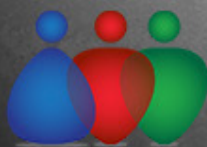
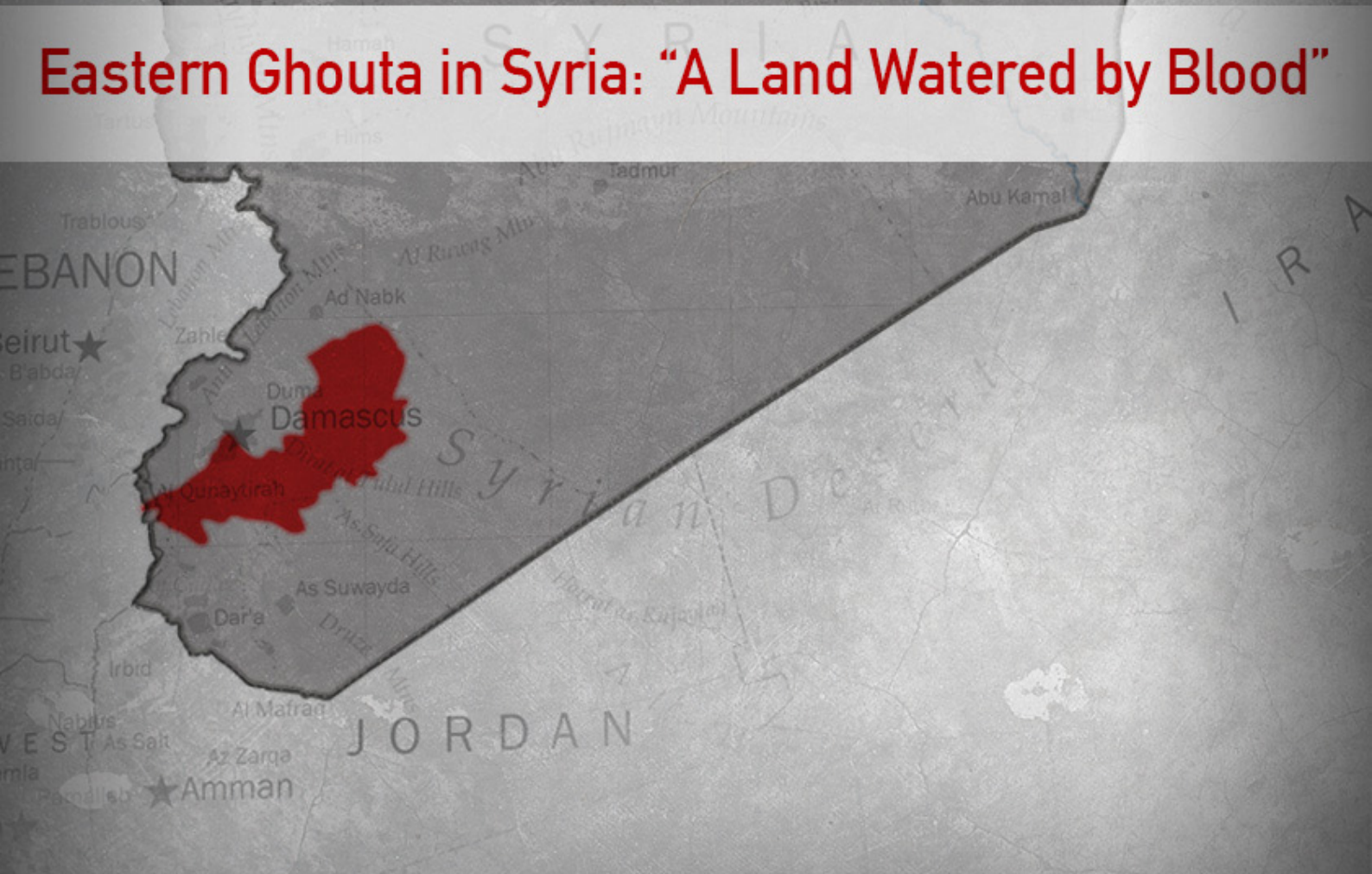




## Eastern Ghouta in Syria: "A Land Watered by Blood"



**The Syrian Network for Human Rights** is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

**SNHR** is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims' rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

