

Statement

Russian Forces Have Killed 5,783 Civilians, Including 1,596 Children

Russia Needs to Apologize
and Reconstruct what it Had
Destroyed if it Wishes to Have
a Political Influence

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



Since the very first days of the Russian intervention in September 2015, it has been very clear that Russia chose to aggressively and directly side with the Syrian regime. Russian forces didn't only target fighters and their bases, but they resorted to killing and bombing civilians in a deliberate, heavy, repeated manner. SNHR possesses a special file that contains hundreds of incidents and the main suspect in these incidents are Russian forces. We also have a list of the civilians, women, and children who were killed in these attacks, in addition to another file for the vital facilities that were targeted by these forces. Finally, we should note the appalling use of cluster munitions, and the use of cluster munitions against populated areas. All of the aforementioned have led to a shift in areas of control in favor of the Syrian regime in a number of Syrian governorates – particularly in Aleppo, Hama, Damascus suburbs, Deir Ez-Zour, and Raqqa. In light of the possibility of the Syrian regime re-seizing control and committing brutal retaliatory acts, residents were forced to flee as nearly 2.3 million individuals have been displaced as a direct result of the Russian offensives along with their allies - the Syrian and Iranian regimes.

The overall toll of the most notable violations by Russian forces between September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2017:

- Killed no less than 5,783 civilians, including 1,596 children and 992 women (adult female).
- Committed no less than 294 massacres (i.e., killing five peaceful individuals or more at the same time).
- Killed no less than 53 medical personnel.
- Perpetrated approximately 817 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including 141 attacks on medical facilities.
- About 217 attacks using cluster munitions.
- About 113 attacks using incendiary ammunitions.



Despite of all of these violations, which constitute war crimes in hundreds of them, the Russian state still wants to play a political role in Syria through channels and conferences and forming platforms and figures who are in support of its policies. However, all of this would be null if Russia didn't drastically and seriously address the hundreds of violations it committed against the Syrian people. Therefore, and based on these data and numbers, and Russia's desire to create a political path to solve the Syrian crisis, we recommend the following in case a desire exists to achieve something towards putting an end to the Syrian catastrophe:

First: abstain from supporting Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias in their war against the Syrian people, and support the Syrian people to change the ruling family and achieve a rotation of authority.

Second: immediately cease killing and bombing civilians, and targeting their vital facilities and homes.

Third: issue a written apology to the victims and compensate them for the losses caused by Russian forces.

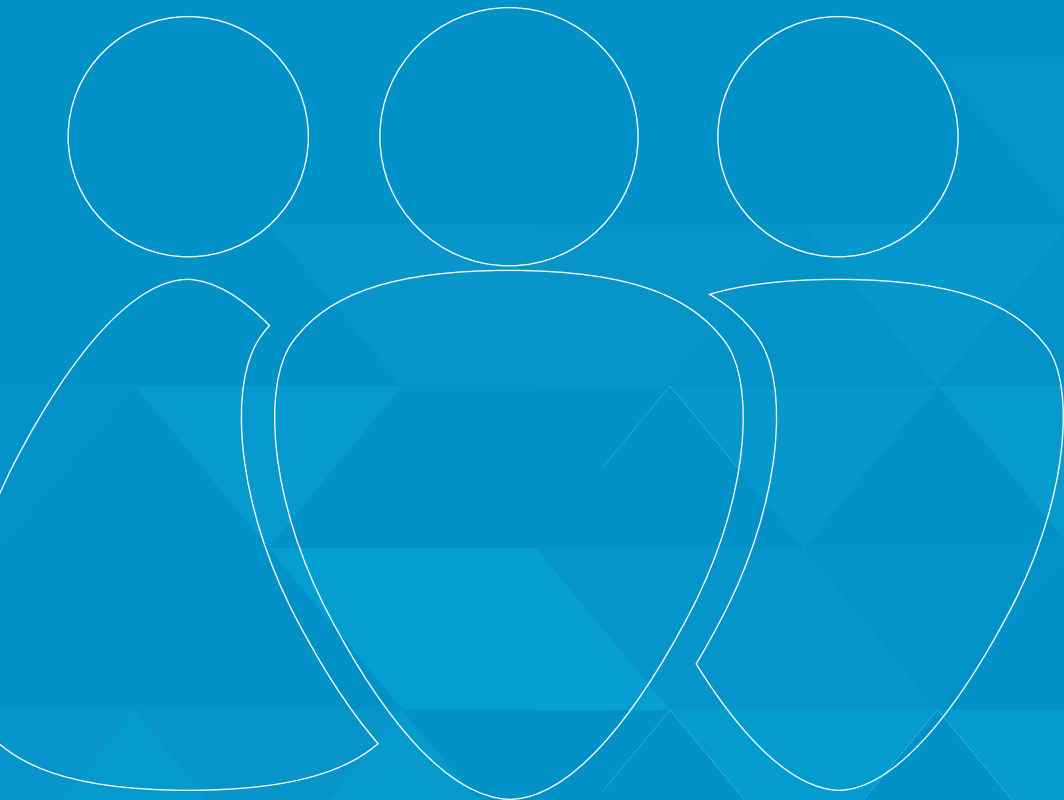
Fourth: reconstruction – particularly the medical facilities and schools that were bombed by Russian forces.

Fifth: Russia have even failed to accomplish a simple, partial matter, such as deterring the Syrian/Iranian alliance from targeting Eastern Ghouta despite the direct and bilateral agreements it signed with armed opposition factions. How would Russia, then, success in a comprehensive political path?

Sixth: increase humanitarian aids for hundreds of thousands of displaced people that Russia, along with Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias, displaced – especially the residents of Eastern Aleppo's residents, areas of northeastern suburbs of Hama, and eastern and southern suburbs of Idlib.

Russia needs to fulfill these conditions before starting to prepare for any conference, path, or platform. Otherwise, it has no credibility in the eyes of the Syrian people while a large portion of them even considers Russia a direct enemy.





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