



## Detailed Account of the Russian-Syrian Attacks on the Neighborhoods of Eastern Aleppo after 25 Days of the Second Cessation of Hostilities Statement

### The Security Council has to Prevent a Second Rwandan Genocide in Syria

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#### I. Introduction and Methodology

SNHR team documented the breaches by the parties to the conflict after the second Cessation of Hostilities statement was approved on 12 September 2016. We highlighted these breaches in [three reports](#) in which we documented no [less than 242 breaches](#) where the Syrian regime and its ally the Russian regime perpetrated the most and greatest of these breaches.

Since the Cessation of Hostilities statement ended on Monday 19 September 2016, government and Russian forces have escalated their indiscriminate attacks and military operations throughout Syria and especially in the neighborhoods of eastern Aleppo which will be the focus of this report. This report documents the most notable violations in eastern Aleppo's neighborhoods which amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes over the course of 25 days since the second Cessation of Hostilities statement came to an end.

Neighborhoods of eastern Aleppo have been under siege since the beginning of September 2016 where the medical situation is deteriorating in light of the shortage in medical resources and the medical points' and hospitals' limited capacity that is unable to take in the huge numbers of the injured. Some of these hospitals have announced that they can't take in any more wounded while others issued appeals for blood donations. Furthermore, the targeting of civil defense centers has impeded civil defense teams in





rescuing and aiding victims and extinguishing the fires that resulted from the ceaseless bombardment on the city.

Additionally, the Syrian regime and its allies deny the entrance of any relief aids into the neighborhoods and prevent anyone from getting in or outside the city. As of this writing, no aids have entered the region and, instead, Russian and Syrian forces targeted an U.N. aid convoy on 19 September 2016 as we documented in a previous report: [“Multiple Evidences Indicating that Russian and Syrian Forces Deliberately Targeted the U.N. Aid Convoy in Aleppo”](#)

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“The United Nations General Assembly, Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights are responsible for this failure in putting an end to the genocide in Syria which brings us back to the same scenario in the Rwandan Genocide. History will never forget the presidents of the current member states of the Security Council.”

SNHR team monitored these incidents and attacks as part of the daily and ongoing process of documentation and monitoring. We have followed-up on these incidents where we spoke to survivors, victims’ families, eyewitnesses and reviewed the pictures and videos we received and verified their authenticity. The pictures showed the huge destruction in eastern Aleppo’s neighborhoods and the targeting of mosques, schools, hospitals, and other vital civil facilities. Also, some of the pictures showed remnants of incendiary weapons that were used by forces we believe are Russian. We have copies of all the videos and pictures mentioned in this report.

The investigation mentioned in this report have proven that the targeted areas were civil areas where there is no military centers or weapon warehouses for armed opposition factions or extremist Islamic groups during or before the attack. The considerably great numbers of children and women victims only support this statement. Furthermore, the attacking forces never showed even one evidence that would prove that they bombed legitimate targets.

What included in this report only represents the bare minimum of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred. Also, this report doesn’t cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.





## II. Executive Summary

The report documents the elevating military operations by government forces and their allies the Russian forces against the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo city after the Cessation of Hostilities statement ended at 7:00 PM on Monday 19 September 2016 until 7:00 PM on Friday 14 October 2016 where government and Russian forces carried out hundreds of airstrikes in which government forces used no less than 214 missiles while we documented that forces we believe are Russian used 856 missiles at least. Most of the airstrikes were indiscriminate in the middle of the neighborhoods rather than targeting frontlines. These airstrikes aimed to force armed opposition factions to surrender by killing as many as possible of their families in order to apply pressure on them.

We recorded the outcomes of the first week in our report: [“Aleppo’s Eastern Neighborhoods are being Torn Apart by the Shells of the Russian and Syrian Forces, A Detailed Account of the Violations One Week after the Second Cessation of Hostilities Statement”](#). In this report, we are going to include incidents that were being investigated in the first week in addition to the new incidents.

SNHR team documented from the end of the Cessation of Hostilities statement on Monday 19 September 2016 to Friday 14 October 2016 the following main violations:

First: Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killing: 361 civilians were killed including 96 children and 55 women. The death toll is distributed by the influential party as follows:

- Russian forces: 287 civilians including 82 children and 46 women.
- Government forces: 74 civilians including 14 children and nine women

Russian forces perpetrated 13 massacres while three massacres were perpetrated by government forces

Second: Targeting of vital civil facilities: We recorded no less than 26 incidents of attack on vital civil facilities that are distributed by the influential party as follows:

- Russian forces: 22
- Government forces: four

Third: Unlawful attacks:

- Russian forces: we recorded six attacks that involved the use of incendiary weapons.
- Government forces: we recorded no less than 151 barrel bombs.





