



2704 Civilians including 746 Children have been killed by Russian Forces “Russia’s Red Square is Tainted with Syrian Blood”

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I. Introduction

Even though Russia’s involvement in Syria was at the request of the Syrian government who still enjoys its legitimacy at the UN even after perpetrating tens of thousands of crimes that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes which consequently suggests that the Russian involvement was legitimate, what is going on in Syria is a non-international armed conflict in which all involved parties must adhere to the rules of the customary international law. Russian forces have sided with the Syrian regime forces and didn’t respect the rules of the customary international laws in tens of documented incidents with evidences and accounts. Therefore, we explicitly accuse the Russian forces of perpetrating tens of crimes that constitute war crimes.

SNHR has published since 30 September 2015, the day when the Russian airstrikes started in Syria, 15 reports that documented incidents of Russian forces bombing civil targets in areas controlled by armed opposition factions or ISIS. These attacks resulted in killings, destruction, and displacement and amount to war crimes.

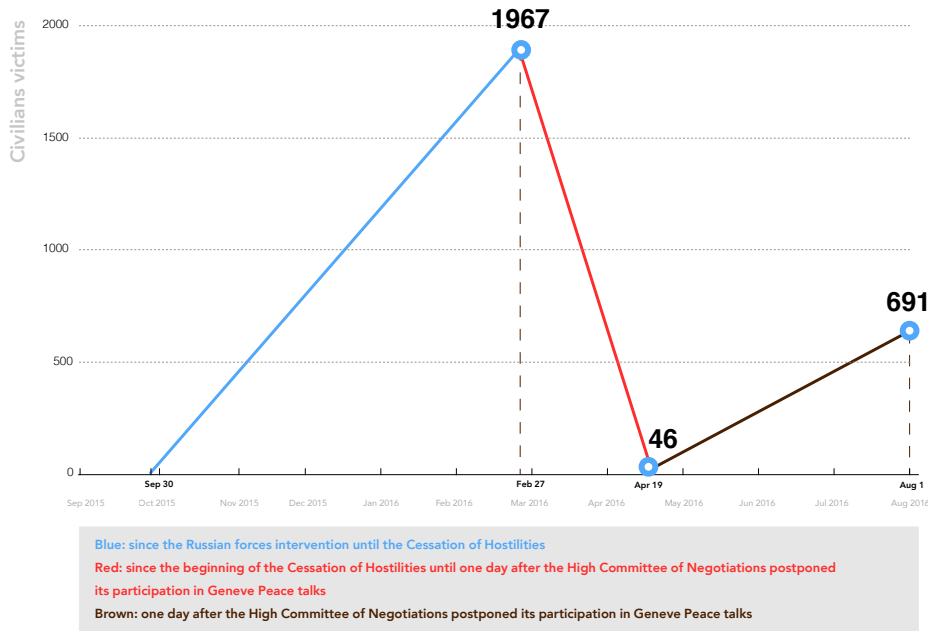
We noticed a decline in the rates of Russian airstrikes after the commencement of the Cessation of Hostilities statement on 27 February 2016. However, when the High Negotiation Committee decided to postpone its participation in Geneva talks on 19 April, 2016, Russian forces resumed bombing areas controlled by armed opposition factions especially in the northern parts of Syria (Aleppo and Idlib) where a military campaign were carried out in Idlib city at the end of May 2016 that resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of residents. Also, Russian





forces assisted the aims of government forces in Aleppo to [besiege the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo](#) which are under the control of armed opposition factions.

Chart of the decrease in toll of victims by Russian forces since the Cessation of Hostilities agreement, and rise after postponing the negotiations



We have been publishing reports periodically and sequentially that record the most notable crimes committed by Russian forces. SNHR teams have worked on documenting and monitoring and documenting the incidents that are reported on via e-mail, social media, and Skype on a daily basis, we then talked to survivors, victims' families, or eyewitnesses where we are going to highlight 15 accounts. We explained the purpose of these interviews for the witnesses who granted us permission to use the information provided by them in this report. Additionally, we reviewed all pictures and videos we received and verified its authenticity. We have copies of all the videos and pictures that have been mentioned in this report.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred and it doesn't highlight the social, economic, or psychological ramifications that have been caused by these violations.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“The Russian government or the Russian parliament haven't asked for an investigation to be conducted regarding all of these crimes. No one even brought that up. This is a blatant indication on the utter indifference to the Syrians' lives that were murdered by Russian forces during its military operations in Syria. We stressed to Mr. Vladimir SAFRONKOV, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations (political affairs), the necessity to launch serious and separate investigations on all the incidents that Russian forces are suspectedly involved in.”

