

# At Least 223 Massacres Documented in Syria in 2018

Including Four Massacres in December



SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Saturday, January 5, 2019

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



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## I. Introduction and Methodology

Since the popular uprising for freedom began in Syria in March 2011, SNHR has taken it upon itself to document the wide range of violations being perpetrated daily against the Syrian people, such as killing, enforced-disappearance, arbitrary arrest, destruction, indiscriminate bombardment, and torture, with SNHR shedding light on the most notable violations it has recorded as being committed by the parties to the conflict in Syria in hundreds of reports.

The Syrian regime, and its militias, were the only perpetrators of violations at the start of the popular uprising, and remain the main perpetrators to date, with the Syrian regime being responsible for the majority of violations. Subsequently, other parties have emerged gradually such as the armed opposition, extremist Islamic groups, Democratic Union Party forces, international coalition forces, and Russian forces.

The first two years of the popular uprising saw the largest proportion of massacres of an ethnic and sectarian nature, with the Syrian regime and its militias being responsible for the majority of these massacres. In mid-2013, Syrian regime forces began relying heavily on warplanes, which were also used later by international coalition forces and Russian forces. The widespread use of aerial bombardment doubled the numbers of victims and caused huge destruction to the infrastructure, with at least one or two new massacres being documented daily.



The Syrian regime used improvised weapons, such as barrel bombs, to bomb the areas outside of its control while Russian forces used more deadly weapons, relying more on bunker-buster missiles, incendiary munitions, and cluster munitions.

Also, we have recorded in our database dozens of massacres that were perpetrated by extremist Islamist groups and factions from the armed opposition. In addition, we've documented massacres by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which are backed by the international coalition forces' air force, with SNHR recording significant rise in the rate of massacres perpetrated by the coalition (international coalition - SDF) since the end of 2016.

## **Methodology**

This report records the massacres perpetrated in December by the parties to the conflict in Syria in December that SNHR team was able to document. This report also sheds light on the most notable massacres. We have stored the details of the complete incidents stored in SNHR's database. The term "massacre" refers to any attack that resulted in the deaths of five or more peaceful individuals in the same attack.

This report draws upon the ongoing monitoring of news and development by SNHR's team, and on an extensive network of contacts with dozens of various sources that have been built over the course of our work. When we receive information, or hear reports of a new violation via the internet or media outlets, we work to ascertain the details of this news and try to verify and collect evidence and data. In some cases, the researcher is able to visit the incident location at the soonest possible occasion. However, this is a rarity in light of the incredibly high security risks, and given the frequency of daily incidents and the limited human and material resources. Therefore, the possibility to access evidence varies from one incident to another, and, hence, the degree of its classification. Usually, what we do, at SNHR, in such cases is to rely on accounts from survivors who experienced the violation firsthand, who we try to access directly, and, to a secondary degree, those who saw or filmed the violation.

This report also documents one massacre that took place as a result of an explosion; we were unable to determine the party behind the blast given the difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of explosions.

All of the attacks included in this report targeted civilian areas. Our research was unable to identify any military presence or armories in these areas before or during these attacks. Additionally, the forces that carried out these attacks against civilians failed to issue any warning prior to their attacks as required by international humanitarian law.



SNHR has analyzed videos and pictures that were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media. Some of these videos showed victims of attacks in which missiles were used, with most of the victims being children and women. Other pictures show victims of explosions. We always take great care to ensure that this data is stored with its respective source.

Despite our efforts, we can't claim that we have documented all such incidents in light of the regime's media ban and the persecution of anyone believed to be reporting these incidents by Syrian regime forces as well as other armed groups.

Please see SNHR methodology for [documenting victims](#).

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred. It also doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications on the survivors.

## II. December Outline:

December saw a decrease in the number of massacres compared to the previous month, with 70 percent of the massacres documented being perpetrated at the hands of the International Coalition forces as part of the Coalition's military campaign to eliminate ISIS in Deir Ez-Zour governorate.

The first quarter of 2018 saw an increase in the documented massacres record compared to the rest of the year, in the aftermath of the Syrian-Russian military campaign against the three de-escalation zones (specifically areas in the north of Homs governorate, parts of Daraa and Quneitra governorates, and the Eastern Ghouta in Damascus Suburbs governorate) which resulted in agreements according to which those areas residents were forcibly displaced.

