

# Civilian's Death Toll due to the International Coalition Airstrikes

International Coalition Aviation Killed 225 Civilians, including 65 Children and 37 Women



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## I. Introduction

Since 23 September 2014, International Coalition forces joined the four major conflict parties in Syria (i.e. government forces, Kurdish forces, Extremist Islamic Groups and Armed Opposition Members). These military operations that are carried by the International Coalition are usually associated with humanitarian and materials damages and loss, as we documented earlier in previous reports. These reports documented civilian casualties, who were affected by the coalition's shelling, and did not document the number ISIL's victims since they do not announce their casualties' numbers. No organization can claim that they have secret agents inside ISIL or whether they cooperate with an ISIL member, therefore we believe that any statistics about ISIL's casualties are counterfeit; since the documentation process involves victims' names, pictures, background information, and details about their death. However, in certain incidents limited number of ISIL victims can be identified. It is worth mentioning that this obstacle in documenting ISIL's victims is due to the foreign identities of their members. Syrian nationals can be reached and information about their death or injury can be verified and confirmed, not as ISIL's foreign members.

It is noteworthy to mention that even though all our previous reports were received by relevant authorities, the US Central Command only acknowledged the death of two Syrian children due to the International Coalition shelling.

Quoting American Officials: "On the dawn of 6 November 2014, the International Coalition forces raided some cities adjacent to the Syrian-Turkish borders. The shelling targeted four military headquarters for An-Nusra front which caused the death of two children; one of them was killed with her father who was an armed member of An-Nusra front and lived with his family in a house next to the agricultural bank. The victim's house was considered a military headquarters for An-Nusra Front. The victim's wife and son were seriously injured." This incident was documented in SNHR report "New Attacks by the International Coalition Forces against Civilians and Targets Ahrar Al Sham Brigade for the First Time"

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, said:

"It took us six month to investigate this incident. On 21 May 2015, a statement that included a public apology was issued: "We regret the unintentional loss of lives," said Lieutenant General James Terry, head of the US-led campaign.

We believe that this statement is strong and significant, however, it is not enough especially amid a number of other committed incidents. If further investigations would take the same amount of time, then we need a great number of years to prove all the facts. Efforts must be intensified, taking into consideration the International Human Rights Law, in parallel with the military operations."

# **II. Executive Summary:**

This report aims to document the shelling incidents caused by the International Coalition since 18 February 2015 up till 31 July 2015. This period of time was characterized by the increase of civilian casualty where SNHR documented 24 shelling incidents on four governorates. As a result, 125 individuals were killed, detailed as follows:

- 122 civilians, including 55 children and 26 women
- 3 armed individuals from the Armed Opposition Groups

#### Distribution of the shelling incidents according to the Syrian governorates:

- **Raqqa:** 10 shelling incidents that resulted in the death of 19 individuals, including 4 children and 4 women.
- **Aleppo**: 7 shelling incidents that resulted in the death of 82 individuals, including 43 children, 20 women and 3 armed me.
- Al Hassaka: 3 shelling incidents that resulted in the death of 6 individuals, including 3 children and 2 women.
- **Deir Al Zour:** 2 shelling incidents that resulted in the death of 6 individuals, including 3 children and 2 women
- <u>Idlib</u>: 2 shelling incidents that resulted in the death of 12 individuals including 6 children.

SNHR issued a previous report entitled "<u>Civilian's Death Toll due to the International Coalition Airstrikes</u>" on 10 March 2015. This report covered the shelling incidents from 23 September 2014 up till 17 February 2015. Therefore, the total number of civilian casualties has reached 225 civilians, including 65 children, 37 women, and 3 armed opposition members.

We would like to note that there was one shelling incident that happened before 18 February 2015 and was not included in the previous report since we were still investigating it. After the follow-up and investigations were finished, we included it in this current report.

In addition, we issued a special report about the eastern Aleppo Well Massacre where we documented the death of 64 civilians, including 31 children and 19 women.

SNHR assures that these records are the bare minimum of what we were able to document regarding the obstacles and challenges we face in our investigation and gathering information process, and communicating with eyewitnesses in remote areas. Most of the families are afraid of ISIL's tyranny or the Kurd "Self-management" forces' danger. Therefore, the investigations we conduct are constantly revised and updated considering the presence of new evidence and details.

## III. Coalition's Pattern of Attack on ISIL

We noticed a change in the targeting pattern of the International Coalition shelling before and after November 2014.

## The First Phase: From 23 September 2014 till January 2015:

During this period of time, the International Coalition focused on targeting ISIL's facilities in remote areas, where ISIL's members were deployed. The coalition shelled oil facilities and supply routes. However, the US-led alliance also shelled locations in populated cities and towns. On 28 December 2014, the coalition forces shelled the Saraya building in Al Bab City in Aleppo where 51 prisoners were killed, including two children and two women. (A Saraya is government building which is considered to have particular administrative importance in a region or governorate).

## The Second Phase: From January 2015 and up till now:

The international Coalition forces started to shell cities and towns that are controlled by ISIL and caused them to lose control over large areas just like what happened in the north-east of Aleppo suburbs in Ein Arab City (known also as Kobani) and the south-west suburbs of Al Hassaka where ISIL lost almost 70% of the areas it controlled before. Also, ISIL lost control over the northern suburbs of Al Raqqa City. ISIL's control was limited to Al Shadadi City and its suburbs, Nahiyat Al Houl region and some town in Abdul Aziz Mountain southern of Al Hassaka.

In Raqqa ISIL lost control over 20% of the city and its suburbs, Tal Abyad region, Nahiyat Sulouk and its suburbs, Ein Issa and Tal Al Saman regions, however, ISIL still controls the rest of Al Raqqa City and its suburbs.

In different areas, the shelling pace was less and did not affect ISIL. They are still controlling eastern Aleppo suburbs (Al Bab City, Minbij, Jarables, Maskana and its towns) and north-east of Aleppo suburbs where ISIL still controls Dabek and Souran towns.

In Deir Al Zour, ISIL maintained its control over the city's suburbs and neighborhoods. However, the International Coalition did not target ISIL inside Syria where ISIL military convoys crossed open areas passing from their stronghold region to Palmyra City and its suburbs in Homs. Thus, it might seem that the International Coalition targets ISIL in some regions and turns the blind eye over it in different areas. This strategy is still vague up till now, as the ultimate goals of these strikes have not been declared yet.