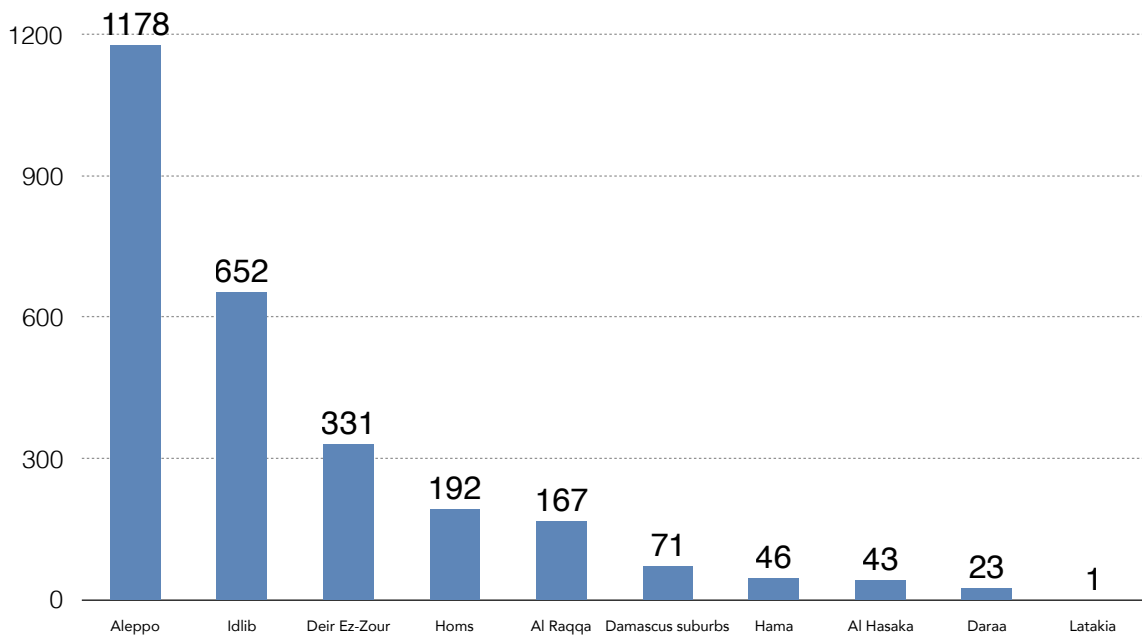




II. Executive Summary

The report covers the death toll that was caused by attacks that are suspectedly Russian between 30 September 2015, the day when the Russian forces' involvement in Syria began, and 1 August 2016. We also, highlighted the most notable incidents that we were able to document whether in areas controlled by armed opposition factions or ISIS. This report and the other 14 reports that have been published give a comprehensive and accurate account on the Russian attacks against civil locations in Syria.

SNHR documented the killing of 2549 civilians including 647 children and 374 women in attacks carried out by allegedly Russian forces. The victims are documented by name, place and date of death, way of killing, and other details. The death toll is distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



II. Details of the Most Notable Incidents by Areas of Control

A. Areas that are under the control of armed opposition factions

Aleppo governorate

Al Hollok neighborhood, Monday 7 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes bombed Al Mafroushat Street in Al Hollok neighborhood using missiles. One of the missiles targeted a building that is used for children education which resulted in the killing of five civilians including two children and two female teachers. Additionally, 10 others were injured.