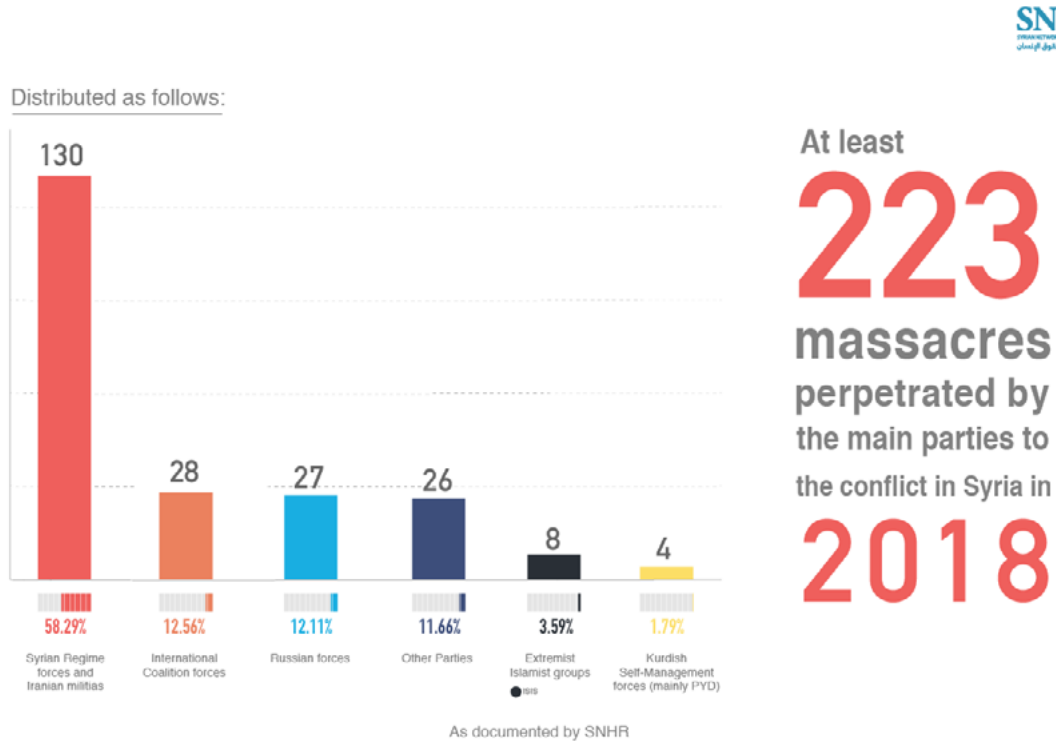
The Syrian-Russian alliance forces inflicted the highest percentage of the massacres committed of all the parties, being responsible for 71 percent of the total massacres recorded, followed by the International Coalition forces who were responsible for 13 percent, with all massacres committed at the hands of the International Coalition forces concentrated in the eastern region of Syria following the war on ISIS.



### III. Executive Summary

#### A. Massacre Record in 2018

SNHR documented at least 223 massacres in 2018. The massacres were distributed by the main parties to the conflict as follows:



A. Syrian regime forces (army, security, local militias, and Shiite foreign militias): 130.

B. Russian forces: 27.

C. Extremist Islamist groups:

- ISIS (the self-proclaimed 'Islamic State'): Eight.

