



The Most Horrendous Massacre in the Modern Age.... More than 500 Killed in One City in front of the Whole World The Massacre of Darayya in Damascus suburbs

The full legal and human rights documentation of Darayya Massacre

Darayya is located in Damascus suburbs about eight kilometers to the west of the capital Damascus. The city is near Al Mazza neighborhood in Damascus and Mua'damiyet Al Sham city. Darayya is the largest city in Western Ghouta.

On the second day of Eid Al Fetr, when Muslims around the world were celebrating this cherished occasion, the Syrian government began its military campaign on Monday 20 August 2012 after it cut off power and all means of communication throughout the whole city that went into darkness before the Syrian army forces bombed the western part of the city with tens of mortar shells particularly Fashoukh area which separates Darayaa from Mua'damiyet Al Sham. A number of houses were destroyed and many were wounded as the bombardment forced the residents of Fashoukh area to flee to the middle of the city.

On Tuesday 21 August 2012, Syrian army forces blocked all main and secondary points of entry into the city with military checkpoints in addition to 30 tanks that were spread over the international road leading to Daraa city and near Sahnaya bridge and, hence, impeded anyone to come in or out from the city which was noticed by the residents of the neighboring areas such as Kafr Sousa, Al Lawwan, and Al Qadam neighborhoods in the capital Damascus. This was in synchronization with a bombing by the Syrian army in the middle of the Darayya city which resulted in a number of injuries.

This was followed by an attempt by the Syrian army to advance into the city from Al Kournish Al Jadid road. However, the Free Syrian Army tried to block then which led to intensified clashes between the two that resulted in casualties and injured on both side. SNHR is not able to document military victim from either sides in light of the difficulties and the Syrian regime's unwillingness to grant the Network any license to operate on Syrian lands even though most of the Network's members are Syrians who live inside Syria.





The climax was in the morning of Wednesday 22 August 2012 at 7:00 AM as the Syrian regime escalated its bombing and used all kinds of heavy weaponry such as tanks shells and mortar shells in addition to helicopter missiles in an unimaginable attack that disregards any norms or rules of war and oversteps any humanitarian considerations. The bombardment resulted in a widespread destruction and tens of victims in addition to tens of injuries that saturated makeshift hospitals in light of a severe shortage in medical personnel because of the imposed siege on the city.

Most notable [videos](#) for Wednesday 22 August 2012

A number of [Injured](#) who were all [civilians](#) on the third day of [the military](#) campaign against [Darayya city](#)

A wounded undergoing a surgery after the Syrian army's bombing on the city



The people of Darayya couldn't sleep on the night before under the ceaseless brutal bombing. It is Thursday 23 August 2012, we have conducted field visits, any observer who visited the neighborhood can notice the excessive use of warplanes missile and artillery bombing. On that day, people told us that they saw dead bodies in front of them but they can get of them out of fear of being killed by the bombing. The only party that possesses heavy weapons, such as the weapons used to bomb Darayya, in Syria is the Syrian army.

Most notable videos documenting this day. It is worth noting that all original copies of these files are in SNHR's possession and can be obtained by any human rights group as a single file rather than a YouTube URL

[Videos documenting](#) victims and injured on that day where all of them were civilians

Darayya 23 August 2012, victim Anas Al Hou

Darayya 23 August 2012, victim Amin Hwary, killed by [the brutal bombing](#)

Darayya 23 August 2012, more [civilian victims](#) killed by the bombing on the city by the Syrian army
[Child killed](#) by the bombing





Videos documenting tens of injured. Some of the injured died due to lack of medicine, medical personnel, or the appropriate medical sources

Darayya 23 August 2012, serious injuries including [children](#)



Darayya 23 August 2012, [injuries](#) caused by the barbarian missile bombing on the city
Darayya 23 August 2012, [victims and wounded](#) who have fallen due to the brutal bombing against the city

Darayya 23 August 2012, [injured](#) who are in critical conditions after the brutal bombing on the city by the army

[Injured](#) who was shot by a sniper

[Injured](#) who was hit by missile shrapnel

At 10:00 PM Friday 24 August Air Force Intelligence forces, supported by the Syrian army forces, raided the city from Al Mazza military airbase's side under an aerial support by helicopters that relentlessly bombed the western side and the center of the city. The forces stormed people's homes and arrested tens of residents.

With the Syrian army forces advancing and abducting people in Al Khalij area, located in northeastern Darayya, the army forces headed toward the center of the city but the Free Syrian Army tried to fight the raid as heated clashes between the two sides resulted in casualties and injuries. The Syrian army forces retaliated using a "burned-ground" policy where an atrocious bombing using missiles by helicopters, tanks, and mortar shells to kill and wound many civilians. Consequently, the Free Syrian Army withdrew from the city completely.

On Friday at 3:00 PM, after the Free Syrian Army withdrew from the city, the Syrian army and intelligence forces raided the city and started burning homes, shops, and a number of cars. Also, they stormed the famous hothouse that belongs to Al Ma'dmany family which is located on Al Dhadeil road where they leveled it completely with bulldozers. Additionally, snipers scattered on rooftops and a number of medical warehouses were burned.





