

No less than 43 Massacres in September 2017

Syrian-Russian Alliance Forces
Trump Other Parties again with
32 Massacres

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, October 9, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



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I. Introduction

The fourth round of negotiations was held in Astana city, Kazakhstan's capital, on 3 and 4 of May 2017. Russian, Turkish, and Iranian representatives attended as the sponsoring states of Ankara Ceasefire Agreement. The three states agreed on establishing four de-escalation zones, wherein the agreement is to commence on May 6, 2017. The agreement outlined four major areas for the de-escalation in Idlib governorate and the surrounding areas (parts of Aleppo, Hama, and Latakia governorates), northern Homs governorate, Eastern Ghouta, and parts of Daraa and al Quneitra governorates in the southern parts of Syria. It was provided that a special committee would accurately assign the borders of said zones at a later date. The agreement provided for a cessation of combat operations, passage of humanitarian aids, and for IDPs to go back to their areas.

Following an extensive round of talks between Russia, USA, and Jordan that commenced in May 2017 in Amman, Jordan's capital, the American and Russian presidents announced, on the sidelines of the 2017 G20 summit in Hamburg, that a ceasefire agreement has been reached in southwestern Syria – Daraa, Quneitra, and Suwayda governorates. The agreement went into force at 12:00 on Sunday July 9, 2017, and provided for the passage of humanitarian aids in addition to a ceasefire between the conflicting parties (Syrian regime forces and their allies on one side, and armed opposition factions on the other side). Also, the agreement specifies that maintaining security in this region is the Russian forces' responsibility in coordination with the Americans and Jordanians.



In addition, there have been a number of other local agreements in July and August 2017, such as Eastern Ghouta agreement between armed opposition factions, on one side, and officials from the Russian side, while a similar agreement was struck with the opposition in northern suburbs of Homs. However, the texts of these agreements haven't been made public on Russian government's websites, and the same for armed opposition factions who didn't publicize these agreements, except for Failaq al Rahman who published the [text of the agreement](#) on their official website. At the end of the agreement, according to the copy on Failaq al Rahman's website, a signature by a Russian sponsor was shown but without an explicit name, which was a grave mistake, as apparently all of this helps the sponsoring Russian side to easily dissolve from these agreements with no subsequent political or legal obligations and repercussions.

On Saturday, July 22, 2017, Russian Ministry of Defense announced that a de-escalation agreement has been signed in Eastern Ghouta following a round of talks between Russian military officials, on one side, and Jaish al Islam faction, on the other side, in Egypt's capital Cairo. The agreement was to come into effect at 12:00 of the same day. On Wednesday, August 16, 2017, a Failaq al Rahman representative and a Russian representative signed an agreement in Geneva city that established Failaq al Rahman's inclusion in the de-escalation zone in Eastern Ghouta. The agreement was to come into effect at 21:00 of Friday, August 18, 2017.

On Monday, July 31, 2017, another de-escalation agreement was signed in Egypt's capital Cairo for northern Homs suburbs and southern Hama suburbs following a round of talks between armed opposition factions in the area and the Syrian regime represented by the Russian government as a sponsoring party, as the agreement was to commence at 12:00 on Thursday, August 3, 2017.

Most notably, the two most recent agreements provided for a full cessation of hostilities between the conflicting parties in the relevant areas -with the exclusion of the areas in which ISIS and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham are present- and for humanitarian aids to enter these areas and for detainees to be released as per the demands of each party as to which detainees are to be released.

Despite all of this, breaches haven't stopped, mainly by the Syrian regime, who is seemingly the party that would be most affected should the ceasefire go on, and in particular extrajudicial killing crimes and, more horrendously, deaths due to torture. This strongly asserts that there is a ceasefire of some sort on the table, but the crimes that the international community -especially the sponsoring parties- won't see are still going on as nothing had happened.



With the end of the sixth round of talks in the Kazakhstani capital, Astana, which were held over the course of two days (September 14-15, 2017), a de-escalation zone was [established](#) in Idlib governorate and the surrounding areas, as military forces were to be deployed (Russian, Turkish, and Iranian) to monitor the agreement, with the passage of humanitarian aids.