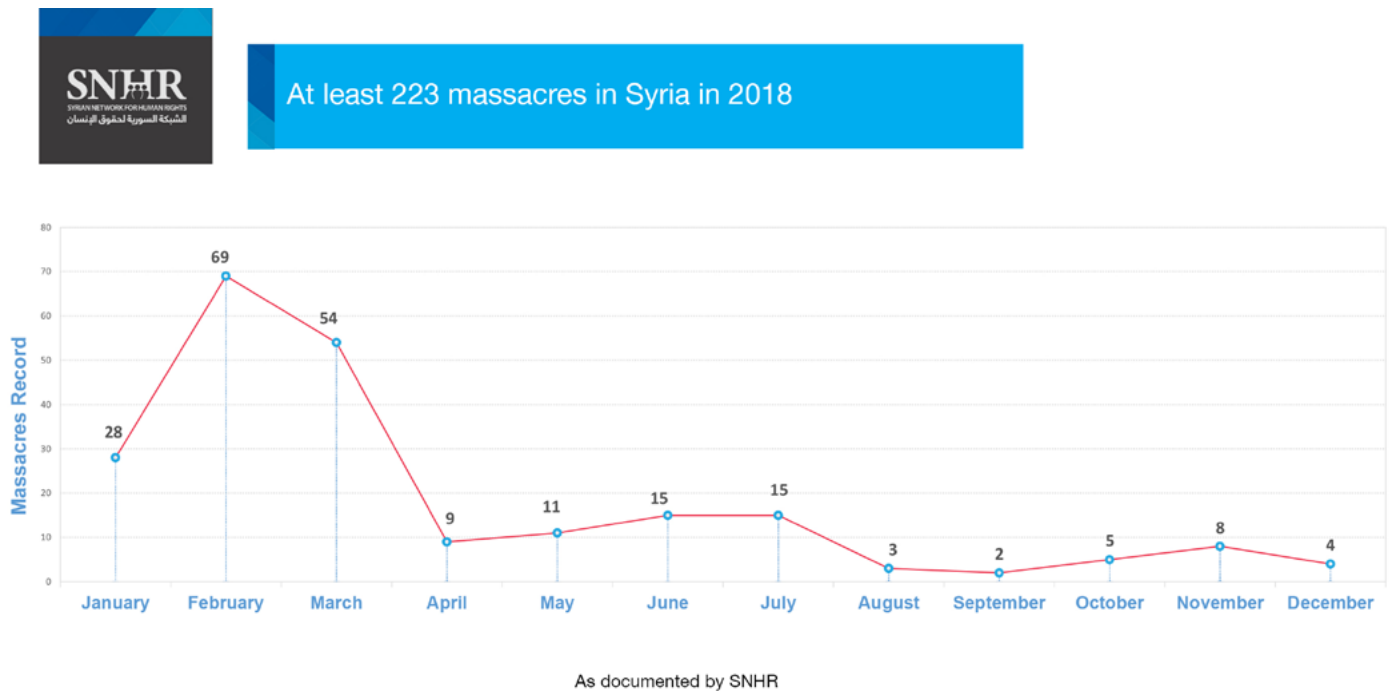
D. Self-Management forces (consisting primarily of the Democratic Union Party – a branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party): Four.

E. International Coalition forces: 28.

F. Other parties: 26.



## The massacre record in 2018 was distributed by month as follows:



Massacres committed by Syrian Regime forces in 2018 were distributed by the areas of control as follows:

- 116 massacres in areas under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition.
- Nine massacres in areas under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.
- Five massacres in areas under the control of ISIS.

The documented massacres in 2018, according to the Victim Documentation team at SNHR, resulted in the death of 2,741 civilians, including 826 children and 565 women (adult females). This means that 51 percent of all victims were women and children, a significantly high percentage, and an indication that civilian residents were specifically targeted in most of these massacres.

Death toll of these massacres was distributed by perpetrators as follows:

**A. Syrian regime forces:** 1,564 civilians, including 412 children and 311 women.

**B. Russian forces:** 338 civilians, including 133 children and 75 women.

**C. Extremist Islamist groups:**

- **ISIS:** 165 civilians, including 18 children and 16 women.

**D. Self-Management forces:** 39 civilians, including two children and 15 women.

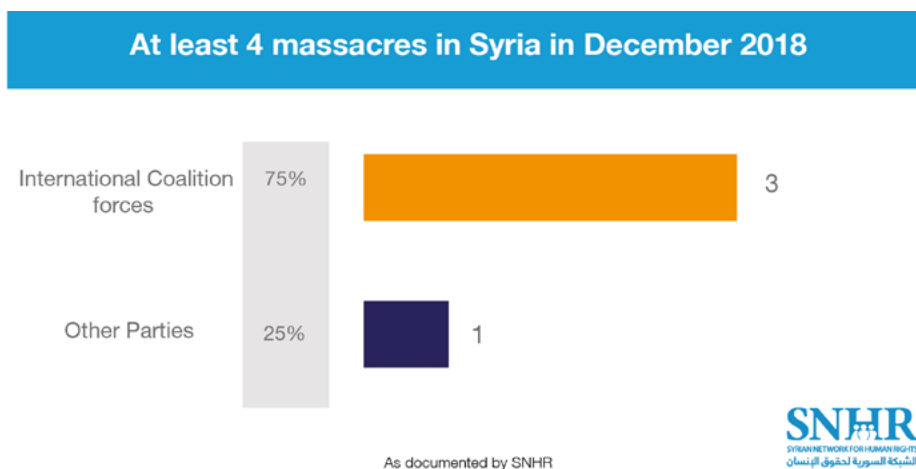
**E. International Coalition forces:** 331 civilians, including 165 children and 83 women.