We believe that the International Coalition has succeeded in targeting ISIL in north and east of Syria and forced them to withdraw from regions we previously mentioned. However, we find this success modest to a certain degree compared with the coalition's military strength and the ongoing period of time since 10 months ago.

We believe that the absence of a comprehensive strategy in targeting and eliminating ISIL will extend to years, and the past ten months are a clear proof. Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that the International Coalition's almost absolute dependence on the Kurdish Democratic Union Party in different regions had its adverse effects. The Kurdish party launched a forced ethnic displacement campaign towards Arabs, Turkmens, and Assyrians and these actions shall push people towards ISIL.

# **IV. Shelling Incidents:**

## A. Raqqa Governorate:

#### A1 - Arbeed Town - 10 June 2015:

The International Coalition aviation shelled a house in one of the farms in Arbeed town in Raqqa suburbs with a rocket. The house was destroyed and civilians Youssef Mohamad Al Khalaf, born in 1972, and his two wives, Houriya Houssein Al Rifaee, born in 1982, and Oush Al Sabri, born in 1973, were killed.

SNHR communicated with Youssed Al Khalaf's family who stated that he and his family were displaced from Naheyt Sulouk to their farm in Arbeed town that was under ISIL control. The farm was located 200 meters away from main road and according to the victim's family there were no ISIL military facilities nearby. SNHR was not able to verify these allegations.

#### <u>A2- Nahiyat Sulouk Town — 19 July 2015</u>

International Coalition aviation targeted a small transportation vehicle (three wheel carriage) with a rocket next to Khanier town on Sulouk – Raqqa highway, that is under ISIL's control. The carriage was burned along with its driver, (Mohamad Al Hamdou, also known as Abu Abdo). The victim was civilian from Hamam Al Turkman town in Raqqa suburbs and died on his way back to his town after he bought food for his family.

## <u>A3- Arbeed Town — 19 July 2015:</u>

International Coalition warplanes shelled Arbeed town south of Nahiyat Sulouk region in Raqqa at 1 a.m. with two rockets. The shelling targeted a house that belonged to one of the civilians, named Adel Al Khrfan, a disabled man. Two women were killed and the building collapsed.





The town's residents told us that the Kurd "self-management" forces prevented them from pulling out the victims' bodies from under the rubble. The bodies were pulled out 5 days later.

Arbeed is 4 Km away from Nahiyat Sulouk town and It is considered one of ISIL's withdrawal lines. In June Nahiyat Sulouk and the nearby towns witnessed clashes between ISIL and Kurd "self-management" forces. The International Coalition raided the region extensively and targeted ISIL's locations, according to the residents.

Some eyewitnesses told us that they heard the International Coalition warplanes hovering around when the house in conjunction with the shelling sound. The shelling targets were precise and the rockets destroyed the house and turned it to rubble.

SNHR spoke to the victim's son, Mohamad Adel Al Kharfan, born in 1994, and he told us the details of what happened:

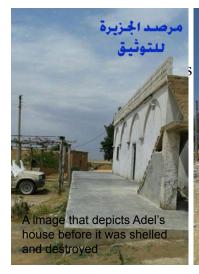
"On 15 Jue 2015, we were forced to leave our town Arbeed by an order from the Kurd "self-management" party and we were ordered to evacuate the town regarding the probability of having ISIL members invade of the town. ISIL members were in Nahiyat Sulouk, 4 Km away from us.

We left the town and went to "Karyat Al Balwa" desert that was 5 Km away from us. We sat up a tent to live in until we can go back to our house. My father's health situation was difficult since he could not walk or move and started to deteriorate and worsen during the time we spent in the tent. My mother decided to go back to the town to ask the Kurd "self-management" forces to let my father go back to the house. She went with my cousin's wife, Sara Al Abdulla on 18 June 2015 and after midnight on 19 June 2015, while we were asleep in our tent, we heard a violent explosion sound proceeded with the sound of the International Coalition warplanes. We woke up from the violent sound we had heard and went outside the tent to see what happened. We saw a huge fire that came from our town and heard explosion sounds. I was terrified and worried about my mother since she did not come back later that day. In the morning, one of my relatives went to our town to inquire about my mother and cousin's wife and he did not return until four days later. He told us that he was arrested by the Kurd "self-management" forces and informed us of my mother's death along with my cousin's wife on the Friday night when the coalition shelled the our house. The next day we heard that the Kurdish forces withdrew from the city. We went back to our town to find our house completely destroyed and turned to rubble. There were shrapnel left from the rockets that shelled our house and we pulled out my mother's body and Sara's."

#### The victims' names:

Mrs. Khawla Yaseen Al Ayoub: born in 1968, Adel Al Kharfan's wife (who is disabled and cannot move), the owner of the shelled house. She has six children.

Kinda (1988), Alya (1993), Fatima (1992), Mohamad (1994), Hisham (1995), and Abdulhamid (1998). Mrs. Sara Houssien Al Abdullah: born in 1963, Ismael Al Kharfan's wife, and had four children.







#### A4- Al Ferdous Neighborhood — 4 July 2015

On 4 p.m. the International Coalition aviation shelled an ISIL vehicle with a rocket while it was passing through Al Ferdous neighborhood in the middle of Al Raqqa City next to Hamidat Al Taher School. The rocket shrapnel killed 7 civilians who were passersby, including 2 children. 10 others were injured, including 3 children.

Some of the residents in the neighborhood told us that they did not hear or see the warplane directly before the shelling, however the coalition warplane kept hovering around intensely all day. It is worth mentioning that the only warplanes that hover around in Al Raqqa sky is the coalition's warplanes. In addition, the type and the accuracy of the weapons indicate that the coalition forces are responsible for this incident, not forgetting that this targeting pattern was repeated ever since the International Coalition started their operations.



SNHR spoke to Abu Nawf, age 28, a resident of Al Ferdous neighbourhood who witnessed the massacre:

"The International Coalition warplanes were hovering during the morning time, but the warplane's sound was not heard at noon. At 3:30 p.m. while I was leaving Al Nawawi Mosque, I heard an explosion sound that came from Hamiyadat Al Taher School (which is 250 meters away from the mosque). I saw smoke rising from the school and I went with some people to the explosion site. I was a dark Jeep that was precisely targeted with a rocket. Smoke was rising from the car and some ISIL members were trying to pull out dead bodies from it. I also saw a yellow taxi that was hit with shrapnel from the missile. We pulled out 5 individuals from it, including 3 children who were injured and one of them died. There was

also a KIA car that had an Mzout (Diesel) tank tied to it from the back. It had two persons inside it and the residents pulled them out and took them with an ambulance to the hospital. I also saw a motorcycle 30 meters away from the black car that was shelled. Next to the motorcycle a man laid on the ground and was bleeding. This neighbourhood is considered a densely populated area and the nearest ISIL headquarters is almost 300 meters away from the shelling site. Afterwards, ISIL members dispersed us fearing the shelling of the International Coalition one more time.