On September 19, Syrian-Russian alliance started a heavy offensive against Idlib governorate in response to Hay'at Tahrir al Sham's "Ya Ebadallah Uthbotou" battle. Supported by some opposition faction (The Islamic Turkistani Party, Jaish al Izza, and Jaish al Nukhba), Hay'at Tahrir al Sham started this battle in northeastern Hama governorate, as they took over some villages, but Syrian regime forces, backed by Russian forces, managed to re-seize the same areas on the same day. We have released a [report](#) documenting the most notable violations of the first week of that offensive. Subsequently, these forces expanded the offensive to include the suburbs of Aleppo and Hama governorates and Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs.

In September, we recorded that Syrian-Russian alliance forces are again topping all parties in perpetrating massacres for the first time in four months, as Syrian regime forces perpetrated the most massacres with 42% of all massacres, while Russian forces came second with 33%, followed by international coalition forces with 23% of September's massacres. It should be noted that most of the Syrian-Russian alliance's massacres -63% of the massacres committed by them- were in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, whereas 50% of the massacres committed by international coalition forces were in Raqqa governorate.

Methodology

SNHR incorporates high documentation standards that rely on direct accounts from survivors or victims' families and local media activists. This report contains two accounts. We have explained the purpose of the interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided without offering or giving them incentives. Also, SNHR tried to spare them the agony of remembering the agony of the violations, and we gave guarantees to conceal the identity of anyone who preferred to use an alias. In addition, we have analyzed the pictures and videos and some medical records we received. We have all the pictures and videos that are mentioned in this report in a secret online database, and backup copies on hard drives. Certainly, we can't claim that we have documented all cases in light of the ban and pursuit by Syrian regime forces and other armed groups.



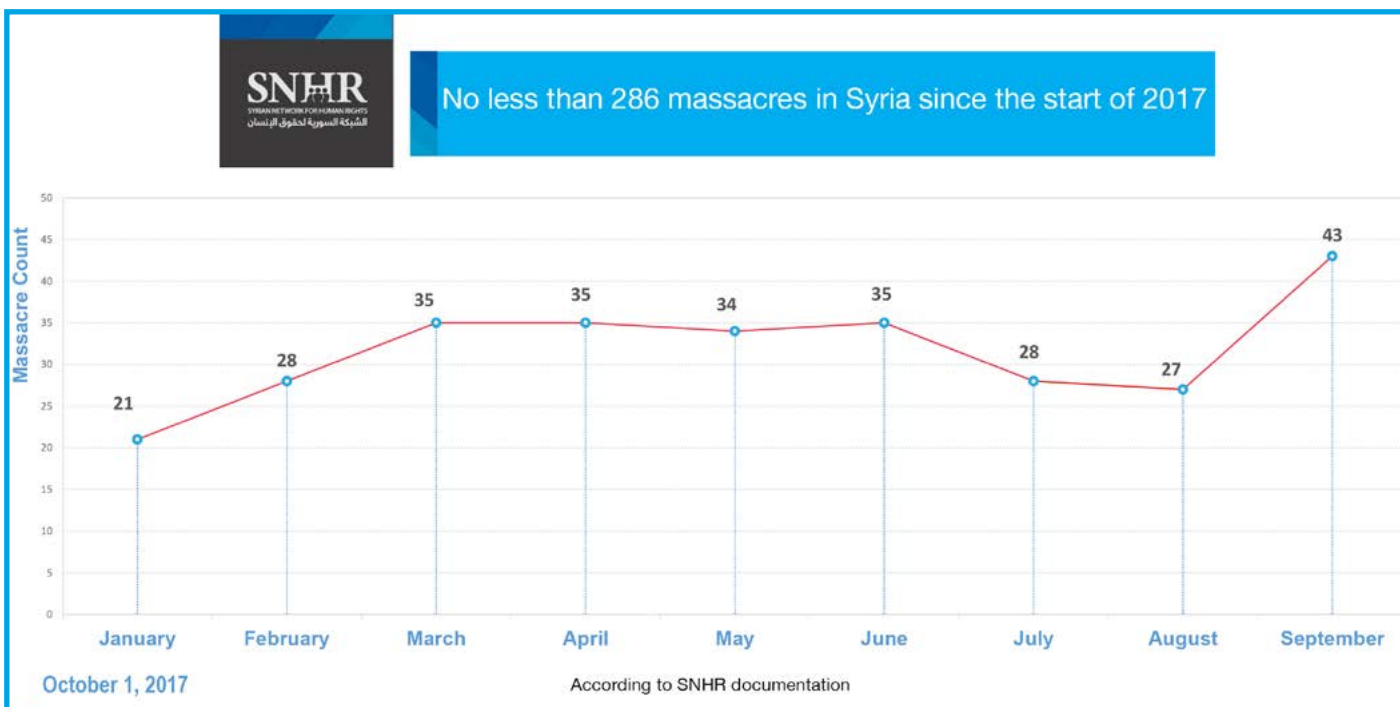
The type and number of evidences vary from one case to another. In light of the challenges we mentioned above, many of the incidents' legal description change based on new evidences or clues that surface after we had released the report. We add these evidences and clues to our database archive. On the other hand, many incidents don't constitute a violation to the international humanitarian law, but it involved collateral damages, so we record and archive these incidents to know what happened historically and to preserve it as a national record. However, we don't describe it as massacres.