**F. Other parties:** 304 civilians, including 96 children and 65 women.



## **B. Massacre Record in December:**

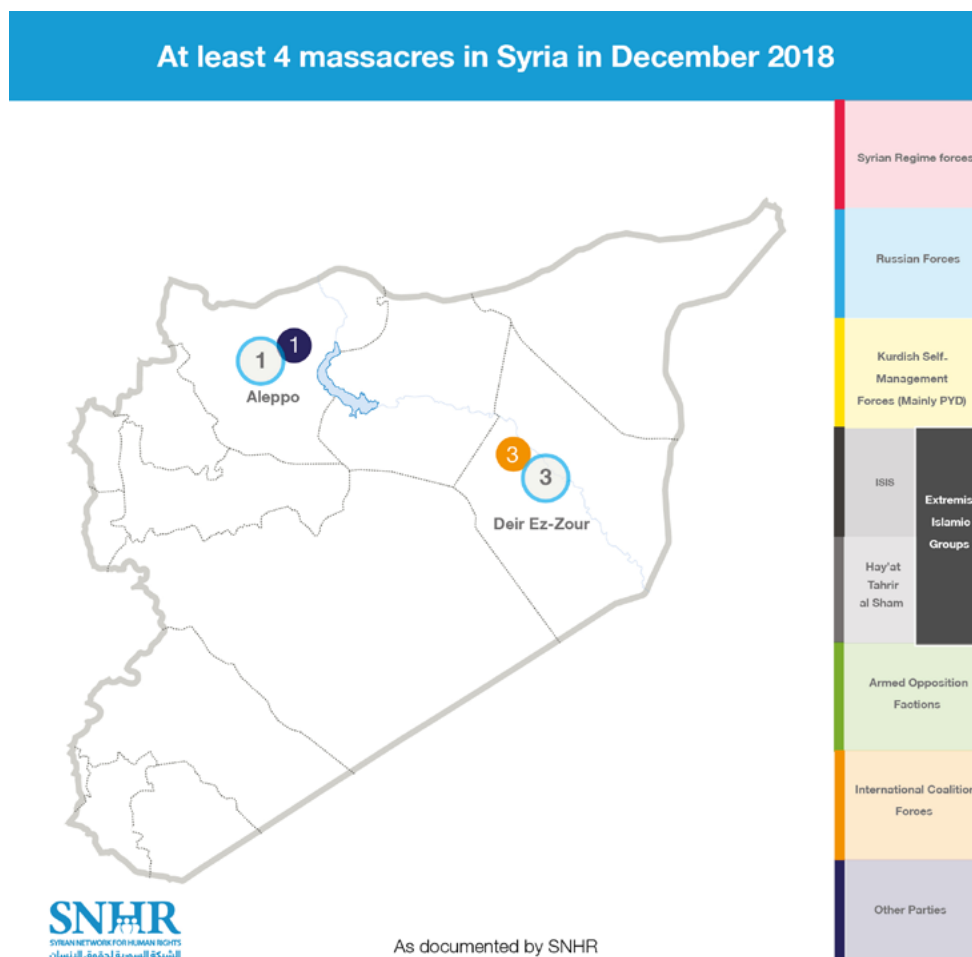
SNHR documented at least four massacres in December, distributed as follows:



A- International Coalition forces: Three.

B- Other parties: One.

**The following map shows the distribution of December's massacres across all of Syrian governorates by the parties to the conflict:**



According to the Victim Documentation team at SNHR, the massacres documented this month resulted in the deaths of 34 civilians, including 11 children and eight women (adult females). This means that 56 percent of all the victims were women and children, a significantly high percentage, and an indication that civilian residents were specifically targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres was distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

- A. International coalition forces: 24 civilians, including 11 children and seven women.
- B. Other parties: 10 civilians, including one woman.

#### **IV. Details of the Most Notable Massacres in December:**

##### **A. International Coalition forces:**

##### **Deir Ez-Zour governorate:**

In Hajin city, two massacres were committed by International Coalition forces:

[Hajin city](#) is located in Deir Ez-Zour eastern suburbs, about 110 km away from the center of Deir Ez-Zour, and is one of the largest cities in the region. It has a population of around 50,000 and is currently under the control of ISIS, being the largest urban settlement still under ISIS control in terms of size.

In late 2012, factions of the Armed Opposition took control of the city, which remained under their control until mid-2014, when they withdrew following fighting against ISIS that ended with the latter seizing control of the city until today.

The city saw military campaigns by Syrian regime forces after it broke free of the regime's control up until ISIS seized control of the area, when international coalition forces' aircraft launched air raids on the city in support of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the ground under the pretext of eradicating ISIS.

The recent military campaign by coalition forces (the international coalition forces and the SDF), launched five months ago, killed dozens of civilians and caused major destruction in the city, forcing most of its residents to move to neighboring areas that aren't controlled by ISIS.

