



No Less than 37 Massacres were Perpetrated in February 2015

Contents:

First: Executive Summary

Second: Details

Third: Conclusions and Recommendations

Fourth: Acknowledgment

First: Executive Summary

SNHR documented in the month of February 2015 37 massacres at least as follows:

Government forces: 34 massacres

YPG: one massacre

Armed opposition: two massacres

SNHR describes an incident as a massacre if it involved: “the killing of five unarmed people at least” for more information on our methodology, please visit the following [URL](#).

The regional distribution of the massacres was as follows:

Damascus suburbs: 18 massacres

Aleppo: six massacres

Idlib: four massacres

Daraa: three massacres

Damascus: one massacre

Latakia: one massacre

Al-Hassaka: one massacre

According to SNHR documenting team, 456 victims were killed at least in those massacres including 99 children and 74 women. 37.94% of the victims are women and children. This notably high percentage indicates that civilians were targeted in most of these massacres.

The death toll of these massacres according to its perpetrators Government forces: 434 victims including 91 children and 73 women.

YPG: Seven victims including three children.

Armed opposition: 15 victims including five children and one woman.





Second: Details

A. Government forces

Damascus suburbs:

1- On Monday 2 February, 2015, government forces warplanes bombed Damascus suburbs – Douma city and **killed 10 victims including two women.**

2- On Wednesday 4 February, 2015, government forces warplanes bombed Damascus suburbs – Douma city and killed seven victims including four children.

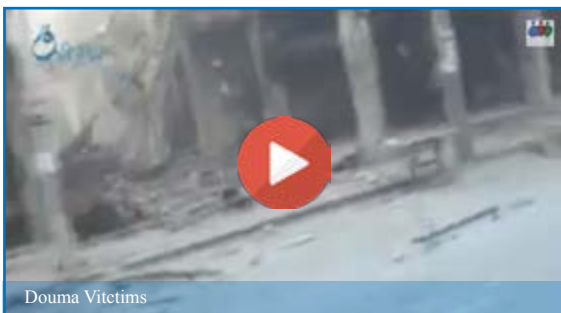
3- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Ain Tarma town and **killed nine victims** including one child and one woman.

4- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Irbeen city and **killed seven victims** including two children and two women.

5- On Thursday 5 February, 2015 government forces warplanes targeted **Al-Intaj Market** in Damascus suburbs – Kafr Batna town and **killed 39 victims** including six children and four women.



6- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Douma city and **killed 30 victims** including three children and 10 women.





7- On Friday 6 February, 2015, government forces targeted **Damascus suburbs – Douma** city with more than 40 missiles that were fired from missile launchers. **24 victims**, including seven children and five massacres, were killed in that attack.

8- On Friday 6 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Douma city and **killed 13 victims** including four children and two women.

9- On Friday 6 February, 2015, government forces artillery **targeted Damascus suburbs – Douma** city with heavy mortar shells and killed 11 victims including 11 children and three women.

10- On Sunday 8 February, 2015, government forces targeted **Damascus suburbs – Douma** city and **killed 8 victims** including four children and a woman.

11- On Monday 9 February, 2015, government forces perpetrated two massacres in Damascus suburbs – **Douma city** where government forces warplanes carried out a number of airstrikes against the city in addition to shelling the city with heavy mortar shells and missile launchers. **37 people were killed** including five children and four women. Also, tens were wounded.



12- On Friday 13 February, 2015, government forces bombed a car near Fatima Az-Zahraa Mosque in Damascus suburbs – At-Tal city to **kill eight victims** including two children and one woman. Also, the mosque was damaged.

13- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Douma city and **killed 13 victims** including five children and two women.

14- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Irbeen city and **killed seven victims** including two children and four women.





15- On Sunday 22 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Damascus suburbs – Douma city and killed six victims including one child and one woman.

16- On Friday 27 February, 2015, government forces **bombed a car** in front of **Belal mosque** in Damascus suburbs – **Ad-Dmier city** and killed **11 victims**.

17- On Friday 27 February, 2015, government forces warplanes carried out **eight strikes** against Damascus suburbs – **Marj As-Sultan town** and killed eight victims including two children and one woman.

Aleppo

1- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on **B'iedien circle in Aleppo** – **Al-Halk Fouqni** neighborhood which **killed 16 victims** including eight children and five women.

2- On Monday 9 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Aleppo – Al-Bab city and killed five victims including one child and two women.