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involves the killing of five peaceful individuals at the same time. For more information about our methodology in [documenting victims](#), please see the Following URL

II. Executive Summary

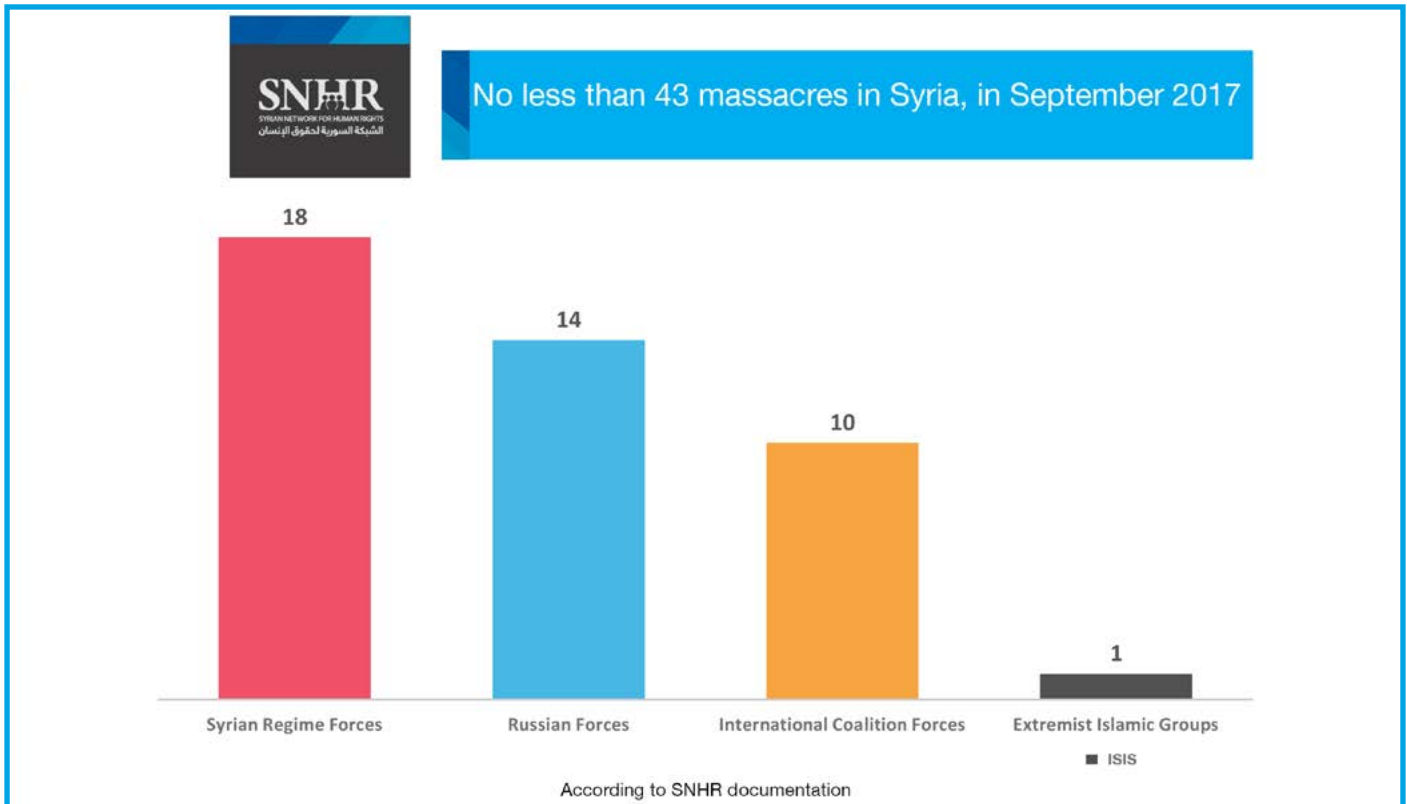
A. Toll of massacres in 2017

SNHR has documented 286 massacres at the hands of the parties to the conflict between the start of 2017 and October of the same year