SNHR contacted Mr. Abu Al Fatih, resident of Al Hollok neighborhood, who told us:

“Russian warplanes bombed a building that we were use to educate children in the neighborhood. The building is located in Al Mafroushat Street behind the dispensary. The bombing was at a time when students were leaving their classrooms which led to a number of deaths among children and the teaching staff. Near the building there was a number of residents queuing for relief aids. The bombing killed one of the people who are in charge of distributing the aids.”

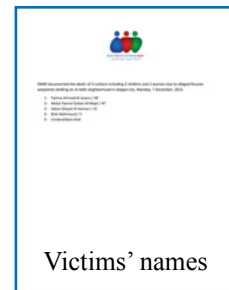
“There are no military centers in the site that was targeted by the bombing. All the victims and wounded were civilians.”

“Al Hollok neighborhood is one of the most populated neighborhoods with residents and IDPs. There is a high percentage of Turkmen-Syrians living in the neighborhood, and I think the Russian bombing deliberately targeted the neighborhood as a retaliation for the Russian warplane that was shot down by Turkey.”

[Video](#) of the destruction in the aftermath of the bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Al Hollok neighborhood.

Einjara town, Monday 11 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes bombed three schools in Einjara in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate: The Martyr Mustafa Rostom elementary school, Einjara high school for boys, and Einjara high school for girls in the southern parts of the city. The bombing resulted in the killing of 17 civilians (15 children and two women) in addition to greatly destroying the three schools and a residential home in Eastern Einjara.



SNHR was able to contact the media activist Mohammad Al Khatib who arrived at the town after the airstrike and told the Network:

“I arrived about 90 minutes later. On that day three schools were bombed. A teacher told me that a massacre happened at the western school after it was targeted with a missile by a Russian warplane, I went there. The missile fell in a classroom that was destroyed completely.”

“Residents told me that they pulled only four dead bodies and lost about 15 others who were reduced to shreds including the female teacher of the targeted





classroom who is an IDP from Homs who call her Al Homsiya “The Homsia girl”. The damage in the other classroom were only material such as a number of windows and furniture being destroyed in addition to the roofs.”

[Video](#) of the destruction in one of the schools of Einjara town

Pictures of the destruction in Mustafa Rostom elementary school and Einjara high school for boys



Hraitan city, Friday 18 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles in Hraitan city; one of the missile was dropped on residential homes near the old police station and the other fell in vicinities of Hraitan city which is closest to Anadan. The bombing resulted in the killing of six civilians including one woman in addition to damaging a number of residential homes.



SN4HR documented the death of 6 civilians including a woman due to alleged Russian warplanes shelling on Hraitan city in Aleppo governorate, Friday, 18 December 2015

1. Muhammad Al Hasani/ Hama city
2. Muhammad Al Hasani/ Aleppo/ Anadan city
3. Ibrahim Abdo Qarem, 21-year-old/ Aleppo/ Kalfi/ Sawaan
4. Hour Hamid, 21-year-old/ Aleppo/ Murrigh town
5. Mustafa Abdul Aziz Hama, 40-year-old
6. Abdul Khaleq Mehee Al Din Hama, 55-year-old

Victims' names

SNHR contacted Mr. Safi, one of Hraitan city residents

“Around 8:00 PM, Russian warplanes targeted us with two missiles. One of the missiles fell on the vicinities of Hraitan city which is the closest to Anadan and the other near the police station and Al Baraa mosque which destroyed a residential building. As a result, six individuals were killed including an IDP from Hama city who owns a small restaurant in the city. Also, a number of residential homes were damaged as well as a civil car that was burned.”

“The explosions were very strong and the warplanes that carried out the bombardment were very fast and are different from the regime warplanes that we got used to in the past





years.”

Al Salloum village, Friday 26 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes targeted a residential home with a missile. The house is resided by Al Razouq family in Al Saloum village, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, eight civilians were killed including one child and three women.”



SNHR documented the death of 8 civilians including a child and 3 women due to alleged Russian warplanes shelling in Salloom village in western Syria, 26 February 2016

1. One child
2. One woman
3. One woman
4. One woman
5. One woman
6. One woman
7. One woman
8. One child

Victims' names

Hraitan city, Friday 27 May 2016

An alleged Russian warplanes fired three missiles that targeted a bakery in Hraitan city, located in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. 11 civilians were killed and 10 others were injured in addition to great damages to the bakery and its equipment.



