

## New Ethnic Cleansing Massacre in Al Baida Village in Tartus Governorate

### Incident details:

In the ethnic cleansing of Tartus governorate and after government forces backed by Shabiha committed the infamous massacre that is considered one of the most brutal massacres committed since the beginning of the popular uprising in Syria, the massacre that took place on May 2, 2013, where 495 civilians were killed according to SNHR documentation including 264 in Al Baida village, and 195 in Ras Al Nabea in Baniyas.

After the two massacres the attacking forces took a systematic policy to displace the residents of Al Baida and Ras Al Nabea in Baniyas through:

Robbing all houses with all its contents, as tens of the residents informed us that their homes were robbed and they saw trucks loaded with their furniture and electrical machines. Sabotaging and destroying the houses, the citizen Abu Mohammad from Ras Al Nabea informed us that “the sectarian militias sabotaged his house and tens of other houses in the neighborhood and broke the walls, and that every piece of furniture they couldn’t carry they opened fire on such as air conditioner on the wall, or a fridge in the wall, or a closet” the UN can notice it easily through satellites images.

A wide arrest campaign arresting many of the families in Ras Al Nabea neighborhood and Al Baida village.

Committing several massacres as the one that took place in July 21, 2013, and we confirm that this was a systematic plan and that this incidents will keep reoccurring in light of the horrific International silence that and dictator would consider a green light.

On Saturday, some of Al Baida village young men whom decided to stay in their village and it seems that the Syrian regime intelligence were monitoring them to kill them as a group of the Shabiha surrounded the building where these fasten young men were planning to eat Iftar, the intelligence ad Shabiha tried to break into the building and fire exchange started between them and the young men surrounded in the building, and two of the young men were killed and several others were wounded due to the attack.

On the next morning on Sunday, July 21, 2013 and around 6:30am Shabiha and what's called "National Defense Army" raided on Al Baida village and went straight to citizen Osama Fatouh and killed him with cold blood, and burned his wife and her kids and the images shows the children bodies burnt in a horrible ethnic cleansing incident.

They also executed Al Qarir Mosque Imam; Sheikh Osama Tawfeeq Al Asser, born in 1965, preacher of Al Qarir town mosque as the Shabiha head to his farm land in Al Baida and executed him with a gunshot in the head.

SNHR documented the death of 14 civilians in addition to 2 killed in the conflict, amongst the civilians 6 children and 4 women:

Osama Ali Fatouh- age 40- Tartus- Al Baida –Tradesman in Souk Al Hal- killed by government forces then his family were burnt in their home in the village.

Nidal Ali Fatouh- age 38- Tartus- Al Baida –Farmer –killed by government forces then his family were burnt in their home in the village.

Ziad Ali Fatouh- age 36- Tartus- Al Baida –Agricultural investor – killed by government forces then his family were burnt in their home in the village.

Mrs. Laila Qadour- age 34- Tartus- Al Baida- wife of Osama Fatouh- she was burned with her four children by government forces in their home in the village.

Hanadi Osama Fatouh- age 13- Tartus- Al Baida- burned with her family by government forces in their home in the village

Ali Osama Fatouh- age 12- Tartus- Al Baida- burned with his family by government forces in their home in the village

Yamen Osama Fatouh- age 6- Tartus- Al Baida- burned with his family by government forces in their home in the village

Maya Osama Fatouh- age 3- Tartus- Al Baida- burned with her family by government forces in their home in the village

Mrs. Mais Abeid –age 27 –Tartus –Al Baida wife of Nidal Ali Fatouh burned with her 2 children by government forces in their home in the village.

Mohammad Nidal Fatouh –age 2-Tartus- Al Baida- he was burned with his family by government forces in their home in the village.

Suad Nidal Fatouh –age 4 and a half- Tartus- Al Baida – she was burned with her family by government forces in their home in the village.

Mrs. Fatima Fatouh- age 60- Tartus –Al Baida- mother of Osam Fatouh's wife she was burned with her daughter by government forces in their home in the village.

Hanan Qadour- age 23- Tartus- Al Baida- daughter of Fatima Fatouh, she was burned with her family by government forces in their home in the village.

Osama Tawfeeq Al Aser –Tartus –Al Baida- Al Qarir Mosque Imam- found in his farm in Al Baida village after he was killed by government forces.

## Conclusions:

- SNHR confirm that what happened in Al Baida village is ethnic cleansing against unarmed civilians, therefore government forces and Shabiha violated the International Human Rights Law that protect the right of life, also they were committed in non-international armed conflict therefore it mounts to war crimes.
- SNHR consider the crime of murder that took place in Al Baida village a crime against humanity, as it isn't the first incident and it became an almost daily incident on a level that include all the Syrian governorates in a systematic widespread way.
- The random attacks carried out by the government forces is a violation of the International Customary Humanitarian Law, as the government forces fired shells on residential areas and didn't target a specific military target
- This massacre repeated nature and the level of the excessive force used in it, as well as the random shelling and organized nature of the attacks can't take place without superiors orders and is a State policy

## Recommendations:

### To the Syrian government:

- The immediate end of all human rights violations
- Respecting all its international commitments such as protecting civilians in the time of war, and respecting all the international humanitarian rules and the International Human Rights Law.

### To Human Rights Council:

- Demanding of the Security Council and the concerned International Organizations to shoulder its responsibility towards the killing, the arrest, rape, and displacing the Syrian people are suffering.
- Pressing the Syrian government to stop the killing and torturing and release all the abducted individuals.
- Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government –Russia, Iran, and China– morale and legal responsibility of what's happening to the children of Syria.
- Provide more seriousness and care towards the victims' families of the tragic situation in Syria.

**To Security Council:**

- Make a decision to bring all involved criminals to the International Criminal Court.
- Warn the Syrian government of the consequences of the brutal violent methods and systematic killing and send clear messages clarifying it.
- To Arab League:
- Demand the Security Council and Human Rights Council to give the issue of the daily killing the attention required for it.
- Serious and intense care of this case and putting it under constant care and follow up and try to help and support the families of the victims emotionally, financially, and in matter of education.
- Political and diplomatic pressure on the main Syrian government allies- Russia, Iran, and China- to stop them from supporting and providing International and political protection and covering for all the crimes committed against the Syrian people and holding them fully responsible legal and morale aspects for all the Syrian government violations.

**International Investigation Committee:**

- The committee must stop picturing the conflict as a two sides on level terms in the aspects of crimes, powers, and decision making, and to describe the crimes without minimizing its severity for political reasons, as the committee must increase its teams specialized in the Syrian case due to the amount of crimes committed daily what will able the committee to document widely.