

**No less than 486 Massacres
in 2016**

**No less than 34 Massacres in
December 2016**

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Friday, January 6, 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. Executive Summary

• Toll of Massacres in 2016



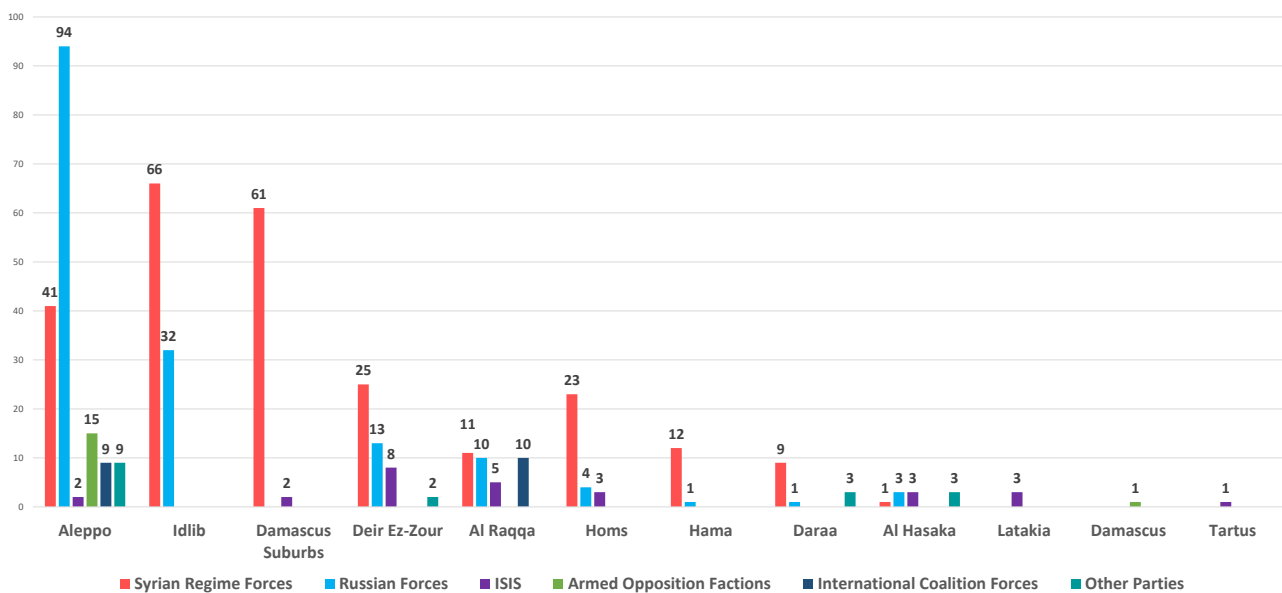
SNHR documented no less than 486 massacres in 2016, which were distributed as follows:

- A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 249
- B. Russian forces: 158
- C. Extremist Islamic groups
 - ISIS: 27
- D. Armed opposition factions: 16
- E. International coalition forces: 19
- F. Other groups: 17

Distribution of massacres across governorates was as follows:

Damascus suburbs: 63	Aleppo: 170	Idlib: 98
Deir Ez-Zour: 48	Al Raqqa: 36	Homs: 30
Hama: 13	Daraa: 13	Al Hasaka: 10
Latakia: 3	Damascus: 1	Tartus: 1

Distribution of massacres by the perpetrator party:



According to SNHR’s victim documentation team, these massacres resulted in the killing of 5417 individuals including 1640 children and 903 women, which implies that %47 of the victims were children and women. This considerably huge percentage indicates that civilian residents were the target in most of these massacres.



Death toll distribution by the influential party of the massacres in 2016:

Syrian regime forces: 2411 individuals including 754 children and 394 women.

Russian forces: 1889 individuals including 571 children and 267 women.

ISIS: 486 civilians including 64 children and 113 women.

Armed opposition factions: 128 civilians including 59 children and 17 women.

International coalition forces: 321 civilians including 132 children and 74 women.

Other parties: 182 individuals including 60 children and 38 women.

• Toll of massacres in December 2016

SNHR documented no less than 34 massacres in December 2016 which were distributed as follows:

A. Syrian regime forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias): 18

B. Russian Forces: 8

C. International coalition forces: 4

D. Other parties: 4

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](#).