SNHR documented the death of 11 civilians due to alleged Russian warplanes shelling on Hraitan city in Aleppo governorate, Friday 27 May 2016

1. Mohammad Ahmad Ghazi
2. Abdullah Al Aqash
3. Walid Al Basrah
4. Tareq Al Hajr Baryoon town
5. Ahmad Al Hajr Baryoon town
6. Ramiz Ahmad Baryoon town
7. Faris Mohammad Al Anadan city
8. Abdul Salam, 39-year-old Anadan city
9. Ayman Mohammed Kagal
10. ...11 two unidentified victims in the northern suburb of Aleppo.

Victims' names

Idlib governorate

Mar'and village, Wednesday 9 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles that fell in the agricultural lands in southern Mar'and village in Idlib. As a result, nine civilians (five children and four women) were killed. Additionally, seven houses were destroyed partially.



SNHR documented the death of 9 civilians (5 children and 4 women) due to alleged Russian warplanes shelling on Mar'and village in Idlib governorate, 9 December 2015

1. Mrs. Amn Morad (Um Shaleeq), 50-year-old
2. Mrs. Kaba Mezweq
3. Hala Mohammad, 18-year-old
4. Ahmad Mezweq, 10-year-old
5. The girl Abam Mezweq 10-year-old
6. The child Adnan bin Hussein Haj Khader
7. The girl Hussein Haj Khader's daughter, 5-year-old
8. The girl Hussein Haj Khader's daughter, 8-year-old
9. A woman, Hussein Haj Khader's wife

Victims' names

The village is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front

Dureid, a media activist for the civil defense organization who helped in the process of the pulling out the victims of the bombing, told SNHR:

“We heard the exposition at nearly 12:00 AM, I rushed there along with the civil defense team of Bdama center. A missile fell next to a women and her two daughters who were harvesting olives, all of them were killed and one of the girls' dead body was reduced to shreds. The second missile fell 50 meters away from the first missile and killed six individuals, three women and three children, and destroyed seven houses.”

We stayed until night trying to pull out the victims and a surveillance plane kept soaring about the area the whole time. There are no military centers for the Free Army and all targets were civil.”





[Picture](#) of the victims from Mar'and village after an alleged Russian bombing

Al Qassabiya village, Friday 11 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a missile that targeted a center used for distributing bread and a grocery shop in Al Qassabiya village in Idlib governorate. The bombing resulted in the killing of three children. Also, 25 civilians were injured.

Victims' names:

- 1- Child Ali Eidou Al Shaikh
- 2- Child Sami Abdou Al Sami
- 3- Child Hussein Amer Affara

SNHR contacted Mr. Abdullah Al Affara, member of the local council of Al Qassabiya village, who told the Network:

“I was headed for Friday prayer in the mosque when the missile exploded 100 meters away from me. I went into a nearby cave along with someone I was with and we left after we made sure the airplanes are gone.”

“The missiles have completely destroyed the only two food supply centers in the village. I didn't see any remnants so I thought the missile was thermobaric. I heard that the bombing resulted in the killing of seven individuals including three children. Most of the victims were IDPS from Kafr Nbouda town. Additionally, 30 others were wounded including an amputation case where someone's leg had to be amputated after it was hit by a shrapnel. I think the bombing was Russian because I didn't hear any sound before the bombing and I couldn't see the plane. There is no military center nearby. The bombing's objective was to burn down the last food supply centers in village. They want to take away our bread from us.”

Video showing victims and wounded after the [bombing on Al Qassabiya village](#)

Video showing [the location that was bombed](#) and dead bodies and destruction in the shops after the bombing on Al Qassabiya village





Sarmada town, Tuesday 12 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles that targeted residential homes to the north of Sarmada circle. 22 civilians were killed including seven children and three women. Additionally, no less than seven residential buildings and four shops were destroyed almost completely.



SNHR documented the death of 22 civilians including 7 children and 3 women due to alleged Russian warplanes firing at least 10 missiles in the town of Sarmada, Hama, on January 12th.