3- On Wednesday 18 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted a residential home with a thermobaric missile in Aleppo – **Al-Maliliya village** which killed **seven civilians** including three children and a woman.

4- Government forces, with Hezbollah forces, raided Ratyan village in Aleppo between Wednesday 18 February, 2015 and Saturday 21 February, 2015 and **executed 47 civilians** including 10 children and five women in addition to one civilian who was slaughtered. Afterwards, they used the dead bodies as human shields in Ratyan and Hardantien villages which are next to Ratyan village.

5- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces helicopters **dropped barrel bombs** on Aleppo – As-Sakhour neighborhood to kill nine victims including two children and three women.





Idlib

1- On Monday 2 February, 2015, government forces helicopters [dropped barrel bombs](#) on Idlib – [Khan Shaikhoun city](#) which [killed 25 victims](#) including four children.

2- On Friday 6 February, 2015 government forces helicopters [dropped barrel bombs](#) on Idlib – [Al-Bara city](#) which killed five victims including two children and one woman.

3- On Sunday 15 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted [Idlib – An-Najiya city](#) and [killed 12 victims](#) including three children and four women.

4- On Saturday 28 February, 2015, government forces raided [Idlib – Qarsaya village](#) and [executed 11 victims](#) including two women.



Daraa

1- On Monday 2 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted [Daraa – Jasim city](#) and [killed 17 victims](#) including two women.

2- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on [Daraa – Dael city](#) and killed three children and two women.

3- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted [Daraa – Dael city](#) and killed three children and two women.





Der Ezzor

1- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Hassaka suburbs – Al-Hamd village to kill eight victims and wound 13 others in addition to six shops which were destroyed completely.

2- On Monday 10 February, 2015, government force warplanes carried out an airstrike with two missiles that targeted Der Ezzor suburbs – Al-Bo'omar village to kill five victims including one female child and one woman. In addition, two others were wounded.

3- On Monday 23 February, 2015, government forces warplanes targeted Jesr As-Syasiya in Der Ezzor city with two missiles that killed six victims and wounded three others.

Latakia

1- On Saturday 21 February, 2015, government forces warplanes carried out an airstrike on Latakia – [Kansba village](#) to [kill seven civilians](#) including three children and two women.

B. YPG

Al-Hassaka:

1- On Sunday 22 February, 2015, YPG artillery targeted Al-Hassaka – Salmiya village with mortar shells to kill seven victims including three children.

C. Armed opposition

Damascus:

1- On Thursday 5 February, 2015, an armed opposition faction (Al-Islam Army) targeted the surroundings of As-Sab' Bahrat square in Damascus with artillery shells. Five were killed including a child.

Aleppo:

1- On Monday 16 February, 2015, an armed opposition faction targeted Aleppo city – As-Saryan village with four mortar shells to kill 10 victims including four children and one woman.

Conclusions

Government 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.

YPG

The indiscriminate bombing that took place in Al-Hassaka is considered a war crime as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. YPG forces should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

Armed opposition:

The indiscriminate bombings that took place in Damascus and Aleppo are considered war crimes as it resulted in extrajudicial killings. The armed opposition should stop all the indiscriminate attacks.

Recommendations

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 responsibility in 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 that 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 the most amounts of financial and humanitarian aid that, in most cases, don’t reach those who are in need them and go instead to the areas that support the Syrian regime.

Human Rights Council

1. Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning the sufferings of the Syrian people which include killing, arresting, raping and displacement.
2. Pressing on the Syrian government in order to stop the acts of killing and torture.
3. Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.
4. Human Rights Council must be more invested and serious concerning the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.

The Arab League

1. Punishing all those who are involved in committing crimes in Syria and urging all the countries of the world to do the same thing.
2. Increasing humanitarian aid, especially on the levels of education and health care and taking care of the Syrian refugees in the Arab countries.
3. Requesting the Security Council to execute the above recommendations.
4. Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest to the case of daily killing in Syria.
5. To pay greater attention to the Syrian case, and working on taking care of the families of the victims psychologically, materially and educationally.
6. Pressing politically and diplomatically on the main allies of the Syrian government; Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

The International Investigation Committee must stop depicting the struggle in Syria as a struggle between two sides equal in crimes, power and the centralization of decisions. It must describe the crimes as it is without belittling their extent for political reasons. The committee must also increase the number of its staff members who are working on the Syrian issue due to the amount of the crimes committed daily in Syria to conduct a more comprehensive documentation.





Acknowledgements

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 their friends.

