



The Wells' Massacres in Rasm al Nafel Village, Western Aleppo Suburbs An Ethnic-Cleansing Massacre in Syria

Report Methodology

This report methodology draws upon the investigations carried out by SNHR team with a number of residents and activists, as this report contains two accounts for eyewitnesses, in addition to the news and pictures SNHR received from cooperating activists, considering that SNHR team was not able to visit the area. Also, the real names of the witnesses were altered as per their requests due to security concerns.

Details:

SNHR contacted one of the massacres survivors, Mr. Hasan Aboud, who is one of the village residents:

“On Saturday, June 21, 2013, I was herding my sheep on a hill about two kilometers from the village. I returned to the village at sunset, and found out that Syrian regime forces and their pro-regime militias have taken over the village, killing many of the residents – women, children, men, and elders. I managed to escape about two hours later along with my daughter and wife, and I saw armed men wearing black outfits with yellow headbands. It seemed to me that they were affiliates of Hezbollah. They killed a 90-year-old woman that was sitting in her house by herself, and then destroyed the house with her dead body inside. There was another house where a number of families took shelter. There were about 56 or 57 individuals. They asked them to enter the rooms, inside the house, and then they bomb the house, as everyone inside died.”

“I saw three children’s dead bodies, including an infant. There were many tossed dead bodies in the streets. After we returned to the village two months later following the Free Syrian Army taking over the village, we found tens of dead bodies tossed in the wells, and we found three mass graves. According to the residents’ estimation, more than 208 were killed – none of them were fighters, and were all of the village’s simple residents.”

SNHR was able to contact another resident and collect his account on what had





happened in Rasm al Nafel village – Mr. Ammar G. told us:

“I was in my village, Rasm al Nafel, on Friday, June 21, 2013, and we heard that a squad of Syrian regime forces are coming through Khanaser road, and heading for Ma’amel al Defa. As usual, we, the village residents, escaped, as we do every time a Syrian regime forces squad come. We headed for an area two kilometers to the east of the village. When the squad arrived, one of the “Shabiha” who work with the Syrian regime forces, named “Ahmad al Jasem” from the nearby Harbakiya village, told the fleeing civilians that they can go home, as Syrian regime forces will not do them any harm. As it were, many of the residents returned to their homes, but Syrian regime forces and their pro-regime militias gathered the people who returned in three adjacent houses and asked them to wait until they are inspected. Afterwards, they bombed the houses over their heads and they all died. They collected the rubbles in one pile using bulldozers... Those murders deceived and killed them.”

“What is even more horrendous is the fact that they arrested some of the people who returned but weren’t in the houses they bombed, before they slaughtered them with knives, burned their dead bodies, and tossed them in the wells. Some of the signs are still visible, and the wells are still there.”

“Following the massacre, they looted the houses, they looted all of your gold, money, and electric machines. They also stole the cars, tractors, and other agricultural machinery they could find. Additionally, they stole about 2000 various cattle.”

SNHR team was able to document 192 civilians who were killed in the massacre of Rasm al Nafel in Aleppo suburbs on June 21, 2013, including [27 children](#) and 21 women.

Conclusions and Recommendations

SNHR believes that what happened, the murder crime, amounts to a crime against humanity.

The Shiite militias that are fighting with the Syrian regime are responsible, as well as the Syrian regime, for committing violations that constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes in their areas of control as well as the areas in which they engage in combat. The international community, represented by the Security Council, should protect the civilians in these areas from the killing, looting, and theft, and add these militias to the lists of terrorist groups – same with al Qaeda’s ISIS and al Nusra Front, as the definition of terrorism applies to the savage practices carried out by all of these militias.

Also, steps should be taken to accelerate the process of holding all those who were involved accountable.

