



Horrific Massacres after Government Forces Lost Its Control over Idlib Government military aviation must be banned from hovering over liberated regions

The announcement of the Battle of Liberating Idlib governorate from regime forces by Al-Fateh Army; (a gathering of armed opposition groups and Al-Nusra Front,) on 28 March 2015 was followed by a serious military escalation by government forces as they targeted the city and its vital facilities. Also, government forces targeted some cities in Idlib countryside; Saraqeb, Sirmeen and Ma'art Al-Numan. Government forces used its military aviation and helicopters to shell and drop barrel bombs on the cities. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that we recorded the use of toxic gases by government forces one time in Idlib during this period of time.

Besides, before government forces left Idlib governorate, they extra-judicially executed 15 detainees and in less than two weeks Idlib province was shelled with about 47 barrel bombs and not less than 100 missiles through about 200 air-raids. Government forces deliberately targeted many vital facilities in Idlib, like Idlib National Hospital and Al Muhdatha School and the automatic bakery in Kfar Tkhareem.

On 29 March 2015, government forces launched a Surface-to-surface missile on Idlib city, which led to the death of 17 individuals, including 7 children, and 4 women.

On 31 March 2015, government warplanes launched a missile that destroyed a building in Idlib and killed 32 individuals including 13 children and 7 women.

On 31 March 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb that was loaded with Chlorine gas on Idlib, which caused 13 suffocation cases.

According to the Victims' Documentation Team at SNHR; the number of victims who were killed since 27 March 2015, till 10 April 2015, reached 236 individuals, detailed as follows: 82 armed opposition gunmen were killed and 154 civilians including 54 children and 39 women were killed as well.





Civilians in areas which got out of government control have the right to be protected, as government military aviation must be banned from shelling or even hovering around these regions.

