



More Evidences Proving the International Coalition's Involvement in the Massacre of Ber Mahli Village

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First: The International Coalition Warplanes were Probably Behind the Bombing

Usually, the international coalition warplanes' airstrikes are accurate and focused. The international coalition targeted six houses directly with no less than six missiles as some of these houses were targeted again after people and medical teams gathered to help the victims and wounded. Furthermore, the International coalition bombing destroyed the targeted house completely and damaged nearby houses as some of them are unstable.

Additionally, we learned from the residents of the area that government forces warplanes have stopped targeting these areas a long time ago. Ceaseless clashes between YPD forces and Daesh are taking place in that area after Daesh was eliminated from Ain Al-Arab "Koubani" city.

The residents didn't see the warplanes but they heard its voices. They told us that the period of time between each airstrike was about 10-20 times. Also, they said that the sound was noisy which is likely because the high speed of the warplanes that were flying at a low height.

Fadel Abulghani, head of SNHR, says:

"There is no reason for the residents to accuse the international coalition if government forces were the ones behind this massacre. Government forces warplanes perpetrate many massacres everyday specifically through missiles. No one accused the international coalition of perpetrating those massacres. The allegation that Daesh killed those people and then accused the international coalition of killing them is not different than the Syrian government's allegation that the opposition is killing its fighters in order to provoke a foreign intervention."





Second: Additional Details on the Nature of the Incident

YPG forces are stationed at a hill that is 1 kilometers to the north of the village. They are staying in a “Nabou Al-Eissa’s” house. Nabou Al-Eissa was formerly imprisoned by Daesh and his sons are fighting with YPG forces. As it was noted in the previous report, the forces stationed at the hill fired lighting bullets and bombs towards the village after two cars entered the village at night. Some of the residents told us that it was two Hyundai cars which are typically used to transfer oil. However, other residents told us that those cars were for one of the residents and there was a sick child on one of them as the child’s cousin came with his car on their way back from Serien town. The two cars were targeted by YPG forces before they entered Bozou, located 1 kilometers away from Ber Mahli village, which forced the two cars to stop there. SNHR hasn’t been able to verify any of those stories.

An URL shows the location of the hill where YPG forces are stationed. The hill is overlooking to the village



The targeted village is very small and has a small community. Therefore, most of the people know each other and related to each other. The international coalition forces destroyed six houses and seriously damaged three others in addition to other houses that was partially damaged as well. The first house to be destroyed was Mr. Ali Mohammad Ali’s house which was located in the northern parts of the village. Everyone who was inside the house at the time of the bombing has been killed. The residents hid inside Mr. Eid Mustafa Ash-Shawwakh’s house which is also in the northern part of the village and is far from the village center. The house was targeted as well and most of the people that were inside have been killed too. Some people hid in Mahmoud Hussein As-Slibni’s house which is about 500 meters to the west of the village. That house was also targeted as well. Also, the houses of Jumaa Ali and, Ali Ash-Shawwak As-Slibi, and Jalal As-Slibi were all targeted. Some of these houses were targeted which indicates that the international coalition warplanes targeted residents gatherings.





After the massacre, YPG forces didn't allow any residents from the nearby villages or the victims' families to enter the village. Some people told us that they tried to get into the village multiple times to get their belongings and the dead bodies but the YPG snipers impeded anyone from getting into the village.

Residents estimates that there are 7 dead bodies, including two children, in the village mosque while there are more bodies under rubbles as the residents left the village immediately out of fear.

One of the village residents told us:

“The houses that were targeted are now completely demolished, the nearby houses are damaged and partially destroyed. For instance, Eid As-Sliebi’s house, which was located in the northeastern parts of the village, consisted of six rooms and had an area of 200 meters². The house was destroyed completely after a missile hit it.”

Third: Survivors' Testimonies

SNHR met one of the people who survived the massacre, Mr. Abu-Mohammad:

“My house was in the southern part of the village. As I was asleep, I woke up suddenly after hearing an explosion that shook the entire village. It was around 11:00 PM. I learned that warplanes bombed Ali Al-Mohammad Ali’s house which is in the north. The bombing lasted for more than hour and many houses were targeted such as the houses of Eid As-Slibi, Hussein Mohammad Ali, and Hussein As-Slibi. People went out in panic and tried to hide in their relatives’ homes. However, some of those homes were bombed and the people that were inside were killed. The bombing focused on people gatherings and a house was bombed twice after people gathered to help the wounded which resulted in a high death toll. Some of the houses were bombed with two missiles at least and others with three. The houses were destroyed completely and about 70 civilians were killed; most of them were children and women. Only 35 wounded survived the bombing and they were transferred to Menbej and Serien hospitals.”

