



## IS it the Syrian Regime or ISIL? Destruction of Vital Facilities in Opposition Controlled Regions

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### I. Introduction:

“The scorched land” is the Syrian regime’s strategy when it comes to targeting vital facilities. Upon conducting periodic reports, we noticed that the regime targets more vital facilities in areas under the control of armed opposition groups and opts to almost entirely destroying it, however it targets facilities under ISIL’s control areas much less.

In the following report we present the outcomes of the targeted vital facilities of the past nine months of year 2015 which were committed by government forces. The Syrian regime targeted not less than 484 vital facilities since 1 January 2015 and up till 30 September 2015, detailed as follows:

- The regime targeted 452 regions under the control of armed opposition groups
- The regime targeted 88 regions under ISIL’s control

Accordingly, the percentage of targeted vital facilities in areas under the control of armed opposition groups was 84% while it was 16% in areas under ISIL’s control.

#### I. The Syrian Regime’s Aim behind Targeting Vital Facilities:

A. The systemized shelling of vital facilities in regions which are controlled by armed opposition aims to displace civilians, internally or externally to other countries, thus forcibly displacing residents.

B. The regime’s aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the government of the Assad regime.

C. Promoting ISIL as a substitute for the Syrian government in contrast with allegedly fighting its expansion.





Fadel Abdul Ghany, head of SNHR, said:

“The international community has to halt the Syrian regime from targeting vital facilities through deliberate and random shelling, since it will only be in the in the regime and ISIL’s interest. Further, local opposition groups have to unite their efforts to enhance service delivery and impose law and discipline.”

## I. Incidents’ Details:

To read more about our methodology in classifying vital facilities, please visit “SNHR’s [Methodology](#) in Classifying Vital Facilities”

- According to [January](#) 2015 report:

In January 2015, government forces targeted 20 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition against 7 facilities in regions under ISIL’s control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in January 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
	7	Schools
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
3	3	Markets
<b>Places of Worship:</b>		
1	4	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities:</b>		
1	2	Medical Centers
2	2	Ambulances
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
	1	Water Systems
	1	Industrial Facilities





- According to [February](#) 2015 report:

In February 2015, government forces targeted 30 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 6 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in February 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
	8	School
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
2	3	Markets
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
	4	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
	7	Medical Centers
	5	Ambulances
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
1		Means of Transportation
1	1	Industrial Facilities
1	2	Power stations and energy sources
1		<b>Refugee Camps</b>





-According to [March](#) 2015 report:

In March 2015, government forces targeted 51 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 3 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in March 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
	8	Schools
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
	6	Markets
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
	18	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
1	7	Medical Centers
	8	Ambulances
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
1		Means of Transportation
1	1	Official Headquarters
	1	Barns
	1	Poultry Farms
<b>International Humanitarian Insignia</b>		
	1	Red Crescent





- According to [April 2015](#) report:

In April 2015, government forces targeted 73 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 8 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in April 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
	13	Schools
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
2	7	Markets
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
2	17	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
3	14	Medical Centers
	6	Ambulances
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
	3	Official Headquarters
1	1	Water systems
	2	Bakeries
	1	Civil Defense Centers
<b>International Humanitarian Insignia</b>		
	9	Red Crescent





- According to [May 2015](#) report:

In May 2015, government forces targeted 67 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 24 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in May 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Centers</b>		
4	14	Schools
	2	Nurseries
	1	Orphanages
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
4	7	Markets
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
4	11	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
6	14	Medical Centers
	7	Ambulances
<b>Cultural Facilities</b>		
2		Archeological sites
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
	1	Industrial Facilities
1	1	Means of Transportation
1		Official Headquarters
1	1	Bakeries
	5	Civil Defense Centers
1		Water Systems
<b>International Humanitarian Insignia</b>		
	3	Red Crescent





- According to [June](#) 2015 report:

In June 2015, government forces targeted 56 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 7 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in June 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
1	7	Schools
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
	7	Markets
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
2	17	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
	12	Medical Facilities
	4	Ambulances
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
1		Industrial Facilities
2		Water Systems
	2	Power stations and energy sources
1	1	Official Headquarters
	1	Barns
	2	Bakeries
	2	Civil Defense Centers
<b>Cultural Centers</b>		
	1	Archeological sites





-According to [July 2015](#) report:

In July 2015, government forces targeted 51 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 8 facilities that were under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in July 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
	16	Mosques
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
3	6	Schools
	1	Nurseries
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
1	12	Medical Centers
1	5	Ambulances
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
3	8	Markets
<b>Infrastructure:</b>		
	1	Power Stations and Energy Sources
	1	Civil Defense Centers
	1	Means of Transportation







- According to [August](#) 2015 report:

In August 2015, government forces targeted 62 vital facilities that were under the control of armed opposition groups while it targeted 10 facilities that were under ISIL's control. The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in August 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Vital facilities under the control of:
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
2	12	Mosques
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
1	12	Schools
	1	Educational Institutes
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
2	12	Medical Centers
	4	Ambulances
<b>Cultural Facilities</b>		
1		Archeological Sites
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
1	16	Markets
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
2	1	Power stations and energy sources
	1	Civil Defense centers
1	2	Official headquarters
	1	<b>Bakeries</b>





- According to [September](#) 2015 report:

Government forces targeted 41 vital facilities in regions controlled by armed opposition while it targeted 15 vital facilities in regions under ISIL's control.

The following table depicts the targeted vital facilities:

<b>Targeted Vital Facilities by Government Forces in September 2015</b>		
ISIL	Armed Opposition Groups	Conflict Party Vital Facilities under the control of:
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
1	11	Mosques
<b>Educational Facilities</b>		
	9	Schools
<b>Medical Facilities</b>		
5	7	Medical Facilities
	5	Ambulances
<b>Cultural Facilities</b>		
1		Archeological Sites
<b>Communal Facilities</b>		
	1	Gardens
2	4	Markets
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
	2	Power Stations and Energy Sources
5		Fire Stations
1		Bakeries
	2	Industrial Facilities



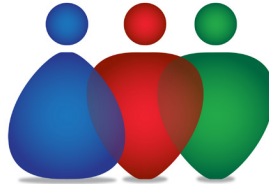


## I. Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the Humanitarian International Law, indiscriminate, or disproportionate attacks are prohibited. Thus, government forces' targeting of schools, hospitals, churches, and bakeries is an utter disregard for the minimum standards of international law, the UN Security Council Resolutions and Rome Statute.

To the International Community:

ISIL cannot be eliminated as long as the Syrian regime continues to exist. By committing forced displacement, destruction and torture, the Syrian government is considered as the largest instigator for extremism and terrorism in the Islamic world. Therefore, the international community and the Security Council are mainly responsible for achieving peace, stability and security in Syria. Further, an arms embargo should be imposed on the Syrian government since it has constantly breached the international laws and violated the Security Council resolutions.



Syrian Network For Human Rights  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