**SNHR** issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

**SNHR** is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.



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## I. Introduction:

Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs witnessed a systemized and deliberate shelling and destruction campaign by government forces that were not restricted on frontlines, but it concentrated on vital facilities, markets, infrastructure and densely populated areas, which is tens of kilometers away from frontlines. Based on our daily documentation, we noticed that most of the attacks were on vital facilities and densely populated neighborhoods, tens of kilometers away from battle fields. Therefore, the rate of civilian victims was alarming compared to that of gunmen. Syrians welcomed UNSC resolution 2139 that was issued on 22 February 2014 which stated that "all parties have to immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs." Nonetheless, government forces did not cease its operations or its attacks against civilians.

SNHR previously issued special studies and reports about government's use of barrel bombs before and after the resolution was issued. Shelling, killing and displacing residents are a systemized policy that aims mainly to hinder the establishment of any authoritative body that would replace the ruling regime. SNHR has consistently tried to differentiate between crimes committed by different parties involved in the Syrian conflict. We found that government forces committed the greatest rate of crimes and violations against civilians compared to other conflict parties. However, media outlets and international organizations focus on ISIL's crimes and tend to neglect the crimes committed by government forces and parties supportive to it; knowingly that air force is one of the deadliest weapons used and owned only by government forces.

SNHR has consistently tried to differentiate between crimes committed by different parties involved in the Syrian conflict. We found that government forces committed the greatest rate of crimes and violations against civilians compared to other conflict parties. However, media outlets and international organizations focus on ISIL's crimes and tend to neglect the crimes committed by government forces and parties supportive to it; knowingly that air force is one of the deadliest weapons used and owned only by government forces.

SNHR relies on a network of members and local activists, in all Syrian governorates, in gathering data and issuing reports since 2011. The documentation team validates the images and videos we receive then cross-reference it with victims' testimonies. SNHR confirms, through its investigations, that there were no military facilities next to any of the regions that were shelled by government forces, and therefore, it should justify its actions whether it was deliberate (like using rocket launchers), or random (like using barrel bombs) before international courts of justice. Nonetheless, government forces deny all these accusations, ignore all correspondence, accuse Al Qaeda and terrorists of perpetrating these crimes, and prevent independent international committees from conducting investigations inside Syria.



In this particular study, we obtained satellite images about Douma City, to provide it as a sample of the destruction in Eastern Ghouta due to the almost daily shelling. We asked the responsible company for images that were taken before UN Security Resolution 2139 was issued, on 22 February 2014, and until its recent update in the beginning of 2015. We took samples for the most affected areas in Douma City which prove how indifferent the Syrian regime is towards the Security Council resolutions; as the destruction amount doubled according to the pictures we will present in this study.

A satellite image for Douma city taken on 14 January 2014



A satellite image for Douma city taken on 1 January 2015



The first image was taken before UN Security Council resolution 2139 was issued. The second image was taken after the resolution was issued and depicts the widespread destruction and the regime's recklessness towards the Security Council resolutions.



A satellite image for Douma city taken on 14 January 2014



A satellite image for Douma city taken on 1 January 2015



The first image was taken before UN Security Council resolution 2139 was issued. The second image was taken after the resolution was issued and depicts the widespread destruction and the regime's recklessness towards the Security Council resolutions.



Even though government forces is the main conflict party in Syria, but other extremist Islamic groups and armed opposition forces have perpetrated war crimes as well in Eastern Ghouta during the time is report was being made. SNHR asserts that these crimes and violations reflect the nature of the ruling government which proved that it is like no other government in this world. It should be noted that these statistics and facts are the bare-minimum of the violations and crimes that happened in light of the security and logistic difficulties and challenges we have been facing in order to reach the locations where these violations occurred.

*Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, said:*

*"Since the beginning of the uprising in 2011 and until now, we have not felt any international will to put an end to ongoing bloodshed. Negotiations with ruling government are going to be useless if it continues to brutally massacre, shell, kill, detain and torture its own people continuously for the past four years."*

## II. Executive Summary

This report documents the violations committed by the main conflict parties in Eastern Ghouta from 1 January 2015, till 30 June 2015.

