



44 Breaches in the Ceasefire on its Third Day: Government forces used Toxic Gases Not Less than 79 Documented Breaches and the Death of 13 civilians since the Beginning of the Ceasefire

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I. Introduction

SNHR sent documented reports regarding all the breaches and violations of Kofi Anan's 6 point plan in April, May and June 2012 to his office. This plan proved its fruitlessness since the Syrian regime continued to commit different kinds of massacres and crimes that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity; as we previously documented.

We hope that the ceasefire will pave the way to a political change towards democracy. The previous 6 points plan was under the auspices of the UN, while this ceasefire is sponsored by Russian and the USA only. As it is known, Russia cannot take that part since it is a loyal ally to the Syrian regime and one of its supporters. Hence, we questioned this ceasefire and its outcomes. The Syrian regime has violated and breached several UNSC resolutions and it was not held accountable. What if Russia follows the same footsteps? And will it be held accountable?

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:

“The international community, represented by the UNSC, knows exactly what it should do to end this circle of violence, however, it resorts to unproductive solutions. We need a political transition that would transform the ruling to a democratic one. We have previously said that after Geneva 1, the bloodshed is not going to end and state administrations will be doomed to failure. ISIL and Iranian militias are filling the space the corrupted Syrian government left. We are with any agreement or resolution that would end the cycle of violence and massacres in Syria.”





Concerning the statement itself, the Syrian regime and its Russian accomplice can strike regions under the control of armed opposition in northern of Syria under the pretext of the presence Al Nusra front, even if it is extremely limited, without breaching the ceasefire.

After some experience with the oppressive Syrian regime, it will welcome any breach in the ceasefire agreement and wishes that its Russian ally would end the presence of its opponents. It appears to us that the Russians would not want to get more involved in the Syrian swamp and this ceasefire would just buy them some time to rethink their options.

SNHR team documented these breaches as it is the bare minimum of what we were able to document according to our methodology. We interviewed eyewitnesses and verified the footages and images we received. This report documents all the breaches that were committed by all conflict parties since the ceasefire started.

Additionally, the humanitarian aid did not reach all besieged regions like Mo'adameyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs. Those strikes happened in regions under the control of armed opposition and in regions that are controlled by joint forces of Al Nusra front and the armed opposition groups. The report also does not include any military operations in regions under ISIL's control.

Also it is worth noting that we did not record any improvement in the detainees' situation or releases by all main conflict parties.





II. Executive Summary:

This report depicts the breaches in the ceasefire agreement on its third day on 29 February 2016. Forty four breaches were committed, including military operations, arrests and shelling. Several breaches happened on 28 February, but we include it in this up-to-date report.

1. Military operations:

SNHR documented not less than 27 breaches, detailed as follows according to the main conflict parties:

- Government forces: 20 breaches were documented detailed as follows:

Homs: 4

Damascus suburbs: 4

Idlib: 5

Hama: 5

Latakia: 2

- Russian forces: 6 breaches were documented detailed as follows:

Aleppo: 1

Hama: 5

- Kurdish Self Management Forces: 1 breach was recorded in Aleppo

These attacks killed:

- 13 civilians including 3 children and 2 women
- 6 armed opposition members

Distribution according to the conflict parties:

- Government forces: 4

- Alleged Russian forces: 9

- KSM forces (Kurdish Self Management Forces): 1

1. SNHR documented the arrest of 17 individuals by government forces which breach the ceasefire agreement.

Damascus: 4

Hama: 2

Latakia: 3

Homs: 2

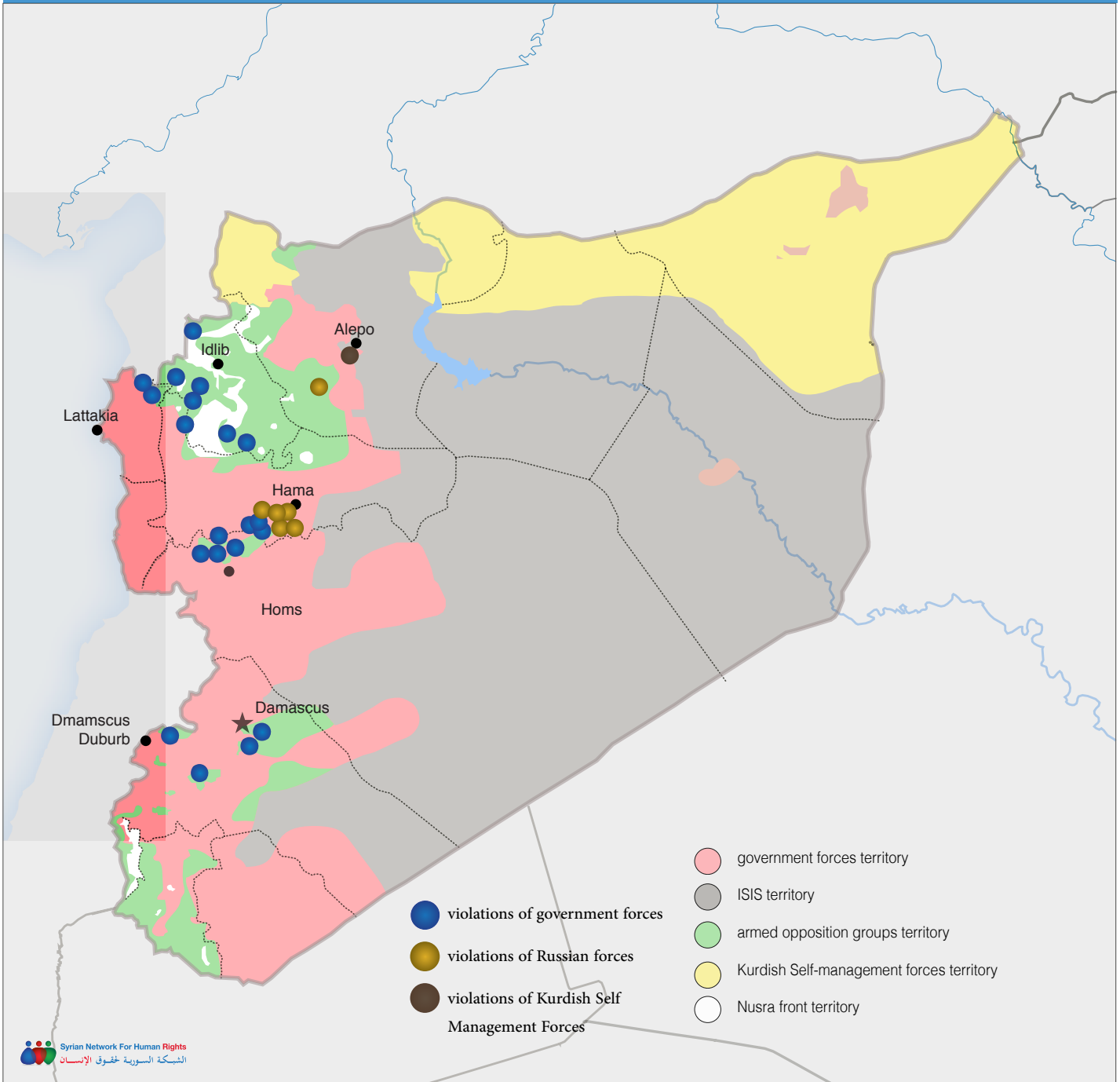
Damascus suburbs: 3

Aleppo: 3





Breaches by combat in 29 February 2016 the third day of the truce distributed as follow





III. Details:

1. Military Attacks:

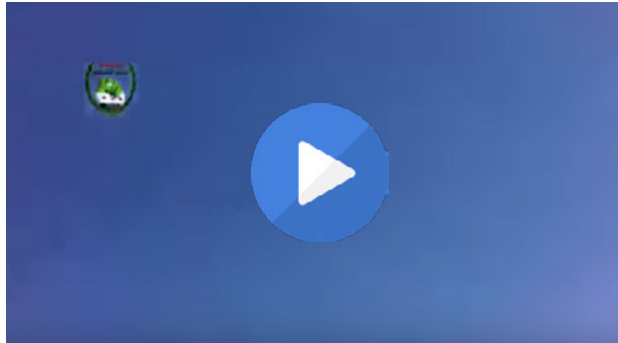
A. Government forces:

- Idlib:

Mar Eind town:

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs in the middle of Mar Eind town which destroyed several houses. The town is under the joint control of armed opposition and Al Nusra front and it is free of any ISIL presence.

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling aftermath on the town in Jisr Al Shoughour on 29 February 2016



A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on the town in Jisr Al Shoughour on 29 February 2016

- Al Najeya Town:

Government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al Najeya town which destroyed several houses in the city. The town is under the joint control of armed opposition and Al Nusra front and it is free of any ISIL presence.

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling aftermath on the town in Idlib on 29 February 2016

Kafr Aweed Town:

At 5 p.m. government rocket launchers targeted the town's houses which destroyed some of it. The town is controlled by local councils and it is free of any ISIL, Al Nusra front or armed opposition groups.



An image that depicts the shelling aftermath due to the government shelling on the town





Flayfel town:

At 5 p.m government rocket launchers in Joureen camp targeted residential regions in regions that are under the control of armed opposition. The town is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

Tramla town: (on 28 Feb 2016)

At 11 p.m. government rocket launchers shelled the middle of Tramla town which injured 6 individuals. The town is under the control of armed opposition groups and it is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

A [video](#) that depicts the government shelling on the town

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath

- Damascus suburbs:

Khan Al Sheeh town:

Government forces in Al Kabousiya town targeted the vicinity of Khan Al Sheeh camp with machine guns. The town is under the control of armed opposition groups and Al Nusra front and it is free of any ISIL presence.

Al Kade'ya front in the eastern Ghouta:

Government forces in Al Marj town used heavy machinery on a military front that belongs to the armed opposition and Al Nusra front. The shelling lasted from 1 a.m. till 4 a.m. and it killed an armed opposition member and injured 2 more. The region is under the control of armed opposition and it does not belong to Al Nusra front or ISIL.