1. Mohammed Jaber Salameh
2. Mustafa Khalaf Al-Sayid
3. Mohammed Ali Salameh
4. Ahmad Al-Murayghal
5. M. M. Salameh
6. The girl from Sarmada
7. The girl from Sarmada
8. The girl from Sarmada
9. The girl from Sarmada
10. The girl from Sarmada
11. The girl from Sarmada
12. The girl from Sarmada
13. The girl from Sarmada
14. The girl from Sarmada
15. The girl from Sarmada
16. The girl from Sarmada
17. The girl from Sarmada
18. The girl from Sarmada
19. The girl from Sarmada
20. The girl from Sarmada
21. The girl from Sarmada
22. The girl from Sarmada

Victims' names

Sarmada town is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.

Salah Qojou, a media activist, visited the location that was targeted and told SNHR:

“I heard a strong explosion about 2:15 PM. I went to the location that was targeted. I was four kilometers away. The bombing targeted a residential area that is located 200 meters away to the north of Sarmada circle. 200 meters away from the Judiciary House that is run by Al Nussra Front, and 60 meters away from two schools. I counted more than 10 buildings that were destroyed completely and no less than 15 cars. I heard that about 30 were killed.”

“I saw headless dead bodies of children and scattered body parts. The bombing was with three thermobaric missiles on a vital area where shops, schools, a restaurant, and a Judiciary House are located.”

“A survivor told me that he felt great pressure at the time of the bombing as if the air is running out which why the bombing was probably thermobaric.”

“There is no military centers in the targeted area. The closest military point is 1 kilometers away. The Judiciary House, which is run by Al Nussra Front, is like a court for civil proceedings and there were a lot of civilians there. The Judiciary House was about 200 meters away from the location of the bombing.”

SNHR contacted the local media activist Abu Mazen Al Tellawi who visited the targeted area and told SNHR:

“My place of work is about 500 meters away. I heard the sound of the bombing that targeted the market and the location of the court.”

“I went there the next day. I saw civil defense members gathering body parts from under rubbles. The destruction was huge. About 13 house fronts on either sides were destroyed. I asked the residents about the incident and they told me they didn't notice the place that fired and left the area quickly. This suggests that the bombing was Russian.”

“Even though Al Nussra Front controls the town heavily, the targeted area was empty of any military centers for the Front.”





Um Abdullah, a resident of the Termanein village told SNHR of what she saw:

“between 2:30-3:00 PM I heard a strong sound of a missile exploding. The whole house shook and the windows shattered. I heard the bombing targeted two houses 300 meters away from me. There was a meeting for leaders of Ahrar Al Sham faction and Al Nusra Front leaders in one of the houses. The other house was resided by Jabran family which is the family of one of the Free Army leaders. The missile fell directly on the house in which the family lives. However, both of the houses were destroyed completely. Also, five other houses were partially destroyed. 12 individuals at least were killed in the bombing who were rushed to Bab Al Hawa and Al Dana hospitals.”

“What made me think that the bombing was by Russian warplanes is the magnitude of the explosion and, size of the destruction and the great altitude at which the warplanes were soaring when the missile was dropped. Also, our village is on the borders and usually only Russian warplanes soar above it.”

“There are no military centers in our village except for two checkpoints at the entrance of the village from Darat Ezza city’s side and the other checkpoint is from Al Dana town’s side.”

Video of [the great destruction](#) that resulted from a missile bombing by alleged Russian warplanes

Pictures of the destruction after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes





Idlib city, Monday 30 May 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles in different neighborhoods of Idlib city over the course of no more than 30 minutes. 29 civilians including 12 children and six women were killed in these attacks. Additionally, a number of vital civil facilities were destroyed.

The city is jointly controlled by armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front.

First incident: Alleged Russian warplanes fired a missile that targeted the area of Al Kastana circle resulting in the killing of 15 individuals and the destroying of a number of buildings. The area saw a mass flee due to the bombing.

