



A New Ethnic Genocide Massacre in Homs Northern Countryside No One Left

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Geographical location:

Tasneen village of Al Raṣṭan located in Homs northern countryside with a population of 4000 individuals, half of the population is Turkmen nationalist, and the other half are Alawites, the village is south of Kafnan and Jabourin of the Alawites majority and known for being part of the local militias fighting with the government forces.

Methodology:

Reaching the site of the incident is extremely difficult, but we have communicated through telephones and Skype with eye-witnesses and survivors, as we also received many images and videos, and we keep copies of it. Analyzing it matched the survivors' testimonies.

Incident's details:

On Saturday, January 5, 2013, militias of the government forces abducted several people from Tasneen village in order to negotiate with armed opposition factions to release local militias' captives from Kafnan village.

After the negotiation failed the armed opposition executed the local militias' captives.

As in what seemed retaliation for the executions on Saturday January 5, 2013 the local militias called for reinforcement and imposed a siege on the village, as the engaged with some of the villagers who owned light weapons as they tried to block the local militias attack.

On Sunday, January 6, 2013, local militias were able to break into the village as the gunmen left and the local militias surrounded the Al Qebli neighborhood, then they raided over the houses and directly executed tens of the residents by shooting, the executions didn't differentiate between children, women, elders, and young men, and they burned the houses.





The massacre survivors told us they have seen the local militias carrying many bodies and disposing them in the Orontes River.

Several families tried to escape and their fate yet unknown.

Due to the burning and thievery of the houses and the brutal murders, all the village residents; whom are Sunni, left the village fearing for their lives, and the nearby villages Alawites live there now as they control all of the properties.

SNHR recorded the death of 105 civilians including 10 children and 19 women.

Mr. Ahmad a survivor from the massacre, whom the militias killed several individuals of his family, told SNHR:

“We couldn’t practically participate in the armed conflicts of the uprising due to the location of the village in the midst of the pro-government villages, and that exposed many of the village men to abduction, arrest, and insults of the Shabiha from Kafnan and Jabourin villages.

In the early 2013, Al Raстан rebels and Kafnan Shabiha engaged in conflicts that resulted in arresting several gunmen from Kafnan village.

On January 5, Kafnan Shabiha and several gunmen from our village abducted some of the village residents most of them abducted in front of their homes, as the Shabiha tried to negotiate the release of the captives with the rebels.

On the next day, the news came that the rebels executed the captives, and then the Shabiha called for reinforcement and imposed the siege on the village”.

It was the 6th of January when the Shabiha imposed the siege on the village and started shooting people randomly, I remember on that day we used light weapons like rifles to defend ourselves, the battle was not fair neither in numbers nor in armory, the Shabiha numbers were more than us as well as their weapons were much more advanced, they managed to break into the village and block Al Qebli neighborhood and started the field execution of men, women, and children, then they burned the bodies and the houses,

We tried to save some of the families from the midst of death, most of them took rough roads to Al Hola and Granada and the western region.

The Shabiha revenge was a horrific massacre, tens were killed and others went missing and their fate is yet unknown, as also dozens of bodies were disposed in the Orontes River, and found later in the nearby Granada village”.

Attachments:

Name, images, and details of the victims:

SNHR recorded the death of 105 civilians including 10 children and 19 women

Link to [the names](#) of the victims

[Videos](#) of the bodies of victims of Tasneen massacre found in the Orontes River:





[Video of](#) a group of women talking about the massacre in Tasneen village

Conclusions and recommendations:

The International Humanitarian Law forbid the direct extrajudicial execution, the deliberate murder of civilians is considered a war crime.

The pro-government forces didn't stop at the killing of the people they also burned and stole some of the houses as they also deliberately sabotaged the residents' properties.

This massacre was committed by local militias supported and backed by the Syrian government, and it has a clear ethnic genocide factor in it due to the abuse of the bodies and the burning of the houses and properties, which led many of the residents to refuge to Al Rastan.

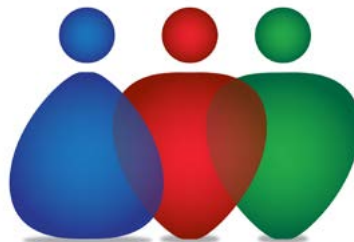
The execution of the captives by the armed opposition is a war crime; however it doesn't justify the mass murders carried out by the pro-government local militias.

To the United Nations' Security Council:

Refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court

Bind the countries to stop the military supplies and assistance including training and technical services for the Syrian Government.

Protecting the civilians in Syria and apply Article 7 due to the failure of all peaceful attempts and the continuity of the crimes against humanity and war crimes by the Syrian Government and those who support it.



Syrian Network For Human Rights

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