B. Toll of massacres in September 2017

SNHR has documented no less than 43 massacres in September



As follows:

- A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 18
- B. Russian forces: 14
- C. Extremist Islamic groups:
 - ISIS: 1
- D. International coalition forces: 10

The massacres perpetrated by Syrian regime forces were distributed by area of control as follows:

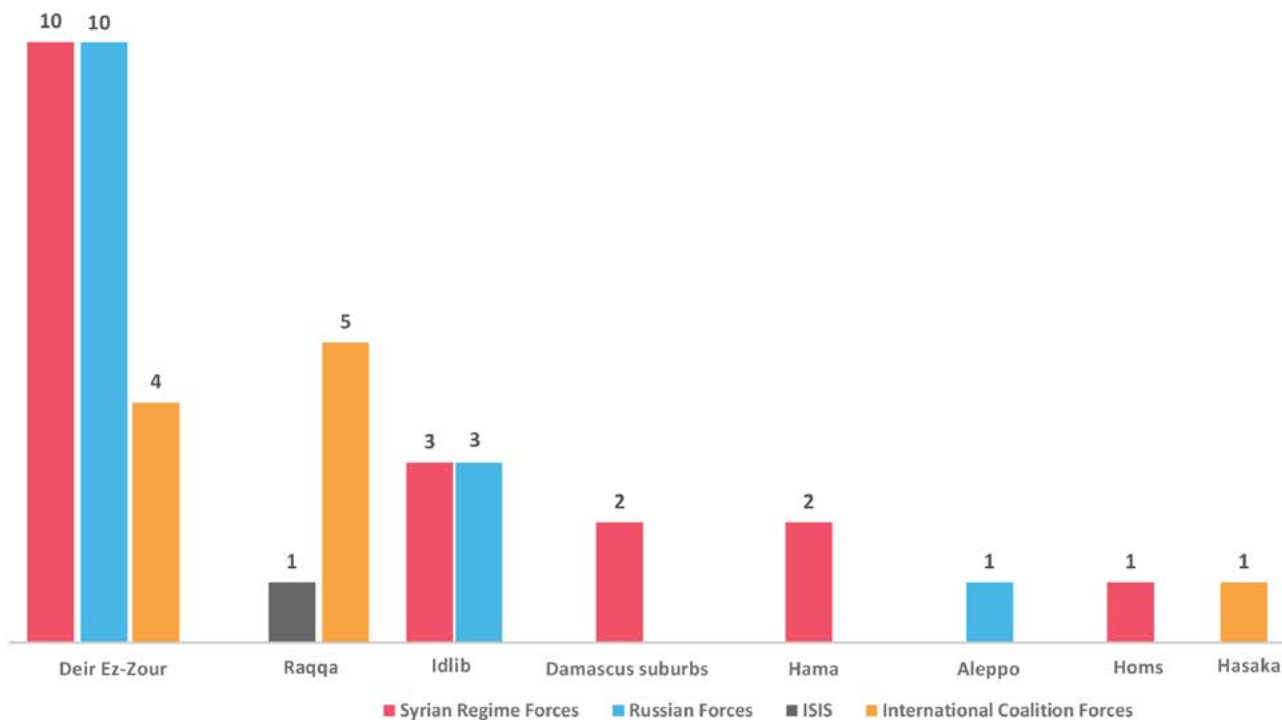
- Five massacres in areas under the control of armed opposition factions
- One massacre in areas under the control of Syrian regime forces
- One massacre in areas under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham
- One massacre in areas under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham
- 10 massacres in areas under the control of ISIS



The massacres are distributed across governorates as follows:

Deir Ez-Zour, 24, Raqqa: 6, Idlib: 6, Hama: 2, Damascus suburbs: 2, Aleppo: 1, Homs: 1, Hasaka: 1

Distribution of Massacres in September 2017 by the Perpetrator Party



According to the victim documentation team at SNHR, 430 individuals were killed in those massacres, including 139 children and 85 women (adult female). This means that 53% of all victims were women and children, which is a considerably high percentage and an indication that civilians were targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres is distributed by the perpetrator party as follows:

Syrian regime forces: 177 individuals, including 53 children and 37 women

Russian forces: 152 civilians, including 46 children and 29 women

ISIS: five civilians, including three children and one woman

International coalition forces: 96 civilians, including 37 children and 18 women



II. Details of September's Incidents

A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias)

Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Monday, September 11, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Hawayej Thyab Shamiya – al Kharita river crossing in Hawayej Thyab Shamiya village, western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians, including one female child and two women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, fixed-wing wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a school that was turned into an IDPs shelter in [Mathloun](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once, including one female child and two women, who were IDPs from al Mri'iyah village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 14, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Mayadeen](#) city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians, including two children, while about 20 others were wounded. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 14, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [Buqrus Tahtani](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once, including three children and one woman, while six others at least were wounded. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 14, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at Tabiya Shamiya village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once, including two children and two women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Saturday, September 16, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired missiles at a civilian boat, as a group of civilians were trying to flee Mohasan city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, via Euphrates River, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family, including three children. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, September 16, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired missiles in Tabiya Jazeera village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians (three children and their parents). The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, September 16, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired missiles at al Boulayl – Jdeed Ekidat crossing in [al Boulayl](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians at once, including one child. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 29, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Sabha village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once, including two children and two women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, September 30, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [Buqrus Fouqani](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians, including two children and two women, while about 10 others were wounded. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Idlib governorate

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes fired a number of missiles in the middle of [Jarjanaz city](#), eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians from the same family, including one child and one woman. The town is under the control of armed opposition factions with a minor presence for Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.



Thursday, September 28, 2017, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes (Su-24) fired a number of missiles at the houses in [Mazra'at al Tes'a](#) area, which is located in Sahl al Rouj area, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The bombing resulted in the killing of 12 civilians (six children, two fetuses, and four women) while nine others at least were wounded. The area is under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

Friday, September 29, 2017, [fixed-wing](#) Syrian regime forces warplanes (Su-24) fired [12 missiles](#) at a residential neighborhood in southeastern [Armanaz](#) town, western suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of [39 individuals](#), including [nine children](#) and [11 women](#), while about 15 houses were heavily destroyed. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Victims being pulled out in the aftermath of a massacre by Syrian regime forces in Armanaz town, Idlib suburbs – September 29, 2017



Damascus suburbs governorate

Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of mortar shells at [Misraba town](#), Eastern Ghouta, eastern [Damascus suburbs](#) governorate, which resulted in the killing of [five individuals](#) at once, while about 10 others were wounded. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 29, 2017, Syrian regime forces artillery fired a number of shells at Beit [Sawa](#) town, Eastern Ghouta, [eastern Damascus](#) suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of [10 individuals](#), including [five children](#), while no less than 15 others were wounded. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Dead bodies of victims in the aftermath of a massacre by Syrian regime forces in Beit Sawa town, Damascus suburbs – September 29, 2017



Hama governorate

Monday, September 4, 2017, around 23:05, pro-Syrian regime militias raided al Hawat Farm, which administratively followed [Ma'razaf](#) town, northwestern suburbs of [Hama governorate](#), and killed [16 civilians](#) by slaughtering them with knives and shooting them to death (what we have been able to document as of this writing) including five children and five women. The area where the farm is located was under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of the incident.