### III. Details

#### Russian forces

##### A. Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killing

SNHR documented the killing of 173 civilians including 42 children and 18 women at the hands of forces we believe are Russian. Also, these forces committed no less than six massacres

Sunday afternoon 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings located on the road leading to Al Qaterji neighborhood from Taraq Al Bab neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including two children.

Sunday noon 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Suhaib ben Senan Al Roumi mosque in Al Salihein neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals including one child and one woman.

Sunday afternoon 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Mash-had neighborhood square which resulted in the killing of three individuals including one woman.

Sunday afternoon 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Malbousat street in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including one child.

Monday afternoon 26 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Hamza mosque in Al Mash-had neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Monday afternoon 26 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Huthaifa ben Al Yaman mosque in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals including one child.





Monday morning 26 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Ali ben Abe Taleb mosque in Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals.

Monday morning 26 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings located on the road leading to Al Salihein neighborhood from Karm Houmad neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two children.

Monday afternoon 26 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in Al Tome area in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Tuesday afternoon 27 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings located on the road leading to Salah Al Din neighborhood from Al Mash-had neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals.

Tuesday afternoon 27 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in [Al Albesa Al Rejjaliya street](#) in [Al Sha'ar neighborhood](#) which resulted in the [killing of 15 civilians including six children and three women](#). Additionally, about [20 others were wounded](#).





Wednesday afternoon 28 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the eastern parts of Qadi Askar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two children.

Friday noon 30 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in Al Hollok Al Tehtani area in Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in the killing of six civilians at once including three children.

Friday noon 30 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in Al Sheikh Fares area in Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in the killing of 14 civilians including seven children and four women.

Sunday 2 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Ansari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals.

Monday 3 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted B'iedein neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals.

Monday noon 3 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Sakhour neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals.

Tuesday noon 11 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of the [vegetables market](#) in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood which resulted in [the killing of 37 civilians](#) including [10 children and five women](#).





Tuesday noon 11 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that [targeted residential buildings](#) in the vicinity of Khyata mosque in Al Ferdous neighborhood which resulted in [the killing of 13 civilians](#) including two [children and two women](#).

Tuesday noon 11 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Halwaniya circle in Al Qaterji neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals including one woman.

Wednesday afternoon 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Myassar neighborhood market which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Wednesday afternoon 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings in Al Sheikh Fares area in Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in the killing of one individual.

Wednesday afternoon 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted residential buildings located on the road leading to Al Ansari neighborhood from Al Zedbdiyeh neighborhood, under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three individuals.





Wednesday morning 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the market of Al Ferdous neighborhood which resulted in [the killing of 15 civilians](#) including four children.

Thursday 13 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the vegetables market in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four civilians including two children and one woman.

Thursday 13 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Karm area in Al Sakhour neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three civilians including one child.

Friday 14 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Tareaq Al Bab neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Friday 14 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Sha'ar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of one medical staffer.

### **B. Targeting of vital civil facilities**

We recorded 12 incidents of attacks on vital civil facilities by forces we believe are Russian in the period of time covered by the report.

Wednesday morning 28 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted [the building of Irteqaa](#)' educational institution in Al Mash-had neighborhood. The institution building and the cladding materials were [heavily damaged](#) and some of the office supplies were ruined.

Wednesday morning 28 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Amal Al Wa'ed school in [Al Mash-had neighborhood](#). The school building was partially destroyed and some of the classrooms and furniture were [moderately damaged](#).

Friday noon 30 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted [the residential building](#) near an ambulance belonging to the International Pitying Hearts Society "IPHS" in Al Hollok neighborhood. The ambulance driver was wounded while the ambulance structure was heavily destroyed and the ambulance was rendered out of commission.







Saturday morning 1 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian carried out airstrikes using missiles and incendiary weapons near [the makeshift hospital](#) in [Al Sakhour neighborhood](#). One of the [hospital](#) walls was partially [destroyed](#) while the patients' rooms were moderately damaged. Additionally, an ambulance belonging to [the hospital](#) was partially [destroyed](#) and was rendered out of commission.



Monday noon 3 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the makeshift hospital in Al Sakhour neighborhood. The hospital building and equipment were heavily destroyed. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission.