SNHR contacted Mr. Omar Qaddour, media activist from Binnish city who visited the targeted area and told SNHR:

“I headed to the city when I heard the sounds of a bombing. I heard via my handheld transceiver that the Russian warplanes took off from Hmeimem air-base and landed on a bridge to the east of the city. I was able to distinguish the bombing that targeted Al Kastana circle, where the largest massacre took place, and the bombing that targeted Idlib-Saraqeb road near the southern bridge and also the bombing on the vicinities of the national hospital which I filmed. The warplanes were soaring at a very high altitude and didn't come down to bomb which confirms that they were Russians.”

“I saw destruction at the building of Sham Emergency Institution and the vicinities of the national hospital, and I saw one of the victims. At Al Kastana circle, 14 victims were pulled out as I heard from the civil defense teams there, and I saw them pulling out a child from the rubbles. All the targeted areas are civil areas and there is no presence of any Free Army faction.”

Second incident: Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles at the vicinities of the national hospital; one of the missiles fell near a building called Al Ashqar building to kill 14 individuals while the other missile fell near Sham Emergency Institution near the entrance of the internal medicine department at the national hospital. Four ambulances belonging to Sham Emergency Institution were damaged in addition to damages to the nearby buildings.





Muslim Al Sayed Eissa, a media activist, arrived at the targeted area after the bombing and told SNHR:

“I was one of the firsts to arrive at the vicinity area of the national hospital after it was targeted by two missiles. One of the missiles fell on the main street between the residential buildings and the other fell near Al Ashqar building where Al Ashqar pharmacy is located. The building was destroyed completely and medical teams pulled out directly 12 victims and more than 12 wounded including well-known individuals such as a lawyer from Izzdin family, a female pharmacist, and a doctor from Al Ashqar family. The bombing was carried out by Russia warplanes that didn't break the sound barrier and bombed from high altitude.”

Picture of the destruction of the residential building after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Al Kastana circle area



[Picture](#) shows the damages to the ambulances of Sham Emergency Institution after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on the vicinity of the national hospital in Idlib city on 30 May 2016. Source of the pictures: Dr. Abulwalid, director of Sham Emergency Institution.

Video showing civil defense teams pulling out victims from the rubbles after allegedly





Russian warplanes on [Idlib city](#).

Damascus suburbs governorate

Hamouriya town, Thursday 24 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles targeting the center of the town, where the market and residential neighborhoods are located, to kill 23 civilians including nine children and two women. Additionally, the bombing cause fires in shops and damages to schools that are out of commission due to a previous bombing.



SNHR documented the death of 23 civilians including 9 children and 2 women due to alleged Russian warplanes in Hamouriya town in Damascus suburbs, on December 24th.

1. The child Abdul-Hamid Muhammad Al-Masri
2. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
3. The child Youssef Youssef
4. The child Ahmad Youssef Al-Hamad
5. The child Muhammad Fadiha Abu-Trade
6. The child Ahmad Muhammad Al-Hamad
7. The child Muhammad Ali
8. The child Muhammad Ali
9. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
10. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
11. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
12. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
13. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
14. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
15. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
16. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
17. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
18. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
19. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
20. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
21. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
22. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad
23. The child Ahmad Al-Hamad

Victims' names

Abu Wesam Al Ghoutani, a media activist and a survivor, told SNHR of what he witnessed in the massacre:

“Four missiles targeted the middle of the city at approximately 1:00 PM. Each missile managed to destroy five houses. One of the missiles was 200 meters away from my house yet the windows shattered and the doors broke. Also, there was huge destruction in a number of buildings and fires in a number of shops and more than 60 wounded and victims whose bodies were reduced to shreds.”

“The size of the destruction and the power of the explosion is what made me believe that bombing was by Russian warplanes.”

Khaled Al Umari, a media activist and an eyewitness, told SNHR:

“We didn't hear the plane but we heard four missiles exploding. One of the missiles was 70 meters away from me. The destructive impact was really huge. The destructive impact of each missile covered approximately an area of a 50-meter radius. One of the missiles fell in the middle of Hamouriya market. Residential buildings were destroyed and a school was also damaged but it was already out of commission because of a previous bombing carried out by the regime. The bombing was likely Russian as we didn't hear the warplanes which a distinct trait in the Russian warplanes and the magnitude of the exposition caused by missile also suggests that. There are no military centers in Hamouriya city and all the targeted areas are civil areas.”

