



## Not Less than 516 Massacres Committed in 2015 55 amongst which were committed in December 2015

### Report Contents:

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Massacres' Details
- III. Conclusions and Recommendations
- Acknowledgment and Condolences

### I. Executive Summary:

#### **Toll of Massacres in 2015 :**

SNHR documented not less than 516 massacres that were committed in 2015, detailed as follows:

- A. Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias) committed 389 massacres
- B. Russian Forces committed 50 massacres
- C. Extremist Islamic Groups:
  - i. ISIL committed 18 massacres
  - ii. Al Nusra Front committed 1 massacres
- D. Armed Opposition Groups committed 25 massacres
- E. Kurdish Self Management Forces committed 3 massacres
- F. International Coalition Forces committed 9 massacre
- G. Unidentified Groups committed 21 massacre

Syrian Government Forces committed 389 massacres in 2015, detailed as follows according to regions of control:

- 316 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition
- 71 massacres were committed in regions under ISIL's control
- 2 massacres were committed in regions under the control of government controlled regions.





Massacre's distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

- Aleppo: 147 massacres, Damascus suburbs: 107, Idlib: 96, Homs: 42, Daraa: 41, Deir Al Zour: 35, Hama: 17, Al Hassaka: 13, Al Raqqa: 10, Damascus: 4, Lattakia: 2, Al Sawaida: 2.

### Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:

Conflict Parties Governorate	Government Forces	Russian Forces	Extremist Islamic Groups		Armed Opposition Groups	Kurdish Self Management Groups	International Coalition Forces	Unidentified Groups
			ISIL	Al Nusra Front				
Damascus					4			
Damascus suburbs	102	1						4
Aleppo	91	25	3		19	2	3	5
Homs	31	8	2					1
Hama	14	1	1		1			
Deir Al Zour	25	2	7					1
Lattakia	1				1			
Daraa	36	1						4
Idlib	82	8					2	3
Al Raqqa	1	4	1	1			2	1
Al Hassaka	6		4			1	2	
Al Swaida								2

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 6,444 individuals including 1542 children and 961 women.

39% 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 4,506 individuals, including 1,116 children and 672 women.

- Russian Forces killed 704 individuals, including 169 children and 89 women.

- Extremist Islamic Groups:

i. ISIL: killed 603 individuals, including 56 children and 104 women.

ii. Al Nusra Front: killed 25 individuals, including 2 children.

- Armed Opposition Groups killed 232 individuals including 81 children and 39 women

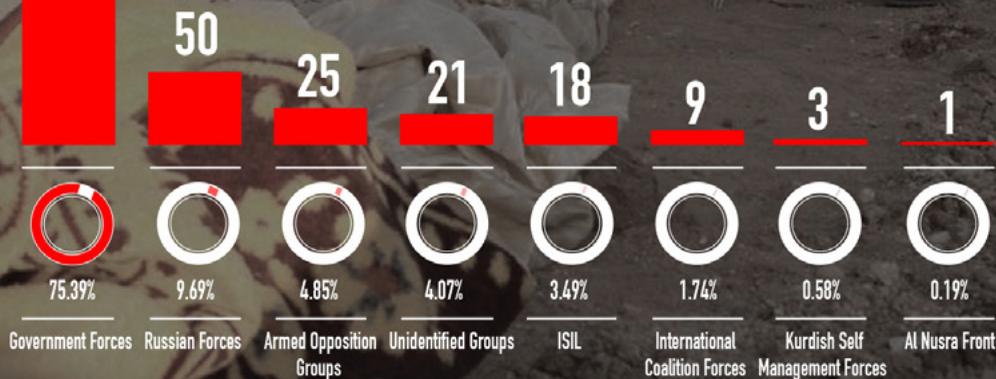
- Kurdish Self Management Forces killed 27 individuals including 11 children and



389

# Toll of Massacres in Syria

since 1 January 2015 till the end of December 2015



According to Syrian Network For Human Rights

4 women

- International Coalition Forces killed 157 individuals including 75 children and 35 women
- Unidentified Groups killed 190 individuals including 32 children and 18 women

## Toll of Massacres in December 2015:

SNHR documented not less than 55 massacres that were committed in December 2015, detailed as follows:

- Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias and foreign Shiite militias) committed 25 massacres
- Russian Forces committed 19 massacres
- Extremist Islamic Groups:
  - ISIL committed 7 massacres
- Kurdish Self Management Forces committed 1 massacre
- International Coalition Forces committed 1 massacre
- Unidentified Groups committed 2 massacres

Syrian Government Forces committed 25 massacres in December 2015, detailed as follows according to regions of control:

- 23 massacres were committed in regions under the control of armed opposition





- 2 massacres were committed in regions under ISIL's control

Massacre's distribution according to the Syrian governorates:

Damascus suburbs: 17 massacres, Aleppo: 16, Idlib: 5, Deir Al Zour: 5, Homs: 4, Al Hassaka: 3, Daraa: 2, Al Raqqa: 2, Hama: 1.

Massacres' distribution according to the main conflict parties:

Conflict Parties Governorate	Government Forces	Russian Forces	ISIL	KSM Forces	International Coalition Forces	Unidentified Groups
Damascus suburbs	16					1
Aleppo		15		1		
Homs	2		2			
Hama	1					
Deir Al Zour	1	1	3			
Lattakia						
Daraa	1					1
Idlib	4	1				
Al Raqqa		2				
Al Hassaka			2		1	

According to SNHR documentation team, these massacres killed 677 individuals including 174 children and 100 women.

41% 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 304 individuals, including 96 children and 38 women.
- Russian Forces killed 203 individuals, including 37 children and 39 women.
- Extremist Islamic Groups:
  - i. ISIL: killed 108 individuals, including 16 children and 12 women.
- Kurdish Self Management Forces killed 12 individuals including 5 children and a woman
- International Coalition Forces killed 40 individuals including 20 children and 9 women
- Unidentified Groups killed 10 individuals including a woman





## II. Massacres' Details:

### A. Government Forces:

#### Damascus Suburbs:

On 3 December 2015, government warplanes shelled one of the markets in Erbeen city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 7 individuals including 4 children. Not less than 20 others were injured.

On 4 December 2015, government warplanes launched 4 rockets on the main market in Kafr Batna in Damascus suburbs which killed 18 individuals including 4 children and a woman.

On 4 December 2015, government warplanes launched 4 rockets on a market in Jisreen town which killed 26 individuals including 7 children and 2 women.

On 4 December 2015, government rocket launchers launched several rockets on the residential buildings in Douma city which killed 9 individuals including 2 children.



On 6 December 2015, government warplanes shelled a market in Zamalka city which killed 16 individual's including 7 children and 2 women. Not less than 40 others were injured.

On 9 December 2015, government warplanes shelled the market in Hamouriya city which killed 22 individuals including 8 children and a woman.

On 9 December 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Nashabeya town in Damascus suburbs which killed 8 individuals from one family, (5 children and 3 women)

On 12 December 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the western neighborhoods in Daraya city which killed 6 individuals including a pregnant woman.





On 12 December 2015, government warplanes launched [7 rockets on Hamouriya city](#) which [killed 9 individuals including a child](#).

On 13 December 2015, [government warplanes launched several rockets on Douma city](#) which [killed 30 individuals and injured 250 others](#).

On 20 December 2015, government warplanes launched several rockets on the Adala Food Warehouse in Al Ash'ari region in Damascus suburbs which killed 5 individuals including a mother and her two children.

On 22 December 2015, government warplanes [shelled a market in Bazina city](#) in Damascus suburbs which [killed 20 individuals including 2 children and injured nearly 50 others](#).

On 24 December 2015, government warplanes [launched 4 rockets on Hamouriya city](#) which [killed 22 individuals including 9 children and 2 women](#).



On 24 December 2015, government warplanes [shelled Erbeen city](#) which killed 8 individuals including 3 children and a woman. [Nearly 20 others were injured](#).

On 26 December 2015, government rocket launchers shelled Douma city with several rockets which killed 5 individuals including a woman. 25 others were injured.

On 28 December 2015, government rocket launchers shelled Zibdeen town with several rockets which killed 6 individuals including a child and injured nearly 30 others.

