



Document shelling Raes mosque in Waar neighborhood of Homs by government forces

Introduction:

AlWaar neighborhood is located almost 7 km away from Homs city centre, it has more than 400,000 displaced people from the other destroyed neighborhoods of Homs, government forces imposed besiege on AlWaar since 10/10/2013

[Location map.](#)

The methodology of this report based on the investigations conducted by SNHR's team in the city of Homs with number of residents and activists.

It contains the testimonies of an eyewitness from the residents documented in the report, in addition to news and pictures from cooperative activists inside the city.

The incident's details

Friday 22/12/2013, almost at 12:20 pm, Alraes mosque (known as Omari mosque) in Alwaar neighborhood shelled by tank located in Alwaar fields, it targeted the mosque Minbar (platform) and led to kill the Imam Sheikh Safwan Masharqa, and the young man Husam Almasri, in addition to at least 7 injures.

Testimony of an eyewitness known as Abo Basam, he was there during pray time and talked to SNHR:

« I was in the mosque, Sheikh was call on Allah, suddenly we heard the voice of shell fell on the mosque corner, the people started to run out of the mosque because of shelling, after another minute another bombs targeted the Minbar and injured Sheikh Safwan and another young man, we tried to rescue them but they have died, this is the second attempt to assassinate Sheikh Safwan the first one was by a sniper of the regime, shelling certainly targeted Sheikh,,, even inside mosque they are shelling us !!! «

You can communicate with the witness by [Skype account](#): kosve6667





Testimony of an eyewitness known as Abo Hamza, he was there during pray time, and talked to SNHR:

« This week before prayer the situation was normal, there were no clashes, I went to the mosque as usual and the speech (Omari mosque overlooks the orchards, where there are snipers, tanks, and Shilka), they never strike the mosque in the prayer or speech time, at the beginning of the speech the bomb fell outside the mosque and the fragments entered inside, it led to hurt the childe Omar; less than ten years, Imam Shiekh Safwan Masharqa God bless his soul was saying: we will only pray for Allah, La Ilaha Ila Allah (There is no other God except Allah .. don't be afraid ..don't be afraid ... and let's pray, when he came down from the Minbar, the second bomb fell, he injured and martyred .. the people all went towards the Minbar then third bomb fell led to more than 7 injuries, sniper started to shoot people on the mosque's door to prevent us from aiding the injuries»

You can communicate with the witness by [Skype account](#): Nafe3.alw

Should be mentioned that the mosque has been shelled again by Government Forces in 3/1/2014 with more than 10 mortar shells, which led to injuries among prayers.

Syrian Network for Human Rights could document the kill of two victims and injuring at least 7 others in the shelling on the mosque:

- 1- Imam Safwan Masharqa.
- 2- Husam Almasri

Proofs and attachments:

Videos

[Moment of shelling the mosque](#)

[Video document the kill of Sheikh Safwan Masharqa](#)

[Video of Sheikh Safwan funeral](#)

[Shelling the mosque again in 3/1/2014.](#)



Conclusion:

Note that the Syrian regime has committed a war-crime related to property destruction crime as covered by the 1949 Geneva Convention where this actions committed in non-international armed conflict and it was civilian target.





Recommendations:

Human Rights Council :

- Considering attacks that occurred in Syria on the sanctity of the mosques as violation on the basic human rights that affect his sanctities and dignity
- Denounce violations committed by Syrian Government's Armed Forces such as warship houses , mosques and churches , and document those attacks
- Pressure on the Syrian Government's Armed Troops and formally request to stop its violations on mosques
- Hold alias and supporters of the Syrian Government's Armed Troops (support with weapons and gear) to take clear positions on those violations and make diplomatic and political pressure to stop and end these violations

Arab League :

- Denounce violations of warship houses and churches , and document those attacks
- Pressure regionally and internationally to make effective decisions in this regard
- Pressure on the Syrian regime to stop those violations that affect Muslims all around the world
- Demand the states that can effect on Alassad regime to make it stop deliberate and widespread violations on churches.

Security Council :

- Denounce violations of warship houses and churches, and criminalized those attacks
- Issue a binding decision against Syrian regime to stop all violations, specifically warship houses and churches
- Warning of the consequences of such violations for social peace and led for sectarian and religious wars , and hold Syrian Government's full responsibility about it
- Announce demand to protect churches and Archeological places and warning of endangerment them



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