Most notable videos for the day of Friday 24 August 2012

Darayya 24 August 2012, Abu Nedal Qedra, killed by the indiscriminate bombing

Two children killed by the bombing

[Dead bodies](#) after the military attack on Darayya city by the Syrian army

Darayya 24 August 2012, [wounded](#) by the indiscriminate bombing

Darayya 24 August 2012, [wounded](#) after the bombing in critical conditions

Darayya 24 August 2012, [wounded](#) after the indiscriminate bombing

In the two following days, Saturday and Sunday 25-26 August, the regime escalated its retaliatory campaign in the city as more residents were indiscriminately killed. Whole families were executed where the Syrian army forces would raid homes and kill everyone inside. We documented the killing of whole families such as Al Saqqa family, a very well-known family for its virtuousness and prestige, Alone family, and Foqa'a family. The atrocities didn't stop there as the army forces disfigured, burned, and distort dead bodies so human rights and media organization, or even residents, can't identify their relatives and beloved ones.

The largest massacre in these two days was the massacre that took place in Abu Suliman Al Darani mosque where there was a shelter in the vicinity of the mosque that large number of civilians from the nearby homes hid in. All of these people were found killed with their dead bodies piled on. We documented 156 names including 19 women and three children.

The most atrocious massacre happened only when the regime army was able to get to the people. A massacre that was perpetrated in a barbarian manner that only reminds of the medieval ages.

Female [child victim](#) Asmaa Abu Al Laban

[The massacre](#) of Abu Suliman massacre

[Victims](#) of the massacres that were perpetrated by [the Syrian army](#) and Shabiha "militias" in the city

[Darayya](#) 26 August 2012, [massacres](#) of the Syrian regime

[Infants who](#) were killed by the indiscriminate bombing

[The massacres](#) that were revealed in [Daayya city](#) on 26 August 2012

One of [the massacres](#) of Darayya city on 26 August 2012, Al Blaqli family





[Massacre inside](#) one of the apartments, Darayya 26 August 2012, seven individuals were killed

[14 dead bodies](#) that were founded in a basement after they field-executed inside their home in Darayya, 26 August 2012

A number of [dead bodies](#) that were founded in Darayya on 26 August 2012

[Victims](#) of the massacres of [Darayya city](#) being buried in [mass graves](#)



On Monday 27 August, military forces started to withdraw and stationed at the outskirts of the city. On the same day intelligence forces executed the chief of the police station of Darayya and a number of police officers after they were accused of helping the terrorists

The Syrian army looted the warehouses of the Red Cross that are located at the end of Al Ma'amel road. These warehouses contained food supplies, furniture, and aids. Residents found 35 dead bodies for people who were arrested by intelligence forces and the army force and then they were all field-executed including four women and three children.

Most important [videos documenting](#) that day

[Victims'](#) dead bodies

After long days of contacting residents, eyewitnesses, and media activists, some of them can be found on Skype, and after conducting field-visits when possible, SNHR was able to document this massacre. The United Nations must press on the Syrian regime to allow the international commissions to work on documenting what happened and listen to the families.

We documented 524 victims who were all civilians, or most of them given that most of the Free Syrian Army elements withdrew on Friday noon before the retaliation operations against residents and civilians began which can be concluded by the fact that among the victims were 61 dead bodies for women victims that we docu-





mented. [The following](#) is the names of the victims of Darayya city massacre who were killed at the hands of the Syrian regime forces in one of the most horrendous massacre in the modern age.

It should be noted that we are certain that the actual number of victims was greater considering that there were many victims who were immediately buried before they were identified while other dead bodies were completely disfigured that the resident couldn't identify. However, this is what we were able to document in light of having to work in secret out of fear of being pursued and killed by the Syrian regime. We tried to be as accurate, and honest as possible in the documentation process.

According to SNHR estimation the campaign resulted in 1160 wounded and more than 100 missing who are now considered as forcibly-disappeared persons.

Second section: Videos that document the destruction and the aftermath of the shelling in chronological order, 23 August 2012

[The aftermath](#) of the bombing on [the city](#)

24 August 2012

[Bombing](#) on Daryaya, 24 August 2012

[Artillery](#) bombing on the city



Even [dead bodies](#) weren't safe from the barbarian bombing

[Bombing](#) on 25 August

Looking for [dead bodies](#) in burned homes, 25 August

26 August 2012

Aftermath of [the bombing](#) and destruction in the afflicted city of Darayya

27 August 2012

Some of [the videos showing](#) the destruction that was throughout the city after it was raided by the Syrian army forces





Even animals weren't safe:

First eyewitness and media activist: Mohammad – mohammad.freedom

Second eyewitness: Abu Kenan - hassan-jon

Third eyewitness: daralezz

You can contact these eyewitnesses. For more information, please contact the founder and chairman of the Syrian Network for Human Rights via the following account: Syrianhr

As a human rights organization concerned with defending human rights, we, in SNHR, strongly condemn this horrific massacre, which amounts to a crime against humanity, and all other massacres in which the Syrian people are slaughtered every hour. We hold the Syrian regime and the Chief Officer of the Armed Officers Bashar Al Assad directly and fully responsible for this massacre and its ramifications and any responses for it. Also, Iran, Russia, and Hezbollah are directly involved in many of the acts of killing as they are continuously supplying the Syrian regime with weaponry and money. We call on the Security Council and the United Nation to carry out all possible measures that aim to protect the civilians in Syria and to uphold their moral and legal responsibilities by accelerating the steps toward holding all those who were responsible for these massacre accountable before the International Criminal Court.

