



The Documentation of Der Al Assafir Massacre

Der Al Assafir village is 12 kilometers away from Damascus. It is populated by 7000 people and covers an area of 4600 dunam. Most of the village's residents work in agriculture where 75% of the village lands are agricultural while the remaining 25% are residential.

As is the case with any combat plan that is adopted by the Syrian army forces against any city, neighborhood, and town that aims to spread fear, oppression, and humiliation, the first step is to siege the targeted place and then shell it for hours, or even days, before raiding and then field-execute, loot, destroy, and arrest tens of the residents.

The Syrian army forces started besieging Der Al Assafir town on 2 September 2012 which was followed by ongoing and horrifying artillery shelling, mortar shells, helicopter attacks, and using missiles. The shelling lasted for two days, until 4 September 2012, where the residents counted no less than 250 rocket and mortar shells in addition to the bombing on the town by warplanes using TNT barrels, missiles, and heavy machine guns. The siege was in conjunction with a complete shutdown of power which resulted from the targeting of the power generators by missiles and mortar shells. Also, water and communication were also cut and there was a complete lack of medical services amid the complete and comprehensive shutdown of all medical clinics and pharmacies in the town.

The Syrian army forces raided the towns and carried out a number of raids and burned farms and groves while snipers went on top of the roofs.

On the second and third day, 5 and 6 September, they again inspected houses, farms, and groves, and burned most of the farms, villas, and some of the houses and cars in addition to wrecking and looting shops. Additionally, they went into the main mosque in the town, Omar ben Abd Al Aziz, and defile it throwing trash and looting





some of the furniture, and wrote some phrases that is offensive to Islam inside the mosque. Furthermore, they field-executed a number of people in the town groves and in the town including Dyab Nathir Al Qetat and the child Ahmad Abd Al Hadi Khattab, 15-year-old, (He is a displaced who suffers from down syndrome).

On 6 September, Shbailhas from the pro-government nearby villages entered Der Al Assafir with the support of more than 30 tanks in addition to a number of bulldozers which demolished a number of groves and buried the Romanian channel that goes back to the Romanian age. Also, a number of the army forces tried to cut down trees and destroy houses.

SNHT team was able to document these accounts through eyewitnesses and residents from the town which can be visited by anyone who wants to listen to the victims' families and mothers and verify the details of this massacre himself.

Abu Ayham, an eyewitness, can be contacted via Skype on his account der.alasafer.rev

Names of the victims of Der Al Assafir massacre with documenting videos

- 1- Ahmad Taha.
- 2- Mustafa Al Shayeb.
- 3- Dyab Al Qetat.
- 4- Samir Belal.
- 5- Ahmad Khattab (A special-needs person)
- 6- Hamza AL Khatib.
- 7- Ayoub Al Khatib, Hamza AL Khatib's father.
- 8- Hamza Izzdin.
- 9- Diyaa Al Haj Saeed, known as Al Ma'mour.
- 10- Mohammad Al Zamel.
- 11- AbdulHadi Agha.
- 12- Mohamad Janin.
- 13- Saad Abdurrazzaq.
- 14- Khaled Al Ghriefani.
- 15- AbdulSalam Al Khalil, from Daraa.
- 16- Sultan Al Hassan, from Bziena village.
- 17- Unidentified victim.
- 18- Unidentified victim.





Attachments

Videos for the victims

[Ahmad Taha Abu Shaker](#) who was field-executed by the regime Shabihis in the massacre of Der Al Assafir

The victim [Samir Belal](#)

The victim [Hamza Izzdin](#)

[A victim](#) whom the residents couldn't identify

A victim whom [the residents couldn't identify](#)

Videos showing the destruction, looting, and wrecking

[Der Al Assafir](#), 6 September 2012, cars and public and private properties that were burned

[Der Al Assafir](#), 6 September 2012, breaking and wrecking shops in Der Al Assafir town

[Mosques that were defiled](#) in Der Al Assafir, 6 September 2016

[Videos documenting](#) the aftermaths of the bombing

A vicious bombing by MiG warplanes on Der Al Assafir town

[The aftermath of a bombing](#) on Der Al Assafir town by MiG warplanes, 7 September 2012

[Farms that were burned](#) in Der Al Assafir, 7 September 2012

As a human rights organization that is concerned with defending human rights, we, at the Syrian Network for Human Rights, strongly condemn this horrifying massacre that is considered as a crime against humanity as well as all the massacres against the Syrian people. We hold the Syrian regime, in its entirety, and the commander-in-chief of the Syrian Armed Forces Bashar Al Assad directly and fully responsible for this massacre as well as all repercussions and retaliations to this crime. Furthermore, we hold Iran, Russia, and Hezbollah directly responsible for the killings as they continue to provide the Syrian regime with weaponry and finance. We urge the Security Council and the United Nations to take every possible step to protect the civilians in Syria and uphold their moral and legal responsibilities, and to accelerate the steps towards referring all those who were involved to the International Criminal Court.