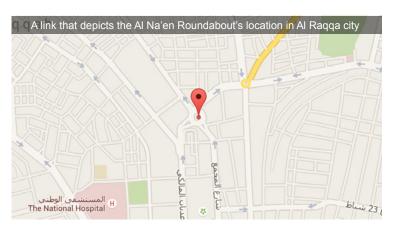
The following <u>link</u> includes the victims' names and information, in addition to a number of images that depict the shelling aftermath and injured people:

## <u>A5- Al Houmrat Region — 5 July 2015:</u>

The International Coalition shelled Al Hamrat region in Al Raqaa city. The shelling resulted in the death of a child called Mohamad Hamad Al Ka'asi, born in 2000)

## A6- Al Na'em Roundabout in Ragga — 7 July 2015:

At 9:15 the International Coalition targeted an ISIL vehicle around Al Na'em Roundabout in the middle of Al Raqqa City next to Al Shefaa Hospital. The shelling killed one civilian called Ezz Al Deen Al Nazal Al Na'emi, born in 1988. Also, 7 civilians were injured, including a woman and a child. The hospital's windows were damaged and some commercial shops.



SNHR interviewed one of the city's residents called Abu Mazen:

"My house is 1 Km away from Al Na'em Roundabout. I heard a far explosion sound and before it I heard the sound of a warplane hovering around and its sound was scary. I went directly to Al Na'em Roundabout and saw an ISIL car on fire. The firefighters were trying to put down the fire and the ambulances transported civilians to the hospital, amongst them were a woman and a child. That is when I learned from people close to ISIL members that the car had transported ISIL leaders, one of them was Iraqi. Al Shifaa Hospital was 10 meters away from the shelling site and the damages was restricted to some broken windows and shops."

An <u>image</u> that depicts three injured persons that was published by ISIL on social media.

## <u>A7- Al Ragga City — 11 July 2015:</u>

The International Coalition shelled a sugar factory in the north of Al Raqqa City which resulted in the death of one civilian called Issa Al Hmaydan, a displaced citizen from Nahiyet Sulouk.

#### A8- Al Ragga City — 11 July 2015:

International Coalition warplanes launched a rocket on Mazra't Al Omriya Bridge that is under ISIL's control. The bridge was a pedestrian crossing that connects the northern suburbs with the city. It was almost completely destroyed. As a result, a child called Amjad Mohamad Al Shahad, born in 2007, was killed.

#### A9- Al Ragga City — 11 July 2015:

International Coalition warplanes shelled Minklak Bridge in Homrat Naser region, that was under ISIL's control. The bridge was pedestrian crossing that connects the eastern suburbs with the city. It was almost completely destroyed. As a result, one civilian, Sari Ibrahim Al Akar, was killed.

## <u>A10- Al Sibaheya Town — 18 July 2015:</u>

International Coalition warplanes launched a rocket on an ISIL checkpoint in Al Sibahyi town that is under ISIL's control, western of Raqqa city. Shrapnel from the rocket hit a nearby house next to the checkpoint and killed a civilian, Omar Houwaydi Al Moubsat, born in 1993. His brother, born in 1998, was injured. As a result, he had a broken pelvis and he was injured in his chest and abdomen. An image of the victim Omar Houwaydi Al Moubsat.

# B. Aleppo Governorate:

## **B1- Mitras Town in Eastern Aleppo Suburbs:**

This town is controlled by ISIL and witnessed clashes between ISIL and the PYD Kurdish Party:

# This town was shelled twice by International Coalition Forces:

#### The First Shelling Incident – 19 April 2015:

International Coalition forces launched three rockets on Mitras town. Two of the rockets fell on an empty house that belonged to Mr. Hassan Barhu, and the house was destroyed. The third rocket was launched half an hour later on the valley that is 300 meters away from the town.



As a result, an old Sheppard called Dimmo Al Hassan Dimmo was killed and 5 of his cattle were killed, and 5 others were injured by the rocket shrapnel. The shelling displaced the town's residents since it was the first time the town was targeted by the coalition warplanes.

SNHR spoke to Mohamad Dimmo Al Hassan Dimmo, the victim's son. He was in the town and witnessed the shelling:

"On Sunday afternoon, I was with my family in my house. We heard a very powerful explosion sound in conjunction with two intense shelling sounds. We felt the ground shaking beneath us and I left the house to find out what happened. The shelling targeted Hassan Barhu house with two rockets, which was 50 meters away from my house. There were orphans living in the house and one of them was a child with special needs. Thanks God that the house was empty and no one got injured, but the house was completely destroyed. It was the first time our town was shelled. Our town did not have any ISIL military facility but the surrounding regions always witnessed continuous clashes between ISIL and the PYD Kurdish forces.

Due to the shelling, we thought about leaving the town. My father decided to leave first with the cattle herd that we owned and said that he will take the cattle towards the valley that is 300 meters away from the town. I took my mother, wife and children and used our 3-wheeled carriage to leave the town. However, I tried to hide in an abandoned house until the warplanes stops hovering around. That was when I heard a very powerful explosion sounds from the valley. Soon later, one of the town's residents told me that my father was killed in the valley due to the shelling. I waited for two hours until the planes stopped hovering around and then I left to see my father. His head was smashed completely. 5 sheep were killed and 5 others were injured. The rocket caused a great hole in the ground, almost two meters deep. I buried my father's body in the town and left it with my family and all the residents, almost 200 civilians."

A <u>video</u> published by the coalition forces that clarifies the location that was targeted in the same date in Al Mitras town.

An <u>image</u> of the victim Dimmo Al Hassan Al Dimmo.

Smoke caused by the shelling on Al Mitras town



#### The Second Shelling Incident – 26 April 2015:

At 11 a.m. the International Coalition forces raided the town and targeted one of the houses in the town with two rockets. As a result, the house was completely destroyed and the surrounding houses were partially damaged. Three persons were killed, Mr. Hassan Dimmo, his son and a 6 years old child.

According to the residents' eyewitnesses' testimonies with SNHR, the shelling was similar to what the town had witnessed on 19 April. We were not able to verify the residents' statements about not having ISIL military facilities in the town. However, the coalition has to justify the shelling on the town since it caused material and human loss.