### A. Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the death of 834 individuals, including 54 individuals who died under torture. 26 massacres were perpetrated by the main conflict parties, detailed as follows:

#### **1. Government forces killed 776 individuals and committed 25 massacres. The victim's death toll is detailed as follows:**

- 633 civilians were killed, including 155 children and 129 women. 54 individuals died under torture as well.
- 143 gunmen.

The massacres distribution is detailed as follows according to different regions in Eastern Ghouta”

- Douma City: 14 massacres were committed
- Erbeen City: 4 massacres were committed
- Al Marj region: 3 massacres were committed
- One massacre was committed in Ein Terma, Kafr Batna, Harasta, and Hamouriyia, respectively.

#### **2. Armed Opposition groups killed 22 individuals, detailed as follows:**

- 12 civilians were killed, including a child and a woman
- 10 gunmen were killed

#### **3. Extremist Islamic Groups killed 26 individuals, detailed as follows:**

ISIL killed 17 individuals and committed one massacre. The victims death toll is distributed as follows:

- One civilian
- 16 gunmen

An-Nusra Front killed 9 gunmen

Unidentified Groups killed 10 individuals including 2 civilians.

### B. Arrests and Illegal Detentions:

SNHR documented the arrest of not less than 458 individuals in Eastern Ghouta, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

- Government forces arrested 411 individuals, including 65 women and 41 children.
- Armed Opposition groups arrested 36 individuals, including 9 children.
- Extremist Islamic groups:
  - An-Nusra front: asserted 11 individuals

### **C. Targeted Vital Facilities:**

SNHR documented the targeting of 51 vital facilities by main conflict parties, detailed as follows:

#### **1. Government forces targeted 49 vital facilities, detailed as follows:**

- 12 markets
- 11 schools
- 10 houses of worship
- 9 medical facilities
- 7 service vehicles (ambulances, fire trucks, civil defense and Red Crescent vehicles)

#### **2. Armed Opposition Groups targeted two vital facilities:**

- A prison
- A gas station

### **D. Besiegement:**

The only party responsible for the siege imposed on Al Ghouta is the government forces.

The imposed siege killed 117 individuals due food and medicine shortage, including 67 children and 27 women.



### III. Incidents' Details:

#### 1. Government Forces:

##### A. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 776 individuals, detailed as follows:

- 633 civilians, including 155 children and 129 women.
- 143 gunmen.

SNHR documented 25 massacres that were perpetrated by government forces, detailed as follows:

##### *Douma City: 14 massacre were committed*

On 28 January 2015, government warplanes targeted [Douma city](#) with two airstrikes and killed five victims including a female child and three women. A number of houses were destroyed.

On 2 February 2015, government warplanes shelled [Douma city](#) with rockets which killed 10 victims including two women.

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted Douma city](#) with rockets which [killed 30 victims including three children and 10 women](#).

On 6 February 2015, government forces [targeted Douma city](#) with more than 40 rockets that were launched from rocket launchers. As a result, [24 individuals](#), including seven children and five women were killed in the attack.

On 6 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted Douma city](#) with rockets which killed 13 victims including four children and two women.

On 6 February 2015, government artillery [targeted Douma city](#) with mortar missiles which killed 11 victims including 3 children and three women.

On 9 February 2015, government forces perpetrated [two massacres in Douma city](#). Government forces warplanes [carried out a number of airstrikes](#) against the city and [shelled it with mortar missiles and rocket launchers](#). [37 people were killed including five children and four women](#). Also, tens were wounded.

SNHR spoke to Dr. Abu Omar who supervised the treatment of injured individuals after the massacre occurred, and he gave us his testimony:

*"At 11 a.m. I was in the paramedic region when I heard the sound of the warplane. It was hovering around on a low altitude and we heard the shelling sounds few minutes later. The walls that separated the clinics shacked and the nearby building collapsed totally. What caught my attention was the time difference between the raid and the explosion sound. The shelling did not result in a lot of injuries; however, the shelling did not stop and continued for hours. The city was shelled with different kinds of weapons which caused deaths and injuries for more than 20 individuals in the hospital I was in."*

On 21 February 2015, government warplanes targeted Douma city with rockets which killed 13 victims including five children and two women.