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes used missiles to bomb [a residential neighborhood](#) east of the city center; five civilians were killed (two children and three women) in this massacre most of whom were members of the same family- IDPs from al Mray'iya village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. We note that the same warplanes committed another massacre on the same day with the bombing of another [residential neighborhood](#) east of the city center killing 13 civilians, including seven children, and three women.





Al Sousa town:

[Al Sousa town](#) is administratively a part of al Boukamal region in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, and is located about 130 km from the center of Deir Ez-Zour. It's currently under the control of ISIS, and has a population of around 30,000 people.

In late 2012, armed opposition factions took control of the town, which remained under their control until mid-2014, when ISIS launched an offensive against the area that resulted in its seizing control of the town until the time of this writing.

The town saw military campaigns launched by Syrian regime forces after it broke free of regime control up until ISIS took control of the region, when international coalition forces aircraft launched raids on the town in support of the SDF forces on the ground on the pretext of eradicating ISIS.

The recent military campaign by the coalition forces (SDF and International Coalition forces), launched five months ago, has killed dozens of civilians and forced most of the residents to flee to neighboring areas that aren't under the control of ISIS.

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at [al Boubadran neighborhood](#) in al Sousa town, killing six civilians immediately, including two children and one woman.

## **B. Other parties:**

### **Aleppo governorate:**

Afrin city, on Sunday, December 16, 2018:

[Afrin city](#) is located northwest of Aleppo governorate, and is about 63 km away from the center of Aleppo city. A total of 8,200 families are resident in the city, while a further 10,200 families are currently IDPs there. The city is also considered to be the center of the Afrin region, which includes seven districts, with 366 villages. It is currently under the control of the Euphrates Shield forces (an alliance between a number of factions of the Armed Opposition and the Turkish forces).

On December 22, 2012, factions of the armed opposition, together with local factions from Afrin area, managed to overwhelm the '135' brigade of the Syrian Regime forces east of Afrin city. This led to the latter withdrawing from the entire area. The city was then placed under the administration of local factions predominantly Kurdish (Including the Kurdish Front, the Brigade of Yusuf al Azmah, and the Brigade of Salah al Din) jointly with the Kurdish People's Protection Units; this lasted until the Kurdish People's Protection Units seized sole control of the city, and expelled the other factions in late 2013.



On March 18, 2018, Euphrates Shield forces took control of the city as part of their military campaign against Kurdish forces in the Battle of the 'Olive Branch'.

The city has recently witnessed the unorganized return of families from Afrin who had been displaced following the recent clashes. The city was also a destination for thousands of displaced persons due to forced displacement in Syria, making it densely populated with civilians.

On Sunday, December 16, 2018, an IED placed inside a car in [al Hal market](#) in the center of the city exploded, resulting in the deaths of ten civilians, including one woman, while 13 others were injured. We were unable to identify the party responsible for planting the IED until the time of this writing given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators of the explosions.

## **V. The Most Notable Massacres in 2018:**

### **A. Syrian regime forces:**

On Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at around 16:00, fixed-wing Syrian Regime forces warplanes fired a missile at al [Bawabiya](#) village in the southern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, resulting in the death of [five civilians](#) from one family, including one child and one woman. The village was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 19, 2018, [Fixed-wing](#) warplanes of the Syrian/Russian forces (the details are still under verification to identify the actor) used [missiles](#) to fire on an underground shelter [housing civilians](#) in Beit Sawa town in the [Eastern Ghouta](#) in the east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, [resulting](#) in the death of [43 civilians](#) – the number we were able to document as of [the time of writing](#) - including [26 children](#) and [16 women](#). [The town](#) was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, and under the control of the Syrian Regime forces at the time of preparation of the report.

On Friday, March 9, 2018, Syrian Regime helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on [Misraba](#) town in the Eastern Ghouta in the east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, resulting in the death of nine civilians, mostly from one family, including eight women. The town was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, and under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of preparation of the report.



On Wednesday, May 16, 2018, Syrian Regime forces, [stationed](#) in Jourien Camp, fired two shoulder-borne [missiles](#) against two vehicles carrying [civilians](#) as they were passing along the highway of “al Zeyara – [Qal’at al Madiq](#) “ near al Mansoura village in Sahl al Ghab in the western suburbs of Hama governorate. Six civilians died immediately in the attack, including one child and three women. The village was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.