SNHR spoke to Mohamad Al Dimmo, the victim's son, who witnessed the shelling:

"We left the town the first time it was shelled by coalition forces. A week later, we went back to our town to check our houses and we were 40 individuals. At 10 a.m. I heard two consecutive shelling sounds in conjunction with the coalition warplanes sounds. I tried to hide then I left the town. My uncle Hassan and his son Ibrahim did not leave with us and few days later I came back once more to the town after the clashes and shelling cooled down. I found my cousin's body, Ibrahim, lying on the ground next to the house and dogs snatched his face. We also found the body of a child called Amouna Al Alewi Al Hamadi, and pulled out my uncle's body from under the rubble; his head was decapitated and his limbs were dismemberd. The destruction in the city was horrible and massive. The town's school was completely destroyed, in addition to a number of houses who were destroyed completely."

SNHR spoke to child Mohamad Hassan Ibrahim Al Dimmo, born on 2001, the son of the victim Hassan Dimmo:

"I and my family left Mitras town ever since it was shelled the first time on 19 April 2015. My family panicked and some of them left the town barefooted. The shelling and warplanes sounds were scary. Afterwards, I heard that one of our relatives was killed, who was Dimmo Al Hassan Al Dimmo.

My father and brother decided to go back to the town with few residents to check our house and bring some supplies from our house. But they did not come back; they were killed due to the shelling of the coalition on our house with two rockets. Our house was completly destroyed and no one was able to search for my father and brother until few days passed because they feared that they would be shelled again. Later, the residents were able to pull out a child's body called Amouna Al Hamadi and brother's body. They were buried in Sareen town. My brother's body had been mutilated and turned to parts. My mother was able to identify his body from the ring he wore in his right hand. My father's body was found under the rubble of our house and he was buried in the town. Right now I live with my mother and 6 other siblings in a tent in Sareen town after we lost our house. I am responsible for supporting them financially since my father was killed."

#### Victim's Names:

Hassan Ibrahim Al Dimmo, 40 years old (mutilated body)

<u>Ibrahim Haassan Al Dimmo</u>, 17 years old, (his body was mutilated and he was identified by the ring he wore in his hand)

Child Ameena Mohamad Al Alawi, 6 years old, (mutilated body).

An image of Hassan Al Dimmo house before the shelling

A picture of Hassan Ibrahim Al Dimmo after the shelling

#### B2-Beir Mahali Town — 1 May 2015:

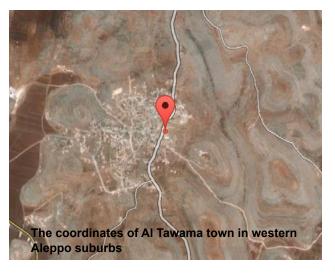
International Coalition warplanes launched six consecutive raids on Beir Mahali town in Sareen city in eastern of Aleppo sububs. SNHR was able to document the death of 64 civilians, including 31 children and 19 women. 30 others were injured, including children and women. The shelling also caused great destruction of houses over the heads of its inhabitants. We would like to note that this is a preliminary study due to the difficulty in communication and since most of the residents have left the town after the massacre. There are missing persons whose bodies have not been found. The following links include the incidents details that we tackled in two separate reports.

The First Report title: <u>More Evidences Proving the International Coalition's Involvement in the Massacre of Ber Mahli Village published on 19 May 2015.</u>

The second report title: 169 Civilians including 42 Children and 30 Women have been Killed by the International Collation Forces, published on 1 May 2015

## B3- Al Tawama Town in Western Aleppo Suburbs — 20 May 2015

International Coalition warplanes targeted at 6 p.m two military headquarters for An-Nusra Front in Al Tawama town that is 30 Km away from western Aleppo City. One of the headquarters used to be a municipality building. The two story-building was hit with a rocket and therefore destroyed completely. A child died due to an injury from the rocket shrapnel when she was on her roof's building next to the An-Nusra Front building.



The shelling was precise and its explosive power was massive as the headquarters turned into rubble. The residents heard the blast sound and the surrounding towns, 4 Km away, felt the explosion power. Also, witnesses told us that before the shelling, they saw reconnaissance warplanes hovering around, just like it always does before any potential shelling.

Al Tawama town is under An-Nusra front and Nour Deen Zanky movement control. The military headquarters are located on the periphery of the city away from densely populated areas. However, some houses are scattered around these headquarters; where a displaced family was living next to the shelled building. The house belonged to an armed opposition member, a commander in Nour Deen Zanky artillery forces, Bader Al Dakas, and a result the shelling caused his niece's death when she was on top of the building checking the water supply container.

Smoke rising from the coalition shelling on An-Nusra headquarters in Aleppo suburbs on 20 May 2015







An <u>image</u> of Bader Al Dakas's niece, born in 2006, we could not identify her full name.

#### Annexes and Attachments:

A <u>videotaped</u> report by activist Hadi Al Abdulla that discusses the coalition's shelling on three An-Nusra headquarters, two of them in Al Tawama town in Aleppo suburbs; also in the video Bader Al Dakas speaks about his niece's death.

A <u>statement</u> from An-Nusra front about the shelling on its headquarters:

## **B4- Dalli Hassan Town — 7 June 2015:**

Dali town is 8 Km away from Nahiyat Sareen town in eastern Aleppo suburbs and it is under ISIL's control. The town witnessed violent shelling between ISIL and the Kurd "self-management" forces

International Coalition forces shelled the one of the houses in the towns at 4 a.m. with two rockets killing an entire family (the father, mother, and their six children). The house was destroyed completely and collapsed over the head of its inhabitants. The house was made from three rooms and a cattle barn. Also the shelling destroyed a small carriage that belonged to the victim Issa Al Shareef, the house's owner.



#### Victims' names:

The father: Issa Hassan Al Shareef, born in 1980

The mother: Lamia Abu Dham

Children: Tahani (born in 2003), Fatima (born in 2004), Aboud (born in 2006), Mohamad (born in

2010), Ziad (born in 2013) and an infant whose name is unkown (born in 2015)

SNHR spoke to Abdul Razak M., one of the witnesses and residents of Sareen town:

"At 4 a.m. we heard two consecutive explosion sounds. One of the rockets fell on a civilian's house which led to an entire family's death and the house was completely destroyed. Nobody dared to reach the shelling site until 8 a.m. fearing another rocket shelling. The residents tried to pull out the bodies, where they turned to body parts. We did not have any military headquarters in our town and ISIL was 2 Km away from us. We only found body parts and not full bodies"

SNHR spoke to Ziad A., one of Sareen residents:

"I heard two consecutive shelling sounds before the Dawn prayer. The sound of the first explosion was more powerful than the second one and one minute separated the two explosions. I was in Sareen town that is 10 Km away from Dalli Hassan town and I went there to inquire about what had happened. That's when I saw Issa Shareef's house had turned to rubble. The residents were trying to pull out the victims' body parts. All of them had died... the entire family. The grandmother was sitting on the rubble crying over the death of her daughter and grandchildren."

