



Documentation of a Sectarian Massacre Against a Whole Family in Karm al Zaytoun Neighborhood

Following days of relentless shelling of the Karm al Zaytoun neighborhood by government forces, and on the basis of an existing truce guaranteeing the safety and protection of the lives of families who fled from the neighborhood to neighboring open land during the period of killing and bombardment by the government forces and Shabbiha, some of these families returned to the neighborhood. After one of the families returned to their home, members of the Shabbiha attacked them, killing every member of the family of seven, including a two-year-old child.

We were unable to verify the names of family members and unable to reach the neighborhood:

1. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - the mother
2. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - the father
3. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - the first son - 15 years old
4. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - the second son - 17 years old
5. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - the third son
6. A martyr in Karm al Zaytoun - daughter - 14 years old
7. A child in Karm al Zaytoun - two years old

The murders committed by pro- Syrian government Shabbiha elements are categorized as crimes of ethnic cleansing. The Syrian government and its security forces and Shabbiha bear all the responsibilities for violating the legal and human rights that resulted from perpetrating that massacre.

Such acts are also considered systematic and widespread, having been repeated dozens of times. These are blatant crimes against humanity in which all elements of crimes in this category are present.