### **Deir Al Zour:**

On 12 December 2015, government warplanes launched 4 rockets on Soussa town in Deir Al Zour suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 15 individuals including 7 children and 7 women. Also, 13 others were injured.





### **Homs:**

On 4 December 2015, government warplanes launched 2 rockets on Al Mashjar neighborhood in Talbesa city that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs suburbs which killed 13 individuals from one family, including 5 children and 4 women.

On 27 December 2015, government warplanes launched two rockets on one of the salt factories in the industrial region in Palmyra city in Homs suburbs which killed 7 individuals including a child. The victims died while they were working.

### **Hama:**

On 27 December 2015, government helicopters dropped [several barrel bombs on Talaf town](#) that is under the control of armed opposition in Hama which [killed 6 individuals including 2 children](#).

### **Idlib:**

On 9 December 2015, government warplanes shelled [Ma'and town with rockets](#) in Idlib suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 9 individuals (5 children and 4 women).

On 18 December 2015, government warplanes launched [several rockets](#) on [Jisr Al Shoughour city](#) in Idlib suburbs which [killed 15 individuals](#) from one family ([8 children and 7 women](#)).

On 22 December 2015, government warplanes launched [several rockets on Badama town in Idlib](#) suburbs which [killed 5 individuals](#) from one family ([a pregnant woman and her three children](#).)



On 26 December 2015, government warplanes launched [several rockets on the vicinity of Heteen School](#) in Jirjinaz town in Idlib suburbs which killed 9 individuals including 3 children.





## **Daraa:**

On 23 December 2015, government helicopters [dropped several barrel bombs on one of the houses in Sheikh Miskeen](#) city that is under the control of armed opposition in Daraa suburbs which [killed 8 individuals from one family](#) including 4 children and a woman.

## **A. Russian Forces:**

### **Aleppo:**

On 7 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Mafroushat Street in Al Halak neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition. The shelling coincided with the exit of some students from one of the classrooms which killed 5 individuals including two children and two teachers.

On 7 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes [shelled the residential buildings that were next to trail way in Sukari neighborhood](#) that is [under the control of armed opposition](#) which killed 5 individuals including 3 children and a woman. Nearly 10 others were injured.



On 7 December 2015, [alleged Russian warplanes shelled Kafar Houmra](#) city that is under the control of armed opposition with rockets which [killed 7 individuals including a woman](#).

On 8 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential buildings in Kafar Houmra city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 13 individuals including 4 children and 4 women. Not less than 10 others were injured.

On 12 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on Menbej city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control. One of the rockets fell next to a public garden which killed 5 individuals including 2 children and 2 women. Not less than 15 others were injured.





On 12 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets on the residential buildings in the southern neighborhood next to the Industrial High School in Al Atareb city in Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 13 individuals including 2 children and 2 women.

On 13 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on the [market in Maskana city](#) in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of ISIL which killed 15 individuals including 6 children and two women. Nearly 30 others were injured.

On 14 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on a [house in Kafar Houmra city](#) in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 6 individuals including two children](#) and injured not less than 10 others.

On 15 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on a [market in Maskana city](#) in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 25 individuals including a child and 5 women. Nearly 40 others were injured.

On 17 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets on one of the houses [on Al Kastal road](#) next to Ghazal Barho School in Ezzaz city that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 7 individuals from one family including 2 children and 4 women. Also 5 others were injured.

On 18 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled the residential buildings next to the old precinct in Hraytan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 6 individuals and injured nearly 5 others.

On 24 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled with cluster [munitions several freight vehicles](#) on the road between an ISIL controlled region and a region [that is under the control of armed opposition](#). As a result, 5 individuals were [killed including 2 children and the injury of 11 others](#).

On 25 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled a house in Sijraz region in Ezzaz city which killed 6 individuals from one family including 2 children and 3 women. The house was almost completely destroyed.





On 28 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled several residential buildings in the northern neighborhood of Tal Refa'at city in Aleppo suburbs which is under the control of armed opposition which killed 5 individuals including 3 children and a woman. One of the houses was almost completely destroyed.

On 28 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled for the second time in the same day the northern neighborhoods in Tal Refa'at city which killed 11 individuals including 3 children and a woman.