“We couldn't see the planes because it was at night. But the sound of the planes was really high. The sound disappeared after each airstrike and then it would emerge again with every new airstrike.”

“YPG forces didn't allow the cars to get the victims outside the village. It only allowed a tractor which transferred the victims and wounded to the nearby villages. However, we managed to transfer some of the dead bodies on motorcycles.”

“YPG forces haven't let us come back to the village since the bombing. Anyone who gets near is getting shot by snipers. We left in panic and didn't have a chance to take our things. We are now homeless. We have lost out beloved ones and our homes.”





Another survivor, Abu-Mahmoud, told us about the bombing:

“After Al-Ishaa’ prayer, at approximately 8 PM, lighting bullets were fired towards the village. Shortly after, warplanes started soaring in the sky and the first house to be targeted was Ali Al-Mohammad Ali’s house. Ali died along with his entire family. The residents headed there to try and help the wounded and pull out the dead bodies before the warplanes targeted them again and targeted other homes. During the time, many people headed to Eid As-Sliebi’s house in the north of the village. However, warplanes targeted the house and killed everyone there except for two people whom we managed to save.”

“Most of the village residents are children, women, and elders. Most of the young men left the village to seek jobs or to avoid recruitment in light of the heated clashes that are taking place in the area between YPG and Daesh.”

Ahmad, a resident from the village, told us:

“Around 7:00 on Thursday, a person took his sick son from Ber Mahli village to Serien town, then he came back with his cousin. Meanwhile, YPG forces were stationed at a hill that is 1 kilometers to the north of the village in Nabou Eissa’s house. When the two cars arrived near the village, they were shot by YPG forces which forced them to stop near Booz village which is 1 kilometers away from our village. Afterwards, YPG fired lighting bullets towards the village and we didn’t know why. We didn’t have any problems with YPG.”

“Around midnight, the international coalition targeted some of the homes including the houses of Eid Mustafa Shawwakh, Jalal As-Slibi, Ali Al-Mohammad Ali and his cousin Hussein Mohammad Ali. More than 64 civilians were killed in the massacre and more than 30 others were wounded. Entire families were wiped out after their homes fell on their heads. Some of the nearby houses were damaged and destroyed partially.”

Fourth: Appendixes and Attachments

Evidences and attachments

A. Testimonies of some of the survivors. The test mines were recorded by activists a few days after the massacre

A survivor talking about the massacre perpetrated by the international coalition in Aleppo eastern suburbs – Ber Mahli village





A second survivor talking about the massacre perpetrated by the international coalition in Aleppo eastern suburbs – Ber Mahli village



A little girl talking about the massacre after she lost three of her sisters, one of whom were disabled, in the massacre of Ber Mahli village that was perpetrated by the international coalition warplanes



B. [Video showing some of the victims in Sirrean hospital](#) after the massacre of Ber Mahli village which was perpetrated by the international coalition.

[Video of victims being buried after the massacre](#) that was perpetrated by the international coalition warplanes in Ber Mahli village in Aleppo eastern suburbs

C. previous report: [Documenting the targeting of Ber Mahli village in Aleppo suburbs where 64 civilians were killed](#)



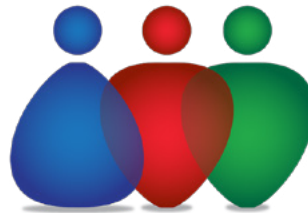


Fifth: Conclusions and Recommendations

- The international coalition forces should respect the international humanitarian law and the norms of the international law. Thus, the state parties should be held accountable for the violations that were perpetrated since the beginning of the attacks. The state parties should bear the consequences of all these violations and insure that it won't reoccur.
- The indiscriminate disproportionate is considered an explicit violation of the international humanitarian law and the indiscriminate killing can be classified as war crimes.
- The states of the international coalition should admit clearly and explicitly that some of its aerial attacks have resulted in the killing of innocent civilians. Denying so is pointless as there are human rights reports and residents' testimonies that prove these crimes beyond any doubt. Instead of denying its crimes, it should investigate these crimes and work on compensating the victims and the people who were affected.
- The international coalition's airstrikes against oil wells and oil refineries caused the oil price to increase dramatically which led to an economic crisis. Efforts should be made to aid the residents and ease the economic difficulties they are suffering from. We believe that establishing a safe zone where camps can be built will help many IDPs and also many refugees who might leave Lebanon and Turkey to come and live in the safe zone.
- Civilians in Syria must be protected from the barbarity of the Syrian regime and its extremist militias. The international community should ban the Syrian regime from using its warplanes, which are dropping tens of barrel bombs every day, in synchronization with protecting the people of Syria from Daesh's brutality.

Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt condolences go out to the victims' families. We also would like to thank the residents and activists who contributed majorly to this report.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