On 14 March 2015, government warplanes carried [two aerial strikes with rockets on Douma](#) which killed 12 individuals, including 3 children and 7 women.

On 15 March 2015, government warplanes shelled [Douma with rockets](#) which [killed 31 individuals](#) including 8 children and 3 women.

SNHR spoke to Mr. Abu Huzaiifa who witnessed the shelling:

*"At 12 p.m. our city was shelled with four rockets which hit densely populated areas. There were dozens of dead individuals; including children and hundreds of injured people. We had to transport them with motorcycles. All the regions that were targeted by the warplanes were free of any military presence of armed opposition groups."*





On 22 April 2015, government forces warplanes [targeted Douma city](#) with missiles which killed seven civilians, including two children. 40 others were injured.

On 16 May 2015, government forces artillery [targeted a school in Douma city](#) with mortar missiles which killed seven victims including five children.

On 16 June 2015, government artillery forces bombarded Douma City with surface-to-surface missiles which killed 26 individuals, including 8 children and 12 women.

On 30 June 2015, government aviation shelled a market in Douma with a number of missiles which killed 12 individuals, including 3 children and two women.

#### ***Erbeen City: 4 massacres were committed***

On 19 January 2015, government artillery [targeted a crowded market](#) in Erbeen city with two mortar missiles which killed seven victims, including a child and three women.

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted Erbeen city](#) which killed seven victims including two children and two women.

On 21 February 2015, government warplanes targeted [Erbeen city](#) with a number of rockets which killed seven victims including two children and four women.

On 8 March 2015, government warplanes [launched 5 aerial raids](#) with rockets on [Erbeen city](#) which [killed 13 individuals](#) including a child and two women.

SNHR spoke to Mr. Zouhair Al Mobakhar, the executive manager of Erbeen Surgical Hospital in Erbeen city:

*“At 11 a.m., I received a request of sending an ambulance immediately to the shell-ing site. One of the rockets hit Al Thamina Elementary School. The injuries started to arrive to the hospital. Among the injured individuals were an eight months old baby and a woman who sustained a severe injury in her hand. A great number of injuries were recorded as well, including 11 children and 9 women.”*





### ***Al Marj Region: 3 massacres were committed***

On 9 March 2015, government aviation launched eight aerial raids with rockets on Al Nola town that belongs to Al Marj region, which killed 6 individuals; 5 children and a woman.

Mr. Abo Hawwa, one of the eyewitnesses gave his testimony to SNHR:

*“At 1 p.m. government warplanes launched right aerial strikes on Al Marj region, especially Noula town. All the strikes targeted civilian and residential regions. The shelling killed 6 individuals including 4 children from one family. The children’s mother died due to a heart attack after she saw her children’s bodies.”*

On 27 March 2015, government aviation launched [two rockets on a mosque in Harasta](#) Al Qantara town, which belongs to Al Marj region. As a result, 9 individuals were killed.

On 15 April 2015, government forces [targeted the main square in Zibdeen](#) town with a mortar missile which killed 12 civilians, including six children.

### ***Ein Terma Town: One massacre was committed***

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted Ein Terma town](#) with a number of rockets which killed nine victims including one child and one woman.

### ***Harasta City: One massacre was committed***

On 22 April 2015, government warplanes [targeted Harasta city](#) with a number of rockets which killed 10 civilians including one child and two women. 30 other individuals were injured.

### ***Kafr Batna Town: One massacre was committed***

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes [shelled the production market in Kafr Batna](#) town with a number of rockets which [killed 39 individuals](#) including [6 children and 4 women](#).

### ***Hamouriya Town: One massacre was committed***

On 23 January 2015, government warplanes targeted a [market in Hamouriya town with a number of rockets](#) which killed [64 individuals](#) including nine children and one woman. [Additionally, nearly 100 others were injured and a number of shops and houses were destroyed.](#)





Victims were killed, by government warplanes and artillery shelling, on Hamooreya city - Damascus countryside, on 23 January 2015

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### **B. Arrests and Illegal Detention:**

SNHR documented the arrest of 411 individuals, including 41 children and 65 women in Eastern Ghouta.