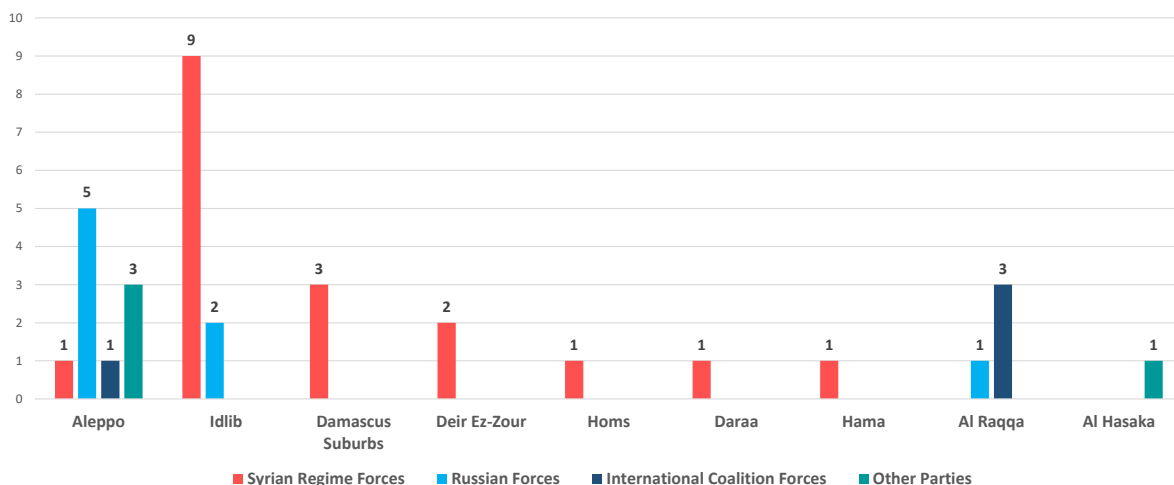
Massacres perpetrated by Syrian regime forces during the month of December 2016 were distributed by areas of control as follows:

- 5 massacres in areas under the control of armed opposition factions.

- 9 massacres in areas under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front

- 4 massacre in areas under the control of ISIS

Massacres were distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



According to SNHR's victim documentation team, 393 individuals were killed in these massacres including 137 children and 61 women, which implies that %51 of the victims were women and children. This considerably high percentage is an indication that civilian residents were targeted in most of these massacres.

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

Syrian regime forces: 215 individuals including 78 children and 36 women.

Russian forces: 99 individuals including 31 children and nine women.

International coalition forces: 42 civilians including 12 children and eight women.

Other parties: 37 civilians including 16 children and eight women

II. Details

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

Idlib governorate

Sunday 4 December 2016, fixed-wing Syrian [regime forces](#) warplanes (Sukhoi 24) carried out two missile airstrikes in southern [Al Khatib street](#) in the western parts of Kafr Nabbol city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 20 individuals including four children and two women. Additionally, about 20 others were wounded. It is worth noting that fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes carried out six airstrikes on the city on that day which resulted in the killing of 26 individuals.



Sunday 4 December 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes (Sukhoi 24) carried out a missile airstrike in Joni circle area in northern Al Khatib street in the western parts of Kafr Nabbol city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of six individuals at once. It is worth noting that fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes carried out six airstrikes on the city on that day which resulted in the killing of 26 individuals.

Sunday 4 December 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the eastern farms of Al Taman'a town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family (Four children and two women).



Sunday 4 December 2016, around 2:40 PM, fixed-wing [Syrian regime forces](#) warplanes (Sukhoi 24) fired missiles at the southern entrance of [the vegetables market](#) near the Sharia Court building in [Ma'aret Al No'man](#) city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 35 individuals [including 11 children](#). Additionally, about 60 others were wounded.



Tuesday 6 December, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes (Sukhoi 24) fired missiles at the residential buildings in the middle of Kafr Sajna town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of six individuals including two children. In addition, two buildings were heavily destroyed.

Tuesday 6 December, fixed-wing [Syrian regime warplanes](#) fired missiles at Al Bazar street in the middle of [Ma'aret Misreen city](#), located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 12 individuals including four children and one woman. In addition, about 20 others were wounded.



Tuesday 6 December, fixed-wing [Syrian regime warplanes](#) fired missiles at the main market entrance in the middle of Sarmin city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 10 individuals at once including five children and one woman. In addition, about 20 others were wounded.



Tuesday 6 December, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missile in a residential neighborhood in the middle of Taftanaz city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of five individuals including one child. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

Sunday 11 December 2016, fixed-wing [Syrian regime forces](#) warplanes bombed a residential neighborhood in the market area in the middle of Saraqeb city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including three female children and one woman, Additionally, about 12 others were wounded.

Aleppo governorate

Friday noon 9 December 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the residential buildings near AbdulQader Al Najjar school in Al Jalloum neighborhood in Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of 25 individuals including 15 children and six women. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the massacre, whereas it is, at the time of this writing, under the control of Syrian regime forces.

Homs governorate

Saturday 10 December 2016, Syrian regime artillery fired shells in synchronization with Syrian regime machine guns opening fire at IDPs families, from Tadmour city, near Al Dawa area, located in the eastern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, who were mostly from the same family (One female child and four women).

Damascus suburbs governorate

Friday 23 December 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Ain Al Fija town in Wadi Barada area, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of eight individuals at once including one woman. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.



Thursday morning 29 December 2016, fixed-wing [Syrian regime warplanes](#) fired missiles at [Al Hashimiya school](#) and its vicinity in [Douma city](#), located in Eastern Ghouta in [Damascus suburbs](#) governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals at once including two female children and one woman. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.



Thursday 29 December 2016, around 4:00 PM, fixed-wing [Syrian regime warplanes](#) fired missiles -for a second time- in [Douma city](#), located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians, who were mostly from the same family, (Four children and one woman). Additionally, about 20 others were wounded.