A group of images that depicts the shelling aftermath of Issa Al Shareef's house in Dalli Hassan in Aleppo suburbs – 7 June 2015

A <u>video</u> that depicts the shelling aftermath when the victims' house was targeted and it shows the presence of children which proves the presence of civilians in the town:

#### **B5 - Nahiyat Sareen — 23 July 2015:**

At 4 p.m international coalition warplanes shelled one of the neighborhoods in Nahiyat Sareen in eastern Aleppo suburbs with four rockets. The shelling targeted residential houses in a bystreet that is 100 meters away from the town's market. Four surrounding houses were destroyed and turned to rubble. Two other houses were partially damaged as well. The shelling killed a child called Mohamad Jassem Abu Rakan, born in 2005, and his head was decapitated. Another victim died but we could not identify his name. 5 other individuals were killed, including a child. Nahiyat Sareen town is under ISIL control.

SNHR spoke to one of Sareen residents called A.M (his name shall be kept secretive for security reasons):

At 3:45 p.m., I was at home with some friends when we heard powerful explosion sounds and got out to inquire about what had happened. I saw columns of smoke coming from the main market. We rushed to the shelling site and saw some residents carrying injured people and trying to aid them or trying to pull victims' bodies from under the rubble. There was a child among the victims, who was pulled from under the rubble, but his head was decapitated, his name was Mohamd Abo Jassem Al Abu Rakan. The residents also pulled another body from under the rubble but I do not know who he is. Of the injured men had his leg amputated from the severity of the shelling. Another person was taken to Minbij for treatment because his case was critical. Mild injuries were treated in the Health Center in Sareen. Four days ago, the intensity of the clashes between ISIL and the Kurd "self-management" forces intensified and the Kurdish forces shelled the town with mortar missiles. As a result, some of the residents left the town during the day time towards the Euphrates river, which is 4 Km away from Sareen, and went back to the town at night. That is why the number of the victims was less than the destruction caused by the coalition shelling that day. We did not imagine that the coalition is going to shell Sareen also or kill our families."

#### Victims' Names:

<u>Child Mohamad Jassem Abu Rakan</u>, born in 2005, had his head decapitated due to shelling by the coalition forces

A <u>victim</u> that was pulled out from under the rubble. His identity was not indentified

#### B6- Jabal Al Jess Town in southern Aleppo Suburbs — 13 July 2015:

The coalition forces targeted a military headquarters for Ahrar Al Sham Brigade in one of the towns east of Al Tal Daman in southern Aleppo suburbs in Jabal Al Jess region. As a result, 3 armed men were killed, 5 others were injured and the two-story building was destroyed and turned to rubble. According to some witnesses, related to armed opposition military personnel, we will keep the victims' names and the name of the town where the headquarters was located secretive in our archives. Al Jess region is the control of both An-Nusra front, Ahrar Al Sham, and other armed opposition groups. However, the town did not have any An-Nusra headquarters in it. The shelling was precise and thorough since it hit the building directly and turned it into rubble. Armed opposition members told us that their monitors did not screen any government warplanes that day in that region. Eyewitnesses stated that they did not see or hear the warplane which means that it was hovering around from a very high altitude when it shelled Ahrar Al Sham location.

A <u>link</u> of a location near Jabal Jess town southern of Aleppo suburbs.



An <u>image</u> of an injured child <u>Smoke</u> rising from the city center after the coalition warplanes shelled the region.

## **C- Al Hassaka Governorate:**

## **Al Shadadi City:**

Al Shadadi City is located in the southern suburbs of Al Hassaka city and is considered as one of ISIL strongholds in Hassaka governorate. The international coalition shelled it twice:

#### The First Shelling Incident - 7 November 2015

International coalition forces targeted Al Shadadi city and shelled one of the civilian prisons that is supervised by ISIL. The rocket fell in front of the prisons entrance, killed 2 prisoners and injured 10 others. The prison's front building was damaged and It is located next to Al Jibsa Oil Directorate. It should be noted that Al Jibsa Oil Directorate is one ISIL's greatest strongholds. It contains a number of military headquarters separated by one street only from Al Jibsa Housings. ISIL members took those housings as headquarters for them. The prison is located behind the administration building and its area is estimated by 2000 meters square and 10 meters high. The prison is made of one floor only, and from cement walls and metal roof.



Previously it was specified for oil storage purposes but when ISIL took over the city, they turned it to a public prison for the civilian residents. ISIL members who have to be incarcerated are taken to a different prison.

SNHR spoke to one of the prisoners who survived the shelling in ISL prisons. His name is Ahmad Mohamad, 30 years old, a resident from Al Shadai City:

"ISIL arrested me on charges of neglecting prayers before one week of the aerial shelling. On Tuesday noon, at 11:30 p.m., we heard a shelling sound and a powerful explosion. I was near the window and saw smoke rising from one of the regions in Al Shadadi region, but I could not tell the exact location of the shelling. I was more afraid when I saw ISIL members running when one of them said: "Hurry up! The coalition warplanes targeted the western checkpoint. Some members died!" few minutes later, we heard a very powerful sound that shacked the building we were in, and the smoke blinded us. The coalition warplanes targeted the prison with a rocket that fell near the main gate. I tried to move but could not because my legs were injured. I looked left and saw two young men. One of them was dying and I could not tell where his injury is, and the other young man's head blasted from the severity of the explosion. The rest of the prisoners rushed and tried to help me but it was only moments until a masked ISIL member came, opened the door and yelled: "runaway!" Two young men carried me and took me out, but the dead young men were left in the prison since the priority was to save the injured. I lost my consciousness and woke up in Al Shadadi Hospital. My injury was severe, my leg was fractured in two places and I could not feel the other, it was paralyzed. Until now, I cannot walk and became incapable of moving.

#### <u>The Second Shelling Incident – 19 May 2015:</u>

International coalition warplanes targeted an ISIL vehicle while it was passing by the city markets near Albu Al Naj shops; this location is considered as the main market in the town. It is 100 meters away from Al Jibsa Directorate and it is considered as one of the most crowded areas with civilians.