On 25 February 2015, government forces arrested a university student in the Faculty of Medicine (SNHR kept the detainee's name confidential for security reasons). The detainee was from Douma city and born on 1991. He was arrested when he was passing by one of the government checkpoints in Nahr Aisha neighborhood in Damascus. SNHR was could not determine his detention place or his whereabouts up to the moment of making this report.

On 8 May 2015, government forces arrested a woman (SNHR kept the detainee's name confidential for security reasons). The detainee was from Erbeen city and born on 1984. She was arrested at one of the government checkpoints in Damascus. SNHR could not determine her detention place or her whereabouts up to the moment of making this report.

### **C. Death Under Torture:**

SNHR documented the death of 54 individuals under torture.

On 27 January 2015, SNHR documented the death of [Dr. Anas Mohamad Al Qutayfani](#), from Douma city in Damascus suburbs. Dr. Anas was killed under torture in Saydnaya Military Prison in Damascus suburbs after he was arrested on the Lebanese-Syrian borders when he came back from a business trip from Beirut on 23 August 2012.

### **D. Besiegement:**

In October 2012, the Syrian regime imposed a partial siege on Eastern Ghouta in parallel with arrest campaigns and bombardment. At first, fuel and food items were allowed to enter the region, but not medical supplies. Nonetheless, since 19 October 2013, government checkpoints prevented all life necessities from entering the region; therefore, a crisis emerged. Commodity prices surged, people suffered from malnutrition, the sewage systems were damaged, wastes accumulated in the streets and diseases spread. Subsequently, 117 individuals, including 67 children and 27 women, were killed due to malnutrition and the lack of medicine.

On 19 January 2015, SNHR recorded [the death of Mohamad Houssan Jayroudi](#) from Kafr Batna due to [the lack of medicine and malnutrition](#).

On 6 March 2015, SNHR documented [the death of Mrs. Samira Bakkar](#) from Douma city who died due to the lack of medicine



The first image was taken before UN Security Council resolution 2139 was issued.

The second image was taken after the resolution was issued and depicts the widespread destruction and the regime's recklessness towards the Security Council resolutions.



### E. Targeting Vital Facilities:

SNHR documented 49 vital facilities that were targeted by government forces like hospitals, schools and houses of worship.

**Documentation is detailed as follows:**

12 markets were targeted, 11 schools, 10 houses of worship, 9 medical facilities, and 7 service vehicles.

Markets:

On 18 January 2015, government artillery targeted, with a number of mortar shells, the main market in Bziena town which killed three victims, including two children. 12 others were injured.

On 19 January 2015, government artillery [targeted a crowded market in Erbeen city](#) with two mortar missiles which killed seven victims, including a child and three women.

*SNHR spoke to Mr. Abu Ou'weys, one of the eyewitnesses on the shelling:*

*“At 2:30 p.m. people gathered in the market after news that said that government forces will allow food supplies to enter the region. Nonetheless, government forces shelled the region with two mortar missiles which killed 7 individuals and injured not less than 40 others. A loof the injured people had their limbs amputated.”*

On 23 January 2015, government warplanes [carried out an airstrike](#) and targeted a market in [Hamouriya town](#). [The airstrike killed 64 victims](#), including nine children and one woman. 100 others were injured and a [number of shops and houses were destroyed](#).

On 5 February 2015, [government warplanes targeted the market in Kafr Batna](#), which led to mass destruction of the shops.

On 9 February 2015, [government artillery targeted a market in Douma city](#) with three missiles. A number of shops were [destroyed and burned](#).





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On 27 March 2015, government warplanes launched a rocket on the market in Harsta Al-Qantra town. The shelling killed 9 individuals, and injured around 140 others. Also, a number of shops were damaged.

On 19 April 2015, government warplanes [targeted a market in Douma city](#), with Gvozdika missiles which wounded a number of people and destroyed a number of shops.

On 11 May 2015, government forces [targeted a market in Douma city](#) with a missile. A number of people sustained burns while some of the stores were damaged.

On 26 May 2015, government artillery [targeted a market in Douma city](#) with mortar missiles. A number of people were wounded while some of the shops were damaged.

