



Statement

Last Two Hospitals in their areas in Damascus Suburbs Rendered out of Commission following a Bombing by the Syrian Regime The Syrian and Russian Regimes Targeting Medical Personnel and Centers Goes back to pre-Geneva 1864

The targeting of medical personnel and centers by the Syrian and Russian regimes in Syria is unmatched in modern history and in this statement we record two hospitals that have been rendered out of commission. These two hospitals were the last operating hospitals in their respective areas.

The Syrian regime's strategy has become glaringly blatant where the regime targets hospitals, markets, and schools in the areas that are out of its control in order to force the residents to agree to a settlement that would end in them being forcibly displaced to north of Syria or abroad. The international community is still watching as the demographic change is taking place in Syria with only some statements of condemnation and threats that are seen by the Syrian and Iranian regimes as a green light to continue their crimes.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

"There is no difference between threatening residents with a white weapon or a firearm or leveling their houses directly to force them to immigrate and flee and besieging, bombing, and targeting their houses, hospitals, and vital facilities for months or even years. The final outcome will always be the same: forced displacement and demographic change."

On Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces targeted several areas in Al Hama and Khan Al Sheih towns in Damascus suburbs governorate with barrel bombs and mortar shells. The bombardment resulted in damages to two hospitals which are Al Salam hospital in Al Hama town and the Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie in Khan Al Sheih town.

As we recorded, Al Salam hospital was targeted with two barrel bombs that killed two medical personnel and heavily damaged the hospital building and equipment such as the general anesthesia machine and the ultrasound machine. Additionally, the bombing rendered the hospital out of commission temporarily as the hospital is the only hospital in Al Hama town.





On Wednesday 5 October 2016, Ziad Al Beqaa'ie hospital, the only hospital in Khan Al Sheih town, was targeted with barrel bombs and mortar shells that disabled the power generators in the hospital.

On Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces targeted the same hospital again with approximately 16 barrel bombs including at least four barrel bombs that were loaded with incendiary substances in addition to a number of mortar shells. As a result, the hospital building was heavily destroyed and the furniture was damaged as the hospital was rendered out of commission. This hospital is supported by Doctors Without Borders according to a [statement](#) by the organization.

SNHR spoke to a number of residents, local media activists, and medical staff from the two hospitals who witnessed the bombing. The witnesses said that there are no military centers for armed opposition or Islamic groups near the hospitals before or during the attack. Also, the pictures we received showed the huge destruction and ruin in the hospitals buildings and the medical equipment that were damaged.

SNHR publishes [periodic monthly reports](#) that document the incidents of attack on vital civil facilities by the influential parties. In the last few months, the targeting of medical centers has increased. We have called for the cease of targeting medical personnel and medical centers and considering them a red line which compels a quick and direct response.

These anarchic, deliberate, or disproportionate attacks are unlawful attacks. The targeting of medical centers by the Syrian regime is a blatant disregard for the most basic standards of the international humanitarian laws and Security Council Resolutions.

The Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly have to take action instead of standing idly by watching the frequent, almost-daily targeting of hospitals. History will reflect that the Russian regime has used veto five times to protect the Syrian regime who is perpetrating glaring violations that constitute war crimes through bombing hospitals, using chemical weapons, and displacing residents. The Syrian people will never forget this.





Pictures showing the damages in Al Salam hospital



Videos showing a helicopter dropping barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheih town

Pictures showing damages in Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie hospital and its immediate vicinity





Image shows the destruction in Martyr Doctor Ziad Al Buqa'i Makeshift Hospital in Khan Al Sheih town in Damascus suburbs due to government helicopters dropping barrel bombs and government artillery shells fired near the hospital in 5 & 6 October 2016

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