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling sounds on Al Marj town in Damascus suburbs

- Erbeen City:

Government forces shelled several bombs on the front line in Erbeen city. One of the bombs was allegedly loaded with a toxic gas which caused two suffocation cases among armed opposition groups. The shelled area was a gathering center for armed opposition members.

An [image](#) that depicts the suffocation of armed opposition members due to the government [shelling on the city](#)





Daraya city:

Government snipers shot at the northern front in the city.

- Homs:

- Teir Ma'laa town:

At 4:30 p.m. government forces launched a tank missile on a military point that belongs to the armed opposition which killed 2 armed opposition groups and injured another. The town is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

- Al Waer Neighborhood:

We recorded two breaches that took place in Al Waer neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition. The town is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

The first incident: government forces closed Al Muhendeseen crossing point.

The second incident: government militias snipped an armed opposition member in Al Jazeera Sabe'aa region in the neighborhood.

Zabko checkpoint region between Granada and Tasneen town in northern Homs suburbs:

At almost 8 p.m. government forces approached Zabko checkpoint that is under the control of armed opposition as it wanted to storm it with heavy machinery. Armed opposition groups responded to the invasion hence clashed with the government forces. The region is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

- Hama:

- Har Bnafso town: three breaches were recorded and the town is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

1st incident: government rocket launchers launched dozens of rocket missile since 4 a.m. till 6 p.m. on the town

2nd incident: government tanks shelled Al Mahata checkpoint with dozens of missiles since 6 a.m till 6 p.m.

3rd incident: government forces tried to storm the town using machine guns.





- Kafar Nabouda town:

Government artillery forces launched 5 missiles between 2 and 9 a.m. The shelling destroyed 3 houses. The town is under the control of armed opposition and is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

- Al Janabera:

Government artillery forces launched 3 artillery missiles on the town. The town is under the control of armed opposition groups and is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

- Lattakia:

The road between Al Yamdeya and Ubeen towns in the Turkmen's mountain: we recorded two breaches in the region that is under the control of armed opposition and it is free of any ISIL or Al Nusra front members.

1st shelling incident: at 1 a.m. government artillery forces launched two missiles on the road between Al Yamdeya and Ubeen towns.

2nd shelling incident: at 9 a.m. government forces launched a Kornet rocket on the road between Al Yamda and Ubeen towns.

A. Russian forces:

- Hama:

Har Bnafso town: we recorded 5 breaches that were committed by Russian forces where the number of 30 rockets fell on thw town that is under the control of armed opposition groups. The town is free of ISIL or Al Nusra front presence.

The 5 airstrikes targeted armed opposition fronts whereas the shelling killed two armed opposition members and injured not less than 45 others.





- Aleppo:

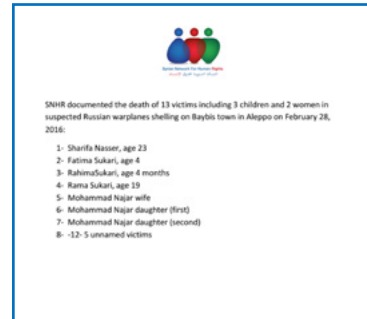
- Babees town: on 28 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes launched several rockets that were loaded with cluster munitions on Al Hadi Residential group in Babees town in western Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 12 civilians including 3 children and 2 women. Others were injured.

Victim's names:

[Images](#) that depict the shelling aftermath on the town

[Images](#) of cluster munitions due to the alleged Russian shelling on the town



C- Kurdish Self Management Forces:

Al Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood (on 28 Feb 2016)

KSM snipers killed a man on Al Castello road in Aleppo, the man's name is Salah Taj Al Deen

2. Arrests: All arrests were documented on the third day of the ceasefire and it was committed by government forces:

- Damascus: Government forces arrested 4 individuals in Al Thawra Street in Damascus.
- Hama: Government forces arrested two individuals while they were passing by a checkpoint in Al Mahata neighborhood in Hama city.
- Homs: Gov. forces arrested two university students from their dormitories in Al Jamea region in Homs
- Damascus suburbs: government forces arrested 3 individuals from Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs while they were passing from a checkpoint at the Masnaa' border region with Lebanon.
- Aleppo: Government forces arrested three government employees during a raid on Al Neil Street in Aleppo
- Lattakia: government forces arrested 3 individuals while they were passing from a checkpoint in Al Salbeyi neighborhood in Lattakia





Recommendations:

- We ask the joint American and Russian committee to investigate these incidents, announce its results to the Syrian people and prevent it from happening again.
- We demand the international community to correlate the ceasefire with political efforts that would pave the way towards a transitional stage that would result in a democratic regime, which will end the suffering of the Syrian people.

If breaches are still being committed, then this fragile ceasefire may fail at any moment. Since USA is a major advocate for this agreement, then it should persuade the Russian government to cease its airstrikes and pressure its ally the Syrian government to do so.

Acknowledgments

Our most profound condolences go out to the victims' families and friends and our thanks to the local activists and families who contributed majorly to this report.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