The shelling targeted the vehicle and a motorcycle that accompanied it. It was driven by one of ISIL members. The shelling killed 3 civilians; one of them was the owner of a generator repair shop, and 2 passers-by. 15 other individuals were injured.



Ibrahim, 23 years old, one of the residents in Al Shadadi region who owns a shop for selling fuel and diesel oil said:

"At 10:00 a.m. I was in the shop when I suddenly heard a powerful explosion sound but I did not hear any warplane sound. When I got out of the shop, I saw the explosion of a car and a motorcycle. I thought that the car was for civilians, since it did not have any sign on it that represented ISIL. When we approached the car trying to take pictures of it, ISIL members stopped us that's when I figured that it must be an ISIL car, since usually when ISIL is targeted, they prevent people from approaching the targets. I learned from some ISIL members that the car transported Abu Abdul Rahman the Egyptian, one of the most prominent clerks in Iraq, when he was on his way to attend a meeting with some of ISIL commanders in Al Shadadi region. He was killed with another ISIL member along with the member who escorted them on his motorcycle, in addition to 11 other ISIL members who were around the explosion site. Since the beginning of the coalition air-strikes, ISIL members started to use motorcycles and deployed their members among residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Abu Milad, 31 years old, a resident from Al Shadadi town spoke to SNHR:

"After the car and motorcycle exploded, ISIL members directly pulled the victims out of it and took the vehicles. However, they did not take their victims or injured members to Al Shadadi Hospital. Usually, ISIL prevents any body from approaching the target if it was shelled by coalition warplanes, unlike what happens when government warplanes shelled civilian targets.

ISIL installed a device that alarms them when government warplanes are hovering around. However, these devices cannot detect coalition warplanes, that is why the alarm did not go on that day."



#### Victims' Names:

<u>Jihad Ahamd Muslim</u>, owner of a generator repair shop. He opened his shop 10 days before the shelling. He died since the explosion was in front of his shop.

Noah Mohamad Issa, from Al Hariri town in Hassaka suburbs, from Al Mahasen Tribe.

A victim whose identity is still unknown from Sayed Mahmoud town in Hassaka suburbs.

#### C2- Tal Majdal Town — 8 May 2015:

Tal Majdel town belongs to Nahiyat Tal Tamer, and it is located 15 Km away from the northern-westerns side of Al Hassaka governorate.

International Coalition warplanes shelled a military ISIL location between the civilians' houses in Tal Majdal town at 5 a.m. 12 rockets were launched, half an hour apart. The coalition shelling coincided with an aerial support to the Kurd "self-management" forces where they ignited a clash with ISIL to invade the town. ISIL forces withdrew from the city that evening at 7:00 p.m. due to the intense shelling by coalition forces and the civilians left in the city left their town and migrated. As a result, child Bashar Al Awwad, born in 2005, was injured with shrapnel in his head when he was standing next to his house that was 50 meters away from the ISIL headquarters that was shelled by the coalition forces.



SNHR spoke to one of the town's residents, Abu Malik:

"International Coalition forces shelled Tal Majdal town with more than 12 air-raids at 5:00 a.m. after intense clashes with the Kurdish forces. The reconnaissance planes never left the region. The shelling killed a child named Bashar Al Awwad, 10 years old, when he was standing in front of his house that is 50 meters away from an ISIL barricade. Most of the towns' residents left it due to the clashes that happened between ISIL and the Kurdish forces and due to the coalition shelling. Only 200 civilians were left in the town. However, it should be noted that ISIL used the residents as civilian shields, took neighborhoods as centers, and constructed its barricades in front of people's houses. Coalition forces targeted Al Lafaf town that belongs to Raes Al Ein town, but thanks God, civilians were not injured. Coalition forces also targeted Al Kshat town, which also belongs to Raes Al Ein town. It is a small town that contains dozens of houses. The entire town was shelled and buildings collapsed to the ground. Luckily, it was empty of any civilians or military groups. The targets were precise and thorough and great numbers of ISIL locations were destroyed. The shelling power was very intense as we felt the houses and the ground shaking beneath us. At 7:00 p.m. the Kurdish forces were able to invade the town and ISIL withdrew with what was left from the civilians."

A <u>picture</u> that depicts smoke rising from Tal Majdel town after the coalition shelling:

## **D- Idlib Governorate:**

## <u>D1- Kafr Diryan Town — 8 July 2015:</u>

International coalition forces shelled two rockets on a car that transported An-Nusra front members on the way between Kafr Diryan and Sarmada town in northern Idlib suburbs. The car was burned and destroyed completely and all the members in it were killed, in addition to two civilians who were riding a motorcycle, died while they were passing by the shelling location.

The town's residents assured us that the coalition reconnaissance planes were hovering around few hours before. The shelling targets were precise and thorough. The explosion sound was heard 4 Km away.

SNHR spoke to one of the residents of Kafr Diryan town, Mr. Salah:

"I heard the sound of two consecutive explosions while I was in my town, at 8:15 p.m., I learned from my friends that they saw fireballs next to the place that was shelled. It was 4 Km away from Kafr Diryan.

The next day, two residents from my town (Ahmad Mohamad Al Tahini and his cousin Housni Mohamad Kheir Tahini, 25 and 30 years old) were killed by the that explosion was caused by the International Coalition forces when they targeted An-Nusra front car with two rockets. One of my friends was who witnessed the shelling told me that the two victims were riding their motorcycle next to the targeted car. The shrapnel from the rockets and the explosion blast killed them and threw them 50 meters away from the shelling site. They are two civilian young men who did not belong to any armed group they worked in the shoe industry."

#### Victims' Names:

Ahmad Mohamad Al Tahini

Houssnie Mohamad Kheir Al Tahini, Ahmad's cousin. Their age ranged between 25 to 30 years old. They were residents of Basikba town that belongs to kafr Deryan town and worked in the shoe industry. They were civilians who were going to their work when they got killed.

A <u>video</u> and a <u>picture</u> that depict the burning of the An-Nusra front car after it was targeted by the coalition shelling

## D2-Kafr Hind Town — 28 July 2015:

At 3 p.m international coalition forces targeted a car that transported 4 An-Nusra front members with two rockets when they were passing on the main road (Silqeen – Droukoush road) in Kafr Hind northern of Idlib suburbs. One of the rockets hit the car and killed all the passengers and the second rocket fell 3 meters away, precisely next to fuel selling shop. Therefore, the explosion power was doubled due to the presence of combustible material. As a result, 10 civilians were killed, including 6 children. 9 of the victims died after they were burned alive due to the explosion and shelling. One child was killed after he was injured with a shrapnel from one of the rockets when it happened that he was passing by the shelling site.