### **Al Raqqa:**

On 17 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched three rockets on Al Raqqa city that is under ISIL's control which killed 6 individuals including 2 women.

On 17 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched 4 rockets on the fire fighters in Raqqa city which killed 6 fire fighters.

### **Idlib:**

On 20 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes launched [several rockets on Idlib](#) city which [killed 44 individuals](#) including a [child and 3 women](#).



### **Deir Al Zour:**

On 22 December 2015, alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Hamadeyi neighborhood in Deir Al Zour that is under ISIL's control which killed 13 individuals including 2 children and 5 women.

## **C. Extremist Islamic Groups:**

### **i. ISIL:**

#### **Deir Al Zour:**

On 3 December 2015, [ISIL's media office](#) in Deir Al Zour published a video about a group of 6 children (5 were shot to death and one was slaughtered) in Al Rahba Citadel in Al Mayadeen city in eastern Deir Al Zour. The victims were accused of





On 5 December 2015, ISIL's artillery launched several mortar missiles on the Accounting building that belonged to the Educational Directorate in Al Joura neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Deir Al Zour which killed 5 individuals including 2 children and 2 women. Also 7 others were seriously injured.

On 22 December 2015, [ISIL artillery launched several mortar missiles](#) on Tishreen School for Girls in Harabish neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Deir Al Zour which [killed 11 students](#) and injured more than 10 others.

#### **Al Hassaka:**

On 10 December 2015, ISIL planted three explosive devices on three trucks in Tal Tamer town in Hassaka suburbs that is under the control of KSM forces which killed 26 civilians, including a child and 4 women. Nearly 90 others were injured.

On 30 December 2015, 4 ISIL suicide bombers blew themselves up in Maiami and Kebrael restaurants in Al Wasta neighborhood in Al Qameshli city that is under the control of KSM and government forces. As a result, 18 individuals were killed and 50 others were injured.

#### **Homs:**

On 12 December 2015, [ISIL bombed a car](#) in one of the public squares next to Al [Ahli Hospital](#) in Al Zahraa neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Homs which [killed 16 individuals](#) including a child and 4 women. Nearly [130 others were injured](#).

On 28 December 2015, one of ISIL's members drove a bombed car that belonged to [the Red Crescent](#) in Al Zahraa neighborhood that is under the control of government forces in Homs. He also wore an explosive belt and when the residents gathered, the car he drove exploded which killed 27 individuals including a child and two women. Nearly 40 others were injured.

#### **D. Kurdish Self Management Forces:**

##### **Aleppo:**

On 29 November 2015, KSM forces raided Mirmeen town in northern Aleppo suburbs and arrested great numbers of the residents including women and children. They accused them of belonging to Al Nusra front and ISIL. KSM forces killed 12 individuals including 5 children and shot dead a woman in Kafr Jinna Square that is under the control of KSM forces in northern Aleppo suburbs. We verified the incident on 2 December 2015.





#### E. International Coalition Forces:

##### Al Hassaka:

On 7 December 2015, international coalition forces shelled [Ein Al Khan](#) town that is 17 Km away from Al Houll town in eastern Hassaka suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 40 individuals including 20 children and 9 women. Also nearly 30 others were injured.

#### F. Unidentified Groups:

##### Damascus suburbs:

On 8 December 2015, a land mine was bombed on the periphery of Madaya town in Damascus suburbs while the residents were fleeing the city which killed 5 individuals including a woman. The party who is responsible for this attack is still unknown up to the moment of making this report.

#### G. Daraa:

On 15 December 2015, unknown armed members shot at the car of a Muslim clerk, Sheikh Ousama Al Yateem, head of the Judiciary court in Houran. The shooting happened on the road between Daraa city and Tal Shehab town that is under the control of armed opposition in Daraa which killed the clerk and other 4 individuals who were with him. The party who was responsible for this attack remains unknown until this moment.

## IV- Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions:

#### Syrian Government and Russian Forces:

1. SNHR affirms that the bombing, whether it was deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and its militias 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 be classified 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 aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage. In all of the cases, we didn't find any military targets before or during these attacks.





4. The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

### **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 an enhancement 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 comprehensive 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 Shabiah 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 the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
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, don't reach 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.