On 27 May 2015, government warplanes carried out five airstrikes on the market in Erbeen city. Six people were killed including a woman in addition to some shops that were partially destroyed.

On 30 June 2015, government aviation [shelled a market in Douma city](#) in Damascus suburbs which killed 11 persons, including 3 children and a woman. [A number of shops were greatly damaged.](#)

On 30 June 2015, government warplanes shelled a market in Douma and caused partial damages.

**Schools:**

On 21 January 2015, government warplanes [targeted an elementary school in Hamouriya city](#) which killed two victims, including a child in addition to destroying the school's wall.

On 5 February 2015, government aviation targeted a number of schools with rockets in Erbeen city. The schools' buildings were severely damaged.



On 8 February 2015, government forces shelled two schools with missile launchers in Douma city, which injured a group of children and damaged both schools.

On 8 March 2015, [government warplanes launched a missile on a school in Erbeen](#) which caused severe [damage to the school's building](#). No victims were recorded but the school went out of service.

On 10 March 2015, government forces [shelled a school twice in Deir Al-Asafeer](#), which killed 2 individuals and injured 15 others. The school's building was partially damaged.

On 15 March 2015, government warplanes launched a [missile on a school in Douma](#), which injured dozens of children, and destroyed a part of the school's building.

On 6 April, 2015, government warplanes targeted Al-Hekma Islamic School in Douma city with a missile. The bombing killed four individuals, including a child and a woman and caused great damages.

On 24 April 2015, government warplanes [targeted Deir Al-Assafir School](#), in Damascus suburbs, with a missile. [Two classrooms were destroyed](#) and [the school's building was damaged](#). However, no injuries were recorded as the school was empty.

On 15 May 2015, government warplanes shelled an elementary school in Zamlka town which killed one victim and wound eight others. Also, the school's building was greatly destroyed.

On 16 May 2015, government artillery targeted a school in Douma city with mortar missiles which killed seven victims, including five children, and slightly damaged the school.



**Houses of Worship:**

On 4 January 2015, government warplanes targeted the Great Mosque in Douma city with a missile which killed three victims and damaged the mosque.

On 7 February 2015, government artillery shelled a mosque's minaret in Erbeen which caused partial damage to it.

On 24 February 2015, government forces shelled a mosque in Marj Al-Sultan town and destroyed parts of it.



On 7 March 2015, government warplanes [launched a missile on "The Old Mosque"](#) in Marj Al-Sultan, which injured few individuals, and gravely damaged the mosque's building.

On 7 March 2015, [government aviation launched a rocket on the New Mosque](#) on Marj Al Sultan town which injured a number of individuals and caused great destruction to the mosque.

On 8 March 2015, government warplanes [launched a missile on Zamlka city](#). The [shelling killed a person and injured another](#). It caused severe damage to the mosque's building and caused it to go out of service.

On 13 March 2015, government warplanes launched [four rockets on the Grand Mosque in Douma](#), which killed 4 [individuals and injured 25 others](#), in addition, it caused [partial damage to the mosque](#).

On 20 March 2015, government warplanes launched a missile on a mosque in Ottaya town, which killed 3 individuals, including a child and a woman. Others were injured as well and the shelling caused partial damages to the mosque.

*Dr. Majed Dalati, SNHR member said:*

*"At 12:00 p.m. missiles started to fall on the city especially around the mosque's region where worshipers were targeted. It is a civilian region that is free from any military presence of armed opposition groups. I have been contacted to go to the hospital immediately and examined an injured man who was in a very critical state. He lost his upper lip and sustained broken bones in his jaws. The shelling also killed three individuals."*

On 27 March 2015, government warplanes launched a missile on a mosque in Harasta Al-Qantra town, which killed 9 individuals, and injured 140 others. The mosque was partially damaged as well.



The first image was taken before UN Security Council resolution 2139 was issued. The second image was taken after the resolution was issued and depicts the widespread destruction and the regime's recklessness towards the Security Council resolutions.



On 2 June 2015, government artillery forces shelled [Al Mahmoud mosque in Douma](#) in Damascus suburbs, with mortar missiles. The mosque was partially damaged.