Dead bodies in the aftermath of a massacre by pro-regime Syrian regime militias in al Hawat Farm, Hama suburbs – September 4, 2017

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, around 16:15, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes of the Syrian-Russian alliance fired a [number of missiles](#) at the [main market](#) in the middle of [Qal'at al Madiq](#) town, northwestern suburbs of [Hama governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of 11 individuals, including four children and three women. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





A dead body of a victim in the aftermath of a massacre by Syrian-Russian alliance forces in Qal'at al Madiq town, Hama suburbs – September 20, 2017

SNHR contacted, via WhatsApp, on the day following the massacre Hussein Kanaj, media activist, who was in Qal'at al Madiq. Hussein told us:

“On Wednesday, September 20, around 16:15, observatories announced, using Zello, that Russian warplanes are in the sky. Soon after, the warplanes bombed the main street of the market in the middle of the town. I was at my house which is about 500 meters from the attack site. I immediately headed out to make sure that my father and brother, who were in the attack site, are okay. As soon as I arrived, I learned that the bombing was about 100 meters away from them. The destruction in the attack site was horrifying, and search and rescue operations had already started. One of the children who survived was bleeding and running, screaming: “Mom! I want my mother!” and we were all in shock from looking at him. Rescue operations lasted for nine hours, and 10 martyrs were recorded. Some of them were merely body parts. The injured were about 40, including serious injuries. Why did they bomb the market which only civilians come to!!? The market is not a military base that they can bomb.”



Homs governorate

Friday, September 29, 2017, pro-Syrian regime Shiite militias who [are stationed](#) in the Shiite-majority [al Ashrafiya](#) village in northern suburbs of Homs governorate fired a surface-to-surface rocket at a house in [Talbisah](#) city, northern suburbs of [Homs governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of [seven individuals](#) at once, including one female infant and one woman. Additionally, about five others were wounded. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Dead bodies of victims in the aftermath of a massacre by pro-Syrian regime Shiite militias in Talbisah city, Homs suburbs – September 29, 2017. By: Talbisah Media Center

SNHR contacted, via WhatsApp, Ahmad Abu Mohammad, a media activist working with Talbisah Media Center who was present in the city. Ahmad told us:

“On Thursday, September 29, starting at 18:30, Shiite forces artillery that are stationed at Mallouk military checkpoint and al Ahsrafiya village and its vicinities started shelling the residential neighborhoods in the city with consecutive shells. Around 22:20, Iranian militias in al Asrafiya village fired a surface-to-surface rocket at a house inside Talbisah city. I immediately headed there with the ambulance from the makeshift hospital to cover what happened. I arrived at the site about one minute and half later. The house was completely destroyed. Rescue operations lasted until 06:00 of the next day. The shelling resulted in the killing of one female child, one woman, and five youths. The girl who died was alive when she was pulled out and was taken to the hospital, but then, her heart stopped and she died. Words can’t describe her father’s feelings, but I will never forget his tears and reaction when his daughter died just after he was so happy when he thought she will survive. The injured were five, including a child whose condition was serious but, thank God, he survived.”



“There is no military base in Talbisah city. The rebels are only on the battlefronts outside the city. The shelling targeted a civilian area.”

B. Russian forces

Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Sunday, September 10, 2017, around 12:45, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian carried out two consecutive missile airstrikes -five minutes apart- that targeted [al Boulayl – al Dahla](#) river crossing in al Boulayl village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 16 civilians, including three children and one woman. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Sunday, September 10, 2017, around 13:00, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at [al Boulayl – al Sabha](#) crossing in al Boulayl village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians, including three children and woman. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Monday, September 11, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at an IDPs tent in the Badiya of Zgheir Shamiya village, western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including four children and one woman. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 14, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at [Jdeidat Bakkara](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians, including four children and two women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Thursday, September 14, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at [Khsham](#) town, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians (11 children and one woman), who were mostly from the same family -IDPs from al Boamrou village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The town was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Tuesday, September 26, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at [Mrat](#) village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once, including one woman. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at a civilian bus in al Boulayl village, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians, including three women, who were IDPs from al Sakhna city, eastern suburbs of Homs governorate. It should be noted that the same warplanes were responsible for another massacre on the same day, as they targeted another site in the village with missiles, killing 10 civilians including one child and one woman. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at Breiha village, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once, including two female children and two women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, September 30, 2017, around 04:30, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at al Bokamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 13 civilians, including five children and five women. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Idlib governorate

Thursday, September 21, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at al Sharqi neighborhood in [Khan Sheikhoun](#) city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians (three children and three women) who were mostly from the same family. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Monday, September 25, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at "[Karaj Halab](#)" area in the middle of [Jisr al Shoghour](#) city, western suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of 15 civilians, including three women, while about 20 others were wounded. In addition, the bombing heavily destroyed the residential buildings and shops in the area. The city is under the joint control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Islamic Turkistani Party.



