

Eastern Ghouta is Targeted by an Indiscriminate Killing Campaign





Eastern Ghouta is Targeted by an Indiscriminate Killing Campaign 143 civilians were killed including 28 women and 29 children in five days

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First: Introduction

Government forces have perpetrated many crimes against humanity, through its daily killings, and many war crimes through the indiscriminate bombardment of civilians and fighters. Statistics, names, and pictures of victims show that civilians are being explicitly targeted in a terrorist attempt to exterminate the hometowns of the rebels. Apparently, government forces, led by Bashar Al-Assad, are retaliating after Al-Islam Army targeted various areas in Damascus with missiles. However, facts show that retaliation was extremely excessive and the use of force, in this manner, was unjustifiable. We found out that there was no rebels' presence or any military centers or gatherings in any of the areas that was targeted by government forces. The operation didn't have any distinguishable or known target as neighborhoods, hospitals, markets were all targeted and citizens were killed regardless of their beliefs. Furthermore, we received more than 35 video footages and 50 pictures that show clearly victims, wounded and heavy damages.

All of this data are merely the minimum where the size and quantity of the violations, which were perpetrated through a heavy ongoing shelling, are absolutely greater. The severity of the military campaign was deepened by medication, food, and fuel shortages in light of the suffocating siege of the whole region of Eastern Ghouta. Many wounded died of their wounds amid a poor medical capabilities and severe lack of equipment and medication. Although, the Security Council adopted resolution 2165





which allows for humanitarian aids to be delivered via borders, the internal areas didn't receive any aids which mostly go to areas that support the Syrian government as we noted in an extensive report entitled: "[Eastern Ghouta is under Siege](#)"

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says: "The criminals in Syria are preposterously perpetrating crimes due to the international community's and the Security Council's inability to take any action that would deter the criminals and protect the lives of civilians. The targeting of civilians through shelling must be stopped, and the responsibility to protect them and establish peace is one of the international community's most fundamental missions."

Second: Death Toll and Wounded

SNHR: documented from 5 February, 2015 to 9 February, 2015 the killing of 178 victims throughout Eastern Ghouta as follows:

Civilians: 143 victims including 28 women and 29 children

Rebels: 35

The percentage of civilian victims is 80% of the total number of victims. Also, the percentage of children and women victims is 32% which is a notably high percentage that proves that civilians are being deliberately targeted.

According to Dr. Fadi Darwish, member of SNHR in Eastern Ghouta, and reports from local hospitals, the shelling resulted in 370 being wounded at least including about 60 children and 75 women, 36% of the wounded are women and children.

Third: Most Notable Incidents

1- Douma city, Thursday 5 February, 2015:

Government forces targeted Douma city with multiple shells and its warplanes carried out 30 airstrikes approximately that targeted residential neighborhoods. 35 civilians were killed including eight women.

2- Irbeen city, Thursday 5 February, 2015:

Government forces warplanes targeted several residential neighborhoods in Irbeen city to kill 11 civilians including two children and three women.

3- Kafrbatna city, Thursday 5 February, 2015:

Government forces targeted a market in the middle of Kafrbatna city with four missiles which killed 39 civilians including four children and three women.





4- Douma city, Friday 6 February, 2015:

Government forces warplanes carried out more than 10 airstrikes that targeted Douma city while rocket launchers fired more than 60 missiles. All of this resulted in 28 civilians being dead including seven children and four women.

5- Douma city, Monday 9 February, 2015:

Government forces targeted residential neighborhoods in Douma city using what appear to be thermobaric missiles which killed nine civilians including one child.

Fourth: Most prominent facilities that were targeted

Aerial strikes, using barrel bombs and missiles, destroyed tens of residential buildings and we recorded seven vital centers and facilities that were targeted:

On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted two ambulances with two missiles in Damascus suburbs – Douma city. The two ambulances were heavily damaged.

On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted a market in Damascus suburbs – Kafr Baatna city and destroyed many shops.

On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted a number of schools in Damascus suburbs – Irbeen city to damage it.

On Saturday 7 February, 2015, government forces artillery targeted the minaret of a mosque in Irbeen city and damaged it.

On Sunday 8 February, 2015, Government forces rocket launchers targeted two schools in Douma city.

On Monday 9 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted the central and main medical point in Damascus suburbs – Douma city which resulted in it being out of commission due to the heavy destruction.

On Monday 9 February, 2015, government forces heavy artillery targeted a market in Damascus suburbs – Douma city. A number of shops was destroyed and burned.

Fifth: Conclusions and Recommendations

Government forces have perpetrated the crime of extrajudicial killing through its systematic, widespread, and daily attacks that targeted civilians. The frequency and continuity of these attacks indicates that it is a part of an institutional policy and can be classified openly as crimes against humanity. These crimes' main perpetrators are the president, minister of defense, and commanders of the aerial and artillery military divisions. Those leaders didn't do anything to stop the ceaseless perpetration of crimes against humanity and war crimes or conducted an investigation re-





garding those crimes. Nonetheless, they actively and mainly are involved in those crimes by encouraging it and issuing decrees that support the culture of impunity. The huge number of victims, investigations, eyewitnesses' and relatives' testimonies, in addition to the pictures and videos of the victims and wounded, has proven that most of these attacks deliberately targeted civilians. Furthermore, many of these attacks were indiscriminate attacks which are explicit violations of the international laws that can be classified as war crimes.

Recommendations

The Security Council:

The Security Council should follow-up with the implementation of the resolutions that were adopted with regard to the Syrian case such as resolution 2139, which was adopted nearly a year ago to put an end to the indiscriminate attacks and expressed an intention to take further action in the event of non-compliance.

U.N. envoy

We urge Mr. de Mistura to visit, along with investigators, Eastern Ghouta, which is only 10 minutes away from the capital Damascus, to see the catastrophes which the barbarian attacks and siege have caused

Sixth: Appendixes and Attachments

A. Victims

Kafrbatna: [Victims](#) at the field-hospital that were killed by government forces war-planes' shelling, Thursday 5 February



Victims at the field-hospital

Ain Tarma: [Victims](#) being pulled out in the aftermath of government forces war-planes' shelling, Thursday 5 February

Douma: [A victim being aided](#) in the aftermath of the shelling on the city, Monday 9 February





B. Wounded

Douma: A wounded little girl after the shelling on the city, Thursday 5 February



A wounded little girl after the shelling on the city

Douma: [A Victims being aided](#) after the shelling on the city, Friday 6 February

Douma: [Wounded after the shelling on the city](#), Monday 9 February

C. Destruction

Douma: [Destruction and fires](#) in the aftermath of the government forces heavy artillery's shelling that targeted a market in the city, Monday 9 February.





Douma: [Two ambulances that were destroyed](#) by government forces warplanes' shelling, Thursday 5 February



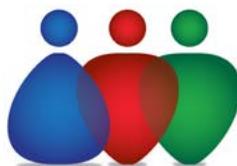
Kafr Batna: [Destruction at a market](#) after government forces warplanes' shelling, Thursday 5 February



Destruction at a market after government forces warplanes' shelling,

Acknowledgment

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Syrian Network For Human Rights
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