Victims in the aftermath of a massacre perpetrated by Syrian Regime forces near al Mansoura village/ Hama on May 16,2018

On Saturday, June 30, 2018, fixed-wing Syrian Regime forces warplanes fired missiles at the village of Sahwet al Qamh - known as al Sahwa – in the eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, resulting in the death of 16 civilians, including five women. The village was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident, and is currently under the control of the Syrian Regime forces at the time of preparation of the report.

On Saturday, November 24, 2018, Syrian regime forces stationed at Abu Dali village in Idlib governorate northeastern suburbs, used missile launchers to fire a number of missiles at al Khansaa School in the south of the town of Jarjanaz, with [three of these missiles landing](#) in the area near the school next to the Teacher Training Institute as the children were leaving at the end of the school day. The bombardment resulted in the deaths of [10 civilians](#), including [eight children](#) ([seven students killed](#) as they were [leaving school](#)) - and two women, in addition to injuring one Civil Defense rescue worker, who was at the site to rescue victims. The town was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay’at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.





## Map showing the location of the attack

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Location of Syrian regime ground offensive in Jarjanaz town, eastern Idlib suburbs, which resulted in a massacre in November 24, 2018.



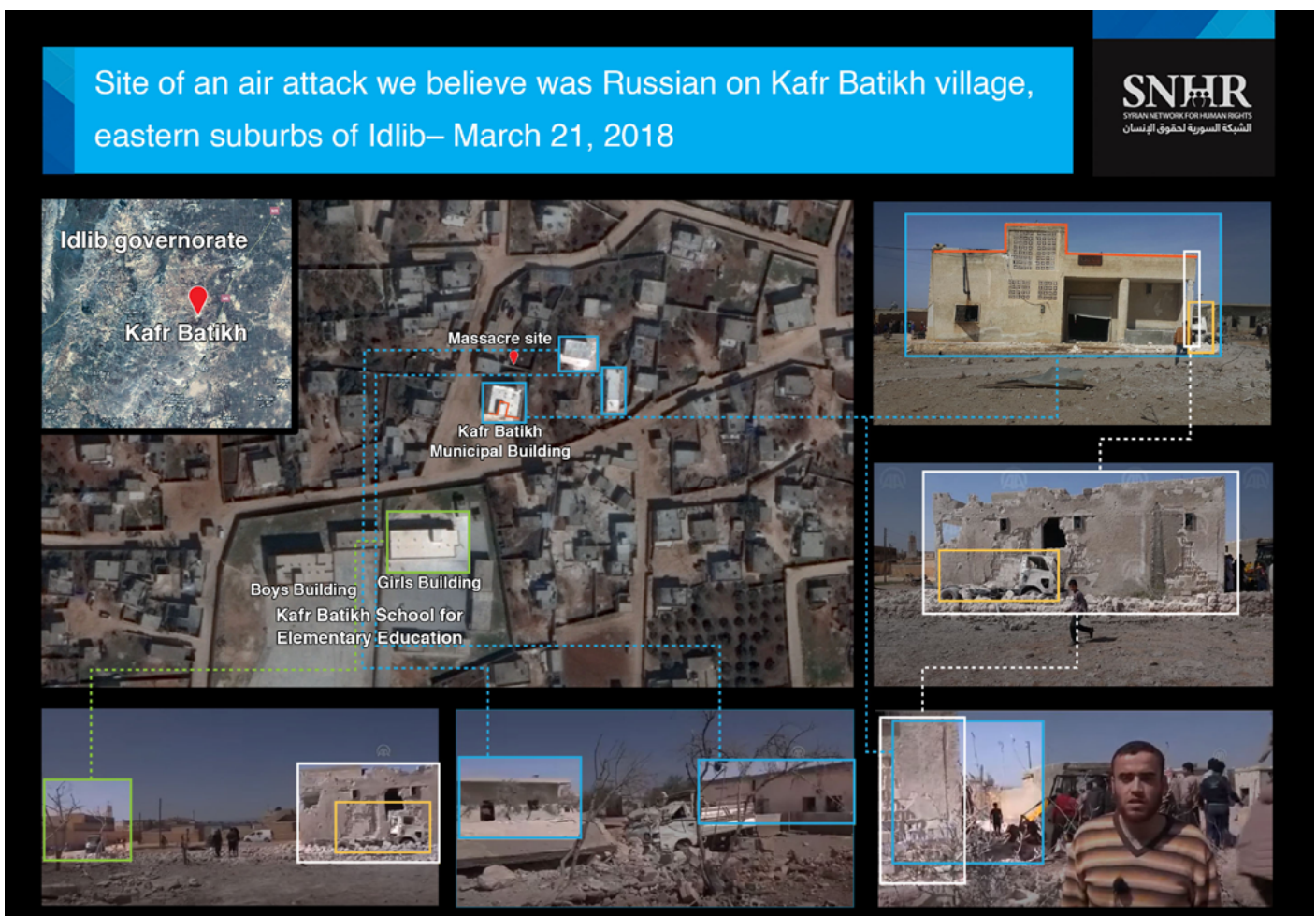


## B. Russian forces:

On Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at around 21:00, fixed-wing warplanes which we believe were Russian, fired missiles [at residential neighborhoods](#) in the center of [Irbeen](#) city in the [Eastern Ghouta](#), east of Damascus Suburbs governorate; this resulted in the death of six civilians, mostly from one family, including three children, and injured around 20 others. The city was under the control of factions of the Armed Opposition at the time of the incident.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at around 09:50, fixed-wing warplanes that we believe were Russian [fired two missiles](#) at a shelter in a cave near Kafr Batikh [Elementary School](#) where [residents](#) had sought shelter from the bombardment near Kafr Batikh Elementary School in the center of Kafr Batikh village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, resulting in the death of [20 civilians](#), including [16 children](#), most of whom were pupils at the school - and [three women](#). The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

## Visual analysis showing the site of the massacre



On Thursday, June 7, 2018, at around 21:00, [fixed-wing](#) warplanes that we believe were Russian, [fired a number](#) of [missiles](#) at [a residential neighborhood](#) near Sa'd Bin Mu'aaz Mosque in the southwest of [Zardana](#) village in the northeast suburbs of Idlib governorate; while local resents rushed to recue survivors and help the injured the same warplanes attacked the same place at around 21:50, the two air raids killed [53 civilians](#), including 10 children and nine women, as well as injuring 80 others. The village was under the joint control of factions of the Armed Opposition and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. We have previously issued [a report](#) in which we documented the details of the massacre.

