



When a child and his teacher were killed together inside a class

The documentation of the bombing on Adnan Al Maliki School in Deir Ez-Zour

The date of incident: 20/10/2013

The documenting party: Syrian Network for Human Rights
The report methodology relays on the investigations that were carried out in Deir Ez-Zour governorate by SNHR with families and activist. The report contains one account of eyewitness in addition to news and pictures received by SNHR through cooperating activists inside the city.

Incident's details:

On Sunday 20/10/2013, about 9:30 am, warplanes affiliated to government forces shelled, without any warning or real reason, Adnan Al Maliki School located in Al Qosour neighborhood and controlled by Syrian government. It shelled the school at school time as students and teachers were inside classes.

The location on the map:



The testimony of eyewitness Abu Faisal- who was at the place of bombardment and he is still alive. You can contact the eyewitness via skype:





Mgro7-mn

“The massacre happened on Sunday 20/10/2013, 9:30 am, when students were inside the class, MiG plane shelled the school at school time. The regime knew that the school was working and had students in it and there were no armed manifestations.

Al Qosour neighborhood is controlled by the regime and teachers got their salaries from the ministry of education.

The bombardment which had directly targeted the school resulted in the death of four students and one female teacher in addition to the injury of tens of children”

Fadel Abdul Ghany, SNHR’s editor said:

” Syrian government claims that it fights Al Qa’da, terrorism and extremists, but is that by shelling schools, markets, and hospitals? It sends a message that it will ban all forms of stability and life in all governorates which rebel against Al Assad regime. It is not the first time a school was targeted by government forces which committed many crimes against humanity in a systematic manner in several Syrian governorates.”

SNHR’s team was able to document the death of four martyrs including three children and their teacher. While activists talked about three others who could not identify. We also documented 15 injured persons.

The shelling on Adnan Al Maliki School resulted in huge damages in the school in addition to some damages in Zaki Al Arsozi, the neighboring school of Adnan Al Maliki school

The names of massacre’s martyrs:

- 1- The child Ahmad Rafe’ Al Sara/ Deir Ez-Zour/ Al Qosour.
- 2- The girl Aya Ghassan Al Hawas/ Deir Ez-Zour/ Al Qosour.
- 3- Mrs. Manal Al Hayji/ Deir Ez-Zour/ Al Qosour/ a teacher
- 4- The child Hosam Ahmad Al Rabe’/ Deir Ez-Zour/ Al Qosour.





Attachments and appendixes:

Video footage showing the smoke due to the bombardment

Picture of a wounded girl



Conclusions:

1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on the school in Al Qosour neighborhood was indiscriminate and directed against unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces and Al Shabiha have violated the international human rights law which protects the right to life in addition to being committed in non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime as all elements were fulfilled.
2. SNHR deems what happened in the school in Deir Ez-Zour, the murder crime, a crime against humanity because it is not the first case but it has been systematically repeated in all Syrian governorates in a widespread manner.
3. The indiscriminate attacks by government forces are violation of customary international humanitarian law where government forces launched several shells on populated areas and did not direct to specific military object.
4. Those attacks, particularly the bombardment, caused casualties, injures or damaged civilian objects. Moreover, there are strong indicators that the damaged was great compared with the military benefits.
5. The volume of the massacre in addition to its nature, the amount of power that was used, and the indiscriminate and coordinated nature of bombardment cannot be without high instructions and it's a state policy





Recommendations:

To the Syrian government:

- 1- To stop all Human Rights violations immediately.
- 2- To respect its international commitments that includes the protection of civilians in the time of war, and respect the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

To Human Rights Council:

- 1- To demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to what is happening to Syrian people like murder, arrest, rape, and displacement.
- 2- To press on the Syrian government to cease murder, torture and release all kidnapped persons.
- 3- To hold Syrian government's allies and supporters- Russia, Iran, and China- morally and materially responsible for happening to the children of Syria.
- 4- To give the disastrous situation of victims' families in Syria greater interest and seriousness.

To the Security Council:

- 1- To adopt a resolution to refer all perpetrators and criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- 2- To warn the Syrian government about the ramifications of severe acts and systematic murder and send a clear message regarding this case.





To the Arab League:

- 1- To ask the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to give the case of daily murder its right of interest and follow-up.
- 2- To give the case the serious and great interest and follow-up, and try to give the victims' families psychological, material and educational care.
- 3- To press politically and diplomatically on the main Syrian regime allies- Russia, Iran and China- to ban them from providing the international and political cover and protection of all committed crimes against the Syrian people and to hold them morally and materially responsible for all Syrian government violations.

To International Commission of Inquiry:

- 1- To cease depicting the conflict as it is between two equal parties in crimes, power and central decision-making, and to describe the crime as it is without mitigation for political objects. It also has to increase its cadres that is concerned with the Syrian case due to the volume of the daily crimes which allow it for border and more comprehensive documentation.