Kafr Hind is located in the south of Silqeen city, 5 Km away from the north-west of Idlib city. The towns' population is 300 inhabitants. An-Nusra front controls it along with small armed opposition groups.

The residents of the town told us that they saw a warplane hovering around and heard its powerful sound since it shelled the car from low altitude. The region that was targeted is a densely populated area that shelters displaced people; that is what caused the increase of victims' numbers.

A <u>link</u> that shows the coordinates of shelled location in Kafr Hind town via Google Maps.

A picture that determines the location of the shelled shops when it was hit with one of the rockets



SNHR spoke to media acitivist, Abdul Ghani Al Aryan who is living in Silqeen City and he was one of the eyewitnesses on the shelling:

"On Tuesday, at 3:00 p.m., I saw international coalition warplane that was flying over a low altitude. We thought that it was a pilotless aircraft because its body was small and its wings were long. Its sound was powerful and the residents were able to distinguish it from the Apache warplanes or government warplanes, since we have seen like it before.

I was 400 meters away when the warplane shelled two rockets at once. The blast sound was extremely powerful and smoke was rising. As soon as I arrived to the explosion site, I saw a burning car that was completely destroyed. On the opposite side, 3 meters away I saw a big hole in the ground caused by the shelling. The fuel shops were on fire along with other nearby ones. We could not pull the civilian victims from the shops due to the fire intensity. We waited until the Civil Defense team to arrive and put down the fire. Bodies turned to body parts and we smelt a very bad odor from the explosion site. 9 charcoaled bodies were pulled out from the place, including 5 children. Another child was killed after he was injured by a shrapnel from the shelled rocket. 4 other bodies were pulled out from the An-Nusra front car, two of them were a Yamani and Jordanian leaders. The shelled region is free of any An-Nusra military or armed groups' headquarters. However, it should be noted that people use the main road if they want to travel to the north"

#### Victims' Names: 10 civilians, including 6 children

Child Abdul Rahman Mohamad Ali Al Faraj, born in 2001.

Child Ahmad Mohamad Ali Al Faraj, born in 1999.

Child Ahmad Mousa Alloush, born in 1999.

Mohamad Ali Al Atrash, born in 1994.

Child Ali Bashar Kassab, born in 2006.

Child Shahed Hamdou, born in 2010, displaced from Al Kintar town in Jirs Al Shoughour suburbs Child Firas Hamdou, born in 2007, a displaced from Al Kintar town in Jirs Al Shoughour suburbs Moustafa Houran, born in 1987.

A charcoaled body that was unidentified.

#### Attachments and Evidence:

Shelling aftermath – Kafr Hind, Idlib suburbs:







One of the charcoaled bodies

<u>Unidentified human body parts</u>, Kafr Hind, Idlib suburbs

A <u>video</u> that depicts the targeted car where bodies were lying next to it:

Group of images for the An-Nusra front car when it was burnt and destroyed:





## **E- Deir Al Zour Governorate:**

#### E1- Al Boukamal City — 6 March 2015

Location of Al Boukamal City.

At 1:00 p.m. international coalition warplanes targeted Al Boukamal city in Deir Al Zour eastern suburbs with 4 aerial-raids.

The first raid targeted the region with a rocket, and the second one fell on the granary region in the city. A third rocket fell on the State Security Branch, where ISIL took it as a headquarters. The fourth rocket targeted the backyard of Aisha Charitable Hospital. It was the first time when coalition forces targeted a civilian hospital, which is also the most important hospital in the city.

The shelling killed 4 civilians, including a woman and two newborn babies and 10 others were injured. The hospital was damaged along with the medical equipment and the hospital's generator was destroyed.

SNHR spoke to Mr. Ahmad M., one of Al Boukamal residents who witnessed the shelling and the hospital's destruction:

"I was at home, 2 Km away from Aisha Hospital, when I heard consecutive explosions. I could not tell its source, plus I did not hear any warplanes hovering around, the thing that distinguishes the coalition warplanes. I went upstairs to my building's roof and saw black smoke coming from Aisha Hospital. One of my friends told me that a rocket fell next to the hospital and asked me to go with him to see what had happened. When we came close to the hospital, an ISIL member prevented us from entering the hospital because they decided to evacuate the entire area. As we stood in the hospital's backyard, we saw the generator's

room completely destroyed and we saw the damage that happened to the baby incubators room from the outside only. The shelling deliberately targeted the power generator that supplies the hospital with electricity. The rocket shrapnel also destroyed a great part of the incubator room which led to the death of two newborn babies, who were not even one week old.

I went to Aisha Hospital to get treated and was almost 50 meters away from the hospital's entrance when I heard a very powerful explosion sound and I fell on the ground. I saw black smoke rising from the hospital's backyard and the rocket hit the power generator room. I did not know the shelling source because I did not hear or see warplanes hovering around. Men and women panicked, carried their children, and ran out of the hospital after the rocket was shelled. Some people yelled at passers-by to leave the area fearing another rocket shelling. I was not able to enter the hospital until after 10 minutes. I saw a dead body on the ground and was told that it was a woman's body that died after the shelling. The body belonged to "Baydaa Hammoud Al Hamshari", Mohamad Jassem Al Morshidani's wife, from Al Boukamal. She went to the hospital to check on her son who was in the incubator room. Some people said that two babies were killed; one of them was her son. The medical team was trying to aid the 5 injured persons, one of them had a critical injury and later he died of his wounds. His name was Saad Abdulla Al Hamad from Al She'afa town in Al Boukamal suburbs."

We were able to talk to Dr. Houssam, one of the city's doctors:

"Aisha Hospital was one of the most active hospitals in the city and the only hospital that did not charge patients great amounts of money, since a number of its residents are abroad who fund it. After the shelling, ISIL took the patients and the medical equipment to the National Hospital in Al Boukamal."

#### Victims' Names:

Mrs. Baydaa Hammoud Al Hamshari (Mohamaf Jassem Al Morshidani's wife), from Al Boukamal. She had arrived to the hospital to check up on her baby boy who was in the incubator room. Saad Abdullah Al Hamad from Al Sha'efaa town in Boukamal suburbs. He died of his wounds.