Deir Ez-Zour governorate

Friday 23 December 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Hatla village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once (Two children and three women).

Tuesday 27 December 2016, fixed-wing Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles at Al Hajna village, located in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 12 civilians including three children and four women.

Hama governorate

Monday 12 December 2016, [fixed-wing Syrian](#) / Russian regime forces warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles at [Jrouh village](#), which is affiliated with Eqerbat area in the eastern suburbs of [Hama governorate](#) and is under the control of ISIS. The bombing resulted in the [killing of 35 civilians](#) including 16 children and six women.



Daraa governorate

Wednesday 28 December 2016, Syrian regime artillery fired shells at Daraa Al Balad area, located in Daraa city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six individuals, who were mostly from the same family, including one female child and three women.

B. Russian forces

Aleppo governorate

Sunday evening 4 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential buildings that are located on the road leading to Al Kallasa neighborhood from Al Jaloum neighborhood in Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of 15 individuals including six children and two women. The area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the massacre, whereas it is, at the time of this writing, under the control of Syrian regime forces.

Monday dawn 5 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the northern parts of Al Marja neighborhood in Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of nine individuals including three children. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the massacre, whereas it is, at the time of this writing, under the control of Syrian regime forces.

Wednesday evening 7 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the vicinity of Sabhan mosque in Al Kallasa neighborhood in Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of 12 individuals. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the massacres, whereas it is, at the time of this writing, under the control of Syrian regime forces.

Saturday noon 24 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the northwestern parts of Al Atareb city, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family including three children and one woman.



Friday noon 30 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are [Russian fired missiles](#) in Al Hamidiya area in Tadeef town, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians from the same family including four children and two women.

Idlib governorate

Monday 5 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are [Russian fired missiles](#) at Mansour district in the northern neighborhood of Idlib city, under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of 11 individuals including seven children and three women. Additionally, about 15 others were wounded.

Saturday 10 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are [Russian carried](#) out two missile airstrikes on the residential houses in the western neighborhood of Binnesh city, located in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of eight individuals at once. Additionally, about 16 others were wounded.

Al Raqqa governorate

Monday 12 December 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are [Russian fired missiles](#) in Al Raqqa city, under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 29 civilians including eight children and one woman. Additionally, about 30 others were wounded.

C. International coalition forces

Aleppo governorate

Tuesday noon 6 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at the residential houses in the vicinity of Abu Bakr Al Siddeaq mosque in Al Baza'a town, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians from the same family (Six children and one woman).

Al Raqqa governorate

Monday 5 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at the water institution in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate, which is under the control of ISIS. The bombardment resulted in the killing of seven civilians who work at the institution.



Friday 9 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at M'ezeila village, located in the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 22 civilians including six children and six women.

Thursday 22 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at Ja'bar village, located in the western suburbs of Al Raqqa and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once including one woman.

C. Other parties

Aleppo governorate

Friday morning 9 December 2016, fixed-wing [international coalition](#)/Turkish warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles in the eastern parts of Al Bab city, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including six children and two women.

Thursday noon 22 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition/Turkish warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles in the northeastern parts of Al Bab city, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of 13 civilians including seven children and three women. It should be noted that the airstrikes carried out by the same warplanes on that day resulted in the killing of 25 civilians including 12 children and six women.

Friday morning 23 December 2016, fixed-wing international coalition/Turkish warplanes (Investigations are still ongoing to determine the perpetrator party precisely) fired missiles at the residential buildings in Zamzam street in Al Bab city, located in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of ISIS, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians, who were mostly from the same family, including three children and three women. It should be noted that the airstrikes carried out by the same warplanes on that day resulted in the killing of 21 civilians including 10 children and six women.



Al Hasaka governorate

Wednesday 7 December 2016, a landmine planted on Tal Hamis – Al Qahtaniya road near Al Khwytla village, located in Al Qamishly city in the northern suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate and is under the control of the Self-management forces (Consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party forces – a branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party) detonated as a pedestrian bus transporting the workers of Rmielan oilfield in Al Rmielan town, located in the northern suburbs of Al Hasaka governorate and is under the control of the Self-management forces, near it, which resulted in the killing of five individuals at once (Four workers and the bus driver). We haven't been able to determine the party that planted the landmine at the time of this writing,

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Syrian regime forces and Russian forces

-1 SNHR affirms that the bombardment cases, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, Syrian regime forces and Russian 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 amount 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 damage that involved casualties, injuries, and damages to civil objects. There are strong indicators that suggest 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, their frequent pattern, the exaggerated use of strength, their military nature, the indiscriminate manner of the bombardment, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Other forces

According to this report, ISIS, armed opposition factions and international coalition forces have committed massacres that constitute war crimes. However, these crimes are not crimes against humanity as in the case of Syrian regime forces and their pro-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 the violations of human rights.
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. Halt all weapon exports to the Syrian government who is using weapons in widespread attacks against civilians.
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 Hezbollah and the 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 those who support the Syrian government.

Acknowledgment

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.





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