Monday afternoon 3 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Azizi bakery in Al Haydariya neighborhood. The bakery building and equipment were heavily destroyed. As a result, the bakery was rendered out of commission.

Saturday afternoon 8 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the water station [in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#). The station fence was partially [destroyed](#).

Sunday dawn 9 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Meqdad ben Amr mosque in Al Salihein neighborhood. The mosque building was destroyed almost completely. As a result, the mosque was [rendered out of commission](#).





Wednesday afternoon 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Sabhan mosque in Al Kallasa neighborhood. The mosque building was partially [destroyed](#). As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission.

Wednesday morning 12 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted [the market of Al Ferdous neighborhood](#) which resulted in a [massacre](#). Additionally, a great number of [shops were destroyed](#) and [damaged](#).



Friday 14 October 2016 at approximately 5:30 AM, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted a residential building near an ambulance belonging to Sham aiding network in Al Sha'ar neighborhood. The ambulance driver was killed. Additionally, the ambulance structure was heavily destroyed and the [ambulance](#) was rendered out of commission.

### **C. Unlawful attacks**

We recorded two attacks using incendiary weapons by forces we believe are Russian in the period of time covered by the report





Friday 30 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons in the vicinity of [Al Daqqaq hospital](#) in [Al Sha'ar neighborhood](#).

Saturday 1 October 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons in the vicinity of [the makeshift hospital](#) in Al Sakhour neighborhood.

## **B. Government forces**

### **A. Massacres and other acts of extrajudicial killing**

SNHR documented the killing of 17 civilians including three children and two women at the hands of government forces. Also, government forces committed one massacre. The following are the most notable incidents:

Monday dawn 3 October 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings located on the road leading to Al Waha hole in the wall from Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in [the killing of six civilians](#) including one child and one woman.

Saturday afternoon 8 October 2016, government forces artillery fired missiles that targeted Al Salihein neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Monday morning 10 October 2016, government forces rocket launcher fired a surface-to-surface rocket on the residential buildings in Sadd Al Lauz area in Al Sha'ar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals including one child.

Tuesday 11 October 2016, government forces artillery fired shells on Karm Al Jabal neighborhood in Aleppo city which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

### **B. Targeting of vital civil facilities**

We recorded no less than two incidents of attack on vital civil facilities by government forces.

Wednesday morning 28 September 2016, government forces artillery fired shells that fell near an ambulance belonging to the charity aiding network in the vicinity of the bakery in Al Ma'adi neighborhood. The ambulance structure was moderately [damaged](#) and it was rendered out of commission.





Wednesday morning 28 September 2016, government forces heavy artillery fired shells at the bakery in Al Ma'adi neighborhood which resulted in moderate damages to the bakery building and its equipment. As a result, the bakery was rendered temporarily out of commission.

### **C. Unlawful attacks**

We recorded no less than 57 barrel bombs that were dropped by government forces helicopters on the neighborhoods of eastern Aleppo city in the period of time covered by the report.

Saturday 1 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Al Sakhour neighborhood which resulted in the killing of one civilian.

Saturday 8 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Qaterji neighborhood which moderately damaged a number of residential buildings.

## **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Legal conclusions**

- 1- The Russian and Syrian regimes have, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, they violated Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.
- 2- We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted armless civilians. Therefore, the Russian and Syrian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled.
- 3- The attacks mentioned in this report, which have been perpetrated by the Russian and Syrian regimes, are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at a populated area rather than a specific military object.
- 4- The aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.





## **Recommendations**

### **The Russian regime:**

- To investigate the incidents included in this report, inform the Syrian people about the findings and hold the perpetrators accountable.
- To compensate all the affected centers and facilities, and rebuild and re-equip them. It also has to redress for the victims and the injured who were killed by the present Russian regime.
- To completely cease the bombardment of hospitals, protected objects and civil areas and to respect humanitarian customary law.

### **The Security Council**

- The Security Council has to take additional steps as it has been a year since Resolution 2254 was adopted which states explicitly “that all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment.”
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been proven.
- To instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being thieved and ruined.
- To expand the sanctions to include the Russian and Iranian regimes who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.

### **The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Office must submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on this massacre specifically considering that it was perpetrated by forces which we believe that they are Russian in coordination with government forces.





## **The International Community**

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killings and siege and enhance the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Stature must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- To renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- To work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

## **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who enriched this report majorly.