#### Medical Facilities:

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes shelled a hospital in Douma which caused damages to the hospital.

On 7 February 2015, government forces launched three rockets from rocket launchers near Al-Fateh hospital in Ein Tarma town which led to a staff member's injury and material damages in the building. Abo Malik, a medical official in one of the hospitals in Al Ghouta, gave us his testimony:

*“In the early evening hours, three rockets fell on Al Fateh Hospital. One of the workers was outside the hospital which led to his injury. Abu Anas, the patient, 45, arrived to the hospital as he sustained a head injury. A surgery was conducted and then he was taken to the intensive care. The region continues to target medical facilities knowingly that they are civilian regions and not used for any military aims.”*

On 9 February 2015, government warplanes bombed a hospitalization region in Douma which led to the site being out of service for that day due to the intense material damage.

On 9 February 2015, government warplanes shelled the central ER point in Douma which caused it to go out of service due to the great damages that occurred.

On 26 February 2015, government warplanes shelled a medical center in Marj Al-Sultan town with several missiles. The medical center was forced to shut down that day due to some damages that occurred to the building.

*SNHR spoke to Dr. Abu Rabee' who worked in the medical center:*

*"At 12 p.m., I heard a number of powerful and consecutive explosions that were near us. The warplane shelling had targeted the medical center I was in. But thanks God; the clinics were not damaged as one of the rockets was shelled near it. Consequently, the medical center went out of service that day."*

*On 15 March 2015, government forces launched several mortar shells on night emergency center in Al Marj region which caused partial damages to the center.*

On 17 March 2015, government forces launched 4 missiles on a medical center in Hamoureyia, which injured 2 of the medical staff, and the center went out of service for a few days.

On 9 May 2015, government warplanes targeted An-Nashabiya hospital in Damascus suburbs with two missiles which damaged the hospital.

On 18 June 2015, government aviation [shelled a medical center in Harasta](#) Al Qentara in Damascus suburbs causing great damage to the center and putting it out of service.

#### **Service Vehicles:**

On 5 February 2015, government warplanes [targeted two ambulances](#) in Douma city with a [missile](#) which injured 5 staff members and caused severe [damage to the two ambulances](#).

On 16 June 2015, government artillery [forces shelled Douma city](#) with a surface-to-surface rocket which caused [damages to an ambulance](#) while the civil defense team was rescuing civilians.

On 20 June 2015, a missile fell next to an ambulance in Douma city in Damascus suburbs when paramedics were evacuating injured people after the shelling. The ambulance was partially damaged.

On 9 May 2015, government warplanes launched two missiles near An-Nashabiya hospital. The missiles damaged two ambulances.

On 6 May 2015, government forces targeted a [SARC aids convoy in Douma](#) city with mortar shells. The bombing killed one SARC volunteer and damaged the convoy.

#### **Conclusions:**

Government forces violated UNSC resolution 2139 regarding the arbitrary arrests and indiscriminate shelling, resolution 2041 regarding releasing detainees and resolutions 2118 and 2209 regarding the use of toxic gases. However, the UNSC remained silent regarding those breaches.

SNHR affirms that the bombardment, deliberate or indiscriminate, targeted armless civilians, thus, government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore, these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict which can be classified as war crimes.

## 2. Armed Opposition Groups:

### A. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 22 individuals, detailed as follows:

- 12 civilians, including a child and a woman
- 10 gunmen

On 13 March 2015, armed opposition groups shot-dead a woman, Iman Mohamad Ridda, after a verdict was issued from the Unified Military Command that accused her of committing adultery with government forces, spying and transferring information about armed opposition groups and their locations.

On 15 March 2015, SNHR recorded the killing of Mr. Eid Hamza and his two children (Zeid and Na'em). The Shariah Committee, affiliated to armed opposition groups, ordered the killed after they were arrested and accused of blasphemy.

On 6 June 2015, SNHR recorded the killing of [Mr. Ali Hmaydan in Jermana city](#) due to mortar missile shelling that came from a region under the control of armed opposition groups.

