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 it is most needed now in Syria.
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, are not being delivered to 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.