A new born baby who was in the incubator room

Another newborn child who died in the incubator room

According to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights, a <u>video</u> that depicts warplane shelling on Aisha Hospital in Al Boukamal in Deir Al Zour suburbs:

A ISIL <u>video</u> that depicts the aftermath shelling on the hospital. It also shows the bodies of the two newborn babies.

#### Al Boukamal City — 30 July 2015:

International coalition warplanes shelled Al Boukamal city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Al Zour with two rockets at 1:30 a.m. The shelling targeted a two story building that belonged to a civilian called Ahamd Shaker Al Hassou. The shelling killed two civilians, a woman and her child (Ahmad Mohamad Al Hassou's wife, and child Mohamad Al Hassou), 17 others were injured as well, including 4 children. The shelling destroyed the building completely and turned it to rubble. Five other nearby houses were partially damaged as well, and one civilian car was burned.

Al Boukamal City is located next to the Syrian – Iraqi borders and it is 120 Km away from the east of Deir Al Zour city. Al Boukamal is considered one of ISIL stronghold regions.

The targeted house is located north of the city next to the cement factory that was turned to a military headquarters by ISIL. We noticed the precision of the shelling and the destructive power of the two rockets. The residents said that the coalition warplanes were hovering around and in an intense pace. A link that shows Ahmad Al Hassou's house that was shelled by the coalition forces in Al Boukamal City in Deir Al Zour suburbs via google maps.

An image that depicts Ahmad Al Hassou's house that was shelled by the coalition forces in Al Boukamal city in Deir Al Zour suburbs, according to a local activist who is from Al Boukamal and works for "Sout and Soura" website:



#### Attachments and Evidence:

<u>Images</u> of the shelling <u>victims</u>:

Injured children due to the International Coalition shelling

A <u>video</u> that depicts shelling aftermath on the house and the destriction of a car in Al Boukamal City in Deir Al Zour suburbs:

## V- The most notable facilities that were shelled by the International Coalition forces:

## Al Boukamal, Deir Al Zour suburbs:

On 6 March 2015, at 1: p.m. international coalition warplanes targeted the backyard of Aisha Charitable Hospital with two rockets. Four civilians were killed, including a woman and two newborn babies. 10 others were injured, the power generator exploded, and the hospital along with its equipment were greatly damaged.

#### Attachments and Evidence:

Exclusive SNHR images that depict the shelling aftermath on Aisha Hospital after the international coalition shelled it on 6 March 2015.









Shelling aftermath on Aisha Hospital in Al Boukamal, according to ISIL media – 6 March 2015:





## <u>Al Ragga — Destruction of Bridges – July 2015</u>:

Eight bridges were shelled in Al Raqqa City by the International Coalition aviation for two consecutive days. Those bridges connect the city to its suburbs.

#### Al Ragga City's location:

On 5 July 2015, international coalition warplanes conducted not less than 10 airstrikes that targeted 7 bridges on the periphery of Al Raqqa City, destroying the bridges: Al Sibaheyi Bridge:

On 5 July 2015 international coalition warplanes launched a rocket on Al Sibahyi town that is under ISIL's control. The bridge was a pedestrian crossing between the western suburbs and the city. It was completely destroyed.

On 5 July 2015, international coalition warplanes launched a rocket on Al Furousyi Bridge in the north west of Raqqa that is under ISIL's control. This bridge connected the western suburbs of Raqqa and the city. It was almost destroyed.



#### Mazra't Al Omriya Bridge:

On 5 July 2015, international coalition warplanes launched a rocket on Mazra't Al Omriya Bridge that is under ISIL's control. The bridge was a pedestrian crossing that connected the northern suburbs with the city. It was completely destroyed.

#### Mikilak Bridge in Humrat Nasser:

On 5 July 2015, the international coalition warplanes shelled <u>Minklak bridge</u> that was under ISIL's control. The bridge was pedestrian crossing that connects the eastern suburbs with the city. It was almost completely destroyed.

#### Al Halbein Bridge:

On 5 July 2015, the international coalition warplanes shelled Al Halbein Bridge in Al Housaiwa region that is under ISIL's control in the western city of Raqqa. The shelling destroyed the bridge that is a pedestrian crossing between the western suburbs and the city. It was almost completely destroyed.

#### Al Qunaitra Al Ka'asi Bridge:

On 5 July 2015, international coalition forces shelled Al Qunaitra Al Ka'asi Bridge eastern of Raqaa that is under ISIL's control. The shelling destroyed the bridge that is a pedestrian crossing between the eastern suburbs and the city.

#### Khatla Bridge in Houmrat Balasm:

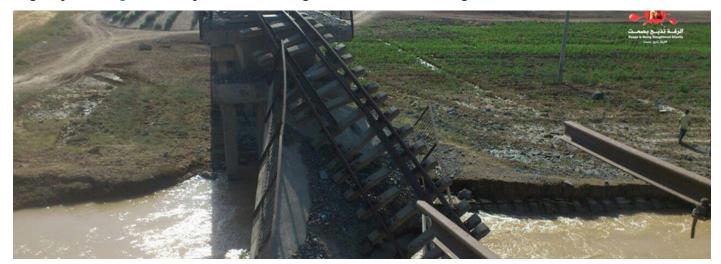
On 5 July 2015, international coalition forces shelled Khatla Bridge in the eastern side of Al Raqqa that is under ISIL's control. The bridge was a pedestrian crossing between the eastern suburbs and the city. The shelling destroyed it completely.





A video that depicts the shelling aftermath on the bridge:

A group of <u>images</u> that depicts the shelling aftermath on the bridge:





## VI. Conclusions and recommendations:

- 1. The International Coalition forces should abide by the International Humanitarian Law, and therefore coalition countries are responsible for these violations since the beginning of the attacks, which were mentioned through this report. These countries must bear the consequences of all these violations, and avoid its recurrence.
- 2. Indiscriminate bombardment is considered a clear violation of the International Humanitarian Law, and these indiscriminate killings amount to war crimes.
- 3. International Coalition forces violated the International Humanitarian Law by targeting ISIL forces in densely populated civilian areas.
- 4. International Coalition countries should acknowledge the shelling incidents that killed innocent civilians. Instead of denying these incidents, serious investigations should be conducted and compensations should be given to those affected.
- 5. Targeting ISIL in certain regions and turning a blind eye against it in other regions depicts the lack of a systemized military strategy.
- 6. It is necessary to protect civilians from the brutality of the Syrian regime and extremist militias allied with them. A no-fly zone must be established in parallel with the protecting civilians in Syria from the brutality of ISIS.

## **Acknowledgments**

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