On 26 June 2015, SNHR recorded the killing of Mr. Bilal Issa Al Rifaei from Hamouriya town. The victim died after he was shot by a member from Al Rahman Brigade, one of the armed opposition groups, when a protest was being dispersed. The protest demanded lifting the siege off of Al Ghouta and objected the surge of commodities' prices.

### B. Arrests and Illegal Detention:

SNHR documented the arrest of 36 individuals by armed opposition groups, including 9 children.

### C. Targeting Civil Facilities:

SNHR documented the targeting of two vital facilities by armed opposition groups, detailed as follows:

#### Government Headquarters:

On 23 February 2015, a rocket-propelled-grenade was shelled at the entrance of [Damascus Central Prison in Adra region](#). The grenade came from artillery stationed in a region under the control of armed opposition groups which killed 5 civilians and injured more than 26 others.

#### Gas Stations:

On 7 April 2015, two local made rockets were shelled on [Jirmana gas station](#) in Jirmana city in Damascus suburbs. The rockets came from an artillery in a region that is under the control of armed opposition groups. The shelling injured 5 civilians and the gas tank exploded as a result. The station was greatly damaged, including the cars that were in it.

#### Conclusions:

Random and indiscriminate and extrajudicial killing and torturing detainees are considered a clear violation to the International Humanitarian Law and can be classified as war crimes.

Extremist Islamic Groups:



### 3. Extremist Islamic Groups

#### i. ISIL:

##### A. Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 17 individuals by ISIL, including one civilian.

On 25 February 2015, ISIL detained 12 gunmen from Al Islam Army, an armed opposition group, from Douma city. Their fate remained unknown until 25 June 2015 when ISIL published a [footage](#) that depicted their execution. The victims were beheaded. (SNHR could not identify the precise date of their execution.)

On 16 June 2015, SNHR [recorded the death of Abdullah Basheer Anees from Douma city](#). He was an armed opposition fighter who was slaughtered by ISIL after he was detained.

#### ii. An-Nusra Front

##### A. Massacres and Extrajudicial killings:

SNHR documented the killing of 9 gunmen by An-Nusra front.

##### B. Arbitrary Arrests and Illegal Detention:

SNHR documented the arrest of 11 individuals, including a child, by An-Nusra Front.

On 18 February 2015, An-Nusra front arrested Dr. Abdul Karim Al Binni from Damascus suburbs who worked in one of the makeshift hospitals in the city. He was released on 24 February 2015.

#### Conclusions:

Extremist Islamic Groups violated basic human rights like the right to live, attacked civil neighbourhoods and facilities, and perpetrated crimes against civilians like arbitrary arrests and torture. All their crimes can be classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity under the 7th charter of Rome Agreement. These groups violated UNSC resolution 2139 and a number of other international humanitarian laws.

### 4-Unidentified Groups:

#### Massacres and Extrajudicial Killings:

SNHR's documentation includes bombing victims whose perpetrators are not known, and the victims were killed by unidentified groups. According to SNHR archives, 10 individuals were killed, including two civilians.

On 6 March 2015, SNHR documented [the killing of child Johnny Anwar Anhash](#) who died of his wounds after a mortar missile was shelled on his house in Jermana city. We could not identify the party responsible for the shelling up to the moment of making this report.

## IV. Recommendations

### *The Security Council*

- 1- To bind all the influential parties to respect Resolution 2139 by, at least, condemning the targeting of vital facilities that civilians need every day.
- 2- To enforce a comprehensive arms embargo on the Syrian regime considering its horrible violations of the international laws and the Security Council resolutions.
- 3- To consider the states that supply the Syrian regime with weapons and the groups involved in perpetrating crimes against civilians partners in these crimes as well as all weapon suppliers and distributors States who support the armed opposition should stop supporting any factions that don't respect the international humanitarian law.

### *To the International Community*

Given the political divisions at the UN Security Council, measures must be made at the national and regional level to build coalitions to aid the Syrian people through protecting it from the daily killings, lifting the siege, and stepping up the relief aid.

We call upon the international community to exercise the universal jurisdiction over these crimes before national courts and in trials for all those involved.

Pressure must be put on the UN Security Council to refer the Syria file to the International Criminal Court.

It must seek to achieve justice and accountability in Syria through the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and the use of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

## Acknowledgment

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