Friday, September 29, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a number of missiles at [a residential building](#) in the middle of [Harem](#) city, northwestern suburbs of [Idlib governorate](#), which resulted in the killing of 16 civilians, including seven children and four women, while about 15 others were wounded. The city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

Aleppo governorate

Tuesday, September 26, 2017, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired a missile at Hwayyer al Eis village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once, including three children and one woman, while about 15 others were wounded. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

C. Extremist Islamic groups

- ISIS (Self-proclaimed the Islamic State)

Raqqa governorate

Friday, August 4, 2017, a landmine planted by ISIS detonated near al Farouq School in northeastern Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including three children and one woman. On Tuesday, September 12, 2017, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

D. International coalition forces

Raqqa governorate

Wednesday, August 2, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential building in al Tawsi'iya neighborhood in northwestern Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians from the same family, including three children and two women. On Sunday, September 10, 2017, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, September 1, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential building, known as al Hayyoun building, that is adjacent to al Jazeera Bakery in al Ferdous neighborhood in the middle of Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians at once, including two children and two women. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Saturday, September 2, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential building that is adjacent to al Khalil Institute that is located to the south of al Na'im Circle in the middle of Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of 13 civilians, including one woman. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Monday, September 4, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at [23 Athar Street](#) in the middle of Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians (what we have been able to document as of this writing), including five children and three women. The area was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, September 5, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential building in al Dar'iyah neighborhood, northwestern Raqqa city, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians -IDPs from Deir Ez-Zour city- including five children and three women. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Saturday, September 9, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a residential building, which ISIS uses as a prison for detainees, behind the former Political Security building in [al Bokamal](#) city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour city, which resulted in the killing of 14 civilians of the prisoners. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, around 03:00, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles in [al Shhabat](#) village, western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including seven children and four women. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Sunday, September 17, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Sena'a neighborhood in al Bokamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians who were mostly from the same family, including four children and two women. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Monday, September 18, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles a number of missiles at al Mrashda village which administratively follows al Bokamal city, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bombing resulted in the killing of six civilians (five children and one woman) from two families. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Hasaka governorate

Thursday, September 28, 2017, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired a number of missiles at a house in al Me'mari village which administratively follows Markada town, southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate. The bombing resulted in the killing of six children from the same family. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Syrian regime forces and Russian forces

1. SNHR can confirm the bombing cases, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, the Syrian-Russian alliance forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which amounts to war crimes as all elements of a war crime have been fulfilled.
2. SNHR believes that the acts of killing that took place during these massacres can be classified as crimes against humanity.
3. These attacks, especially bombardment, have resulted in collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, and damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators that compel to believe that the damage was deeply severe compared to the anticipated military benefit. In all of the cases, we couldn't confirm that there were any military targets before or during these attacks.
4. The magnitude of the massacres, its frequent pattern, the exaggerated use of strength, its military nature, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Other forces

According to this report, ISIS and international coalition forces have committed massacres that constitute war crimes. However, these crimes are not crimes against humanity as with the case of Syrian regime forces and their pro-regime forces that are committing massacres in a widespread and systematic manner.



Recommendations

The United Nations and the Security Council

1. Refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court and stop 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 supports the culture of crime.
2. Impose urgent punishments on those who are involved in widespread violations of human rights in Syria.
3. Bind the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria as well as the International Intendent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and journalists and let them work without any obstructions.
4. Insure that all weapon imports to the Syrian government, who is using weapons in widespread attacks against civilians, are halted.
5. the Security Council must shoulder its responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria considering that the violations of the Syrian government entail a gross threat to the international peace and security.
6. List the militias that are fighting with the Syrian government and have committed widespread massacres, like Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and “Shabiha” militias, on the international list of terrorist organizations.
7. Implement the “Responsibility to Protect” norm, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, in Syria as it is direly needed there.
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 stop 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 people and parties that support the Syrian government.

The sponsoring Russian side

1. The Syrian regime has to be stopped from dooming the de-escalation agreements. Otherwise, it will only be seen as an exchange of roles between the Russian regime, on one side, and the Syrian/Iranian alliance alliance on the other side.
2. Start making progress in the detainees issue by revealing the fates of 76,000 forcibly-disappeared persons at the hands of the Syrian regime.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

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





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