## Visual analysis showing the area subjected to the attacks



On Thursday, September 28, 2017, at around 14:30, fixed-wing warplanes which we believe were Russian, fired missiles at [Mayadeen](#) city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, killing six civilians from one family (five children and their father). On Friday, July 6, 2018, we contacted activists in the area who confirmed the incident, and recalled how they had pulled out the victims' bodies from under the rubble. The city was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident, and is now under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the preparation of this report.

### **C. International Coalition forces:**

On Sunday, February 4, 2018, at around 01:30, fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes [fired missiles](#) al Bahra village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate; forty [civilians](#) – IDPs from al Sfira city in the eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate – were killed, including [21 children](#) and [13 women](#). The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident and is now under the control of the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic forces at the time of the preparation of this report.



A child – A victim of a massacre perpetrated by International Coalition forces warplanes in al Bahra village/ Deir Ez-Zour on February 2, 2018

On Monday, June 4, 2018, at around 06:00 fixed-wing International Coalition forces warplanes fired missiles at al Jazza' village of al Shaddadi city in the southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, killing 13 civilians, including 10 children and two women, and injuring 10 others. The village was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident and is under the control of the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic forces at the time of the preparation of this report.





On Thursday, November 29, 2018, fixed-wing international coalition warplanes fired a number of missiles at [al Yarmouk Women's Hospital](#) in the 'Twenty-Four' neighborhood in al Sh'afa city of al Boukamal city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate, which resulted in the deaths of 10 civilians, including three children and five women; these are only the deaths we have been able to document until the time of this writing.

#### **D. Other parties:**

On Monday, January 22, 2018, several mortar shells landed on the [Bab Touma](#) neighborhood, east of Damascus city, one of which hit an internal transportation bus stop; this resulted in the death of 10 civilians, including three children and three women, and injured 21 other people. We were unable to identify the perpetrator party up to the time of the preparation of this report. Bab Touma neighborhood was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

On Monday, April 9, 2018, at around 19:15, [32 civilians](#), including [15 children](#) and nine women, were [killed](#), and around 130 others [injured](#) by an [explosion](#) in Wadi al Naseem area south of Idlib city, probably due to a car bomb. We were not able to identify the party behind the explosion up to the time of the preparation of this report given the extreme difficulty in identifying the perpetrators responsible for [the explosion](#). Idlib city was under the control of Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident. We note that the area around the explosion site contains two buildings used as headquarters by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham.

On Friday, September 7, 2018, several shells fell on al Midan neighborhood in the west of [Mharda](#) city in the western suburbs of Hama governorate; this attack resulted in the death of 11 civilians, including 6 children (four females and two males) and four women. We were unable to identify the perpetrator party until the time of the preparation of the report. The city was under the control of Syrian Regime forces at the time of the incident.

