



The Documentation of Mua'damiyet Al Sham Town Massacre in Damascus Suburbs

Mua'damiyet Al Sham:

It is located about several kilometers west of Damascus city, near Daraya city and Al Mazeh Al Dimashqi neighborhood. Its population is 70000.

Mua'damiyet Al Sham is a town center, one of the closest cities to the capital Damascus and one of the most prominent cities in Western Ghouta.

The location on the map:



Incident's details:

On Monday 14 January 2013, government forces warplanes shelled the neighborhood located in the southern Mua'damiyet Al Sham city which is known by Al Bahsas area where the makeshift hospital of Mua'damiyet Al Sham city is located. This neighborhood is a big residential area, a main street for passing IDPs from Daraya to Al Mua'damiyeh and a gathering place of IDPs of Daraya city.





A testimony of eyewitness called (Abu Ra'd) who is still alive:

You can contact with the eyewitness by skype account: m.jamal.mm

“I heard the sound of the airplane in the sky, I started to take photos of the plane. While I was doing that, I was surprised that it dropped two thermobaric missiles. The plane broke sound barrier as I felt that I was flying in the sky due to the power of pressure of the airplane. I heard a very very strong explosion in the next street. I ran with some people to see where the missiles fell, thick dust, destroyed building, and wounded moaning. The sound of crying rose. I was shocked by the horror of the destruction sight. I could not believe that a missile caused this volume of destruction and victims.”

SNHR's team in Damascus suburbs have documented the death of seven civilians including one woman and six children. We also documented the injury of 40 persons, the destruction of six houses in addition to 15 houses that were damaged severely.

The names of massacre victims:

- 1- The child Omar Emad Al Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 2- The girl Maram Emad Al Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 3- The child Mohammad Zain Eyad Al Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 4- The child Mohammad Eyad Al Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 5- The child Mahmoud Eyad Al Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 6- The child Ahmad Eyad A Damarani/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.
- 7- Khadija Ibrahim Abu Zaid/ Damascus suburbs/ Mua'damiyet Al Sham.

Attachments:

1. Video depicts the martyrs who fell as a result of bombardment:





2. Video depicts a girl being pulled out from rubbles



3. The destruction in the neighborhood:



Conclusions:

1. SNHR affirms that the bombardment on Mua'damiyet Al Sham city was indiscriminate and directed against unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces and Al Shabiha have violated the international human rights law which protect the right to life in addition to being committed in non-International armed conflict so it mounts to war crime with all of its elements.
2. SNHR deems what happened in Mua'damiyet Al Sham, 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 its attacks to a 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 regarding what is 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 message 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.