Videos of [the great destruction](#) in [Hamouriya city market](#) and fires in the shops





Homs

Al Ghanto village, Friday 12 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles at Al Ghanto village, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, 17 civilians were killed including four children, one woman, and a paramedic. In addition, no less than 8 others were injured.

One of the missiles targeted a cheese factory in northern Ghanto village which caused a partial destruction, while the second missile targeted a building located behind the factory where people gathered to treat the wounded from the first bombing which resulted in a massacre. This targeting was clearly deliberate on the Russian forces' part and is an exercise of the double-hit policy (a strategy used by Russian forces and the Syrian regime) where an area is targeted before the attackers wait for a few minutes for people and paramedics to gather and then a second strike is carried out on the very same point in order to kill as many residents and paramedics as possible and make people afraid of helping each other.”



Victims' names



Picture of Mr. Osama Al Khatib, a member of the civil defense team who was killed in the bombing on Al Ghantou village in Homs

Abu Rateb Al Homs, local media activist in Al Ghantou village, told SNHR:

“I was able to see the dense smoke that resulted from the bombing even though I was standing far away. I went to the hospital where the wounded were taken and heard through talking to them that the warplane was Russian and that it targeted the cheese factory in the north of the village with a missile that partially destroyed the factory which is still operating nonetheless. People gathered to treat the wounded and a second missile fell a few minutes later on a building behind the factory which was the cause of the big massacre where 15 people were killed in addition to the paramedic Osama Al Khatib. The second bombing was very great that it destroyed six houses completely. The targeted area is a civil area where there is no presence of any military centers nearby.”

Video of an [alleged Russian warplane](#) in the sky of Al Ghantou village





Daraa governorate

Al Hrak city, Sunday 14 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a missile in northern Al Hrak city which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The missile targeted a tent where a family resides and killed six civilians including two children and one woman. Additionally, a tractor and a civil car were damaged and about 10 sheep were killed.



SNHR documented the death of 6 civilians including 2 children and a woman due to alleged Russian warplanes striking on Al Hrak city in Daraa governorate, 14 February 2016.

1. Hसन Al Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad
2. Mohammed Owan Al Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad
3. Saad Owan/ Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad
4. Doriyeh Owan Al Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad
5. The girl Hadeen Mohammed Owan Al Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad
6. The girl Hajar Mohammed Owan Al Faraj/ Daraa/ Al Lajat/ Warad

Saher Al Dahar, local media activist in Al Hrak city, told SNHR:

Victims' names

“Around 11:00 PM I saw a warplanes carrying out an airstrike in the sky of Al Hrak city. The warplanes was soaring at a very high altitude and I was barely able to hear it. A missile was dropped on the agricultural lands between Al Hrak city and Izra' town in Daraa governorate. The missile fell about 700 meters to the north of the city. I heard that the bombing targeted a tent for Bedouins IDPs from Al Lajat town which resulted in the killing of the family members who were the father, mother, and their two children in addition to a relative who was visiting them at the time. The only one left was a child who was herding sheep in a far place when the bombing happened. Also, about ten sheep were killed and a tractor and a civil car were burned. There are no military targeted in the targeted area, their target was the IDPs' tent.”

Picture of the destruction after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Al Hrak city



Victims' names





[Picture](#) of dead sheep after a missile was fired by alleged Russian warplanes in Al Hrak city

B. Areas controlled by ISIS

Der Ez-Zour governorate

Al Hamidiya neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city, Tuesday 22 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplane targeted Al Hamidiya neighborhood located in Deir Ez-Zour city and is under the control of ISIS. As a result, 12 civilians were killed including three children and six women.



Victims' names

Al Hussan village, Saturday 30 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes targeted Al Hussan village, located in the western suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour and is under the control of ISIS, with missiles resulting in the killing of 20 civilians including six children and seven women.



Victims' names

Al Raqqa governorate

Al Raqqa city, Friday 22 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles that targeted Saif Al Dawla Street in Al Raqqa city that is held by ISIS. 17 civilians were killed including eight children and four women. Additionally, 10 others were injured.