## **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Syrian regime and Russian forces**

- The Syrian-Russian alliance has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be ceased. Also, the Syrian and Russian regimes have violated Article 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute through acts of willful killing which constitute war crimes.





- We can confirm that the incidents of bombardment mentioned in this report targeted defenseless civilians. Therefore, Syrian and Russian forces have violated the rules of international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which means they amount to war crimes, fulfilling all the criteria for this categorization.
- The attacks mentioned in this report that were carried out by the Syrian and Russian regimes, are considered a violation of customary international law as the missiles were fired at populated areas rather than at specific military objects.
- Aerial bombardment caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that this damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.
- The magnitude and frequency of the massacres, the exaggerated use of power, the indiscriminate manner of the bombing, and the coordinated approach of these attacks leads to the conclusion that they must be based on high-level orders, and as such constitute a part of state policy.

### **The Coalition (international coalition and SDF)**

The attacks by Coalition forces have caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, or significant damages to civilian facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

### **Other forces**

Other parties have perpetrated massacres, according to this report, all of which constitute war crimes. However, we don't believe that these massacres qualify as crimes against humanity, as with the Syrian regime and pro-regime forces who perpetrate massacres in a systematic and widespread manner.

## **Conclusions**

### **Security Council**

- The Security Council must take additional steps following its adoption of resolutions 2139 and 2254, with no pledges to cease the indiscriminate bombing being issued to date. All parties to the conflict should respect these resolutions, and adhere to the rules of international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian case should be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible should be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been repeatedly proven.



- Expand sanctions to include the Syrian and Iranian regimes who are directly involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.
- List the militias who are fighting on the side of the Syrian government and who have committed widespread massacres, such as the Iranian militias, the Lebanese group Hezbollah, other Shiite groups, the National Defense Army, and the Assad regime's Shabiha, on the international list of terrorist groups.
- Abstain from acknowledging the Syrian government as a legitimate official entity after it perpetrated crimes against humanity with regard to the issue of humanitarian relief, and stop giving it the largest proportion of financial and other aid as these are being delivered to the people who support the Syrian government instead of people who are truly in-need.

### **International community**

- In light of the split within the Security Council and its utter inability to take any effective action, action should be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from daily killing and siege, while support for relief efforts should be increased. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction should be enacted in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the 'Responsibility to Protect' in dozens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan have been exhausted, along with the Cessation of Hostilities statements and Astana agreements that followed. Therefore, steps should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and the norm of the 'Responsibility to Protect', which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

### **OHCHR**

The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents included in this report and the massacres that preceded these ones, since they are a shameful stain, along with the string of daily sporadic massacres of a smaller scope. Also, the OHCHR should work on implementing the recommendations in this report.



### **Commission of Inquiry (COI)**

Launch investigations into the cases included in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and to provide more evidence and data.

### **International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)**

Address the cases mentioned in this report and previous reports. SNHR is willing to cooperate and provide more evidences and data.

### **European Union and United States of America**

Support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 71/248, that was adopted on December 21, 2016, and establish local tribunals that enjoy universal jurisdiction, as well as addressing the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

### **Russian regime**

- Launch investigations regarding the incidents that resulted in civilian casualties, make the findings of these investigations public for the Syrian people, and hold the people involved accountable.
- Compensate all affected facilities and centers, and reconstruct and rehabilitate them. Also, compensate all the victims' families, who were killed by the current Russian regime, as well as the all the wounded.
- Immediately cease bombing hospitals, protected objects, and civilian areas, and respect the customary international humanitarian law.

### **The Coalition (international coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces)**

- The states of the coalition must unequivocally and sincerely acknowledge that some of their bombardment operations have resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Rather than denying these crimes, these states should take speedy steps to launch serious investigations, and immediately compensate and apologize to the victims and those who were affected.
- The states supporting the SDF should apply pressure on these forces in order to compel them to cease all of their violations in all the areas and towns that are under their control.
- All forms of support, weapons and otherwise, should be ceased until SDF commit to the previous recommendations. This is primarily the supporting states' responsibility. Providing SDF with weapons and support while knowing that they can be used in war crimes or crimes against humanity can be seen as a contribution to these crimes.



## **Armed opposition factions**

Ensure the protection of civilians in all the areas under their control. Also, armed opposition factions should distinguish between civilians and military targets, and cease any indiscriminate attacks.

## **Acknowledgment and Condolences**

Our thanks to the residents, victims' families, eyewitnesses, and local community activists who contributed effectively to this report. Also, our most heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and friends.





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