The Documentation of Kafr Batna Massacre, Eastren .Ghouta in Damascus Suburbs

Massacre's details:

On Sunday 31 March 2013, government forces rocket launchers have intensively shelled Kafr Batna city in Damascus suburbs resulting in casualties and material losses according to SNHR's members.

SNHR's team in Damascus suburbs were able to document the death of 15 citizens including nine children, we also recorded more than 40 injured cases.

The names and pictures of massacre victims:

Mohammad Khair Jadyana/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

AbdulQader Al Halabi/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The child Fadi Ouweider / Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The child Mohammad Abu Al Lail/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The child Ahmad Al Najar/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Rafah Al Najar/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Eman Qal'aji/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Ala'a Qal'aji/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Mariam Qal'aji/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Bara'a Qal'aji/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

The girl Aya Qal'aji/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

Natheer Laila / Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

Saleh Jadyana/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

AbdulGhany Al Najar/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.

Abdul Rahman Al Khabaz/ Damascus suburbs/ Kafr Batna.







Attachments:

First: videos depict the martyrs due to the bombardment















Videos depict the destruction aftermaths in the town due to bombardment:





Second: <u>videos depict the injured</u> due to the bombardment:

Conclusions:

- 1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on Kafr Batna city in Damascus suburbs 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 Yabrood, 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 a 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 massage 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.