Victims' names

Aleppo governorate

Maskaneh town, Tuesday 15 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles that targeted a urban market in Maskaneh, held by ISIS, near Aleppo international road. The bombing resulted in the killing of 28 civilians including five women. Also, 35 others were wounded and a number of cars and motorbikes were damaged.



Victims' names

SNHR contacted Mr. Attya, an eyewitness, who told us:





“Around 12:00 PM, two Russian warplanes carried out two airstrikes, the first one targeted the urban market and the second one targeted Al Rayhaniya neighborhood. At the time, I was near the market which is located near the governmental complex on Aleppo city highway in which food products, vegetables, and livestock are offered for sale in addition to motorbikes.”

“The pressure caused by the explosion was very great that it tossed me a few meters in the air and I sustained minor bruises. Afterwards, civil defense and medical teams affiliated with ISIS’s service administration arrived and started taking wounded to medical points and hospital in Manbej and Al Raqqa.”

“The scene was horrifying, body parts and torn and burnt dead bodies were everywhere. All the victims were civilians who come to the market from our city or the suburbs. There are no military centers near the market.”

Pictures showing the aftermath of the bombing on Maskaneh city



IV. Attachments

You can read [all our previous reports](#) that document attacks we believe it was carried out by Russian forces on the following URL





V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Legal conclusions

1- The Russian regime has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolution 2139, Resolution 2254, and Resolution 2268 that supports the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Certainly, all what was included in the report is violations of the Cessation of Hostilities statement that was declared on 27 February 2016 and mainly the willful killing (Rome Statute, Article 8) which constitute war crimes.

2- We affirm that the bombardment operations mentioned in the report have targeted armless civilians. Therefore, Russian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law that protect the right to life. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which qualify as a war crime in which all elements were fulfilled.

3- The attacks included in the report, which were carried out by the Russian regime, are a violation of the customary international law as the projectiles were fired at populated areas rather than a specific military target.

4- The bombardment operations have caused collateral damages that included casualties, injuries, and great damages to civil facilities. There are great indicators that suggest that the damage was extremely extensive compared with the expected military benefit.

Recommendations

To the Security Council:

- The Security Council must find solutions in case its Resolutions were violated by rogue regimes such as the Syrian regime and permanent members such as the Russian Federation.
- The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court, and all those who are involved must be held accountable including the Russian regime that perpetrated war crimes as it has been proven.
- The Security Council must instill peace and security in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to save the Syrians' lives, culture, and arts from being destroyed, stolen, and ruined.





- Expand the sanctions to include the Russian and Iranian regimes, who are directly involved in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Syrian people, and anyone else involved.
- To explicitly and clearly condemn the use of internationally-prohibited weapons such as cluster munition by the Russian Federation and take serious steps in case of reoccurrence.
To the Russian government
- To conduct serious investigations in regard to the massacres that was possibly carried out by forces affiliated with the Russian government.
- Cease the use of internationally-prohibited weapons even in the case of war such as cluster munitions.
- Cease the killing of civilians and the targeting of neighborhoods and civil facilities and stop using Fateh Al Sham Front (Previously Al Nusra Front) and ISIS as a pretext for these actions, and present concrete evidences that prove the presence of Al Nusra and ISIS fighters in the incidents included in this report.
- Compensate the victims and reconstruct all that have been destroyed by the Russian forces.
- Contribute concretely to achieve a political transition towards democracy in the Syrian state in a manner that preserve the unity of the Syrian lands and remedy the catastrophes that took place in Syria.

To the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

- To investigate and follow-up with the massacres that have been allegedly carried out by Russian forces.
- Publish the findings of these investigations in the periodic reports.

To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights must submit a report for the Human Rights Council and the other organs of the UN on the crimes that have been perpetrated by the Russian forces or it will lose its credibility as a human rights





defender and be reduced to a political tool. We hope that this happens soon.

To the international community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability. Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect it from the daily killings and siege and increase the support the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated in local courts regarding in these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article VII of the Rome Statute must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- To renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- To work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

Acknowledgment

Our thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who enriched this report majorly.

